



Bulletin



Volume 47 Number 4

August 2024

Council Hears Comments from Residents About Proposed Reconstruction of FDR Memorial Amphitheater; Funding Decision to Follow Architect’s Presentation at Sept. Meeting

by Michael Ticktin

Most of the August 5 meeting of the Borough Council was taken up with comments by residents concerning the proposed reconstruction of the FDR Memorial Amphitheater. Fund for Roosevelt president Tom Curry led off the discussion by urging the Council to move forward with the work that has already been done to bring the project to completion and make the amphitheater once again the pride of the community, noting that it is this generation’s turn to carry on the work that was started when the amphitheater was built in 1962. Gabrielle Balon expressed her support to the restoration proposal, as did architect Bert Ellentuck, who was the project architect at the time of its construction. Jeb Shahn, whose husband designed the bust of President Roosevelt that is the centerpiece of the amphitheater, quoted the engineering report on the project, saying that “repair is not a viable option.”

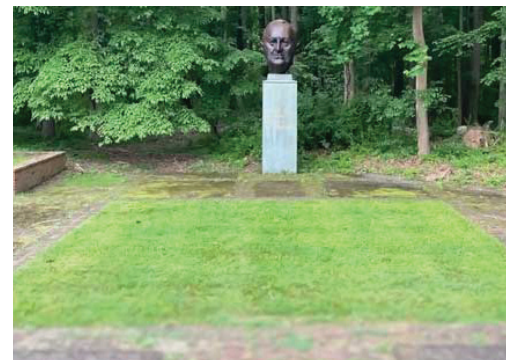
Others who spoke included Michael Ticktin, the Borough Historian, who said that it was not likely that there would again be an opportunity to reconstruct the amphitheater with Monmouth County and the Fund for Roosevelt paying half the cost, and refusing the grant would increase cost of the work once it would eventually be done, assuming that the community would not allow the amphitheater to deteriorate to the point where it becomes a safety hazard that has to be removed. He also read a message from Gail Hunton, who had been unable to be present at the meeting, saying how necessary the monument was for preserving our sense of place.

Jeff Ellentuck, citing his own experience as one of

the many who have graduated from the Roosevelt Public School at the Memorial, made clear his opposition to allowing it to continue deteriorating and not doing the work that we know has to be done to preserve it. Mary Tulloss also spoke in favor of getting the work done sooner rather than later..

Nona Sherak expressed her opposition to undertaking such a large project when we have other pressing needs and called for a project much more limited in scope. Mayor Peggy Malkin expressed her agreement that the project should be reduced in scope and cost because it was too expensive and the Borough could ill afford it. In response, Councilwoman Connie Herrstrom, who had led the effort to develop a suitable proposal, said that the deterioration of the amphitheater had reached a point where major work was required, but that the cost of such work, if spread out over an extended period of time using a bond, would amount to no more than six dollars a month for the average Roosevelt household.

There will be further consideration of the proposal when the Council again considers it at its meeting of Thursday, September 5.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 47th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. Issues run from September through July. We will not publish in January and August.

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Submission Process

The Bulletin welcomes submissions for news items, information of local interest, letters to the editor, poetry, and visual arts. We ask all contributors to adhere to the following submission guidelines:

- Send your submission to the email: rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text with in the body of your email. Please do not send PDFs.
- Please include images as separate files.
- The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication (e.g., January 15 for the February issue). Submissions received after the 15th will normally be printed in the issue following the one currently in production.
- Most submissions will also be added to the Bulletin web site. Allow up to one week for submissions to appear online after publication of the print edition.
- Please name your files with your last name, or the name of your organization, and the month.

It's natural that people have second thoughts about what they've written, but we want to discourage multiple submissions of the same thing, whenever possible. When this is necessary, the revised version should be clearly named as a revision.

The Bulletin board members are thrilled to see that people are utilizing the Bulletin as a forum for communicating about our community's most critical issues. And it is impressive that Roosevelt has supported this publication for so many decades by contributing both financially and intellectually. We are committed to providing you with the best publication possible—your support of our submission guidelines will enable our volunteers to most effectively meet that goal.

The MEALS ON WHEELS program delivers prepared meals to Roosevelt seniors who need this assistance. Though meals are provided free of charge to recipients, the cost to the program is \$2.50 per meal. Donations to help cover these costs May be sent to Interfaith Neighbors, 810 Fourth Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

SENIOR CITIZENS: There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. There is no charge to you for this service. If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and where you wish to go.

An archive of all past issues of the Bulletin can be found online at www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm, courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org., the official website of the Borough Bulletin. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please send your request to rpressler32@gmail.com.

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IN MEMORIAM



Long time Roosevelt resident Rose D. Murphy, 79, passed away at home surrounded by her loved ones on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Rose was born in Newark, NJ. After marrying Edward Murphy in 1971 they moved to and raised their family in Roosevelt. Rose showed her children the value of being an active member of their home community. She started and ran the Town Food Co-op in the late '70's that existed for many years. Rose was proud and honored to be elected to the Roosevelt Town Council where she served the community for 9+ years in the 80's and wrote and received grants for the betterment of the community.

Rose had a love for travel. She and her late husband Edward enjoyed traveling the world. They fell in love with both Alaska and London. They were avid cruisers and enjoyed trips to Alaska, the Caribbean, as well as to Russia, and the Panama Canal. There wasn't a trip they didn't enjoy.

She was a ferocious reader, and an adventurous and amazing cook. Above all else Rose loved her family and treasured her grandchildren.

Predeceased by her parents, Daniel and Doris D'Amato; her loving

July 4th in Roosevelt



July 4th has been here and gone ~`

So much fun –want it to go on & on ~

The food is always good & the games are too ~

Lots of tables set up with many things to know ~

Important things to keep up & to stop & say hello ~

We are grateful to all those people ~

Who worked to make this a memorable day ~

We thank those that gave us music & goodies & the games to play ~

I love our July 4th party here in good ole Roosevelt ~

I have come for 50 years & still I felt ~

No other place to be & celebrate our town & great country ~

I hope all the newcomers who have moved here ~

Get to come & enjoy all we have to offer & party with us here next year!!!!



~ Adrienne Cheshier

husband of 52 years, Edward Murphy; and her brother, Daniel D'Amato; she is survived by her daughter, Kathleen Murphy and her husband, David Geber; her son, James McKernan and his partner, Karen Simpson; and her

daughter, Danielle Deliso and her husband, Eugene; her grandchildren, Toni Deliso, and Lily and Rachel Geber; and her siblings, Cecilia Widmer and Robert D'Amato.

She will be missed by many.

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are very much needed to keep our publication going. Contributions are tax deductible

PLEASE NOTE: Due to postal regulations we can only ask for "donations" rather than "subscriptions" from out-of-towners who wish to receive the *BULLETIN*.

We will be pleased to continue sending them the *BULLETIN* when we receive their contributions which, of course, can be for the same amount (or more) as in the past.

In order to save on postage, we would encourage non-residents who have computers to subscribe to the *Bulletin* online at www.boroughbulletin.org in lieu of receiving a paper copy.

Donations from readers, wherever they may be, and regardless of the medium in which they read the *Bulletin*, are still very much welcome, since we could not publish without your support.

PLEASE SEND IN A CONTRIBUTION TODAY. *WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.*

Please send contributions to: Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc., P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Environmental News and Report

Environmental Commission Meetings

The Environmental Commission meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Borough Hall and everyone is welcome to attend. There are currently several openings on the Environmental Commission. If you are interested in joining, please send a letter of interest to Mayor Peggy Malkin. mayor@rooseveltnj.us

Mission Statement

1. To protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment within our jurisdiction.
2. To promote sustainable practices and responsible resource management for the benefit of present and future generations.
3. To advocate for environmental justice, ensuring equitable access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for all communities.
4. To engage and educate the public on environmental issues and foster a sense of environmental stewardship.

The Green Team

The Green Team is a volunteer organization that works on various environmental actions in town. Any residents can join. This team is instrumental in the upkeep of the Roosevelt trails, invasive plant removal, partnerships with the school, the Watershed Institute, recycling education and other townwide projects. They also work on projects that help Roosevelt maintain certification from Sustainable Jersey, a non-profit that guides New Jersey municipalities in reaching equitable and economically sustainable environmental goals.

Communication

The Environmental Commission and the Green Team communicate and call for volunteers, through Facebook, the Borough Bulletin, Borough of Roosevelt's website, and with fliers.

We also have a Green Team email list for updates. Please visit the Environmental Commission page (rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/environmental-commission) on the Borough's website and sign up. We are always looking for better ways to communicate; if you have any suggestions, we would like to hear them.

YouTube Channel

Please visit our YouTube site for informative videos, including a great video on Roosevelt's Trees. <https://www.youtube.com/@rooseveltborgreenteam>

Partnerships

We partner with Roosevelt Public School and other youth groups, RAP, The Watershed Institute, Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, NJDEP, Sustainable Jersey, Rutgers Water Resources Program at Rutgers NJAES, Millstone Environmental Commission, Arbor Day Foundation, and NJ Forestry Nursery. We are always looking for new partners to provide Roosevelt with more environmental programs and actions. If you know of any groups, have a great idea or project, please let us know.

Tim Hartley's Resignation

Long time member of the Environmental Commission Tim Hartley resigned from the Commission in July. We thank him for his years of service.

Community Activities

Tree Seedling Giveaway: The Environmental Commission participated in the Community tree seedling giveaway through the assistance of the Arbor Day Foundation and the NJ Forestry Nursery.

Stream Testing: Roosevelt streams are tested monthly to monitor the health of our streams and during the winter for road salt runoff.

Rain Garden Project: We are working

with the Roosevelt Public School and the Watershed Institute on plans for a new rain garden at the school.

Dessert and Discussion

Dessert and Discussion is an outreach activity of the Environmental Commission, meeting the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm at the Borough Hall. Topics this year included bats, herbs, trees, charcoal, seed library, and watering your garden. From August through November, Dessert and Discussion will have a new orientation, instead of a new topic per month we will be meeting to work on some unfinished projects. We will focus on repair, upcycling, and finishing those projects that have been sitting around. If you have a button to replace, pants to hem, a sweater to knit, or a lamp to rewire, this is the time for you. Bring a dessert, share expertise, and let's get to work. Please bring only projects that are easy to clean up from (no paint, oil or other material that could damage the Borough Hall).

The Roosevelt Seed Library

Seed Swap and Workshop: In January, we held a seed swap and a winter sowing workshop.

Seed and Vegetable Plant Giveaway: In May, we had a seed and vegetable plant giveaway.

Donations: The Seed Library is looking for donations of seeds, including half packages of vegetable seeds or seeds collected from your garden, especially native plants. Contact Ellen Silverman at environmental@rooseveltnj.us to check out the seed collection and get information on the next scheduled workshops, seed swaps and plant give away.

The Ron Fillep Roosevelt Woodland Trail

The trail has a new chalkboard, and a stage. Check them out; they are on the trail between the school trailhead

Trailside Chalkboard

By Dave Teich

If you've walked the Roosevelt Trail, near the trailhead off 571 by the school, you've come across Roosevelt's first trailside chalkboard. Built of pressure treated lumber and painted with chalkboard paint, it has become a place to record, for instance, the coolest thing you saw on the trail today, or what your favorite thing is about the woods, something you're thankful for, excited about, or maybe you just wanted to leave your mark in a nondestructive way.

The chalkboard was a project sponsored by the Roosevelt Environmental Commission, which I led in collaboration with 12-year-old Jonathan, who needed to come up with a community oriented project to fulfill a confirmation requirement

at his church. As Jonathan's mentor in the confirmation process, I supervised the labor, with the help of Mike Hamilton, Ben Johnson, Michael Merritt, Ellen Silverman, Steve Taylor, and Jonathan's dad, Dan.

Working from a sketch, the basic structure of the chalkboard was cut, assembled, and installed, using a rented auger to dig the post holes for the main support columns; the roof is plywood covered with shingles provided by Steve Taylor. Chalk is provided in a box with a hinged Lexan cover to keep rain out, as well as a standard blackboard eraser.

Chalkboard paint is available at most of the large hardware stores, in black, which we used, or can be mixed to any shade available just

like household latex paints. Anything painted with it becomes a chalkboard, which opens up a lot of fun possibilities. I have several chalkboards installed on my property for the grandkids to use, and provide a giant chalkboard pumpkin on Halloween which Trick or Treaters get a kick out of, especially seeing their signatures from the year before.

The trailside chalkboard seems to be getting a lot of airplay, and has become one more feature of Roosevelt's great trail system and our woodland environment. The Roosevelt Environmental Commission is open to other youth projects, including Eagle Scout projects. For more information, contact rooseveltborogreenteam@gmail.com.



Environmental News Report
Continued from Page 4

and Tamara Drive. Repairs were made to the trail bridges, fallen trees were removed and a stream cleanup was conducted.

Join us in our efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment of Roosevelt. Your participation and support are crucial to our success.



Recycling Reminders

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission would like to remind our fellow citizens of a few recycling tips. All of the following information (and more) can be found in the "Recycling 101" article written by Steve Taylor in the March 2019 Bulletin (available at <http://rooseveltboroughbulletin.org>).

Please remember:

- Do not put items inside of plastic bags in the recycling container; keep them loose.
- Plastic bags can be recycled at local grocery stores.
- Most clean paper can be put out for recycling.
- Cardboard should be flattened. Packaging tape and staples need to be removed.
- Any rigid #1, #2, and #5 plastic, regardless of shape or color, can now be put into your recycle bin, along with glass bottles and jars, cereal and snack boxes, cardboard, office paper, newspaper, magazines, tin, aluminum, and steel cans.

Japanese Stiltgrass

By Steve Taylor

This month's article highlights an invasive species that we need to look out for, Japanese Stiltgrass, (*Microstegium vimineum*).

Japanese Stiltgrass is an annual grass that is native from Turkey to East Asia. It has spread to most of the world. The seeds of the plant are reported to have come to the US with the dried grass packed around porcelain from China. This occurred about 1919 in Tennessee, and it has since spread to 26 states. Japanese



Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)

photo: S Taylor

Stiltgrass is on the European list of invasive alien species, which prohibits its importation.

It grows 1- 3 feet tall and prefers moist soil and tolerates low light levels. You can see it growing along the trail boardwalk between Rochdale and Tamara. You may notice that it has not been grazed by our resident deer. They don't like it, a big plus for an invasive species. The plant gets its name from the aerial roots that form at the nodes along the stem. The plant looks like it is being held up by 'stilts'. When these penetrate the ground, they become true roots.

If you have this invasive grass in your lawn, keep it mowed so it does not go to seed, usually mid August. In a flowerbed or garden, pull the plants before they drop seed. Control is a long-term project. Although the plant is an

annual, it may produce 1000 seeds, and the seeds can survive in the soil for 5 years. The Rutgers website offers more specifics on control.

There is a native grass (Virginia cutgrass; *Leersia virginica*) that looks similar to Japanese Stiltgrass, but cut grass leaves are much longer and the nodes are covered with hairs. Stiltgrass nodes are smooth.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microstegium_vimineum

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1237/>

https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ANR-1457_FieldGuidetoStiltgrass_030119L.pdf

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants/japanese-stiltgrass>

https://wiki.bugwood.org/Archive:SEPPC/Microstegium_vimineum

Roosevelt Woodpeckers

By Sam Ashburner

The Garden State is home to seven different species of woodpeckers. Six can be found right here in Roosevelt. These six include the Downy, Hairy, Pileated, Red-Bellied, the Northern Flicker and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The only woodpecker not commonly found in Roosevelt is the threatened Red-Headed woodpecker. This woodpecker can be found further



Red-Bellied Woodpecker

South and is featured on the "Conserve Wildlife" vanity license plate.

Woodpeckers are known for their behavioral characteristic of bashing their

beaks into trees to find insects and other invertebrates to eat and to make nesting cavities. The rectangular holes drilled by the Pileated woodpecker can be seen all along the Woodland Trail here in town. These holes are made in the search of carpenter ants which make up about half of their diet.

Other woodpeckers make similar but less distinctive holes in trees in their search for food. These birds will also use their bills to drum on metal objects like road signs and playground slides to attract mates. Great examples of this drumming can be found on YouTube. In addition to these loud foraging and attraction methods, woodpeckers have distinctive calls which range from laughing (think Woody Woodpecker) to a

creaky gate.

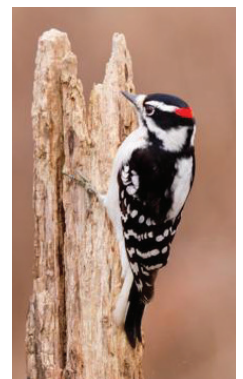
The Northern Flicker has a call that sounds like a gate in need of some WD-40.

Soon after moving into town this noise seemed to fol-

low me, after some research I matched that squeaky sound to the Northern Flicker.

My preferred method for learning more about the birds I hear and see is the Merlin app from the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. This free app can walk you through identifying birds based on their physical attributes or by sound. The app

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Downy Woodpecker

The Tools of iTree.org

By Ben Johnson

The tools of iTree.org are completely free to anyone, from resident to professional forestry consultants. The organization is a public/private partnership between the USDA Forest Service and a number of non-profit and for-profit forestry industry organizations. If you go to their website, you'll find the eight primary programs (tools) available. Three of the modules, Our Trees, Landscape, and Canopy are geared to the professional or governmental staffer. Eco provides a very flexible database of a particular community's trees that would be of interest to anyone seriously interested in the variables affecting their town and it's the only tool that needs to be downloaded.

Here are brief summaries of the four tools most likely to be used by residents.

MyTree: This is an easy and quick way of learning the value of a tree* or several trees on your property. Once you've entered in your street address, all you have to do find out the benefits of a particular tree is to enter in the species, its condition, diameter, and relative exposure to sunlight and with one click a report will appear telling you its carbon uptake, storm

water mitigation, and air pollution removal. These variables are given in pounds and dollar equivalency for one year or a projection for twenty years. You can enter in the specifications of additional trees in your yard without starting over completely. You might be surprised to learn that a sugar maple does an excellent job of carbon storage, or that a tulip tree is very proficient in reducing rainfall runoff and also air pollution (ozone, carbon monoxide, etc.)

Species: As the title of this tool suggests, this module suggests trees that would flourish in your yard. Once your location, simply the town name, is entered, there are only two decisions to make: size range of the tree and importance of air pollution removal. The next click will produce a list of usually twenty to thirty-five choices of tree species to select from. Next to each listing will be its hardiness zone and susceptibility to possible pests and diseases.

Planting: One might think this module will indicate where in your yard a particular species of tree should be planted but no, it instead yields a great amount of information about the ecological consequences of

a planting: survival rate, canopy coverage, biomass, carbon sequestered, energy saved, etc.

Design: In this case, you get to place your planned trees around your property and learn their environmental impact. The report will for instance tell you: "This year your selected trees will reduce carbon dioxide by 2,085 pounds".

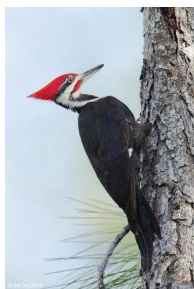
Tree Removal Permits

Roosevelt Residents: tree removal requires a permit per Borough Ordinance 20-08. You can find the permit on the Borough website under the FORMS tab (<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/forms-home-page>). When you click on the link for the permit a copy of the ordinance is also attached.

Woodpeckers

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can listen to birds in real time and will identify their calls or songs. You can then tap on the species you are hearing or seeing to learn more. Other resources for all things birds include the



Pileated Woodpecker

New Jersey Audubon, eBird and NJDEP. Birds are also a common topic at Roosevelt Environmental Commission meetings, held every third Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Borough Hall.

The QR code below will bring you directly to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology download page.



New Jersey
Department of Environmental
Protection

24-Hour Hotline

1-877-WARNDEP or
1-877-927-6337

For reporting spills, hazardous discharges, and other environmental emergencies.

FDR Memorial Restoration Report

By Connie Herrstrom

Background

The FDR Memorial has shown significant wear over the years, requiring numerous repairs to maintain safety and usability. The Council leases this space from the Roosevelt Public School (RPS) until 2062, and it is responsible for its upkeep. There has been an effort to fund this project with a grant a few years ago that was not approved.

Current Funding Action:

In the summer of 2022, the Council assigned the Community Development Council member to apply for a 50% matching grant from the Municipal Open Space Grant Program of the Monmouth County Park System. This grant did not cover design (soft) costs. The Fund for Roosevelt generously offered \$50,000 for this purpose, later increasing their contribution by \$35,000 to meet the project's needs.

Formation of the Restoration Committee

In late 2022, a committee was formed to determine the objectives for the restoration proposal. The committee included a cross section of the town's residents:

- Two Council members
- Two Fund for Roosevelt members
- The mayor
- The original site designer
- The spouse of the Roosevelt head creator
- Representatives from the School Board, Environmental Group, Planning Board
- A Roosevelt resident who is an educator of landscape architecture at Rutgers

Community Involvement and Grant Approval

The committee drafted and submitted the grant, with the Borough com-

mitting to cover 50% of the costs.

The maximum grant requested was \$500,000, but due to high demand, the maximum amount was reduced to \$330,000. Monmouth County approved the grant in a letter dated October 3, 2023 for \$330,000 with the Borough paying the remainder of the costs.

Project Development and Public Participation

The borough advertised for a landscape architect. Of the three candidates that responded from the Request for Proposal, ETM Associates was selected. A civil engineering firm, manTERRA Design assessed the site's condition, revealing that extensive renovation/reconstruction was required. (This report is on the borough website.) ETM presented three conceptual designs and the committee deliberated, emphasizing low maintenance and longevity while maintaining the original design. The plan was presented at a public meeting on June 19, 2023.

Design Adjustments and Public Feedback

The final design was chosen with consideration of feedback in the public meeting. In addition, some objectives were excluded to stay within budget, such as water to the site, tree removal, replacement, plantings, and benches. Pathways were modified to include an ADA-compliant path.

Approval Process and Future Public Meetings

The project plans were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for approval. The Council passed the first reading for bond approval on July 2nd. A public meeting will be held on September 5, 2024 to review the project and answer questions, after a presentation by ETM, Associates before the Council votes on the second reading for bond approval.

Financial Plan and Bonding Details

In the first year, bonds will be issued for the full amount, with an interest-only status for up to three years, costing up to \$20,000 per year. Upon project completion and approval, Monmouth County will reimburse 50% of the project cost. This type of funding is common with government grants, much like the bonds Roosevelt gets for the street and sewer replacement. The borough's remaining bond obligation of principal and interest will be determined by the Borough's CFO over the maximum 20-year repayment schedule less any years when paying interest only.

Historical Significance and Community Benefits

The FDR Amphitheater Memorial is a central piece of the town's heritage. According to Monmouth County, we are one of the few towns that has not received money yet to enhance our public space. Renovation is essential to prevent further deterioration. The \$330,000 grant, along with the \$85,000 from the Fund for Roosevelt, provides an opportunity to enhance this public space without bearing the total expense later.

Call for Public Input and action:

The Borough website contains the grant proposal, the amphitheater concept design, the civil engineer's report, and previous Council meeting updates and actions on this project. The Council meeting on September 5, 2024, will include a presentation by the Consultant on the project. At that time, we plan to have a rendering of the site that may be more helpful than the concept design for all to visualize the project scope. This will be your opportunity to ask any questions as well as to provide feedback.

To address your concerns regarding costs, we would like to encourage you to get involved with this historical project and join with us to begin a

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LETTERS

To the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin:

I am writing about the Amphitheater as a member of the committee charged by the Council to address the issue of the amphitheater deterioration. All who spoke at the August 5th Council meeting expressed strong support for the amphitheater, but several concerns were raised about the project. The primary concern is costs and higher taxes, especially in the light of other major costs facing the community. Also raised were concerns about the design and details of the project.

The project plan does not abandon the original design, but slightly modifies it to prevent future deterioration, provides access to the performance space for the handicapped, and restores wiring for lighting to the central stairs and connections at the performance space. Again, the basic design of the amphitheater is unchanged. The committee can continue to address concerns about details and costs. Once the ordinance has passed it will be possible to begin fundraising to lower the costs. But there is no escaping the need to rebuild the basic structure.

According to the Structural Analysis Report, repair “is not a viable option”. The report cites “vertical cracking typically indicative of uneven settling and/or shifting of ground below foundation”, and hori-

FDR Memorial Restoration Report
Continued from Page 8

fund-raising campaign to defray some Borough costs and thereby eventually reduce our overall bond obligation. This campaign can only begin once the bonds are approved. Already some residents have indicated their commitment to contributions.

If you would be willing to help in this endeavor, please send an email to cherrstrom@rooseveltnj.us.

zontal cracking which “occurs by way of soil destabilization and can lead to complete wall collapse.” Cracking is extensive throughout the structure. The report goes on to state that an attempt to repair would result in the need to replace most of the walls and therefore does not make sense. So it seems that the condition of the amphitheater is hazardous, with risk of injury were any part of the structure to further crumble or collapse. In addition to possible injury, there would be considerable liability. The Council might well consider restricting use of the amphitheater until the project has been completed.

The costs will be considerable and the committee has been mindful of the need to cut those costs wherever possible. It has been suggested that the work might be done incrementally, and the committee could revisit that idea, keeping in mind that future work would not benefit from

the matching grant. In the course of developing plans there were many ideas of additional enhancements to the structure and landscape. But the committee made continual efforts to eliminate anything not essential. I urge that the community work cooperatively to resolve the problems as well as possible. We must focus on cooperatively finding solutions so that we can again have a safe, functional space so valued by the community without wasting time and energy on controversy.

I would like to thank Councilwoman Constance Herrstrom for her leadership, wonderful attention to detail and untiring work on the project, and know that we can count on her to continue that work as long as it takes.

Respectfully,

Jeb Shahn

Issue/ Problem	Call
Power outage	JCP&L - 1-888-544-4877
Telephone outage	Your telephone provider (phone # is on your bill)
Loose or lost dog	Animal Ctrl: 609-234-4862 or State Police 609-584-5000
Road obstruction	911 /State Police 609-584-5000
Trees down	911 /State Police 609-584-5000
Health Emergency	911
Comcast outage	1-800-COMCAST
FIOS outage	(800) 837-4966
Wildlife Issues	877-927-6337

Open Mic Night

by Rick Pressler

For the second year in a row, Roosevelt's Open Mic Night, hosted by Gus Vuolle, provided a joyous forum for local talent, with performers ranging from 8 to 75 years old. The evening featured everything from straight musical acts to comedians, poets, and a remarkable demonstration of international flag expertise. All of this took place in Roosevelt's historical amphitheater, under the watchful gaze of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose five-foot tall bust, executed in 1961 by Roosevelt resident Jonathan Shahn, sat placidly atop its tall green marble pedestal at the back of the stage.

In addition to the performers, an open air art gallery, courtesy of "This is Not An Art Class" participants, displayed fascinating works that complemented the ongoing performances.

Guitarist Rick Pressler—in a reprise of last year's event—opened the evening with a couple of original guitar tunes. This was followed by a diverse array of musical talent, including Clover Balon, Helena LeCompte, Marianna LeCompte, Blake LeCompte, Cooper Barrett, Alejandro Gonzalez-Palmer, Aurelia Giske, Lydon Giske, Ethan Rips, Gus Vuolle, and others. Pianist Alan Mallach, best known for his mastery of the classical repertoire, delighted the audience with an impromptu performance of ragtime improvisations. Guest artist Kim Anderson came all the way from Old Bridge to give a soulful vocal performance of American Songbook standards "My Funny Valentine" and

"Night and Day," accompanied by Pressler on guitar.

David Herrstrom, Olive Giberson, and Catarina Noronha, aka Catus Chaos, were among the local poets who read original poetry, their vivid words energizing the warm evening air. Cooper Barrett, a young geography phenom, amazed the audience with his knowledge of international flags, identifying those nations possessing a flag containing any combination of three colors provided randomly by audience members. Equally impressive, he had preceded this remarkable demonstration with a rousing rendition of Elton John's "I'm Still Standing." Delaney Hopf provided a refreshing comic turn, implicitly making the case for more stand-up at future Open Mics.

The evening was well attended,

Continued on Page 11



Open Mic Night

Continued from Page 10

benefitting from the dry, mild weather and the loyalty of family and friends. Sound and lights were expertly provided by Eric Vuolle, Joe Trammel, and Tim Curry. Visitors new to Roosevelt were heard remarking about the amazing sense of community that infused the event, as well as the remarkable range of talents on display. The amphitheater itself provided a lovely setting, the arc of its terraced seating embracing the stage area, the bust of FDR, and the dense green forest beyond. Proposed plans to renovate and restore the 62-year-old amphitheater call for much needed improvements to the amphitheater's suitability as a performance space, which currently makes up with charm what it lacks in amenities.

In creating and producing the Roosevelt Open Mic Night, lifelong resident Gus Vuolle, whose Summer Adventure Camp has been delighting Roosevelt's children for years, has



again extended his talents to the benefit of his neighbors. Open Mic Night has quickly established its place among the cherished annual arts events that help make Roosevelt a vital, creative community.



Tree Study Highlights

by Ben Johnson

The study of our trees last fall commissioned by the Environmental Commission was conducted to establish a baseline database of street trees and those in open or undeveloped spaces. An inventory of 100% of street trees was completed as well as the sampling of those in the open spaces. This information will be used to aid in the management of this valuable resource as well as fulfilling a state-wide DEP requirement to develop a stormwater management plan. The primary findings of the research are as follows:

- Roosevelt has a good diversity of species (42). In addition to being visually attractive, this reduces the threat of disease or insect damage.
- The street survey determined there are 200 vacant spots where

a tree could be planted, a typical number for a town of this size. The tree experts' recommendation is that large-growth trees be spread 50 feet apart. Low-growth trees, such as redbud or serviceberry, should be planted beneath utility lines.

- The vast majority of trees are self-seeded, meaning there is little evidence of organized plantings. The one notable exception was the planting of Norway maples in the 1970s.
- The street trees are relatively healthy, with about one third in need of some degree of attention. Of those, only a very small number should be efficiently removed.
- It'll come as no surprise to residents that the sweetgum is the most numerous species, with red

maple and Norway maple also being significantly overrepresented.

- Future plantings in any of the vacant locations should exclude these three species and also any maple at all.
- Some species are underrepresented, such as the white oak, blackgum, and London planetree.
- Measured by diameter, the largest known tree in town is the sugar maple on the Rochdale side of the school.
- It was recommended that in most of the open space areas periodic thinning out of trees be done to promote overall forest health.
- Two-thirds of the street trees are native to New Jersey. The three most common invasive species are Norway maple, black locust, and Callery pear.

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RECYCLING DATES

August 14, 28
September 11, 25

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This is not the language of my soul

by Catarina Noronha

What a strange thing it is to write to strangers.

Where is the context? The background story? All the years that lead me here? How can someone understand my thoughts without knowing where I came from?

If you had read me before, you would know how easily I get lost - I do love to get lost - and I wouldn't have to explain that I have a tendency to go off topic. My early apologies for any unexpected turn this piece may take, if you enjoy direct trains with tight schedules, I wouldn't recommend this reading. Given the warning, let us start the narrative:

Hello, stranger!

I am Cat but I am actually a person (or people - we are going back to that later) and I don't know a lot of things.

Sometimes I don't know what something is or what name I should give to it, so I tend to call things by what they are not, hoping that, by excluding hypotheses, I will eventually know exactly what that thing is. For instance, I don't know where this language fits on my being. I would say it's not in my soul, but once I wrote a poem in English, so I am not even sure anymore.

It's a very strange thing to use two languages - as strange as writing to strangers.

It's living in a limbo. Not fully one or the other. I find myself missing words in Portuguese. On one hand they run away from me and I can't find them, but sometimes I just truly miss them. In Portuguese that feeling is called "saudade" and it's something between longing and nostalgia: it's the love that remains. What a Portuguese thing to say.

I realized I mostly think in English now except the numbers. I always count and read numbers in Portuguese, which results in me being ridiculously slow saying them in English.

I still dream in Portuguese. I wonder if that will change. Is it even possible to change the language of the unconscious mind?

I frequently wake up with very much-broken English. I am not referring to my Russian-like accent, because that, my dear stranger, is part of my charm. My brain is some kind of old machine that is making a code switch and takes some time (and coffee) to formulate complete sentences and use decent vocabulary. I decided to blame the dreams for this occurrence.

On a different topic (well, not that different, still rumbling about things I don't fully understand) I read somewhere people can have different personality traits according to the language they are speaking. Please note this is not a scientific paper, so everything I affirm is based on my singular empiric experience, supported by my dubious and tendentious memory. As most things in life, truth is what you choose to believe in.

I do believe a single individual doesn't have a single identity. We are complex beings, with layers and textures, we carry personas, alter-egos and heteronyms. It's not a competition. None of these identities is more oneself than the other, rather different expressions, serving the individual in different contexts. We are, each single one of us, multiple people within.

I started to speak English in my young adult life, mostly through traveling and Erasmus+ projects, so this language is deeply connected with my personal growth. When you are out of your comfort zone, exposed to

the unknown, you flourish and develop in ways you never imagined. The English-speaker Cat is the reflection of these life experiences: I can express myself more clearly, I am gentler with the words, I am more solution driven. English became the language in which I communicate more assertively about my needs, my feelings and emotions. It's the reflection and the kindness.

My Portuguese-speaker Catarina is a little hurricane (as my mother used to call me): is my silly childish self, who picks fights and loves to perform. Portuguese is the language I write poems, I dance and I have fun. It's the beast and the soul.

I was told that essays should end with a conclusion. But what if there is not one? I always had more questions than answers... What if there isn't really a point to this piece rather the writing itself? With this very cynical "not a conclusion" we have arrived at our end station. I hope you enjoyed the ride.

July, 29th 2024



Acrylic and collage on canvas by Willow Pressler

Contributors to the Bulletin 2024

Contributions received after the 15th of the month will appear in the next Bulletin.

Robin & Robert Axel
Richard & Janet Bernardin
Linda Block
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna
Susan & Robert Cayne
Cheshier family
Walter & Linsey Coyoy
Ana Debevec
Kay Drury
Frances Duckett
Burt Ellentuck
Lou & Irma Esakoff
Judith Goetzmann
Jay & Anna Goldman
Anne Hayden
Al Hepner

Constance & David Herrstrom
Louise and David Hoffman
Henry & Kate John-Alder
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Ron & Deirdre Kostar
Bonnie Z. Koury
Lynn Lawson
Claudia Llunco & Ken Mateo
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Julia & Jim McArdle
Alan Mallach
Michael Merritt & Hilary Wilder
Jodi & Dave Parsons

Alison Petrilla
Richard & Hope Pressler
Irving & Amanda Rose
Kirk and Jane Rothfuss
Fred & Linda Septak
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Linda Smith & Michael Szewczyk
Michael & Marilyn Ticktin
Mary & Rod Tulloss
Alexandra Bonfante Warren
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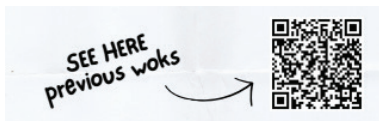
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AUGUST

5	Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
10	Sat.	6:00 - 9:00	Roosevelt Open Mic Night FDR Memeorial Aphitheatre A community open mic night for neighborhood artists to express themselves Open to everyone and anyone to perform, collaborate, jamor tell a joke or two with their fellow Rooseveltians and area neighbors
14	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
20	Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
21	Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
21	Wed.	10:00 - 11:00	Melvin H. Kreps Middle School New Student Orientation
22	Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
28	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
28	Weds.	6:00 - 8:00	Hightstown High School Freshman Orientation

SEPTEMBER

2	Tues.		Labor Day
5	Thur.		First Day of School
5	Thur.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
7	Sat.	1:00 - 4:00	Roosevelt Art Project Art and Garden Tour Visit the gardens of some of Roosevelt's most passionate gardeners who generate beauty, raise food crops, and create spaces for calm reflection. (Rain date - Sat. Sept. 14)
11	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
12	Thur.	6:30	Hightstown High School Back to School Night
16	Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
17	Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
18	Wed.	6:00 - 7:30	Roosevelt Public School Back to School Night
18	Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
19	Thur.	6:30	Melvin H. Kreps Middle School Back to School Night
25	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
26	Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President

The Roosevelt Board of Education's website contains complete school calendar information:

www.rps1.org.

Zoning Officer, Housing Inspector Jeremy Kuipers email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us phone: 609-448-0539, ext. 7	Code Enforcement Officer Ed Szbanz code@rooseveltnj.us 609-448-0539, ext. 8
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Office Hours:
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The Construction Official has Borough hours on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

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