



# Bulletin



Volume 44 Number 1

September 2020

## Council Adopts Tree Protection Ordinance, Bond for Improvements on Farm Lane and School Lane; Ordinance Regulating Portable Storage Containers

by Michael Ticktin

As has been the case since March, and as permitted by emergency State legislation, the Borough Council conducted its June meetings via Zoom. Instructions for participating in the meeting are provided on the Borough website.

At its meeting of June 8, the Council adopted two ordinances authorizing the issuance of bonds to provide funds for improvements to Farm Land and School Lane. The first ordinance appropriated \$725,000 for roadway improvements, most of which will be covered by aid from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, and authorized the issuance of \$160,000 in bonds and notes to finance the balance. This work is to include milling, paving and any necessary curb and sidewalk replacement. The second ordinance, appropriating \$730,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$695,000 in bonds and notes, is intended to provide funds for water and sewer improvements, including the replacement of water mains and the inspection of sewer lines on the two streets.

Also at the June 8 meeting, the Council approved the introduction of a tree protection ordinance regulating the removal of trees from all lands within the Borough. Mayor Malkin stated that this ordinance was necessary because of the frequency with which some homeowners, especially newcomers to the community, have been removing large, healthy, beautiful trees that are important to the community and contribute to its character. This ordinance was adopted at the June 22 meeting, despite comments from the Environmental Commission (1) expressing concern about the speed with which the Council was moving on this ordinance, in contrast to its postponement of any action on the

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### General Election Information

<https://www.monmouthcountyvotes.com>

#### November 3, 2020 – General Election

Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon is advising Monmouth County voters that Governor Phil Murphy announced major changes to the November 3, 2020 General Election process by way of Executive Order No. 177:

Similarly to the July Primary Election, the November 3, 2020 General Election will be conducted primarily via Vote by Mail, with limited polling locations open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day for voting on paper provisional ballots only and accessible voting devices for disabled voters only.

Clerk Hanlon and the Monmouth County Clerk's Office will continue to debunk misinformation and myths spread about the General Election process on social media. View #MonmouthElectionFacts webpage. (<https://www.monmouthcountyvotes.com/election-facts/>)

According to the Governor's Executive Order No. 177, all active registered voters will automatically receive mail-in ballots for voting in the 2020 General Election without the need to submit a vote by mail application.

The commencement of the mailing of General Election ballots, per the Executive Order, to all active registered voters will be on or before October 5, 2020. The County Clerk's Office has provided a postage-paid envelope for the return of the completed mail-in ballot; therefore, voters are not required to attach a stamp when returning the ballot via U.S. Postal Service.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 43rd edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. There will be ten issues running 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](mailto:rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com). For short messages, you can also use the contact form on our web site, which will go to the same address.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text within the body of your email.
- Please limit your letters to 500 words (about one page in MS Word). We will edit letters for length when necessary. Longer letters may be published in full on the Bulletin web site.
- Please include images as separate files. If you have multiple files, please put them into a zip file, if possible. Please submit only JPEG images.
- 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. (So, for example, a submission received on January 16th would be printed in March.)
- 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](http://www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm), courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at [www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org](http://www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org), the official website of the Borough Bulletin. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please send your request to [rpessler32@gmail.com](mailto:rpessler32@gmail.com).

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is published monthly, except August and January by Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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bamboo control ordinance that had been recommended by the Commission and introduced by the Council in March, (2) recommending that the ordinance be targeted towards large trees affecting the character of a street, rather than also including broader restrictions on removal of trees that might well prove unenforceable, (3) noting that “specimen trees,” as defined in the ordinance, are not known to exist in the Borough, so any prohibition on their removal would be of limited value and (4) recommending technical changes to correct apparent errors in the wording of the proposed ordinance. Several Council members said that they were willing to adopt the ordinance as proposed only if the Council would discuss necessary revisions with the Planning Board and Environmental Commission; Mayor Malkin and Councilman Mike Hamilton assured the other members that such discussions would indeed take place, but that it was necessary to act quickly in order to stop the wanton destruction of trees by people who seem not to appreciate their importance to residents of Roosevelt .

At the June 22 meeting, the Council also adopted an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regulating portable on-demand storage containers. These include containers, trailers, storage units or portable structures without a foundation, that are designed and used for storage. The ordinance requires that these structures be placed on an existing off-street driveway, as far from the street as practicable, and may not be placed anywhere else in the front yard or in a public right-of-way, except with the approval of the zoning officer. Other restrictions apply—residents should contact the zoning officer before placing such a unit. An application and a \$25 fee are required and the structure can remain in place for a maximum of 30 days unless the use is extended by the zoning officer or is in conjunction with active construction, in which case the permit would be good for six months.

Also at the June 22 meeting, Mayor Malkin reported that the Borough had obtained an engineering report detailing a structural analysis of the water tower. The Borough had received requests from AT&T and T-Mobile, both of which pay rent to the Borough for use of the water tower for their relay equipment, to install additional equipment, which caused the Council to get an analysis of the tower’s capacity for additional load. The report indicated that the tower, which is over 80 years old, needed to be brought up to modern standards for wind load. Presented with this information, both telecommunication companies agreed to make necessary improvements to the tower so that it could safely carry their equipment.

Mayor Malkin also reported that the quality of Roosevelt’s municipal water supply had greatly improved because of work done on the system in recent years and the Department of Environmental Protection was now requiring that water samples be taken only once or twice a year. Councilman Hamilton reported that the municipal utilities were saving a lot of money because the contractors running the water and sewer plants were, at no additional cost to the Borough, doing a lot of work that had formerly been contracted out.

At the July 27 meeting, the Council introduced the 2020 municipal budget. There will be no change in the municipal tax rate. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for the August 24 meeting, at which time it may be adopted. There will be no Council meeting on August 10.

**Roosevelt Borough’s website:**

**[www.rooseveltnj.us](http://www.rooseveltnj.us)**

Register for e-news on the home page and get email communications from the borough. You can view and pay your property taxes and water/sewer bill on-line.

When mailing anything to Roosevelt Borough, please use P.O. Box 128. This includes property tax payments and water/sewer payments.



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements. [www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin](http://www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin)

If you would like your organization’s event posted to our Facebook page, please send event details to [rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com](mailto:rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com).

**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](http://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

# The Storm

by Councilman Joe Trammell

On the day of the storm I was in my back room watching as the wind started to pick up speed, then the rain came. Straight down at first, then in waves from east to west, and finally horizontal. It stayed that way for 45 minutes or so, then back to straight down for 15-20 minutes when it decided to go horizontal again, but this time from west to east. Not quite an hour of this when the power went out. Soon the rain let up but the howling wind persisted.



Photo by Bob Francis

I decided to get into my car and check the town out. Many loose branches dotted Pine Drive, and as I turned onto Tamara I met Steve Bowen at the creek. He was removing some larger branched that had almost covered the roadway. After hellos, I proceeded to Clarksburg Road where there was a large tree sprawled across 571, but a single lane had been carved through it. A left on Spruce found a PODS truck trying to make a delivery to the Clark's old house.



Photo by Zachary Pressler

There was a tree in the driveway, and the driver was trying to figure out how to proceed. Turning around I tried South Valley and a left onto Lake where it was clear to Rochdale, then a right onto Farm. Again, I found a large tree spread across Farm with a single lane path. I went on to make a left on North Valley where almost immediately there was a very large tree wrapped around power lines cutting off about 100 feet of roadway. Here is where I found members of the Millstone Fire Department wrangling chain saws, working their way through the trees. There I also found Greg Defoe, from Roosevelt Public Works, pointing out to Mike Maloney of the MSFD Eleanor Lane. I wish to give a Big Thanks to Mike Maloney and the men and women of MSFD for being out there for us. If not for them, the roads would have been impassable. And thanks, Greg, for putting so much needed time and energy into this disaster. I do not know how you do it, but what you do is much appreciated.

Again, I found myself reversing course and made a right on Rochdale, then a right onto Homestead. Not too far I found Jake offloading a generator from his truck while Becca was observing a 60-foot tree that had just missed their house. Further up Homestead to Eleanor it was found that within 100 yards on Eleanor quite a few trees were entangled with power and cable lines. It was entirely impassable.

John Holden had called me earlier and said that Allentown looked like it had been hit by a tornado and that there was a problem with our water plant generator. Turning into the water plant driveway I saw our generator maintenance guy leaving. At the plant I observed Steve Bowen, Greg Defoe, and George Vassuere talking about what the repairman said. The discussion was about the alternator which had thrown a belt and detached



Just like We Survived Sandy in 2011  
We have Survived Isais in 2020

Photo by Bob Francis

itself. Apparently, the tech had told them that the part was not available anymore. On the spot Greg made some calls and found a new alternator. I must say that between John Holden, George Vasseur, Greg Defoe, and Greg



Photo by Zachary Pressler

Possiel we had a group of mechanics who knew how to deal with this emergency. With the added brainpower of Harry Parker and Addison they coaxed the generator into submission and kept the water tower full for the remainder of the outage.

As I continued my drive, I found trees lying on wires on 571 beyond

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Photo by Bob Francis

## A Memoir of Theater in Roosevelt, Part 2

by Frances G. Duckett

*In memory of David Steinberg,  
1961-2000*

Madeline, 1972

Following the success of *Monsters and Marigolds*, Children's Theater Workshop was on a roll, and began to tool up for a second, larger and even more comic effort. No child who wanted to participate was turned away-- the result being a much larger cast and a longer rehearsal time. As with Robert Altman's *Nashville*, cast members were encouraged to write their own songs, which were then arranged by composer Laurie Altman.

I think Madeline came to the stage around April, 1972. It concerned the adventures of a chicken ousted from the barnyard for laying square eggs. I produced these eggs, little square boxes painted white, which Kirsten Duckett carried in a basket as she opened the show singing *Boo Hoo*, accompanied by Joav Beinin on his violin. After having been soundly rejected by the barnyard animals, led by Dawn Imbrie in white dress and swim fins as the goose, Madeline falls in with a con-artist dog D. Harry Esq. Jr. III (Cantey Turner) who, with the fox (David Seitz), Professor. Thomas B. Katz (David Steinberg), and D. Harry's two pups (Tessie List and Mical Moser) are off to fleece the unwary at the nearest fair, A stair unit became a moving vehicle as the ill-assorted band moved to their destination, jiggling in unison.

Laurie Altman brought his electric piano to the RPS Auditorium to accompany the singers. D. Harry's song was the most memorable:

D. Harry Esquire Junior  
the Third is my name  
And protecting young  
chickens in distress is my  
game  
And if a bone or two is  
missing am I to blame?  
Not to feed my family would be a  
crying shame

So, if you're alone and stuck out at sea  
Just pick up the phone and call DHEJ3  
And if I'm out on business, please don't  
despair  
One of my ten children are sure to be  
there

Leave your name and your number  
and describe your condition  
And don't forget to mention your  
financial position  
So hang up and hang in there and wait  
for my call--  
D. Harry Esquire Junior the Third  
D. Harry Esquire Junior the Third  
D. Harry Esquire Junior the Third  
WILL NEVER LET YOU FALL!!!

The first act concluded with a spirited chase scene in which the Professor flees from irate victims and dashes into the audience, hiding behind a newspaper, disguising himself with a false nose, and eventually disappearing into



*Mrs. Rose Parisi applies makeup to Cantey Turner.*

a large cardboard box, out of which he disappears, leaving his pursuers flat-footed. In this sequence Dave showed superb comic timing.

The shorter second act started with a spirited song and dance number, "Permission," starring Nathalie Altman, Ann Parisi, and Amy Hepner as children eager for a fairing. It ended with the procession of the kindergarten contingent of the cast--dressed as square chicks.

After two full performances at RPS, CTW took Madeline's Act One on the road to the Sharon School and to the Perry Drew School. The excited cast arrived by bus, with Laurie and his electric piano. June Counterman helped with makeup and props, which in this case were not trivial.

The two host schools were most appreciative, but it never happened that a CTW production went on the road again. The actors went on to do lots more, which I hope to detail in subsequent installments.

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The Storm

Continued from Page 4

the Mendes farm and again on Nurko Road. Roosevelt was nearly non reachable from Hightstown until Police and MSFD directed traffic until the trees were removed. The whole thing reminded me of an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

Back in town I would run into Rob Masterson who had just set a generator up for Solar Village to power their meeting room for charging stations as well as a refrigerator for medications. Ken LeCompt had driven his tractor over to off-load the generator from John Holden's truck.

Rob and Greg Possiel would continue to scout the town for trouble and help where needed.

I am writing this letter to express my deep gratitude and thanks to all those mentioned in this letter. When you see any of these gentlemen around town, be sure to give them a well-deserved THANKS. I am sure they would appreciate it.

Respectfully submitted: Councilman Joe Trammell

**“It ain’t over till it’s over.”**

This month’s article highlights a native species that we need to encourage, the American beech, (*Fagus grandifolia*).

When Yogi Berra said, “It ain’t over till it’s over”, he wasn’t thinking of forests, but as it is with much of Yogi’s wisdom, it has wide applicability. When you walk through the woods, you see trees, some young,



The Mighty Beech photo: S Taylor

some old. You are looking at a snapshot in time. Just as trees sprout, grow and mature, so too do forests. When land is abandoned, the pioneer species appear first.

In our area, sweet gum trees are a common pioneer species. Look on the north side of 133 just past the NJTP heading west. You will see a dense thicket of sweet gums. Sweet gums can live 150 years, but most of those trees will be dead long before that. Forests evolve.

After the pioneers, more shade tolerant, longer-lived species gradually appear. Depending on the soil and climate these species will vary. After many years, climax forest species will dominate with fewer, broader trees, farther apart. They may be hemlocks, oaks and sugar maples or beeches.

Here in Roosevelt, the American

beech, (*Fagus grandifolia*) is beginning to appear in our woods. Although similar, they are different from the European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) frequently found in nurseries. American beech are easily recognized by their smooth silvery grey bark. (Please don’t carve initials in the bark; it scars the trees forever and may offer diseases access to the tree.)



American Beech Trunk photo: S Taylor

Besides their characteristic bark, beech are easily recognized because they frequently hold their dead leaves all winter (see pic). The winter buds are long and slender, like miniature cigars. American beech can grow to 100 feet tall and live for 350 years. They are shallow rooted and very thirsty, so don’t try to grow a lawn under them. Unlike the spindly gums, American beech are spreading, almost as wide as they are tall. They are great for providing shade, and are not suitable for small yards. BUT they do respond well to pruning and make interesting hedges. With annual pruning, a 20-year-old plant can be maintained at only eight feet tall. Unfortunately, they do not seem to be readily



American Beech holding last year’s leaves photo: S Taylor

available to purchase. So enjoy them along the trail.

References:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fagus\\_grandifolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fagus_grandifolia)
- <https://www.psu.edu/dept/nkbiology/naturetrail/speciespages/beech.htm>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-climax-forest-process-1341716>



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
FloS outage	(800) 837-4966
Wildlife Issues	877-927-6337

## Borough Birds 5

**Pileated Woodpecker**

One of the coolest birds in our area and certainly my favorite of them all. The pileated woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in North America. Both sexes can be 19 inches long with a wingspan up to 29 inches. Mostly black overall with white stripes on their head and neck, topped with a flaming red crest. Their bill is long and looks just like a chisel. In flight, their bright white underwings are very noticeable and makes them easier to follow.

I have seen many pileated woodpeckers on the Woodland Trail moving from tree to tree in search of food and nesting spots. When a nest spot is found, both sexes will drill out a rectangular hole in dead trees and set up shop. There are many of these rectangular holes in trees along the Woodland Trail (Rochdale to N. Valley in particular). Pileated woodpeckers will forage for insects on and inside live and dead trees. Their favorite food is carpenter ants, which make up over 50% of their diet. This species became rare in Eastern North America

with clearing of forests centuries ago, but has gradually increased in numbers again since the beginning of the 20th century. Pileated woodpeckers seem to have found a safe home in Roosevelt. I have seen and heard them in yards and the surrounding woods.

**Rose-Breasted Grosbeak**

This is an uncommon bird for Roosevelt that was recently spotted by Tim Hartley! Central Jersey is listed as an “uncommon breeding area” for the rose-breasted grosbeak which is normally spotted only in the northern part of the state. Males are black and white with a vivid red patch extending from the throat down the middle of the breast. Females and immatures are brown and heavily streaked, with a whitish stripe over the eye. Males flash pink-red under the wings and females flash yellow in flight. Both sexes are about the size of a robin. Their large, triangular bill is made for opening seeds and chomping insects.

In areas where they are common, Grosbeaks can often be found at neighborhood feeders in search

of sunflower seeds. The male’s song has been described as “sweet with rising and falling notes” and as “an improved version of the Robin’s song”. They are not the best nest builders though, and many reports note that they can be “so thin and flimsy that the eggs are visible from below.” Thank you to Tim Hartley for bringing this wonderful songbird to our attention during a recent Environmental Commission meeting.

**Scarlet Tanager**

A true brake slammer here. The scarlet tanager is common enough in New Jersey during its breeding season (summer) but they are notoriously difficult to spot because they stay high up in the tree canopy. These birds are blood red with deep black wings and tail. In the fall, the male’s feathers turn to a green-yellow color and they migrate to South America. Females remain a green-yellow color throughout the year.

The scarlet tanager is a small, stocky songbird with a large, short bill for cracking open seeds and catching insects. Scarlet tanagers breed in mixed deciduous-evergreen forests in eastern North America. While breeding, they remain secretive and do not leave the forest. During migration, they move through a broader variety of forest and shrubby habitats, as well as backyards.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? [BoroughBirds@gmail.com](mailto:BoroughBirds@gmail.com)

To learn more about birds in our area, I suggest visiting [allaboutbirds.com](http://allaboutbirds.com) and downloading the Merlin app (both from The Cornell Lab). To learn even more about birds in our area, I suggest attending Roosevelt Environmental Commission meetings every third Wednesday of the month.

## Healing Art: An Open-Air Gallery

A In late spring when museums were shuttered and virtual exhibits had become the norm, Ellen Silverman devised a plan for providing safe, free access to art, literally at her doorstep. Only a few components were needed to bring her vision to life: a series of recently completed paintings; some deer fence; and whatever members of the public happened to pass by. The result was “Fence-Line Gallery,” artworks displayed along a tall garden fence that runs from the street to just about the threshold of Silverman’s house on the corner of North Valley Road and Farm Lane.

Although Silverman didn’t know it at the time, the seeds for the project were planted at the annual Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP) meeting. The group was facing a unique problem -- how to offer programming for the public at a time of mandatory social distancing. A solution was floated to use people’s private properties. Two days later, Silverman turned her car into a pop-up gallery, with paintings displayed from the back of the car’s open trunk and the passenger windows. Eventually she expanded the project to the more extensive exhibit now on display. “I sort of took it and ran,” Silverman recalled. “I didn’t know I was going to do it.”



This wasn’t the first time Silverman had used the outdoors as a staging ground for her artwork. In 2018 Silverman participated with other local artists in a RAP-sponsored walkable gallery along the Ron Filepp Trail in Roosevelt. Her first exhibit at Fence-Line represented a break from earlier paintings of landscape inspired by the rural nature of Roosevelt, where Silverman has lived since 1990. Here, Silverman opted for interior landscapes, rooms and spaces in a Victorian-era house full of color, mystery and surprises but seemingly devoid of inhabitants. The exterior of the structure, represented in one of the first pieces of the exhibit, is of an actual historic home in New Jersey. The interior images, however, are a fantasy mash-up of various sources that Silverman used as inspiration, blended together in her signature impressionistic style with an eye toward how light interacts with color.

Visitors were invited to write stories based on what the paintings evoke for them. A number of community members took up the challenge, including Ben Johnson and Silverman’s two sons, Michael and Ben. Silverman sees this as a community project that inspires creativity, but also provides healing and hope. “This is such an art



community,” Silverman reflected. “Artists and writers and musicians, we all need our community. And the community needs us...we have to heal each other.”

Now the project has taken wings, and a new series of paintings is on display. Other members of RAP, including David Herrstrom, are expanding the collaboration to include more poetry, as well as music performances. Visitors are welcome to stop by the gallery and check out the latest!





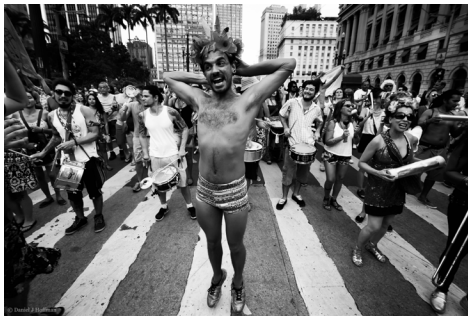
# On Photographing Protests

Daniel J Hoffman

Protests are moments of raw emotion that come from people's desires to be heard and seen, to speak out and raise awareness of a problem, to create a community of the like-minded who desire change. I first began photographing protests while living in New York City, a city I have grown to love like no other. Whether it was protesting against human rights at the UN or the run up to the war in Iraq, I would look for that emotional scene that somehow said something about the event and the human condition.



My interest in protests continued as I traveled for work when I was always ready to spare a few hours to photograph any local protest. A morning of visiting the historic center in Mexico City quickly turned into a two hour walk with farmers from southern Mexico calling for a more socialist government. Over a decade later I was in São Paulo,



Brazil, when the presidency came under attack and protests erupted every single weekend. I spent many hours photographing the two sides of the impeachment war; one was composed of wealthy Brazilians fighting to rid the country of their socialist president and maintain their status quo, and the other was formed by people

who had benefited from many social programs. The marginalized, the gay and trans community, the homeless, defending not just for the president, but their basic human rights and social recognition.

Photographing the recent protests against police violence in New York City was different, very different from the others. These protests felt more personal and cathartic—personal in that

the protests are essentially forcing all of us to be self-reflective of our roles in systemic racism, be it due to active or passive thoughts and actions. Yet, under quasi-quarantine conditions, it was cathartic to engage with people who are hurting, to show support for others



living injustices, to be part of history, and to document events that reveal deep flaws in our society.

EMPTY BOX, ROOSEVELT, NJ

May, 2020

We stop on our walk in time of plague before a house hollowed out, look at the gutted in future's name. Windows shattered, only frames left, like eye-sockets emptied of eyeballs. Doors disappeared, breath sucked out, house become the unhouse. Concrete roof declaring flat, dumb weight on block walls, mouth-holes open. We look through this hollow box, where even bats refuse to hang themselves in sleep. Nothing to hold our eyes, background and foreground one, how to sort out, blurred as are the days of our own isolation in known rooms become unknown. Innocent, utter emptiness nothing rather than something, house of subtraction like my land's your land's houses. Thought we knew caves, knew tunnels, but we stand looking at neither in plague time, question our seeing through, our looking at a box unto itself like a sculpture, alone among houses, lawns, scattered toys, cats, a house hearing only the barks of a dog so relentless it must possess three heads, asking can we still see ourselves. From this box of emptiness even the fox turns away like UPS. How do we explain to the children? What stories? How to live so? For here it is to be without a body. Ghost sound in the shellhouse of sirens on distant roads, think absence, no Facebook, Twitter, or Dow, think perfect Zoom backdrop in the world inviting us like neighbors. Open now to future fullness? House confident as a patient, waiting boxcar, certain as the plague undoing place, embrace, and certainty.

David Sten Herrstrom

During the time of plague, walking our deserted streets, I am stopped by a skeleton. Casually, it sits on a swing hanging from a branch of an ordinary tree, its hand raised in an everyday greeting. It's been on my neighbor's lawn for months, but I cannot simply walk on by anymore. I'm held in its presence. I raise my hand, as I would to a friend. Then I walk on, and the skeleton walks with me, reminding me in this town that I must walk, keep on walking.

-- David Herrstrom

During the pandemic, it was like living in Amish country except there were cars in the driveway, but nowhere to go.

-- Ben Johnson

I hid from the virus under my lengthening hair.

-- Ben Johnson

At pandemic's birth, slathered sanitizer on nurse's latex hands scathes my nostrils, reviles me into spasmodic coughing. Healthcare workers in queue at the Purell fountain, a breath from my hospital bed...that ubiquitous smell... an epidemic in China... yeah. In semi-conscious post-surgery, I utter, "I'm allergic to Purell."

-- Robert Axel

During this time of Quarantine Isolation  
My students have to use Imagination  
As they receive their Diplomas for Graduation  
On a televised (Princeton) Public Schools Zoom Presentation  
Where's the Celebration?  
When's the start of Vacation?

-- Claudia Luongo

It's coronavirus season in our town, and I was obediently wearing a mask that evidently was not only keeping me safe from the awful 'novel' disease, but it was keeping my neighbors of thirty years from recognizing me.

-- Al Hepner

During the Time of the Plague, I thought a lot about my childhood and about my children's childhood and about my parents' Great Depression and War years.

And I noticed that my handwriting is starting to look like my mother's – my mother whose presence visited me every day at 4:30 during the Plague - and I remembered how my mother used to sit on the couch in our living room and study German with me even though she didn't know German.

-- Ron Kostar

During plague, it didn't matter when we ate breakfast or dinner, or what we had at either, or whether we called dinner breakfast or breakfast dinner. Or whether night was day or day was night. Time stretched out in front of us like a sheet of linoleum rolling off an assembly line or a sea – a vast grey sea! – in which there were no buoys or channel markers or other points of reference only space and space and more space stretching out in front of us as we sailed into a film of grey mist rising above a listless fleet of ghost ships.

-- Ron Kostar

## What to do!

By Al Hepner

What to do, what to do. What am I going to do? I woke up this morning and I put on the radio. Usually I put on my college radio station that plays classical music. The minute it started to discuss all the reasons it was going to play a particular piece of music, I shut it off and looked for another classical music station. But this morning, somehow, I got on a radio station that suggested to the listeners that many people didn't know what to do. So, the question was, what to do! I had no problem, except I had to find another station because I knew what to do; I was going to look for another station since they were talking and asking questions I already had the answer to: I was going to find another station. But they didn't give me a telephone number so I couldn't tell them what to do. So, I just changed the station. This one didn't have any classical music either, which is really what I wanted to listen to. Before I could change the station, I heard the announcer talk about many people wondering what to do. When several more stations were questioning or advising listeners what to do, I decided that classical music must not be a money maker for the radio but telling people what to do must be.

It's a situation, I suppose, for people who for the first time in their lives are experiencing the pandemic, which is causing many of them to wonder what to do. We knew. We always knew what to do. I knew what to do. I still think I know what to do and so I did what I knew what to do, to look for another radio station. And somehow, the next radio station I listened to also somehow did not have any classical music. I wonder if I'm the only one who is listening to classical music. But it made me wonder enough to want to find out and check it out. So, I checked one more station and soon decided

## Jurassic Park (the Novel)

Upon entering the Roosevelt Post Office we are greeted by a collection of freebies and notices from around town. Coupons, vegetables from the school garden, videos/DVDs and books. I thought it would be fun to pick up something and give it a short review in the Bulletin. I call this series: It Came from the Post Office.

When the movie version of Jurassic Park was released in 1993 I saw it right away. It was a summer blockbuster that spawned a series of movie sequels that are still being made today. I liked the first movie but never saw any of the sequels. When I saw the novel lying there in the Post Office I decided to pick it up and give it a read. The book is always better than the movie, right? Right.

I won't explain the plot in too much detail. I figure most people know it and if you don't, I encourage you to read the book for yourself. Jurassic Park is the story of one man's insane idea to bring dinosaurs back to life in the form of an amusement park. John Hammond spent years and millions of dollars gathering the best professionals he could find and placing them on an island to breed and control dinosaurs. When the story begins, Mr. Hammond's park is nearly ready to open and he invites some guests and investors to see the park first. These guests include two paleontologists, a mathematician, a

computer technician, a lawyer, and Mr. Hammond's two grandkids.

Each character has their own reasons for accepting Mr. Hammond's invitation to view the park: professional intrigue, financial interest, curiosity, and—mostly—disbelief. These characters are joined by others who are already living and working on the island which is located off the coast of Costa Rica. The guests go on an automated tour of the park while Mr. Hammond and his team track their reactions and interactions within the park. Relatively quickly though, things spin out of control. Sabotage, confusion and panic all strike. The Tyrannosaurus escapes its paddock and hunts down the story's characters. A pack of velociraptors wreak havoc throughout the park. Chaos reigns as the Control Room of Jurassic Park fails. Right when you think the park is safe, something else happens. Events that are both foreseen and unforeseen plague the park and its visitors. There are more adventures and obstacles in the book version of Jurassic Park which leads to an overall better story and experience. Even though I knew the base story, I was hooked.

Author Michael Crichton does a great job at pacing the story and events of Jurassic Park. Crichton doesn't dwell on too many details but you get the feeling of knowing exactly



what's going on. Even explanation of the DNA recovery and cloning technology feels accessible. The park's complex computer systems are detailed in simplistic terms which allows the reader to grasp the severity of the issues. The book's introduction and prologue do a fantastic job of setting the tone of the book. It feels plausible and realistic. I would definitely consider the story to be a slow burn and a true page turner.

4.5/5 stars.

I would like to thank whomever left their copy of Jurassic Park at the Post Office. I would also like to thank my brother Rick for creating the image for this series.

Questions? Comments?  
BoroughBirds@gmail.com

What to Do!

Continued from Page 10

this would be the last try. The announcer, not to my surprise, was trying to discover what to do. I listened just long enough to recognize why people tried to know what to do so many times. So many of us are organized or sufficiently self-programmed that we know immediately what to do. Some of us look for radio stations. I really don't know what people do when they don't know what to do.

I went back to my original intent and looked for a station that I knew played classical music and hoped that they had finished discussing all the reasons they were playing that particular piece. That was that: now I was doing what I was going to do.

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# Borough Beavers

by Sam Ashburner

The beaver is the world's second largest rodent (first being the capybara) and North America's largest, so when I heard there was one setting up shop in Roosevelt I thought "I've got to see this." My wife and I went down to Empty Box Brook and have been able to see the beaver (we'll call him Norbert) a couple of times. Norbert picked out a beautiful place to build his dam and lodge. In the evenings, Norbert can look west to see the setting sun and contemplate what needs to be done in the morning. But what is it that needs to be done? What do beavers do each day? I asked myself this and didn't have an answer so I decided to do some research.

Beavers can grow to be four feet long and up to sixty pounds. Beavers are known for their wide, flat tails and incredible teeth. Their tail is used for slapping the water's surface to alert others to danger. It can also be used for balance when they are working on a tree. Their teeth are used to gnaw through trees and will continue to grow throughout a beaver's life. Their teeth are normally an orange-ish color due to their unique chemical makeup. This chemical makeup includes incredibly strong enamel (much stronger than a human's tooth enamel) and iron. A beaver's rear feet are webbed which allow them to glide through the water with ease. While under water, its nose and ears shut and a special membrane covers the eyes for protection. The dark brown fur of a beaver is coated with castoreum which is an oily secretion from its scent glands. When a beaver is around two years old they will leave their parents to create a pond and family (colony) of their own. A beaver colony is made up of one adult male, one adult female and their young. The dam and lodge are defended at nearly all costs and constantly marked with their creator's scent to ward off other beavers. Dams are built

in rivers, streams, small lakes, marshes, brooks and so on; nearly any body of water can be dammed by a beaver.



Their dams and lodges are made up of mud and branches. The lodge is a natural feat of engineering. Lodges are made up on one large central chamber and multiple entrances. The floor of the chamber is higher than the surrounding water level and coated in softer material like woodchips to keep the area dry. Multiple entrances allow for quick escapes. Beavers even add a vent to allow fresh air to come into the lodge while keeping rain out. Most of a beaver's diet is made up of tree bark and cambium. Cambium is the soft tissue that grows under the bark of a tree. Unlike other mammals, beavers can digest cellulose. Beavers will also eat other vegetation such as roots and aquatic plants when they are available.

Beavers can have an enormous impact on their environments. They can create wetlands and increase local plant, bird and wildlife variety. They are recognized by many biologists as a keystone species (one which other species in an ecosystem rely on heavily). When a beaver gnaws down trees, sunlight is able to reach the forest floor and promote new growth. Additionally, that sunlight hits the water and helps aquatic plants and algae. These plants and algae feed small organisms which become food for birds, fish, and mammals. Those birds, fish, and mammals then become nourishment for other predators in the food chain. By killing many trees in an area, beavers allow many species to benefit and natural diversity is promoted.

When it comes to humans, many see beavers as pests. Beaver dams can

create flooding hazards which can damage homes and roadways, wipe out land that farmers need for crops and livestock and damage land used for timber harvesting. To combat this, many towns and governments will trap and relocate beavers. Some use "beaver deceivers" which regulate a dam's water level and minimize the risk of flooding while allowing the beaver to remain in place. Beaver deceivers are usually made of wire fences and large drain pipes. These allow water to move through the dam and lodge quietly so the beaver doesn't instinctually plug up the hole. When properly implemented and maintained, a beaver deceiver can be a win-win. As I write this article I am unaware of what Norbert's situation will become. The Borough or Assunpink may have him relocated to an even better location. One where he can live peacefully and create a colony. Maybe Norbert will get to stay in town and coexist with us. If Norbert is to remain on Empty Box Brook I hope that everyone in Roosevelt gets to take a peaceful look at him doing what he does best, staying busy.

Questions? Comments? Concern? BoroughBirds@gmail.com

Sources: "Can you Deceive a Beaver?" from WetLandsConservancy.com, National Geographic Beaver Photo Ark, "Beaver Teeth are tough as Iron, Literally" from Dickinson County Conservation Board, "Beaver" from NHPBS.com and "Busy New Jersey Beavers" from EndangeredNJ.blogspot.com



## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

My name is Joey and I'm an Editor at Jen Reviews. I was doing research on bee balm and just finished reading your wonderful piece: <http://rooseveltboroughbulletin.org/5/post/2018/03/have-a-mint-please.html>

In that article, I noticed that you cited a solid post that I've read in the past: [https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=MODI](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=MODI)

We just published an updated, comprehensive guide on how to grow and care for bee balm on our sister site, Happy DIY Home. It is completely free and you can find it here: <https://happydiyhome.com/bee-balm/>

If you like the piece we'd be humbled if you cited us in your article. Of course, we will also share your article with our 100k newsletter subscribers and followers across our social platforms.

Either way, keep up the great work!  
Warmly,  
Joey Miller



## Buy Fresh, Buy Local, Roosevelt, NJ

Why is locally grown food important?

- It tastes better because it's picked when fresh, not harvested in advance for long-distance shipping.
- It's better for your health because fresh food contains more nutrients.
- It's better for the environment because it maintains open space and promotes sustainable practices.
- It's better for the community because it supports and creates a connection with local farm families.
- It's better for the climate because it reduces carbon emissions from long-haul transport of food.

In Roosevelt, locally grown food is available at Mendies Farm, which operates a roadside stand and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture, where members buy a share of the produce grown on the farm). The farm is owned and managed by Roosevelt residents Lawrence and Heidi Mendies.

### Mendies Family Farm; Farm Stand and CSA

65 N Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, NJ  
609-820-8809

<http://www.mendiesfarm.com/>

In neighboring towns, locations offering locally grown food include:

**Produce Paradise:** (roadside stand) Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, on the Clarksburg-Robbinsville Road, by the large sycamore trees.

**Fun Fridays in Hightstown:** 6/21 - 9/19 that takes place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday. Along with locally grown produce, there will also be food trucks, craft vendors and live music. Location: Association Park, Grant Ave, Hightstown, NJ. Operated by Hightstown Parks and Recreation <https://www.hightstownborough.com/events/fun-fridays-2/>

**Appelget Family Farm**  
135 Conover Rd., West Windsor, NJ  
609-902-8372  
<https://www.appelgetfarm.com/>

**Windsor Farm and Market**  
1202 Windsor Road, Windsor, NJ  
(609) 443-9379  
<https://www.windsorfarmandmarket.com/>

**Robbinsville Farmers Market 6/25-8/27 Tuesdays, 3:30-7:00 pm**  
The Shoppes at Foxmoor  
1095 Washington Blvd, Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
Farmers Market Contact:  
Kevin Holt, [kholt@robbinsville.net](mailto:kholt@robbinsville.net)  
609-259-3600 x1131

**Corner-Copia**  
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Hightstown, New Jersey 08520  
(609) 208-9116  
<http://www.corner-copia.com/farm-market/>

**Lee Turkey Farm**  
201 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, NJ 8520  
609-448-0629  
<https://www.leeturkeyfarm.com/>

**KJD Farm, LLC**  
1510 Old York Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
(609) 977-5937

**Windy Acres Farm & CSA**  
214 Windsor Road, Robbinsville, NJ  
Amy Giovanelli  
(609) 722-2122  
Farm market is open to general public located at 214 Windsor Rd, Robbinsville NJ 08691. Open 5 days. Starting early June 4 thru October 1, 2019. Hours of operation: Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.  
<http://windyacresfarmllc.com/>



## Borough of Roosevelt Environmental Commission



### Calling all Roosevelt Citizen Scientists

Water is our most precious natural resource—without it, all life would perish. Water is also incredibly fragile and vulnerable to many threats, from various sources of pollution to climate change. In the coming year we hope to continue monitoring the health of our streams, but we will use a new process which involves collecting water samples and using chemical analysis to measure such things as temperature, nitrates, phosphates, pH, etc.

Members of the Stream Monitoring Team will take a one-day training class at the Watershed Institute in Pennington. Once trained, we will go out one day per month year round to collect and analyze water samples. The process will take about an hour once we are proficient. We will monitor the Rocky Brook and Empty Box Brook. A one year commitment is required. We especially encourage middle school, high school and college students to join us.

We are not sure when training and sampling will begin because of COVID-19 concerns.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email to [marytulloss@comcast.net](mailto:marytulloss@comcast.net).

# Contributors to the Bulletin 2019/2020

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare	Timothy & Lorraine Hartley	Teri Nachtman
Sam & Nicole Ashburner	Len & Michele Guye-Hillis	Parsons family
Robin & Robert Axel	Al Hepner	Bob & Alison Petrilla
Richard & Janet Bernardin	Constance & David Herrstrom	Petrillo family
Linda Block	Daniel Hoffman &	Gregg & Elizabeth Possiel
Marvin & Karen Block	Assenka Oksiloff	Richard & Hope Pressler
Alexandra Bonfante-Warren	Louise and David Hoffman	Merle & Irv Rose
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna	Gail Hunton & Wes Czyzewski	Kirk and Jane Rothfuss
Charlotte Bondy	Cynthia Imbrie	Kelly & Ronald Scibetti
Bondy/Vuole family	Sheila & Phil Jaeger	Helen Seitz
Jacqueline Carpenter	Michelle & Ricky Jaeger	Shirley Sokol
Susan & Robert Cayne	Anna & Ben Johnson	Michael Szewczyk
Maureen & Bob Clark	Ingrid Jordan	Jeb & Jonathan Shahn
Keith & Patricia Clayton	Kosa family	Michael & Marilyn Ticktin
William & June Counterman	Naylon Larane	Mary & Rod Tulloss
Paul & Elise Cousineau	Lynn Lawson	Ralph & Nancy Warnick
Kay Drury	Claudia Luongo & Ken Maffeo	Frank Wiesinger &
Frances Duckett	Steven & Mary Macher	Theresa Secks
Lou & Irma Esakoff	Julia & Jim McArdle	Zahora family
Judith Goetzmann	Geraldine Millar	Anthony & Gail Zelenak
Jay & Ann Goldman	Edward & Rose Murphy	Mark & Judith Zuckerman

**Help us to fill up this page.**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Send in a contribution today.**

**Please send contributions to:**

**Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555**

## **Become Part of the Bulletin Team!**

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is a fully volunteer effort of its writers, editors, layout artist, and distribution captain. We would like to expand our team.

We offer an excellent work environment (your home) and terrific benefits (people actually do say thank you a lot). The only requirements are that you must be able to send your material via email and translate all your work into Esperanto (actually, the Esperanto is optional).

**Calendar Editor** – Prepare monthly calendar. Takes about 2 hours if you do it carefully. We have an MS Word template you can just fill in for the routine stuff, and we can steer you towards reliable sources for the other stuff. A great way to find out what's going on in the Borough!

**Roving Reporter** – 4 hours a month – Write short features that focus on Roosevelt-specific themes.

## BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Bulletin publishes free-of-charge public information listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: Roosevelt Bulletin, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$50.00/year, \$60.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month

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SEPTEMBER

2	Weds.	Recycling Pickup	
7	Mon.	Labor Day	
14	Mon.	Council Meeting, by video conference. See online agenda for details: <a href="https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes">https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes</a> Peggy Malkin, Mayor	
16	Weds. 7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, conducted by video conference. See agenda for details: <a href="https://www.rooseveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes">https://www.rooseveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes</a>	
16	Weds.	Recycling Pickup	
24	Thurs. 7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Roosevelt Public School Ken LeCompte, President	
29	Tues. 7:00 pm	Council Meeting, by video conference. See online agenda for details: <a href="https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes">https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes</a> Peggy Malkin, Mayor	
30	Weds.	Recycling Pickup	

OCTOBER

6	Tues. 7:00 pm	Planning Board, meeting conducted by video conference. See online agenda for details: <a href="https://www.rooseveltnj.us/planning-board-agenda">https://www.rooseveltnj.us/planning-board-agenda</a>	
12	Mon.	Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day	
13	Tues. 7:00 pm	Council Meeting, by video conference. See online agenda for details: <a href="https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes">https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes</a> Peggy Malkin, Mayor	
14	Weds.	Recycling Pickup	
21	Weds. 7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, conducted by video conference. See agenda for details: <a href="https://www.rooseveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes">https://www.rooseveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes</a>	
22	Thurs. 7:00 pm	RPS Board of Education, Roosevelt Public School Ken LeCompte, President	
26	Mon. 7:00 pm	Council Meeting, by video conference. See online agenda for details: <a href="https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes">https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes</a> Peggy Malkin, Mayor	
28	Weds.	Recycling Pickup	
31	Sat.	Halloween	



RECYCLING DATES

September 2, 16, 30

October 14, 28

**Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement,  
and Housing Inspector**

Jeremy Kuipers

email: [zoning@rooseveltnj.us](mailto:zoning@rooseveltnj.us)

**Office Hours: Mon. 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**Inspection Hours: Mon. 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

609-448-0539

**Construction and Permits**

The Construction Official has  
Borough hours on

**Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.**

Questions regarding building permits  
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Department of Community Affairs -  
609-567-3653

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please send notice of your events to the  
Roosevelt Borough Bulletin at  
P.O. Box 221 or email to  
[RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com).

The Roosevelt Board of Education's  
website contains complete school  
calendar information: [www.rps1.org](http://www.rps1.org).