

Bulletin

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B O R O U G H C O U N C I L N E W S

Council Plans Litigation Strategy; Hears Complaints About Twigs, Grass, Speed Bumps, Affordable Housing and Cats

By Michael Ticktin

A major part of the May 13 meeting of the Borough Council was held in closed session, so that the Council could discuss the progress of the litigation with US Home Corporation, which is demanding the right to build 266 homes in the northeastern part of Roosevelt as part of a plan allegedly intended to produce the eight affordable units required under the rules of the Council on Affordable Housing.

While the Mayor and Council did not comment on the substance of those discussions, Mayor Michael Hamilton did make clear, by way of analogy, his and the Council's determination to persevere in this lawsuit by quoting an excerpt from Winston Churchill's first speech as prime minister, delivered in the House of Commons on May 13, 1940. That excerpt is as follows:

"We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a

monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be: for without victory, there is no survival. Let that be realized; no survival for the British Empire, no survival for all that the British Empire has stood for, no survival for the urge and impulse of the ages, that mankind will move forward towards its goal. But I take up my task with buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. At this time I feel entitled to claim the aid of all, and I say, 'Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength.'"

That having been said, the Council moved on to committee reports. Councilwoman Elly Shapiro reported, on behalf of the Environment, Health and Safety committee, that Mark Aakhus has planted field grasses to stop erosion at the cemetery. She also said that the initial CPR training program for prospective EMTs was planned for June 9 and that a program for others who have indicated an interest in

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NEWS

An Apology and A Thank You

By Ed Moser

When we leafleted the Borough last month to give notice of the twig and branch collection, we had no idea that there were so many twigs and branches around, nor that so many people wanted to get rid of them. Our problem was that we had plenty of stuff to pick up, and not enough volunteers. Even the Borough truck was not enough. We wound up making four or five trips to various places to which we brought them. A major factor was that the truck got mired down on the Notterman tract for over two hours, until we could get a farm tractor to pull us out.

We have now worked out a deal with the Borough to get the rest of the twigs and branches removed. If you would like to volunteer your time to help us move this and other projects along, please call Ed Moser at 609-448-4865, Kirk Rothfuss at 609-448-3717 or Rod Tuloss at 609-448-5096. And, for those of you who went to the Borough Council to complain, I assure you we heard about it that night.

I can also assure you that we have learned a great deal about how to move branches and twigs, and that the next time we have such a pick-up, it will be infinitely more organized.

We regret that there were a number of errors in the otherwise excellent article about Dina Coe by Gladys Nadler that appeared in last month's issue:

- A line was omitted. The two sentences should have read: Dina also does a lot of adjunct teaching away from home. Since the late 1980's, she has been working in the schools in the Arts in Education program run by the New Jersey State Council in the Arts.
- Dina received the Grolier Prize, not the Goller Prize.
- William Golding was writer-in-residence at Hollins College, not William Golden.
- It was Pulitzer Prize winner, novelist Annie Dillard who went to Hollins College as did Dina, not Annie Dollard.
- At City College, Dina studied creative writing with William Matthews, not William Masters.

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR,
PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.**

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Environmental Constraints On Building Highlighted

Planning Board Chairman Ralph Seligman distributed to Board members on May 14 the first in a series of memoranda intended to provide information necessary to modernize and expand Roosevelt's Master Plan. With U.S. Home's lawsuit against the Borough still pending, Mr. Seligman's paper showed how wetland constraints could hamper the company's ability to construct the 266 houses that it desires to build on farmland east of Route 571 and north of Oscar Drive.

Mr. Seligman explained a geographic information system (GIS)-based map prepared by the Board's planning consultant Tom Thomas. The map presents the "maximum buildable area" for 11 lots, totaling 211 acres out of the 221 acres comprising Block 5, which contains all of the northern farmland east of Route 571. The wetland areas on the GIS-based map, combined with 150-ft. buffers for the protection of endangered species, leave significantly less upland or buildable area than designated on the map accompanying the recently repealed PCD II ordinance that once governed the northeastern farmland.

As Board members gazed in wonderment at the map's strips of brown, designating upland, surrounded by seas of blue, representing wetland, Mayor Michael Hamilton exclaimed that the scene depicted a "water world" where little development should occur. Mr. Seligman pointed out that 80 acres of buildable upland, snake, sometimes narrowly, through two river drainage basins (Delaware

and Raritan) and two watersheds (Assunpink Creek and Stony Brook-Millstone River). He maintained that the effects of high-density development on the environmentally sensitive area had never been studied. He added that the historic design of the Borough had steered development away from wetland without permitting high-density structures on nearby upland.

Mayor Hamilton reported that local officials are negotiating with cellular communications companies to locate their antennas on a "monopole" to be located on Borough property at the water treatment plant off Oscar Drive. The companies would pay the town for locating their antennas there. Mr. Hamilton said the Borough Council had decided not to permit antennas on the water tower because all five companies would not be able to use that location at the same time. The Council tabled a draft ordinance on the subject so that it could be revised to better meet Roosevelt's needs.

Mayor Hamilton also reported that speed bumps had been constructed on local roads. Two were placed on Farm Lane, one on Pine Drive and one on School Lane. Mr. Hamilton explained that the bumps were paid for with operating funds rather than with money left over from the North Valley Road paving project. Thus, no ordinance was required for their installation. Mr. Hamilton related that residents' reactions were "mixed," with several parents expressing thanks for using bumps to slow traffic.

Reporting for the Environmental Commission, Edwin Moser apologized to the community for the confusion surrounding the Commission's recent project to collect twigs and branches placed at curbside by residents. He said the organizers underestimated the amount of wood that would be put out and overestimated the number of helpers who would volunteer to collect it. While placing some of the bundles as erosion barriers, the Borough truck became mired in mud. Mr. Moser called the project "an educational experience." He said more details would be announced in the Bulletin.

Zoning Officer Edward Goetzmann reported that he and the Board's Subdivision and Site Plan Review Committee — Mr. Seligman, Mr. Moser and David Ticktin — met with George Pall at his factory on North Valley Road to provide advice on zoning requirements. Mr. Pall has revised his site plan to address concerns expressed by Board members. He will incorporate the changes in a future formal application for expansion of the factory and its parking area. Mr. Goetzmann called for an ordinance to govern the height of lawn grass. Michael Ticktin pointed out that the County Health Department could deal with grass height problems that present health risks. Roosevelt has asked the County to enforce health requirements in the Borough, according to Mr. Ticktin. Mr. Seligman offered to review possible ordinances with Mr. Goetzmann. ■

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

New Jersey Law (N.J.S. A. 40A:60-5), states that “the mayor shall be the head of the municipal government” and “shall recommend to the Council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the borough.”

The 2002 municipal budget... was unanimously approved by the Council during the April 10, 2002 meeting. As many of you are aware, school taxes comprise approximately 74.7% of your tax dollar, the municipal budget 13.8%, the remainder is collected for county taxes.

Some confusion may have arisen as a result of inaccuracies contained a letter to the editor by former Councilman Stuart Kaufman that appeared in the April Bulletin.

Open Public Meetings... Mr. Kaufman claims that “*There is no public discussion from the Council...*” and “*There are no longer open public committee meetings and Council members meet behind closed doors excluding other members like George Vasseur.*” and “*...we have a governing body that*

practices exclusionary government.” and “*The Mayor and Council are using our hard earned tax dollars for their own projects without informing the public.*” *Fact:* despite Mr. Kaufman’s claims, the Council continues to have open public meetings in accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law. Committee meetings are always open to all Council members and no one is excluded. Moreover, Council Agenda meetings, which had been closed to public input during the administration of which Stuart Kaufman was a part, now have a public portion.

The surplus... Mr. Kaufman states that “*...at the current rate of spending by the Council, within two years we will have no surplus.*” *Fact:* Mr. Kaufman’s contention that we will have no surplus in two years is baseless. The official 2002 Municipal Budget indicates that our surplus actually grew 7% over the prior year (from \$430,510 to \$454,000) and we continue to exercise fiscal restraint and careful monetary policy.

The U.S. Home Litigation... Mr. Kaufman claims that the Council is spending “\$82,000 for legal expenses defending a lawsuit by US Home.” *Fact:* This is inaccurate. Mr. Kaufman’s figure includes the total estimated

costs for all of the municipal work done by the Borough Attorney for the year (reviewing ordinances and attending meetings when warranted etc.), the Planning Board Attorney’s services for the entire year, the costs related to the foreclosure of the Guyette gas station, other consultants retained from time to time by the Borough and the Planning Board, and costs related to U.S. Home litigation.

Remember, U.S. Home Corp. is *not* suing to build senior housing here. *Fact:* It is far more cost effective to spend money fighting the developer in court than to allow 266 family-houses to be built. The cost of educating several hundred children, as well as the other services required for this disproportionate amount of development, would cause property taxes to rise dramatically.

Affordable Housing... We have a statutory obligation under State law to provide our fair share of affordable housing. This is the first administration to address this requirement. Mr. Kaufman claims that “*This plan is not realistic and if implemented, will cost Roosevelt taxpayers more than \$700,000.*” Mr. Kaufman fails to inform the public that we are required

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Roosevelt's Affordable Housing Program

By Marilyn Magnus

About a year and a half ago, the planning board with the assistance of Alan Mallach, its consultant, began the process of preparing an affordable housing program for the Borough of Roosevelt. Although The Bulletin has been reporting on these proceedings it may have been difficult for the public to get a feel for the total picture. This is a summary of the program.

Background of the Affordable Housing Program

In 1985 the NJ Legislature created the Fair Housing Act. This was in response to a series of NJ Supreme Court decisions commonly referred to as the Mt. Laurel cases. The court established a constitutional obligation for each of NJ's then 567 municipalities to provide its fair share of low and moderate-income housing. The Fair Housing Act created the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) to administer the program.

Until 1992, the 21 units at Solar Village met Roosevelt's obligation. Because COAH periodically adjusts each municipalities fair share obligation, in 1992 a new figure of 32 was set. Solar Village's 21 units are counted toward that obligation, as are three homes in town that received funding from Monmouth County to make necessary repairs under a program designed to assist low income households in maintaining their homes. That leaves us with an obligation of eight units.

It should be noted that although many homes in town meet the criteria of the affordable housing sales price, that is, they are affordable to households whose income is up to 80% of Monmouth County's median income, COAH regulations do not allow existing inhabited homes without affordability controls to count toward a municipality's obligation.

Roosevelt's Fair Share Plan

Several options were discussed by the Planning Board and the Council as to how to best meet this obligation of eight units. Because there are homes in town that are uninhabited and in disrepair, it was decided that our best course of action was to acquire these homes, rehabilitate them and resell them to households who qualify under COAH income guidelines.

Another option for meeting one's obligation is to transfer funds to a receiving municipality that will use the funds to rehabilitate housing. Agreements between municipalities to transfer funds are known as Regional Contribution Agreements (RCA's). No more than half of a municipality's obligation can be satisfied by transferring funds to rehabilitate units.

Cost of the Program

The Planning Board and Council decided to meet the Borough's obligation of eight by transferring funds for three units at the current rate

of \$25,000/unit and buying, rehabilitating and reselling five units in Roosevelt, over a three year period, to qualified low or moderate income households.

The Council has entered into an agreement with an experienced non-profit developer to administer the entire rehabilitation program. This involves obtaining the units, applying for grants to obtain funds for the acquisition and rehabilitation costs, overseeing the rehabilitation and qualifying prospective low-moderate income buyers. The standard fee for the developer is 8% of development costs.

Based on projections prepared by Mr. Mallach, the cost for the acquisition, rehabilitation and developer fee for five units is \$658,800. On resale to qualified buyers \$494,000 would be recouped. Of the \$164,800 difference, approximately \$83,000 can be acquired through Federal housing grant programs, the State Balanced Housing Program and other private funds dedicated to the creation of affordable housing. Mr. Mallach's cost analysis shows that the Borough's responsibility would be approximately \$81,800 plus the \$75,000 in RCA's for a total of \$156,800, spread out over three years, certainly not the \$700,000 quoted by Stuart Kaufman in his May letter.

The Borough must comply with the Fair Housing Act. Both the Planning Board and the Council feel that we have designed a plan that is the least

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From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

The school year may be winding to an end, but the activity level at RPS is in full motion. The months of May and June are packed with a myriad of events. This year the fourth, fifth and sixth graders spent an afternoon at the Waterfront Park in Trenton, attending a Trenton Thunder baseball game. As part of our world culture curriculum, we selected a Spanish speaking country to focus on. This year Puerto Rico was selected, and on May 22 the fourth grade class coordinated a building wide Puerto Rico day. Students of all grades shared the information they had gathered regarding the culture, history, geography and other aspects of that country. Our student council ran a Spirit Week, and all the students participated by dressing according to the theme of the day.

The third and fourth graders worked very hard to clear and plant a garden area on school grounds. Many parents joined the students on the day of planting. Imagine the dismay of the students when they discovered dog excrement in their garden! Once again, I IMPLY the good citizens of Roosevelt to cease from using the school grounds as a pet park. Animals on school grounds should be leashed and picked up after. Pets should not be on school grounds during student arrival or dismissal times.

Field Day is scheduled for June 4. The theme this year is "national parks," and each team will represent one of our national parks. We always look forward to this school wide event. The sixth graders have been quite busy.

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RCNS February Newsletter

By Ginny Weber

Graduation Day is quickly approaching and is scheduled for June 13th. The children have been practicing and doing a wonderful job. They are looking forward to their big day, but at the same time it is sad to see some children and their families leave our school.

This month we are learning all about dinosaurs. We will see that there are meat eaters, plant eaters, large and small dinosaurs, and that they lived on land, in water or even flew in the air. We will become paleontologists for a day and look for dinosaur eggs. The children will also make their own fossils.

To celebrate the beginning of the summer season, our class will learn about the sun and how it affects our weather and us. We will also make projects relating to Summer fun, such as sand bottles. The children will make ice cream for a special treat during this month.

Our end of the year party was a big success and lots of fun. We spent the morning at Etra Park for a picnic.

Although Father's Day comes just after graduation, the children are making special Father's Day gifts. Happy Father's Day to all dads!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Summer. Good luck in kindergarten for all our graduates. I hope to see everyone during the summer at our annual RCNS pool party. All of our students and their families are invited, as well as children who are enrolled for September. It is always a wonderful time for everyone!

June School Dates

June 4	Field Day – early dismissal
June 5	Field Day rain date – early dismissal
June 13	Board of Education meeting
June 14	Sixth grade trip
June 18	Early dismissal
June 19	Early dismissal
June 20	Awards Assembly, early dismissal, Last day of school for students
June 22	4:00 p.m. Graduation

Items for this column can be submitted to Ron Kostar by phone 448-5191, 18 Pine Drive, or ronkostar@cs.com.

Schools

Roosevelt Public School

Sixth grader Matt Stinson won second place for his essay in the recent Monmouth County Judiciary Contest. The contest included students throughout Monmouth County. Matt wrote his essay on the question, "Why do we follow rules?" and he won a \$50 bond for his efforts.

Fellow sixth grader Joe Zahora received an academic achievement award from the Student Recognition Program of Monmouth County students. Joe was honored on April 11 at Colt's Neck High School.

On May 20, the sixth grade students' historical projects were set up in the school lobby. Visitors are welcome to come to the school to view the projects. Chief School Administrator Weinbach describes them as being amazing. The Roosevelt Historical Committee has the unenviable job of picking out a prize winner.

On May 15, members of the fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes attended a Trenton Thunder baseball game at Waterfront Park. Kids came home happy with baseballs, autographed baseball cards and programs, and mustard-stained lips. One student exclaimed "There is nothing like a day of excused hookey watching a day baseball game" or something to that effect. His parents, who may have frequented Wrigley Field when they were kids, agreed.

Colleges

Kathleen Alfare, entering her senior year at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, has been awarded the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grant for research in biochemistry covering research for the next two summers and this coming school year. In addition, she is spending May in Spain on a Marshall Scholar's Grant doing research on the history and architecture of Spanish castles.

Kathleen has been elected Vice President of F&M's student affiliate chapter of the American Chemical Society, Vice President of MU Upsilon Sigma, the Music Honor Society, and Secretary of the Equestrian Club.

Rachel Ticktin graduated with honors from Bryn Mawr College.

O'Livia DelPiano has graduated from Caldwell College.

Unfortunately, there is no more news to report, due to a combination of facts that this reporter has been working long, indeed excessive hours and my fellow townspeople haven't sent me any notices. Perhaps May was an uneventful month. It has been windy, though, and people need to be observant of falling trees and slippery rocks. Otherwise life in our town is verdant and balmy and, for those high school students preparing for SAT's, bucolic if not idyllic. Perfect weather to lie in the grass on one elbow and study analogies. ■

**THE
ROOSEVELT BOROUGH
BULLETIN**

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are 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.

Review - The Tradition Continues

By Jim Sherry

Traditions are the ties that bind a community together. And one of the most delightful of Roosevelt traditions is the Roosevelt String Band. Now in its fifteenth year, the Band appeared on May 4th and 5th at the Borough Hall entertaining enthusiastic audiences with a rich variety of music from another great tradition—the folk tradition.

Featuring Dave Brahinsky, Howie Jacobson, Paul Prestopino, and Ed Cedar, the band demonstrated once again that folk music is indeed the voice of people--rejoicing, complaining, protesting, or just reflecting, and with as many faces and moods as people themselves.

This year's performance showcased 21 songs from nearly every part of the folk repertoire—including traditional ballads like "The Gypsy Rover" and "Stewball," rockabilly classics like "Wake up Little Susie" and "Bird Dog," hilarious "talking" songs like "Conversation with a Mule," and fresh examples of the enduring strength of the folk tradition from artists as diverse as Leonard Cohen, Emmylou Harris, Stan Rogers, and Chris Smither.

David Brahinsky was, as usual, a masterful master of ceremonies, providing fascinating background and commentary between songs, while lending his rich bass voice to tunes like "So Hard," "Bird on a Wire," and "I Ain't Afraid."

Howie Jacobson delighted the audience with his deadpan humor on "A Chat with Your Mother," and with his fine tenor voice on the gorgeous song of peace, "Yihye Tov."

Paul Prestopino, dressed in his trademark phosphorescent overalls and workshirt, did what he always does at String Band concerts—make consummate artistry on guitar, banjo, mandolin, slide guitar and dobro, look as easy as rocking on a back porch swing.

And behind it all, Ed Cedar brought his inventive bass, including a superb solo on "Roll and Tumble" which left no doubt about one of the origins of rock and roll.

Missing from the room on this occasion, but present in spirit was Judy Trachtenberg. It was Judy, as David noted, who suggested the medley of tunes from Buddy Holly and the Everly brothers; it was Judy who was to sing the quirky Lyle Lovett tune, "If I had a Boat" that Howie sang in her place; and it was Judy, with her love of traveling, who would probably have sung the gentle ballad, "Mendicino" that David performed so well.

Judy would no doubt have enjoyed the lyrical sound of 21 year old Sarah Houtz, who made a guest appearance with the band singing the lead on Cheryl Wheeler's "His Hometown." Not only because the song speaks of a sense of place (which Judy always valued), but because Sarah is part of a generation of kids who have grown up listening to and loving the Roosevelt String Band. That's why it was beautifully appropriate that the band's encore should have included the refrain, "When I'm on my journey, don't you weep after me." For like folk music itself, the Roosevelt String Band has absorbed loss and sorrow and will continue to go on, rejuvenated by the spirit of its audience. The tradition continues.

Lendl Is My Darlin'... A F(e)INE ROMANCE

By Lois Hunt

In '96, when I negotiated with the owner's offspring for the purchase of my Roosevelt house, the only condition requiring any consideration at all was the disposition of their family pet. The sale was contingent upon my adoption of THE CAT. THE CAT was (and still is) a middle-aged orange male named Lendl (after the tennis champ). Needless to say, as a serious cat person with two of my own, I considered this no problem. However, upon my first encounter with THE CAT, I realized that Lendl the Cat, was better identified with Ivan the Terrible than with Ivan the champion. This sad, miserable feline had been, of necessity, abandoned in his once cozy, loving home which is now devoid of family and furniture. (His neighbor most kindly had been feeding him regularly, but she had her own menagerie to tend to.) Lendl the Lonely, whom I had inherited, was then further traumatized by my piling all of my strange things in a great heap in the middle of his living room while proceeding to tear his house apart (we called it renovation).

Lendl the Frantic took refuge on the roof for several days, alternating that with a nest, which he dug under the tarp-covered pile in his old living room. Any advances on my part to make friends were greeted with sharp teeth and claws punctuated by blood-curdling shrieks. I was a thing of cuts and scratches rampant on a sea of Bactine and Band-aids. Dark times, Lendl-wise.

LENDL IS MY DARLIN'... A FELINE ROMANCE

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At this time, I was camping down the road in the bosom of my family: son, daughter-in-law and their collection of delightful pets, plus my own two dear kitties, Sam and Spooky.

Meanwhile, back at Lendl's house the renovation went on apace (a-snail's pace). Lendl the Lorn grew sadder, sulkier and filthier (he had long since ceased to groom himself, which the species normally does). He was becoming even more wretched.

After about two months, I finally moved in, placed all my "strange" things in their proper niches, cozied up the house and made it my home. *Theen*, I introduced Sam and Spooky to Lendl and his house. Talk about adding insult to injury!!!! *Quelle Geschrei!!!!* Back up on the roof, under the bed, behind the sofa. There was no safe hiding place for Lendl the Lost, no consolation anywhere; except for that most reliable of wound-healers, Time.

It has been five years, and this tale has a most happy denouement. There is still not a lot of love lost among my three permanent guests, but over time, little by little, and ever so slowly, there has developed what I perceive as an amiable truce among the four-footed inhabitants of my now peaceful home. To be sure, there is still an occasional 2 a.m. contretemps, and the usual lurking and pouncing...but there is a

healthy frequency of cuddling too. The roof is still an option for sulking.

In sum, I am now the custodian of three reasonably well-adjusted cats: Sam (actually Samantha) my dear little forest creature, passed away, aged 23; Pitti Pat who just marched in the front door one day; and Spooky Spectre, my magnificent Eminence Grise; and, at long last Lendl the Loveable, who sleeps warmly beside me every night and tolerates all of us interlopers with a kind of venerable *noblesse oblige*... Lendl the Victorious.

PROJECT REVIVE S.O.S. (Save Our Squad)

By L. Hunt and D. Chasan, Co-chairs

The members of the Project Revive Committee wish to thank the community for its enthusiastic response to our recruitment efforts on April 20th at the Post Office. The result was most gratifying.

Sixteen people have expressed interest in joining the first Aid Squad, and will be taking the qualifying CPR course on June 9. Forty-three others signed up to take the regular complete CPR course. And, still others offered generous financial support.

To all: We express our most sincere appreciation and delight in the way our community can be counted on for our mutual support. ■

By Clare Sacharoff

There were 16 members present at the May 7th meeting. Lillian Warren was hostess.

On May 31st, a box lunch was held at the Solar Village. Due to the absence of Herb and Florie Johnson, this activity was supervised by Anne Gornham and Diana Klein. Generally, these lunches are held the last Friday of each month.

On June 18th, club members will attend a performance featuring Roberta Flack at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel. The performance starts at 1:30 and usually lasts 1½ hours. People are expected to be seated by 1:00 p.m.

A program called "Salute for Seniors" is to be held Friday, June 21st, in Long Branch. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided. The bus will leave at 10:30 and return by 4:00 p.m.

Our June meeting was changed from Tuesday, June 4th, to Monday, June 3rd because of Election Day. Louise Baramowitz was hostess for the June meeting.

Three of our club members are participating in the weekly yoga classes. These are held each Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the Borough Hall.

Are you taking advantage of the Roosevelt Library in our school?

To keep it alive, it needs to be used.

As CSA Weinbach has said:

"A town library would be a terrible thing to lose!"

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

To the Editor,

Several years ago, Soch and I spent a week at a pleasant inn in Maine where we met a woman who boasted of her remarkable son-in-law, who was a newspaper man and a writer very much interested and involved in Jewish activities. His name is Howard Simonds, one-time editor-in-chief of the Washington Post.

By chance, recently, I found Howard Simond's book, *Jewish Times*, and read it avidly. It is a compilation of interviews with Jewish men and women who, starting out poor and unaccomplished, have achieved success in many fields. They are doctors, lawyers, teachers and university professors.

There is Arthur Goldberg, a lawyer, Secretary of Labor, and for a time, a Justice of the Supreme Court and Ambassador to the United Nations. And then the long arm of Roosevelt came into play again: there are Leo Libove, retired farmer, Augusta Chasan, member of the fire company. Both have passed on. Then we have our Helen Barth [I spoke with Helen who told me he had read and learned about our town when he talked to some people at Princeton University. – B.T.]

Helen, interviewed when she was fifty-five and school secretary, told her family's story. Her father, a garment worker and union member who was a "very liberal Democrat" answered an ad sometime in 1936 in the *Jewish Forward* urging its readers to move to the country, enjoy the grass and the trees.

Helen, as we all know her, is a magnificent representative of the best of Rooseveltians. In the interview she describes the principles of the founders of the community, their devotion to unionism and to the education of the children.

She tells of "the artist, Ben Shahn, who painted a famous mural in the school which brings to life the building of the school" and the founding fathers of the town.

Thus, she relates all this to the growth of interest and knowledge of art in the mid 20th century and educating the children of the town. If you have heard her explaining the mural, you understand what I mean. Helen is its best interpreter ever.

Hortense Sochowitzky
Resident of Roosevelt in absentia

FROM THE CSA

Continued from Page 6

Their Roosevelt projects were judged by the Historic Committee on May 20. The project voted on as the best will be announced with the other awards at graduation. This year the sixth grade trip will be to Wildwood, New Jersey. A full day is planned, including a boat ride to Cape May, activities on the boardwalk, and other fun activities. Our awards assembly is scheduled for Thursday morning, June 20. Graduation is planned for 4:00 p.m. Saturday, June 22. Everyone is invited!!

The recreation coalition will be running a summer recreation program this year. Information is available at the Borough Hall. This is a popular program for children, who enjoy the many activities planned for them over the summer.

The library will be closed over the summer months. Special thanks to our loyal library volunteers, who make it possible to open the library during the evenings. They are vigilant about their assignment and never miss a library night!

All parts of the Panhandle Regionalization study have been completed. A joint meeting was planned with the Millstone Township Committee, Millstone Board of Education, Roosevelt Council, Roosevelt Board of Education, Upper Freehold Committee, Allentown Borough Council and Upper Freehold Regional Board of Education. At this meeting no action was taken. It was an open meeting. Public comments will be accepted on June 6 at a meeting to be announced.

Congratulations to our very own Joy Marko, for being awarded her Master's Degree. ■



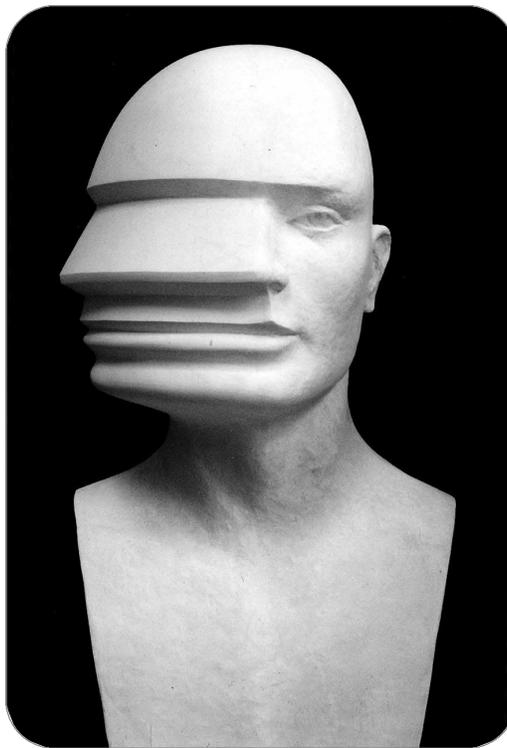
Finally, Roosevelt, The Perfect Place

When I was asked to write this, I realized that my story could not offer much about my family's past as my grandparents on both sides, died before I was born. However, I know that they had lived in a very different country from the one I was born into. The 1917 revolution turned czarist Russia from a feudal country into a completely different one – an industrial society. In the old Russia, life had been very hard for most people, as is well known.

But when my parents were born, the new society was already in progress and I believe that at the beginning, everyone thought it would be good. The idea was truly wonderful! Suddenly there was free education, everyone had a job and the future seemed to hold the promise of a good life. But...there was no freedom. The idea was that your life belonged to the state, the individual was not important, the collective was more important than the individual.

Living in the USSR became very hard in a new way. As a child, I remember my mother constantly warning me to be very careful about what I said as far as politics was concerned, as well as that we were Jewish. I remember we had a neighbor who secretly built himself a small radio so that he could receive the Western stations. But it was very secret. He knew he could trust us because we were both Jewish. At school, kids would

call me names and I would get into fights with them. When I grew up, I



Motion by Leonid Siveriver

learned that the constitution of the USSR included a statement outlawing anti-Semitism but obviously it was not enforced. I was told I had an uncle who had had a high position in the government, but during the 30's before the war, he disappeared. The family thought he was dead but after Stalin died and Krushchev came into power, he reappeared. He had been in Siberia for 30 years!

But to come back to my family, all I know is that they came from

Bessarabia, now called Muldavia and that it was a part of Romania. During World War II, the whole family which included my mother's three sisters, a brother and their families, were all evacuated to the eastern part of Russia where the Germans never got to.

After the war, we all moved to the Ukraine to a small city about the size of Newark where I was born in 1956. My father was a purchasing agent for products related to maintenance. When I was six years old, my mother began to work managing a coffee shop. When I was ten, my father had gone on a business trip to Moscow where he had a heart attack from which he died just after he got home.

By this time, we were all very anxious to leave Russia and decided to try to go to Israel to start a new life because the Ukraine was very anti-Semitic. It took four years to get permission to leave. In 1971, finally, my mother and I were allowed to leave Russia. They didn't let my brother go because he already had a family. President Brezhnev was the first official to allow the Jews to go. We were in the first wave to go to Israel because the new state there was willing to accept us. We were sponsored by the government. When one had permission to come, the government of Israel would fund the family. Each family would get a stipend to start a new life.

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 11

Education was free. At that time, Israel was a truly socially conscious country, built on that kind of idea.

But it was hard for my mother to start a new life without a husband. For me, it was great! I saw it as an incredibly liberating experience – a great adventure! Everything about Israel was so wonderful – the schools felt so free as opposed to Russia which was so confining. At that time, Israel was in the process of incredible development. It felt like a very idealistic society.

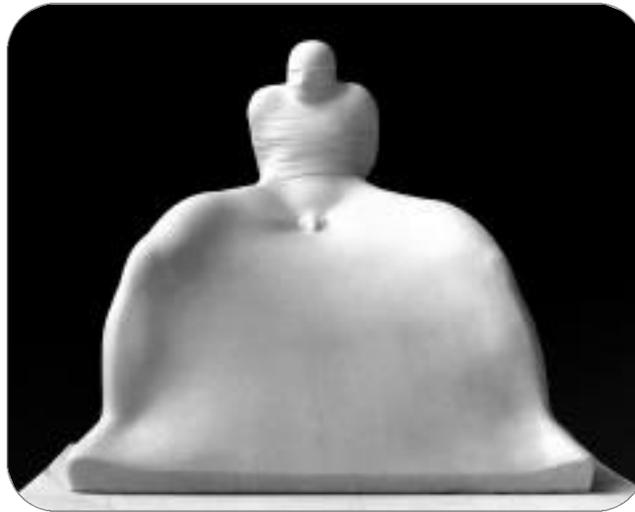
It was the first time that I discovered that learning could be an enjoyable process. I hated school in Russia. They taught through fear. In Israel, I discovered learning could be an enjoyable experience. I went to a boarding school which made me independent. Half of the children were the local Sabras (born in Israel) and half were Jewish children from all over the world.

In the first year, there was a mix of kids from everywhere. Almost every language was represented but we were taught in Hebrew, that was the concentration, although all subjects were taught as well. By the second year, we were totally integrated. This boarding school had been funded by Jewish women from Canada.

After finishing the high school, two weeks after final exams, you were inducted into the army for three years. I was eighteen at the time. After your full period of service, you had to come back for Reserve duty a month and a half every year. You would be released from whatever job you had, but com-

pensated by the employer. I must say, I really hated it. But, it is a civic duty and you have no choice.

After finishing my army duty at twenty-one years of age, I applied to Bezalel, an art academy in Jerusalem, and it was an amazing experience. It is



Metamorphosis by Amy Medford

an excellent school and I majored in ceramics. That came about because by the time I left the army, the only entrance exam available was in the ceramics department and so as not to miss a year, I decided to do that to get in and then I would change departments later. But within a week, I was so taken by ceramics, I decided to stay in that department. Ceramics is a three dimensional form which satisfied my love of sculpture and actually opened new ways of looking at sculpture through it.

When I finished with the undergraduate degree, I wanted to fulfill my desire to learn stone carving and I decided to learn stone carving in Italy. All through the four years at the school, I had worked in hotels in reception at night and earned enough

money to pay for the art school and enough to be able to go to Italy. I went to Pietrasanta which means “the holy stone” and which is near Carrara where the marble quarries are. Since so many people who were sculptors came there because of the abundance of the material, it became known as a center for sculpture and I fell in love with it within one week. I stayed there for almost a year. At that time, I spoke two languages, Hebrew and Russian which nobody knew, with a smattering of English. But, within a couple of weeks, I felt totally at home because of the nature of the Italian people – very welcoming and warm. At that time, I had very long hair and they decided that I looked like Jesus and since I came from Jerusalem, they decided to call me Jesus!

I spent close to a year learning stone carving and then went back to Israel where I started teaching art, sculpture, ceramics and drawing in different art centers as well as doing my own work. I had two exhibitions of my sculpture. But after teaching for almost three years, I felt burned out and my ‘Gypsy’ blood started to nudge me to make a change. I had heard about a place called the Johnson Atelier in Mercerville, New Jersey in the United States from a friend in Israel and I decided it was a good opportunity to combine it with seeing the United States as well. I applied and was accepted and in ’86, I came to the United States as a student there on a scholarship. Several weeks after arriving, Amy Medford, an American, also a student, came to say Hi! as she

Continued on Page 13

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Pag 12

thought it would be nice to meet an Israeli new arrival because she had spent time in Israel and has family there. A year later, we were married!

After a year of marriage, we left the Johnson Atelier and went to Italy for a year to do our work. When we came back, we were totally broke but a friend offered us a living situation in Princeton for as long as we liked.

We stayed in Princeton for two years trying to figure out how two sculptors could survive and have a normal life in the last recession. So, we decided not to be dependent on just selling our sculpture because we couldn't make a living that way.

We decided to start a business utilizing our skills as sculptors and we slowly developed a business of making three dimensional models for different industries such as toy companies, architectural companies, museums and so forth. And that gave us the financial freedom to continue to create our own work without any financial pressures. In 1994, we were able to buy a house in Roosevelt. I had never had the need to stay in one place for any length of time, but suddenly, I had the need to settle down and Roosevelt was and is the perfect place! ■

About Two Square Miles Of Stories

Everyone in our two-square mile town has old family photographs and memories of the people in them. These pictures and your memories are narratives waiting to enrich us all. So, join us in a Roosevelt Show and Tell project - find an old picture or two and tell us a story in a few paragraphs.

For information telephone:

Robin Gould 448-4616

Marilyn Magnes 448-6402

Pearl Seligman 448-2340

ROOSEVELT'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

Continued from Pag 5

costly and the most beneficial for our community. Rehabilitating homes that are unsightly and uninhabited will improve the appearance of our town and provide needed affordable housing for NJ residents.

As a final note, I would point out that the Fair Housing Act provides for what is called a 'builder's remedy' if a municipality does not have an approved housing plan and a builder

comes forward who wishes to build affordable housing. Under the builder's remedy, the developer must usually set aside 20% of the units as affordable to low-moderate income households. However, US Home Corporation, in its informal proposals - a formal application was never submitted - specifically indicated that no affordable housing would be included in their proposed 266-

unit adult community. Now that they have decided to litigate, they are suddenly very interested in providing the eight units of affordable housing that we are required to have, while incidentally seeking to build an additional 258 market rate units at the same time. This is what we are opposing in court. ■

Notice:

The Planning Board Meeting has moved to the second
Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM in the
Borough Hall.

By Ron Filepp

Ron Filepp regrets that he was unable to complete his usual Almanac column for this month's issue. However, he was able to send us the month's temperature chart.

April 15 - May 15, 2002				
Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	81.7	60.6	71.2	0.10
16	88.3	59.0	73.7	0.00
17	92.3	61.7	77.0	0.00
18	90.0	62.1	76.1	0.00
19	88.0	62.8	75.4	0.00
20	71.6	58.3	65.0	0.15
21	61.9	45.5	53.7	0.00
22	59.9	44.8	52.4	0.15
23	59.9	39.4	49.7	0.30
24	61.2	30.9	46.1	0.00
25	52.9	40.3	46.6	0.00
26	60.6	34.7	47.7	0.25
27	63.0	34.5	48.8	0.00
28	69.1	48.6	58.9	0.90
29	64.6	47.1	55.9	0.45
30	65.8	38.5	52.2	0.00
1	68.0	43.5	55.8	0.25
2	72.3	50.4	61.4	0.10
3	67.6	50.9	59.3	0.40
4	66.6	34.9	50.8	0.00
5	70.7	44.1	57.4	0.00
6	77.0	47.1	62.1	0.00
7	82.0	56.3	69.2	0.00
8	76.8	55.2	66.0	0.00
9	57.9	50.0	54.0	0.00
10	74.3	53.6	64.0	0.30
11	69.3	43.9	56.6	0.00
12	66.2	52.2	59.2	0.07
13	55.9	53.4	54.7	0.65
14	65.7	50.4	58.1	0.50
Total Precipitation				4.57

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

Continued from Page 4

by law to provide affordable housing. **Fact:** The cost to our taxpayers as estimated by housing consultant Alan Mallach, will be about one-fifth of Mr. Kaufman's figure. Moreover, the cost can be spread out over several years reducing its impact on taxpayers (see "Roosevelt's Affordable Housing Program" by Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes in this month's edition of the Bulletin.)

The Council...Mr. Kaufman states that only Councilman George Vasseur, his Republican running mate in the June primary, deserves your respect. He says that the Mayor and Council "*meet behind closed doors*" in violation of state law, "*there is no public discussion from the Council*" and all the other Council members "*are lying.*" **Fact:** Councilman Vasseur works hard. But Mr. Kaufman does not credit the other five Council members who work hard as unpaid volunteers. All of them deserve respect for the many hours of public service that they provide to our community. Where would Roosevelt be without our volunteers?

Political discourse is most effective when it is stripped of personal attacks, and baseless accusations of illegal conduct. Public policy issues should be the only subject of discussion.

Sincerely,
 Michael B. Hamilton
 Mayor
 E-Mail: mham82@comcast.net



A Famous Family Recipe

SAUERBRATEN (serves 4)

round, rump or chuck	3 allspice berries
1 cup of wine vinegar	3 cloves
1/2 cup of cider vinegar	1 tablespoon of crushed peppercorns
1/2 cup of dry red wine	1 tablespoon of salt
2 onions, peeled and sliced	8 tablespoons of butter
2 carrots, peeled and sliced	4 tablespoons of flour
1 stalk of celery, finely chopped	1 tablespoon of sugar
Handful of parsley	2/3 cup of crumbled gingersnaps
1 bay leaf	

The German Rosskam family had settled in Philadelphia, ready to start a good life in the USA. But, my late husband Edwin's father, not yet married, wanted a German wife and so he went back to Munich to find one. In the little suburban town of Essen, he found Emma, pretty, eager AND a wonderful cook. They were married and bore a son, Edwin. Unfortunately, his father died and as World War I started, his mother and he, now fourteen, returned to the waiting and welcoming family in Philadelphia. It didn't take long for the young Emma to establish herself as a wonderful cook and the head of the family.

Edwin and I married and the memory of wonderful flavors and tastes of his mother's cooking still stays with me after all those years: Kirsche Kuchen (cherry cake with unpitted cherries inside AND SAUERBRATEN, the absolute best of Grandma Emma's (as she was now known) culinary mysteries. She generously gave me her recipe for this fabulous dish, but, as you can see from her handwritten copy in her German type handwriting, it was not specific enough for an American cook to follow and so I consulted an early American cook book by James Beard for the following recipe which works very well:

Buy a 4-pound piece of tied, round, rump or chuck. Wipe it with a damp cloth. Make a marinade by combining the wine vinegar, cider vinegar, red wine, onions, carrots, celery, parsley, bay leaf, allspice berries, cloves, crushed peppercorns (use a rolling pin or a coarse grinder) and salt. Mix well and pour into a deep bowl. Place the meat in this mixture, cover, and refrigerate for 3 days. Turn it several times.

Remove meat from the marinade and wipe it dry. Pour the marinade into a pan and heat it. Meanwhile, melt 4 tablespoons of butter in a deep pot and sear the meat in the hot fat. Sprinkle the meat lightly with flour while it is searing and turn it to brown on all sides. When it is brown, pour the hot marinade over it, cover tightly, lower heat and simmer for 2 1/2 - 3 hours, or until meat is tender. Pour liquid off the meat and set it aside. Skim the fat from the liquid and strain the broth. Melt 4 more tablespoons of butter in a skillet and blend in 4 tablespoons of flour and sugar. Cook slowly until flour and sugar have browned slightly. Gradually add the strained marinade, stirring constantly until it is thickened and smooth. Pour this sauce over the meat in the pot, add the gingersnaps and return the meat to the fire. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes.

Traditionally, Sauerbraten is served with dumplings; boiled potatoes or noodles can be used.

COUNCIL NEWS

Continued from Page 1

CPR training will be held later in the summer. Both programs would be conducted by Jack Rindt, a professional firefighter who is a member of the Roosevelt Fire Company.

Councilman Jeff Hunt, chairman of the Community Development committee, reported that the recreation program is underway. A weekly yoga program that is now being offered will be expanded to include weekend or evening sessions, in order to allow wider participation. The Fourth of July committee has been reconstituted. A science program in the school has 38 participants. All personnel issues at the summer camp, the subject of extended discussion at last month's Council meeting, have been satisfactorily resolved. Other recreation programs are being planned.

Mr. Hunt also reported that the Council has met with State Police representatives to discuss creation of a neighborhood crime watch program, in order to deal with the petty thefts and car break-ins that are now occurring. In order to make such a program work, there must be a group of volunteers who will commit themselves to be on the lookout at specified hours of the day or night. Information on forming a crime watch is available at the municipal building.

Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes, in her capacity as CDBG representative, reported that application is being made for funding under the HOME program to help cover the cost of Roosevelt's proposed fair share housing plan. If Roosevelt prevails in the US Home litigation and the fair share plan is approved by the court, this money would be used to acquire and rehabilitate vacant houses which could then be sold as affordable units, in satisfaction of Roosevelt's fair share obligation.

Councilwoman Shapiro, in her capacity as Council representative to the Environmental Commission,

reported that the problem of branches being uncollected was being taken care of and that a chipper would go around the community to dispose of all branches that could not be taken to the former Notterman tract to be used to prevent erosion, because of the difficulty of driving a truck onto the unusually wet soil.

Councilwoman Pat Moser, as representative to the senior citizens' organization, stated that the most pressing need of the senior citizens was for transportation to doctors. They are very isolated, she said, and many of them are handicapped, thus making the need all the more urgent.

In the public portion of the meeting, Nona Sherak protested the accumulation of twigs that were supposed to have been picked up. She also protested about a trailer that a neighbor has left on municipal land behind her house. However, she did not wish to name the neighbor. Mayor Hamilton said that the Borough would send a letter demanding removal of the trailer, presumably once the owner has been identified.

Tom Husko protested failure of the Borough to enforce rules requiring that grass be cut. He was particularly concerned about the height of grass on a neighboring property. He also protested the absence of a rule requiring cat owners to keep their cats from wandering onto other properties.

Jonathan Block protested the fact that speed bumps had been placed on other streets but none has been placed on Lake Drive. He claimed that drivers go down his street at 60 or 70 miles per hour, and threatened legal action in the event that anything might happen to his child. Mayor Hamilton said that the four speed bumps have been placed on Farm Lane and on Pine Drive and School Lane as an experiment and that, if they result in calming traffic and all potential liability issues are adequately addressed,

more will be placed around the Borough. Mr. Block also denounced the Council for "bringing in low income housing" and claimed that this would only result in more crime. He called upon the Council to maintain a "tight community" from which low and moderate income people would presumably be excluded. In response, Mayor Hamilton pointed out that the Council was obligated to comply with the requirements of State law, which requires each municipality to provide its fair share of low and moderate income housing.

Michael Ticktin pointed out that the draft ordinance on cellular towers that was scheduled to be introduced on first reading was written in such a way that it would not be possible to locate a tower where the Mayor and Council intended to have it located, namely on the water treatment plant tract. The proposed ordinance was then held for further review before introduction, since any major changes would have required re-publication.

Ordinances concerning program fees for the recreation program, and salaries for summer camp employees were introduced. Resolutions were passed to establish policies, procedures, fees and charges for the summer camp, to approve a change order for the North Valley Road reconstruction project, to take advantage of an option to defer pension and benefit payments to the State, to authorize hiring of summer camp employees and to oppose Governor McGreevey's budget proposal that would require rural communities such as Roosevelt to bear the cost of State Police protection. The municipal engineer was authorized to make application to the State Department of Transportation for grants to be used for repaving Oscar Drive and part of Pine Drive. ■

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 2001-2002 SEASON

Sunday, June 2

11:00 a.m.

OPEN BOARD MEETING

The board of the Roosevelt Arts Project will seek ideas and proposals from the community for next year's series of events.

All events are at the Borough Hall.

Voluntary Contribution:

Roosevelt String Band \$10 (\$5 seniors and students) Other events \$5 adults, children free.

Visit the RAP website: www.music.columbia.edu/roosevelt

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The Roosevelt Arts Project proudly offers for sale our beautiful three-panel reproduction of the Ben Shahn mural from our school. The postcards are available for \$2.00 each and a small number of flat, unfolded copies, suitable for framing, are available for \$10.00 each. All proceeds go to the Roosevelt Arts Project to cover the cost of these cards, enable us to produce future postcards in our Roosevelt Arts series and to support RAP exhibits and events. Cards are available at the Borough Hall or by calling Robin Gould at 448-4616 or Robin Middleman at 426-4583. The Roosevelt Arts Project is a tax-exempt cultural organization funded exclusively by admissions and donations. RAP appreciates your support. ■

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The Roosevelt Borough *Bulletin* is made possible by grants from McCaffrey's Market and East Windsor Floor Covering and annual contributions from readers like you.

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The *Bulletin* publishes free-of-charge public information listings from Roosevelt residents and business, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$40.00/year, \$50.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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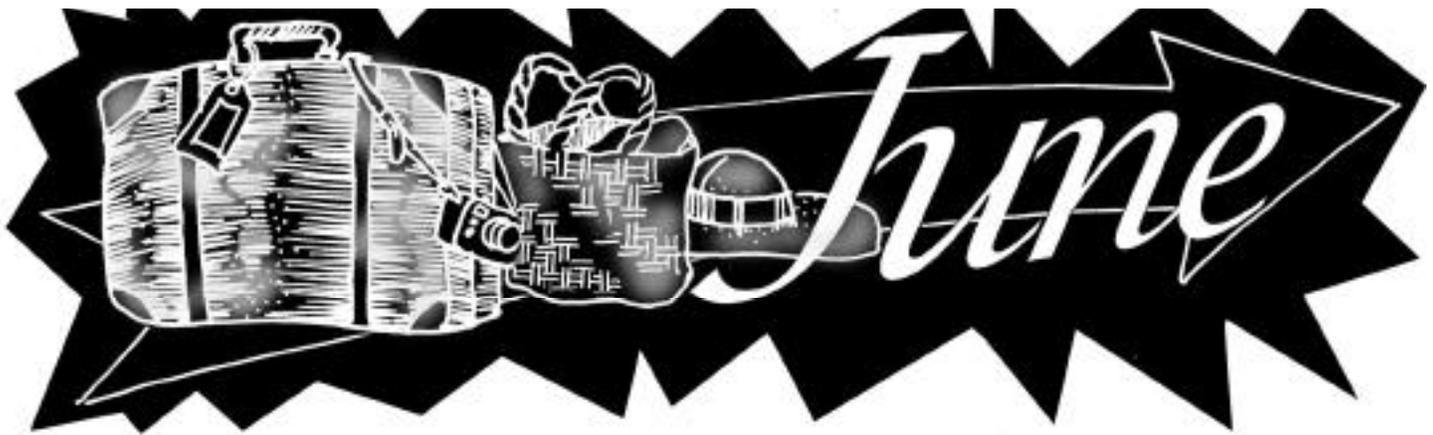
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Please send your events and activities to
Jane Rothfuss, 448-3717 or email: kirk@virtulink.com.
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June

3	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
		12:30	Senior Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall.
		1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, President Gerry Millar, 609-448-0351.
4	Tues.		RPS Field Day – Early Dismissal.
		6 a.m.-8 p.m.	Election Day – Borough Hall.
5	Wed.		RECYCLE RPS Early Dismissal.
10	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
11	Tues.	7:30 p.m.	PTA Meeting, RPS, President JoAnne Parker, 609-448-5619.
		8:00 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Ralph Seligman, 609-448-2340.
13	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of education Meeting, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 609-448-4440.
17	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
18	Tues.		RPS Awards Ceremony RPS Early Dismissal.
19	Wed.		RECYCLE RPS Early Dismissal.
		7:30 p.m.	Project Revive - First Aid Support Organization, Borough Hall, 609-448-9314.

20	Thurs.		RPS Early Dismissal – Last Day of School!!!!!!!
		7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Neil Marko, 609-443-6818.
22	Sat.		RPS Graduation.
24	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meeting, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
27	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 609-448-440.

July Calendar Of Events

1	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
2	Tues.	12:30 p.m.	Senior Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall.
		1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, President Gerry Millar, 609-448-0351.
3	Wed.		RECYCLE
4	Thurs.		Independence Day.

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