

Bulletin

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BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Budget Hearing Held; Council Awaits Response to State Aid Request

By Michael Ticktin

At its April meeting, the Borough Council held its annual budget hearing. The municipal budget shows an increase of just under \$34,000 in money to be raised in taxes for municipal purposes. This does not include money required by the school and county budgets. The total, not counting the reserve for uncollected taxes, which will remain constant at \$120,000 and is needed to make sure that the Borough will have funds both to pay its own expenses and to pay Monmouth County and the Board of Education the funds that are collected for them, will be \$160,257.00, compared to a total of \$126,388.42 in 2002. The increase is attributable to the cost of defending the Borough in the U.S. Home Corporation lawsuit, a cost characterized by Mayor Michael Hamilton as "money well-spent."

This extra money would not have to be raised through taxes, however, if the Borough were successful in obtaining special aid from the State to offset the cost of the litigation. In its application for \$60,000 of such aid, the Borough argued that, by defending the lawsuit, it was carrying out the State policy of preventing sprawl and fighting abuse of the "builder's remedy." If the special aid were denied, then the municipal purpose tax rate would go from 69.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value in 2002 to 78.6 cents per \$100 in 2003. To put this in perspective, the municipal purpose tax rate was 77 cents per \$100 in 1999. The municipal purpose tax constitutes approximately 16% of the total tax bill. Over 70% is school taxes, while the remainder is county taxes.

In other developments, Mayor

Hamilton reported that the reconstruction of a portion of Pine Drive would be starting shortly. Most of the money for this project is State grant money. He also reported that a letter had been sent to the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) indicating that the U.S. Home Corporation lawsuit was over and that the Borough now wished COAH to accept the filing of the Borough's housing element and fair share plan, an acceptance of filing that had been prevented by the filing of the lawsuit. On April 10, COAH replied that the filing was now accepted. This filing provides protection against the filing of another affordable housing lawsuit. Mayor Hamilton also said that, during the last week in April, representatives of the Department of Environmental

Continued on Page 13

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Planning Board News	3	Letters to the Editor	14
From the Mayor's Chair	4	Weather Almanac	15
School News	5	Breaking Bread	16
Neighborhood Notes	6	RAP	17
Senior Club News	6	Supporters and Contributors	18
Town Topics	7	Business Sponsors	19
Two Square Miles of Stories	9	Calendar	20

Things to Remember:

May 3 & 4, Town-wide Yard Sale, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 3, PTA Plant Sale & 6th Grade Bake Sale in front of Post Office,
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

May 7, Big Garbage Day

May 9, PTA Family Dance at the Roosevelt Public School
Everyone's welcome 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
4th, 5th, and 6th grades only 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Thoughtful neighbors pick up after their dogs.
Are you a thoughtful neighbor?

News From Project Revive

Registered Nurses with active licenses can obtain EMT-B status in NJ by merely taking the Core 13 course and sitting for the EMT-B exam. This course is given on only a Friday evening and a full day Saturday and Sunday.
WE NEED YOU!!!

As our publishing year continues, our funds diminish!

If you haven't as yet made a contribution or would be able to add to your original one, now is the time to help us.

Thank you for your support.

WE REALLY MEAN IT! BY NEXT MONTH WE WILL BE IN TROUBLE!

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Calendar art & Breaking Bread
by Shan Ellentuck

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US Home Case Over, Planning Board Returns To Normal

Planning Board Chairman Ralph Seligman announced at the April 8 meeting that, after the "long hiatus" in activity to await the outcome of the US Home lawsuit, the Board could catch up with "housekeeping" and attend to needed planning and zoning revisions, such as parking requirements. The giant homebuilder recently dropped its lawsuit seeking to compel the Borough to build 260 houses on northern farmland. Mr. Seligman appointed a Zoning Committee consisting of himself, Michael Ticktin, Ed Moser and Jessica Hecht. Meanwhile, the Parking Committee — Mr. Seligman, Mr. Moser, Jane Rothfuss and David Ticktin — submitted its first progress report.

The Parking Committee's report noted that Zoning Officer Ed Goetzmann had identified 35 properties with vehicles parked in violation of the zoning ordinance "raising questions about awareness and attitudes of local homeowners." The Committee decided to focus its initial efforts on revisions to the existing regulations.

The Committee pointed out that increased automobile ownership per household has been cited as a reason for the apparent increase in parking problems, despite a substantial number of households with elderly residents or without children of driving age. The report added: "Committee members cited the lack of clear direction in [the parking ordinance] and suggested that it might be simpler to permit double width driveways, possibly as a variance or conditional use which would make

them subject to review before being built. Sketches and specifications to provide for minimal impact on front yards or neighboring properties would be useful."

The report concludes that David Ticktin reported he had taken digital photographs around town and "felt that the number of violations exceeded the Zoning Officer's tally." He suggested a photographic survey to "enable the Committee to classify infractions and consider appropriate remedies."

In other action, Mr. Seligman passed out a draft map showing hunting zones within Roosevelt. The Board's Planning Consultant, Tom Thomas, prepared the draft map which will be revised based on Board members' comments. Hunting is permitted within portions of the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area lying within Borough boundaries. This includes the former Notterman tract, which stretches east of North Valley Road south of Eleanor Lane to the Cemetery. Recently, State Green Acres funds were used to acquire the property, which was turned over to the State Division of Fish and Wildlife. The State regulations governing wildlife management areas supersede Roosevelt's ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms within the Borough. A statutorily mandated safety zone prohibits a hunter's possession of a loaded firearm or a notched arrow within 450 feet of any occupied building, including gazebos, sheds and other structures accommodating people's activity, "whether or not a person is actually present." Also,

a hunter may not cast an arrow or discharge a firearm "from or across" a road or highway.

Board members present unanimously accepted Board Attorney Michele Donato's increase in fees from \$100 to \$125 per hour.

AT&T Wireless submitted a revised site plan for its communications "monopole." The Board will review the plan after receiving a report from the Borough Engineer.

During the public portion of the meeting, Jon Block expressed an interest in purchasing a house on Rochdale Avenue that has been earmarked for Roosevelt's Redevelopment Plan. Michael Ticktin said the properties might be needed to help the Borough comply with its affordable housing obligation, which currently stands at eight units. They might not be needed if Roosevelt changes its Affordable Housing Plan to permit a regional cooperation agreement with Asbury Park for four units instead of the present three and if the northern part of the lot on which the former service station is located could be used for affordable units. This could leave the Rochdale properties available for eventual purchase by people wanting to fix them up and either live in them or sell them at market value. The Board decided to meet with Mr. Thomas to draft a modified Affordable Housing Plan acceptable to the State Council on Affordable Housing. ■

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.”

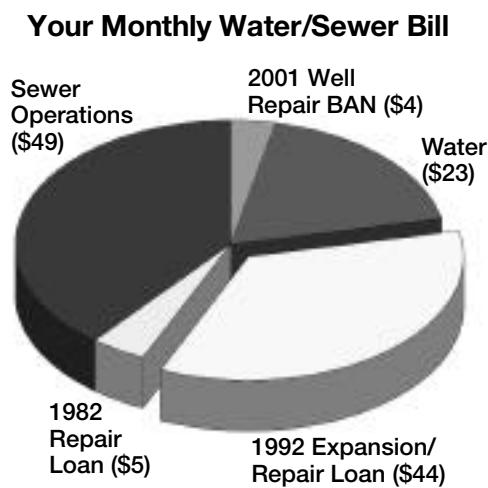
Many homeowners have asked how the Borough arrived at a monthly charge of \$125 for residential water/sewer charges. The following is an explanation that should help to answer some of these questions.

Your Monthly Water/Sewer Bill

Your monthly water/sewer bill is your monthly share of the cost of providing sewer service and water for your household. There are 332 users hooked up to our water and sewer utilities.

Our 2002 financial reports indicate that our actual expenses for Borough water/sewer utilities that year were \$523,703 or \$131.41 per month per user. The costs of providing water/sewer services are slowly on the rise. In order to hold rates at \$125 per month we had to dip slightly into our budget surplus to make up for the difference between costs and actual revenue received. We anticipate that future cell phone tower revenue will help to keep utility rates down.

Residential users in Roosevelt pay \$27 per month for water (21.6% of your bill) and \$98 per month for sewer costs (78.4 % of your bill). The expenses are: salaries and wages for plant operators, operational costs for replacing components, etc. and long-term sewer debt incurred in 1982 and 1992.



Long-term Sewer Debt

Long-term sewer debt payments comprise half of your sewer bill. The Borough pays \$195,014 per year in principal and interest on long-term sewer debt. Of your \$98 per month sewer bill (the shaded sections of the pie chart) half of it (\$49 per month) is used to pay off the long-term debt from 2 projects; one for system repairs in 1982 and one for repairs and expansion in 1992. The breakdown of the loans is as follows:

- 1982 FHA loan: payments of \$18,000 per year for sewer system repair (\$5 per month per rate payer). Loan at 5% interest matures in 2020, total principal and interest due approximately

\$362,000 over the remaining term.

- 1992 FHA loan: \$177,014 per year for repair and expansion of Borough sewer system to twice the capacity necessary to service existing homeowners (\$44 per month per ratepayer). The loan at 6.375% interest matures in 2031; the total principal and interest due is approximately \$5,300,000 over the remaining term.

Why Twice the Capacity?

In 1992, under the leadership of Mayor Lee Allen, the Borough Council in office at that time made the decision to expand our sewer treatment plant to twice its capacity. This action was taken to accommodate future development before the Borough had reached any agreement with any developer.

A Private Meeting With U.S. Home

On June 21, 1999, Mayor Allen and members of the Council met privately with representatives of U.S. Home Corporation to discuss a split of sewer system costs associated with a proposed 350-unit U.S. Home project. *The public was not invited to attend this meeting.* During the meeting Mayor Lee Allen claimed that our sewer system was upgraded "...to handle twice the population of the present community." Developer Sydney Israel representing U.S. Home Corporation stated that the extra capacity that was recently added to the sewer treatment plant was unusable without further expensive repairs to our leaky sewer lines.

For the last ten years Roosevelt homeowners have been paying for the unusable "excess capacity" built into

Continued on Page 11

From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

School elections are in and once again the Roosevelt community showed significant support for the school budget and our incumbent board members. Thank you!

Like it or not, agree with it or not, when the war in Iraq began, it became a part of American current events and history in the making, and thus a subject to be discussed with the students at RPS. As part of our global education, students were taught the location of Iraq, and the neighboring countries that make up the Middle East. They were able to use newspapers and student newspapers to discuss the progress of the war. In upper grades, the newspapers are an integral part of the curriculum, and are used to illustrate, among other things, the difference between fact and opinion. This type of discriminating reading will stand our students in good stead when they have to make their own decisions about world events. Students were introduced to the concept of protestation and demonstration, and the freedoms of our country which allow us to disagree with the government, and with each other. With all the media coverage to which students are exposed, parents are reminded to give their children an

opportunity to discuss their feelings about the war.

This year for Earth Day our students collected money to save a rain forest in Brazil. This activity was conducted by the Student Council, under the direction of Mrs. Brauner. Each child received a bank to collect 50 cents. For \$45.00 we were able to purchase an acre of the rain forest in Brazil's Mata Altantica, an area rich in unique and endangered wildlife. The Roosevelt Environmental Commission graciously purchased an additional two acres!

The school and borough have begun regular meetings to coordinate emergency management plans. This is another step of collaboration between the Borough and the school district.

Congratulations to Ilene Levine. Her fourth grade compost project was entered into the School Board's competition and was just named a winner! Ms Levine and her class worked with Ann Goldman of Gold Farms and together they submitted a comprehensive project detailing the work they did with the fourth grade.

Mark your calendar for graduation - Saturday, June 21. ■

May School Dates

May 1	Author's Night, gym-nastic show	May 22	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
May 2	Pizza	May 26	School Closed, Memorial Day
May 3	PTA Plant Sale	May 30	Pizza
May 8	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	June 3	Field Day, Early Dismissal
May 16	Pizza	June 4	Early Dismissal
May 19	PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	June 5	Spring Concert
May 21	Kindergarten Roundup, 10:45 a.m.		

RCNS May Newsletter

By Ginny Weber

May is a wonderful and busy month at our school. The children are very happy to be able to play outside on our playground after this past long winter. They are also busy making very special Mother's Day gifts for Mom.

We are celebrating Cinco de Mayo by learning some cultures of Mexico and where it is located on our globe. The children are learning to count in Spanish and say some other words as well! We are going on a special trip to Chevy's Mexican restaurant this month to learn how to make tacos. We can hardly wait!

The children are fascinated with the large expanse of the ocean and different kinds of sea life. We will make some sea creatures and find out how they live. We will also learn about fresh and salt water habitats.

The children absolutely love all kinds of insects. We will see how a butterfly evolves from a caterpillar and learn the stages of metamorphosis. The class will also learn about other kinds of insects.

Our pet show this month will be at the end of pet week. The children love to show their real or imaginary pets and tell the class about them. Most importantly, they learn that it's their responsibility to care for their pets so they are happy and healthy.

Our annual Mini March to benefit cystic fibrosis will be held on May 7th at our school. The children are able to help sick children by participating and having a great time.

We are planning and practicing for our graduation, which will be held on June 12th at 10 a.m. Registration for our new session beginning in September is in progress. If anyone is interested, please call Ginny at 609-426-9523 to arrange a visit. We love having visitors! ■

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

Regrets to Lyssa Cousineau, a student at Hightstown High School who made honors for the second marking period but was left off last month's list.

Also, at the Peddie School, Deirdre Lloyd just completed the second semester of her junior year with honors then spent her spring break in Florida on a Habitat for Humanity Project in the town of Crawfordville. Deirdre is the daughter of Alice and Richard Lloyd of Homestead Lane.

In other news:

Mark Zuckerman's *The Year of the Yiddish Song*, a CD with a cappella chord arrangements, was released recently by Centaur Records (www.centaurrecords.com).

Debbie Block of East Windsor, daughter of Marvin and Karen Block graduated on December 4th from Mercer County Technical School. Debbie received a certificate in Ancillary Nursing. She took her state exams to earn an official CNA title in January, and plans to pursue a career in Pediatric Oncology.

Sergeant First Class Michael Warner of Farm Lane was selected recently as 2003 Noncommissioned Officer of the

Year for the 50th Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division. The 50th Brigade is the largest Army National Guard brigade in New Jersey with 3,000 soldiers. Since September 2001, SFC Warner has performed over four and a half months of active duty missions. He is the Platoon Sergeant of the Scout Platoon in Woodbury, NJ.

Shoshanna Grunwald, daughter of Eitan and Karyn Grunwald, was named to the most recent Dean's List at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Jennifer Rindt of So. Rochdale Avenue, a student of McCorristin Catholic High School in Hamilton was selected to participate in the National Student Learning Conference on Mastering Leadership, a leadership development program for outstanding high school students. "The NSLC mission is to identify and recognize outstanding young leaders from around the world, and to provide them with a unique learning environment that encourages academic achievement as well as diversity, cooperation, and social responsibility." Jennifer is a freshman at McCorristin.

By Clare Sacharoff

There were 17 members present at the April meeting. The seniors noted the passing of our beloved member, Louise Rosskam. A \$25 contribution will be donated to a charity of the family's choice in her memory.

We enjoyed the performance of *Damn Yankees* at the Kelsey Theater on April 6th. Approximately 19 members participated in this event.

We also attended the show *Kiss Me Kate* on May 4th at the Kelsey Theater. Various members drove for these two events.

Diane Klein volunteered to be manager of kitchen supplies. She will take inventory of our supplies and purchase more as necessary.

Dolores Chasan announced that the town library would be open every Monday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. This is in addition to the regularly scheduled Wednesday evening hours, which are 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help in the library.

Ann Gornham provided excellent refreshments; Elly Pedersen was our hostess in May. ■

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!"

Mondays 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



THREE CHEERS FOR BERNARDA!

By Bess Tremper

All year we looked forward to it and finally, on April 6th, Roosevelt celebrated the 100th birthday of its most illustrious resident, Bernarda Shahn, at the Roosevelt Public School.

It was a great day. Before the actual program, about 200 people were milling about in the gym to look at a wonderful display of all kinds of examples of Bernarda's wonderfully produced art - the books she had written, catalogs of her exhibitions, illustrations from books she had done, as well as many newspaper articles about her. One was dated March 12, 2000 in relation to her 97th birthday whose sub-head read: "She was married to one of America's great artists. So was her husband."

This was also a time for old friends who had come from all over to celebrate with Bernarda to see each other as well as to greet her with hugs, kisses and much gaiety.

Then it was time for the program. Bernarda, sitting with her two children, Abby and Jonathan, was happily leaning forward in her chair. Mayor Michael Hamilton introduced Dale

Weinbach, who told us that there was another 100 to be thankful for: there are precisely 50 girls and 50 boys in the school this year! She said that the students had all made pieces of art in honor of Bernarda. They had all been put together in a book that was presented to her by Cheyanne Dermody with great seriousness, followed by also presenting her with a huge sheaf of beautiful flowers that were almost too much for Cheyanne to carry.

Finally, there were speeches by various residents such as 64 year old Arthur Shapiro who said he had known her since he was a boy, music by David Brahinsky and lastly a speech by Rod Tulloss who ended by saying, "She has a love of life and living that extends to the town. The Shahns are Roosevelt's royal family." There was the implication that Bernarda is our Queen!

And then it was time to adjourn again to the gym where there were lots of birthday cakes and cup cakes made by the PTA, as well as many other snacks, coffee and other drinks.

Although Bernarda was gracious and pleased to see so many adults and children, it was time for the party to be

over and by 4:30, a wonderful celebration for an amazing woman came to an end. As Mayor Hamilton said at one point, "We've celebrated the first 100 years of Bernarda Shahn!"

The event was hosted by:

Roosevelt Mayor and
Borough Council

Roosevelt Public School

Roosevelt Arts Project

Roosevelt PTA

Roosevelt Historic Commission

The Shahn Family

and many, many friends
& neighbors

Fund For Roosevelt Holds Annual Meeting

By Alan Mallach

On Sunday, March 16, the Fund for Roosevelt held its annual open public meeting at the Roosevelt Municipal Building. During the course of the meeting, the Fund reviewed its activities to date, and along with the thirty-odd community residents on hand, discussed its plans for the future.

The Fund for Roosevelt was established four years ago to carry out two purposes: (1) to preserve the open space and the community of Roosevelt, New Jersey; and, (2) to protect the historic elements, both natural and man-made, that constitute the environment of Roosevelt, New Jersey and its surroundings. During the past four years, the Fund has concentrated on preserving the greenbelt surrounding the original village. That greenbelt, containing roughly one square mile of farms and woodlands, was an integral part of the original plan for the community, and still makes up a critical element in the

Continued on Page 12

In Memoriam

By Susan Rosskam Marchon

Photographer Louise Rosskam, née Louise Rosenbaum, was born March 27, 1910 to a prosperous Philadelphia family. Her father, Morris Rosenbaum, emigrated from Hungary in 1878 and rose to a position of trust and respect in the city creating one of the most significant banks for Jewish immigrants. Louise was the youngest of eight children, all of whom went on to become professionals. A self-described rebel, Louise defied her father's wishes for her to lead a proper domestic life by studying biology at the University of Pennsylvania where, after her father was financially ruined during the Great Depression, she completed her studies by working long hours for the Biology Department, investigating genetics. But her husband, Edwin, introduced her to photography and science was soon left behind.

Louise became one of the elusive pioneers of the golden age of documentary photography. Her strong work helped to shape the documentary aesthetic from the 1930's through the 1950's. Working for over three decades in collaboration with her husband, Edwin (1903-1985), she photographed for the Farm Security Administration (FSA), the Office of War Information (OWI), the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the Puerto Rico Office of Information, and the New Jersey Department of Education. Much of her work is maintained at the Library of Congress as part of the "file" created by Roy Stryker for the FSA. She freelanced, making unique photographic books of children for families. As part of her work for the Standard Oil Company, she and Edwin published *Towboat*

River, a photographic journey up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers in the early 1940's. Louise and Edwin worked from 1945-1953 with the Puerto Rico Office of Information. She documented, with great sensitivity, the island's social conditions for the FSA - type project that Edwin directed. Later she helped establish the Division of Community Education, which produced posters, booklets and films intended to empower Puerto Ricans to find solutions to the local problems. Most recently her work was shown at Randolph Macon Women's College in an exhibit titled, *A Life In Photography*. Her photographs, documenting the development of rural New Jersey farmland, juxtaposing the old barns with multi-family developments in the background are on permanent display at Cook College in New Jersey.

Louise Rosskam's boundless appetite for life, coupled with her inquiring mind and innate social conscience, have guided her remarkable journey from the study of genetics and early childhood education to her magnificent records of social conditions and human relationships.

Louise Rosskam died on April 1, 2003 after a short battle with cancer. She is survived by her daughters, Susan Rosskam Marchon of Check, VA; Anita Rosskam and her husband, Bill Leech, of Roosevelt, NJ; grandchildren, Jennifer Mitchell and her husband, John Mitchell, of Check, VA; Timothy Marchon and Monica Sutphin of Copper Hill, VA; Jack Leech of Roosevelt, NJ; great grandson, Gage Mitchell, of Check, VA; a large extended family and many special friends.

My Friend, Louise

By Bess Tremper

I learned to know Louise through Sol as she, her husband and he had worked on many photographic assignments and knew each other well. As our friendship developed, I came to know her very well and was constantly amazed at what she had done in her life. In fact, before coming to Roosevelt with their two young children many years ago, her husband and she had done more than most people do in a full lifetime.

What I loved about her was her interest in living. Every day she looked forward to what was happening. When I called her, she would tell me excitedly that she had found something on the internet and had printed out page after page. She used her computer constantly to keep in touch with the world.

In her last years when she had so many physical ailments, I could see how hard she worked out a plan to make her life possible from day to day. She would find something to look forward to and that would be the goal to move her along.

In thinking about Louise, I must say she had a long and fabulously interesting life in good part because of her wonderful talents. When I look at her photographs, I realize, too, how sensitive she was and how much she loved the world. It helps to remember that she was a person who made the most of living. We shall all miss her so much! ■

In 18 Hundred and 92 The Cherogs Sailed the Ocean Blue...



Julius

Julius and Zetta, my maternal grandparents, landed on these shores only to be told by the immigration people, that theirs was not a fitting American name, and that henceforth they were to be known as the Jacobsons, that being obviously a more typical American moniker.

Fresh-dubbed, the newlyweds continued their Odyssey, which had already taken them from Northern Europe, through a short sojourn in England and deposited them at Ellis Island, U.S.A. They kept moving until they alit in the wilds of West Virginia. After sampling several towns among the West Virginia hills, they finally settled in Wheeling.

Although he had spent his life thus far as a most accomplished musician, Julius set up shop as a pretty good tailor, there being precious little demand

for the services of a symphony conductor. Zetta fulfilled her wifely duties, kept house, cooked and had babies, three, of which my mother was the eldest.

Julius was by far the more interesting of the couple. He was very well educated, spoke seven languages and played every string and wind instrument that compiled a symphonic orchestra. At the time of his early death, he was well into the completion of a compendium of homeopathic remedies..., none of which managed to stanch the course of his lung cancer.

My most indelible image of him is that of a tousled, curly head bent over his sewing machine, cigarette dangling from his lips. I would watch him roll his own, from a mysterious little leather bag (a skill which is not entirely lost more than a century later). His fingers are yellowed with nicotine stain, and he's squinting as the aromatic smoke curls around his head in the soft light from the old foot-propelled Singer.

Julius was born in Vilna (Lithuania). At that time this was a Russian city. His rather large family had been dispersed to various parts of the continent by a prescient ancestor during the Spanish Inquisition, and Julius' branch found a home in Russian Vilna. Julius was conscripted as a young man into the Russian Army, and became the conductor of one of the Tsar's many orchestras and bands thereof.

In the course of his service, he was billeted in a hotel by the Baltic Sea in Riga, Latvia. The innkeeper's daughter,

Zetta, was a girl of no particular beauty, charm or wit who ended up marrying the quite handsome soldier. Thus the Cherog-cum-Jacobson family was launched.

Onward to West Virginia and Julius' new career in the tailor shop. As my mother told it to me, all of his talents served him well in Wheeling, where he taught music on the side to the local boys. Ultimately, he parlayed all his energy into teaching the young people the band instruments, tailoring uniforms for them and leading the Wheeling Boys Band down the main drag on what was then called Decoration Day. This has a slightly familiar ring to it, no?

Finally, when all the kids had learned their instruments, and the folks of the town had achieved enough chic for life in W. VA with Julius' expertise, the Cherogs upanchored and moved on up to the metropolis of Pittsburgh. There they stayed long enough for my parents to meet and marry.

Next stop - Philadelphia, which was to become my hometown. But this is Julius' story.

Many years later, when I was a very small child, I sat on his knee and learned the essential facts of life, such as: how to identify the various makes of cars (there weren't very many then), how to whistle (essential to every young girl) and most important, how to wiggle my ears (a social grace no refined lady can live without).

My grandfather loved music a lot more than he cared for the tailoring trade and that passion was his legacy.

Continued on Page 10

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 9

He taught my mother the violin on the instrument that now lies atop my piano, and he was my very first piano teacher. He took me to my first opera, *Carmen*, at the Robinhood Dell, in Philadelphia, when I was about five years old, and I still remember that wondrous experience. He introduced me to the whole world of music.

No doubt my choice of career, ergo my whole life, was hugely influenced by this wonderfully warm, caring, gentle man. How very sad that I only had him for the first seven years of my life. I can just imagine the kind of relationship, which was stolen by the demon tobacco.



Zetta

This was my maternal grandmother. She met Julius Cherg, my grandfather, when he was billeted in her father's hotel on the shore of the Baltic Sea in Riga, Latvia during some Russian military crisis or other. She was 'The Innkeeper's Daughter', he, 'The Dashing Soldier Boy.' Julius had been perfectly cast, being the conductor of one of the Tsar's symphonic bands, and a young intellectual. The plot was

laid for a great romance, no?..NO! But they did marry and come to this country together in 1892.

In my early childhood, when I first became aware of her, I found Zetta totally bereft of beauty, charm or wit. A tragic trifecta! How their union ever came to pass was a mystery to me for as long as I knew these maternal grandparents. I adored Julius for his great warmth and intensity, but Zetta and I never really connected.

My grandmother was born to the family Reisner along with several brothers. She rarely spoke of them or of any sisters. As a matter of fact we rarely spoke of her past at all, except to assure me that she spoke only Hoch Deutsch (High German) and that she had crocheted for the Kaiser's family. I felt a distinct flavor of snobbery in these announcements. There were also some stories about her swimming naked in the Baltic Sea...on Ladies' Day, of course.

Even as a small child I could see no basis for her elitism, and finally realized that it was some sort of defense, perhaps against an instinctive recognition of her profound ignorance. This presumption burst upon me at the age of 6 when I was learning to read. I had invited my grandma to allow me to teach her as I learned. Her typically ungracious response was, "I've forgotten more than you'll ever learn!" And that was that.

She had grown up in a time and place when the sons were thoroughly educated, but not the daughters. Evidently her stiff-necked German pride couldn't handle a small child presuming to lead her.

Her knowledge was confined to homemaking skills in which she excelled, particularly the art of needlework. Here she truly shone, her creativity was staggering. To this day I treasure several stunningly delicate

oversized coverlets, afghans and table-spreads, not to mention bags full of dresser scarves and doilies. Zetta had indeed tatted and crocheted fine laces for the Kaiser's household when a young woman, living in Hamburg and along with similar skill in knitting continued plying these arts throughout her very long life.

After her husband died, my father became her sole source of support. This was no mean commitment as it was depression time and his earning abilities were scraping the bottom, he being a dentist without a practice. But that's a whole 'nother story.

Most of my impressions and memories of my grandmother stem from my later childhood and teen years, when I was certain that she had been preserved solely to plague me. She complained and scolded, disciplined and tattled. Ours was hardly a sweet relationship, however Zetta had become a permanent attachment and devoted all of her skills to our small family.

She was a traditional German cook...everything quite heavy and rich. Perhaps from sheer boredom, she would have the dinner vegetables ready and slow cooking by 10 a.m.

She had a major green thumb. In summer she would occupy herself with the flowers and plants in her garden, and in winter her room was the repository for all those which she could repot and bring into the house. Entering her bedroom in winter was like a trip to a rain forest.

When I wasn't available to be needled and ragged on, her other diversion was sitting by the radio and crocheting or knitting, while listening to her soap operas. (I can still hear the sibilants of her whispered German counting). Ma Perkins and John's Other Wife were absolutely real to her, and their lives were happening before

Continued on Page 13

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

Continued from Page 4

our sewer system. We have 28 years left in the term of this Allen administration loan which costs residential ratepayers \$44 per month.

Refinancing Our Long-term Debt...
We have 28 years of payments left in the 40-year term of the 1992 Allen administration loan. Principal and interest on long-term debt comprise almost 40% of your monthly water/sewer bill. Since loan rates are about half of what they were in 1992, refinancing the sewer debt continues to be a high priority for the current Mayor and Council.

Short-term Water Debt

In 2001 the Borough financed a \$50,000 project through a five-year (short-term) Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to renovate one of our existing wells. A BAN can best be described as a loan from ourselves to be paid off through future budgets. The advantage of a BAN is that the 'loan' is at 0% interest (principal only) and since we knew this work was going to be needed, we reserved (saved) \$10,000 for this purpose in a prior year budget and it was applied to the BAN thus reducing the debt one year ahead of schedule. This short-term 'loan' matures in 2006.

Our Water and Sewer Plant Operators

Toby Moore and George Vasseur are our water/sewer operators. Toby worked for several years as an employee of the private company that a previous administration contracted with to run our water and sewer oper-

ations. When the private company's contract expired we hired Toby as a Borough employee to run our utilities. *The change from paying a company to run our utilities to having a professional operator in our employ has saved our homeowners thousands of dollars annually.* For example, currently we are saving as much as \$10,000 per year by pumping out sludge from our holding tanks. Our weekend plant operator, George Vasseur, has been working to find even more ways to improve our systems.

Toby Moore is innovative and believes in a systems approach to the management of our water/sewer systems. Under past administrations most of our data was paper-based, now almost all important utility records are on Toby's computerized data base. Toby is able to complete State reports, monitor utility budget spending, and record the date new equipment was put into service. Routine maintenance schedules and the replacement of water and sewer system components can be planned before they fail. Utilizing this database results in a more efficient utility and keeps costs down for our homeowners.

Water Meter Installation

Pursuant to a State Department of Environmental Protection order to account for all water use, this summer the Borough will begin to install water meters for every utility customer in town. Toby Moore and George Vasseur have identified the location of

all existing meters and have determined the scope of work necessary for the installation of water meters. Councilman Jeff Hunt worked with our engineering consultants to establish the specifications for the project. Several years ago we began to put money aside for this project and the remaining costs have been funded through a 0% interest rate BAN (Bond Anticipation Note). In this way we did not have to increase water sewer rates for our users.

Sewer Line Blockage Reimbursement

A new one-page form is now available outlining the procedures and requirements necessary in order to qualify for reimbursement of expenses when a sewer line blockage is in the street and not on your property.

Under the new procedures, our operator will assist you by checking the manholes near your house to see if the main sewer line is backing up. If the line is backing up, our operator will get the main sewer line jet cleaned by our contractor at the Borough's expense. These new procedures will help facilitate prompt reimbursement to homeowners of expenses incurred for problems related to a municipal line blockage.

As always I depend upon your advice and support.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Hamilton, Mayor

Borough Hall: 609-448-0539

E-mail: mham82@comcast.net ■

TOWN TOPICS

Continued from Page 7

community's environment.

Under Rod Tulloss' leadership, and with the support of many members of the Roosevelt community, the Fund

Rochdale Avenue, the Fund has begun to explore how that land can also be preserved. The preservation of Roosevelt's greenbelt, seen as not even

restore the historic character of their homes, and the acquisition of a property – perhaps one of the original houses – to become a museum and cultural center for the community.

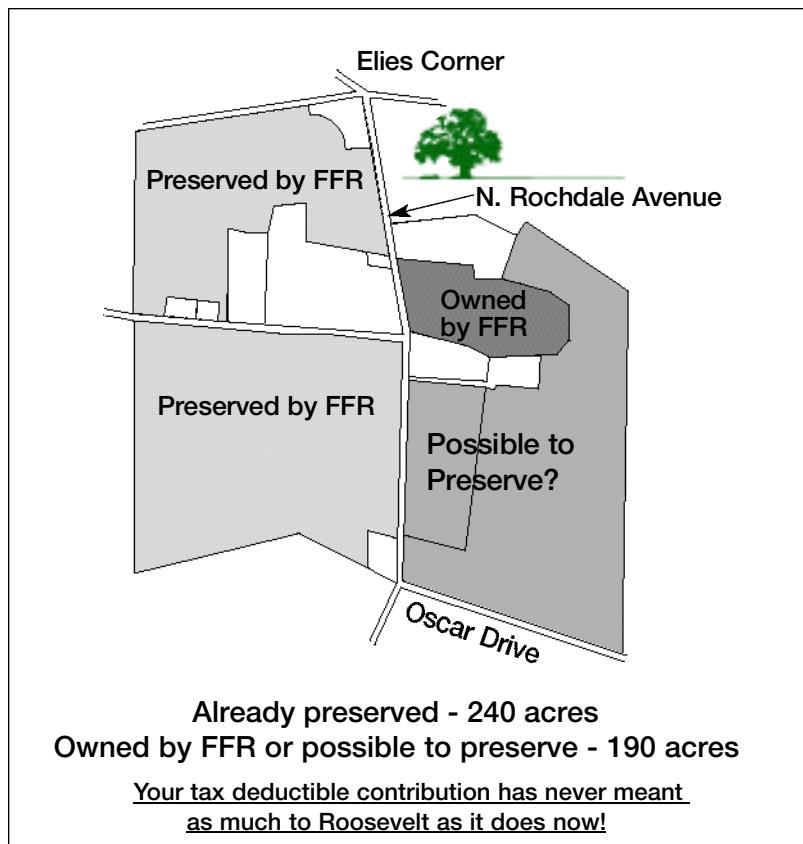
During the board meeting that preceded the public meeting, the Fund elected its officers and new board members for the coming year. Officers for the coming year are Alan Mallach, President; Michael Ticktin, Vice President; Gail Hunton, Secretary; and, Eitan Grunwald, Treasurer. Rod Tulloss, outgoing board president, was named Director of Land Preservation for the Fund. The new board members of the Fund are Marilyn Magnes, Tom Curry and Jeff Ellentuck.

Although many people have been involved in the Fund's work, its accomplishments to date are a tribute to a singular member of our community, Rod Tulloss. At the close of its business, the Board adopted a resolution, "in recognition of his vision in founding the Fund for Roosevelt, his leadership in directing the organization in its ground-breaking years, and in appreciation of his commitment to the ideals of Jersey Homesteads" creating the lifetime board position of Founder and Past President for Rod. This gesture is only a modest way of expressing how much everyone involved with the Fund for Roosevelt is grateful to Rod for the work he has done, and for the work he continues to do for the Fund and for the community.

Report From the First Aid Squad

By Carol Watchler

Although emergency calls were few in the past month, the Roosevelt First Aid squad has been quite active making certain that the ambulance is outfitted with critical equipment and



was able to acquire 240 acres of farm land and woods west of North Rochdale Avenue and north of the old service station, and sell it as preserved farmland. During the same period, the Notterman tract was acquired by the State of New Jersey under the Green Acres program, preserving it from development (but raising other questions about its future, including the danger of its potential use for hunting). In 2002, the Fund also acquired the Hoffman property east of North Rochdale Avenue, preserving another 30 acres of farmland. Now that US Home has abandoned its lawsuit against the borough, and relinquished its rights to the other properties east of North

a remote possibility only a few years ago, is now a goal within reach.

The Fund has an ambitious agenda for the coming years. Highest on our list are the preservation and resale of the Hoffman property, which should take place within the next year to eighteen months, the preservation of the remaining lands east of North Rochdale Avenue, as well as continuing to work with the landowners in the greenbelt – including the state of New Jersey – to encourage them to use their lands in environmentally sustainable and sensitive ways. Other ideas that were discussed at the meeting included developing a program to help the owners of the original Roosevelt houses to preserve or

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Continued from Page 1

Protection (DEP) would walk the former Notterman tract with representatives of the Borough and of the Fund for Roosevelt. DEP assigned control over the property to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and that Division failed to make any arrangements last year to have the fields on the property farmed or to institute soil conservation measures, both of which are of great importance for the preservation of the land as farmland, which is the goal of the Borough and the Fund. It is the hope of the Borough and the Fund that DEP will allow the Fund to assume stewardship of the land so that it is farmed and properly managed. Also, Mayor Hamilton will be meeting with Borough Attorney Doug Kovats to discuss codification of municipal ordinances and a revised personnel handbook.

Councilman Neil Marko reported that he had met with Tax Collector/Utility Collector Sam Cannizzaro to discuss automation of the collection processes.

Councilman Jeff Hunt announced that the Borough's policy regarding responsibility for clearing or repair of blocked or damaged sewer lines was now available for distribution to interested residents. He emphasized that the Borough is only responsible for costs relating to blockages or damage on public property. Property owners have responsibility to the property line.

Councilwoman Pat Moser reported that repairs were underway to a fire hydrant on Pine Drive that had been damaged when it was hit by a vehicle. Councilman Hunt pointed out that the hydrants that we have are automatically sealed when damaged, so we do not have scenes of geyser-like hydrants, as in a W. C. Fields movie. Mrs. Moser also reported that she had received about 20 responses to the survey on speed humps that was included in last month's *Bulletin*. The responses, she said, were evenly divided between those liking the speed humps and those disliking them. ■

Only Incumbents Filed for Democratic Mayor and Council Nominations: Marko and Hamilton to Switch Places; No Republican Candidates Filed.

By Michael Ticktin

This June, Democratic primary voters have before them an uncontested slate in which Councilman Neil Marko is running for Mayor, Mayor Michael Hamilton and Councilman Jeff Hunt are running for full three-year Council seats, and Councilman Daniel Hoffman is running for the remainder of the unexpired term to which he was appointed upon the resignation of Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes. Persons wishing to run on the Republican line can still be nominated by write-in votes, and persons wishing to run as Independents can submit petitions at any time up to the date of the June 3 primary. ■

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 10

her very ears. She would join in our dinner conversations with the 'true' details about 'this woman I know'. And my dear, tolerant parents would never disabuse her. My inclinations, being a smart-ass were otherwise, but were strictly discouraged.

Zetta lived with my parents in Philadelphia until I married and moved away, and my father died and did likewise. My mother joined my small family in New York, and Zetta stayed in Philadelphia at the home of her only son, my mother's younger brother, until her death a few years later at the age of 98.

After living with Grandma as a con-

stant irritant throughout my whole childhood and youth, what remains of her in my life? There are those products of her handicraft skill, a great appreciation for my father's generosity to a lonely, though disagreeable widow, and a bit of justification for my less than gung-ho attitude toward unnecessary physical exertion.

To my knowledge, except for those early dips in the Baltic, Zetta's only physical activity amounted to no more than the walk from her room to the kitchen, to the easy chair by the radio and back. And, still she managed to live to a very ripe old age. Now there's an example I have no problem

emulating. Thank you for that grandma and...Rest In Peace. ■

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:

Marilyn Magnes	448-6402
Pearl Seligman	448-2340

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOWN TOPICS

Continued from Pag 12

Thanks To All Of Our Friends

The family of Louise Rosskam would like to thank all of her friends in Roosevelt for their kindness and support during her final illness. She treasured each of your visits and phone calls. We know that she loved all of you. All of the help you provided us after her death made a difficult time more bearable.

Some of you asked about donations in her memory. Donations can be made to:

Fifty Crows Foundation
International Center for
Documentary Photography
Working for Positive Social Change
1074 Folsom St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

Thank you,
*Susie, Ani, Bill, Jack, Jenny, John,
Gage, Tim and Monica*

drilling rudimentary skills for emergency preparedness. After carefully reviewing ambulance readiness as well as insuring that active members have all required, up-to-date certifications, the New Jersey State First Aid Council awarded accreditation to the squad for the 2003 year.

Members are pleased to congratulate John Rindt III, on receiving certification as Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B). This brings the total of certified active members of the squad to six with two new applicants, Keith Suk and Susan Van Note, yielding promise of further expansion of the group.

Members received training this month on procedures for use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for cardiac arrest situation. This session inaugurated the addition of a new AED to the ambulance. Additional training included proper techniques for use of a backboard and the ambulance stretcher.

Rooseveltians may have observed squad members in new jackets consisting of an outer layer well-marked with reflector material, the squad name, and the "star of life." The inner layer can also be worn separately and is identified

with the numbers 4121, the number to which the Roosevelt squad responds when alerted by the Monmouth County 911 dispatch system.

Roosevelt First Aid Squad is in the process of defining a new membership category: Driver-only. These members would have the primary responsibility of driving the ambulance and would be prepared with the following courses: Community First Aid, CPR for the Professional Rescuer and Defensive Driving. The squad is fortunate to be able to offer these one-session courses through our Training Officer, Jack Rindt. The courses will be scheduled during the coming summer.

A regular new member who chooses to become an EMT-B is required to take CPR and the driving course and go on to complete the 110 hour EMT-B course that is offered in the summer and the fall at locations in Monmouth County and around the state. Persons interested in applying for either the Driver-only or the EMT-B status can obtain course information from any squad member and should submit a membership application that can be obtained from leaders of Project Revive or squad president, Carol Watchler.

RESIDENTS!

This is your newspaper. We would be happy to hear from you either in the form of letters or articles which we would be pleased to include in our publication each month.

That's what this paper is for — to help us to get to know one another as well as to let you know what is happening in the town.

Let us know what you think, what you do.

How about it?

WEATHER ALMANAC

By Ron Filepp

March 15 - April 15, 2003

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	55.6	27.7	41.7	0.00
16	70.2	33.8	52.0	0.00
17	72.0	48.7	60.4	0.00
18	65.0	43.9	54.5	0.00
19	48.9	35.4	42.2	0.00
20	50.7	35.8	43.3	0.00
21	66.6	50.4	58.5	0.85
22	65.5	45.3	55.4	0.20
23	59.7	40.1	49.9	0.00
24	63.1	37.8	50.5	0.00
25	69.1	35.6	52.4	0.00
26	72.0	43.0	57.5	0.00
27	61.5	37.0	49.3	0.34
28	63.0	35.8	49.4	0.00
29	75.9	52.7	64.3	0.00
30	52.0	35.8	43.9	0.00
31	44.8	30.7	37.8	0.45
1	53.1	26.4	39.8	0.06
2	65.5	40.3	52.9	0.09
3	61.3	42.1	51.7	0.00
4	40.0	38.7	39.4	0.00
5	47.1	38.5	42.8	0.07
6	51.3	36.1	43.7	0.10
7	39.9	36.7	38.3	0.00
8	39.0	32.9	36.0	0.53
9	38.5	35.1	36.8	0.10
10	53.1	34.5	43.8	0.50
11	44.8	37.4	41.1	0.20
12	65.8	43.0	54.4	1.07
13	60.8	39.6	50.2	0.10
14	64.9	33.3	49.1	0.00
15	77.7	44.2	61.0	0.00

Total Precipitation 4.66

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.

Poulet Aux Fruits Sec: Chicken with Dried Fruits



We often go to Canada to visit friends. The last time we were in Montreal, our friend invited us to dinner and prepared a most unusual fish soup which we enjoyed very much. I asked my friend for the recipe which she was happy to give me and also told me it came from a cook book she had found called *La Cuisine Du Megreb - "Moroccan, Tunisian and Algerian Cooking"*. I immediately went out and bought it and have not only made the fish soup, but also this Tunisian chicken which I've translated for you and I hope you will enjoy it as much as we do. I'll give you the fish soup recipe in a future *Bulletin*.

Tunisian Chicken

one 3 pound chicken. I have used an organic one.
5 tablespoons of olive oil
one chopped yellow onion
 $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of dried fruits: apricots, prunes and
raisins - chopped
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup pine nuts

Preheat oven to 325-350 degrees. Heat the oil in a cast iron pot. Saute the onion, then add the pine nuts and the fruits and cook 2-3 minutes.

Add: salt and pepper, some saffron (optional)

Let the mix cool. Stuff the chicken with it.

In a pot, Saute the chicken in the oil. Add more salt and pepper to taste. Stand the chicken on its side. Cover and slide into the oven for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Turn the chicken every 30 minutes.

Serve with couscous.

Note: You can add the rest of the fruit to the couscous. I have also served it with a basmati rice in which I added the fruit mix and 6-7 whole garlic cloves. I don't know that it had anything to do with Tunisian cooking, but it reminded me of a restaurant in Moscow that served a great pilaf. ■

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

2002 - 2003 SEASON

Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, 2003

8:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

The popular String Band returns with songs from many cultures.



PLEASE
NOTE
CHANGE
IN DATES!!!

Sunday, May 18, 2003

12:00 noon at the Borough Hall

OPEN BOARD MEETING

The RAP Board of Directors invite community residents to join us in planning next year's program events. We are always looking for possible project initiatives and suggestions for new directions from all interested community members. Your participation will be welcomed.

Voluntary Contribution:

For most events \$5 per adult. For the String Band \$10 per adult, \$5 for seniors and children.

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



MURAL POSTCARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

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 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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2002 - 2003

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BUSINESS SPONSORS

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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Please send your events and activities to Jane Rothfuss, Box 122, 448-3713 or email: kirkjane@juno.com

Roosevelt Branch of the Monmouth County Library
open at RPS – Mondays 3-4 p.m. and Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m.

May

1	Thur	2 p.m.	Project Revive, Borough Hall Author's Night & Gymnastic Show, RPS Dale Weinbach, Principal 448-2798
2	Fri		Pizza Day, RPS 8 p.m. RAP Program, Roosevelt String Band Borough Hall \$10, \$5 seniors and kids Robin Gould 448-4616
3	Sat	9 a.m.	PTA Town-wide Yard Sale 9 a.m. PTA Plant & 6th Grade Bake Sale, Post Office Larisa Bondy Pres. 443-7430 8 p.m. RAP Program, Roosevelt String Band Borough Hall \$10, \$5 seniors and kids Robin Gould 448-4616
4	Sun	9 a.m.	PTA Town-wide Yard Sale
5	Mon	7 p.m.	Council Committee Mtgs., Borough Hall, Neil Marko, President 443-6818 8 p.m. Council Agenda Meeting Michael Hamilton, Mayor 443-5227
6	Tues	12:30	Senior Blood Pressure Check Borough Hall 1 p.m. Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall Gerry Millar, President 448-0351 7:30 p.m. Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall Ralph Seligman, Chairman 448-2340
7	Wed		RECYCLE BIG GARBAGE PICK UP – Call Borough Hall for more information 448-9539
8	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS Sharlene Ellentuck, President 448-4440
9	Fri		PTA Family Dance, RPS Larisa Bondy, President 443-7430
11	Sun		MOTHER'S DAY
12	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting Michael Hamilton, Mayor 443-5227
15	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting Neil Marko 443-6818

7:30 p.m. Environmental Commission Meeting
Borough Hall, Kirk Rothfuss 448-3713

16	Fri		Pizza Day – RPS
19	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Mtgs., Borough Hall, Neil Marko, President 443-6818 7:30 p.m. PTA Meeting, RPS Larisa Bondy, President 443-7430
21	Wed		RECYCLE 10:45 a.m. Kindergarten RoundUp, RPS Dale Weinbach, Principal 448-2798
22	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS Sharlene Ellentuck, President 448-4440
26	Mon		MEMORIAL DAY RPS Closed
30	Fri		Pizza Day – RPS

June Preview

2	Mon	7:00 P.M.	Council Committee Mtgs., Borough Hall, Neil Marko, President 443-6818 8 p.m. Council Agenda Meeting Michael Hamilton, Mayor 443-5227
3	Tues		Field Day, RPS RPS Early Dismissal
		12:30 p.m.	Senior Blood Pressure Check Borough Hall
		1 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall Gerry Millar, President 448-0351
4	Wed		RPS Early Dismissal
5	Thurs		Spring Concert

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