



Bulletin



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March 2026

Roosevelt Council Advances Pine Drive Improvements, Plans Ahead for Town Milestones

by Hope Pressler

The Roosevelt Borough Council addressed a range of municipal priorities at its March 2 meeting, including infrastructure improvements, environmental planning, and preparations for upcoming community celebrations. A significant portion of the evening focused on two bond ordinances related to improvements on Pine Drive. The Council unanimously approved a roadway improvement project totaling \$418,355. Of that amount, \$240,846 will be financed through bonds, while the remaining costs will be covered through a combination of grant funding and required down payments. During the public hearing, a resident asked about the difference between the total project cost and the bond amount. Borough officials explained that approximately \$177,000 in New Jersey Department of Transportation grant funds, along with required local contributions for engineering and related costs, account for the discrepancy.

The Council also approved a second bond ordinance authorizing \$131,232 in funding for water utility improvements along Pine Drive.

In addition to the ordinances, the Council approved the preparation and submission of the borough's 2025 water audit to the Delaware River Basin Commission and commissioned a restoration survey for a borough-owned property associated with a longstanding Green Acres compliance matter. The Council also formally authorized a transition in borough engineering services, expressing appreciation for past service.

Environmental planning was another key topic of discussion. Representatives of the Environmental Commission outlined the need to update Roosevelt's Community Forestry Management Plan, citing emerging concerns

such as beech leaf disease, as well as the importance of maintaining the borough's Sustainable Jersey certification. The proposed update would be funded through a \$7,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Communities program. While the Council expressed support for the effort, formal approval of the grant application is expected at a future meeting. Council members discussed early plans for Roosevelt's 90th anniversary, which coincides with the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations. Officials are considering how best to coordinate local events with countywide activities, with the possibility of holding smaller celebrations in July and a larger community event in September.

Several updates were shared during committee reports. The borough continues to seek substitute crossing guards, with officials noting ongoing difficulty in attracting applicants for the part-time positions. Public works representatives reported that recent snow removal efforts were handled effectively despite challenging weather conditions.

Updates from the local school district highlighted an upcoming student theater production and recent changes to library policies. In addition, the borough's senior group continues to expand its programming, with a March gathering planned locally and a group trip to a museum in Princeton scheduled for April.

The meeting concluded with brief closing remarks and follow-up items, including continued coordination on anniversary planning and next steps for pending grant applications. Residents are encouraged to attend future Council meetings. Council meeting agendas, minutes, and audio recordings are available online at <https://www.rooseveltnj.us/Meetings>.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 49th edition of *The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin*, an all-volunteer publication serving the borough of Roosevelt, NJ. We welcome submissions for news items, information of local interest, letters to the editor, poetry, and visual arts. We ask all contributors to adhere to the following submission guidelines:

- Send submissions to the email rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text within the body of your email. Please do not send PDFs.
- Include images as separate files in jpg format.

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

We reserve the right to edit in accordance with our publication standards and policies, and to include items as space permits.

The *Bulletin* board members are thrilled to see that people are utilizing the *Bulletin* as a forum for communicating about our community's most critical issues. We are grateful that Roosevelt has supported this publication for so many decades by contributing both financially and intellectually. We are committed to providing you with the best publication possible.

SENIOR CITIZENS: There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and where you wish to go.

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

An archive of past *Bulletin* issues can be found online at www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm, courtesy of Mark Zuckerman.

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

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

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

What is a Borough?

by Jane Rothfuss

I have lived in the Borough of Roosevelt since 1986 (wow - 40 years in October! Time flies....) but I actually never thought much about the term "Borough" in our name, simply assuming it was a term that meant "little town" or something similar. You may already be more knowledgeable about the term than I was, but if you are like me, you might be surprised to learn that "Borough" has a specific meaning in New Jersey.

A quick search took me to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities website (Types of Government in New Jersey), which explains that all 564 municipalities in New Jersey are classified as one of five types of municipal government. These types are Borough, Township, City, Town, and Village.

So Roosevelt is a Borough. What does this mean? As defined by New Jersey statute NJSA:40A:60-1 et.seq., it means we have a voter-elected Mayor and a six person Council. Our Mayor has a 4 year term, while our Council members have staggered 3 year terms. Our elections are partisan, meaning candidates for these positions are members of the Democratic or Republican party. The statute requires that the governing body organizes itself in the first week of January.

You may have heard that Roosevelt has a "weak Mayor- strong Council" form of government. What is the source of this expression? The same statute specifies the role and responsibilities of our elected officials. In a Borough, the Mayor is the head of municipal government, responsible for seeing that state laws and borough ordinances are followed and executed. The Mayor presides over Council meetings, but only votes to break ties. The Mayor can veto ordinances, with any mayoral veto being subject to override by a 2/3 majority of the Council (this would mean 4 out of 6 members voting to override). The

Mayor appoints subordinate officers with Council approval. Council fills any posts not filled after 30 days or if Council rejects a Mayoral appointment.

The Council in a Borough is the legislative body. As stated above, the Council can override a mayor's veto by 2/3 majority of all members, it confirms the appointments of the mayor or gains the power to appoint if a mayor's appointment fails to be approved or if the office is vacant for 30 days. The Council has all executive responsibility not placed in the office of the mayor by statute. The Council may delegate, by ordinance, all of a portion of executive authority to an administrator, and the Council may adopt an administrative code.

So is any of this different in other places? Yes, for example, in a township such as East Windsor Township, the mayor is elected for only 1 year by the Township Committee that has three or five members, elected at-large, to staggered three year terms. In a city such as Trenton the Mayor is the head of the police force and appoints the chief and sergeants with Council approval. In a town such as Secaucus the mayor chairs council and gets to vote. A village has a Board of Trustees which is elected at large, and the Board chooses a President for one year. But it turns out there are actually no villages left in New Jersey except in name only (like tiny Loch Arbour just north of Asbury Park). The four that existed in New Jersey had to change to essentially the Township form due to a law passed in 1989.

But I digress... back to Roosevelt. Here is our

current municipal government (from our Borough's website at <https://www.rooseveltnj.us>)

Mayor: Peggy Malkin (serving term from 1/1/24 to 12/31/27)

Council:

Tina Kaufman-Marut (serving term 1/1/25 - 12/31/27) and Council President for 2026

Gregory S. DeFoe, Jr. (serving term expiring 12/31/26)

Danelle Feigenbaum (serving term 1/1/26 - 12/31/28)

Constance Herrstrom (serving term 1/1/26 - 12/31/28)

Claudia Luongo (serving term 1/1/26 - 12/31/26)

Ralph Warnick (serving term 1/1/25 - 12/31/27)

Council holds its meetings at Borough Hall on the first and third Mondays of each month, at 7 PM. A schedule, agendas, and minutes of meetings can be found at <https://www.rooseveltnj.us/Meetings>.

742.

Climb-dance with blues and with whites,
mosaic tiles

shouting out alley-street steps
under the sun.

Facing each one here in this one

time in this one life

of mine in this Lisbon of tiles

peculiar to one light in the street within me.

— David Sten Herrstrom

Yearbook

by Mary Macher

I found my high school yearbook, again. I was trying to weed out my bookcase and there it was, stuck to the bottom shelf by years of weight from other forgotten books stacked on top of it. I opened it up to page after page of pictures of kids who were my world for years and years, The kids who wrote “remember all the fun in (home room, gym home economics, study hall, etc.)” and “best of luck in the future”, all there, all those up-and-down teenage memories.

Among those memories was one of Senior-year English class. We had to write a poem and mine was sort of an ode to rivers. It was mostly about how supplies and people are transported on highways of water, very practical stuff that probably was inspired by something I had seen on TV. Today I could write a more interesting and exciting one about whitewater rafting or canoeing but back then I didn't really know about all that fun stuff. I can still remember standing there with the fog of boredom settling over the classroom as I waded through word after handwritten word on that sheet of blue-lined loose-leaf notebook paper. The next student got up, a girl named Katy. She recited her poem which was about looking at clouds and seeing fluffy white images of bunnies and kangaroos. I felt like a rock next to a patch of wildflowers.

The Teachers' pages brought back more memories, particularly of Driver Education classes and of both the in-class teacher and the behind-the-wheel teacher whom I scared. The in-class teacher had to teach us the rules in the manual while emphasizing consequences by showing us gruesome scary films of kids our age who did stupid things and wound up dead in mangled cars. The behind-the-wheel teacher had to show us how to keep the gruesome stuff from happening to us with hands-on training out on the road in the school's driver ed

car. That's where I got scary. The first time I got behind the wheel I accidentally stepped on the gas pedal instead of the brake. The engine raced but the car stayed put. The behind-the-wheel teacher, who had the foresight to have his foot jammed down on his instructor brake pedal or whatever he did to protect himself before I got settled behind the wheel, asked me if I know what I was doing wrong 'cause he sure did. Things went uphill from there for all of us in the car that day, they had to. I hope his paychecks were worth it.

Not all days in class went badly. In one of the many candid pictures, I recognized a friend from gym, Christine, and I remembered back to a bit of a nerve-wracking day in class that turned out okay.

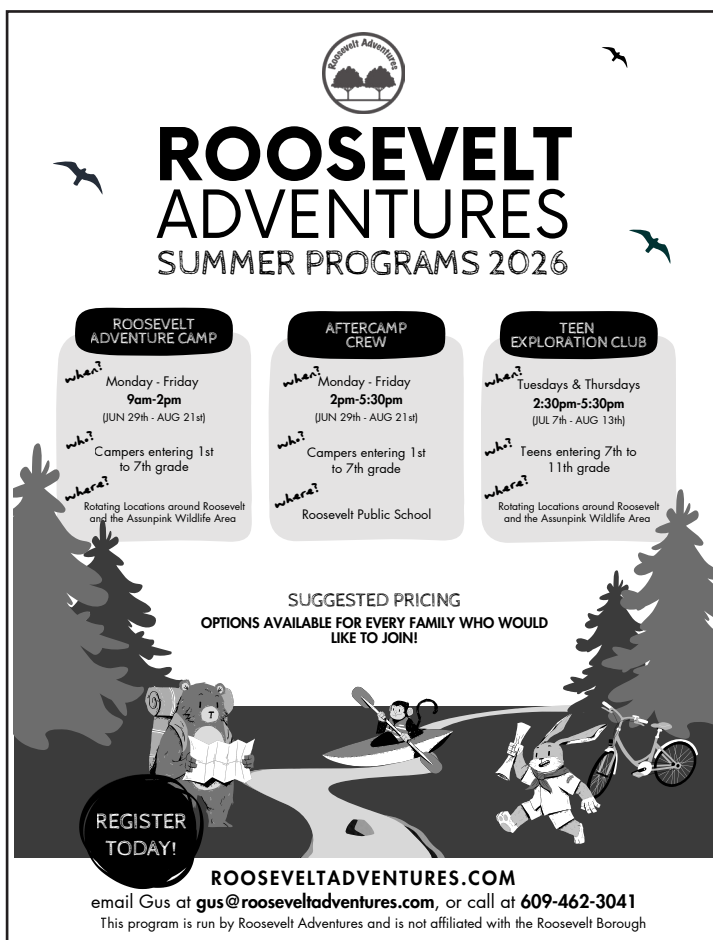
Our gym teacher had given us an assignment to put together an exercise routine to be graded. It had to be so-many minutes long and we could choose the exercises and the music. And—hold onto your sneakers—one at a time we had to get in front of the class and lead everyone in our creation.

When the day came, I rehearsed my routine again and again in my head while I clutched my 45 rpm record in a death grip. My routine was fairly easy with plenty of jumping jacks and marching in place and I chose a cool song. If I messed up no one would notice, my

music was that cool. I waited my turn in line. Then, Christine, who was just ahead of me, turned and confided that she didn't have her record and didn't know what to do. It was her turn. I still remember the look on her face, that familiar look of teen-sized fear of failure, and then—here it comes—I handed her my record.

Sure, she had to wing it but I don't think that anyone in our class really noticed—or cared—because, as I said, the music was that cool. She made it through her routine and came back to our line with a big smile of success on her face and gave back the precious record. I was up next and proceeded through my routine. I really don't remember feeling that badly about becoming a duplicate and, after all, everyone did get to listen to a cool song—twice.

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ROOSEVELT ADVENTURES
SUMMER PROGRAMS 2026

ROOSEVELT ADVENTURE CAMP	AFTERCAMP CREW	TEEN EXPLORATION CLUB
when? Monday - Friday 9am-2pm (JUN 29th - AUG 21st)	when? Monday - Friday 2pm-5:30pm (JUN 29th - AUG 21st)	when? Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30pm-5:30pm (JUL 7th - AUG 13th)
who? Campers entering 1st to 7th grade	who? Campers entering 1st to 7th grade	who? Teens entering 7th to 11th grade
where? Rotating Locations around Roosevelt and the Assunpink Wildlife Area	where? Roosevelt Public School	where? Rotating Locations around Roosevelt and the Assunpink Wildlife Area

SUGGESTED PRICING
OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR EVERY FAMILY WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN!

REGISTER TODAY!

ROOSEVELTADVENTURES.COM
email Gus at gus@rooseveltadventures.com, or call at 609-462-3041
This program is run by Roosevelt Adventures and is not affiliated with the Roosevelt Borough

Piano Recital Fills Borough Hall

By Rick Pressler

Roosevelt residents were treated to a richly conceived piano recital with commentary by local pianist Alan Mallach on February 11 at Borough Hall. The program, entitled “Brahms and Friends,” included the performance of 19th-century piano music composed by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) and a circle of composers with whom he had significant personal and musical connections.

Among those composers, Robert and Clara Schumann are the most recognizable, their continued popularity evidenced by the abundant recordings and performances of their works. Clara, in particular, has seen a resurgence of interest since the bicentenary of her birth in 2019; she enjoys a growing scholarly and critical appreciation, independent of any association with her more famous husband Robert.

For the other composers—Gustav Jenner, Theodor Kirchner, and Heinrich von Herzogenberg—

Mallach provided spirited performances and insightful historical context that gave their work a valued place among the works of their more famous contemporaries

Overall, the performances were skillful and energetic, lending a vividness to all the music. In Clara Schumann’s “Four pièces fugitives, op. 15,” Mallach employed sonorous tones and an adept touch to highlight the varied rhythms and tempos, effectively illustrating the contrasting character of the pieces. His commentary drew interesting connections with other contemporary composers, including Chopin and Beethoven

Gustav Jenner, Brahms’s only composition student, remains largely in obscurity, although a small number of recordings have emerged over the past thirty years. In “Ballade in E minor,” Mallach’s playing accentuated the composer’s passionate rolling bass arpeggios and ascending minor melodies, successfully capturing the

brio of the youthful composer.

Von Herzogenberg and Kirchner received equally fine treatment; in particular, the third of Kirchner’s “Three romances from op. 22” was performed with delicate lyricism. Mallach wisely ended with two pieces from Brahms’ “Klavierstücke, op. 76,” thus sparing the three previous composers an unintended comparison stemming from having to follow such a masterwork.

As Mr. Mallach pointed out, Brahms was a man fully immersed in his work and socially reserved. His passions—other than his music—remained either unrequited or unrealized. But his singular focus gave the world a wealth of beautiful music, especially for the piano. It was delightful and enlightening to have that music presented with helpful and interesting commentary, and to hear it performed with such enormous skill.

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The week before graduation I passed my yearbook around to as many of the kids as I could. Back then I am sure that it never entered my mind that I could lose touch with, say, my best friend at the time who sat next to me for three years in homeroom, but I did lose touch with her. And there were more who eventually faded from my life: the kids I hung around with before the bell rang start of day, the boy who asked me to the prom and the boy who didn’t, the girl who explained some of the latest slang to me when she realized I hadn’t a clue, the boy who decided to bully me for whatever reason, and the girl I used to hang out with after school to play records and try out dances.

After graduation it seemed that everyone scattered. I never went to any of my class reunions, I know that there was at least one. I have kept in touch with three of my classmates;

there had been four but over a decade ago one died, my after-school friend with whom I still associate a few of what now are classic oldies.

Years ago out of curiosity I googled my high school class alumni. I checked out the website and saw that my slang-literate friend was in Arizona and gym-class Christine’s whereabouts were unknown. I saw that poetic Katy from English class had an asterisk next to her name indicating that she had passed away and I felt sad remembering that day in English class. Further down the page I saw that the boy who had bullied me also had an asterisk next to his name. I understand now that some bullies are just unhappy people trying to make themselves feel better by making someone else feel worse and I wondered what his life was really like back then. I felt sorry for him.

I mean no disrespect to the people whose pictures were in my yearbook,

but I have felt a need to say goodbye to those printed and bound pages. First of all, I have too much stuff. Next, nice as it was, I don’t think that anyone else but me really cares about the wishes for “best of luck” (FYI, I’ve had my share), or what my homeroom friend had predicted for my prom date and me and wonder if it came true (it didn’t). And I certainly don’t want it to end up in some thrift shop when the time comes (maybe I should shred it).

I’m in a different stage of life now with new experiences, new mistakes to be made, and new people to get to know better. Was I ready to get rid of forever the temptation to go back to that printed review of a few teenage years? Was it time to say, “So long, yearbook, it’s been, well, real”? I decided that I should wait. Turns out I’m just not ready to let go. So, I’ll put the yearbook back on the bottom shelf for now. Again.



PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Roosevelt Public School
School Year 2026-2027

Registration for pre-school and kindergarten is currently taking place at Roosevelt Public School. Any resident who wishes to enroll in the program should contact us prior to May 1st. The registration forms along with the health form can be found on the RPS website: www.rps1.org.

Pre-school students must be 3 years old and toilet trained to start in September 2026; otherwise they can register/start when they turn 3 years old throughout the school year if spots are open. Spots are limited.

Preschool fees are as follows:

- Roosevelt residents - \$3,250/year or \$325/month
- Out of district students - \$4,500/year or \$450/month

Students who turn five on or before October 1, 2026 are eligible for entrance into kindergarten in September 2026.

An official birth certificate with the raised seal is required for registration. A photocopy of the birth certificate will be made when you register your child. Please make an appointment with the main office prior to bringing in registration documents.

Two Forms of Proof of Residency is also required. This can be a copy of a tax bill, bank statement, driver's license, or utility bill **with address, including PO Box number.**

All students must have the appropriate immunizations to begin school in September 2026. This information will be provided when you register your child.

If you have any questions, please call the school at 609-448-2798.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW BOARD MEMBER
TO MANAGE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!**



Would you like to join as a volunteer?

Activities include:

- Update social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram) approximately once a month
- Meet once a month virtually
- Fundraising activities (2-3 annually)
- Review teacher grant requests

EMAIL RPSEFDN@GMAIL.COM TO CONNECT

The mission of the Roosevelt Public School Education Foundation (RPSEF) is to support the students and staff of the Roosevelt Public School (RPS) by providing programs, equipment, training, and other resources that will support the mission of the school in educating our children to be independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators, and lifelong learners.

Substitute Teacher Job Posting

Roosevelt Public School
Grades Pre-K through 5
Roosevelt, NJ

Seeking reliable and caring Substitute Teachers to support our classrooms on an as-needed basis. Our small, close-knit school community values inclusion, collaboration, and creating a positive learning environment for all students.

Pay Rate: \$125/ per day (teacher)

Responsibilities:

- Provide classroom coverage in the absence of the regular classroom teacher
- Follow lesson plans and maintain established classroom routines
- Support student learning and engagement across academic and social settings
- Promote safe, respectful, and positive classroom environment
- Communicate any concerns or notable observations to the school administration

Qualifications:

- Valid NJ Substitute Certificate (or eligibility to obtain one)
- Flexibility, reliability, and a student-centered mindset

To Apply:

Please contact: Lindsay Perine, Principal
Email: lperine@rps1.org and cc'sgreen@rps1.org
Phone: 609-448-2798



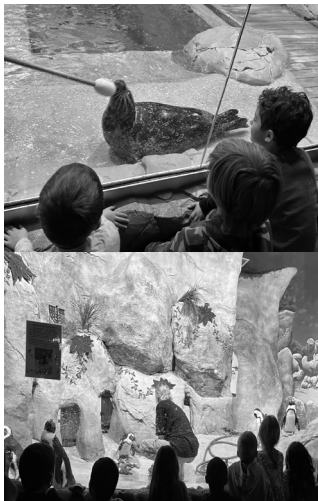


❄️ **Hello from the Foundation!**

As the ice and frost finally thaw across our community this chilly winter is coming to an end and we at RPSEF are delighted to share the warmth of generosity that poured in during our end-of-year-appeal and recent fundraisers! We are so thankful for your commitment to helping us enrich the educational opportunities of our students. We raised nearly \$6,000 dollars during our appeal and your participation in our Perkins and chocolate fundraiser helped us to earn roughly \$400 more. Thank you for your continued support! And despite recent cold temperatures, innovative experiences and educational discoveries are **HEATING UP** at RPS as a result of recently funded grants- read on to learn how your contributions are impacting the lives of the students in our community!

❄️ **Underwater Discovery at Jenkinson's Aquarium**

Our K & 1st graders went on a sea of change as they traded the classroom for the boardwalk during an immersive trip to Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant! This grant provided a hands-on exploration of marine biology, allowing students to observe diverse aquatic ecosystems and learn the vital importance of ocean conservation firsthand. Always a popular trip, students got an up-close look at the lives of seals, sharks, sting rays, penguins, and so many more.



❄️ **Physics in Motion: The "Give and Take Jugglers"**

While the laughter was loud, the learning was profound! This Young Audiences performance utilized the "Give and Take" philosophy to demonstrate the laws of motion, gravity, and centrifugal force. The foundation funded a high-energy performance that wasn't just entertainment; it was a lesson in physics, coordination, and the persistence required to master a complex skill, all delivered through the joy of the circus arts. The jugglers claim their favorite three words are "I did it" thus encouraging students to embrace a "growth mindset" – the idea that mastery comes from repeated failure and persistence. The presentation

successfully integrated STEM concepts with Social-Emotional Learning, proving that resilience is just as important as technical skill.

❄️ **Mentorship and History at Allaire Village**

The "Class Buddy" trip to The Historic Village at Allaire was a dual-purpose initiative. Students traveled back in time to the 1830s and toured the historic blacksmith and carpenter shops getting a glimpse into how people accomplished tasks almost 200 years ago. The grant funded trip also promoted peer



mentorship: pairing older and younger students, fosters cross-grade collaboration. Older students practiced leadership, while younger students gained confidence and a sense of belonging within the school community.

❄️ **New Clubs Provide Agency & Leadership**

Grant funded clubs focus on providing opportunities outside the standard bell schedule. **Student Council** has embraced a "Service and Spirit" model, members are learning civic responsibility, fundraising, and project management. **Theater Club** provides a sanctuary for collaborative problem-solving. Students are learning the "4 Cs" of 21st-century education: Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. **Sports Club** was tailored specifically for our primary learners, focusing on physical literacy and gross motor development. The club uses team-based play to help 1st and 2nd graders master spatial awareness and fundamental movement skills. Beyond the physical, it allows students to practice pro-social behaviors – learning how to follow multi-step directions, taking turns, and navigating the emotional highs and lows of winning and losing with grace.

❄️ **Honoring a Visionary**

On behalf of the students whose lives you have touched we would like to thank **Mary Tulloss** for her visionary leadership and 12 year tenure as president of RPSEF. From the foundation's inception in 2013 through 2025 Mary served as president and vanguard- ensuring a generation of scholars had opportunities that would not have existed without her commitment and leadership. We are profoundly grateful for her passion, her persistence, and the indelible mark she left on our community. Thank you Mary!

In Memoriam: Lou Esakoff

By Lauren Esakoff

My father lived a long life—one filled with both joy and hardship—and he lived it fully, on his own terms. He came to this country at the age of seven, carrying with him a resilience and determination that would shape the rest of his life.

As a kid in the South Bronx, he played stickball in the streets. At some point the family moved to LA and then back to NY City. After finishing high school in NY he went on to University of Cincinnati Pharmacy School—an achievement he was proud of and one that reflected his discipline, intelligence, and work ethic. He lived with the Groban family (Josh's grandparents) and was once arrested for peeing on a statue in the heart of the city with a bunch of fraternity brothers. My father told us that Mr. Groban rescued him and took him for pancakes after the ordeal.

He served in the Army, stationed in Fort Collins, Colorado, a town and a state he enjoyed and spoke of fondly. Some of his closest and most enduring friendships were formed during those years. The men he met in the Army—Sol Gratch and Ben Seff, to name just two—remained dear to him for the rest of his life. He loved them deeply. Though he outlived them both, even as recently as last week he remembered them with great affection. My dad was, above all else, a dedicated son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and uncle. He was a tireless provider, and a devoted companion. He worked hard his entire life, in the pharmaceutical industry and later in the field of medical billing, not for praise or recognition, but because responsibility—and the people for whom he cared—mattered to him. Providing mattered.

My dad was a true audiophile and after age 50 he took an additional PT job in the classical music dept of a record store at Quaker Bridge Mall. At

the time, I was working for MCI, and it seemed like it was weekly that he'd send a resume of a young employee looking for work in communications. He always wanted to help.

His last job was as a bus driver for the East Windsor school system because he loved the kids. He had his own relationship with each kid on the bus... He knew when one of them was having a tough day.

Showing up also mattered to him. And his family mattered most of all, although he often had difficulty demonstrating his affection.

He was a simple man in many ways. He didn't care about fancy cars or big homes. He never lived beyond his means. And he could be frugal. But he did have very good taste. He often said, when he saw someone showing off their wealth, that "we should have what that guy owed". That sense of sufficiency—of knowing when something was enough—may have been a value he learned from my Bubby & Zaide, who lived quietly and didn't need much themselves. It shaped how he lived and how he measured success.

He was curious and engaged with the world around him. He read The New York Times cover to cover every single day until he died—never skimming, never missing a section. He was always well informed.

He was a good Democrat and progressive in many ways, guided by fairness, compassion, and a belief in civic responsibility. He cared about justice, opportunity, and the role each of us plays in shaping the society we live in.

He taught my sister and me to work hard—to build good lives for ourselves and to be self-sufficient. He believed in being dependable, in being secure, and in standing on your own two feet. Because of him, we knew what it meant to feel safe and provid-

ed for, and we carry those lessons with us every day.

He always stayed in touch. He wanted to know how we were doing—what was going on in our lives, what we were working toward, and how we were managing, especially after Elan and I moved away after college, which he encouraged for our personal growth and for his privacy.

He was a very private man. And he never accepted offers of assistance which I know was a source of frustration to those who wanted to be of help.

He also never called a repair man. He could install, fix or build anything—plumbing, electrical, cars... he did it all. As his hands became arthritic and he grew older he was also frustrated that he could no longer do for himself.

In the last 17 years, no one mattered more to him than Eliana, his only grandchild. He was enormously proud of me as a mother, and actually told me so, and even more proud of the young woman Eliana has become—kind, compassionate, and driven. He admired her strong work ethic, her dedication as a student, her focus on fellowships especially in social justice, and her ability to form real, meaningful relationships. She brought him immense joy and purpose. Every time he and I spoke, without fail, he asked how Eliana was doing—even as recently as a few days ago.

He was deeply devoted to my mother throughout her terrible illness. He was a caretaker, became a good cook, and he got up early everyday so he could bathe me, my sister and my mother before going on the road for a long day of work.

In the early years of their marriage, they loved hosting parties—bringing people together, filling rooms with laughter, music, and life. As kids we

Continued on Page 9

hosted family bbq's in the back yard and have lots of great pictures. I recall a wild party at our house as a kid where somehow Pat Bradley had taken off my dad's t-shirt which we later found in the freezer, of all places.

After my mother passed away in 1976 he remarried and as life changed, that joy shifted to traveling the world with Irma, exploring, experiencing, and continuing to live with curiosity and enthusiasm. No matter the stage of life, he knew how to enjoy it.

He modeled what good relationships look like—with friends, with his wives, and later in life, with us all as adults. Most of all he was amazing with small kids. His relationships were built on loyalty, honesty, and showing up, and that example shaped how we understand connection, partnership, and love today.

He loved his niece and nephews as if they were his own children. In fact, he was often kinder and warmer with them. And after marrying Irma, he embraced her family fully, drawing tremendous joy from his expanded circle of nieces and nephews. They brought him new energy, new laughter, and a renewed sense of family that meant more to him than he could ever express.

He loved his dogs—and the stray cats he agreed to keep—with the same loyalty he gave to people: completely and without question.

Music was a deep and lifelong passion for him. He loved folk and classical music alike. His folk collection was enormous: Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, the Limeliters, Peter, Paul and Mary, Joan Baez, Miriam Makkeba—and others. And even what he affectionately called the Italian ladde-do. Each time we ate Italian food as a family when we were kids, he'd pour Cianti

PSALM 725

O blush of sky, O tetrarch of rock, sun insisting like a con, O moon prophecy,
reflector and fader of lives, O, you with no face in your mirror face,

O sun sifting through my fingers, O you of bubbling radiance,

O this morning overflow, O you who feel no emptiness, O

closer one closer but farther & farther, O beyond. I sit.

O you who know I live in light's waverhood

on this vast accident of earth.

— David Sten Herrstrom

and play the Italian Ladde-do during dinner.

But classical music was where his heart truly soared. He subscribed to a first-tier box at Lincoln Center for the New York Philharmonic for many decades, until one season when he grew extremely frustrated that the programming included too much Bartók, Copeland and others — all too modern for his taste. He enjoyed the German composers the most: Wagner, Mahler and Mozart especially.

Music filled our home all the time, guided his moods, and was a joy he shared, with those he loved. He'd pour himself a few drinks each evening and play a recording of one of his favorites. He often stood in the living room at exactly the midpoint between his perfectly balanced Jensen Electrostatic speakers with his home-made conducting wand and pretended to be conducting the orchestra. He regretted that he didn't become a professional conductor. Elan and I started to clean out some of his things and found a handwritten quote that reads: "Music gives one permission to dream. For a good

dream there is no price."

He was progressive in ways people didn't always expect. When I was a kid, he let me grow marijuana in the backyard—something the entire Roosevelt teen community knew about. And in what may be one of my favorite images of him, he got up in the middle of the night to defend those plants from local teenage thieves, in his boxer shorts with a large stick.

My father also had quirks that many people didn't know about—habits that perfectly reflected who he was. He took apart anything that was no longer of use to him whole and saved every single piece, carefully labeled and stored in containers. He saved spray bottles and all their parts, just in case he might someday need the sprayer unit from a window cleaner bottle. Hundreds of bags stuffed in other bags. Boxes filled with other boxes. Number two pencils. Rubber-bands. Paper written on one side, cut neatly and stacked into note paper. He was a list maker, fastidious about just about everything. It was part practicality, part discipline, and

Continued on Page 10

The Roosevelt Arts Project

The Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP) is a collaborative venture of friends and neighbors in and around Roosevelt, New Jersey. Bringing together artists in a variety of media, our mission is to foster collaboration and present their work to the public. Founded in 1986 by the nationally known artists, Bernarda Bryson Shahn and Jacob Landau, and others including writers and musicians, the Roosevelt Arts Project presents a series of annual programs. This varied series premieres new works by Roosevelt playwrights, painters and potters, folk singers, poets, and composers, as well as experimental collaborations.

DATE/TIME	VENUE	EVENT
Saturday, April 11, 3:00 PM	Borough Hall	Tuning the Alphabet Poems by Roosevelt poets.
Saturday, April 25, 7:30 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	“Cracking the Code: The Fascinating World of Chickens” A multi-media presentation exploring the biology, behavior and significance of chickens, from their evolutionary history and domestication to their role in agriculture and sustainability today. Come and be prepared to learn surprising facts about these intelligent birds and their impact on our world.
Sunday, May 3, 3:00 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	The Roosevelt String Band This year’s Roosevelt String Band show will feature songs to lift and strengthen our spirits during these troublesome times. The band will include Ed Cedar on guitar, mandolin and fiddle, Joe Pepitone on bass, Nancy Wilson on vocals, Guy DeRosa on harmonicas, Noemi Bolton on guitar, banjo-uke and vocals and David Brahinsky on guitar and vocals.

Visit our website: www.rooseveltartsproject

Suggested donation of \$10 for all events (unless indicated) to support RAP, the Roosevelt Arts Program

In Memoriam: Lou Esakoff

Continued from Page 9

part respect for not wasting what still had value. He was a product of the depression.

My father was a simple and yet complicated man, and I think that he wouldn’t want to be remembered as anything less than that. He was salty. He told a great dirty joke. Many times over. He had a great sense of humor. But he had a terrible temper at times too—it wasn’t cruelty; it was frustration. Frustration with limits, with inefficiency, with a world that didn’t always live up to his standards. He was fiercely independent, extremely proud, and yes—vain. He was handsome, and he took care of what he worked hard for. His cars were spotless. His suits were from Barneys. His clothes were folded and put away just right. Shoes lined up. Shirts and ties hung in his closet, organized by color. Everything was labeled and organized. His life reflected his need for order, dignity, and control over the things he could manage.

He gave quietly. He donated anonymously because, as he always said, he gave what he could afford—and he didn’t need applause or recognition for doing what he believed was right. He was a public servant. When we were kids in school, he served on the school board. Later, he served on the borough council and continued to contribute until just 2 weeks ago. He believed in contributing, in being counted on, and in doing his part for the community he lived in.

And he was a loyal friend—steadfast, dependable, and present. He was so grateful for his neighbors who became compassionate, caring friends, especially the Axels and Tim Hartley. He forged friendships with Anna and Peggy as he worked alongside them on the Borough Council. He enjoyed and valued their friendship.

Most importantly, he loved my sister and me with everything he had. He used to say “I love you like my life”. He didn’t hold back emotionally.

He was an emotional man who could communicate his feelings—good and not so good—who said the things that he had to say. That is a gift not everyone receives, and it is one I will always carry with me.

My father was a good man. Not perfect—but real, dependable, loving, and very strong both physically and emotionally. He was someone we could always count on. And in the end, that may be the truest measure of a life well lived.

He gave me a quote as a little girl that I made onto a canvas with felt lettering adorned with a sun and butterflies that hangs in my childhood bedroom to this day. It reads: “When through one man a little more love and goodness, a little more light and truth come into the world, then that man’s life has had meaning.” He will be missed deeply. And he will be remembered honestly—with love, laughter, gratitude, and respect.



Invasives Legislation Passed

By Steve Taylor

Over the last 10 years, I have written about 30 articles on the invasive plants found in and around Roosevelt. Most of these species were introduced as commercially available landscaping plants. Over the years, volunteers have removed or cut back these weeds in targeted areas. It is a challenge. There are about 1,000 non-native plant species in New Jersey. The New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team maintains a list of established invasive plants and those which are being watched.

I am pleased to report the New Jersey has passed a law that addresses this issue. New Jersey had been one of the few states without legislation to address the invasive plant issue.

The Invasive Species Management Act (S1029/S1218) unanimously passed both houses of the Legislature. On January 20, 2026, Governor Phil Murphy signed the bill into law. It will prohibit the sale, distribution, import, export, and propagation for sale of designated invasive plant species to protect our native ecosystems. The act will

have a phased implementation over a few years. Special permits will be required for propagating listed invasives.

The first targets will be: Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), and Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*). Section 4. a. of the bill lists the initial 30 species prohibited. Existing landscape plantings do not need to be removed.

References:

<https://npsnj.org/news/at-long-last-governor-murphy-signs-new-jerseys-invasive-species-bill/>

https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2026/S1500/1218_I1.PDF

https://www.fohvos.info/wp-content/uploads/2025_Strike_Team_Do_Not_Plant_List_Common_Name_Sort_2025_03_14.pdf



Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)



Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Recycling Guide for Monmouth County

(including Roosevelt Borough)

by Hilary Wilder

You can put all of the following into your recycling bin for curbside pickup every other Wednesday morning:

- Plastic Containers – any shape container with a #1 (PET, PETE), #2 (HDPE), or a #5 (PP) label.
- Glass Containers – any food or beverage bottle (but no ceramics, dishes, glassware, lightbulbs, windows, caps or lids).
- Metal Cans - aluminum cans, tin cans, bi-metal cans, non-hazardous aerosol cans.
- Aluminum - foil, pans (try to crumble into a ball).
- Paper & Cardboard - cardboard shipping boxes (flattened), chipboard boxes, white and colored paper, junk mail, magazines, soft cover books, newspaper (including inserts).
- Please keep recyclables clean, dry, and rinse out food residue.

And remember: NO PLASTIC BAGS! KEEP ITEMS LOOSE!

For more information: <https://mcrnj.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Recycling-Guide.pdf>



Path Age by Jason DeMatteo

Andrew, Lucinda, and their teenage son, Gavin, move to Roosevelt, New Jersey, seeking a quieter life. The town is small, wooded, and known for its artists. On the surface, it feels settled.

Then the woods answer back. A strange hum moves through the ground. Power fails without reason. A creature steps out of the forest with questions tied to an agreement no one remembers making. Something sealed long ago has been disturbed, and a world that once ran alongside this one is starting to come apart.

As the family is drawn into Roosevelt's buried history, they discover that the town's calm rests on forgotten guardians and broken promises. Setting things right means listening to the land, facing what's been taken from it, and deciding what kind of future they're willing to stand behind.

Path Age is a rural fantasy about living landscapes, forgotten guardians, and what happens when old boundaries start to give way. Available on Amazon - <https://a.co/d/0edcHMqG>

Yours, Ellie by Leah Saks

By Rick Pressler
Adapted from a book review on the Hebrew-language website Srugim (www.srugim.col.il)

Yours, Ellie (Shelcha, Ellie) by Leah Saks is a groundbreaking Haredi romantic novel that explores the forbidden love between Ellie, a strictly orthodox 17-year-old Jewish seminary student, and Danny, a rebellious *shababnik* who is leaving the religious world. Written in Hebrew by an American ex-Haredi author, the story offers highly detailed and authentic descriptions of Jerusalem's Haredi community.

The plot is narrated entirely from Ellie's perspective and alternates

between the present—where she discovers she is pregnant out of wedlock—and flashbacks detailing her romance with Danny. The emotional climax focuses on Ellie's struggle to find her own inner voice and assert her will against the strict religious and societal expectations that have always dictated her life.

While the book avoids coarse or graphic physical descriptions, it tackles mature themes like birth control and intimacy, making it distinct from traditional “clean” religious literature. A Hebrew-language reviewer describes the novel as gripping but emotionally intense, noting that it serves as a profound critique of Haredi ideology,



educational failures, and societal pressures. The author strongly hints that the narrative blurs the lines between fiction and her own autobiography.

Crucially, the book succeeds as a genre-bending work that seamlessly blends romance, blurred autobiography, gritty realism, and sharp social commentary. The author notes the fictional story is based on silenced realities and her own past. The published book alters the ending from an original Facebook serialization.

Power Outages

In the event outages occur, customers without power are encouraged to report their outage by calling 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877), clicking the “Report Outage” link on www.firstenergycorp.com, or by texting 544487.

JCP&L customers can subscribe to email and text message alert notifications to receive weather updates in advance of major storms and updates on scheduled or extended power outages. Visit www.firstenergycorp.com/connect to enroll.

Follow JCP&L on Twitter @JCP_L, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JCPandL or online at www.jcp-l.com

“Out To Celebrate”

The seniors were out to celebrate ~
The year of the red horse - they say ~
So it was Chinese food for lunch - on that day ~
We all got to choose - what we want to eat ~
Lots of good choices - tastes were a treat ~
The place was prepared for our big group ~
Lots of us started with the usual soup ~
I was happy with my meal - and all ~
Yummy noodles and spinach - could not fail ~
We laughed and talked and reminisced ~
The food and company - we could not miss ~
But then there was entertainment - for all to see ~
Three of our seniors - who all do tai-chi ~
There was the teacher and two who take her class ~
Getting ready to do something - maybe a dance~
They took out their fans and waved them high in the air ~
This was with their fine foot work - quite the flair ~
How special of them to add to our day ~
A moving moment and a joy - I do say ~
Oh the seniors are out to celebrate ~
I look forward to the next time - I will surely make it a date!!!

— Adrienne Cheshier

Parking Reminder

Please park your vehicles in the right direction only. Parking on the wrong side of the street or in the wrong direction makes your vehicle difficult for oncoming traffic to see, especially in foggy or dark conditions. Vehicles parked on the wrong side of the street are subject to towing.

Tree Removal Permits

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

REMINDER FOR RECYCLING:



Always leave at least 3 feet between your garbage can and recyclable container(s). The arm that lifts the garbage can needs enough room to operate so it can avoid knocking over other containers.



**RECYCLING
DATES**

March 11 & 25

April 8 & 22

Contributors to the Bulletin

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

Carlo & Mary Alfare
 Robin & Robert Axel
 Elsbeth Battel
 Richard & Janet Bernardin
 Linda Block
 Bondy/Vuolle Family
 Ulrich & Stacey Bonna
 Jacqueline Carpenter
 Susan & Robert Cayne
 Cherie Chelst
 Cheshier family
 June Counterman
 Walter & Linsey Coyoy
 Ana Debevec
 Kay Drury
 Frances Duckett
 Burt Ellentuck
 Louis Esakoff
 Judith Goetzmann
 Jay & Anna Goldman
 Alicia & Joel Gonzalez
 Michael Hamilton
 Anne Hayden
 Albert Hepner

Constance & David Herrstrom
 Louise and David Hoffman
 Gail Hunton & Wes Czyzewski
 Henry & Kate John-Alder
 Anna & Ben Johnson
 Ingrid Jordan
 Doreen Kirchner
 Kosa family
 Ron Kostar & Deirdre Sheean
 Bonnie Z. Koury
 Lynn Lawson
 Stephen Leonardo & Kristina Wellington
 Claudia Luongo & Ken Maffeo
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 Ralph & Nancy Warnick
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 Joe & Diane Zahora
 Tony & Gail Zelenak
 Mark & Judith Zuckerman

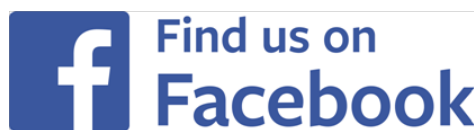
Thank you for your generosity! Send in a contribution today. Please send contributions to:

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

Public Health Emergency?
 You can call the Monmouth County
 Board of Health 24/7 at 732-431-7456

New Jersey
 Department of Environmental Protection
 24-Hour Hotline
 1-877-WARNDEP or 1-877-927-6337
 For reporting spills, hazardous discharges,
 and other environmental emergencies.



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events
 and announcements.
www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin

If you would like your organization's event posted to
 our Facebook page, please send event details to
rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.

BUSINESS SPONSORS

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

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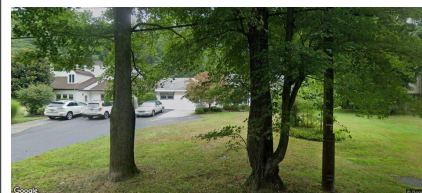
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MARCH

- 2 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Borough Hall
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 7-8 Sat.-Sun 11:00 - 4:00 **Collage!**
A Roosevelt Arts Project Event
Borough Hall
A two-day celebration of collage featuring works by Roosevelt artists and other talented local makers.

- 11 Weds. Recycling Pickup 


- 12 Thurs. Parent Teacher Evening Conferences
Melvin H Kreps

- 16 Mon. President's Day
School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS

- 18 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
Borough Hall

- 20 Fri. School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS

- 24 Tues. Evening Parent Conferences - RPS

- 25 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 26 Thur Early Dismissal - RPS
Parent Conferences

- 26 Thurs. 6:00 pm RPS Board of Education
Ken LeCompte, President

- 27 Fri. Early Dismissal - RPS, MHK, HHS


- 30 Mon - Fri. April 3 Spring Break
School Closed RPS, MHK, HHS

APRIL

- 1 Wed - 3 Fri. Spring Break
School Closed RPS, MHK, HHS

- 6 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Borough Hall
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 8 Weds. 3:00 pm - 9:00pm RPS Education Foundation
Fundraiser
Scotto's, Twin Rivers

- 8 Weds. Recycling Pickup 


- 11 Sat 3:00 pm **Tuning the Alphabet**
Poems by Roosevelt poets.
Borough Hall

- 11 Sat 6:00 pm. Come out and enjoy "Zootopia 2"
Drinks and snacks will be served!
Roosevelt Public School Gymnasium

- 15 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
Borough Hall

- 20 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Borough Hall
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 21 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting
Borough Hall

- 22 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 24 Fri Early Dismissal - RPS

- 26 Thurs. 6:00 pm RPS Board of Education
Ken LeCompte, President

- 27 Mon - 28 Tues Scholastic Book Fair
Roosevelt Public School

Zoning Officer,
 Housing Inspector
 Jeremy Kuipers
 email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us
 phone: 609-448-0539, ext. 7
 Office Hours:
 Mondays 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Inspection Hours: Mondays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
<https://rooseveltnj.us/other-government/zoning-officer>

Code Enforcement
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 Ed Szbanz
 code@rooseveltnj.us
 609-448-0539, ext. 8

Please send events to the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin at
 P.O. Box 221 or
 email to RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com.

Sign Up for Code Red!!

Receive emergency notifications from the borough. Have the notifications go to your landline, or cell, or both! Sign up by going to www.Rooseveltnj.us

Stay safe! Stay informed!

Construction and Permits
 The Construction Official has Borough hours on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.
 Questions regarding building permits should be directed to:
 Department of Community Affairs - 609-567-3653
 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.