

# Bulletin

Volume 26 Number 5

March 2002

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

### **Borough to Foreclose on Gas Station Property; Anish Daughters Protest First Aiders' Refusal to Honor Hospital Preference**

*By Michael Ticktin*

Ten years after first acquiring a tax lien against the former Roosevelt Auto and Truck Service property at 40 North Rochdale Avenue, the Borough Council finally voted, at its February 11 meeting, to initiate procedures to foreclose on that lien.

Foreclosure on the tax sale certificate would make the Borough the owner of the property. Before the Borough can take title, both the record owners, John and Margaret Guyette, and any mortgagees or other lienholders must be given the opportunity to pay the Borough the back taxes and interest that are owed. If they fail to do so by the date set by the court, the court will transfer title to the Borough.

The resolution to authorize foreclosure on the tax sale certificate passed by a vote of five to one. Councilman George Vasseur, who expressed the view that the Borough should not foreclose on the property before it had a plan for its future use, cast the lone dissenting vote. He said that he had received a couple of inquiries from people who were interested in once again operating a gas station there. It should be noted that Councilman Vasseur has a long-

standing interest in the property, since it was his father who was the original owner of the gas station.

In response, Mayor Michael Hamilton pointed out that previous councils had not taken any action to acquire the property because of fear of incurring liability for cleaning up contamination there. However, Peter Addonizio, Esq., the attorney hired to carry out the foreclosure, had confirmed that legislation passed in 1998 gave the Borough sufficient immunity from suit that that fear was no longer justified. He also stated that the recently adopted Master Plan does include a plan for the site. The Master Plan designates the property as being reserved for unspecified public use. However, this could be revised if the Planning Board and Council were to find that some other use was more in the public interest. In any event, the Borough can neither use nor sell the site unless and until it has ownership of it, so there is no reason why the process of considering different options cannot go forward at the same time as the foreclosure.

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**PERSONNEL CHANGE**

Fletcher Grayson, who had generously volunteered to take on the consuming and difficult task of graphic design for *The Bulletin* this year, has found that his regular work load has been so demanding, that he doesn't have the necessary time to help us get the paper out within the first week of each month.

We thank him sincerely for his desire to help. Fortunately, we have found a replacement – Karyn Grunwald who is thankfully a well-qualified substitute. We are pleased to be working with Karyn.

So, so long Fletcher and welcome Karyn!

**Roosevelt Veterans**

Right next door to our borough, Millstone Township veterans are in the process of developing a Veterans Memorial. Any veteran (U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Air Force or U.S. Coast Guard), who at any time was a resident of Millstone Township, is eligible to have his/her name engraved upon the memorial structures. There is no fee for this, only a residency requirement, whether current or past. If you, or someone you know, is qualified, please submit the veteran's name, current address, service, time of service and a telephone number to Veterans Memorial Committee, Attn: John McLaughlin, 215 Millstone Road, P.O. Box 240, Perrineville, NJ 08535-0240.

Any veteran can be memorialized or honored by purchasing a Memorial Granite Paver, 4" x 4", for \$300.00. Initial installation will be limited to 100 pavers. Dedication Goal is Memorial Day 2002. Inscriptions can be: In memory of; In honor of; or Donated by. There is a 4 line, 16 space per line limit. These pavers will be installed around the memorial in front of the shrubs outlining the walk. If you are a business owner and would like to donate a paver, you can do that as well. The memorial itself will be constructed to the side of the old school in Clarksburg, on Route 571. A small representation is on display at the Millstone Township municipal building. If you are interested, you are welcome to visit and pick up a form for a paver. There is no residency requirement for the pavers. Inquiries may be made by calling 609-259-9673. ■

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# Planning Board Engages Consultant

At the recommendation of Chairman Ralph Seligman, the Planning Board voted 7-0 to hire Thomas A. Thomas, Senior Vice President of T&M Associates of Middletown, as its Planning Consultant. Mr. Thomas also serves as President of Townplan Associates, a division of T&M specializing in municipal planning and environmental consulting.

Mr. Thomas said he understood that small towns have tight budgets. He said he would not have to attend meetings regularly in order to give helpful advice. Mr. Seligman, himself a professional planner, noted that he would “do much of the legwork” for Mr. Thomas as an additional method to keep down costs. Mr. Seligman expressed confidence that Mr. Thomas would help the Board avoid doing anything that would weaken Roosevelt’s position in US Home’s lawsuit seeking to force the Borough to permit a high-density development to meet its affordable housing obligation. Mr. Seligman said proper handling of the litigation would “take priority over everything.”

Mr. Thomas said he represents municipalities only, not builders. An expert in geographic information systems (GIS), he updated the zoning map for Millstone Township. He also worked with Mr. Seligman to apply to the State for a joint Smart Growth Planning Grant covering Roosevelt and Millstone. Mr. Thomas said he

would fax his fee schedule to the Board. Mr. Seligman assured the Board that Mr. Thomas’ fees were reasonable in comparison to those charged by other consultants.

In other business, Mayor Michael Hamilton told the Board that the Borough Council had authorized foreclosure of the Borough’s tax lien on the site of the abandoned service station. He said the Council would ask the Board for its advice on possible uses of the property once the Borough becomes the owner.

Mr. Hamilton also reported that a subsidiary of AT&T had approached the Council to offer to lease space on the water tower for a pod of cell phone antennas. Mr. Thomas advised that FCC regulations preempt local ordinances seeking to prohibit cellular towers. Municipal ordinances can, however, influence siting, screening and other issues, according to Mr. Thomas. Mr. Hamilton said the Council would seek information about possible effects of electromagnetic frequency (EMF) emissions from such an installation, especially their potential impact on residents living nearby and the vultures that frequent the water tower.

Zoning Officer Ed Goetzmann reported that he met with Mr. and Mrs. Pall, owners of Diamond Machine Co. of North Valley Road, along with Mr. Seligman and Councilman George Vasseur. The officials clarified ordinance require-

ments affecting the Palls’ proposal for additional buildings and parking on the property.

Regarding a complaint about an unleashed dog on Homestead Lane, Mr. Goetzmann noted that requirements for a successful municipal court prosecution had been examined in order to deal with the recurring problem. He wrote, “Those involved have been informed and we shall overcome.” Mr. Goetzmann reported that residential neighbors had complained about unscreened material stored in the industrial zone. He said violators had complied with screening requirements. ■

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

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# 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.”**

*Foreclosure Proceedings on the Abandoned Gas Station...* On February 11, the Council voted 5 to 1 to initiate foreclosure proceedings that will enable us to clean up this property. We can then decide to either return it to the tax rolls or use it as a municipal facility to house our emergency services and public works department. Also under discussion is the possibility of using the property for a Roosevelt visitors' center and museum. In the months ahead we will be discussing possible uses for this property, and as always, we will depend upon the advice of our citizens and our advisory bodies.

Under N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11g (d) (4), a local government entity is free from liability when it acquires ownership

of real property through either bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, eminent domain or other circumstances where it exercises its function as sovereign. Municipalities may now pursue tax delinquent owners of contaminated properties in a more aggressive fashion and acquire properties such as the abandoned gas station by way of an In Rem tax foreclosure proceeding.

Since taking office, I have worked with a group of volunteers to remove most of the hazardous waste that was left on site at the abandoned gas station. The chemicals were disposed of as household hazardous waste at a county facility. (The cost to Roosevelt taxpayers for this cleanup was approximately \$30.) An environmental advisory committee recommended that we move ahead with foreclosure in view of the risks apparent in letting the facility sit there in its current dilapidated condition.

*The Council On Affordable Housing (COAH)...* Since August 1, 1988 New Jersey has required the filing of a plan with COAH. Municipalities are required to have as part of a Housing Element (a mandatory part of the Master Plan) a way of realistically addressing the low and moderate income needs of a region determined by COAH. The affordable housing plan was approved by the Roosevelt Planning Board during its May meeting. The Borough Council voted to send the Housing Element to COAH

during our May action meeting. Unfortunately, the morning after we sent our plan to COAH, U.S. Home filed a lawsuit that blocked our submission. This does not absolve us from our obligation to provide affordable housing.

*Our affordable housing plan* calls for the rehabilitation of five abandoned houses in Roosevelt. They must then be made available for occupancy by low or moderate income homeowners. There may be grants available for this purpose. Our plan also calls for the purchase of three Regional Contribution Agreement units or RCA's to be built in another town such as Trenton or Perth Amboy. The Council met on February 25th to discuss moving ahead with our statutory obligations.

*U.S. Home vs. Roosevelt...* The Mount Laurel Subcommittee met on Tuesday, February 12 to discuss the U.S. Home litigation against the Borough. I was present along with Jeffrey Surenian, our attorney in this matter, Phil Caton, our planner/consultant, Michelle Donato, our Planning Board attorney, Alan Mallach, an affordable housing expert, Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes and longtime Planning Board member, Gail Hunton. Judge Reisner, who has been appointed to hear the U.S. Home vs. Roosevelt case, was recently briefed by both sides.

*Cell Phone Antennas...* Recently, the Council was solicited by a cell phone

*Continued on Page 12*

# From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

The eyes and ears of the education community are on Trenton during this time. Governor McGreevey is proposing budget cuts to public schools that will potentially affect the budget of every public school district. The information that we have right now is that the governor is planning to freeze the dollar amount of State aid. This means that despite any new enrollment, or other items that impact the budget, the amount of State aid will remain the same as last year. The State aid figure is usually given to districts in February. This year legislation was passed to allow the governor more time to study the budget, and move his announcement of State aid figures to the end of March. It remains to be seen whether this would then entail moving the date of school voting.

State aid and property taxes are the two major sources that fund public education. Additional funds can sometimes be obtained through

grants, endowments, donations and partnerships with businesses. Anyone who has any thoughts regarding means to procure school funds is welcome to contact me. I am ready to investigate and pursue all avenues. As usual, the members of the Board of Education are working diligently to create a viable budget within the financial constraints of this year's state deficit.

The governor is also assessing the use of the statewide testing program that has been in place for the last five years. The program costs the state millions of dollars, and students are tested in grades 4, 8 and 11. The new federal impetus, however, is to test in grades 3-8. Testing will remain in place this year. The ESPA test, administered in fourth grade, will test for language literacy, math and science. The new area of testing in social studies will be discontinued.

*Continued on Page 6*

## RCNS March Newsletter

By Ginny Weber

During March and April, our class is participating in the Book-It program sponsored by Pizza Hut. We will read books at home as well as at school to earn certificates for pizza. Our program will commence with Dr. Seuss Day. The children will enjoy green eggs and make "cat in the hat" hats.

March's unpredictable weather will be highlighted in many ways. The children will make lions and lambs to learn about the saying, "In like a lion, out like a lamb." In addition, we will learn how March wind affects us and how it can be used. We will make kites and hot air balloons. The class will learn about Spring and the changes that occur around us. Our projects will include making pussy willows, daffodils and tulips. The children will share their ideas of what they think Spring fever is.

The children will try to catch rainbows when we bend light through a prism. We will also make rainbow projects and learn the colors of the rainbow. The children enjoy mixing primary colors to make new colors of paint to use for their artwork as well. ■

### February School Dates

<b>March 1</b>	School closed, professional development
<b>March 14</b>	Board of Education meeting
<b>March 25-29</b>	Spring break, school closed
<b>March 28</b>	Board of Education meeting
<b>April 9</b>	Health Fair
<b>April 8 &amp; 9</b>	Kindergarten registration

By Ron Kostar

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

March may come in like a lion, but unfortunately, it has not come in carrying much news, so this month's "Neighborhood Notes" will be abbreviated, more like "N'borho'd Nt's" than the usual "Neighborhood Notes."

Remember to please send any newsworthy items by the 15th of each month.

## Schools

### Roosevelt Public School

The Winter Music Festival was held on February 23 before another great turnout.

The Starlab Planetarium will be exhibited in the school lobby during the first week of March. Teachers, Eileen Levine and Jeff Santanella, will use the exhibit for instructional purposes.

A well-known children's book author, Elaine Greenstein, will be visiting and talking at RPS on March 15. The public is invited.

### Hightstown High School

Students took their exams during the first week of February and now eagerly await their grades.

The Hightstown High School boys' varsity basketball team won the Mercer County Colonial Valley Conference. Their league record is currently 13-2, and 4-7 overall. At risk of committing nepotism, I will add that Nathaniel Kostar, a junior, is the starting point guard.

## Colleges

Adam Axel was a Dean's List student at Monmouth University for the fall semester. Adam, a freshman, has since transferred to Mercer County Community College.

Marissa Mellan was a Dean's List student at William Patterson University in Wayne, NJ, for the first semester. Marissa is a freshman majoring in Elementary Education.

Kathleen Alfare, a junior at Franklin and Marshall College, was on the Dean's List during the fall semester.

## Passings

Helga Wisowaty passed on January 27. Helga was a longtime resident. She was the secretary of the senior Citizens Club and a frequent contributor to The Bulletin. Family and many friends will miss her. She was 86 years old.

Longtime and much-loved Rooseveltian resident, Frieda Anish, passed on January 30. Frieda's kind, generous spirit will be missed by all who knew her. My family will especially miss her laugh, which was unique and wonderful. She was 74 years old.

Thanks for your contributions, and please keep them coming each month!

## FROM THE CSA

*Continued from Page 5*

The winter is flying by in Roosevelt Public School. On February 12, Abraham Lincoln (a.k.a. Herb Johnson) visited the building and spent time with all of our students. On February 14, we celebrated 100 Days of School. The kindergarten and first graders created activities in which all the students were involved. The PTA winter carnival was February 23, and RPS Fitness-a-thon was also in February.

We are planning kindergarten registration for students entering kindergarten in September 2002. Children who will be five years old on or before October 1 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Registration is scheduled for April 8 and 9. We will continue to advertise, and if anyone knows of kindergarten students, please get the word out to their parents.

On March 15 Elaine Greenstein, an author of children's books, will be visiting our school on a PTA sponsored event. Ms. Greenstein will meet with the entire school body and then conduct workshops with smaller classes. We are all looking forward to this event.

The school safety committee continues to meet and is developing a comprehensive plan for school safety. As the need arises, community members will be invited to participate. We are planning and preparing for a variety of catastrophes. While we hope we will never encounter any such crises, the best plan is being prepared.

Any Roosevelt resident interested in serving on the Board should pick up an application in the business office of the school.

Please be reminded that the telephone school survey of Roosevelt residents is scheduled to begin soon. Should you get this call, don't hang up!

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

*Continued from Page 1*

In the past, there have been suggestions that the building should be made into a new firehouse and first aid station. This would free up space in the municipal building and garage and eliminate the problem that now exists in getting fire trucks in and out when there are cars parked in the lot. Other suggestions have included a museum and cultural center, affordable housing and parkland. The degree of site remediation required would depend on the use, but grants and loans for the remediation of such "brownfields" are available from the State. If the property were to be sold to a private owner, that owner would be responsible for remediation.

On a more somber note, the Council heard Louise and Rochelle Anish, the daughters of the late Frieda Anish, present a statement relating the refusal of the Millstone First Aid Squad, which answered the call for what turned out to be their mother's final trip to the hospital, to take her to Princeton, where her doctors were, rather than to Freehold. They recounted the hours of delay at Freehold and the fact that valuable time was spent doing tests to establish information already known to the doctors at Princeton. The Anishes expressed their extreme dissatisfaction with the course of events and warned the community that anyone who thinks that Roosevelt residents still have a choice of hospitals when they call 911 is misinformed, since it is the paramedic who makes that choice regardless of the wishes of the individual or the family. The paramedic was concerned that the Millstone squad not be away from their base for three hours, their base being closer to Freehold than to Princeton. The Anish sisters urged the Council to discontinue using Millstone and to make arrangements for coverage with Hightstown or East Windsor instead

so that "others will not have to go through this ordeal."

In response, Councilwoman Elly Shapiro said that the major consideration is the time it takes to get to the hospital and that the Council is looking into alternatives on an ongoing basis. Louise Anish replied that the time required to get to Princeton is not significantly more than the time required to get to Freehold on main highways, which the ambulance is required to use, and that far more time was wasted duplicating information already available at Princeton. She said that we will never know if the outcome for her mother would have been different had her wishes been honored. Councilman Jeff Hunt pointed out that we would not have to be so dependent on neighboring communities if we could bring our own first aid squad up to full strength and that there must be continuing efforts to recruit new volunteers.

As a further note regarding recruiting, Councilwoman Shapiro announced that the Borough will be accepting applications for a crossing guard to serve at the intersection of School Lane and Pine Drive.

Councilman George Vasseur announced that flyers would be posted to warn the community of the drought conditions that now exist and to urge water conservation. The Borough is under a State order to install and use water meters. Existing meters, which have not been read in several decades, will have to be checked to see if they are still serviceable, and new ones will have to be installed to replace those that are not and in newer houses that never had them installed in the first place. Once meters are installed and used, it will be possible to charge for actual water use, so that large households are no longer subsidized by small households and people who want to use water to fill pools, wash cars and water lawns will pay for the water they are using.

Mayor Hamilton reminded the community that the municipal budget is now in the process of being prepared. There will be a budget workshop, date to be announced, at which all interested persons may participate. Groups seeking municipal funding are requested to get their applications in as soon as possible so that they may be considered. ■

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

**To keep it alive, it needs to be used.**

**As CSA Weinbach has said:  
"A town library would be a terrible  
thing to lose!"**

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

# Being A Kid in Wartime England

When war was declared in 1939, I was living in Stockport, a small town in Cheshire (County), England, where my father owned a pub. I was only six years old, and I had no idea of the economic devastation that was the lot of so many Brits in those depression days.

Once the war started, most of the men who drank in the pub were placed in the armed forces and the business went bankrupt. My family returned to Birkenhead, "the family seat." Birkenhead is located on the South bank of the river Mersey, one mile from Liverpool across the water. It is the home of Camel Laird shipbuilders, a prime target for the Germans.

My first (of many) nights in the air raid shelter was not one of the orderly scenes that you may have seen in films or newsreels. To start with, it was dark, no street lights, cold and rainy. As we walked (RAN) to the shelter, I saw an enemy plane caught in crossed searchlights with the glow of tracer bullets streaking toward it.

The shelter was in the basement of a movie theater close by. Inside, we went to our assigned bunk, I at the



head and my brother at the foot. There were children crying, adults with billycans of tea, ladies with cookies, and potties. It was noisy, so noisy, until the ominous whistle of a bomb – and then dead quiet until the explosion followed by a cheer. They missed that time! Months later, however, that shelter took a direct hit.

The morning after the first air raid, we had no house, no clothes, nothing. Bombed out, they said. We moved. Once our home was condemned after a raid because the sewer backed up, and the smell of gas was awful. I guess they hit the main, and there was also no electricity. Half the street was gone. After our third move, we

went back to Stockport, a much safer place, they said.

My maternal grandmother stayed in Birkenhead. She had a table riveted to the flagstone in her cellar. The table had a heavy steel tabletop able to deflect bomb fragments, and was a standard form of AR shelter. What you did was sit under it during an air raid. This may not have been the greatest idea because her upper stories took a hit; it took them three days to dig her out. We

stood and watched and waited, and when they brought her out, they wanted to take her to the hospital. But in her beautiful Irish brogue, she said she'd have none of that; she just needed her coat because she was going to the pub for a dram of the crat'ur.

We had a huge house, and that was my home for the rest of the war. My father's place soon became the home of the 13 children of cousins, neighbors, and friends who were all sent weeping to that safe place. We had no air raid shelter at first, so when we did have a raid, we would huddle together in the second story stairwell and wait for the All Clear siren.

*Continued on Page 13*

By Clare Sacharoff

Pat Moser served as the hostess for the February meeting.

Two guest speakers from the State, Jan Allen and Ted Freeman, addressed the group on Identity Theft at the February 5th meeting. They stressed the following 1) never discard old receipts or deposit slips in public; 2) shred all identifying material; 3) keep a close watch on credit cards; and 4) never give personal information on the phone.

Womanspace thanked the organization for the recent contribution they received from us.

Two new members have been added, Ginny Edwards and Lillian Warren.

The members discussed attending some productions at the Kelsey Theater of the Mercer County Community College. Several members expressed interest in attending "Mousetrap" to be shown February 17th and 24th and "Guys and Dolls" to be shown March 3rd and 10th. There are carpools for these events.

On February 19th, the bus took interested members to the Freehold Mall.

Pat Moser suggested we invite the most recent municipal employee, Eric Schuberger who is the Recreational Director, to speak to our group. He may have several ideas for future activities.

Margaret Katz volunteered to be the club's membership chairperson.

The next meeting will be held March 5th at the Borough Hall. ■

**Food Safety  
Refrigerator and Freezer Chart**

	<b>Refrigerator (40°F)</b>	<b>Freezer (0°F)</b>
<b>Fresh Meat</b>		
Beef – steaks, roasts	3 - 5 days	6 - 12 months
Pork – chops, roasts	3 - 5 days	4 - 6 months
Lamb – chops, roasts	3 - 5 days	6 - 9 months
Veal – roast	3 - 5 days	4 - 6 months
<b>Fresh Poultry</b>		
Chicken or turkey, whole	1 - 2 days	1 year
Chicken or turkey, pieces	1 - 2 days	9 months
<b>Fresh Fish</b>		
Lean fish (cod, flounder, etc)	1 - 2 days	6 months
Fatty fish (salmon, etc.)	1 - 2 days	2 - 3 months
<b>Ham</b>		
Canned ham (label says "keep refrigerated")	6 - 9 months	Don't freeze
Ham, fully cooked smoked (half & slices)	3 - 5 days	1 - 2 months
<b>Bacon &amp; Sausage</b>		
Bacon	1 week	1 month
Sausage, raw (pork, beef or turkey)	1 - 2 days	1 - 2 months
Pre-cooked smoked breakfast links/patties	1 week	1 - 2 months
<b>Leftovers</b>		
Cooked meat, meat dishes, egg dishes, soups, stews & vegetables	3 - 4 days	2 - 3 months
Gravy & meat broth	1 - 2 days	2 - 3 months
Cooked poultry and fish	3 - 4 days	4 - 6 months

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# In Memoriam

Frieda Anish

1927-2002

## For Frieda With Love

Frieda Anish left us wanting more. When she died on January 30, nobody said “At least she’s at peace now.” Or “Thank heaven she doesn’t have to struggle any longer.” So strong was her personality, so lively her presence, that her long illness never really registered. Frieda? Gone?

The shout of laughter, the unmatched voice, the warm questions about us and ours – we can hear her this minute. We were kidding with her at the post office just yesterday; she was in life up to her neck.

The trouble is that Frieda’s performance repertoire did not include the transitional role of patient. Since she carried on much as usual through years of physical problems, she went offstage intact. No wonder her death was such a slap in Roosevelt’s vulnerable face. We weren’t ready for it. Savaged by another cruel loss, the town tries to adjust to Frieda’s silence.

I’ve known Frieda girl-to-grandma for more than half a century. We were newlyweds together. We raised our firstborns together. We grew into our separate selves together and aged together in a place that was right for us. Over the decades, we often danced the hora in different circles within Roosevelt’s big one, but at no time did our connection weaken or our affections dim.

When we became friends, Frieda was a just-married 20-year-old and I was 23 and happy, legally at last, with my own true love. Both couples’ idea of a wild night out was a run on Trenton for pastrami sandwiches and Cel-Ray Tonic, harmonizing vintage Yiddish melodies as we rode.

It is tempting to regard the young Frieda as a poster girl for The Fifties Woman. In most ways she WAS the personification of the family values idealized in the years after World War II – family values that were presumed to be embodied in the woman of the family.

Wholesomely pretty was Frieda and memorably immaculate in the wonderful cottons now retired from service because they require ironing. Her house was always clean and welcoming. Good food was served on time. She efficiently managed a branch of her husband’s business along with the work involved with community organizations, which had competed vigorously for the enlistment of this smart, responsible and extremely audible and endearing volunteer. She was to be a volunteer all her life, in later years far better known at Princeton Hospital as a Pink Lady than as a patient.

From the first, contributions to charity ranked as high as utility bills and groceries on the Anish budget. The young couple prospered but never inflated. When children arrived, they were born into fun and order and reasonable expectations. Shul and school were not shortchanged in attention and effort. Frieda kept unity in a large extended family. Despite all these intimidating virtues, everybody loved her.

What distinguished Frieda from the Fifties Women who cursed and fought the suffocation of suburban domesticity was her realistic approach to life. Long isolated days of child rearing; relentless household tasks bracketed by care and feeding of hard-working commuting husbands; and

unanticipated moratorium on self that crushed many women’s unprepared spirits – that was the way it was and we were darned lucky, in Frieda’s view. Our mothers and grandmothers should have had it so lucky. If this is what it takes to give children a decent start in a safe green town, be a sport. Enjoy all the good stuff.

She saw the situation clearly, joked about it boisterously, but didn’t waste time in resentment and frustration. While some of us simmered, moaning about talents in storage as we battled the inanimate and mopped up the inevitable, Frieda simply put her intelligence to work on the chores at hand and made a game out of beating yesterday.

Nobody ever saw Frieda smiling at the vacuum cleaner, as the Fifties Woman in the ads did, but she didn’t kick it either. She used it effectively and used the time saved by efficiency to amuse herself. She was interested in people. Underneath her joviality was a serious woman who liked to think about what makes each of us tick.

As an observant Jew, Frieda lived by a strict behavior-based code, which she never imposed, on anyone outside the household. Nobody was uncomfortable in her house. Even those of us whose housekeeping standards would have been of professional interest to the Board of Health felt at home there. Our politics were accepted as part of us. She was not an idealist (as some of us were) and discussions ended amicably. Any talk about others was pure entertainment because Frieda’s innate innocence prevented her from believing the bad or envisioning the worst about anyone

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she knew. But her funny, trenchant comments, usually delivered at high volume, were an unexpectedly individual as she was.

Her personal standards extended to appearance, little, if any, makeup but good casual clothes and an aura of health and cleanness. We who had already succumbed to terminal jeans liked looking at her.

One of Frieda's outstanding gifts was her continuing responsiveness to occurrences in other people's lives. She kept up with Rooseveltians of every generation as a matter of course. She was happy when a good thing happened to you and she let you know it right through her last days.

The calls came: "I just heard about Georgie and it's so exciting." The notes arrived: "You must feel so proud." And then there were the clippings: "Wasn't that your old friend mentioned in this article?" AND the newspaper photographs: "Doesn't this gal look just like your mother?" (No.) You were always surprised and very pleased that you and your friends and relatives were in her mind. Her unfeigned interest penetrated the defenses of the resistant adolescent. After she died, two grown offspring of friends called to tell me that she was the rare adult who had always known their names, what grade they were in and what their current interests were – kindergarten through college and beyond.

At Frieda's funeral service, the rabbi read the traditional "Woman of Valor" verses from Proverbs. Mourners exchanged knowing glances; this time the words fit. Naturally, the noble passage could not capture the fun of Frieda.

Think about her. Let the Frieda-flag snap, full out, in your mind. Not surprisingly, it's true-blue. Furled, it leaves the air limp with loss.

*By Virginia North Edwards*

## Remembering Frieda

When my mother was pregnant with me, her water broke on the Anishes' living room rug. Frieda told her not to worry about the rug, gave her a hug, and wished her luck as my dad whisked her out to the hospital. Twelve years later, when I decided to bake my mother a heart-shaped cake for Mother's Day and needed a kitchen where I could construct it in secret, there I was back at the Anishes' house. And there was Frieda, once again reassuring an Edwards that all that mess she made was O.K. – not a problem! Don't worry!

That was Frieda. The "balaboosta" who cleaned her entire house every day – and then didn't mind how much her daughter Rochelle (still "Shelly" to me) and I messed it up after school. The lady with the laugh that lighted up Roosevelt. During countless PTA meetings, Sisterhood meetings, RPS school board meetings, any kind of community gathering – even the acrimonious ones —, when we heard that unmistakable Frieda voice and that Frieda laugh, it meant that everything was all right — not to worry! Any room with Frieda in it became a room filled with good humor and commonsense and fun – and just about everyone in Roosevelt knew it within five minutes of meeting her.

Her generosity to many charities, both local and national, was a byword

in town, as was her willingness to become involved in any group that needed her. And her imagination enabled her to see needs where the rest of us saw nothing. Who else but Frieda would remember the three or four lone Jewish boarding students at the then very Baptist-oriented Peddie School – and invite these young strangers for the Passover Seder? She got them laughing and made them feel part of a wonderful family, while we kids (Shelly and David, and my brother Alan and I – Louise hadn't been born yet), I'm ashamed to admit, we treated the "Peddies" as if they were adults and thus not eligible for our frantic games of "Sardines" and hide-and-seek after the meal.

The term "one of a kind" is used so much now, applied to everything from holiday resorts to toilet paper. In this case, that overused phrase truly fits. Frieda was a very kind "one of a kind", who could make us all feel as if we were temporary parts of her family just in the course of a quickie conversation with her. I can't imagine what a Roosevelt graduation (did she ever miss one?), or, for that matter, what any kind of town celebration, be it fourth of July or a town play or concert or anything else, will feel like without her in the audience. She was such a part of many of our lives – our communal as well personal ones – that the hole she leaves behind is irreparable. We will all miss her tremendously.

*By Alison Edwards Petrilla*

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## FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

*Continued from Page 4*

carrier interested in installing antennas on our water tower. Income from the cell phone carrier can be used to help offset water and sewer costs. Millstone Twp. and other communities have allowed the installation of these antennas in their communities.

**Roosevelt Community Education and Recreation Coalition...** The Roosevelt Board of Education and Borough Council have recently formed a coalition to develop and promote a comprehensive community recreation program. To that end, a start-up grant was procured last fall from the State. A part-time director, Eric Schuberger, has been hired to oversee the development and management of the program, which will include exciting events and activities for all segments of our population, from kids to seniors. Eric is presently the Recreation Director for East Windsor and brings much experience and energy to the project. As a result of the growing association between the two programs, Roosevelt residents will have the additional possibility of joining in on existing East Windsor activities.

Events now being developed will include: sporting events, cultural excursions, day trips to local and remote sites, hiking and kayaking, dancing, health and exercise activities, special interest clubs and much more.

An ad hoc resource committee of numerous volunteers has committed itself to staff and instruct as the program grows. If you're interested or have a suggestion for an event, please contact Eric Schuberger through the Borough Hall number above.

**Environmental Commission Appointments...** During February, I appointed Kevin Laurita and Assenka Oksilof to the Environmental

Commission. Kevin will fill the last year of a 3-year term, which expires December 31, 2002; and, Assenka was appointed to a 2-year term as alternate expiring December 31, 2003.

**Emergency Services...** I will be appointing a taskforce to study our emergency services. Our Emergency Management Coordinator Ed Miller and I have been meeting to review our emergency readiness. The organization of the taskforce will be the first step taken to address our needs. Please contact me if you would like to be involved.

**Community Developments: Roosevelt First Aid Auxiliary...** If anyone thought the age of volunteerism had passed, the events following 9/11 should have dispelled that apprehension. A call now goes out to all Roosevelt residents willing to devote a small amount of time and effort to revive the First Aid Auxiliary. In order to raise new members of the First Aid Squad, a group of citizens is needed to make that crucial agency visible, and to keep the ongoing and pressing need for trained First Aid members in the public consciousness. Duties may

include telephone and mailing campaigns, fund-raisers, bake and flower sales, and a rotating shift at the Post Office on Saturday mornings to sign up new recruits. Training and information will be made available to auxiliary volunteers.

It is our sincere hope that such an effort will produce enough new First Aid Squad members to make our squad viable again so that we do not have to rely entirely on Millstone for our emergency services.

Those interested should contact Jeff Hunt at the Borough Hall, 448-0539, or at home, 443-9475.

**Drought Conditions...** Due to continued dry weather and declining reservoir and stream flow levels, the Department of Environmental Protection has expanded the existing regional drought warning to include Monmouth County. Water supplies are at alarmingly low levels for this time of the year. It is important that we begin to conserve water supplies now. Please take common sense steps to reduce water use and avoid water waste.

As always I depend upon your advice and support. ■

### 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.

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## TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

*Continued from Page 8*

I walked to school carrying my dreaded brown cardboard box. First job every day was the drill. I took out my black rubber gas mask, put it on the desk, and then put it on. If we didn't, the teacher put it on for us. When she did it, she took out hanks of my hair, and every time I cried, and every day I got a good smack for crying. Next we sat under the desk, and finally we got to walk to the air raid shelter, with our shoulders close to the wall ("Keep to the right and no talking!"). The shelter had a hollow sound when you spoke. Naughty boys would make rude noises that would reverberate off the walls, which of course made us laugh. And of course, we would get smacked if we were caught laughing. We got concentrate orange juice and cod liver oil served to us everyday as a dietary supplement. It never quite stayed down with me, and of course I got a good smack for making myself throw up.

On top of our own family, we had a family – mom, dad and two children- move in for a few weeks. They

came from the Guernsey Islands - they must have been refugees. These people spoke very little English. An event of little significance, you might say, however their memory and legacy remains with me because it was to be my first encounter with head lice (one of many), and we all caught them, swapped them and perpetuated their presence collectively. We called them biddies in England, and the Biddy Lady at school said I had to sit on my own until I got rid of them. I felt so ashamed! It wasn't as though I took them to school in little boxes – they just came along for the ride.

We always had food in the house, but we ate some mighty strange meals: plenty of fried, roasted, chopped, minced and cold-for-sandwiches SPAM. There were also powdered milk and eggs, and canned fish balls, no less. We kids took turns standing in line for shops: fish, greengrocery, butcher and bakery. We carried our things home in string bags and somebody always wound up with the bucket. Then the Yanks came.

They billeted in the big stately homes and were packed in like sardines. My aunt did laundry for them, quite a lucrative business – our clotheslines were always full of uniforms and underwear – not for money, but for eggs, meat and soap, etc. Of course, we learned to say, "Got any gum, chum?" and the response was "Got a sister, mister?" They really loved kids. We also got CARE packages from the USA issued to us, always clothing. It was at that time I thought my feet were deformed because I never got a pair of shoes that fit me. They either fell off my feet, even with two pairs of socks (she'll grow into them), or they made blisters on my heels.

So all things taken into consideration, I know now how very lucky we all were in comparison to occupied Europe or the Russians, and we learned how very evil war is. ■

### About Two Square Miles Of Stories

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

For information telephone:

Robin Gould            448-4616

Marilyn Magnes        448-6402

Pearl Seligman         448-2340

# Roosevelt First Aid Squad

By Herb Johnson

Crutches and three special aids for people who are recuperating are available for loan. Hortense Socholitzky donated the three pieces of special equipment to the First Aid Squad just before she and Sidney moved to California to live near their son. They are brand new, in excellent shape and clean as can be: a bathtub safety seat, a commode and a walker. The First Aid Squad uses a bleach solution to sanitize any equipment made available for a new patient's use. Call Herb Johnson at 443-1947 if you want to borrow any of these for use by a family in Roosevelt.

A special commendation is in order for the faithful volunteer service of the squad's three active Emergency

Medical Technicians (EMTs). Stefanie Miller, who also is a volunteer firefighter for Millstone, Jack Rindt, who also is a volunteer firefighter for Roosevelt and a professional firefighter at Fort Monmouth, and Neil Marko, the squad captain and also a Roosevelt Borough Council member answer calls day and night when they are in the borough (or nearby). The Millstone Squad answers all Roosevelt calls also unless the Roosevelt Squad calls in that no help is needed.

We need more volunteers. Call 443-1947 to learn about service and training opportunities.

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# Across The Country in 8 Days, or Our Move to California

By Hortense Socholitzky

On Wednesday, January 30, my husband, Soch and I left the small town of Roosevelt, New Jersey to move to our new home, a senior residence in Oakland, California. Our daughter, Elinor, worried about her elderly parents, accompanied us. We certainly did need her. It was hard to leave all of our good friends in the East, but we knew we had to go. The lure of the California sunshine was very great. (We've just learned that the temperature in Roosevelt, as I write this, is 19 degrees.) It is in the 50's and 60's here. No heavy coats or boots are needed.

The trip was fine. It was even acceptable for Soch to be "bothered" by the security forces at the airport. They searched him because his shoes, made to order, have a metal shank. He was made to remove one shoe and sock, displaying his long ago injured leg, and remove his bandage to be sure he was not secreting any dangerous weapon. It was scary, but we were grateful for the precautions they took.

After our meeting with our son, David, and his almost two-year-old daughter, Sophie, at the airport, there was a lovely ride to Berkeley. Sophie chattering all the way. She had only a few isolated words when she had last visited us. Now she was really conversing.

Of course it was not all rosy. Our furniture and most of our clothes were still crossing the continent on a moving van, so we went to a hotel in Berkeley to await them.

I had quipped that I'd like to ride with the movers because in many visits to California, we'd always flown and I'd never driven further west than Iowa, many years ago.

Now it is February 7th and the van has arrived. We'll move in slowly and I hope all our good friends in Roosevelt will keep in touch with us at:

Claremont House  
4500 Gilbert St., Apt. 530  
Oakland, CA 94611

Remember, it's 3 hours earlier here! The phone number is 510-595-7761.

**Fine Fowl Weather**

February 8 was another day that followed a mild weather trend established at the beginning of the winter. The morning sun shone brightly pushing temperatures up to almost fifty degrees. The unusual weather brought unusual visitors to the area.

Snow geese are white with black at their wing ends. The birds are somewhat smaller than the ubiquitous Canada goose. Their summer home is the Arctic. You can see Snow Geese every year along New Jersey's Atlantic coast and the Delaware Bayshore. But, they make for an uncommon sight in inland sections of the state.

According to "A Guide to Birdfinding in New Jersey" by William J. Boyle, Jr. snow geese are a rarity in the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area. On this day however, there were perhaps as many as one thousand. They packed themselves solidly into a cornfield on a north-facing slope in the Assunpink. There, they cackled, cooed, shuffled and occasionally shouted. When their curiosity was satisfied and their muscles rested a great wall of black tipped wings carried the snow geese high into the air.

If you are interested in seeing snow geese, two good locations in New Jersey are Brigantine and Cape May. They are usually there from November until area waters freeze over when they move further south. Some Snow Geese may winter over in Brigantine when the season is mild. You can also see them in the spring on their northern migration.

**Drought Warning Continues**

The first half of February in Roosevelt has been dry. January brought almost one-half an inch above normal precipitation to Roosevelt. Still, most of the state, including Monmouth County, is under a drought warning. Official weather service figures show Monmouth County has nearly a 30% precipitation deficit for the 365 days prior to February 13.

Temperatures have been well above normal since before the beginning of the year. January's average temperature was nearly seven degrees above normal!

**Wacky Weather Events**

Following are some bizarre weather events from "The Handy Weather Answer Book" by Walter A. Lyons, Ph.D.

In December 1933, huge hailstones fell around Worcester, MA. The hailstones contained fresh, frozen ducks.

A thunderstorm on August 9, 1892 in Germany dropped heavy rain and hundreds of freshwater mussels.

"Scientific American" reported in 1877 that a rain of snakes up to eighteen inches long fell in Memphis, TN.

In England in 1687, hail stones containing ivy berry seeds fell.

In 1953 in Leicester, MA, toads fell from the sky.

A passing thunderstorm pelted portions of Shreveport, LA with unripe peaches in 1961.

**Weather Word**

A "williwaw" is a sudden, violent squall of cold wind that blows seaward. Williwaws are common on mountainous coasts in near-polar latitudes. They are found often in the Straits of Magellan. ■

**Jan. 15 - Feb. 15, 2002**

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	50.0	28.9	39.5	0.00
16	42.6	30.7	36.7	0.00
17	48.4	31.1	39.8	0.00
18	41.0	28.8	34.9	0.00
19	33.4	21.2	27.3	0.00
20	38.3	18.3	28.3	0.70
21	40.6	23.0	31.8	0.00
22	43.7	29.7	36.7	0.00
23	46.4	31.1	38.8	0.00
24	52.0	42.1	47.1	0.00
25	49.1	33.4	41.3	0.68
26	51.4	31.1	41.3	0.00
27	58.6	29.8	44.2	0.00
28	61.7	34.2	48.0	0.00
29	67.3	38.7	53.0	0.00
30	64.0	48.0	56.0	0.00
31	48.6	39.0	43.8	0.39
1	61.7	41.4	51.6	0.10
2	49.3	26.4	37.9	0.13
3	46.9	24.6	35.8	0.00
4	45.5	25.3	35.4	0.00
5	33.6	17.1	25.4	0.00
6	42.1	22.1	32.1	0.00
7	41.0	31.8	36.4	0.00
8	49.8	26.1	38.0	0.22
9	47.8	27.7	37.8	0.00
10	61.5	27.9	44.7	0.00
11	55.8	29.3	42.6	0.35
12	47.3	18.9	33.1	0.00
13	42.4	26.4	34.4	0.00
14	38.5	14.9	26.7	0.00
15	52.0	26.8	39.4	0.00
Total Precipitation 2.57				

# Greek Spinach Melts



First, a little background. My sister and I decided a few years ago that Christmas was too close a Holiday to Thanksgiving to continue cooking a big meal with all of the hoop-la. That was when we decided to do Appetizers. We love appetizers, but when you plan a big meal, no one does it justice if you also serve appetizers. So we ditched dinner. Around that time we went to a Pampered Chef party where the demonstrator prepared this recipe for us. I have made it for the holidays every since. I took it to a New Year party this year and was encouraged to share it in the *Bulletin*.

The best part is it's both easy and really tasty. You can also use the low fat feta, sour cream and mayo, but steer clear of the fat free.

1 9 oz. Pkg. Frozen chopped spinach (thawed & drained)	
1 plum tomato chopped	1 clove garlic minced
1/4 cup onion chopped	1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/4 cup mayonnaise	1/4 cup sour cream
1/2 tsp. dried dill weed	1/4 tsp. salt

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. This can be made a day ahead of time if you like. You will need a loaf of crusty French bread, sliced fairly thin, or buy the pre-sliced cocktail bread. Arrange bread slices on a baking stone or cookie sheet and top each slice with a spoonful of the spinach mixture. Bake in a 350 degree oven until hot (approx. 20 min.). Enjoy!

Make sure to have a wide array of other appetizers on hand. We like shrimp wrapped in bacon, crab stuffed mushrooms, antipasto, smoked oysters, fresh veggies w/dip, and various other hors d'oeuvres.

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# ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 2001-2002 SEASON

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**Saturday, March 9**

8:00 p.m.

## AN EVENING OF POETRY

Join the Roosevelt Poets for an evening of March Madness. Poems accompanied by music.

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**Friday & Saturday, May 3 & 4 (PLEASE NOTE THESE NEW DATES)**

8:00 p.m.

## THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

Once again, the Roosevelt String Band will perform a new set of songs, some from the folk traditions of different cultures, others from contemporary singer-songwriters. The members of the group are David Brahinsky, Paul Prestopino, Ed Cedar and Howie Jacobson.

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**Saturday, May 18**

8:00 p.m.

## “SOUNDS”

Computer music and Roosevelt multimedia artists, Brad Garton and Wiska Radkiewicz, invite you to an informal evening of digitally transformed “Sounds of Roosevelt.” Presentation also of works by students from the Roosevelt Public School, the Hightstown High School and the Columbia University Computer Music Center will round out this evening of creative technological exploration.

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### **Admission (Voluntary):**

Roosevelt String Band \$10 (\$5 seniors and students) Other events \$6 (\$4 seniors and students)

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**Visit the RAP website: [www.music.columbia.edu/roosevelt](http://www.music.columbia.edu/roosevelt)**

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## 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, Deborah Metzger at 443-3759. The Roosevelt Arts Project is a tax-exempt cultural organization funded exclusively by admissions and donations. RAP appreciates your support. ■

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2001 - 2002

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

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Jane Rothfuss, 448-3717 or email: [kirk@virtulink.com](mailto:kirk@virtulink.com).  
Roosevelt Branch of the Monmouth County Library  
open at RPS – Wednesdays 7–8:30 p.m.

### March

<b>1</b>	Fri.		RPS Closed - Professional Day for Teachers
<b>4</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227
<b>5</b>	Tues.	1 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, Gerry Millar, 609-448-0351.
<b>8</b>	Fri.		RPS Pizza day.
<b>9</b>	Sat.		RAP Program, An Evening of Poetry, Borough Hall, Robin Gould, 609-448-4616
<b>11</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>12</b>	Tues.	8 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Ralph Seligman, 609-448-2340.
<b>13</b>	Wed.		<b>RECYCLE</b>
<b>14</b>	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 609-448-4440.
<b>18</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, President Jeff Hunt, 609-443-9475.
		7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Neil Marko, 609-433-6818.
<b>19</b>	Tues.	7:30 p.m.	PTA Meeting, RPS, President JoAnne Parker, 609-448-5619.
<b>20</b>	Wed.		RPS, Four Hour Session, Professional Development for teachers.
<b>21</b>	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Neil Marko, 609-443-6818.
		8 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Rod Tulloss, 609-448-5096.
<b>22</b>	Fri.		RPS Pizza Day.

<b>25</b>	Mon.		RPS Closed, Spring Break (3/25-3/29).
		7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, President Jeff Hunt, 609-443-9475.
<b>27</b>	Wed.		<b>RECYCLE</b>
<b>28</b>	Thurs.		Passover
		7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 609-448-4440.
<b>29</b>	Fri.		Good Friday
<b>31</b>	Sun.		Easter

### April Calendar Preview

<b>1</b>	Mon.		RPS Reopens
		7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>2</b>	Tues.	12:30 p.m.	Blood Pressure Check.
		1 p.m.	Seniors Meeting
<b>5</b>	Fri.		RPS Pizza Day.
<b>8</b>	Mon.		RPS Kindergarten Registration
<b>9</b>	Tues.		RPS Health Fair.
			RPS Kindergarten Registration.
		8 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Ralph Seligman, 609-448-2340.

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