

Bulletin

Volume 48 Number 2

October 2025

Open Mic Night Rises Again: August 9, 2025

by Rick Pressler

Roosevelt's Open Mic Night, hosted by Gus Vuolle, convened for the third year in a row, filling the FDR Memorial Amphitheater with the joyful sounds of inspired local performers. More than 80 residents were in the audience on a warm August evening to hear the rich variety of music, poetry, and literary offerings. As in previous years, the diversity of artistic expression, as well as the impressive range of performers' ages--from eight to over eighty--energized the evening.

In what might be an emerging tradition, guitarist Rick Pressler opened the show for the third time. His instrumental version of "Blowin' in the Wind" touched on the venerable folk tradition of socially engaged songwriting, albeit without the familiar lyrics. Poet Judith McNally followed, her husband Kevin McNally pitching in on one of her humorous and touching *micrologues*—duets in which two distinct voices join together in a questioning and

responsive dialogue. Master pianist Alan Mallach came next, performing original ragtime compositions that displayed his considerable artistry, even on the modest digital piano that was available.

The literary efforts continued with Jason DeMatteo reading an excerpt from his book *The Proof of Delivery: The Expanded*

Edition of Short Stories and Flash Fiction. As twilight began to fall, Clover Balon, a gifted interpreter of show tunes (and an accomplished songwriter) lit up the night with a rousing rendition of "Cabaret."

Many noteworthy performances followed: Dave Herrstrom read three poems from his deep and varied oeuvre, one of which paid tribute to "Fred," the omnipresent skeleton on Farm Lane. In a cosmic convening of subject matter, he was immediately followed by 11-year-old Blake LeCompte's performance of a song about a skeleton. Blake was followed by sister Helena who demonstrated her remarkable virtuosity in a piano/vocal performance of "Promise" by Icelandic singer/songwriter Laufey, effectively redefining the tune and making it her own.

Guitarist/songwriter (and Open Mic Night host)

Continued on Page 4



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Recipes	6	Roosevelt Arts Project	9
Senior Corner	7	Roosevelt's 6th Annual Trunk or Treat	12
What do you like about Roosevelt?	8	Honoring Tradition: The Day of the Dead and the Ofrenda	13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 48th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. Issues run from October through July.

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Submission Process

The Bulletin welcomes submissions for news items, information of local interest, letters to the editor, poetry, and visual arts. We ask all contributors to adhere to the following submission guidelines:

- Send your submission to the email: rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text with in the body of your email. Please do not send PDFs.
- Please include images as separate files.
- The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication (e.g., January 15 for the February issue). Submissions received after the 15th will normally be printed in the issue following the one currently in production.
- Most submissions will also be added to the Bulletin web site. Allow up to one week for submissions to appear online after publication of the print edition.
- Please name your files with your last name, or the name of your organization, and the month.

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

The Bulletin board members are thrilled to see that people are utilizing the Bulletin as a forum for communicating about our community's most critical issues. And it is impressive that Roosevelt has supported this publication for so many decades by contributing both financially and intellectually. We are committed to providing you with the best publication possible—your support of our submission guidelines will enable our volunteers to most effectively meet that goal.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS: There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. There is no charge to you for this service. If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and where you wish to go.

An archive of all past issues of the Bulletin can be found online at www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm, courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org, the official website of the Borough Bulletin. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please send your request to rpressler32@gmail.com.

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

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HARMONY (a micrologue, by Judith McNally)

A Know what I've been wondering about lately?

B I have no idea.

A Whether trees sing to one another.

B Tree music? That's a little far-fetched, for me.

A They could sing joyful songs when a new branch appears.

B And you're going to tell me they sing sad songs when a neighboring one is cut down?

A Why not? Coyotes sing the blues, in the call of the wild. Why not a tree in distress?

B I have heard ocean recordings of songs of the whales, yes. But trees? C'mon!

A Just because it hasn't been discovered yet – or recorded – doesn't mean it's not true.

B I'm aware that new ideas can get scoffed at, but this is going too far.

A Maybe the tree roots even sing in a chorus. Big trees in the bass, saplings as sopranos.

B I know what you're going to tell me next.

A Oh? What?

B That the moon and the planets all harmonize, too.

A Wherever did you hear that?

B From the Man in the Moon – just the other night.

##

Judith's new book of micrologues, *WALKING without WALKING*, has just been published by Cool Women Press. Copies are currently available directly from the author at jmcnally3@comcast.net

Power Outages

In the event outages occur due to severe weather, 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 out to 544487.

Customers should immediately report downed wires to 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) or call their local police department. JCP&L reminds customers to stay away from downed wires, even if they believe they are no longer carrying electricity. Extra caution should be used in areas where downed lines are tangled with trees or other debris. Motorists are cautioned to treat intersections with inoperable traffic signals as four-way stops.

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

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are very much needed to keep our publication going. Contributions are tax deductible

PLEASE NOTE: Due to postal regulations we can only ask for "donations" rather than "subscriptions" from out-of-towners who wish to receive the *BULLETIN*.

We will be pleased to continue sending them the *BULLETIN* when we receive their contributions which, of course, can be for the same amount (or more) as in the past.

In order to save on postage, we would encourage non-residents who have computers to subscribe to the *Bulletin* online at www.boroughbulletin.org in lieu of receiving a paper copy.

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

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

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



Gus Vuolle then performed one of his well crafted original tunes, revealing a strong fingerstyle technique and unique lyrical sense. Gus's tunes have been some of the highlights of the event over the past three years. Levi Tulloss (aka DJ Harmony) has been busy on Bandlab, an online app for creating and mixing music from various sources; his modesty notwithstanding (he apologized several times for the length of his songs), he provided a refreshing and humorous beat to the proceedings.

A return to poetry brought Catarina Noronha reading a poem called "April" in Portuguese and English. The moving poetry was equally beautiful and musical in both languages.

Young pianist Ahsan DeFoe played several pieces—one by "a band his Dad likes" and then a sonatina by Clemente. He welcomed back to the stage Helena LeCompte for a moving performance of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," her well trained voice capturing the nuances of that lyrically and emotionally complex song.



More literature came by way of Jamey Silverstein reading an excerpt from his book There's Always Time for Chocolate. Young Lydon Giske performed Jack White's "Seven Nation Army" on guitar; his sister Aurelia followed in excellent fashion on keyboard, and was then followed by the return of Ahsan DeFoe and a number of previous performers, including Lydon, Aurelia, and Gus Vuolle.

As in previous years, Roosevelt's Open Mic Night provided our tightly knit community with the perfect opportunity to entertain ourselves in the idyllic setting of the FDR Memorial Amphitheater, and to marvel at the talents that reside in our small town. The event is a true communal effort, made possible by Gus's organizational expertise and the professional tech support of Eric Vuolle and Joe Trammel, whose effective sound engineering and lighting enhanced everyone's enjoyment of the performances. One hopes this event will become a permanent entry on Roosevelt's community calendar—and that the restoration of the FDR Memorial Amphitheater will simplify and elevate the production in future years.





ONLY WEIGHT

Across the street as I walk, the sculpted
bowed head of a hauling horse
appears to me. He's dressed simply,
his narrow leather strap
must be as strong as a hanging-rope.

I pause and look at him. He denies
any sentimental thoughts.
He drags carts of families
away from guns and destruction
forever. It is clear to me
that he doesn't care. Only thing
that matters to him is the weight.

Dead bodies, live bodies,
no bodies. Only their family
fleeing, trying to hide, or mourning,
whether political or personal,
care about his burden. Fleeing
house flattened and son burned
on his thirteenth birthday matters not.

— by Dave Herrstrom

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

RECIPES

Everybody's Favorite Salsa

submitted by Riley Law

6 Roma tomatoes
½ Chopped Onion
1-2 Jalapeno Pepper 🌶️🌶️🌶️
2T Sugar
2tsp Salt
1tsp Coriander Powder
½ tsp Oregano Powder
1tsp Garlic Powder or 1-4 cloves fresh garlic (depends on how bad your vampire infestation is 🧛)
1tsp Cilantro fresh or dried
2T Lime Juice
2T Vinegar
1T Olive Oil
1 8oz Can Tomato Sauce

Mix everything in a blender/food processor to preferred chunkiness. ENJOY 🍋

Sweet Potato Casserole

submitted by Hope Pressler

3 cups sweet' taters (3 large potatoes or canned if you are in a hurry)
1 cup sugar
2eggs (beat with a whisk)
1 tsp vanilla
¼ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp cinnamon

Mix until creamy, and put in a casserole dish.

Topping:

1 cup chopped nuts
1 stick butter
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup flour

Mix dry ingredients with a fork. Then mix with melted butter. Mixture will be crumbly, drop over potato mixture

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 mins

Happy Fall!

by Larisa Bondy

Many of you certainly noticed some happy campers this summer hiking, walking, biking and sweating as part of the Roosevelt Adventures Camp fun. Perhaps you are now noticing some evidence of their adventures on your walks through the Roosevelt Trails. The camp has left some camp-made community bird feeders, two on each trail, for anyone to fill during the sparse winter months. So, if you are a trail-walker, feel free to fill your pockets with some birdseed as you walk and distribute it into any feeders you see. The birds will appreciate it and the campers will be happy to see their feeders in use!



ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SCHOOL'S



IS LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Would you like to join as a volunteer?

Activities include:

- ☒ Meet once a month virtually
- ☒ Review teacher grant requests
- ☒ Fundraising activities

RPSEF is a 501(C)(3) charity with the mission to support the students and staff of 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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE [HTTPS://RPSEF.ORG](https://rpsef.org)
EMAIL RPSEFDN@GMAIL.COM TO CONNECT

SENIOR CORNER

Bus Trip to NY Museum

We went on a bus trip to a museum in New York City ~
It was truly amazing – on this I am almost giddy ~
We went to see Ben Shahn's exhibit on non – conformity ~
Over 100+ pieces were there – so much for the eyes to see ~
There was a curator who took us on the tour ~
She was really taking us on a journey – like never before ~
Deep, deep into the mind of the great Ben Shahn – we did go ~
I never knew how deep we could really go ~
There was so much to learn and a feast of things to know ~
We went back in time – so very long ago ~
The curator's tour and talk made it all so clear ~
How wonderful to be there and see and hear ~
We were transported to some other time and place ~
Ben Shahn showed us his strong and outspoken face ~
Non – conformity was the base of his current show ~
How special and spectacular it was for me – I did not know ~
We must never forget that we all have a voice ~
What we do with it and how we use it – remains our singular choice ~
So grateful we are in Roosevelt – where we have so much art~
Of this I do know – I cannot part~
Thank you, Ben Shahn, and to the expertise of curator, Laura, too ~
For the meaningful reminder of what each of us must do ~
Always speak up, speak wisely and make sure it is bold ~
Yes, Roosevelt is unique, filled with riches more meaningful than all the gold ~
~
Justice and Truth must always prevail ~
Just bring it out in the open – we shall not fail !!!

— Adrienne Cheshier



The Manner of the Banner

Miles outside of Keysville, Virginia

3 confederate battle flags

flying

LARGE

One striking

blue sky

Crisp

Animated

Vivid

My camera too late

to capture

the furl, unfurl

slow wave of it

in the wind

Memorializing still

where we were

where they've never left

Stephen Ring

A big Thank You to
Mayor Peggy
and the Borough Council
for getting us the bus to
the Ben Shahn exhibit in
New York City!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ROOSEVELT?

Have something that is special to you? Maybe the reason you moved here or stayed? Perhaps something you discovered recently or something you know has always been here. If you have a “favorite” from living here, please submit it to Rooseveltbulletinsubmissions@gmail.com

Starting us off....

I love how easy it is to get on the woodland trail so quickly and easily from almost anywhere in the Borough. I am grateful to the people of Roosevelt who look after it. Thank you!

Diane Hewlett-Lowrie

I love hearing the birds when I wake up in the morning (including the roosters), feeling like I'm in a treehouse when I look off my deck, and hearing the crickets and the frogs in the evening.

Hope Pressler

I love being surrounded by trees, being able to go in my backyard and take a walk or a bike ride on the trail, living on a street where kids can ride bikes in the road, and having a bog to explore.

Lois Pressler

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!

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.

VIEW

Because there are a multitude of spaces in my life where nothing happens
let me tell you what I have forgotten.

Because my body keeps sifting light I am nobody I know.

Because the anyone across the street declaring we can dance outside as if hearing the music
in this hotel room while I'm drinking my coffee ...

I'm no believer or deceiver just conceiver
so when I return next week to where I came from what do I tell my body?

Will I find my way back home or has home found its way back to me.

Because I'm saved but can't be uploaded, only concern is survival of my meaning.

I'll stop for the hitchhiker word but it won't get on my truck.

Because my upload is pending how can I be sure of save. I don't want to buck or duck just
hug traffic.

I do admit that I must get all sides of the coin in my teeth right.

— Dave Herrstrom

Verbosity

Am I being verbose?

— Stephen Ring

DEPTH

humble float
again I kayak
water plain

alone

loon calls
hovering above
world depth

still my silent
thought resting
behind bone

yearning

for flight in my
body's depth
of acceptance

— Dave Herrstrom

Roosevelt Arts Project Event Schedule 2025-2026

A Community Open-Mic Night

Saturday, August 9, 2025, 6:00 PM

FDR Memorial Amphitheater

A community open-mic night for neighborhood artists to express themselves hosted by Gus Vuolle.

Open to everyone and anyone to perform, collaborate, jam or tell a joke or two with their fellow Rooseveltians and area neighbors, weather permitting. For more information call 609-462-3041

Thinking about publishing your own book?

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 3:00 PM

Borough Hall

Join us for "From Idea to ISBN: A Self-Publishing Workshop," where self-published author Jason DeMatteo walks you through the journey of turning a story into a finished book, based on my own experience publishing my latest work. Whether you're writing fiction, memoir, or poetry, this talk will cover the essentials of crafting your manuscript and navigating the self-publishing process.

A Walk in the Woods

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Ron Fillepp Woodland Trail

Spend a fall afternoon exploring the Woodland Trail, transformed into an open-air gallery for the day. Enjoy a unique blend of nature and art as you discover paintings, prints, sculptures, and photographs by local artist thoughtfully placed along the path, as the arts come alive with live music, books, and poetry readings in this celebration of creativity, community, and the natural world.

Dylan Altman: Homecoming

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 7:30 PM

Borough Hall

Nashville hit singer/songwriter Dylan Altman returns to his hometown to perform songs he has written and has had recorded by numerous artists in the intimate setting of Roosevelt's Borough Hall.

Mindfulness and Art, Mindful Looking and Drawing

Saturday, November 22, 2025, 10:00 to 12:00 AM

Borough Hall

Join us for a mindful seeing and drawing exercise. We will learn about mindfulness, hold a mindfulness meditation session, then we will look at paintings mindfully taking in all there is to see, and then learn how to mindfully draw what we see.

Family Art Workshop

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2:00 PM

Borough Hall

An afternoon of collaborative artmaking hosted by Barbara Atwood. All ages welcome, no experience needed

It's a Nice Night for an Evening:

A Storytelling Event

Saturday, January 20, 7:30 PM

Borough Hall

Join us for a cozy night of original stories, tales, and anecdotes told by Roosevelt residents and hosted by Rob Atwood.

Brahms and Friends

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 7:30 PM

Borough Hall

From his early friendship with Robert and Clara Schumann throughout his life, Johannes Brahms collected admirers and friends, many of whom were distinguished composers in their own right. Pianist Alan

Mallach will play music by Brahms and both Schumann's, along with music by less well-known composers, interspersed with his insightful and enjoyable commentary.

Collage!

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 11 AM to 4 PM

Sunday, March 8, 2026, 11 AM to 3 PM

Borough Hall

Join us in the Borough Hall for a two-day celebration of collage featuring works by Roosevelt artists and other talented local makers. In an era of material abundance, rapid change, and limited attention spans, collage has emerged as an art form uniquely suited to our times. The flexible definition of collage, the wide range of available materials, and the impulse to cut, paste, and reassemble life's fragments into new forms, has produced a variety of voices and approaches to collage-making.

Tuning the Alphabet

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 3:00 PM

Borough Hall

Poems by Roosevelt poets.

"Cracking the Code: The Fascinating World of Chickens"

Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 7:30 PM

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.

The Roosevelt String Band

Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 3 PM

Borough Hall

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.

Garden & Art Tour

Sunday, June 7, 2026, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Communitywide

The urge to create, with brush, chisel, or trowel, generating beauty, raising food crops, and creating spaces for quiet reflection thrives in Roosevelt. Visit the gardens of some of Roosevelt's most passionate gardeners and artists and see their creativity in its natural habitat. A map of participating gardens will be available on the RAP website closer to the event.

"Common Ground" Musical Celebration

Sunday, June 28th at 6 pm

Borough Hall

All are invited to join us in celebrating the beauty of Summer and the community we share.

With familiar sing-alongs, and fresh original songs both heartfelt and playful, featuring Gabe and the Saks Family Band, The Knockabouts - George and Cherie, and more.

Visit our website: www.rooseveltartsproject

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

THE VIEW (a micrologue, by Judith McNally)

A What are you doing lately?

B Learning to be patient.

A I meant like concrete activity.

B Learning patience; that's my new activity.

A How so?

B I wait for flowers to open. I see a bird on a branch and wait for it to chirp.

A You're kidding.

B No. I'm not. I'm working up to being patient with other people. Like with someone who takes too much time at the drive-up window at the pharmacy.

A Other people? That's the hardest of all.

B I know; that's why I'm working up to it.

A Doesn't something else come first?

B Like what?

A Like being patient with yourself.

B Oh. That's so far out of reach, I can't even begin to know where to start. Like reaching for the highest apple on the tree, without a ladder.

A Ladders aren't that hard to come by. In fact, I have one I don't use, if you'd like to borrow it.

B How many rungs?

A I never counted. Life is too short to count rungs on a ladder. It would take too much patience.

B See what I mean?

A What?

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.



RECYCLING
DATES

October 8 & 22

November 5 & 19

- B It could be beautiful – counting the rungs. The first rung – just starting out in life, without a clue as to how to proceed. Then the second rung – when you get inklings of maybe how to live a life – or at least begin to look around and find someone good to model yourself after, for a while, until you get to the third rung, and start to think for yourself, even if no one else is travelling the same path. And then—
- A O.K. The fourth rung – that’s for not looking back, so you don’t fall down into the past, and make the same mistakes all over again?
- B You get the general idea, yes.
- A And the fifth rung? What’s that for?
- B That’s for patience.
- A Patience...
- B Yes – while you figure out how in the world to make sense of rung number six.
- A This, I take it, is for what’s known as the “sixth sense?”
- B And then the seventh – otherwise known as heaven on earth.
- A Come to think of it, I can picture my ladder now, and it does have eight rungs. That’s the very top one. What do you do when you get to the top?
- B Simple.
- A Oh? What then?
- B What then? You just enjoy the view – three hundred sixty degrees all around you, above and below – and ever so deep within.

##

Judith’s new collection of micrologues, *WALKING without WALKING*, has just been published by Cool Women Press. Copies are currently available directly from the author at jmcnally3@comcast.net

Early Voting for the Election

Early in-person voting begins Saturday, October 25 and runs through Sunday, November 2, 2025.

Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Some Monmouth County locations include:

- Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Dr Manalapan, NJ 07726
- Colts Neck Library, 2 Veterans Way, Colts Neck, NJ 07722
- Hope Fire Company #1, Inc., 82 Route 526 Allentown, NJ 08501

For a full list of locations go to <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>



Roosevelt's 6th Annual Halloween Trunk-or-Treat: Tradition, Fun, and Growing Together

by Sharyn Walz

Held each year in late October, the Roosevelt Halloween Block Party/Trunk-or-Treat has become a cherished tradition, bringing neighbors, families, and friends together to celebrate the spirit of community. What began as an idea by the incredibly creative Ellen Silverman has blossomed into one of the most anticipated events of the season—an afternoon filled with laughter, treats, games, music, and the simple joy of spending time with one another. Join us Saturday, Oct. 25 from 12-3!

A Tradition of Togetherness

For six years now, the block party, held on N. Valley, has been more than just a day of festivities; it has been a way for residents to connect and strengthen bonds. Neighbors pull up and decorate their trunks and give candy, kids play freely, and everyone contributes something—whether it's food, music, or creativity. Sam Schneider generously donates his time, playing music and hosting MC duties, while Alicia Gonzalez works behind the scenes on the costume contest prizes. The event reflects the heart of Roosevelt: a town that values community, kindness, and celebration. Everyone is welcome! Fun for the Kids

No Trunk-or-Treat is complete without the energy and excitement of children running around, and this year promises even more opportunities for fun. From games and sweet treats, kids are at the center of the celebration. The annual costume contest has become a highlight, with prizes for kids, families, and pets! Families look forward to seeing the little ghosts, superheroes, and movie characters on the street. The kids will parade in their costumes through Solar Village to delight the seniors.

Bigger and Better Each Year

What makes the Roosevelt Block Party so special is how it grows with each passing year. More decorations, more activities, and more community par-

ticipation have turned it into a beloved fall tradition. Each year, new ideas are added, and neighbors come together to make the event sparkle brighter than before.

For 2025, the celebration expands to include a community ofrenda, honoring the traditions of Día de los Muertos. The display will be a space where families can place photos, flowers, and mementos of loved ones and pets who have passed. It offers an opportunity for remembrance and reflection, while also educating the younger generation about cultural traditions that celebrate life, memory, and heritage. The ofrenda makes this year's block party not just bigger, but more meaningful, weaving together celebration and remembrance in a way that honors the diversity of the Roosevelt community.

The ofrenda is under construction but will soon be ready for residents. It's being built near N. Valley and Farm Lane, with generous support by Steve Reidmueller, Kerri Magee, Tricia and Mark Borosko, and Victoria Estok. Once erected and painted, community residents are encouraged to post photos, stories, flowers, and mementos honoring your loved ones, both people and pets. Plastic page protectors will be provided to protect the items from the elements, but please use copies for the ofrenda and keep the original items safe in your treasure box. The ofrenda will remain in place until spring 2026.

Looking Ahead

As the Roosevelt Trunk-or-Treat Party continues to grow, one thing remains constant: its heart. Year after year, the event reminds everyone that the strength of a town is in its people—laughing, playing, sharing food, and remembering together. With the addition of the ofrenda, this year promises to be not just a celebration of community, but also a celebration of life itself. Please feel free to make suggestions and offer ideas to keep this event fresh and growing each year.

Additional volunteers are welcome! If you'd like to help with set-up/take-down or are interested in having a trunk for the kids this year, please call/text Sharyn/Gigi: 732-770-2168. Thank you for your continued support



Honoring Tradition: The Day of the Dead and the Ofrenda

by Sharyn Walz

The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a vibrant and meaningful tradition celebrated each year on November 1st and 2nd. Rooted in Indigenous practices and blended with Catholic observances of All Saints' and All Souls' Days, it is a time for families and communities to honor loved ones who have passed away. Rather than focusing on grief, this holiday embraces joy, memory, and connection, emphasizing that those who have died continue to live on in spirit.

At the heart of the celebration is the ofrenda—an altar carefully built to welcome the souls of the departed. More than a physical structure, the ofrenda is a bridge between the living and the dead, filled with symbols of love, remembrance, and cultural heritage.

The Meaning of the Ofrenda
An ofrenda is typically built at home, in cemeteries, or in community spaces. Its tiers often represent different spiritual levels, and each item placed upon it holds significance:

- Photographs – honoring and remembering loved ones.
- Marigolds (cempasúchil) – their bright color and fragrance guide spirits back to the living.
- Candles – light the way for the returning souls.
- Food and Drink – traditional dishes like pan de muerto, tamales, or mole, along with a glass of water or a loved one's favorite beverage.
- Personal Belongings – objects that recall the individual's passions, hobbies, or daily life.
- Sugar Skulls and Papel Picado – decorative symbols of life, death, and festivity.

These elements together create a sacred and welcoming space, reminding us that love transcends the boundary between life and death.

How the Community Can Contribute

A community ofrenda is an especially powerful way to celebrate, as it invites everyone to share in remembrance. Here are meaningful ways people can contribute:

- Bring Photos of Loved Ones – contribute pictures of family members, friends, or even beloved pets who have passed away.
- Share Flowers and Decorations – marigolds, handmade paper flowers, and papel picado add vibrant color and symbolism.
- Contribute Artwork or Crafts – paintings, poems, or symbolic creations enrich the altar with personal expression.
- Leave Notes or Messages – written memories or prayers can be placed on the altar as a heartfelt tribute.
- Donate Candles or Incense – these simple items provide light and scent to guide and welcome souls.
- When built collectively, the ofrenda

becomes more than a display—it is a living testimony of community memory and love. Each item reflects a story, and together they weave a tapestry of remembrance that uplifts all who participate.

Closing Thought

The Day of the Dead is not about sorrow, but about connection and celebration. An ofrenda, especially one created by a community, is a reminder that the bonds of family, friendship, and love endure beyond death. By contributing to a shared altar, we honor not only our own loved ones but also the collective spirit of our community, ensuring that no soul is forgotten.



Recycling Guide

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission would like to remind our fellow citizens of a few recycling tips.

Please remember: Do not put items inside of plastic bags in the recycling container; keep them loose. Plastic bags can be recycled at local grocery stores.

Please remember: Most clean paper can be put out for recycling

Please remember: Do not tie up cardboard, magazines or newspaper in bundles. Keep them loose.

Please remember: Do not recycle paper that is contaminated by food, oil or pet waste. Paper used for household projects (paint, cleaners etc.) cannot be recycled either.

Please remember: Our recycling service only handles two types of plastic. Items marked with a 1 (such as soda or water bottles) or 2 are eligible (detergent bottles with the caps removed).

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

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

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Recycling Reminders

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission would like to remind our fellow citizens of a few recycling tips. All of the following information (and more) can be found in the "Recycling 101" article written by Steve Taylor in the March 2019 Bulletin (available at <http://rooseveltboroughbulletin.org>).

Please remember:

- Do not put items inside of plastic bags in the recycling container; keep them loose.
- Plastic bags can be recycled at local grocery stores.
- Most clean paper can be put out for recycling.
- Cardboard should be flattened. Packaging tape and staples need to be removed.
- Any rigid #1, #2, and #5 plastic, regardless of shape or color, can now be put into your recycle bin, along with glass bottles and jars, cereal and snack boxes, cardboard, office paper, newspaper, magazines, tin, aluminum, and steel cans.

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disabled in order to meet requirements. Rent is calculated at 30% of monthly income.

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Cervellimanagement@realestatenj.com

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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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Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0221

OCTOBER

2	Tues.	Yom Kippur (Begins at sunset 10/1)
2	Tues..	School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS
5	Sun.	1:00pm-4:00 pm A Walk in the Woods Roosevelt Arts Project Ron Fillepp Woodland Trail
6	Mon.	7:00 pm Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
8	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
13	Mon.	Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day
13	Mon.	Early Dismissal - Roosevelt Public School
13	Mon.	School Closed Melvin H Kreps, HightstownHS
15	Weds.	7:00 pm Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
16	Thurs.	Picture Day - Roosevelt Public School
18	Sat.	7:30 pm Dylan Altman: Homecoming Roosevelt Arts Project Borough Hall
20	Mon.	School Closed Melvin H Kreps, HightstownHS
20	Mon.	7:00 pm Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
21	Tues.	Evening Parent Student Conferences Roosevelt Public School
22	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
23	Thurs.	Early Dismissal - Roosevelt Public School
23	Thurs.	6:00 pm RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
24	Fri..	Early Dismissal - Roosevelt Public School
29	Tues.	7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
31	Fri.	Early Dismissal - Roosevelt Public School
31	Fri.	Halloween

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

NOVEMBER

3-7	Mon.-Fri	School Closed - MHK, HHS
4	Tues.	6:00 am-8:00 pm Election Day (Early Voting 10/25 - 11/2)
4	Tues.	Early Dismissal - Roosevelt Public School
5	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
6	Thur.	School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS
7	Fri.	School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS
17	Mon.	7:00 pm Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
19	Weds.	7:00 pm Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
19	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
20	Thurs.	6:00 pm RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
22	Sat.	10:00am-12:00pm Mindfulness and Art, Mindful Looking and Drawing Roosevelt Arts Project Borough Hall
26	Wed..	Early Dismissal - RPS, MHK, HHS
27	Thur.	Thanksgiving
27-28	Thur-Fri	School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS

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.

Zoning Officer,
Housing Inspector
Jeremy Kuipers
email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us
phone: 609-448-0539, ext. 7

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

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>