

Bulletin

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FDR Amphitheater Project Enters Third Year of Effort

by Rick Pressler

The project to restore Roosevelt’s historically and culturally significant Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Amphitheater is moving into its third year of development. The project was initiated in August of 2022 by Councilwoman Connie Herrstrom and trustees of the Fund for Roosevelt, a local chartered non-profit organization that supports the preservation of open space and historic elements in the Borough, in response to the deteriorating condition of the site’s brick and masonry structure and other features. The Fund for Roosevelt played a critical role in permanently preserving the town’s historic agricultural green belt, an important element of the original community design.

The Amphitheater, which sits at the edge of land dedicated to Roosevelt Public School, adjacent to the Roosevelt Woodland Trail, prominently features a five-foot-tall bust of Franklin D. Roosevelt, designed by renowned local artist Ben Shahn (1898-1969) and executed by his son and noted sculptor Jonathan Shahn (1938-2021) in 1962. It is the location of the last public appearance by Eleanor Roosevelt, who attended its dedication in June, 1962. The Amphitheater was designed by local architect and former mayor Bert Ellentuck, who is also engaged on the advisory committee for the restoration project.

The project has received a \$350,000 grant from the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Program, which funds land acquisition and park improvement projects through the County Open Space Tax to cover half of the construction cost. In addition, the Fund for Roosevelt has committed funds to cover initial design and consulting costs. While the ultimate cost of the proj-

ect is estimated to be around \$800,000, the actual cost to the Borough will be around \$350,000 when the grants from the County and the Fund for Roosevelt are figured in. The Fund has also committed to a fundraising campaign to further reduce the cost to the Borough. “Getting an \$800,000 project for \$350,000 is a great deal for the Borough and one we will not easily get again,” asserted Gail Hunton, a trustee of the Fund for Roosevelt.

Because the site has historic significance, it falls under the jurisdiction of the State Historic Preservation Office, which must provide the necessary approvals based on final design and construction documents. When questioned about this aspect of the project, Hunton indicated, “Based on my experience working with the State Historic Preservation Office, we may have to make some design changes, but we will continue to work with SHPO to achieve a solution and receive the necessary approvals.”

The project continues to have its advocates and opponents, and much work remains to be done. Stay tuned for further coverage in our next issue. What is not in dispute is the FDR Memorial Amphitheater is in serious disrepair, reducing its suitability for public use and enjoyment, and it will continue to deteriorate if no action is taken.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 47th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. Issues run from September through July. We will not publish in January and August.

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.

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RAP Art Walk in the Woods: A Creative Journey

By Lucretia McGuff-Silverman

On Saturday, October 5, 2024 a beautiful autumn day, the Roosevelt Art Project (RAP) hosted the annual Art Walk in the Woods, blending nature with the vivid imaginations of local artists and poets. The event took place along the scenic trails surrounding Roosevelt, where participants encountered a rich mix of visual and literary works, surrounded by the vibrant colors of the fall foliage.

Local artists including Laylah Schack, Olive Giberson, Daphne Hilburn, Zachary Mastriana, Jacob Wilcomb, Elizabeth Mayorga Martinez, Emily Leibowitz, Deirdre Sheean, Cherie Chelst, George Marinich, Ben Johnson, Ellen Silverman, Clover Balon, Gabrielle Balon, and Kendal LeCompte displayed stunning visual art pieces along the woodland trails. Each work captured the interplay between creativity and nature, offering walkers a chance to pause and appreciate the connection between art and the environment.

The written word came to life as Rod Tullos, Adrienne Cheshier, Judith McNalley, Dave Herrstrom, and Ron Koster shared their poems, posted along the trail. These reflections deepened the sense of immersion as walkers traversed the woods. In addition to the posted poetry, Rod Tullos, Ron Koster, and George Marinich delighted attendees with live readings from Alice in Wonderland, adding a whimsical touch to the serene setting.

Interactive boards for community input was part of the event:

At the school trailhead, four display boards offered opportunities for interaction. One board introduced the Roosevelt Art Project, while the other three invited community engagement. Participants were encouraged to collaborate on future creative projects, share ideas for upcoming RAP initiatives, and contribute to the Poet's Post, where they could craft their own cinquain poems inspired by the Roosevelt woodland trails.

Here are the instructions for creating a Roosevelt Woodland Trail Cinquain Poem:

Write 1 word for the woodland trail.

Write 2 words to describe the trail.

Write 3 words to express action about it.

Write 4 words to describe how you feel about it.

Write 1 word synonym for the trail.

These poems will be displayed at the trailhead kiosk through November, and community members are welcome to contribute additional poems to the growing collection.

Roosevelt Seed Library and Nature Books:

At the trailhead, participants were also treated to a selection of donated nature-themed books and access to the Roosevelt Seed Library, where they could pick up free seeds for their gardens. The event ended with happy

participants walking away with new-found knowledge, seeds, and books, creating a lasting sense of community and engagement.

There was also a video showing highlights of some of Roosevelt Arts Projects. For more information about RAP and to view complete videos showcasing their past programs, visit their website <https://www.rooseveltartsproject.org/>.

The Art Walk in the Woods was a reminder of the power of art to bring people together, inspire creativity, and deepen our connection to nature. We look forward to more contributions next year so get started on your next project!

The tribute to Howard Kaufman in April was an incredible honor to our family. Many thanks to Larisa Bondy and the RPS School Board and Staff for putting it together. Thanks also to Luke Vuolle for the beautiful plaque he designed and Eric Vuolle who had it made and hung it. Thank you to everyone who came out to play or watch in honor of Howard. Thank you to the anonymous donors as well for this more than memorable occasion. There is no place that he would rather have been remembered than at the field with all of you in the town he loved.

With sincere appreciation and love,

The Howard Kaufman Family

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

Pat Monteleone Interview

by Ron Kostar

Pat and Heidi Monteleone recently moved after living for 11 years in Roosevelt. During that time both of them made many friends and contributed extensively to the community. Heidi served as the RPS Art teacher for 5 years, taught summer art and ukulele lessons, curated Art events, including the popular Art Walk, and served as the Vice President of the Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP), while also finding time to play in the popular all-women ukulele group, the Woe Nellies, and making her own memorable imaginative paintings and sculptures.

Pat was also active in RAP. He painted and participated in RAP Art Shows, and he delighted audiences with his skillful ukulele playing and inimitable singing voice and style. His reputation as a performer of “old jazz songs,” both as a solo artist and with other musicians, is well-known far beyond Roosevelt due to his many performances in New York City cafes and International Ukulele Festivals as far away as England.

But despite all their accomplishments, Pat and Heidi will be missed most for their creativity, warmth, unflagging optimism, and generosity. I sat down with Pat a couple of days before they left for their new home outside Austin, Texas. The result is a three-part interview, the following is

The Interview – Part 1

RK: Let’s talk about music. When did you fall in love with music, I say fall in love because it’s obvious from listening to you sing that you love music and that it is a very important part of yourself and your life. And I wonder if you can think back at a specific time when music really moved you and you knew that playing it was going to be a huge part of your life?

PM: Yeah ... I always liked listening to music and, as a kid growing up in the

‘60’s, I listened to the classic rock of the day. I was fortunate that my older sister, my only sister, who was 11 years older than me, played a lot of music on records, and that she didn’t just stick to the contemporary pop music of the day. She also liked to listen to more standards, to singers like Barbara Streisand and Franck Sinatra and Tony Bennet, so that kind of music was always in my childhood. This was through the ‘60’s.

I was born in 1957 so through my childhood and into the ‘70’s recorded music was always in the air in our house. My parents listened to it, and my father liked opera so there was opera on the record player or the radio ... My sister was playing things like the Beach Boys and the Beatles but also some of the classic singers like Bennett and Sinatra.

Then in the ‘70’s, when I entered my teenage years ... when I was 16, I got my first instruments. My sister and father chipped in to buy me a guitar, and a bass guitar and an amplifier for my birthday, a generous gift! They heard me expressing music, and I had never had an instrument before then. I had a toy xylophone or something, but that was the only instrument I had.

In my early teens, one of my other big influences in singing was that I had older cousins in my sister’s generation who were 10 or 12 years older than me and who were all very good singers. They sang a lot of doo-wop and pop stuff, and as a kid 12, 13, or 14 years old, I would hang out with them – we lived near each other – and we would sing, we would harmonize with each other, so that was an influence on me. And then I got the guitar and the bass and I got a guitar chord book and taught myself to play. I took bass lessons from an old Italian guy in Brooklyn, I took 2 or 3 lessons from him, and then from there with the guitar I just taught myself. So, I’m basically self-taught ...



RK: At what point did the ukulele come in?

PM: The ukulele came in in the late ‘70’s-early ‘80’s. In the late ‘70’s Heidi and I worked at a summer camp in the Adirondacks, a summer camp for kids with learning disabilities. Heidi and I were 19 or 20, and it was a camp for kids; and when the counselors had time off, it was near a lake and people would go start a bonfire and play music. And somebody had a ukulele – it was the first time I had ever seen one! I was playing an acoustic guitar a little bit, but I never felt comfortable with it, it was too big. And so, I asked this guy about the ukulele, and I held it in my hands, and I thought, “That’s what I want!” (laughter).

RK: Hence the name: the Big Man with the Little Guitar.

PM: (laughter) That’s right! That’s great!

And then it was pretty much the following year, I picked up my first ukulele, it was a cheap model, and again, using the same method I used with the guitar, I got a chord book and taught myself.

Subsequent to that, I would get better ukuleles and develop my ability, all on my own. I never took lessons, I just figured out the songs. I started to zone in on the songs that were expected to be, you know, “ukulele-relevant”, and I found myself to be more attracted to

Continued on Page 5

the older music: songs from the Great American Song Book, songs from the teens, the '20's, '30's, '40's and '50's, before rock-n-roll came in. I sought out that kind of music when I got the ukulele.

Then I started to discover things ... A big early influence on me was Leo Redbone, who coincidentally, when Heidi and I lived in Bucks County, Leon Redbone lived right down the road from us. He had a house that was 2 or 3 miles from us, and I ran into him a number of times in the neighborhood. I never formally met him, but I ran into him.

RK: Did he stay in character when you bumped into him?

PM: Yes, he did, he stayed in character! (laughter). He was always dressed to the 9's and had on a Panama hat, even in the supermarket. My favorite supermarket story is – it was around Christmas time, and I was in a supermarket in New Hope, and I was looking for some vegetables, a few days before Christmas. And I turned around and suddenly I'm face-to-face with the Man! I said, "Wow! Wow! One of my favorite musicians!" And he looked back at me and said, "You have good taste." (laughter)

And the rest of the shopping trip, we crisscrossed each other in the aisles, and he was whistling Christmas songs.

And then, after listening to Leon Redbone, I started listening to the foundational music, to Louis Armstrong and the other great singers of that day. I started to listen to more of that music, concentrating on the singers, you know: to Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Carmen McRae, Ella Fitzgerald, Andy Williams, and that's when I started to learn songs.

....
RK: OK, but let's backtrack a little bit. So, you and Heidi met in New York in the late '70's?

PM: Yeah, we met at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, in our foundational year. We met in the

spring semester of 1977. And later that spring Heidi had a plan to hitchhike out West, and I went along with it. She told me her plan and I said, "OK, I'll do that, too!"

So, we hopped on a bus out West and spent two months hitchhiking around ... So, that was the beginning of our relationship. (ahhh!)

RK: So that was your first date, right?

PM: (laughter) Yup, that was our first date: two months of hitchhiking around the Northwest. It was great!

I met her brother out there, he lived in Montana at the time, so we spent two weeks with him before we headed home. So, it was a two-month thing that we did and that solidified our relationship and we've been together ever since.

RK: So, then you guys came back and lived in New York?

PM: When we were in school, we lived in Manhattan for a while, near the school, and then we moved to Brooklyn. We lived in Park Slope for a few months, maybe a year, and then we got tired of the city – I had grown up there and Heidi had been living there for a couple of years - so at that point, we moved to Pennsylvania

RK: And at that time, you were playing the ukulele and collecting musical influences and you met Leon Redbone and --- At what point do you start to go out and play?

PM: Shortly after that. What I found in the early '80's ... I joined an outfit called the Bucks County Folk Song Society – I think they're still around – they are a smaller group of people, but they had a relationship with the Philadelphia Folk Society, which is a very large organization, which I think still runs the Philadelphia Folk Society, one if not the lon-

gest running Folk Festival in the country. And through the Bucks County Folk Society, I got an opportunity to play in front of people. They met frequently, at least once a month, and I was into it! We would have circle-sings and they put on concerts, and even in my early stage of playing, I got up in front of big audiences and played. So, I got my feet wet doing that and also doing Open Mics and jam sessions and things like that.

To be continued: in Part 2 Pat Monteleone will talk about how he learned and performed hundreds of jazz tunes from the early 20th century

MR. BONES

has been standing across the street for years, no doubt unknown years. He changes into a new costume with every season, often on a whim. On his October Day of the Dead he loves to hang from the eaves of the house that think own him.

And he loves mocking the two gargoyles on the porch below who believe they're guards.

When the rooster down the street exalts himself loudly Bones assumes such proud sound be celebrating his denial of time, profit, power and me.

David Herrstrom

Purple Loosestrife

By Steve Taylor

This month’s article highlights an invasive species that we need to look out for, the Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Purple Loosestrife came to the US in the early 1800’s. Its native range was Europe, Asia and northwest Africa. These plants prefer wet locations, like ditches, marshes and shorelines, but they will tolerate drier locations. They usually grow 2-3 feet tall, although they may reach 6 feet in height. A plant may produce over 2 million tiny seeds each year. These are dispersed by wind and water. One recently appeared in my flowerbed. The perennial root mass is very dense and woody. It chokes out other vegetation, changing the ecology of the infested area. Several purple

loosestrife cultivars were developed as ornamentals for the flower gardens, and people have planted purple loosestrife as a source of nectar and pollen for honeybees. These were not good ideas. In fact, it is now illegal to sell purple loosestrife in most states. If it shows up in your yard, remove it.

As it is with many invasive species, there are native plants that look similar. In this case, it’s fireweed. Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) flowers have 4 spoon-shaped petals, where as purple loosestrife has 5 to 7 strap-like petals. Another defining characteristic is that fireweed leaves alternate along a reddish, round stem. Purple loosestrife leaves are attached in pairs on opposite sides of a square green stem. Despite being a native, fireweed can be aggressive, so it may not be a good choice for planting in your yard.

There is some hope for a natural control of purple loosestrife in the wild. The loosestrife root weevil attacks the roots and can kill the plant. There are also the loosestrife flower weevils that attack the flowers, which prevents seed formation. These and other biological controls have been shown to be effective in controlling this invasive plant.



Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
photo S Taylor

References:

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatic/plants/purple-loosestrife>
https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg_lysa2.pdf
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lythrum_salicaria
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<https://extension.sdstate.edu/plant-look-alikes-whats-difference-between-fireweed-and-purple-loosestrife>



Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
photo S Taylor

~Sunflowers Indeed~
So many flowers are here and there and everywhere~
Its sunflowers and its further than my eye can see~
Surely didn’t know we would enjoy this or truly care~
But indeed - oh yes – true beauty this is – as nature can be~
We are grateful we came for this treat today~
HollandRidge Farms is a sight to behold~
Senior Group is here and happy they came this way~
On a picture perfect morn- it feels like we just struck gold!!!!
~Adrienne Cheshier~

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

Coming to Terms with Reality – the Conclusion

By Tim Hartley

The November 2021 issue of the Bulletin included a short message from my wife Rainy Hartley in which she shared the information that she had been diagnosed that summer with Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer. She felt this was something she wanted to do mostly so she could stop being concerned about who of our many acquaintances in town knew and who did not. In this same vein, I feel she would want me to let people know that she passed away on October 24 after deciding at the end of September that further medical “help” being offered to deal with the increasingly onerous effects of the disease progression was not likely to improve her quality of life back to an acceptable level.

The other piece of information that I am sure Rainy would want me share now with anyone that knew her is that the timing of her death was of her own choosing. She was the first person that we knew of that was able to take advantage of a 2019 NJ law entitled The Medical Aid in Dying Act. In essence, the purpose of this law (and NJ is one of only 10 states

with such a law so far) is to permit a person with a terminal diagnosis of no more than 6 months to obtain a prescription that would enable them to end their own life on a date of their own choosing, and by their own hand, if they so wished. This is clearly not a choice that many (or most?) people might select, but Rainy and I had been aware of it for years and were grateful it was a choice she was permitted to make while living at home. Having lost three of our four parents to cancer neither of us was in favor of the usual drawn out conclusion of this disease. And while we both understood that her choice was not one for everyone, we both felt strongly that it should be a choice that anyone facing the end of their life should be aware of. Unfortunately, most NJ physicians do not yet know enough about this option and many also seem reluctant to discuss it even when pressed, so the other goal of this writing is to begin to spread the message to others that here in NJ one does have a choice.

There is much more I could share about how the MAID law works, but I will save that for a possible future article. In the meantime, if anyone wishes to learn more about it the



best sources of information are the American Clinicians Academy on Medical Aid in Dying booklet (<https://www.acamaid.org/patientbooklet/>) or the New Jersey Death with Dignity organization’s website (njdeathwithdignity.org).

I sincerely hope this writing may help at least some facing this most difficult decision of one’s life. I can also be reached at the email address below to answer some questions about MAID. Someone told me recently that he believed Rainy to be the bravest person he had ever known. I have felt that for years as well.

Tim Hartley
email: dafthartley@gmail.com

Oh, what a world! What a world!

The world-is horrible, delicious, frightening, a pool of drool in a never ending night of subjective heaven, volcanic ash and subcutaneous in the musculature of fine time, a willing participant in its own end, a broom that sweeps our sad ashes at the end of day, a shining light of sun on the golden leaves of autumn, an amusement park of fear and bedrock, a gloomspoon of final thought at a baptism and a reawakening as it appears in death, I’m crying in my life’s soup. Wash hands in my Ganges, please. Threatening storm washes the below, yet, all returns hotter than before and the cicadas make tymbal music, crescendo the heat into a maelstrom of summer day disaster, I flashback to the cover of Mr. Lasko’s tree surrounded by dog shit, just standing there in it, my tongue out. Oh, Beautiful Days!! Now, rain makes me roll my emotional windows and only drops on me when I face my tears, overcome by the beautiful and the execrable and the absolute come down of the real and the real’s sheer joy of excitement. The laugh and cry of it all. All the roads that expand and sweepingly lead into the bridges that end in cities and remind me of my sister and the lights of Philadelphia to the right of the Walt Whitman Bridge and I know she’s out there consuming her own will as I’m consuming mine as we are all consuming our own, and don’t that meat taste sweet? The world-it’s winsome.

Our humanness crowns the earth as the scepter of nature.
I’m still waiting for my father to whistle me home from the front door.

Stephen Ring

Dear Editor of Roosevelt Borough Bulletin,

On September 5, 2024, the Roosevelt Borough Council passed Bond Ordinance 2024-09 appropriating \$710,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$676,000 in bonds and notes to finance a portion of the costs of a plan to demolish the FDR Memorial Amphitheater and reconstruct it in many ways that are different from what has existed for over 60 years.. I oppose this bond and I oppose demolition of the historic amphitheater.

Because Roosevelt is registered as a historic district, I understand that New Jersey law prohibits Roosevelt from demolishing the amphitheater unless the Commissioner of the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection authorizes the demolition. By letter dated September 25, 2024, the NJ DEP Historic Preservation Office informed the Borough that “the proposed project involves the demolition of a historic district, does not reconstruct it in kind, adds new fixtures and lighting that negatively impact the setting of the resource. Therefore, the proposed project does not meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Based on a review of the submitted documentation, HPO staff has determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:4-7(a)(1) and (3), that the proposed undertaking constitutes an encroachment on the Jersey Homesteads Historic District.”

Many Roosevelt residents, including me, believe that the historic amphitheater should be preserved, cleaned and repaired, and not demolished. The Standards and Guidelines explaining the Standards are available online at <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/treatment-guidelines-2017-part1-preservation-rehabilitation.pdf> The Standards for Rehabilitation require preservation of the historic character of a property and expressly state:

“Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials.” *Id.* at p. 76. The Guidelines contain seven pages describing what is and what is not recommended to repair brick, mortar and cement. The Standards recognize that masonry can be structurally repaired and the Guidelines do not recommend wholesale demolition of a historic masonry structure. The Structural Analysis Report of the amphitheater dated June 9, 2023, paid for by the Borough, states that “a restoration of the structure may be possible.”

Many residents, including me, believe that \$710,000 is too much to spend on any project regarding the amphitheater. Many residents’ property taxes have increased dramatically. Residents may want their tax money spent on other priorities, such as installing pedestrian safety measures, declaring the deli a redevelopment zone, improving the gas station property, or simply not spending this money at all.

This is why I circulated a petition to put the bond on a referendum. This way the voters can decide if we want to borrow \$676,000 to demolish and rebuild the amphitheater. New Jersey law provides that once a petition for a referendum has been properly filed, as was done here, the bond ordinance “shall be voted upon at the next general election held in the municipality at least thirty days after the filing of the protest . . . , unless the governing body thereof shall call a special election therefor.” N.J. Stat. Ann. 40:49-10.

I note that the plan of demolition was devised and endorsed by a committee which met behind closed doors and which, in my view, has no

legal status. Borough Council minutes show that one council person decided who was on this committee. But Roosevelt Ordinances specify: “Unless otherwise provided by statute, the Mayor shall nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint all non-elected officials, employees, and members of boards and commissions.” Roosevelt Ord. 2-1.5. This is consistent with state statutes governing the borough form of government. See N.J.Stat. Ann. 40A:60-5(g). I raised this issue to the Council at two meetings without any response. The reason I am concerned about what, in my view, is an apparent failure to follow law is that I believe that the taxpayers of Roosevelt who will be paying for an amphitheater project should be involved in designing and planning the project.

I have serious doubts that the NJDEP Commissioner will approve demolition of this historic structure, as the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties do not condone complete demolition of historic structures. The Borough Council presumably had doubts too because on October 7, 2024, it passed a resolution directing ETM Associates to withdraw the application for approval of the demolition plan that had been scheduled for a hearing before the NJDEP Historic Sites Council in December and to then address the comments of the NJDEP Historic Preservation Office prior to submission of a new application.

I am hoping that the Council will include the Roosevelt community in this planning process before such a plan is drawn up by ETM. Specifically, I think the Council should schedule open planning meetings with public participation in devising the plan, rather than having an unauthorized committee meeting

Ups & Downs of Election Day



Oh the ups and downs of voting ~
Will we be happy whatever the outcome may bring ~
Do I worry and fret or will I be able to sing ~
I do always work on Election Day ~
I stay the long hours and know that is the way ~
I see my neighbors all day long ~
And know Roosevelt is where I belong ~
There were some who came voting for the first time ~
Oh the joy to share what they had just done ~
Children learning what this is all about ~
A job well done they know no doubt ~
I do look forward to this special Election Day ~
Thank you all for voting I wanna say ~
It's a privilege and an honor to serve you today!!!

Adrienne Cheshier

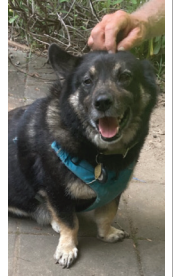
Special thanks for helping us:
Ana & her dear mom Maria
June Counterman
Hillary Wilder & Michael Merritt
Nancy & Ralph Warnick
Jodi & Dave Parsons
Luca & Mia Moreno
Joe Trammell

Doggietime

by Oli Macher, translated by Mary Macher
Dedicated to his people 'n his doggie pals
in the Borough of Roosevelt

Some days're dull, and some days fly,
Nothin' gets done, don't know why.
But other days are just fine.
Those are the days,
Them wonderful days,
Days with tons of doggietime.

With playful tugs and crazy-dog runs,
They're days that jump real high.
Loaded up so full to become
The best-loved days,
Yeah, my kinda days,
Days filled up with doggietime!



Gotta go the right way
On this street of mine.
Gotta see this and hafta see that.
Gonna make it doggietime!

There's the pup who barks to say,
"Over here, ya see me? Hey!"
Waggin' tails and lots of play,
Now that's the makin's of a day!
Howls and barks, growls and whines,
Sounds like good ol' doggietime!

Meetin' up with my good pal
To play until we're worn out fine.
Happy and tired, side by side,
Snugglin' up in doggietime.

Seein' my people, gotta say hi.
'Want all the pettin' that cute can buy,
Lotsa' treats, lotsa' talk,
That's what's kickin' up this walk.
"How're we doin'?" We're just fine."
Gotta love that doggietime!

Meet on the path or pass on the road,
Stop at the house, all suits me fine.
It's an all-time great and the best of the rest
When we meet at doggietime!



Letters

Continued from Page 8

behind closed doors devise a plan which is then presented to the public as a done deal.

Finally, the \$330,000 matching grant that was awarded by Monmouth County, but will not be received unless the County approves the completed project, has a condition requiring compliance with the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. This is another reason why the Council, in my view, would be wise to submit a plan to the NJ Historic Preservation Office that does not involve demolition, but repairs what is needed to be repaired, upgrades the electricity and complies with the Standards.

Sincerely,

Maureen Parrott

The Animals in Odeghien Must Have Loved Me

by Albert Hepner

In 1945, WWII, in Belgium, was winding down. My mother and I, who had been hidden from the Gestapo in different parts of Belgium, resettled for a few months in Odeghien. It had become safe for Jews in Brussels, but we couldn't afford an apartment, and we were still living under the auspices of the underground. They thought it would be safer for us to remain hidden where we had been in the throes of the war. So, they continued to rent a small apartment for us on a farm, in Odeghien.

The farmer, monsieur Gillard had died, but his wife continued to rent rooms to hiding Jews. We'd spent nearly a year as unwelcomed paying guests; this continued to suit her. So, while family friends were looking for a place for my mother and me, we returned to the farm. Whereas I had had no occasion to go to school during most of the war, now I was welcomed in the one-room elementary school in town. The community ran a K-6 grade in one room. Made-moiselle Justine taught all grades to 18 students.

She was a delightful person, who from the start made me feel wanted. I had spent four years being shunted into hiding from one place to another, except a school. She was delighted that I was curious about everything and never stopped smiling when she instructed me. If it was possible for a nine-year-old to fall in love, I had. There was one other person that caught my amorous attention, nine-year-old Melanie. This shy girl nearly always seemed attentive toward me. She never stopped smiling when our glances met in or out of the classroom. One day, she asked me if I could come and visit her on her farm. I must have shaken my head in the affirmative because I don't remember having spoken. It was the first time in all the years that anyone had invited

me to their home. I was stunned and promised to be at her farm the next day.

It was a Saturday morning. The skies were blue, the land was exceptionally green, and the air felt fresher than ever. Clearly, I had never experienced such warmth, such clarity, or such an embrace from life around me. I didn't know if I should run, trot or just walk. I couldn't understand why the inside of my chest was pounding so. I chose to let the environment guide me, but using the roads leading up to the other side of town felt like an unnecessary delay. Having run away from danger my entire youth, running came naturally. I elected to jump the fence that surrounded a neighbor's grasslands between my farm and hers. The jump and the idea that it would get me to Melanie faster was so surprising that I chose to jog through the grass.

Something I hadn't noticed, was the reason for the fence. The area was speckled with Beltex sheep. Clearly a nine-year-old suddenly galloping would wake one of them up. When I finally noticed that one was running, it struck me it was running after me. My jog triggered a faster gallop and then an unintended sprint. I had not yet learned what my jungle guide said to us when we were walking the jungle for the first time, thirty years later, in Botswana. "Remember that if any animal runs toward you in the jungle, no matter how it looks, skinny, fat, tiny, or giant, it can outrun you." Well, it was clear that this was true in an Odeghien pasture as well. The Beltex sheep did not only catch up to me, but it also hoisted my rear end over the fence. I wound up back on the road, frantic and in pain. All I could think of was to continue running as fast as possible.

Clearly, a nine-year-old running doesn't only attract sheep, I drew a bird's attention. I no sooner had gotten up and started

running than a warbler landed on my curly head of hair. I had no idea what was going on. I kept slapping whatever seemed to be stuck in my hair. I have always been blessed with a wonderful head of curly hair. This warbler got its claws deeply entangled in my mop of hair. The more I hit it in panic, the more it flapped its wings that kept hitting my ears. As my heart kept pounding to get rid of the flapping bird, it flapped so hard that I stopped running and hit the bird forcefully enough that it flew away with a bush of my blonde curls, nearly lifting me up in the air with it. For fear that the bird would return to nest on my head, I ran away from the spot I'd briefly stopped. All I remember from that moment was that I had to find a way to get away. I think I'd lost all sense of where I was heading, except I didn't want to go in the meadow again, so I ran on the road.

Neither sheep nor birds have ever frightened me since then, but the next animal that I couldn't stop from wanting to befriend me was a small white puppy. If anything was not a race, this was it. The little monster, at first, was running behind me, but soon caught up and was running alongside of me. It seemed to me that for a few moments I felt I had found a running companion. But as soon as I felt safe, my new friend started snapping at my legs and shorts. When he didn't succeed at biting me, he started jumping higher and bit me. It must have been all he wanted because he then turned and started running away from me. I suppose my scream may have scared him. This didn't stop me from being totally out of sorts, except I noticed I had reached Melanie's property. I immediately attempted to calm down and remembered why I had rushed there. The first dwelling I approached on the road was the habitual habitat one approached in this

Continued on Page 11

isolated part of the world: the outhouse.

Punishment or recompensation from this escape has never been resolved in my psyche: the door was open and as I jogged past it all I noticed was Melanie completing the obligation she had to her posterior that was facing the road I passed. It was nearly the most shocking event of my life then. I'm still afraid of little white dogs.

Borough Mailing Instructions

When mailing anything to Roosevelt Borough, please use P.O. Box 128. This includes property tax payments and water/sewer payments.

Public Health Emergency?

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

Save our Sewers – Don't Flush Wipes

Please do not flush wipes or paper towels down your toilet. Even the wipes that are labeled "flushable" are not treatable in our sewage treatment plant. They clog up the equipment and the repairs are costly.

Please do not pour household grease down your drain. This clogs the sewer lines and the repairs are costly.

Your water/sewer bill reflects the added maintenance costs caused by these wipes and household grease.

Please put your wipes, paper towels and household grease in the trash.



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

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

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Please clean-up after your dog.



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.

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.

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

ROOSEVELT ADVENTURES
(609) 462 3041 | gus@rooseveltadventures.com



Winter Community Day

FREE EVENT!



The Winter Community Day is an annual Roosevelt Adventures event to get our community together during the winter break for some active, creative, and exciting games, artistic opportunities, and outdoor challenges! Young and old come join us for some fun!

Open to ALL families in Roosevelt and our surrounding communities whether or not you have ever participated in a Roosevelt Adventures program!

We will have a variety of counselor-led challenges as well as a number of activities available for you to pick and choose from however you would like.

RSVP's are not mandatory to attend but feel free to let us know for our planning if you will be coming by at the phone number or email above!

This program is run by Roosevelt Adventures and is not affiliated with the Roosevelt Borough



From the Foundation

The school year is well underway and the students at RPS are busy learning, exploring, and growing as young learners. The opportunities provided by the foundation enhance our students' learning experiences and encourage learning beyond the classroom walls!

The school year started with exciting experiences for RPS students and staff. Class trips, a growing garden with a new water system, a recycling program in the works and more classroom supplies all will benefit RPS students immensely thanks to donor generosity and support. Foundation Trustees, RPS students and staff deeply appreciate your investment in the education of Roosevelt students!

-RPSEF Trustees



Left: K & 1st Grade students visited Von Thun's Country Farm **Right:** Students get close to the animals in a safe environment

Fall trips- an outdoor learning experience

This fall students have had the opportunity to attend field trips that enhance their knowledge of how farms operate. Where and how food grows, how animals interact, and the importance of bees are just a few of the experiences. The Pre-K class ventured off to the Red Wagon Farm- the class loved the petting zoo, hayride, and corn maze. They learned about birds, piglets, and llamas. Students were very excited that they had time to play in a corn pit- this type of sensory activity is a fun tactile experience for children of all ages!

The Kindergarten and 1st grade class enjoyed a trip to Von Thun's Country Farm where students met farmers, got up close with the barnyard animals and learned all about the importance of bees and how they help our food grow. Students were buzzing with excitement about the experience. Visiting a farm and seeing where our fruits, vegetables, and meat come from help students develop a deeper appreciation of nature and animals.

Grant Updates

Through generous donations and teacher inspiration the following grants were approved:

- Visiting Artist Program (Grades PreK through 5th)
 - *October: Tai Chi
 - *November: Drawing techniques
 - *December: Clay work
- Skydome Planetarium Mobile School Assembly (PreK-5)
- Jenkinson's Aquarium (K-1)
- School gardening water system
- Novel sets for reading resource

Our Mission

The mission of the Roosevelt Public School Education Foundation (RPSEF) is to support the students and staff of the Roosevelt Public School (RPS) by providing programs, equipment, training, and other resources that will support the mission of the school in educating our children to be independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators, and lifelong learners. We cannot do this without the generous support of our donors- we thank you for your continued dedication!

Fundraiser Updates/ Stay Tuned

- Litter pickup earned \$200
- Stefan Martin Prints available for purchase by email or through our website www.rpsef.org
- Please consider donating to RPSEF. We are a 501(C)(3) charity- see our website for more information
- December 2024 Look for information concerning our End of Year Appeal



Students learn Tai Chi, the ancient art of deliberate flowing motions in the first VAP of the school year.

Contributors to the Bulletin 2024

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

Robin & Robert Axel
Richard & Janet Bernardin
Linda Block
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna
Susan & Robert Cayne
Cheshier family
Walter & Linsey Coyoy
Ana Debevec
Kay Drury
Frances Duckett
Burt Ellentuck
Lou & Irma Esakoff
Judith Goetzmann
Jay & Anna Goldman
Michael Hamilton
Timothy Hartley
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Anna & Ben Johnson
Ingrid Jordan
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Ralph & Nancy Warnick
Judith Weinberg
Michael Weinschenker
Frank Wiesinger & Theresa Secks
Tony & Gail Zelenak
Mark & Judith Zuckerman

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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

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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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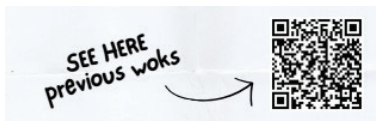
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Tai Chi Classes

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Thursday 6:00 Pm – 7:30 Pm
June Counterman 609-448-3182

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DECEMBER

2 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
4 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
16 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
17 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
18 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
18 Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
19 Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
20 Fri.	12:30	Early Dismissal Roosevelt Public School
23 Mon. - 3 Fri.		Winter Break Roosevelt Public School
25 Weds.		Christmas
26 - Jan. 1		Kwanza

JANUARY

1 Wed..		New Years Day
1 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
1 Weds. - 3 Fri.		Winter Break Roosevelt Public School
6 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
7 Tues.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
10 Fri.	12:30	Early Dismissal Roosevelt Public School
15 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
15 Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
20 Mon.		Martin Luther King Day
20 Mon.		School Closed Roosevelt Public School
29 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 

The Roosevelt Board of Education's website contains complete school calendar information:

www.rps1.org.

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:
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Inspection Hours:
Mondays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
<https://rooseveltnj.us/other-government/zoning-officer>

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



RECYCLING DATES

December 4, 18
January 1, 15, 29

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Stay safe! Stay informed!

Construction and Permits

The Construction Official has Borough hours on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Questions regarding building permits should be directed to:

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Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.