



# Bulletin



Volume 40 Number 7

April 2017

## Voters Reject Bond for Emergency Services Building; Borough Considers Alternative Fire Safety Arrangement

By Rick Pressler

In a March 28 referendum, Roosevelt voters rejected the Borough's efforts to approve a bond to build a new emergency services building. The existing facility has been deemed unusable by State inspectors. In the absence of a new building, it is likely the Roosevelt Fire Department will cease operations (although as of this writing, no official action has been taken). The First Aid Squad, while it would have been housed in the proposed facility, is not likewise affected. The Squad will continue to operate while it considers improvements and repairs to its existing facility attached to Borough Hall.

The official vote tally was 201 opposed and 191 in favor of the proposed bond. The election included a small number of provisional ballots and disallowed votes which would not have altered the outcome. The closeness of the vote was indicative of the strong support on both sides of the public debate.

This outcome comes after two bruising years of debate which included breakdowns in civility between long time residents who found themselves on opposite sides of the closely contested issue. Rancorous public meetings and accusations of ill will sometimes lent a personal dynamic to the public discussion.

In response to an inquiry from the Bulletin, Mayor Jeff Ellentuck commented, "I am disappointed that the bond was not ratified because I believe a new building would have been the best and least expensive option for the town over the long term. New Jersey citizens have the right to vote regarding significant municipal expenditures, as they should, and I will certainly respect the results of the referendum. It is time for us to put the rancor of the last two years

aside, resolve emergency services going forward, and move on to the other important issues facing the town."

Borough Council Member Jill Lipoti struck a similar note of reconciliation, "Let's all move on from the labels that marked us and resume our common role as citizens of Roosevelt, proud of our town."

Michael Ticktin, also a Council member (and the Editor of the Bulletin) echoed these sentiments, "I hope that, going forward, all members of the Council and of the community will succeed in putting aside any negative feelings that they may have as a result of this prolonged conflict and do their best to work together to address the needs of the community. Though the community has twice shown itself to be almost evenly divided over this issue, we must recognize that people on both sides are sincere in their dedication to the community and that the efforts of all must be welcomed."

Going forward, Roosevelt will be required to contract for fire protection services. The Applegarth/Monroe Fire Department, a full time paid squad, and the Millstone Fire Department, a hybrid paid/volunteer squad, are the two lead candidates under consideration by the Borough Council. Cost for the service reportedly begins around \$30,000 annually and could eventually increase to \$90,000 per year, although no contract has been negotiated at this point.

The First Aid Squad is a separate question. While its facility has been found substandard by the State PEOSH inspector, it is possible to repair or improve the space—which is attached to Borough Hall—to a satisfactory

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 40th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. There will be ten issues running 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](mailto:rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com). For short messages, you can also use the contact form on our web site, which will go to the same address.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text within the body of your email.
- Please limit your letters to 500 words (about one page in MS Word). We will edit letters for length when necessary. Longer letters may be published in full on the Bulletin web site.
- Please include images as separate files. If you have multiple files, please put them into a zip file, if possible. Please submit only JPEG images.
- 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. (So, for example, a submission received on January 16th would be printed in March.)
- 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 on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. The bus will pick you up at your home, you spend 1 ½ hours shopping, and the bus will take you home and leave your groceries at your door. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus Tuesday no later than 3:00 p.m. at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and your interest in going on Wednesday, the next day.

An archive of all past issues of the Bulletin can be found online at [www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm](http://www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm), courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at [www.roosevelt.boroughbulletin.org.](http://www.roosevelt.boroughbulletin.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](mailto: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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extent. Additionally, unlike the Fire Department, the First Aid Squad is not under the auspices of the Borough government; it is an independent organization that has been supported by the Borough but is not subject to its oversight.

First Aid Captain John Vo stated, “Contrary to rumors swirling around, the First Aid Squad is still around for the foreseeable future.” He added, “I want to thank everyone for their continued support.”

Many Roosevelt residents have expressed a desire to reestablish civil public discourse as the norm, even in the face of strong disagreements over local public policy. Public comment at meetings and various flyers distributed throughout the borough have sometimes taken a harsh tone, impugning the motives and judgment of those in disagreement. While the issue of an emergency services building has been settled by the referendum, a number of significant issues—water and sewer utility management, securing a fire protection contract, and manag-

ing borough finances—will continue to animate public debate.

The Roosevelt Fire Department, in addition to its emergency services role, has been a frequent contributor to the civic life of the borough, hosting Easter egg hunts, hay rides, and the July 4 festivities, and providing for traffic safety on Halloween. As the Council solves the issue of securing fire protection services, the community will still face the challenge of sustaining the community spirit fostered by these activities.



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



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements. Follow the Borough of Roosevelt on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoro](http://www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoro)

If you would like your organization’s event posted to the Borough’s Facebook page, please send event details to [aprilsuk@gmail.com](mailto:aprilsuk@gmail.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](http://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



**MISSION**

To educate and inspire all students to excel academically\*, to become independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators and lifelong learners. Roosevelt Public School nurtures and challenges the unique potential of each student so that our children will develop individual, social and civic responsibility as well as respect for themselves, each other, and the environment.

\*to achieve or exceed N.J. CCCS at all grade levels

**Remembering Cornelia Spoor**

It's very sad news to share of the passing of Roosevelt Board of Education member Rev. Deacon Cornelia Spoor, MSW, LCSW (1952-2017 on February 23, 2017. Cornelia, who had served as a member of the Roosevelt Board since 2014, was an asset to the BOE and wrote many of the Bulletin articles.

The mother of four, she was a steadfast advocate for children and families. She was a case worker and then director of International Social Service-American Branch (1994-1996) and director of the New Jersey office of World Child, Inc., an adoption agency, until 2008. Previously, as a graduate student, she taught English composition at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She was ordained a deacon of the Episcopal Church in 2002.

Cornelia is survived by her spouse, Lee; their children Sarah, Audrey, Theodore and Simon; and many loving family members and friends. Our deepest condolences go out to her family and we will always be grateful for her many contributions to the Roosevelt community as a parent, volunteer, neighbor and friend.

**Roosevelt Board 2017-2018 Proposed Budget**

The following is the proposed budget that was sent to Monmouth County for approval for our pre-K-12th grade students. We are proud to announce that we anticipate a tax decrease for 2017-2018 despite the loss of some state funding. One source of revenue has been our state-funded Choice Students, and we were able to add three of these students for the coming year through sibling waivers. The Board of Education will vote on the budget during the Budget Hearing on Thursday, April 27th at 7:30 p.m.

**BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2017-2018 School Year using the 2017-2018 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:**

	General Fund	Special Revenues Fund	Debt Service	Total
2017-2018 Total Expenditures	\$2,702,801	\$45,400	\$53,103	\$2,801,304
Less Anticipated Revenues	\$1,179,298	\$45,400	\$ 5,591	\$1,230,289
Taxes to be Raised	\$1,523,503	\$ 0	\$ 47,512	\$1,571,015

The anticipated tax rate for the average home assessed at \$277,531 is \$5,100 for 2017-2018 which is a decrease of \$18 for the year.

Please attend any meeting or you can email to RPSBOE@gmail.com for more information. Additional committee meetings and special meetings will be held as necessary and advertised in advance if a quorum is required or anticipated.

**Welcome New Board Member**

John Ord was appointed to the Board on March 16th. He will serve the rest of 2017 in Cornelia's chair. John was previously a Board member in the 1980s and is a former school principal. We thank him for stepping in on short notice to serve on the board.

**10 Year Milestone**

Natalie Warner has served for ten continuous years as a Board member. She will be recognized at the April 6 Monmouth County School Boards Association Spring Meeting.

**Invitation to 80th RPS Graduation Ceremony**

The 80th RPS Graduation will be held on Saturday June 10 at 4 pm. Please join us. If you are an RPS graduate please email us your RPS favorite memory and photos to RPSBOE@gmail.com or drop them at RPS. (Special note: Pending changes per snow days, the last day of school is currently set for June 19.)

**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.



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To educate and inspire all students to excel academically\*, to become independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators and lifelong learners. Roosevelt Public School nurtures and challenges the unique potential of each student so that our children will develop individual, social and civic responsibility as well as respect for themselves, each other, and the environment.

\*to achieve or exceed N.J. CCCS at all grade levels

RPS students are excited that spring is finally here! They continue to balance their study time with play time and look forward to the outside games that they play on the school field during recess every day; kickball

is still a school favorite, but soccer is catching up. The new playground equipment is getting a lot of use and everyone loves when Mr. Kaufman puts up the tether ball! The Spelling Bee, Talent Show, Spring Concert and Art Show are coming up and the community is always invited to attend.

I ordered tables and benches for our playground because RPS is one of the few schools that I have seen where so many parents and grandparents pick up their children after school; I want our parents and grandparents to be able to sit and enjoy the afternoon sun while the children play. I know that watching my children play and chatting with other parents were highlights for me when my own children were in elementary school!

Springtime has brought some of the annual events that the community looks forward to—the PTA

sponsored carnival was great fun for grownups and children alike; and new events that may become traditions—the Roosevelt Foundation will host its first pasta dinner where families and teachers will share a meal together. RPS sponsored a Family Math Night facilitated by a presenter from the University of Pennsylvania; it was well attended and parents and children learned math strategies while enjoying pizza provided by our Board of Education.

I would like to remind everyone that our graduation is on Saturday, June 10th, and it is the 80th anniversary of RPS. I am hoping that you will spread the word and that alumni from near and far will come back to school and share memories!

Mary Robinson Cohen, M.A., J.D.  
Superintendent and Principal  
Roosevelt Public School  
mcohen@rps1.org



**STRATEGIC PLANNING CALENDAR**

March – May 5, 2017	ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS Plan development
May 9, 2017 7:00 p.m.	PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING Action Plans (Drafts) Cost Benefit Analysis
May 12, 2017	ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS Action Plans Finalized
May 25, 2017	STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTED TO BOARD

**Free Food Distribution**

To All Roosevelt Residents:

Do we have any needy families in Roosevelt? I'm sure we must; there is nothing to be embarrassed about. Times are hard, people are out of work or on a fixed income. Food is distributed, free of charge, by volunteers one Friday and Saturday a month between 12:00 and 1:00 pm at the Clarksburg Community Center, Route 571, next to the Clarksburg Fire House. You have to pick it up yourself since there is no delivery. No questions as to eligibility will be asked. The Saturdays do vary, so when I find out which Saturday, I will put a notice on the bulletin board at the Roosevelt Post Office. Call me if you have questions.

Geraldine Millar 609.448.0351

## Vote "No" on April 25 Referendum

On April 25, voters will be asked whether or not to ratify a \$142,500 bond, passed on December 27, 2016, primarily to pay an engineering bill of \$55,000, which was not appropriated.

### Unauthorized Expenditures

The history of how this bond originated is clear in the record of Council meetings. A single Council member privately authorized an engineering firm to perform \$55,000 worth of work on our water/sewer system, after the existing appropriated funds had been expended. That Council member did not first obtain the approval of the full Council or the Chief Financial Officer who is required by law to first certify that sufficient funds are available to pay the bills incurred.

New Jersey Statutes (NJSA 40A: 4-57) prohibits elected officials from incurring any liability, or entering into any contract which by its terms involves the expenditure of money for any purpose for which no appropriation is provided, or in excess of the amount appropriated for such purpose. The statute further states that any contract made in violation hereof shall be null and void, and "no moneys shall be paid thereon."

### A Loan Is Proposed to Pay The Unauthorized Bills

During the November 14, 2016, Council Meeting, Councilwoman Malkin, the Finance Committee Chair, reported these unauthorized expenditures to the Council and the public. This was the first time many of the Council members learned about the unauthorized expenditures. To say some were shocked is an understatement because the Council had not approved these expenditures.

The Council member who had ordered the work to be done, acknowledged that they did not know how the \$55,000 bill would be paid,

because the expenditures were in excess of the funds available. That Councilperson suggested that *we could try to get a loan to pay for the unauthorized expenditures and the additional bills to follow* incurred as a result of the work approved. The firm doing the work was hired on this Councilperson's recommendation in order to save money, however it was learned later that their hourly rate was higher than the engineering firm they replaced.

On December 27, 2016, the week between holidays when almost no one would attend the Council meeting and days before a new Council member would be sworn in effectively blocking passage of the bond, the Council majority approved a \$142,500 bond to pay for their unauthorized study and additional work. Although the bond ordinance on its face certifies that the plans for the work are on file with the C.F.O. and the Borough Clerk, the Borough Clerk has certified in writing that the plans for the work do not exist.

### The Bond Is Challenged By Voters

Citizens have successfully filed a challenge to the bond. The bond cannot be enacted unless the voters in the April 25 referendum approve it.

The proposed bond is to pay bills which are "null and void" and cannot be paid.

N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-57 states *"Any contract made in violation hereof shall be null and void and no monies shall be paid thereon."* Expending public funds without proper authorization is a very serious matter. It is a criminal offense to knowingly do so.

Under (NJSA 2C: 30-4) a person or member of a board or body charged with or having the control of a municipal governing body, commits a crime if he purposely and knowingly: (a) Disburses, orders or votes for the disbursement of public moneys, in excess of the appropriation for that

office, division, department, institution, board or body; or (b) Incurs obligations in excess of the appropriation and limit of expenditure provided by law.

New Jersey Statutes (NJSA 40A: 4-57) prohibits Councilmembers and School Board members from spending the public's money on their own signatures. The law further states *"Any contract made in violation hereof shall be null and void, and no moneys shall be paid thereon."*

### Our Water and Sewer Utility Fund

What makes the proposal to float a \$142,500 bond to pay for this unauthorized expenditure and future expenditures even more egregious is that it was charged to our water and sewer utility fund, a very limited account funded by homeowners water and sewer utility payments.

### An Increase In Your Water & Sewer Bill Will Be Needed To Pay For The Bond If Approved.

Before the Council approved the \$142,500 bond on December 27, 2016, there were already plans in the 2016 budget to bond for \$1.6 million to fund improvements in our water and sewer system. Presently, \$105 of your bi-monthly utility bill is used to pay off debt.

Recently, our Chief Financial Officer informed the Finance Committee that utility rates would have to be raised to pay for the increased expenditures. He stated that the rate hike had nothing to do with election expenses or other miscellaneous costs. He said the utility rate-hike is needed to pay for all of the unauthorized bills incurred.

### Won't We Get Sued By The Contractor If We Reject the Bond?

Because of a borough official's unauthorized expenditures, we are stuck between a rock (the law) and a hard place (a potential lawsuit). On one hand paying the unauthorized bills

may be illegal, on the other, not paying the bill may result in our being brought to court for nonpayment of bills. New Jersey Statutes provides protection for municipalities that find themselves in such situations and states that refusal to pay an unauthorized municipal expenditure is a legal defense in such situations.

#### What Happens If Voters Reject The Bond?

If voters reject the bond, the contractor would have to decide whether or not to sue the town. Because the bills were not legally authorized, the contractor may very well lose in court and incur legal fees as well.

There is always the possibility that we may lose in court. If that happened, our ratepayers would have to pay for the unauthorized \$55,000 bill and legal costs through a one-time utility rate increase in one year.

The best option for us if voters reject the bond might be to negotiate a reduced settlement with the contractor for the \$55,000 unauthorized bill. This would save ratepayers money and avoid a lot of legal costs. The contractor knows that they may lose in court in which case they get nothing. This provides an incentive for them to settle before significant legal fees are incurred.

Michael Hamilton

*The writer is a member of the Roosevelt Borough Council.*

Dear Neighbors,

I want to thank everyone for voting on March 28th. As usual, we had a very high turnout at the polls. Roosevelt residents are known for being involved and having strong opinions.

This leads to my next point. We all know there was a great deal of animosity and anger throughout this two-year ordeal of Emergency Services Building.

Friendships have been shredded and the town divided in a way never seen before. The disrespect shown was unparalleled. But, in the end, it was just a difference of opinion, nothing more.

Some people, such as myself, felt the best course of action to take was contracting out to a nearby town for fire service protection. Others felt it should remain local, and a new building should be built to support it.

Turning it into the debacle it became, is very sad, because, really, it was a difference of opinion.

Now that it's been settled, and the voters chose to contract out, it's time for us to begin planning our course of action for the First Aid Squad. The Safety Committee will meet with the members to determine how best to meet their needs.

Contrary to what the signs around town said, First Aid was never going to be disbanded or abandoned, if the no votes won. The Borough has no legal right or entitlement to do that.

The Fire Department is under the auspices of the Borough; it is part of the Borough. The Borough is responsible for it. First Aid, on the other hand, is an independent organization. We provide space to them and make a yearly donation. We also aim to provide assistance whenever possible. However, the Borough has no right to be involved in their operation.

Our next step is contracting out for fire protection. The mayor is strongly advocating for Millstone to be our provider. However, I believe the far better option is Monroe/ Applegarth.

Millstone offered a contract beginning with \$30,000 the first year, \$45,000 the next, then \$60,000, then \$75,000, and then \$90,000 the fifth year.

Monroe will charge \$30,000 per year for three years. After that, we have the word of two Monroe Fire

Commissioners that it will go up or down a very small amount. They stated this on the record at the Council meeting of March 27, 2017.

Millstone is a paid squad from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. After 6:00 pm it becomes volunteer.

Monroe is a 24-hour paid department. There is a fully staffed department at the station at all times.

Chief Jim Carbin also stated at this same public meeting, that he drove from his station to the farthest point in Roosevelt. [Hilltop Swim Club] It took him 5 minutes and 48 seconds. That was in his own car, driving the speed limit, and stopping for the traffic light at Rt.33. Obviously, in an emergency, the trucks would be going faster, and they have the capability of changing the light at 33.

Monroe will respond to all emergencies in Roosevelt, be it, fire, downed wires, motor vehicle accidents, etc. Roosevelt would never be on a back burner. Once we sign the contract, we are on the same priority level as their own residents. Monroe responded to our fire incident of March 29th, this week.

So, ask yourself, why would the mayor want to spend so much more money, to go to Millstone?

At the end of three years, we would be paying \$30,000 to Monroe, but \$60,000 to Millstone, twice as much. At the end of five years, we would be paying somewhere about \$33,000 or \$35,000, or less, to Monroe, and \$90,000 to Millstone, roughly, three times as much.

This current administration has spent your taxpayer money in unprecedented amounts. Legal bills are much higher than they've been in years, and much higher than towns of comparable size. Administration costs are unnecessarily high.

Bills have been incurred without

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## LETTERS

Continued from Page 7

authorization, and no funds to pay them. There was a bill on this week's list for \$170 for Albivi's Restaurant for the poll workers on March 14th. This was for the postponed referendum.

In all the years I've lived here, poll workers brought their own food, or heated something in the Borough kitchen. We just spent \$170, which is a huge bill, to buy the food. And what happened to that food?

The bill for the March 28th food hasn't come in yet.

Let the mayor and Council know your feelings. Do you want to spend two to three times the amount of money contracting to Millstone, or significantly less, and contract to Monroe, a fully staffed 24/7 Fire Department?

Thank You,  
Peggy Malkin

Dear Neighbors:

The night after the referendum (3/28 between midnight and 7AM 3/29) the bulletin board at the Post Office was set on fire and knocked over. Besides the fact that this was an attack on the entire town, this bulletin board was one of the places in town that any citizen could exercise their first amendment right of free expression. The Environmental Committee could

post information, the kids from school could post their projects and interests, pet sitters and carpenters could advertise and citizens could post their concerns. People would gather, read and discuss issues. It was an oasis of opinions, one way or the other, good or bad, yes or no.

This incident is sad and upsetting. Some people are angry. Some people are fearful. We, as neighbors, should make an honest effort to speak with each other and to listen to each other. We can do better than this.

FYI, when the call was put out to the State Police and Jim Carbin, within 10 minutes there was a Millstone Fire Engine with four responders and Jim Carbin in his Monroe Chief's vehicle. Soon afterwards, a Monmouth County Fire Marshal and State Police Investigator rolled in. An investigation was started and evidence was gathered. We all should rest assured that we are well covered.

If you have any information on this unfortunate incident, please call:

Monmouth County Fire Marshal,  
Kevin Stout (732-683-8856)  
or  
State Police Hamilton Barracks "C",  
Trooper Gonzalez (609-584-5015)

Thank You,  
Joe Trammell

*The writer is the Chair of the Borough Council Safety Committee*

### Senior Group Meetings

The Senior Citizen Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Borough Hall.

At 1:30 pm we frequently have guests who speak about a variety of topics, generally applicable to everyone. Finances, health, and safety in the home are a few examples. Notices will be on the bulletin board at the P.O. All residents are welcome to take advantage of this worthwhile program.

Thank you.  
Geraldine Millar  
President, Seniors

### PET WASTE POLLUTES OUR WATERS

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PROTECT OUR WATERS

Pick up after your pets. Properly dispose of pet waste into the trash. Animal waste contains coliform bacteria, which is harmful to our health.

Carry a newspaper or plastic bag to pick up the waste while walking your pet

When treating your pet and yard for fleas or ticks, check with your veterinarian for safe substitutes. Never dispose of flea dip liquid on the ground or in the storm drain. It should be disposed of as a household hazardous waste.

Visit [www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/rnp/hhwcp](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/rnp/hhwcp) for list of county household hazardous waste disposal centers.

Do not feed wildlife such as geese, pigeons, ducks and deer. Feeding results in more pollution from their waste.

For more information please contact the following:

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

BUREAU OF NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL

MUNICIPAL STORMWATER REGULATION PROGRAM

(609)633-7021

[WWW.NJSTORMWATER.ORG](http://WWW.NJSTORMWATER.ORG)

## Where are our Bright Spots?

-a personal piece by Sharyn Walz

As you may have heard, or even seen for yourself, the Roosevelt Community Bulletin Board was destroyed recently. Prior to that, hikers on the Roosevelt Woodland Trail noticed that the caution signs placed on the puncheons had been ripped off and thrown into the woods. They have since been replaced, and now the bulletin board needs to be replaced as well.

Our Community Bulletin Board is literally the communication hub of our small town. In this day and age of electronic communications, there is still a place for flyers to advertise events, offer services, and provide notices of important issues in town. Even in the face of disagreement, our Community Bulletin Board provides an outlet for the many disparate opinions, a place to post persuasive arguments, and provides food for thought for all who read (and write) the postings. Having the Community Bulletin Board available to us gives us a space to get our messages out to the rest of the community in real time, without waiting for the next

Bulletin edition. I am still “new” in town and I’ve met some of the nicest people while standing in front of the Community Bulletin Board reading the various letters, flyers, and items for sale. More than just a space for written communication, the Community Bulletin Board allows each of us to connect with someone new, or maybe someone we otherwise haven’t seen for a while.

Now that the referendum has been settled, we need our Community Bulletin Board more than ever. Our community has been deeply divided and we must communicate in order to heal. In my three years here, I have witnessed the wonderful, kind-hearted people of Roosevelt, and I know that underneath the tension, there is great pride in this town. I, personally, love it here, and have finally found the place I really belong. It’s OK to disagree on a topic, and it’s important to have a place where everyone has an opportunity to share their positions. We desperately need to rebuild the Community Bulletin Board to restore our communication hub.

This is not a town of vandals. This is a town of hard-working people with good hearts and minds. Some of our residents are artistically talented, some are brilliant, and some are very invested in our community. People like me come here because it is a safe, quiet town surrounded by nature and all of its beauty. Roosevelt is not “perfect,” but our community is our biggest asset. We must not let disagreements fracture our community beyond repair. Small communities like ours are an endangered species and are worthy of preservation.

Starting next month, I’ll be writing a small Bulletin feature called “Bright Spots”, which will highlight acts of kindness between our residents. If someone you know has gone above and beyond for a fellow resident, please let me know so we can share the good vibes. It doesn’t have to be a major event, anything that warms your heart or makes you smile will be right on target. Thank you in advance for sharing the goodness in all of us. Sharyn Walz sbonfonti@msn.com or 609-448-1693

### Calling All Democrats

For all Democrats who would like to get involved in a local Democratic Party organization, you are welcome to attend any and all meetings of these local groups:

- 4th Congressional District: [indivisiblenj4.com](http://indivisiblenj4.com)
- Upper Freehold: [facebook.com/UpperFreeholdDems](https://facebook.com/UpperFreeholdDems)
- Millstone: [millstonedems.org](http://millstonedems.org)
- Monmouth County: [monmouthdems.org](http://monmouthdems.org)

For more information, contact David G. Brown, the Chair of the Monmouth County Democratic Club at (732) 739-8888 or [info@monmouthdems.org](mailto:info@monmouthdems.org).

### Parking Reminder

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

## Norway Maple – Not So Sweet Music

Many people believe that Norway maple wood was used by Stradivarius for the backs of his violins. What was good for Stradivarius is not so good for North American forests. A native of Europe and western Asia, Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) was originally introduced into North America by John Bartram in 1756. George Washington planted Norway maples from Bartram's Philadelphia nursery in his Mount Vernon garden in 1772.

In the 1950-60's, Norway maples were widely planted as street trees replacing American elms killed by Dutch elm disease. As with many things that seemed like a good idea at the time, this was not. Norway maples produce huge numbers of shade-tolerant seedlings. With their shallow, dense fibrous root system, they out-compete many native species. In Europe, their lifespan is up to 250 years, but in North America they only live about 50 to 60 years. Norway maples are fast-growing and do not have particularly strong wood. Branches frequently succumb to storms. Their shallow root systems wreak havoc on sidewalks. Cleanup and repair costs are additional negatives. These characteristics have put Norway maples on the banned lists in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and the invasives species lists in many other states, including New Jersey.

Norway maples are sometimes confused with Sugar Maples (the good guys), because the leaves are very similar. The pairs of winged seeds (called samaras) of Norway maples are inline, while sugar maple seeds meet at an angle. The big tell is that the sap from the leaves of Norway maples is milky, while Sugar maples have clear sap.

Norway maples should not be planted. If you are a guerrilla gardener and find a fast growing great

looking maple sprouting in a corner of your yard, look for the milky leaf sap before you transplant it to a prime spot. If it is a Norway maple, rip it out.

References:

Wikipedia – Norway Maple

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acer\\_platanoides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acer_platanoides)

Laidback Gardener - Norway Maple: the Great Invader!

<https://laidbackgardener.wordpress.com/2015/04/08/lets-ban-norway-maples-in-eastern-north-america/>

North American Native Plant Society



– Norway Maple

<http://www.nanps.org/index.php/conservation/alien-invaders>



## BUY FRESH, BUY LOCAL

### Ten Reasons to Buy Local Food

**Reason #1:** Locally grown food tastes better. It has more flavor, since crops are picked at their peak, instead of being harvested in advance for long-distance shipping.

For a list of where locally grown food is available near Roosevelt, go to <https://tinyurl.com/Roosevelt-Buy-Fresh>.



**Borough of Roosevelt  
Environmental Commission**



**Calling all Roosevelt Citizen Scientists**

Now, more than ever, it is important that we gather and evaluate scientific data from our local environment. In 2017 we will continue the monitoring of the health of our streams that began last year. We will start with a refresher training on doing a biological assessment and then we will go into the field to collect, categorize, and count macroinvertebrates. These critters will give us information about the health of our streams. We especially encourage middle school, high school and college students to join us on Saturday, April 29th. Minors will need a signed waiver to participate in the fieldwork.

- Stream Monitoring Training, April 29/May 27 rain date This workshop will be taught by our NJ Watershed Ambassador.

9 a.m. - Noon: Indoor training at Borough Hall

Noon - 1 p.m.: Lunch provided

1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Outdoor training at Empty Box Brook

Bring boots or waders if you have them. Some waders will be available to borrow.

If you are interested in participating, please email the Invasive Species Committee, which is assisting with registration, [rooseveltinvasive@outlook.com](mailto:rooseveltinvasive@outlook.com).

Although we would like volunteers to signup before the event to facilitate planning, you can just come Saturday and register on site. Stream monitoring will continue during the summer and fall.



**NJ Department  
of Environmental  
Protection**

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DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD).*



## **Free Health Services Available from the Monmouth County Health Department; State-funded Lead Safe Home Remediation Grants also Available**

by Michael Ticktin

The Borough of Roosevelt is one of the 26 municipalities in which health services are provided by the Monmouth County Health Department. Free or low-cost services provided by the Health Department to residents of the 26 municipalities include the following:

- \* free eye screenings and testing for body-mass index, diabetes, cholesterol and bone density
- \* healthy travel vaccinations
- \* hypertension screening
- \* child immunizations
- \* adult immunizations
- \* well child physicals
- \* STDI clinics
- \* tuberculosis program
- \* women's health, including mammography and pap testing
- \* health education

For more information or to make an appointment, call the Health Department at (732) 431-7456.

Any owner of a house built before 1978 who is concerned about the possible presence of lead paint, and whose household income does not exceed 80% of the median for Monmouth County, adjusted for household size, can apply for assistance under the Department of Community Affairs Lead-Safe Home Remediation Pilot Grant Program by contacting the Community Affairs and Resource Center at (732) 774-3282. 80% of median household income for Monmouth County ranges from \$46,300 for a single- person household to \$87,300 for an eight-person household.

# **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

In spite of our best efforts to reduce costs, the Bulletin is running out of funds. We currently do not have enough money to continue to print and distribute monthly editions of our community newspaper through the end of our current publishing year in July.

The Bulletin is the only publication covering the news of our town. It is our only source of information about what's happening in local government, the school, and our local civic organizations. And it provides a forum, through the Letters to the Editor, for anyone to express their opinions on the issues important to the community. If you value these services that the Bulletin provides, please help us to continue publication.

Any contributions you could make at this time, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. If every household that receives the Bulletin contributed as little as \$10 each year, that would provide sufficient revenue to keep us going.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

As of March 29th, 2017, The Roosevelt First Aid Squad responded to and handled 28 EMS calls. Calls consisted of slip and falls, fire support, and Motor Vehicle Accidents,

one of which was an overturned vehicle close to the old gas station. Luckily for the driver, he walked away with minor scratches. The squad transported him to Centrastate Medical

Center for evaluation and treatment. For a small squad, we are able to keep helping our neighbor Squad in Millstone at night as they help us during the day when we sometimes lack coverage. We make sure the town is covered because that's what we are here to do.

The Squad is entirely staffed by town residents

who went through specialized training and we take time out of our schedule to respond to emergencies. We can always use volunteers to keep the Squad going strong. We provide free training and uniforms. You can also attend and get college credits for free, with some restrictions. If interested, please email the squad at roosevelt-firstaidsquad@yahoo.com and, as always, we thank you for your continued support. Donations are always appreciated. Our mailing address is PO Box 274, Roosevelt, NJ 08555.

John D. Vo, EMT-B, National EMT captain@omadesala.com

Roosevelt First Aid Squad, "You call us, we're there."



## County Clerk Hanlon Launches Free Fraud Protection Service

Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon is launching a new service to combat property fraud.

The new Property Fraud Alert system, launched today, is a free subscription service that allows Monmouth County property owners to have their name/property monitored within the Recording Division of the County Clerk's Office, in order to track possibly fraudulent activity.

"Property fraud is considered a growing trend," Hanlon said. "The new Property Fraud Alert will enable users in Monmouth County to proactively respond to potentially fraudulent activity involving their property."

Monmouth County property owners can subscribe to the free alert system by visiting the Property Fraud Alert system online at PropertyFraudAlert.com, or on the phone by calling 800-728-3858. In order to subscribe, property owners must choose "Monmouth County, NJ" from the dropdown menu and provide their name or business name. Property owners may register additional names free of charge to cover common misspellings.

A subscriber can easily verify the information received via an alert and view the actual document that was recorded by visiting the Monmouth County Open Public Record Search website at oprs.co.monmouth.nj.us, or by calling the Property Fraud Alert call center at 800-728-3858. The call center is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

If you have any questions about the Property Fraud Alert service, please call the Monmouth County Clerk's Office at 732-431-7324, ext. 8909 or e-mail CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us.

## Property Maintenance Reminder

This is a reminder to the residents and property owners in town that it is their responsibility to maintain their property according to community standards. These are some examples of property maintenance issues that are becoming all too common in Roosevelt.

- Please mow your lawns. Grass height must not exceed 10 inches.
- Do not store excessive amounts of clutter in your yards. The front yard should not be used for permanent storage of equipment or debris.
- Excessive visual damage to the exterior of your home. Things such as broken or boarded up windows or hanging gutters need to be repaired

Failure to maintain your property detracts from the beauty of the community, it is disrespectful to your neighbors, and it is against the law.

The code enforcement officer has the authority to issue warnings and summonses for property owners who do not comply with the statute. Receiving a summons means a court appearance and, if found guilty, fines range from \$250 up to or greater than \$1000.

If you have any questions regarding property maintenance, please contact the code enforcement officer John Marini. He is at the Borough Hall Tuesday evenings from 5 to 7 pm.

# Contributors to the Bulletin 2016/2017

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare  
James Alt & Susan Schwartz  
Robin & Robert Axel  
Helen Barth  
Elsbeth Battel  
Bruce & Irene Block  
Karen & Marvin Block  
Linda Block  
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna  
Susan & Robert Cayne  
Maureen & Bob Clark  
Keith & Patricia Clayton  
Dina Coe & Greg McGrath  
William and June Counterman  
Paul & Elise Cousineau  
Marie DelPiano  
Kay Drury  
Frances Duckett  
Virginia Edwards  
Lou & Irma Esakoff  
Bob and Ellen Francis  
Judith & Ed Goetzmann  
Eitan & Karen Grunwald

Len & Michelle Guye-Hillis  
Al Hepner  
Constance & David Herrstrom  
David & Louise Hoffman  
Gail Hunton & Wes Czyzewski  
Cynthia Imbrie  
Michelle & Rick Jaeger  
Sheila & Phil Jaeger  
Anna & Ben Johnson  
Susan Jones  
Bahiru & Ann Kassahun  
Lynn Lawson  
David & Joanna Leff  
Jill Lipoti & Brad Garton  
Claudia Luongo & Ken Maffeo  
Alan Mallach & Robin Gould  
Pamela Masiello  
Julia & James McArdle  
Geraldine Millar  
Ed & Rose Murphy  
Teri Nachtman  
Lian Neeman  
The Ng Family

Bob & Alison Petrilla  
Gregg and Elizabeth Possiel  
Richard & Hope Pressler  
Steve & Peggy Ring  
Patricia Roberts  
Roosevelt Arts Project  
Merle & Irv Rose  
Helen Seitz  
Jonathan & Jean Shahn  
Shirley Sokolow  
Cornelia Spoor  
Michael & Linda Szewczyk  
Michel Ticktin  
Mary & Rod Tulloss  
Sharon & Andrew Unger  
Natalie Warner  
Ralph & Nancy Warnick  
Bob & Judy Weinberg  
Frank Wiesinger &  
Theresa Secks  
Zahora family  
Mark & Judith Zuckerman  
Gerben & Jennifer Zylstra

Help us to fill up this page.

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

## Help Wanted

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is a fully volunteer effort of its writers, editors, layout artist, and distribution captain. We would like to expand our team:

Roving Reporter – 4 hours a month – Write short features that focus on Roosevelt-specific themes.

Managing Editor in Training – 4 hours a month – Work with current Managing Editor to learn the editorial ropes for eventually assuming this esteemed role. Learn valuable editorial skills from a seasoned, if slightly over the hill, former professional editor who will unreservedly share everything there is to know about the production of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin.

## BUSINESS SPONSORS

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

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#### Pamela J. Masiello Bookkeeping

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Roosevelt, NJ 08855  
828.423.7882  
[pmkreationstation7@gmail.com](mailto:pmkreationstation7@gmail.com)  
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**A P R I L**

Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
4 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
5 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
<b>8 Sat.</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Roosevelt Arts Project: Spring Cleaning for the Soul (Poetry) Hosted by David Herrstrom</b>
12 Wed.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
13 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
18 Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President
19 Wed.	7:00 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall, Eitan Grunwald, Chair.
19 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
24 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
27 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061
29 Sat.	9:00 am -3:00 pm	Roosevelt Town Wide Yard Sale Hosted by RPS PTA

**M A Y**

2 Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
2 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
3 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
<b>5 Sat.</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Roosevelt Arts Project: The Roosevelt String Band Borough Hall</b>
<b>6 Sun..</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Roosevelt Arts Project: The Roosevelt String Band Borough Hall</b>
8 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
11 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
16 Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President
17 Wed.	7:00 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall, Eitan Grunwald, Chair.
17 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
22 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
25 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061

**CODE RED for Emergency Notification**

Please sign up to receive emergency notification from the Borough's CODE RED system. Stay informed, stay safe! You can register by calling Borough Hall or by visiting: <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/E317CFCBE3FD>

**RECYCLING DATES**

April 5, 19  
MAY 3, 17

**ZONING PERMITS**

Tuesdays 4 - 6 PM

**STATE PERMITS**

Wednesdays 1 - 3

**BOROUGH**

**HOUSING**

**INSPECTIONS**

Tuesdays 5 - 6 PM

Borough Hall

An electronic calendar was installed on the Roosevelt Board of Education's website containing information about state testing, upcoming field trips, events and additional pertinent information. Learn more about all of the happenings in our school, visit RPS website: [www.rps1.org](http://www.rps1.org). Please send notice of your events to Bulletin at P.O. Box 221 or email to [RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com).