

Bulletin

Volume 47 Number 7

April 2025

Hearing on Proposed Cannabis Ordinance Draws Large Crowd

by Rick Pressler

On April 7, the Roosevelt Borough Council hosted a well attended hearing on the recently proposed Cannabis Ordinance No. 2025-07, which would allow for the cultivation of cannabis within the Borough's R-AG/400 agricultural zones and the construction of cannabis cultivation facilities on appropriately zoned properties along Rochdale Avenue and Nurko Road. The ordinance would eliminate the current prohibition against cannabis cultivation, while preserving prohibitions against distribution, sales, manufacture of cannabis products, medical dispensaries, and consumption in public locations.

The ordinance would create a transfer tax of 2% on any cannabis sales within the Borough, as well as a 2% user tax on license holders operating more than one cannabis business for any transfer or use of cannabis not subject to the transfer tax. No estimate of tax revenues was provided at the meeting, and questions arose during the meeting regarding whether the taxes would result in any meaningful income to the Borough. The ordinance also would also establish requirements for licensing, security for cannabis facilities, odor mitigation, and "sufficient buffering" with residential properties abutting the facility, although no specific buffering requirements are included.

The Borough Hall meeting room was filled to capacity with an estimated 80 to 100 people present. Speakers were largely Roosevelt residents, although several Millstone residents also spoke; almost all spoke out against the proposed ordinance, citing degradation of the physical environment and character of the community, as well as the potential ongoing nuisances of high intensity lighting, truck traffic, onerous security measures, and odor.

Farm owners seeking to benefit from cannabis cultivation spoke out in favor of the ordinance. Lawrence Mendies, owner of Mendies Farm on Rochdale Avenue,

spoke about the challenges of maintaining a farm business in New Jersey and the economic benefits of cannabis cultivation to struggling farmers. Other pro-ordinance speakers disputed the negative impacts of construction, facility operation, and security measures on the community, and touted the economic benefits of the cannabis business.

In a written statement released prior to the hearing, the Fund for Roosevelt, a local chartered non-profit that supports the preservation of open space and historic elements in the Borough, came out strongly against the ordinance: "It is not difficult to imagine what North Rochdale Avenue and Nurko Road, would look like if this were to happen, and the ... [f]arm properties were all built up with rows of warehouses, surrounded by high fences and brilliantly illuminated 24/7. The greenbelt would be turned into a dystopian, barren no-mans land..." The statement also questioned the tax issue: "...there is a significant likelihood that the Borough would never see any money from this tax."

No definitive data about potential tax revenues was presented during the meeting. In a follow up interview, Council Member Constance Herrstrom indicated, "It's too early to tell what the effect of the tax would be, and further research is being conducted."

The Borough Council tabled the ordinance subject to further consideration and amendment, and may reconsider the ordinance at its next regular Council meeting on April 21 at 7:00 pm. Information about Council meetings, contact information for officials, ordinances, and other Borough information is available on the Borough official website <https://www.rooseveltnj.us/>.

Disclosure: Rick Pressler serves as a board member of the Fund for Roosevelt.

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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.

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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CONTRIBUTING

WRITERS

Sharyn Walz	Steve Taylor
Rick Pressler	Ron Kostar
Al Hepner	Sam Ashburner
Larisa Bondy	Richard D. Smith
Marianna LeCompte	

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Hope Pressler

WEB MASTER

Assenka Oksiloff

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Help Wanted!

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc., is a New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

Claudia Luongo Sworn in as Newest Council Member

By Rick Pressler

The Roosevelt Borough Council met on March 17, 2025 and began with the swearing in of Claudia Luongo, whose term will run until the certification of the next general election.

The Council moved forward with several resolutions, which were passed through the consent agenda:

- Approval of the payment of bills for March 17, 2025.
- Authorization of a transfer of appropriations for 2024.
- Waiving of January and February water and sewer utility billings.
- The amendment of Council committees for the year 2025, with Claudia Luongo assigned as chair of the utilities committee.
- Awarding of a contract for improvements to North Valley Road.

The Environmental Commission reported on ongoing initiatives, including a meeting to discuss the watershed and a joint session with the Millstone County Environmental Commission. The importance of securing additional funding for the Roosevelt Woodland Trail project, particularly for the segment from the triangle to the school, was discussed. Council members discussed the need for an additional \$1,000 to be allocated, but no action was taken.

Roosevelt String Band

This Spring's Roosevelt String Band show will be on Sunday, May 4, at 3 P.M. This performance will include songs to **lift spirits** while also **subtly pointing to the problem**. These include songs from singer/songwriters such as Woody Guthrie, Nancy Griffith, Leadbelly, Holly Near, Bruce Springsteen, Stan Rogers, and many others.

The band this year will feature Ed Ceder on a variety of string instruments, Joe Pepitone on bass, Noemi Bolton on banjo/uke, guitar and vocals, Nancy Wilson on vocals, Guy DeRosa on harmonicas and David Brahinsky on guitar and vocals.

Come and hear the classic Roosevelt sounds!



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 – Part 3

By Ron Kostar

RK: How long did you live in Roosevelt?

PM: Eleven years. We moved here in 2013. Prior to that we lived for many years in an isolated country setting, in a couple of places in Bucks County, where we didn't have much of a social life. We'd have literally two friends (laughter). And that was fine with us. We were raising kids, and we were busy. So, we didn't have much of a social life, (I still don't have much of a social life (more laughter)).

But once we got here, we were overwhelmed with the welcome! We felt that, among you and all the other people, this giant set of arms took us in and welcomed us to the town! And since we've been here, we've remarked to each other how we've never had so many friends. We've loved it here, it's been great! Roosevelt is fabulous! It's a unique town, interesting and unique, and we've loved living here. We've never had so many friendships and interesting relationships with people. Again, prior to living here, we were kind of isolated and just raising our kids, and raising kids and working is a full-time job. It was always a workaday struggle, as it is for 99% of the world's population, and we got by, but we didn't have much of a social life until we moved here and then – Wow! People were inviting us to dinner, and people were coming over, hanging and playing music. And it was lovely! We enjoyed every minute of it and we're sad to go, but now we have a different chapter that we have to start.

RK: As you look ahead, Pat, what do you see in your future? What are you looking and hoping for, both musically and personally as a family, in your future in Texas?

PM: We're moving to a town outside of Austin. Our daughter lives in a small city called Taylor, it's about 17,000 people, and it's about a half-hour east of Austin. We found a house about a half-hour east of Taylor, so

we're going to be about an hour from Austin.

Our daughter has a 6-year-old son, and a year and a half son, and she's due with a daughter next week. That will be her third, and she doesn't have a lot of family down there. So, our primary goal is going to be to help her and help with the kids and get to know our grandkids.

RK: And musically?

Musically, Austin is one of the great capitals of the world. It's known as the musical capital of the country. There are more music venues there than in almost any American city. There's a huge scene and there are a lot of opportunities.

So, my plan is to tap into it a little, probably by seeing if there are any jam sessions or open mics. I'll do that not only in Austin but in the area where we're living; and I'll see how it goes from there, one step at a time. Find out about places, show up and meet people, find other places, and meet more people. And start getting into it in that way.

So, we're moving to help out and support our daughter and help out with our two, and soon-to-be three grandchildren, who we love to death, and then take it from there.

RK: On a closing note, on this beautiful fall day in your lovely funky familiar studio, the scene of many memorable collective moments, on Homestead Lane in Roosevelt, I'll try not to get corny, which is not easy for me ...

PM: You can't be cornier than me ...

RK: OK, let's be corny together (laughter). Do you have any parting words that you'd like to say to the historic village and people of Roosevelt?

PM: I can only express my thanks to all the people who have been such good friends and good companions and musical friends, and that extends beyond Roosevelt to our friends in the surrounding areas as well ... All I can express right now is "Thanks!"

We've felt so welcome, Roosevelt is

such a beautiful place, this property [motioning] is gorgeous and I'm sorry to leave it ... I would love to be able to take it with us. But in fact, the place we found down there is a ranch house and it has some similarities, it's on a half-acre and is in a quiet neighborhood

There are some similarities other than the fact that there will be 85 days of plus-100-degree temperature. That's one thing we'll have to cope with.

So, we're looking to move to a place that's similar ... But as far as Roosevelt, it will always have our hearts and we'll be here for the rest of our lives and I'm sure we'll come back for visits.

And for our friends who care to, there's an open door for them in a house outside of Austin and we'll have an extra bedroom so if you want to come to visit us make a plan and come on down and stay for a couple of days, or stay for a week and we'll be happy to put our friends up for a Texas vacation in which we'll, you know, take you to Austin, explore the area, take you out to eat and take you to places to hear music.

That's what we're looking forward to.

THE END

Roosevelt Public School is currently seeking substitute teachers. Requirements include the completion of 60 college credits, a criminal history record check and a county substitute certification. If interested, please contact Mrs. Green at sgreen@rps1.org or 609-448-2798 for application process and information.

Counting

I do not remember
when I first learned
to count. And what,
by chance, did I count
first?

And when, still later,
did I learn that I myself counted,
amidst all others
who ran faster, could hit
the tennis ball –
as my father said (I was 7)
at the end of my
first tennis lesson,

“And when
You can hit 99
balls,
in succession
to within one inch
of the far
baseline,
we’ll go on to backhand.”–

Was it when I learned to play
an instrument, and when the ladies
at the Merion Cricket Club –
where he umpired – asked,
“Do you play?” and I replied,
“Yes – the trumpet.”

--Judith McNally

Come Pick Tulips with the Roosevelt Seniors Group!

Our next outing will be a trip to **Holland Ridge Farms** in Cream Ridge (www.hollandridgefarms.com) on **April 24th** (with April 25th as a rain date). This should be peak tulip blooming time!

We will meet at **10 am** Holland Ridge at 10am and then have lunch at **La Piazza** (lapiazzaristorante.com) in Allentown.

All are welcome to join us, however, we need to know how many tickets to get (they operate on a reservation system only). The regular price is \$17 .00/person but we can get a group discount for 20 or more people for \$15.00/person.

Please email rooseveltseniorgroup@gmail.com by April 21st if you are interested!



Save the date for our upcoming River Lady Lunch Cruise!

On June 5th, we will once again enjoy a luncheon cruise on the River Lady paddleboat in Toms River (riverlady.com).

We are holding 30 seats on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are \$27.50 for members of the Senior Citizens of Roosevelt, \$55 for others. (Any senior in Roosevelt can join for \$15/individual, \$20/couple, one-time fee.)

For more information, email michael@mischu.me or call 973-568-7979



Sign Up for Code Red!!

Receive emergency
notifications from the borough.

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

Stay safe! Stay informed!

Roosevelt Health Fair and Resource Day

Date: May 6, 2025

Time: 11:30 - 1:30

Location: Roosevelt Borough Hall

- Access to up to 20 vendors in Healthcare Industry
- Raffle Prizes
- Share your health-related questions with experts
- Serving light refreshments

Sponsored by: Senior Citizens of Roosevelt

Program in Association with: Caregiver Volunteers of Central NJ

Questions? Email michael@mischu.me or call 973-568-7979

2/14/2025

Mayor, Council and Fellow
Rooseveltians:

I have been here for 14 years or so. I have been involved in service to others for all of my life. In my 14 years here I have been on the Environmental Commission, Planning Board and Council as well as offering my tech skills to RAP. During my tenure I was involved with the Gas Station, EMT, FD, Water Plant, Waste Water Plant, EPA, DEP, State Fish and Wildlife, Drainage, new HDPE water pipes in more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the town and repairing oversights and mistakes in the utilities here.

It has been my honor and privilege to have done what I could to help this Borough.

Now, it is with a heavy heart that I find that I must resign from the Borough Council effective today. My reasons are personal but I have loved working with a well-oiled Team. It is my hope that this new council will follow thru in keeping services high and taxes low. As I get back to my retirement that I interrupted when I got involved here I will always be available to offer my knowledge when needed.

As always,
Respectfully Submitted
Joe Trammell

A Moment

The light of dusk
appearing in fractals
through summer's full foliage –
the light will shine through,
wherever it possibly can!

--Judith McNally

Book Review: The Renaissance Man Project

Editor's Note: Nathaniel Kostar, author of *The Renaissance Man Project*, is a native Rooseveltian currently living in Mexico City. The Renaissance Man Project is his first published work of non-fiction. We solicited reviews from two of our local writers/contributors David Sten Herrstrom and Robert Axel.

From David Sten Herrstrom:

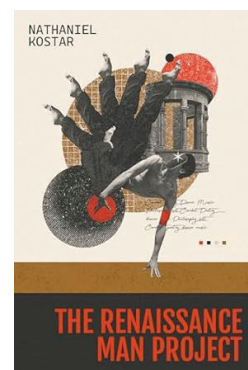
Wonderfully conceived and constructed, this book is an adventure. We travel with the author as he turns his life into an experiment to discover who he really is. He decides that to answer this question requires him to travel the globe. But before setting out he embraces an ideal, which is to meet the requirements for becoming a courtier in a royal palace. In our time and place who would have imagined? These were recorded by the Italian Renaissance author Baldassare Castiglione in his 16th century *The Book of the Courtier*, such as being "well built" able to "demonstrate strength and lightness and suppleness." Our author summons up the courage as well as the confidence he must have to do this, laying out a six-month plan to travel the globe and seriously study the necessary skills. And our reward is a wonderful account of his six-month journey from Thailand to Italy, then New Orleans to Puerto Rico and Mexico. He starts his vowed discipline in Thailand, welcoming the country's beautiful but brutal sport, as he admits, Muay Thai.

Then he finds himself in Italy studying a beautiful but not brutal game, making poems. As we continue traveling with him, we discover that our narrator gives us an infectious comedy as well as a serious probe of himself. In short, as he decided early on, he succeeds in turning his life into an experiment. We see him riding waves of confidence that at times

break on the shore of self-doubt. What he does best is, as he says, "observing and standing around." But what observations he shares with us often seize us, finding that we've learned not just about the author but about ourselves. And the author of this exhilarating book, knowing that "it takes courage to discover who you are and what you want," shows us that he has the courage. He moves from confidence and assertion to self-doubt, from life as an experiment to life as joy. So his book ends with a marriage ceremony, which all of us who've been in love would have wanted to write.

From Robert Axel:

What grabs me is Nathaniel Kostar's development of the notion of what it means to be a total personality - and Nathaniel's quest to become the man that he is becoming. A person is a blend of sensitive, artistic, intellectual, creative, physically powerful body, emotional and spiritual attributes. Not everyone has to be a Renaissance person/MAN--- but for those of us who love all aspects of life, Nathaniel Kostar's memoir reinforces our unique dreams and hopes colored in by his journey to find wholeness. I was right there with him all the way as he drew verbal, visual and intellectual pictures of his poetry, martial arts training, art, yoga, dance practices. It is a very real, thought provoking book that also explores his relationships along the way. I embrace the Renaissance Man in me and reading this book only reinforces my own unique journey along my path towards self-actualization. A good read.



The Roosevelt Arts Project

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

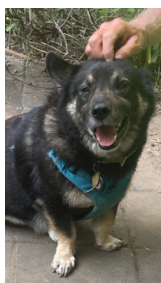
DATE	VENUE	EVENT
Saturday, April 5, 2025, 7:30 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Avenue Roosevelt, NJ	Poetry Event Saturday, April 5, 2025 • 7:30 PM • Roosevelt Borough Hall Come join the Roosevelt Poets for a Love Fest with the alphabet!
Saturday, May 4, 2025, 3:00 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	Roosevelt String Band Sunday, May 4, 2025 • 3:00 PM • Roosevelt Borough Hall The 38th annual Roosevelt String Band Concert with David Brahinsky, Ed Cedar, Joe Pepitone, Noemi Bolton, Guy DeRosa and Nancy Wilson will perform a variety of folk and blues songs, from the Irish/Scottish/English/ Appalachian traditions and from the folk revival of the 1960's and 70's to today's singer/songwriters.
Saturday, May 31, 2025, 7:30 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	Ron Orlando in Concert Saturday, May 31, 2025 • 7:30 PM • Roosevelt Borough Hall Former Roosevelt resident Ron Orlando returns to the Borough Hall, in a solo concert of some of his (and our) favorite songs.

Visit RAP's webpage at <http://www.rooseveltartsproject.org> for a complete schedule..

I Saw A Cat.
By Oli Macher, translated by Mary Macher

For his doggie friends who don't "know" yet.

"Oh, no, no, no! You don't want that."
That's what I heard when I saw a cat.
"You're a doggie and that is not."
It will hurt you without a doubt."



Got fur like me, might play and run.
Just gotta try. Hey, might be fun.
Gettin' real close. Can't see me yet.
Looks real friendly, hmm, someone's pet.

Tail's a waggin' and movin' slow,
Preppin' up for a friendly show.
Takin' my chance, I'm so, so close.
Yikes! My goodness! It slashed my nose!

Recycling Reminders

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

Please remember:

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



From the Foundation

This winter the temperatures dropped but the learning certainly heated up at RPS! The teachers and staff have been working hard and creating unique lifelong educational experiences for students. We are so grateful for their creativity in envisioning positive programs for all students, and we are thankful for our supporters and donors who help to make these learning opportunities a reality. Experiential learning, or learning that takes place outside the classroom, develops critical thinking, creates enthusiasm for learning, and exposes students to a range of real world contexts and career possibilities. Thank you for your continued support!
-RPSEF Trustees



Left: K & 1st Grade students observing stingrays at Jenkinson's Aquarium. **Right:** Famous penguins like Captain Jack and Jonesy loved by young and old alike!

Winter Experiences and Excursions: Aquarium Adventures & Leaving the Planet without Leaving the School!

The popular grant funded field trip for K-1 graders was a success yet again as our young students journeyed to Point Pleasant and the aquarium at Jenkinson's to get an up close and personal experience with Wally (the two-toed sloth), marine life, birds, and of course those flightless feathered friends- penguins!

Students observed the animals and learned from keepers about the daily routines, sleeping habits, and favorite activities of the different species. Jenkinson's aquarium houses marine life, birds, and a collection of invertebrates.

Recently all RPS students experienced a truly out of this world experience when SkyDome Indoor planetarium visited the school. This grant-funded presentation brought the stars to the students and was an inspiring demonstration for all. The portable, inflatable planetarium was set up in the gymnasium

and students crawled through a small tunnel that led to the interior of the dome. The learning benefits of this experience are immense. The dome-shape allows for a visual immersion and creates a full-sensory experience. The students were in awe of the star-filled "sky" and the dramatic trips to other planets. In addition to learning about the solar system and constellations, programs like this stimulate curiosity and wonder in ways that transcend traditional learning. The feedback from students was fantastic- with some parents happily telling us that their kids couldn't stop talking about the presentation!

Grant Updates

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

- Visiting Artist Program (Grades PreK through 5th)
*February: Wire Art
*December: Clay work
- State Theatre of New Brunswick (Grades K-3): Under the Magic Moon a Retelling of the Peter Pan story
- Young Audience "Musiquita" performance (Grades Pre-K-5): a bilingual interactive educational experience
- Insectropolis: The Bugseum of New Jersey (Grades K-1)



Left: Inside the SkyDome students were identifying different constellation creatures in space. **Right:** Students are excited to enter the portable planetarium!

Fundraiser Updates/ Stay Tuned

- End of year appeal earned over \$5,000.00
THANK YOU for your donations!
- Stefan Martin Prints available for purchase through our website www.rpsef.org



Principal's Update from Ms. Lindsay Perine

Kindness Committee

Each month, one student per class meets to share positive experiences and ideas with Ms. Perine (principal) and Mrs. Roth (social worker) to improve our school climate. Their insights are shared with our staff Climate and Culture Committee to foster a supportive and inclusive environment while allowing students to feel and know that their ideas are heard, shared, and implemented throughout the building.

Climate and Culture Committee

A group of 11 staff members collaborates to enhance our school culture. Recent discussions include refining lunchroom expectations, organizing school-wide events, updating the mission statement, and creating core values unique to Roosevelt. A staff and community word cloud will be sent out soon to identify key values and create an acronym that truly represents us. It should be noted that ALL members graciously volunteered their time, which echoes the community and dedication of our staff!

Care Team

Formerly the Safety/Climate Team, the newly restructured Care Team focuses on safety, security, and behavioral support. The team has undergone training and is updating procedures to proactively address concerns while fostering a supportive school environment.

RPS Masterpieces

One of our talented 3rd-grade students has created a monthly art contest, celebrating different themes each month! March's theme was **Reading**, in honor of Read Across America, and the winning artwork is now proudly displayed in our lobby. With Roosevelt's deep roots in art, this contest is a wonderful way to showcase student creativity. Next month, in celebration of **Earth Day**, we're challeng-

ing students to create something unique using recycled materials. We can't wait to see what they come up with!

We're wrapping up our **March Madness Book Bracket** this week and can't wait to see which book comes out on top! It's been amazing watching each grade read through the selected picture books with guest readers and vote in this fun knockout-style tournament. Stay tuned for the big reveal of our winning book!



PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Roosevelt Public School School Year 2025-2026

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

Pre-school students must be 3 years old and toilet trained to start in September 2025; otherwise they can register/start when they turn 3 years old throughout the school year.

Preschool fees are as follows:

Roosevelt residents - \$3,250/year or \$325/month

Out of district students - \$4,500/year or \$450/month

Students who turn five on or before October 1, 2025 are eligible for entrance into kindergarten in September 2025.

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

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

All students must have the appropriate immunizations to begin school in September 2025. This information will be provided when you register your child.

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

Roosevelt Public School's website contains complete school calendar information: www.rps1.org.

The Angry Old Woman & the Immigrants

by Nathaniel Kostar

Encounters in Mexico City: Confronting prejudice and finding unity in the little things

By Nathaniel Kostar

Published in The Narrative Arc, October 17, 2023. Reprinted with permission from the author.

[Insert PhotoKostarNate.jpg]

[Photo Credit: Photo by Jhon David on Unsplash]

I'm walking my Chihuahua 'Chia' and my friend's Schnauzer 'Simón' on a chilly, overcast Monday afternoon in my neighborhood — El Centro Histórico in Mexico City. Simón likes to stop in every public flower bed, the only "green" spaces amidst this otherwise concrete jungle, sniff the plants, and take a tinkle, as if to say — "Simón was here."

On the way back to my house, he's doing just that when an old lady and her husband approach rapidly. "Saquelo de ahí," the woman shouts at me. "Get him out of there."

I'm taken aback. In Mexico, especially the city, people tend to mind their own business, and all of the neighbors let their dogs do their duty in these small, public gardens.

"¿Por qué?" I reply.

"Esta ensuciando," She quips. "He's getting things dirty."

Is this woman really worried about my dog getting dirty?

"They're dogs — Why do you care?"

She starts speaking quickly and angrily. With everything that goes on in this neighborhood — drunks and drug addicts passed out on corners, motorcycles blowing red lights, speeding down "pedestrian-only streets" — why is this lady so worried about my dog sniffing around a flower garden?

Her husband stands behind her, speechless. I don't see his face — it is empty, the way the faces of cowards always are.

"Déjanos en paz," I say. "Leave us alone."

And then she hits me with the zinger: "Vete a tu país."

"Go back to your country."

I look up as she's walking away. She repeats it, this time with more confidence and conviction, "Vete a tu país."

I've lived in this neighborhood for eight years, and no one has ever told me to go back to my country. I can feel my heart rate accelerating.

"Pinche vieja cabrona," I think. "Vete a tu barrio culero. Go back to your shitty neighborhood." But it is too late to respond.

I walk to my local newsstand in shock. "Buenas tardes," the man with three teenage boys who all rock flat-rimmed baseball caps just like him says. "Buenas tardes, amigo," I say, as I pass him change for two loogie cigarettes.

I see Concho, the guy who maintains our building. Last week, he helped my wife fix a window. Afterward, we ate dinner together at our dining room table. "Que onda carnal?" I say. "What's up, my brother?"

Something in me wants to tell him what just happened, but I stay silent. I walk to the store, el pollería, to buy something for lunch. Two kids are carving up a chicken for a woman who's about the same age as the stranger who just told me to go back to my country. Last week, one of the kids who works there told me he was turning twenty-five soon and that he was afraid of getting older.

The woman buying chicken is joking with them. "¿Por qué no cocinan el pollo, con mole or algo?" she says.

"Why don't you cook the chicken with mole sauce?"

She looks at me and smiles invitingly.

"I agree," I say in Spanish. "So we wouldn't have to cook it ourselves."

Her dog, who I see nearly every morning hanging out at the local fruit stand, is walking freely in and out of the store, exploring smells.

"What's his name?" I ask.



"Botitas," she replies. "Little Boots." An older woman walks in. "¿Están ocupados, jóvenes?"

"Are you busy, young men?"

"No, we're not doing anything at all," the almost twenty-five-year-old replies with a smile, although they are both busy carving up chicken quickly and efficiently — their sharp blades slicing through the pale meat like butter.

I smile. There is a playfulness in the air.

The older lady asks the dog's name as he sniffs around our feet.

"Little Boots."

"¿Qué?"

"Little Boots."

"What?"

"Boots."

She is in her late 80s and hard of hearing.

Nobody seems to recognize my accent.

No one seems to notice that I am a foreigner in a foreign land doing the best I can to keep up. And if they do, they don't seem to care.

I can feel something changing inside of me. Something is dying and being reborn.

My heart rate has slowed down. My anger has turned into a subtle joy. I almost tear up, but I don't because it would be inappropriate to cry in a chicken shop. What would the almost twenty-five-year-old think of me then? I walk back to my apartment with my fresh chicken breasts in hand. Yesterday, there was a family of immigrants sitting in front of our door all day —

Continued on Page 11

Did you love Chemistry Lab in high school or college?

We have a job for you!!

For the last 3-4 years a small team has been collecting water from Empty Box Brook in Roosevelt and performing chemical tests to measure the health of the stream. We are using a "chemistry kit" and following the protocol from the Watershed Institute in Pennington. The testing must take place on the 3rd weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) of every month and reports are sent to the Watershed. We take training at the Watershed before beginning and also must do a "practice" sampling once a year to demonstrate that we are following the protocol correctly. The group is a committee of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission.

It generally takes 1-2 hours to do the tests and two people are required per session. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the secretary of the Environmental Commission, maria@rooseveltnj.us

We enjoy working together and this is an important job. Some of the water in Roosevelt's creeks ends up as drinking water in the Delaware River. We hope that you can join us and make this important contribution to the health of your neighbors.

Springtime Promise

By Oli Macher, translated by Mary Macher

Dedicated to any others who are done with Winter and can't wait to dig in the dirt.

She said that there soon will be
A lovely cloud we both can see
On a spot of land on a favorite street,
Made by rows of cherry trees.

Fluffy soft petals the palest of pink
Seemingly shaping a pastel cloud
To float our thoughts to sunny days
And gardens filled with Springtime hope.



The Angry Old Woman & the Immigrants
Continued from Page 10

now they are gone. Two young kids and a mother no older than twenty huddled under the stoop sharing a tiny blanket as the father asked people passing on the street for change. The father had light skin and green eyes. I looked into them when I asked, "Where are you guys from?" "Venezuela," he replied. "Headed north?" I said. "Si," he replied.

Late in the day, as a light drizzle began to fall on the city, I bought him a warm coffee, and my wife gave them and another family of Venezuelans a bag of clothes, a blanket, and a towel. Unfortunately, we did not have anything that fit the children, but the youngest girl seemed to like the Huichol-style hat we'd gifted. She laughed and giggled as she tried it on. As day turned to night, my wife wrote

down the names of cheap hotels, but by the time she was ready to pass it to them, they had left.

People are moving. The world is breaking. But it is also being healed. It is not healed by supporting or defeating this or that politician. It is not healed by clever articles or new theories, by newscasters or pundits, outraged students or college professors, artists or activists, protests or calls for revolution.

It is healed by regular people performing small acts of kindness each and every day — a conversation, a handshake, a hand on the shoulder, a seemingly meaningless transaction or joke.

The world is breaking, so let us break together.

The world is healing, so let us heal together.

Let us look into each other's eyes and

say without words, "I understand."

Nathaniel Kostar is an expat writer based in Mexico City. His blog, available at <https://substack.com/@natelost>, is focused on his experiences living in Mexico for the past eight years. He has recently published his first non-fiction book *The Renaissance Man Project*. (Reviewed in this issue.)

Public Health Emergency?

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



ROOSEVELT ADVENTURES

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2025

ROOSEVELT ADVENTURE CAMP & TEEN EXPLORATION CLUB

when? **CAMP:** JUN 30th to AUG 15th
MON - FRI, 9AM-1PM

CLUB: JUL 8th to AUG 14th
TUE & THURS, 2PM-5PM

**NEED AFTERCARE UNTIL 5?
LET US KNOW!**

who? **CAMP:** Campers entering 1st to 7th grade
CLUB: Teens entering 7th to 11th grade

where? Rotating Locations around greater Roosevelt
and the Assunpink Wildlife Area

SUGGESTED PRICING

Family discounts and scholarships available,
**OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR EVERY FAMILY WHO
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN!**

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

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email Gus at gus@rooseveltadventures.com, or call at **609-462-3041**

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

Roosevelt Adventure Camp

Roosevelt Adventure Camp
by Delaney Hopf (6th grader)

I've been attending Roosevelt Adventure Camp for two years in a row, and this year I will be starting in the Teen Club. Everyday is filled with fun, entertaining activities. Some days could include biking, canoeing, water fights, hiking, and bracelet making. There are choices for everyone and every age. The camp counselors are also very kind and considerate. They make sure no one feels left out and that everyone has the best experience possible. Gus and the counselors taught me perseverance and bravery. Though sometimes the activities are tough and push you to your limits, it gets easier and easier as you continue to push yourself. Being a part of the camp has taught me to push myself and appreciate nature and spend more time outside.

Roosevelt Adventure Camp
by Cooper Barret. (6th grader)

I am super excited to tell you about the one and only Roosevelt Adventure camp! Getting there is easy, we go to a different location every day like Assunpink, the Roosevelt Amphitheater, Etra Park, Etc. We also have regular days, and bike days where we can bring and ride our bikes. We also have water days, where we bring swimsuits and do something around the water. When you arrive on your first day, you will be given a notebook that will be used in camp. After you say hello to your camp buddies, one of the camp counselors will give you a fun question, or drawing to put in your notebook like if you could combine two animals, what animals would they be, and what would they combine into, and what would they look like? Which is always a nice way to start your day. (that rhymed.) Then, we get into an activity which always varies, but is normally a game or a brief hike.

Eventually, we'll have a lunch break then we'll have three electives which can be stuff like games we did earlier, chill things like sidewalk chalk, or bracelet making. And, maybe one of the many famous camp games, like camouflage, clothespin ninja, and the legendary capture the flag. If there are two electives you love, we will have two rotations where you can switch activities. Then, there's a closing activity, which also has a chance of being a famous camp game, then our parents come, and you say, see you tomorrow to your friends.



Band Saw

Oh, how I wanted to be
a carpenter, once.
To work with the wood,
be one with the grain,
be ever so grateful
to the trees
until one day
at the band saw
I looked down
at my hands,
up at the eight-foot
saw above, then
back down at my hands,
and said in that moment,
'No, I don't think so.'

--Judith McNally

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.

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

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

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

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

Borough Mailing Instructions

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

You can pay your
Water/Sewer Bill and Taxes
on-line
Go to www.rooseveltnj.us

**BE A GOOD
NEIGHBOR**
Please clean-up after
your dog.



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.



Find us on
Facebook

Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements.

www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin

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

BUSINESS SPONSORS

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

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RECYCLING DATES

April 9, 23

May 7, 21

REMINDER FOR RECYCLING:



3 ft.



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.

PRSR STD

Postal Customer

Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0221

A P R I L

5 Sat 2:00-4:00 Howard Kauffman Memorial
Kickball Game
Roosevelt Public School

5 Sat 7:30 pm Poetry Event
Roosevelt Arts Project
Roosevelt Borough Hall

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

9 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

11 Fri. Early Dismissal
Roosevelt Public School,
East Windsor Shool District

14 Mon -18 Fri Spring Break
Roosevelt Public School
East Windsor Shool District

16 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
Borough Hall

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

22 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting
Borough Hall

23 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

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

25 Fri. Early Dismissal
Roosevelt Public School

28 Apr - May 2 Scholastic Book Fair
Roosevelt Public School

M A Y

4 Sun 3:00 pm Roosevelt String Band
Roosevelt Arts Project
Roosevelt Borough Hall

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

5 Mon. Bulk Trash and Branch Pickup
See www.rooseveltnj.us for more info

6 Tues 11:30-1:30 Health Fair and Resource Day
Borough Hall

7 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

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

20 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting
Borough Hall

21 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
Borough Hall

21 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

26 Mon. Memorial Day

26 Mon. School Closed
RPS and East Windsor Shool District

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

29 Thurs. Field Day
Roosevelt Public School

30 Fri. Early Dismissal
Roosevelt Public School

31 Sat 7:30 pm Ron Orlando in Concert
Roosevelt Arts Project
Roosevelt Borough Hall

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

Office Hours:

Mondays 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Inspection Hours: Mondays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

<https://rooseveltnj.us/other-government/zoning-officer>

Code Enforcement
Officer

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

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

Construction and Permits

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

Questions regarding building permits should be directed to:
Department of Community Affairs - 609-567-3653
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.