



# Bulletin



Volume 41 Number 8

May 2018

## Councilwoman Robin Middleman Filepp Resigns; Steven Bowen Chosen to Fill the Vacancy

By Michael Ticktin

In a letter included in the agenda for the April 23 Council meeting, Councilwoman Robin Middleman Filepp submitted her resignation as a member of the Council. She stated only that she was resigning because she felt that it was the right time for her to step down, that her resignation was effective immediately (as of the date of the letter, which was March 28) and that she had found it to be “enlightening, challenging and engaging” to serve in public office.

In accordance with State law, the members of the local Democratic committee, namely Mayor Peggy Malkin and Councilman Michael Hamilton, had 15 days to present a list of three names of registered Democrats to the Council, for the Council to choose one of them to fill the vacant seat. On April 5, Democratic committee members Malkin and Hamilton nominated Steven Bowen of 40 Tamara Drive, Luke Dermody of 31 Homestead Lane and David Curtis of 2 South Rochdale Avenue. A motion to appoint Mr. Bowen was made and unanimously approved and he was duly sworn in by Municipal Attorney Greg Cannon.

At the request of the Environmental Commission, Mayor Peggy Malkin issued a proclamation calling for the observance of Arbor Day in the Borough of Roosevelt. Issuance of an Arbor Day proclamation, as well as the observance of Arbor Day by the planting of a tulip tree donated by Steve Taylor at the Roosevelt

Public School, are actions for which the Borough will receive credit when it applies for renewal of the bronze-level certification it earned last year from the Sustainable Jersey program.

The Council approved resolutions providing for the payment of bills, authorizing temporary emergency appropriations (despite its name, a routine procedure made necessary by the fact that municipal budgets are not formally adopted until midway through the calendar year, so the Borough has to have emergency appropriations for ordinary operations until then), authorizing a shared services agreement with Hightstown for repair and maintenance of utility lines and roads (work that Hightstown does at its own cost, which is far less than what would otherwise be paid to private contractors), redesignating the members of Council committees due to the change in Council membership, and appointing Councilman Cody Parker as the Council’s representative on the Planning Board. A proposed resolution by Councilwoman Maureen Parrott concerning procedures to be followed for the authorization of any professional fees for which the Borough would be liable was held for further review.

The Council approved the use of the Borough Hall by Jill Lipoti on May 15 for a private event and announced that branch pickup would be during the week of April 23 and bulk pickup would be on May 7.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letters	5	Travels	11
Roosevelt Public School	6-7	Movie Review	12
Environmental Commission	10	Spring All-Town Litter Pick Up	13

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 41st 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 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](http://www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm), courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at [www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org](http://www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org), the official website of the Borough Bulletin. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please send your request to [rpessler32@gmail.com](mailto:rpessler32@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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# From the Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

What a winter this has been!

As I write this, we are recovering from 4 Nor'easters, and it's still really cold and dismal. We were lucky in that, we only lost power once, although Farm Lane homes lost theirs twice. I'd like to thank Jerry Riccardi, our JCP&L representative.

Those of us who have lived in Roosevelt a long time know that the power frequently went out, and it was quite a long time before it was restored. We spoke to Mr. Riccardi some years ago about this. We informed him of our situation in town; that we live a good distance from a commercial district, and that we have a sizable senior citizen population. Mr. Riccardi promised to look into it. Since then, we have electricity restored much more quickly. In this last storm, we we're restored much earlier than many other towns.

On a sad note, we lost two Roosevelt people recently.

Nancy Hamilton died on March 21st. She was a beloved 29 year resident. Our hearts go out to Mike and his family. As is so often the case in Roosevelt, many friends and neighbors rallied around the Hamiltons during Nancy's illness. The house was always bustling with neighbors bring food, groceries, and companionship. Nancy's funeral was a true unique Roosevelt good-bye. Seeing all the family, friends, and neighbors standing on the hillside, singing, speaking, hugging and kissing, was so touching.

It will be very hard not to have Nancy with us.

On April 4th, Debbie Nahmias Daur passed away. Debbie was Judy and Norman Nahmias's daughter. She was born and raised in Roosevelt, and now lived with her husband and children in Lawrenceville.

Sitting in the temple at her service was, again, a touching reminder of what it is like to spend your life here. Friend after friend spoke of growing up here, the bond they shared with Debbie from childhood until the present, and most of all how much fun they had.

Again, our hearts go out to Judy, Norman, Michael, and Debbie's husband and children.

Hopefully, next month's letter will be a happier one, with better weather, no emergencies, and no losses for anyone.

Peggy

## 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

### 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

CHECK OUT THE BOROUGH'S  
NEW WEBSITE:

[www.rooseveltnj.us](http://www.rooseveltnj.us)

REGISTER FOR E-NEWS ON THE HOME  
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TIONS FROM THE BOROUGH.

YOU CAN NOW VIEW AND PAY YOUR  
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### 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.

### Property Maintenance Reminder

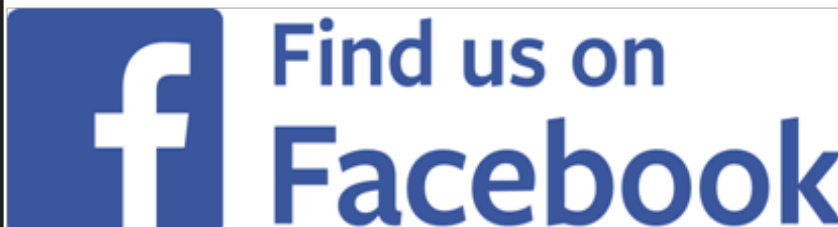
This is a reminder to the residents and property owners in town that it is their responsibility to maintain their property according to community standards. These are some examples of property maintenance issues that are becoming all too common in Roosevelt.

- 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.



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

If you would like your organization's event posted to the Bulletin's Facebook page, please send event details to [rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com](mailto:rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com).

## LETTERS

Dear Editor and Neighbors,

In the March 2018 issue of The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Mayor Peggy Malkin stated that the current Council has “begun taking action to address physical plant and management issues at our Water/Sewer utility.” I was stunned by her statement that “these issues have been ignored for a long time.” Mr. Hamilton has said at several council meetings that the current Council is addressing issues that have been “neglected” for a long time. While I support the volunteers who serve on our local governmental agencies, I find these statements disheartening because they disregard all of the hard work and efforts of the individuals who served before them.

I have attended most of the council meetings during the past two years and I continue to do so. I recall many discussions by the prior Council regarding the steps that were being taken to address issues with the water and sewer systems. In my opinion, one of the most important steps was the hiring of an engineering firm that specializes in small water and sewer systems like ours, to review the state of our water and sewer systems and to perform a study of our sewer pipes.

As I understand it, this study was undertaken because huge amounts of stormwater passes through our sewer system through broken pipes, overtaxing the system. By identifying where breaks exist, the town can fix the pipes and address this particular problem.

The prior Mayor and Council worked with the State to get a commitment for a series of low interest loans and grants to cover expenses not only related to this initial study but also necessary repairs or replacements to the sewer system. The Council also passed the first required bond ordinance, which would have qualified the Borough for a grant for a large portion of the cost of the initial study and related work. The benefit of a grant is that it is free money; it does not have to be repaid. The benefit of a bond is that the cost can be paid over a long period of time, at a very low interest rate.

Unfortunately for the Borough, a group of residents, led by some current Council members and supported by Mayor Malkin, filed a referendum to defeat the bond (and thereby our ability to get low interest loans and grants) and convinced enough residents that defeating the bond would some-

how benefit them. These same individuals challenged other efforts of the former Mayor and members of the Council to address issues in the town. These issues were not being ignored, but the efforts to address them were certainly being undermined.

Our political system is built upon the premise that citizens should have the right to express their opinions, and that politicians should express differing opinions and engage in honest debate. However, casting aspersions on the actions of those who served before you does not elevate you to a higher position. It accomplishes nothing. So I implore the current mayor and council to stop disparaging your predecessors through these types of negative statements. You will, in due time, become a predecessor, and you will undoubtedly want to be treated with the respect your predecessors deserve.

I encourage all of the citizens of Roosevelt to come and attend the council meetings. They are long, and they are not all that exciting, but they are very important to the future of our town.

Sincerely,  
Sharlene Ellentuck

### USED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT:

Used Computers – towers and monitors only, laptops and Televisions may be brought to the Hightstown Public Works Yard located at 156 Bank St. for disposal. Please place inside the walk-in Good Will container. Hours of operation for drop off are: Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

### SIGN UP FOR CodeRED!!

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THE BOROUGH.

HAVE THE NOTIFICATIONS GO TO YOUR  
LANDLINE, OR CELL, OR BOTH!

SIGN UP BY GOING TO

[www.rooseveltnj.us](http://www.rooseveltnj.us)

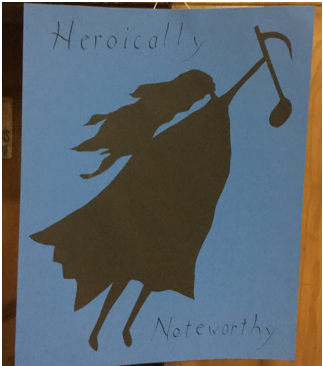
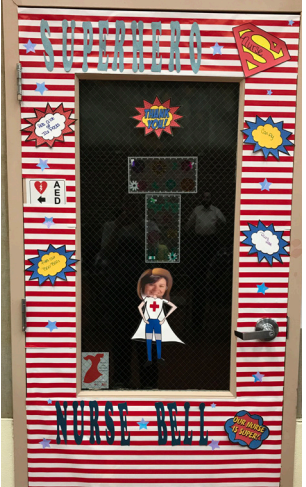
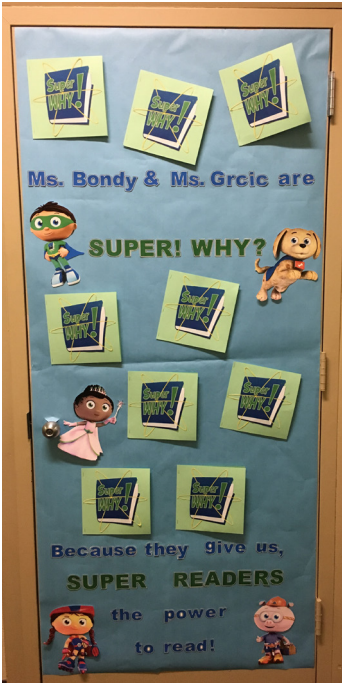
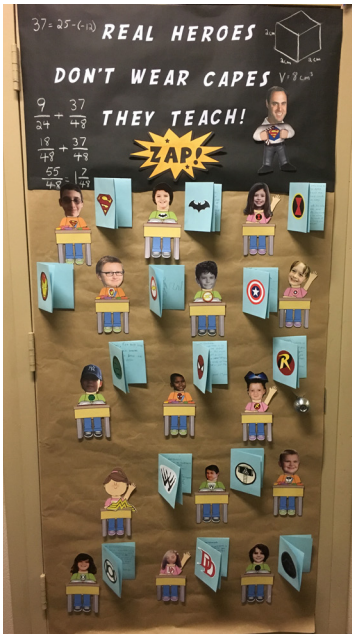


STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

This year Staff Appreciation was celebrated May 7-11th organized by the PTA and other parent volunteers. We had a Superhero Theme as teachers and the staff are our SUPERHEROS!

The schedule for this year:

- Sun. May 6th Door Decorating
- Mon. May 7th Breakfast (Pre K-2nd)
- Tue. May 8th Superhero Supplies
- Wed. May 9th Sweet Snacks (3rd-6th)
- Thu. May 10th Words of Inspiration
- Fri. May 11th Staff lunch



Thank you to all of the teachers and staff for your hard work!!!!



## Roosevelt Public School Clothing Drive



New Jersey  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild. onevoice.<sup>®</sup>*

UPCOMING PIZZA DAYS

May 9 & 23

NEXT PTA MEETINGS

May 8 @7pm

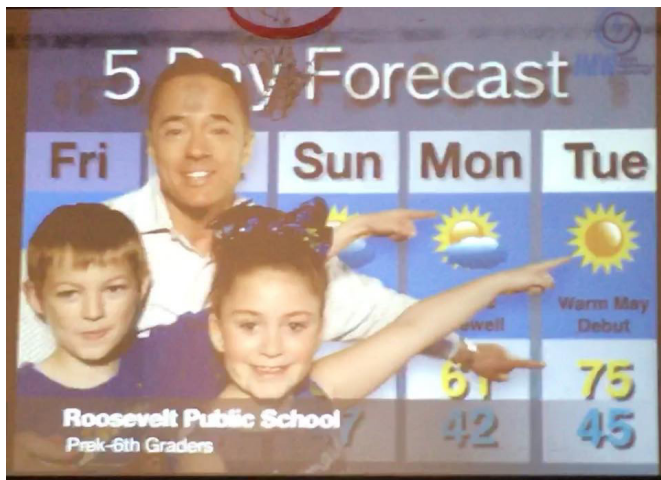
Last Meeting of this School Year

For more information, and the latest on PTA events follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rpspta/>

## Earth Day at Roosevelt Public School

We had a fantastic Earth Day today! John Marshall Weather gave a fantastic assembly, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife came out to teach us about animals in the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area and animal conservation, and Butch Balon arranged some great games and distributed milkweed seeds to help attract Monarch Butterflies!

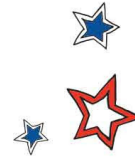




Saturday, May 19, 2018 · 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

# Camp Congress for Girls

Presented By  
Political Institute for Women



From the boardroom to the courtroom, the need for female leadership has never been clearer or more urgent than it is today.

To better engage girls in the political process, the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore is offering an exclusive Camp Congress program to ALL 6th-10th grade girls from Monmouth and Ocean counties. Girl Scout membership is not required.

Presented by the Political Institute for Women, this full-day immersion into the world of politics will provide girls and young women the tools they need to empower themselves and assume their rightful role as leaders.

Camp Congress is Saturday, May 19, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Wall Township Marriott. The price for this program is \$55. During the program, girls will meet elected officials and political consultants. A light breakfast, lunch and a snack are also included. The registration deadline is Wednesday, May 16.

For more information, email the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore, or call (800) 785-2090.

## 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

Make an appointment, call the Health Department at (732) 431-7456.

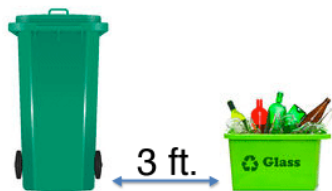
Any owner of a house built before 1978 who is concerned about the possible presence of lead paint, and whose household income does not exceed 80% of the median for Monmouth County, adjusted for household size, can apply for assistance under the Department of Community Affairs Lead-Safe Home Remediation 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.



## Scholarships Available for Roosevelt Summer Camp

There are three, \$100 scholarships available from the Sarah Tulloss Memorial Fund to support children attending the Roosevelt Summer Camp. Sarah loved attending summer camp – doing crafts, playing games and swimming (back in the day there was swimming). If you are interested and have a financial need, please send us a brief note to P. O. Box 57, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Mary & Rod Tulloss

### 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.

## County Division of Transportation Expands Hours

The Monmouth County Division of Transportation is pleased to announce that beginning Monday, October 2, 2017, SCAT transportation services will be expanding its hours of operation. For further information, please call 732.431.6480 ext.1. This change may be able to accommodate your transportation needs, including:

- Medical
- Share-Ride
- Dialysis
- College Classes
- Disabled Work
- And much more,,,

Borough of Roosevelt

PO Box 128

Roosevelt New Jersey 08555

Phone: 609 448 0539 Fax: 609 448 8716

recreation@rooseveltnj.us



## Camp Roosevelt

(For children entering 1st grade through 7th grade)

*“Community-Friendship-Respect”*

The Borough of Roosevelt is proud to offer Camp Roosevelt, led daily by Larisa Bondy and Gus Vuolle. The camp is based on the motto “Community – Friendship – Respect.” This program will offer traditional camp activities such as sports, games, arts and crafts, trips and special themed events, but with an additional emphasis on community based activities, outdoor skill building and exploration.

The program will run for six (6) weeks from Monday, July 9 – Friday, August 17 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The cost of the program is \$450 per child. An After Camp program also will be available from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at an additional cost of \$290 dollars per child. A few short bus trips are being planned which may require an additional fee. A camp calendar will be provided on the first day of the program.

A \$100 deposit is due for Camp Roosevelt and a \$50 deposit is due for After Camp upon registration, with the balance due by June 22. This is not an additional registration fee. The deposit simply assures us the amount of children attending for proper planning. Deposits will be refunded only if the program is canceled. We will only offer the program if enough children register. A parent/guardian packet of information will be available in June and must be completed and returned on the first day your child attends the program.

Registration forms are available at Borough Hall. For any questions leave a phone message for Eric Schubager, the recreation director, at Borough Hall (609-448 0539), or contact Larisa Bondy at [Larisabondy@verizon.net](mailto:Larisabondy@verizon.net).

Join other good neighbors at

## ROOSEVELT SOLAR VILLAGE

North Valley Road, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

- One and Two Bedroom Units for Adults Age 62+ Years Old
- Some Units Available for Disabled Individuals 18+ Years Old
  - Rent is Based on Income & Eligibility Requirements
  - Parking available • On-site Maintenance

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 609.371.1350**

Managed by: Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey



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### Muhlenberg Ornamental Grasses

Continuing on with our friendly garden plant species, I would like to highlight the beautiful Muhlenberg grass. Although there are multiple species of Muhlenberg, (aka Muhly grasses), the New Jersey native; *M. capillaris*, ranges from New York south to Florida and as far west as Texas. *M. capillaris* is an ornamental clumping grass with green to blue-green foliage and pink, purple, or red blooms that form in late summer into fall after other flowers have faded. My research into growth revealed some discrepancy, but it seems like plants reach an average height of 2-3' tall and can spread 2-3' as well. Their territory is ubiquitous and they can be found on coastlines, in grasslands, and in forest habitats. In addition to being attractive, Muhly grass can also be beneficial to your garden. They are deer resistant, attract beneficial insects, pollinators, and provide seed, cover, and nesting material for birds.

If you're a lazy gardener like me, Muhlys are the perfect plant. Once established, they can withstand wind, mild drought, and poor soil. However, they will also grow well in

average - moist soil provided it is well drained. They prefer full sun to partial shade and make good border and rock garden plants. According to the US Department of Agriculture, these plants are endangered in New Jersey so it would be good to plant some. They are readily available at many garden centers.

You may see the taller Silvergrass, *Miscanthus sinensis*, at garden centers. It is similar, but a bad choice as it is not a native and is known to be invasive.

#### References:

<http://www.abnativeplants.com/plant/Muhlenbergia-capillaris>

<http://www.jerseyyards.org/plant/muhlenbergia-capillaris/>

[https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs\\_muca2.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_muca2.pdf)



**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.**



**Travels: Heathrow and Zambia  
Part 3- January 18, 2008  
Just a few words about the 17th  
and 18th.**

Heathrow as you may have heard had an accident on a runway that delayed nearly 50 flights' arrivals and departures. While I dreamt of my safari leaving without me because I'd have missed the only connecting flight to the one very special part of the trip, I decided, after wiping my tears, that I'd hang around Africa a while anyway, and go on to Australia; and then the plane was announced 20 minutes late.

A sigh of relief and an hour later we were on our way. I nearly missed my connection in Johannesburg because I took a wrong turn in the airport. To compensate for my idiocy, I walked into the executive suites of Johannesburg Airport offices to complain about the lack of good directions, and noticed that I could spot my airplane from every corridor of this labyrinth. A woman in an elegant business suit, which I assumed was the standard airline attendant's uniform in South Africa, explained to me that it was because the President of the Airport had to be able to see all the incoming and outgoing traffic. She made calls and explained that a maturish man with a denim shirt was completely lost and needed to find his flight. After a second call she was asked if that man was a "Mr. Albert," as the whole airplane was patiently waiting for him. As I left her office, I noticed the sign outside her door- Airport Director. Not two weeks out of Roosevelt and I'd managed to breach airport security, mistake an airport director for a flight attendant, and have a jet full

of people wait an extra 15 minutes; Roosevelt, School Lane, where are you? When I got to the plane, all the passengers were all smiles; but their gratuitous smirks made me feel slightly more stupid than I'd felt when I'd discovered my outrageous meandering mistake.

Once in Livingstone, I took a taxi (van) for 10 people but was the only patron. I was glad the driver was ready to engage in answering questions about Livingstone, the capital of Zambia at the time. The city felt ordinary in that there weren't elaborate buildings or endless neon lights advertising things most of us might not need or want; although I spied one clothing store at a stop at a red light that had the most exhilarating looking clothes (just ignore what I just said—whenever I use adjectives describing clothes, ignore me). The city made me feel calm about being in a strange place for the first time. I'd barely started asking the driver some questions about the environs when he was asking me questions about my interest in Zambia. I don't think we'd driven more than just a few streets that he wanted to know if I'd be interested in investing in Zambia. When I asked him what he meant by investment, he simply asked me if I was interested in buying property. He suggested that thousands of acres were likely available for what to us Americans would be an inexpensive price, and there would be opportunities to farm or build.

It was shocking to be approached so openly, it sounded nearly inviting enough to consider. I nearly did, but something else he volunteered kept me from answering.

Later on during the safari I discovered I'd done well to resist getting involved in purchasing land. The government really frowned on foreign investors; it turned out I'd have had to marry a Zambian, and I wasn't quite ready for that. I'd been glad that he had asked me questions about myself and America, but was sorry not to have had more chances to ask him about the lovely peaceful ride.

We arrived at the Waterfront Hotel in Livingstone, Zambia. The river, an estuary of Victoria Falls, and the bright yellow sunset were breathtaking. I couldn't believe how lucky I'd been to have chosen this place to spend time both before and after the safari I was about to undertake. I was led to my room, a well-furnished wooden cabin. If the surroundings weren't enough to convince me that I was in Africa, the bed crowned with a net dropping from its frame to protect the sleeper from malaria infested mosquitoes, would convince anyone that this was Africa. I dumped my suitcases and returned to the views and the bar.

I sat down in the restaurant/bar. I felt so exhilarated that I spread my limbs, took a deep breath and looked up. Instead of looking at the squirrels in Roosevelt, white monkeys were monkey-ing around in the trees directly above me. It made me giggle and glad they were small and playful. For then it felt as if I were on a movie set as a stand-in. I wanted to become more involved and be part of this glorious place, which was to start the next day when I would get into the bush. No more Internet Cafes until the 3rd of February. Scary but also gratifying!



**Movie Review:  
“The Death of Stalin”**

What could possibly be funny about the life and death of Joseph Stalin?

In Scottish Director Armado Iannucci’s movie satire, “The Death of Stalin,” Stalin per se is not funny, but the circumstances and reactions surrounding Stalin’s death, which takes place early in the movie, and the power grab it sets off among the upper level of Soviet apparatchiks as they connive and jockey for power, is dark and funny and often hilarious.

If there ever was a movie that illustrates Marx’s maxim, “History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce,” this is it.

“The Death of Stalin” opens with a high-pitched emotional crisis and it sustains that anxious, if not panicked, pitch throughout.

In the opening scene the Moscow symphony has just completed a beautiful and rousing a Mozart recital which Stalin himself has enjoyed on the radio. Wanting a hard copy, the Premier calls symphony hall and asks the station manager to send him a recording. Unfortunately, no such recording has been made, so the panic-stricken manager rushes to reproduce the performance. He reassembles the orchestra, rouses another terrified conductor (who thinks he’s being arrested) out of bed; bribes the reluctant featured pianist (the lovely Maria Yudina) to stay and play; and herds peasants in from the street to provide a new audience. Everyone realizes the importance of appeasing if not pleasing Stalin, and the fatal consequences of disappointing him. In other words, everyone kowtows and truckles for his or her life.

The orchestra repeats the performance and Stalin does receive his copy, but the next thing we know the Premier is lying on his bedroom floor, stricken by a brain hemorrhage from which he will not recover. Word of Stalin’s death quickly reaches his inner circle, and what follows is buffoonery and black humor at its best, with the inner circle of buffoons including:

- Beria, the chief of the security and secret police, a brutal, shameless man who made lists of people who were carted off in the night and usually didn’t return. Beria was responsible for millions of Russia being deported and/or executed during the period known infamously as the Great Purge, and even in this satire Beria is seldom funny, at least intentionally.
- Deputy Secretary Malenkov, a spineless, bumbling, hapless man whose own wife has been executed and who is in line to be Stalin’s successor, though he’s woefully unfit for the job.
- Foreign Minister Molotov, who had a fiery cocktail named after him.
- Andreyov and Bulganin, and Party Head Nikita Khrushchev, who positions himself in the middle of the scrum for power but, more than anyone, is portrayed as being relatively rational and competent and somewhat sympathetic because of his desire to put an end to Stalin and Beria’s Reign of Terror and initiate reforms.

What ensues is a farce, a black comedy, as this group of banal, power-seeking, scared rabbits, who have been traumatized by their knowledge of and participation in 20 years of state-sanctioned terror, try to survive in the Shadow of Stalin and perhaps rise to power.

That Director Iannucci can make you laugh, and sometimes howl, while

watching these five or six buffoons finagle, connive and fall all over themselves, and over each other, against a somber backdrop of Beria’s security forces (the NKVD) rounding up fellow Russians and executing them on the spot or shipping them off to Siberia, is a testament to Iannucci’s skills with satire and gallows’ humor.

But he does just that.

And, for the record, Khrushchev, whom we remember for pounding his shoes on a table at the United Nations and squaring off with President Kennedy during the Cuban Crisis; as events unfold in the movie that same Khrushchev engineers a coup whereby the Russian Army, commandeered by Field Marshal Zhukov, who has little respect for the inner circle politicians, overpowers Beria’s security forces; and Khrushchev convinces the other apparatchiks to condemn and quickly execute Beria, which leads the way for Khrushchev, rather than the hapless Malenkov, to rise to power.

And while all this – amidst plenty of rapid brilliant verbal comedy – took place at a snappy pace, I laughed and other people in the audience laughed, but we also squirmed and shook our heads and felt a little uncomfortable, which I suspect is Director Iannucci’s intent.

Five Stars and a certain Oscar nominee

Interesting facts: “The Death of Stalin” is based on the graphic novel “La Mort de Staline” by Fabien Nury and Thierry Robin.

If you like this movie, you might also enjoy Russian writer Nicolai Gogol’s play “The Inspector General,” and his short stories “The Nose” and “The Overcoat.”

# Spring All-Town Litter Pick-Up

On Saturday, May 5th, residents worked together to keep Roosevelt clean.



I asked my boys to make sure there was no trash near Mighty Pete, their favorite tree to climb. Simon looked serious and said, “Mom, there isn’t. No one would litter around Mighty Pete. He’s been here a long time and watches over Roosevelt.” -Lee Dmochowski



## 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

## Become Part of the Bulletin Team!

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.

We offer an excellent work environment (your home) and terrific benefits (people actually do say thank you a lot). The only requirements are that you must be able to send your material via email and translate all your work into Esperanto (actually, the Esperanto is optional).

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



# Contributors to the Bulletin 2017/2018

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare	Al Hepner	Allen Newrath
James Alt & Susan Schwartz	Constance &	The Ng Family
Sam & Nicole Ashburner	David Herrstrom	June Ord
Robin & Robert Axel	Len & Michele Hillis	Maureen Parrott
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**M A Y**

1	Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall
1	Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Borough Hall
2	Weds.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
<b>12</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Roosevelt String Band in Concert, Borough Hall</b>
14	Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
15	Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President
16	Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall,
18	Weds.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
<b>20</b>	<b>Sat.</b>		<b>Roosevelt Arts Project Annual General Meeting Roosevelt Public School</b>
28	Mon.		Memorial Day - RPS & Borough Offices Closed
29	Tues.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
30	Weds.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
31	Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Ken LeCompte, President

**J U N E**

5	Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall
5-6			Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal
6	Wed.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Borough Hall
11	Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
13	Weds.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
14	Thurs.	Evening	Roosevelt Public School Graduation
18-21			Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal
19	Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President
20	Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall,
22	Thurs.		Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal Last Day of School!
25	Tues.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
27	Weds.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
28	Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Ken LeCompte, President

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**RECYCLING DATES**

May 2, 18, 30

June 13, 27

**STATE PERMITS**

Wednesdays 1 - 3

**ZONING PERMITS**

Tuesdays 4 - 6 PM

**BOROUGH HOUSING**

**INSPECTIONS**

Tuesdays 5 - 6 PM

Borough Hall