



Bulletin



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Why the Amphitheater Matters

by Alan Mallach

As a Roosevelt resident for over forty years, or almost exactly half of my life, the village we share matters deeply to me. At the same time, as an urbanist and city planner, I have studied cities and towns around the world to try to figure out what makes them tick, and why some places just seem to work, and others don't. So when I travel, there's a part of me that looks at the rest of the world through Roosevelt-colored glasses, and when I'm home, there's a part of me that looks at Roosevelt through a lens made up of hundreds of other cities and towns. I suspect we all do that to some extent, as we all have experienced other places, and nearly all of us moved here from somewhere else.

Two things that matter greatly, I've found, in town after town are beauty, and shared spaces. Beauty, to be sure, is subjective, but not entirely. People look for beauty in their world, and feel better about and prouder of their community if they can think of it as beautiful, or containing beautiful things. If you asked a bunch of Roosevelt people what is beautiful about our town, especially around now as spring comes in, I suspect nearly all would probably say the woods, or the fields along 571 coming into town. But there aren't many things about the town itself that are beautiful. But I'll come back to that.

Shared spaces, or common ground, are the public spaces where people come together. They are the basic building block of being a community. In ancient Athens, everybody gathered in the agora, the central open space in the heart of every Greek city. Today, in Italy, everyone still gathers daily in the piazza (the direct descendant of the agora) usually around five PM, for what is called the passeggiata, a leisurely stroll where everyone can say hello to everyone else, catch up on gossip, kindle romantic interests, or just enjoy the evening. Shared spaces cre-

ate the social glue that strengthens people's bond with the community, and makes the community stronger and more cohesive.

Closer to home, think about how Hinds Plaza, on Witherspoon Street in Princeton, has totally changed the entire character of downtown Princeton – for the better – by providing an attractive, welcoming space for things like farmers' markets and tango lessons, and even more, for just hanging out and meeting friends.

Roosevelt has few shared spaces. The post office is one, up to a point, although nobody ever accused it of being beautiful. But the most important one, by far, is the amphitheater and the head of FDR. It is also the closest thing to a beautiful built space (as distinct from our natural environment) that we have. That is why what happens to it is so important.

It is more than that, however; it is the symbolic heart of our community. It reminds us that Roosevelt is just not one more miniscule village, a dot on the map, but the product of a unique vision of an egalitarian, cooperative community which was made possible by FDR's New Deal, a unique moment of social and economic experimentation in American history. It was a Utopian vision, and one that predictably failed in most respects, but it is the distinct and special heritage that we share, and which is symbolized by the FDR memorial.

For all these reasons, I believe that restoring the amphitheater to where it can become once again not only beautiful, but a truly valued shared space, the way it was sixty years ago, is so important. As it has deteriorated, and lost the lighting and electric service that once had, it has become less and less useable for events, for gatherings, for RPS classes, or for just hanging out on pleasant evenings. No, Roosevelt is not an Italian town, and we are unlikely

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Submission Process

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

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

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

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

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

SENIOR CITIZENS: There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and where you wish to go.

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

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ever to take up the custom of the passeggiata, and we don't have the density of people thronging downtown Princeton, but I am convinced that a restored, beautiful amphitheater, with electrical service and lighting, will see far more use, both formal and informal, than is the case now.

More than that, I believe it will become a point of pride for all of us, the sort of place that makes us feel better about the fact that we live here, and that we'll make a point of showing off to visiting friends and relatives. True, it does not serve what one might call a basic function, like providing water service or filling potholes. All of that is critically important. But one thing we know about human beings is that meeting basic functional needs is not enough. Beauty and community are not luxuries, but necessities. Without them, we may survive physically, but spiritually and emotionally we wither.

That is why I, along with a small, dedicated group of Rooseveltians, have committed our time and energy to working on the amphitheater restoration project over the past year, and why I believe that even in the face of competing demands, it is important that the Borough commit to its share of the cost of the restoration. It is why I also believe that a fund-raising campaign to help defray the Borough's share – which I believe the Borough Council and the Fund for Roosevelt are planning – is important, and that it will get a warm response from both past and present Rooseveltians. And when it comes about, I plan to contribute generously.

Alan Mallach lives on Pine Drive. His latest books are *Smaller Cities in a Shrinking World*, and *America's Changing Neighborhoods*.

Newish Oldish in Roosevelt

by Larisa Bondy

We all know that you can be considered "new" to Roosevelt even if you have lived here 15 years. But there are also "new olds" here. Several families have had children returning to live in their own Roosevelt address, some with new Rooseveltians in tow, ready to attend the same elementary school as their mom or dad.

Lindsay Bernardin (now Fox) grew up on Elm Court with Mom and Dad. Lindsay left Roosevelt for North Carolina and then Pennsylvania, but she returned to the fold on Lake Drive with her husband Matt and two young boys, Wesley and Bennet. The eldest is in 3rd grade and goes to RPS, just like Lindsay did. Welcome back Lindsay (although she is an older new, been

back for ten years!)

Next, we have Cody Parker, one of the three boys of the Parker family on Oscar Drive. Cody moved back in August of 2022 with partner and artist Amanda Neubart and their pre-schooler Rayne. They moved into Carol Watchler's! Rayne also walks the same halls as Dad did. Cody runs the successful "Drop the Beet Farms" which installs, operates, and teaches schools and businesses about aquaponic ecosystems.

Another "comeback" is Tim Curry. Tim was a volunteer firefighter in Roosevelt for years, living on Pine Drive, then left for a bit to live in Pemberton. This winter he moved back to Roosevelt with his wife Lorna and two

young ones, two and one, who will be entering RPS soon enough. Moving into Bruce Reinbolt's house, Tim takes his legacy seriously and has already started volunteering for open gym night at RPS.

Welcome back to our young Rooseveltians, and if there are more of you, let us know for our next edition!



Roosevelt Borough Hall

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

Two Punches

by Albert Hepner

I had been round, not fat, just round. Then WWII came, and my eating habits changed. I spent two years in a convent that could barely feed its nuns. I lost so much weight that when I was returned to my mother, she didn't recognize me. I don't think my skinny body bothered me. I just became more vulnerable and easier to beat up if they could catch me.

In 1945 Brussels, even though the Boche had lost the war, Jews were still Christians' favorite targets to beat up. I entered high school in 1949. The school yard filled up with students mid-morning during break time. It seemed that regardless of where I wound up, the bully of the day would find me. He'd tease me calling me names hoping I'd attack him so he could simply overwhelm me with his weight and size and prolific punches. The war had prepared me to feel afraid and like a target. I felt battered all the time. Despite the familiarity of habitual despair, I tired of it without ever knowing how else it could be. I don't think I even realized that the apparent joy of other young teenagers in school was meant for me as well. I just bore it.

Going home in the afternoon was the only escape. I took the liberty one step further and visited my brother and sister-in-law who lived in a two-story house that was between the school and the apartment my mother and I were occupying. My brother, Max, had often suggested I visit a dental technician who had a workshop in the basement where he made teeth. My brother encouraged me to watch him work. I think he felt Henri would be a good influence on me because he was so thorough at his delicate occupation. And so, he was. After a while I'd taken up Max's suggestion and stopped in to watch him work and to gab. He was receptive to having people observe him and

he would describe what he was doing. He'd explain the reasons he ground the contour of the teeth. I think Henri smiled continuously while working. Sometimes he'd even ask me how I was doing in school. I think he was the only one who ever cared enough about me. He became one of my comfort zones on the way home. Sometimes, I even went straight to the basement to spend some time watching Henri and then went directly home.

A few blocks from Rue Van Lint where they lived, there was a large square where a fair would be set up twice a year, usually around some holiday. Among the entertainments was a stage where a boxer in shorts and boxing gloves would stage a sparring dance inviting people in the audience the opportunity to box him for a price. One could win some francs if one could land some winning punches. I had seen this scene several times in the past and liked to stop and watch the boxer challenge the crowd. Both the challenger and those in the audience would feign being better than the other, until some of the guys in the audience would accept the challenge.

One of those times that I was hardly paying attention to what was going on, I realized that the challenger was none other than Henri. I couldn't believe my eyes, and since he had never mentioned that he did this, I didn't want him to see me. Despite my being shorter than most of the adults in the audience, I bent down and left as quickly as possible. I didn't know why, but I stayed away from the area until the fair closed for the season.

Although I visited Henri in his workshop several times without saying that I'd seen him challenging people to box, I finally told him that I'd seen him at the playland. He quickly lowered his voice to get me to lower mine. He put his finger in front of his lips and asked me not to repeat it to

anyone. I immediately gestured that I understood and wouldn't tell anyone.

I gathered that he wasn't interested in discussing it with me, so I pretended I'd never seen him. But I started talking about my dilemma at school where I'd get beaten up nearly every day by the anti-semitic bully. I slyly asked Henri, "Could you teach me how to box?" Without any elaboration on either one of our parts, he offered to teach me something every time I could stop by. Every boxing practice session was a thrill. Every time I stopped by, he diligently taught me how to protect my face and my body from any punches or hits. I quickly learned to spar with him. It gave me enormous confidence that I could defend myself. Although I hadn't necessarily grown much during that time, I felt twice as large. It seemed to me that I stood with ardor.

The high school yard was rather large. Typically, at break time I'd get to the yard soon after we were let out. I always made sure that I would be able to see which way my nemesis came in and to facilitate my escape route if I needed it. Andre, the bully, would often catch me off guard. I'd be taken by surprise. There was no benefit to him beating me up without an admiring audience, so he'd make sure a few of his cronies were about when he started shoving me and calling me names. I wasn't sure that it was time, but one morning after the first shove, I said loudly enough, "Stop it." Only four of his thugs were there, but I'd said it so loud that many others had heard me. Within minutes dozens more who loved the scene of a Jew crawling surrounded us. Andre shoved me again, taunting me with "What are you going to do about it?" It was fortunate that he asked me that. The question implied the answer I'd wondered about. The enormous crowd that materialized almost immediately prompted Andre to push

me again, except this time I answered his call. I had raised my left arm to prevent him from pushing me away from him, and I jettisoned my right arm and fist forward and punched him on the cheek. He ricocheted back and twisted as he fell on the ground.

I was a lot more stunned than the amazed crowd. I couldn't believe that this fearless body was lying face down on the ground in front of me. "Get up Andre," the crowd screamed. "Let him have it," they hollered, in shock. I couldn't believe that I had done what I was looking at. I was amazed that I didn't worry about his getting up and attacking me, nor did I relish hitting him again. I just felt tall and righteous.

Andre struggled up and turned toward me but appeared not to know me. I had stayed in my boxing pose with both fists up protecting my face. He stared for a total of five seconds, turned around and walked away through his crowd that opened a path of escape unbelieving. They howled the loudest disappointed Oooooo!!!! I'd ever heard. If any Jews were in the playground, they hid their smiles of contentment for fear of retribution from others.

I had rarely thought about all the boxing lessons that had led to only one altercation. But many years later, when I was a private in the U.S. Army, I inadvertently stepped into the barracks latrine that was being mopped by a corporal. When he screamed, "Don't you see I'm cleaning the place?" I stepped out with an apology and quickly walked to my bunk. The corporal had dropped his mop, ran out of the latrine after me, grabbed my right shoulder and turned me to make sure I'd be facing him when he said, "Hitler never finished the job!" I punched his nose. It scares me when I think of it, for I can still feel his nose crashing in. He fell to the ground. He rose. He stared at me and elected to walk away. All those lessons were worth the only two punches I ever threw.

Calling all Poets!

June is fast approaching and your poems are urgently needed—are, in fact, demanded—for the eighth annual Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Poetry Issue. Please submit at once to rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.

Local poets get first dibs on space, but the editors will also seek out select Roosevelt-adjacent poets to round things out. And residents may submit any old favorites from the public domain for consideration.

Please pitch in and help us sustain our June tradition of saturating your PO box with Truth, Beauty, and all ye need to know.

Rick Pressler
Managing Editor



Spring's Beauty

This article highlights multiple species of a native plant that we need to encourage, the Spring Beauty.

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) can be found throughout most of eastern North America. You can find it along our woodland trail. Last year it was in bloom on April 10th. The plants that sprout from tubers are only about 9 inches tall with pale green lanceolate leaves. The flowers are produced in a raceme of usually white 5-petaled flowers



Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

with prominent thin pink veins and pink stamens. Over the summer, the plants become dormant. In a good location, it will spread to form a large colony. The result is like a pink mist over the ground when they are in full bloom.

There is a similar species, the Carolina Springbeauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*), which is very similar with wider leaves. It hasn't been reported in New Jersey.

In Pennsylvania and Maryland and rarely in New Jersey there is also a pale-yellow form *Claytonia virginica* var. *forma lutea*. It has yellow flowers with pink veins. AND If you happen to be in the Kittatinny Mountains in Sussex County at the right time and in the right location, you might see the rarest form, Hammond's Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica* var. *hammondiae*). This rare form has

yellow flowers with no veins.

Spring Beauty plants are available at some nurseries, including Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. Please don't pick native plants, especially Spring Beauty, since the leaves are needed to provide the tubers with enough stored energy to carry them over to the next spring.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claytonia_virginica

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/plant/claytonia-virginica/>

<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/claytonia/virginica/>

<https://npsnj.org/news/2023-plants-of-the-year/>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_pl

Wood Anemone

This month's article highlights a native species that we need to encourage, the Wood Anemone. Every fall at your friendly local garden center, you'll find boxes of little black nuggets, and you never know which side is the top when you plant them. These are *Anemone Blanda*, aka Grecian windflowers. Their cousins, the Wood Anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*), are native to the eastern parts of North America and can be seen along the Roosevelt Woodland Trail. Wood Anemone bloom in late April and early May. The plant is about 2-3 inches tall with a whorl of three leaflets around the stem below the flower. The single white flower is about an inch across with 5 petals. There are also stems with leaves, but

no flowers. The flowers sort of look like daisies, but they are actually more closely related to buttercups. Plants form large colonies. Look for these along the Woodland Trail between Valley and Rochdale, and between Tamara and the water treatment plant. Enjoy them but please don't dig them up. Jerseyyards has compiled a list of nurseries that sell native plants; see the links below.

References:

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=anqu

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/anemone-quinquefolia>

By Steve Taylor



Wood Anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*)
23 April 2023

Photo: S Taylor

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anemoneoides_quinquefolia

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/plant/anemone-quinquefolia/>

Native plant sources: <https://www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/where-to-buy-native-plants/>

Have You Heard About PFAS?

One of the issues that the Roosevelt Environmental Commission is studying this year is the impact of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS chemicals) in our environment. PFAS are a large group of manmade chemicals which repel water and oil and are resistant to heat and chemical reactions. Because of these properties, they have important industrial and commercial uses and have been used since the 1940s. PFAS are used in the production of some non-stick cookware, in waterproof and stain proof coatings, in “leak-proof” coatings on food packaging materials such as fast-food wrappers, in fire-fighting foams, and other applications. I found that the dental floss that I have been using for years contains PFAS. PFAS chemicals are used in a lot of waterproof/stain proof clothing also. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has obtained PFAS policy commitments from a significant group of leading retail and apparel brands and provides a scorecard online – search “PFAS fashion scorecard.”

PFAS can enter drinking water through industrial release into water, air, or soil; discharges from sewage treatment plants; land application of contaminated sludge; leaching from landfills; and use of certain fire-fighting foams. These chemicals do not break down in the environment.

It is estimated that at least one of the four types of PFAS are present

in the blood (serum) of greater than 98% of the United States population. These chemicals build up and stay in the body for many years. The levels decrease very slowly over time after exposure is reduced or stopped.

PFAS are divided into several different types:

- PFOS: perfluorooctane sulfonate
- PFOA: perfluorooctanoic acid
- PFNA: perfluorononanoic acid
- PFHxS: perfluorohexane sulfonate

PFOA, PFOS, and PFNA dissolve in water. If drinking water is contaminated, it is a primary source of exposure from ingestion of the water and food prepared with the water. These PFAS are not removed from water by boiling. Exposure to these PFAS from showering, bathing, laundry, dishwashing, and rinsing produce is not significant. The most consistent human health effect findings for PFOA and PFOS – the most well studied of the PFAS types – are increases in serum cholesterol and uric acid levels in the blood and decreased antibody response following vaccination, as well as increased blood levels of some liver enzymes for PFOA.

What are the NJ drinking water standards for PFAS?

In 2018, New Jersey became the first state to establish an enforceable drinking water standard for a PFAS chemical when it set a Maximum

Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFNA. MCLs for PFOA and PFOS followed in 2020. An MCL is an enforceable drinking water standard which requires monitoring by all public water systems. If levels are found to be above the MCL, the water utility must take actions to reduce levels to below the MCL.

How can I find out if PFAS are detected in my drinking water?

For public water users...

New Jersey public water systems were required to begin monitoring for PFNA in 2020 and for PFOA and PFOS in 2021. These results are available on the NJDEP’s Drinking Water Watch website. This is a database that is searchable by water system ID number, system name, or (if you don’t know the ID number or name) by county and municipality. It identifies all systems serving that area. You can find the results for Roosevelt’s drinking water supply there. They are well below the Maximum Contaminant Level standard.

This article was prepared from information on the New Jersey government website https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf and from my research on the Natural Resources Defense Council website.

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.

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.



RPS News

By Gina Morrone

Believe it or not, it's May! As you may know, this month is state testing.

Although April seemed to be a short month with spring break and school days off for holidays, students have been immersed in new learning opportunities. RPS staff is hard at work prepping all the fun end-of-year activities that we look forward to.

Field Day will be upon us before we know it. Our physical education teacher, Mr. Faunce, has been working very hard on organizing a fun Field Day for the end of May. School trips continue in June with a few extra class trips which are funded with RSPEF grants. Thank you RSPEF for all your support this year! Also in June, and thanks to the generosity of our families who participated in our 5th Grade Class Trip fundraisers, our fifth graders are off to NYC to visit the Sloomoo Institute to make slime, and to take a backstage tour before enjoying the Blue Man Group Show. The class will enjoy lunch

together before heading back to RPS.

The Spring Concert and Art Show is on June 4th in the RPS gymnasium/lobby. Ms. Brown and Ms. Gellman are collaborating to make this a family fun evening for all. Stay tuned for the invitation to follow. Preschool and Kindergarten orientation is June 13th

at 10am. Last, but not least, mark your calendars: June 6th is Fifth Grade Graduation. Come help celebrate our graduates!

Go Dragons!

Mrs. Morrone

Upcoming School Events & Reminders

NJSLA Testing: ELA: May 7 & 8, Math: May 9 & 10 and Science Grade 5 only: May 14 & 15

5/14 - 4th Grade Trip - Old Barracks Museum and State House

5/17 - Insectropolis Trip (K&1)

5/17 - Flower Sale Order Deliveries

5/20 - Dibels Reading Assessment Week

5/23 - Grade 3 Trip to State Museum

5/27 - School Closed - Memorial Day

5/30 - Early Dismissal

5/31 - Early Dismissal

6/3 - LinkIt Reading & Math Assessment Week

6/4 - Spring Concert & Art Show

6/6 - 5th Grade Graduation

6/12 - 5th Grade Trip to NYC

Visiting Artist to Offer Art Explorations for All

By Rick Pressler

Coming soon: the visual artist Catarina Noronha, aka Catus Chaos, will be offering an arts experience to Rooseveltians. The program will provide a space where artists of all ages and experience levels can learn, explore, and experiment with different techniques and media.

The artist is also available for skilled house painting, including the design and painting of murals.

For more information contact:

catuschaos@gmail.com

+351 924 254 070

www.catuschaos.com

@catus_chaos



THIS IS NOT AN
ARTCLASS



The Howard Kaufman Memorial Kickball Game

By Larisa Bondy

On April 20th, kickball connoisseurs young and old gathered at the RPS field for a dedication and a game. A sign dedicating the field to Howard Kaufman was unveiled before the game.

Howard Kaufman taught Physical Education and Health at Roosevelt Public School for over 20 years. This distinguished career came after retiring from teaching in New York public schools for 30 years! Howard taught generations of children not just kickball, but indoor and outdoor games, ranging from “Jump the Sock” to “Steal the Bacon.” He

also ran all the Field Day events, including working with students to design their own games and tee-shirts. He continued to help out with Field Day into his retirement years.



The game ran from about 2 to 4 PM, ending in a tie score after approximately 45 innings (that’s what a few players counted, anyway!). It was a true Roosevelt experience, with players and spectators ranging in age from 1 to 81 enjoying a beautiful day, a fun game, and lots of kibitzing on the sidelines in memory of a man who would have been the permanent pitcher, had he been there.

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

WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?

By Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.



Watercolor by Zach Pressler

Fog (a True Story)

by Albert Hepner

“The records show very clearly that the fog has been on the decline since really about the 1950s, which is as far as the records go back. So, it has been on the decline for the last 70-plus years.”

Back in 1950, one of our estimable Roosevelt neighbors experienced that dense mid-century fog firsthand on his commute back from New Brunswick one evening—and collected an interesting adventure in the process.

Aaron and Evelyn lived an interesting life in Roosevelt back then. He commuted to his job as a building engineer at Ingersoll Rand in the New Brunswick area, and she taught English in a local community college. Like many active residents in Roosevelt, Aaron was always prepared to participate in cultural discussions resulting from Council and Board of Education meetings. At the time of our story, Aaron had already spent some years on the Board of Education. Between his family responsibilities and his community obligations, he always made an effort to be home and available at the end of the work day. Evelyn always expected him to try to get home on time and to make every effort to fulfill his obligations as a Board of Education member, or to just attend the active community discussions that fervently occurred each month.

One Tuesday evening (a night when meetings were often scheduled), Aaron was driving home from New Brunswick. This particular evening, the fog had moved in rather early and thickly. Aaron wasn't initially anticipating that he'd get home late, but this was no common fog, and he frequently had to slow to a crawl. Route 130 was a new road back in 1950, built just one year after Route 1 had been completed, and it was still generally tree lined and not well lit. The New

Jersey Turnpike was still being constructed, so Rooseveltians coming home from the north did not have the advantage of a better-lit Turnpike. All this didn't concern Aaron, a building engineer accustomed to large public developments taking forever to get built. However, this evening the trip was becoming tiresome and annoying. His radio was not functioning properly, so not only could he not see well, but he couldn't even hear the news well. Had he been able to, he might have gotten some traveling advice, as uncommon as that was.

He had crawled at perhaps five miles an hour most of the way, which meant that it had taken him more than forty minutes to get to Hightstown. And he still had five miles to go. Aaron's foot hurt from the gentle touch he needed to execute to keep the car from speeding up. His calf muscle began to cramp just the way it had done when he ran the mile for Monroe High School in the Bronx, twenty years earlier. In Hightstown, he found a parking spot where he could safely pull in. He had no idea why he'd stopped, except he remembered that there was a small motel further down Route 130, where he might stay to wait for the fog to clear. As he considered his options—and how best not to worry Evelyn—he spied a phone booth on the corner, encouraging him to call her to explain why he was late before continuing home. He walked over to the phone booth, confident that he had the necessary change. As he got to the booth, another delayed man was just stepping out. Aaron asked him, “Do you have enough change for me to make a call too?”

“Absolutely, mate, us lost ones need to stick together.”

Aaron called his wife, who had

assumed he was calling to tell her he was lost, or that he would stay in a hotel. She immediately said, “I barely could find the phone in our own house, where are you?” He explained that he didn't want her to worry about his being late, but that it would take another 45 or 50 minutes to get home. She nearly screamed suggesting he get a room at a hotel but he replied, “Oh, no, I'm okay, I just wanted you to know I'd be late, but I'd rather be with you.”

“But it's so dangerous, why don't you wait till morning?”

“It's not dangerous because there really isn't much traffic. I didn't want you to worry. I'm driving very slowly. I'll be home within an hour.” She relented and gently urged him, “Be careful, please.” Aaron felt better; Evelyn's concern warmed the isolation he had felt in the car surrounded by gray clouds and little else in sight. He returned to the car, progressed to the other side of Hightstown and reached the western side of Peddie School on S. Main Street, which told him he was only one street away from Etra Road, which would take him to Roosevelt.

As he inched toward the left turn, he noticed that an oncoming car had its right turn signal flashing. He slowed down from eight miles an hour to five miles an hour to give the oncoming car the chance to turn first. And so, it did. And Aaron the engineer felt home free. This speedster who had gotten on Etra Road ahead of him would be his light beacon all the way home. It felt good to Aaron to have been so clever in such trying times.

As he settled into his new comfort zone, with a set of tail lights guiding him through the fog, he began to wonder how for years he would share his wisdom with everyone he knew and those he would meet. He smiled

Continued on Page 11

so incessantly that his jaws started to hurt. His guiding driver had carte blanche; as long as he was showing him the way, he could drive slowly, or fast, or at a crawl, Aaron didn't care. But suddenly, the car ahead stopped, and it seemed apparent that the driver was getting out of his car. Aaron hadn't felt such panic since he had waited for the results of his Master's thesis. He stopped his car as well, promptly opened his door and stepped out of the car, yelling as cordially as he could, "Why did you stop, you were doing so well?"

"Because we're in my driveway."



Watercolor by Zach Pressler

SPECIAL FRIEND

By John H. Parrott, III
Copyright 2022

Who could ever lose you
you're just not that kind
you will never fade away
Special friend of mine.

I think of you now and then
in a clear, clear light.
I guess we all remember when
everything went right.

Who could ever lose you
you're just not that kind
you will never fade away
Special friend of mine.

Things we did together then
I can still recall
sometimes it gets hard to see
what is real at all

Who could ever hold you
drift away in time
you will never fade away
Special friend of mine.

Of the people I have known,
faces in the rain,
whom I do not love or hate
I never see again.

Who could ever lose you
you're just not that kind
you will never fade away
Special friend of mine.

You are there and I am here,
a life ain't hard to spend,
although the years all disappear
you'll still be my friend.

Who could ever blame you
that would be unkind
you will never fade away
Special friend of mine.



**Buy Fresh, Buy Local,
Roosevelt, NJ**

Why is locally grown food important?

- It tastes better because it's picked when fresh, not harvested in advance for long-distance shipping.
- It's better for your health because fresh food contains more nutrients.
- It's better for the environment because it maintains open space and promotes sustainable practices.
- It's better for the community because it supports and creates a connection with local farm families.
- It's better for the climate because it reduces carbon emissions from long-haul transport of food.

In Roosevelt, locally grown food is available at Mendies Farm, which operates a roadside stand and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture, where members buy a share of the produce grown on the farm). The farm is owned and managed by Roosevelt residents Lawrence and Heidi Mendies.

Mendies Family Farm; Farm Stand and CSA

65 N Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, NJ
609-820-8809

<http://www.mendiesfarm.com/>

In neighboring towns, locations offering locally grown food include:

Produce Paradise: (roadside stand) Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, on the Clarksburg-Robbinsville Road, by the large sycamore trees.

Fun Fridays in Hightstown: 6/21 – 9/19 that takes place every 3rd Friday. Along with locally grown produce, there will also be food trucks, craft vendors and live music. Location: Association Park, Grant Ave, Hightstown, NJ
Operated by Hightstown Parks and Recreation <https://www.hightstownborough.com/events/fun-fridays-2/>

Appelget Family Farm
135 Conover Rd., West Windsor, NJ
609-902-8372
<https://www.appelgetfarm.com/>

Windsor Farm and Market
1202 Windsor Road, Windsor, NJ
(609) 443-9379
<https://www.windsorfarmandmarket.com/>

Robbinsville Farmers Market 6/25-8/27 Tuesdays, 3:30-7:00 pm
The Shoppes at Foxmoor
1095 Washington Blvd, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Farmers Market Contact:
Kevin Holt, kholt@robbinsville.net
609-259-3600 x1131

Corner-Copia
619 Mercer Street
Hightstown, New Jersey 08520
(609) 208-9116
<http://www.corner-copia.com/farm-market/>

Lee Turkey Farm
201 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, NJ 8520
609-448-0629
<https://www.leeturkeyfarm.com/>

KJD Farm, LLC
1510 Old York Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
(609) 977-5937

Windy Acres Farm & CSA
214 Windsor Road, Robbinsville, NJ
Amy Giovanelli
(609) 722-2122
Farm market is open to general public located at 214 Windsor Rd, Robbinsville NJ 08691. Open 5 days. Starting early June 4 thru October 1, 2019. Hours of operation: Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.
<http://windyacresfarmllc.com/>

**Save our Sewers –
Don't Flush Wipes**

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

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

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

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



RECYCLING DATES

May 8, 22
June 5, 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.

**Borough Mailing
Instructions**

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

Public Health Emergency?

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

Roosevelt Borough's website:
www.rooseveltnj.us

Register for e-news on the home page and get email communications from the borough. You can view and pay your property taxes and water/sewer bill on-line.

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



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.

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





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SUMMER PROGRAMS 2024

ROOSEVELT ADVENTURE CAMP & TEEN EXPLORATION CLUB

when? **CAMP: JUL 1st to AUG 16th**
 MON - FRI, 9AM-1PM
CLUB: JUL 9TH to AUG 15th
 TUE & THURS, 2PM-5PM

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

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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

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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!

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P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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

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M A Y

2	Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
6	Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
8	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
12	Sun.		Mother's Day
15	Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
20	Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
21	Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
22	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
23	Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
27	Mon.		Memorial Day Roosevelt Public School Closed Borough Offices Closed
30	Thurs.		Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal
31	Fri.		Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal

J U N E

4	Tues.		Roosevelt Public School Spring Concert and Art Show
5	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
6	Thurs.		Roosevelt Public School 5th Grade Graduation
8	Sat.	7:30	Roosevelt Arts Project Slavery Trail Borough Hall "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" is the motto for our multi-media event. Photos, music, and poems will celebrate how America's slav- ery trail became its civil rights trail. We'll be telling the story of how suffering yielded overcoming. A narrative of our nine-day drive from Greensboro to Selma, Birmingham to Montgomery to Washington, D.C., visiting the Civil Rights Institute and Birmingham Jail and ending at the National Museum of African American History & Culture. What we learn is that Black histo- ry is the history of ALL Americans; as Fannie Lou Hamer said, "Nobody's Free Until Everybody's Free."
17	Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
18	Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
19	Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
19	Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
27	Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President

Zoning Officer, Housing Inspector Jeremy Kuipers email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us phone: 609-448-0539, ext. 7	Code Enforcement Officer Ed Szbanz code@rooseveltnj.us 609-448-0539, ext. 8
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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>

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.