



# Bulletin



Volume 40 Number 1

September 2016

**BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS**

By SharynWalz

## Trail Work Completed, Advisory Council Results in Referendum Questions, Municipal Budget Adopted

Mayor Ellentuck provided certificates of appreciation to individuals and organizations who worked to make the Roosevelt Fourth of July Celebration a success. Joe McGrath is now the secretary for the Planning Board. Joe Trammell accepted Mayor Ellentuck’s public apology for a recent miscommunication.

The following resolutions were approved under consent agendas:

- \* Structure of summer camp employees/pay rates and refund of morning care

- \* Emergency temporary appropriations as the 2016 budget had not yet been passed

- \* Normal payment of bills

- \* Authorizing the Borough to proceed with the tax lien foreclosure at 19 South Rochdale Ave.

- \* Resolution adopting personnel policies and procedures as well as an Employee Handbook of the Borough

- \* Self-examination budget resolution, authorizing the budget to be read by title only

- \* Authorizing the Model Local Unit Civil Rights (recommended by the Joint Insurance Fund)

- \* Authorizing an agreement for Bond Counsel for the Borough

- \* Authorizing the inclusion of referendum questions and interpretive statements on the ballot

- \* Authorizing the Planning Board to determine if Borough Hall property is a redevelopment area

- \* Authorizing the Extension of the due date for 3rd Quarter 2016 tax payments

**Ordinances:**

- 16-005—prohibits rentals of less than 30 days
- 16-008—this ordinance provides standards for defining vacant and abandoned properties
- 16-009—amends criteria with regards to the Roosevelt Municipal Cemetery, including the new requirement that residents must make a \$2000

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## RPS to Initiate Strategic Planning Process

By Cornelia Spoor

The Roosevelt Board of Education is seeking community input as it begins development of a new strategic plan. The plan will guide the Board and the Chief School Administrator for the next five years.

The RPS Strategic Planning Process kicks off September 1, 2016, with a staff orientation, and will continue throughout the school year. It offers an exciting opportunity for community members to come together and collaboratively create and implement a renewed vision for Roosevelt Public School. The process includes revisiting our Mission Statement, so this is a chance to lose the asterisk. (Of course, if you like the asterisk in the current Mission Statement, please come out and say so: all input is welcome!)

A little bit of background:

“Public education is a field that is governed by many layers of law.. . districts [are] regulated by statute, code and decisional law, but they also must follow state and local policy.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 40th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. There will be ten issues running from September through July. We will not publish in January and August.

We welcome your emailed submissions for articles, letters, poems, artwork, and other items of interest. Please send your submissions and inquiries to Rick Pressler (rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com). Non-digital submissions will be accommodated to the best of our ability, but we cannot guarantee publication. Inclusion of all items is subject to the availability of space and the editorial judgment of our Editor. Items must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue.

We will do our best to make the Bulletin both informative and interesting with the help of our devoted writers and production people.

If you want to CONTACT THE BULLETIN, please look at our masthead to the right with our address as shown.



Please report any bear sightings to:  
State Bureau of Wildlife Management  
Kim Tinnes, Wildlife Control  
609-259-7955

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

**SENIOR CITIZENS:** There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. The bus will pick you up at your home, you spend 1 ½ hours shopping, and the bus will take you home and leave your groceries at your door. There is no charge to you for this service.

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

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

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## From the Mayor

During the dog days of July, you may have noticed a crew of 15-20 year olds in yellow helmets toiling on our trails in the 90+ degree heat. These young men and women were volunteers who were sent by the Student Conservation Association (the "SCA") to Roosevelt and other towns to work on trails, and work they did. They cleared, rerouted and rebuilt our trails. They built beautiful bridges/walkways across rough and wet patches of trails and even created a scenic overlook.

The SCA was formed in the late 1950s and was modeled on the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (the "CCC"). The CCC and its 'sister' organizations, the Works Progress Administration (the "WPA"), and the National Recovery Administration (the "NRA") were major parts of President Roosevelt's New Deal designed to provide jobs and to relieve families during the Great Depression. As you know, it was the New Deal organizations that built Roosevelt and from which we derive the emblem of our town, the NRA eagle.

It is fitting that on the 80th Anniversary of the founding of the Borough of Roosevelt volunteers from an organization modeled on a New Deal program came to work in the Borough. We thank them for their service and for the beautiful trail improvements they have left for us.

By Jeff Ellentuck

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deposit at burial to ensure funds are available for a headstone/marker to be installed within 15 months of the burial

- \* Marble is not to be used as it disintegrates in acid rain and eventually becomes illegible
- \* A superintendent of the cemetery will be designated and they, or public works employee, will be present when any work is being done

- 16-010—exceeded municipal budget appropriations and to establish a CAP bank
- 16-012—the ordinance that amends 16005 to disallow rentals of less than 30 days and now includes portions of homes
- 16-013—The Borough agreed to convey Witches Hollow to Monmouth County, except for the last 923 feet ending at Oscar Drive to prevent a road from being built through from Millstone to Oscar Drive.
- 16-018—Bond Ordinance providing for various water-sewer improvements

Councilman John Impellizzeri reported that the firm KTK is working on cleaning out the abandoned gas station, and that Allen's Tree Service will be working to prune trees around town that are dangerously close to power lines. KTK finished the paving on Lake Drive and used the leftover road material to repair potholes on Cedar Court and Farm Lane. The Public Works Department is soliciting bids to re-pave Cedar Ct. There was a 10- to 12-foot sinkhole that opened up in the Post Office parking lot. It was quickly repaired. Tire recycling day was very successful.

Joe McGrath continues to make progress on the vacant properties list. There are currently 10 abandoned houses in town, some are listed for sale, involved in court, sold at Sheriff's sale, or the Borough is working with the bank.

To increase public safety, Monmouth County has been asked to install a stop sign coming out of Assunpink on the corner of Rochdale Ave. and Clarksburg Rd. JCP&L will install a streetlight at the corner of Nurko Rd. and Rochdale Ave.

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### 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



## Roosevelt Woodland Trail Fully Restored!

For more than twenty years the Roosevelt Woodland Trail has been one of the most treasured features of our town. Whether hiking the entire length, from the cemetery to the end of Pine Drive Extension, or walking any of its four individual sections, the trail offers unique access to the natural world of Roosevelt along Empty Box Brook and the surrounding forest. But for many years the sec-

Association (SCA) to make much-needed improvements. The hard-working crew from SCA spent two weeks in July building wooden platforms over the wet spots in the Tamara-Rochdale portion. They also rerouted the Rochdale entrance, making it safer and more accessible, and created a new trailhead by the cemetery to ensure access through public property.

More details will be described in a future article, but for now, here are a few photos of what was accomplished. In the meantime, please be sure to get out and enjoy your Roosevelt Woodland Trail!



tion between Tamara Drive and Rochdale Avenue has been nearly impassable because of places where the path was just too wet. Now that's no longer a problem.

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission secured a grant and formed a project partnership with the Student Conservation



**Woodland Trail Art Walk and Open Gallery**  
**Saturday, October 22, 2016, 3:00 - 5:00 PM**  
Tour begins at the Roosevelt Post Office  
North Rochdale Avenue  
Roosevelt, NJ 08555

In celebration of the restoration of the trail along Empty Box Brook, you are invited to make the path an open gallery for art and music. Inspired by the natural surroundings, poets can read poems, actors recite monologues, musicians play or record music, and visual artists sketch, paint, or display their artworks en plein air. Or you can just walk the path and enjoy the fall colors.

Contact Hunter Ellentuck ([hunter@ellentuck.com](mailto:hunter@ellentuck.com)) for more information and guidelines for participating.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person.



## Borough of Roosevelt — Jersey Homesteads Historic District

Organized as an agro-industrial Jewish cooperative community by the Provisional Commission for Jewish Farm Settlements in the United States, led by Benjamin Brown (1885-1939), Jersey Homesteads was one of approximately 100 communities built by the Roosevelt Administration in the 1930s. Among the other members of the Provisional Commission were Rabbi Stephen Wise and Albert Einstein. The design of the community, with interior and exterior green-belts, reflects the influence of Sir Ebenezer Howard, pioneer of the English “garden city” planning concept, while the design of the buildings by architects Alfred Kastner and Louis Kahn incorporates principles developed by Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus in Germany in the 1920s.

Jersey Homesteads was settled beginning in 1936 and was incorporated as a borough in 1937. Its name was changed to Roosevelt in

1945 in honor of the recently deceased President to whom the community owes its founding.

Roosevelt has been home to many prominent artists, including Ben Shahn, who painted a mural in the elementary school depicting scenes of Jewish immigration to America, the garment industry, the labor movement, and the organization of Jersey Homesteads as a planned community for working people.

Want to know more? Check out this expanded article: <http://njewishnews.com/article/31668/new-roosevelt-marker-celebrates-jewish-roots#V7qBOeRTHmK>



Members of the Roosevelt Borough Council with the newly dedicated historic marker at the town's July 4 celebration, from left, Michael Ticktin, Jill Lipoti, Mayor Jeff Ellentuck, Peggy Malkin, and Stacey Bonna. With them is Jerry Klinger, far right, founder and president of the Maryland-based Jewish-American Society for Historic Preservation, which erected the marker.

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## Health Insurance Assistance Meeting

The Senior Club of Roosevelt is inviting all interested residents of Roosevelt, Millstone, and Clarksburg, regardless of age, to attend an informative presentation from the New Jersey State Health Insurance Assistance Program on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2016, at 1:30 pm at the Borough Hall, 33 N. Rochdale Ave., Roosevelt, NJ 08555.

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries who have problems with, or questions about, their health insurance. SHIP is a statewide program administered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

Medicare beneficiaries frequently have questions about benefits, claims, and supplemental policies (known as Medigaps). Volunteer counselors, trained in areas of health insurance coverage and benefits that affect Medicare beneficiaries, provide information and assistance for dealing with claims and evaluating health insurance options. Counselors do not provide legal advice, sell, recommend, or endorse any specific insurance product, agent, insurance company or plan. They provide information and assistance so that you can make your own decisions. Counseling is free of charge.

This is not a “seniors” only issue. If you are a senior, are assisting a senior, or if you or a friend or relative is about to become eligible for Medicare or are already receiving Medicare, choices about supplemental insurances are crucial and sometimes confusing. Come to this important presentation to learn more about your choices. All are welcome to attend. There will be a brief Q&A period after the presentation.

To the Editor,

Recent, and not so recent, issues regarding our borough government prompt me to write yet another letter to the editor.

An incident involving the fire company occurred in December of 2015 and, acting on the advice of council members, we sent a harassment complaint to the council in January of 2016. We requested that the Council determine who was driving the fire truck, whether it was being operated according to standard procedures or guidelines, and take corrective measures including a review of professional standards and ethics and implement transparent oversight procedures for the fire company. Somehow, the council has been entirely absent from most matters pertaining to our complaint, an absence that begs the question where is the Borough Council?

In most communities, a timely and civil response is afforded to those who provide a documented complaint to their public officials. In our case, public comments were made two months later, but I was not at those meetings and public records are not yet available. I was apprised of the status of our inquiry by email in late March and was told that the “matter is closed,” despite no formal communication to us from the council or any real outcome of the “investigation.” This is what prompted our letter to the Borough Bulletin in May, a letter that was very promptly countered with a letter to us, not from the council, but from a “special counsel” stating that personnel matters could not be discussed in public and that the investigation was ongoing.

So, in six months, the council was unable to draft a letter and bypassed our own borough attorney in favor of a special counsel to write what the mayor ultimately summarized in five sentences in the June issue of the Bulletin. This lack of action certainly begs that question where is the Borough Council? Was the Council fully aware of the resolution to retain this special counsel for such a simple issue? If not, why not? Was the Borough Council aware that despite spending close to \$100,000 on our borough attorney this year, additional money was being spent on an attorney to advise on labor law? Does this imply that there is either a conflict of interest with our borough attorney or that he is not competent to provide proper counsel on labor law? Again, where is the Borough Council?

Ultimately, there seems to be a lack of professionalism and civility and a serious lack of concern for the public from borough officials. Essentially, a lack of professionalism was what we felt the Council should investigate and, at the very least, request that all volunteers adhere to a code of conduct consistent with professional standards of their positions. Yet, the responses we have received have

minimized our complaints and ultimately portrayed us as somehow tyrannical in our request for proper administrative process. It was also implied that we were somehow expecting immediate gratification to our complaint. Yet, this assertion was made nearly seven months after we filed our complaint, is that too soon to expect an outcome to an “investigation” in a town of 900 some residents?

It also is worth asking, “Where is the Borough Council when it comes to the “investigation”? For example, we were contacted by the mayor who requested that he alone interview us to clarify issues that were not part of our complaint. Was the Council aware of this “investigation”? In most cases, such interviews can only be conducted by an official municipal investigation committee formed through a resolution. We are not aware as to whether or not the mayor was appointed by resolution to fulfill this role and why an independent investigation was not considered. In addition, our request that other Council members be present at any “interview” were ignored. Was the Council fully informed of these proceedings?

Again, I would like to know where is the Borough Council? . We have a strong council/weak mayor form of government, but the near total abdication of responsibility and authority in many matters before the Council is troubling at best. One only has to attend a Council meeting to see the silence on the part of the Council, many of whom are simply uninformed or poorly informed as to the details of resolutions they are passing. It is especially important to note that in almost every dealing of issues that are normally assigned to appropriate committees, it is the mayor, and not the committee chair, who is doing the grunt work. This is upside down and backwards and completely inappropriate given our form of government.

Based on the past performance and continuing passive behavior of the Council, the moment has come where either the Council needs to step up and take control of their government or the form of government needs to be changed so that it is functional and representative.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hoffman

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8/9/2016

Letter to the editor:

Last night, 8/8/2016, I attended a Borough Council meeting where Mayor Jeff pushed his resolutions through the Council. I was taken aback when he pointed out some “no” voters in the room and included my name with them. How does Jeff know how I voted and above all, does it matter? Do I have the constitutional right to have an opin-

ion? I feel as though he pinned a scarlet letter on me. Now I understand why no one comes to the Council meetings. Everyone is intimidated by these powers that be and how they treat us common "little people."

Well, Mr. Jeff, why didn't you also tell everyone that I took it upon myself and with my own money, to hire an architect to walk through the Gas Station property to see if it would be a viable solution to the EMS crisis? It was a 15-degree day in February 2015 and we spent almost two hours there with George Vasseur. We concluded that it would work. I assumed that (ex) Chief Archer would love the idea, since it was next door to his property.

Ya know, Maybe I thought it would be a better idea for our EMS than Jeff's idea of putting a bar there. So, maybe

I voted "no" and maybe I voted "yes", but since you were not in the voting booth with me, how do you know how I voted? Again, as an AMERICAN CITIZEN, do I have the right to vote my conscious without being intimidated or labeled for my opinion?

Shame on you Mr. Jeff for instituting conditions where people fear exercising their constitutional rights without retaliation.

By the way, I am running for Council in November as an Independent. If you vote for me, I will not hold it against you.

Respectfully submitted.  
Citizen, Joe Trammell

### Senior Freeze Program Provides Reimbursements for Property Taxes

From Borough Clerk

As per recent communication from our representatives in the State Assembly, you are being reminded to file for the 2015 Senior Freeze Program if you are eligible. The Senior Freeze Program "freezes" property taxes for eligible senior citizens based on a standard formula.

If you are already in the program, you will need to annually complete forms about your current taxes and income in order to continue to receive your rebate. Only applicants whose 2015 income did not exceed \$70,000 are eligible to receive a reimbursement payment.

If you have never been in the program, you must first establish your "base year" in order to receive benefits. Once you are accepted into the program, the amount you pay in property taxes is frozen at the current level. By submitting an application this year, you will establish your "base year" eligibility to receive future reimbursements. According to the Division of Taxation, applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Household income in 2014 did not exceed \$85,553
- Household income in 2015 did not exceed \$87,007
- Age 65 or older or receiving Social Security Disability benefits
- Lived in New Jersey since December 31, 2004, or earlier
- Owned and lived in current home since December 31, 2011, or earlier
- Fully up to date on your property tax bill

All eligible senior citizens and disabled individuals must apply before October 17, 2016. Forms may be downloaded from the NJ State Treasury site: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation>.

If you filed a Senior Freeze application before the original June 1, 2016 deadline, you should have received your benefit check. If you have not, please contact the New Jersey Department of Taxation or your legislative representative at the state level.

### ATTENTION!

There have been some reported burglaries in town.

Please remember to lock your car and put away your lawn equipment after use.

### Free Rabies Clinic

All dogs in the state of NJ who over the age of 7 months are required to be licensed on a yearly basis. Licenses for 2017 will be issued beginning January 2017. Licenses can only be issued upon presentation of a valid rabies certificate. In order to be licensed, the dog must have a rabies certificate that is current through Oct 31 of the license year (example: in order to receive a 2017 license, the rabies certificate must not expire before 10/31/2017).

The Borough will hold a free rabies clinic at the Borough Hall 33 N. Rochdale Ave., Roosevelt, NJ on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016 from 11am until 12 noon. Rabies shots are required by law for all dogs and are highly recommended for cats.



Dear Community,

The beginning of a school year is always an exciting time. We all start fresh after some rest and relaxation and reaffirm our commitment to teaching and learning. This September we are especially thrilled to welcome everyone back. Six of our classrooms have been totally renovated and are bright, warm places where our children can learn. In addition, we have a new outdoor space for fun: we constructed a new playground and some of our students have already given it two thumbs up! You will

hear that we are beginning a year of strategic planning - to assess where we are as a school community and where we want to go in the future.

Roosevelt is a special place— please stop by to see our new additions and partner with us in education by joining the strategic planning committee. I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Mary Robinson Cohen,  
Superintendent and Principal



## RPS to Initiate Strategic Planning Process

Continued from Page 1

Local board of education members are the school district’s policy makers” (from The NJ DOE website - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/parents/law.htm>).

Best practice is for Board policy to proceed from the Strategic Plan created by the Board with the input of key stakeholders. The process involves several important steps.

### Step 1 – Community Orientation Workshop, October 6

The first step involving the community will be an Orientation Workshop at 7 pm on October 6th at RPS. The meeting will be chaired by Kathy Winecoff, New Jersey School Boards Association Field Service Representative for Monmouth County and the facilitator for the Roosevelt Strategic Planning Process. This meeting will provide an overview and detail of the year-long planning process. The group will form two committees:

- The State of the School Committee will focus on Roosevelt Public School
- The State of the Community Committee will focus on the role of Roosevelt Public School within the Roosevelt community

Both committees will collect data on the strengths, challenges, and opportunities facing RPS.

### Step 2 – Committees Meet, November 14

The committee members will meet on November 14 for training and assistance in this process.

### Step 3 – Committees Present Findings, February 11 – 12

The Committees will present their findings at the Planning Council Conference scheduled for the weekend of February 11th-12th, 2017. This two-day event (Saturday evening, Sunday during the day) will allow for an in depth consideration of the committee findings.

### Committee Members Wanted

If you have an interest in the history and traditions of Roosevelt Public School, these are the committees for you, and your input and energy will be greatly valued. You do not have to be a parent of an RPS student, or an alumnus of RPS to participate: stakeholders include teachers, parents, Choice parents, new residents, long time residents, and everyone interested in RPS. Anyone interested in participating should attend the Orientation Workshop on October 6th.

### Board of Education Membership Update

At the August 8, 2016, meeting of the Board of Education, Assenka Oksiloff was sworn in to fill the seat vacated by Seth Ditchik through December 31, 2016. She is also on the November ballot to fill the final year of that term (1/1/17 -





## ***STRATEGIC PLANNING CALENDAR***

**September 01, 2016**

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**ORIENTATION WORKSHOP for STAFF**  
 Explanation of process and calendar  
 Committee Structure

**October 06, 2016**

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**ORIENTATION WORKSHOP for the COMMUNITY**  
 Explanation of process and calendar  
 Committee Structure

**November 14, 2016**

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**INFORMATION COMMITTEES**  
 Training of committee chairs  
 State of the School Report / State of the Community Report

**February 11, 2017**

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**PLANNING COUNCIL CONFERENCE**  
 Report of the State of School/Community Committees  
 Development of Vision, Beliefs, Mission, Goal Areas,  
 Objectives

6:00pm – 9:30pm

**February 12, 2017**

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8:30am – 3:00pm

**February 24 & 25, 2017**

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**PLANNING COUNCIL CONFERENCE**  
 Inclement Weather Dates

**March 07, 2017**

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**ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE**  
 Training of Action Team Leaders

**March – May 5,  
 2017**

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**ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS**  
 Plan development  
*Note: Committees will meet independently of each other*

**May 09, 2017**

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7:00 p.m.

**PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Action Plans (Drafts)  
 Cost Benefit Analysis

**May 12, 2017**

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**ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS**  
 Action Plans Finalized

**May 25, 2017**

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**STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTED TO BOARD**

Continued from Page 8

12/31/17). Assenka was previously on the BOE for many years while her children were at RPS. She has just completed working in Princeton School District for the last 5 years, where her work on strategic plans and other school issues will be valuable to RPS BOE. Her sons attend Kreps and Hightstown High School.

In addition, there are three 3-year seats open on the November 2016 ballot. Judith Goetzmann and Jessica Hanley are on the ballot for these seats, and candidates can also be written in on the ballot in November. For more information, please contact Natalie Warner, Board President (rpsboe@gmail.com); or speak with any current Board member.)

Hurricane season is upon us. Experts are estimating we may get as many as eight hurricanes up the Eastern seaboard this year, and the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company would like to urge our residents to be prepared.

Ways you and your family can prepare for storms:

1. Stay informed! Make sure you are registered for Roosevelt's Code Red reverse 9-1-1 system. Make sure you have a battery operated radio and spare batteries.
2. Keep an emergency kit in your home. This includes a 3-5 days of canned, non-perishable, ready to eat food, three days of water, a flashlight, a week's worth of medications, a first aid kit, a non-electric can opener.
3. Make an emergency plan for your family. Get all of your important papers and photos organized, and store them in a water-proof container. If the power goes out, remember ATM's will be non-operating so be sure you have some cash. Have some non-electronic board games and crafts on hand for your kids. Do you have an emergency generator? If so, make sure you test it BEFORE a storm hits, and make sure you have gasoline on hand to run it.
4. Have a support structure in place. If you cannot stay in your home with now power, make sure you have a plan in place with family or friends to stay with them, and make sure you have a way to get there. If you do not have a car, or if you have special needs, you can register with the Monmouth County OEM for additional assistance.
5. If you use well water, register with JCP&L.

One safety precaution that we constantly need to remind residents of is **STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED WIRES**. If you see a downed wire of any sort, even if you

think it is a phone wire, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY. There is no way to tell if that wire may be energized further down the line. Calling the Borough Hall, neighbors or friends about downed wires only delays emergency responders and puts your family and neighbors at an increased risk.

If the power goes out, call 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) or if you have a smart phone, you can report outages using the JCP&L app. JCP&L uses the data collected from multiple calls to determine where the outage is, and in some instances can re-route the power without a tech on scene. They can only accomplish this if you report the outage yourself. The more individual households that report a power outage DIRECTLY to JCP&L, the faster they can resolve the problem.

Last year, believe it or not, there were several reports of an exploding transformer on South Rochdale Ave that were posted to Facebook, and no one ever called 911. If you see sparks, fire, smoke, or any potentially dangerous situations, please call 911 BEFORE you post it to Facebook.

On a lighter note, we would like to say **THANK YOU** to all of the people who supported and continue to support the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company. From June 1 to July 31st people were encouraged to vote for our Fire Company as part of the Kidde Step Up & Stand Out campaign. As a result, four of our members were pictured in Firehouse Magazine, and our video was featured on Firehouse.com. After two months of voting, more than 45,000 votes were cast, and

our video was one of the top five finalists.

We were invited to attend the formal announcement of the winners at the 2016 Fire Rescue International Expo in San Antonio, Texas. As one of the finalists, I was honored to be recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs for outstanding commitment to the volunteer fire service. Also, as a finalist, the Fire Company received 200 10-year sealed Kidde Smoke Alarms to distribute to our residents. We would love to have 300 smoke alarms to distribute so every household could receive one, but considering we have already handed out 120 smoke alarms in the last two years we are very thankful for the opportunity to provide a smoke alarm to the remaining households that have not yet received one. In order to make it as fair as possible, inside this month's Borough Bulletin you will find a postcard to fill out and return by September 31st. The first 200 residents that return this card will have a free smoke alarm delivered to their home the week of October 9th as part of Fire Prevention Week.

The last point I'd like to touch on is the upcoming election. As you may know, the residents are being asked to vote on whether or not to keep our Fire Department or disband it



Continued from Page 10

entirely and choose to hire neighboring Millstone Township Fire District to protect your lives and property from fire. We urge residents to educate themselves on the matter prior to the vote so that you can make this very important decision for yourself, without rumors, inflated numbers or false information from either side clouding your better judgement. The Mayor's Advisory Committee has posted every document created and obtained relating to this matter on their website for the entire town to see. Even if you do not have the time to read through all of it, we urge you to fact check what others may tell you so you know you are making an informed choice.

We will not tell you how to vote, but however the vote plays it out it was and is an honor and privilege to serve the Borough of Roosevelt and to continue on the long legacy of the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company. As a Navy veteran, I would like to remind everyone that MILLIONS of people have made the ultimate sacrifice so that you have the right to vote. To begrudge someone for using that right is un-American, and to sever life-long friendships over what amounts to a pole-barn, well that's just foolish.

We continue to hold out hope that the Fire Company will survive past November, and so we continue to encourage anyone who would like to join us to contact Chris Suk or one of our other members. You can also email me at [chris@rooseveltfire.org](mailto:chris@rooseveltfire.org) for more information.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!



## Bringing Back the "Roosevelt Phone Book"

Years ago, there was a "Roosevelt Phone Book" that was distributed in town and contained contact information for Roosevelt residents only. It helped friends and neighbors connect. There are many new faces in town and it's time to re-create this useful tool for the Roosevelt Community. Kindly send in your contact information for consolidation. You can send as much or as little information as you'd like.

- Name:
- Address: (actual)
- Phone:
- Email:
- Hobbies/Skills or Interests:

You can send your information via email to Sharyn Walz at [sbonfonti@msn.com](mailto:sbonfonti@msn.com), send a note to P.O. Box 216, or call Sharyn at 609-448-1693. Once consolidated, we hope to print this information for distribution only within our town. You may be surprised at who lives near you and shares the same interests, or who might be available to help complete your next home project! Let's connect and bring our unique community even closer!!

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## Rescue Squad Volunteers Welcome

The Roosevelt Rescue Squad is seeking new members to share in this essential work. The commitment requires one night a week or more. Paid training. Paid college credits. Email us at [rooseveltfirstaidsquad@yahoo.com](mailto:rooseveltfirstaidsquad@yahoo.com).



Continued from Page 3

Councilman Ticktin met with local legislators and was able to get a bill introduced that may provide demolition funding for the firehouse (if needed) at 0% interest.

Councilwoman Stacey Bonna reported that the SCA crew left on Saturday after completing their work on the Woodland Trail. They did an amazing job, installing wooden platforms to cross the wet spots between Rochdale and Tamara; rerouting the end of that section to make it safer and more accessible to pedestrians entering from Rochdale; and creating a new trailhead by the cemetery so ensure access via public land. The Stream Committee has acquired a monitoring kit and scheduled additional monitoring. So far, they have found some pollution-sensitive macroinvertebrates, which can only survive in non-polluted streams. The Invasive Species Committee is planning their next attack, which will be the removal of invasive plants along the trail between Valley (aka the bike path) and Rochdale to be scheduled for the fall. Because NJ Audubon is unavailable to work on forest planning with Roosevelt, the Environmental Commission is considering other options.

Councilwoman Jill Lipoti reported they are seeking a part time assistant for the water/sewer utility to increase plant efficiency and decrease overtime expenses. The Open House at the water treatment plant was successful with eight visitors. Councilwoman Lipoti presented Borough Clerk Kelly Tyers with a beautiful hand-crafted butterfly bowl in recognition of Kelly's work on the butterfly garden near Borough Hall. Representatives from an engineering firm will be meeting with NJEIT in early September to discuss next steps for the water/sewer facility. Mayor Ellentuck met with Senator Thompson to encourage legislation to regulate sewer rates so that they are distributed evenly among all ratepay-

ers serviced by the plant owners, the same way water rates are distributed. This could decrease local costs. A follow-up meeting has been arranged with the Board of Public Utilities. Councilwoman Lipoti reported that 12 water meters have been replaced, and the check valves on the Lake Drive lift station were repaired and replaced.

Councilwoman Malkin reported a request from a citizen to differentiate between holding an ongoing yard sale vs. running an actual business from home. The Planning Board completed the land trade work wherein former Mayor Battel gave 12 acres to the Borough in exchange for 2.8 acres. This allowed for the continuation of the original Roosevelt Green Belt design and serves to preserve wildlife and the watershed of Empty Box Brook. The new sign for Solar Village was approved. Councilwoman Malkin

requested that representatives from Millstone EMS be invited to a Council meeting to discuss details and costs of shared services. At the current time, Millstone reps have expressed interest in meeting with area legislators to find mutual benefits to partnering with Roosevelt. Mayor Ellentuck will invite the company that services Millstone EMS to come present their ideas at a future council meeting. Negotiations are limited to Millstone as other towns are more than 5 miles away and partnering with them would likely cause complications with insurance.

Speed-monitoring signs will be installed on either end of Rochdale Ave within the Borough. Kelly spent over four years working with the County to obtain permission to install the signs along County Rt. 571. Following considerable litigation, the Borough's liquor sales license will be returned to the Borough.

There was a motion that school board members who have served a minimum of three years be allowed to be buried at the Roosevelt Municipal Cemetery. This motion was approved

unanimously and Counsel will draft the ordinance. Cemetery records have not been well-kept over the years and the cemetery was recently swept by Ground Penetrating Sonar. Results showed 8 "areas of interest": 3 were further explored and nothing was found, 2 sets of remains were identified, 1 has a potential identification, and 2 are unknown.

There was discussion regarding a proposed change to the software used by the Borough for sending tax bills and handling payments. The new software could allow residents to pay monthly, use a credit card, and would merge with software already being used by Borough staff. Mayor Ellentuck requested that further research be done to compare/contrast existing and new software options to clarify the issue prior to making a final determination.

The Division of Public Employee Occupational Safety and Health (PE-OSH) received a complaint about the Borough with regards to the conditions of the firehouse: mold, poor ventilation, etc. PE-OSH safety division completed the first part of a series of investigations, and found issues with the firehouse regarding electrical, structural and drainage systems. They also cited the Fire Department on several issues including record keeping and lack of a hazard plan. The Borough could potentially face large fines for lack of compliance with PE-OSH standards. Additional inspections are pending.

The Invasive Species Committee presented a proposal to develop the area that was cleared of Autumn Olive (Spruce and 571) into a butterfly park in accordance to the Mayor's Monarch pledge. The Invasive Species Chairman, Steve Taylor, has raised redbud, black birch, and holly trees that could be planted there, as well as milkweed. The Council agreed to provide \$800 for stump removal on the site to facilitate the project.

The 2016 Municipal Budget was introduced and adopted.

The Mayor's Advisory Council on Emergency Services issued their final report which provided a variety of recommendations—everything from building a Fire/First Aid Building to dissolving the Roosevelt Fire Company and relying on shared services from Millstone. A dissenting report from a single member was also issued. Mayor Ellentuck thanked everyone on the Advisory Council for their hard work and dedication. A schedule of daily meetings was arranged to allow for extensive discussion and to narrow down the options. It was important to pare down the options in time to send the final options to Monmouth County. By law, the Council was required to set the questions and information statements no later than its August 8 meeting so that the referendum question could be included on the regular November ballot and not require a special election, which is a significant savings to the Borough.

As a result of daily meetings and extensive discussions, the following referendum question will be placed on the November ballot:

Proposals to determine how to provide future emergency services in the Borough of Roosevelt. Choose Option 1 OR Option 2.

Option 1. Dissolve the Roosevelt Fire Department, enter into an agreement with the Millstone Fire District to provide fire services to Roosevelt, and build a two bay facility for use by the Roosevelt First Aid Squad at a total cost which is not expected to exceed \$2,730,558.00 over the next 20 years.

Option 2. Build a new four-bay facility to house two fire trucks and the First Aid Squad ambulances and equipment at a total cost which is not expected to exceed \$1,632,032.00 over the next 20 years.

The Borough is planning to have public meetings and newsletter dis-

tributions to increase awareness and participation around this issue. Further negotiations with Millstone resulted in a decrease of the cost of proposed shared services, a savings of \$250,000 over 20 years.

Comments from the public included:

\* Concerns that the report issued by the Mayor's Advisory Council on EMS Services was biased and unprofessional, and that it does not reflect the opinions of residents who do not want to build an EMS structure because it is too costly. Additional concerns that the current trend in EMS services is towards paid squads and that the Borough should commission a professional fire systems engineer before making any decisions. Mayor Ellentuck reminded residents that the report is not a stand-alone document and references various expert reports and proposals that are available to the public at Borough Hall and on the Borough website.

\* Concerns for the 2016 Municipal budget that shows increased salaries and legal expenses. There is a new full time employee (purchasing agent/records retention) and that legal expenses are based in anticipated, not actual, fees. Current litigation issues surround the liquor license, municipal court violations with regards to zoning and rentals, significant work on redevelopment and land transfer, green acres restructuring, cemetery ordinance work, and emergency services. The rate for legal services is \$150/hour. Budgets are typically examined from the first half of the year and then projected into the second half. The Borough's CFO, George Lang, was able to provide specific details to answer budget questions posed by residents.

\* Concerns for the future of repairs to the water/sewer utilities, and how these repairs might potentially affect taxes. Response: The current work that is being done is on an emergent

basis only. There are a wide range of options for the water/sewer utility and there is an engineering firm currently working to find ways that the utility can operate more efficiently. It should be noted that work on the utilities is paid for with utility revenue, not taxes.

\* Clarification from Eitan Grunwald, Chairman of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission on the 2016 Municipal Budget: Sustainable NJ grant is \$2,000, Trails grant is \$8,000, and Green Communities Grant is \$3,000.

\* April Suk reported that the Roosevelt Fire Department is one of 25 departments nationwide competing to receive 200 free smoke alarms. She asked residents to vote for Roosevelt on facebook daily to ensure our Borough wins the smoke alarms, which will then be distributed free to residents.

\* Concerns regarding the number of empty houses in town and how to encourage people to move into Roosevelt.

\* Regarding the referendum question of maintaining fire service within Roosevelt or from another district, consideration should be given to the impact this decision could have on residents' homeowner insurance policies.

\* Suggestion that the Council hold separate agenda meetings where resolutions could generated and discussed, and alternate with action meetings for voting on resolutions and ordinances.

\* A suggestion that the Council enter into an interim-based partnership with Millstone EMS to allow additional time to explore alternate options.

\* Former Mayor Beth Battel thanked the Council and CFO George Lang for maintaining the budget without raising the municipal taxes for the past 10 years.

# Contributors to the Bulletin 2015/2016

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare  
James Alt & Susan Schwartz  
Robin & Robert Axel  
Helen Barth  
Elsbeth Battel  
Janet & Richard Bernardin  
Bruce & Irene Block  
Linda Block  
Marvin & Karen Block  
Eric Blumenfeld & Annie Raulerson  
Charlotte Bondy  
Bondy/Vuolle Family  
Alexandra Bonfante-Warren  
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna  
Jacqueline Anne Carperter  
Susan & Robert Cayne  
Maureen & Bob Clark  
Keith & Patricia Clayton  
William & June Counterman  
Paul & Elise Cousineau  
M. K. Drury  
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Karen & Eitan Grunwald  
Len & Michelle Guye-Hillis  
Al Hepner  
Constance & David Herrstrom  
Louise & David Hoffman  
Cynthia Imbrie  
In memory of Bess Tremper  
Michelle & Rick Jaeger  
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Lynn Lawson  
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Ed & Rose Murphy  
Murray family  
Teri Nachtman  
Lilia and Youri Nazarov

Lian Neeman  
The Ng Family  
Tom Orlando  
Bob & Alison Petrilla  
Gregg and Elizabeth Possiel  
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Natalie Warner  
Ralph & Nancy Warnick  
Carol Watchler & Ann Baker  
Judy & Bob Weinberg  
Frank Wiesinger & Theresa Secks  
Mark & Judith Zuckerman  
Zahora family

Help us to fill up this page.

Thank you for your generosity!

Send in a contribution today.

Please send contributions to:

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc.

P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

## Help Wanted

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

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

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



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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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**S E P T E M B E R**

6 Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
6 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
12 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
7 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
15 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
20 Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President
21 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
21 Wed.	7:00 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall, Eitan Grunwald, Chair.
24 Sat.	10:00 am – noon	Roosevelt Collaborative Artists’ Book Project Planning Meeting, Borough Hall
26 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
29 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061

**O C T O B E R**

1 Sat.	8:00 pm	18th Century Caricature, Borough Hall A visual and verbal tour of the hilarious prints that shaped today’s comics, political cartoons, etc. Hosted by Jim Sherry
4 Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
4 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
6 Thurs.	7:00 pm	RPS Strategic Planning, Community Orientation Meeting Roosevelt Public School
10 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
10 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
13 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
19 Wed.	7:00 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall, Eitan Grunwald, Chair.
18 Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President
22 Sat.	3 – 5 pm	Woodland Trail Art Walk and Open Gallery Tour meets at Roosevelt Post Office
24 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Jeff Ellentuck, Mayor
26 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
27 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061
29 Sat.	8:00 pm	Documentary: A Child’s View, Borough Hall Hosted by David Brahinsky
Nov. 1 Tues.	1:30 pm	Presentation by State Health Insurance Assistance Program Roosevelt Borough Hall

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

<b>RECYCLING DATES</b>	<b>ZONING PERMITS</b>
September 7, 21	Tuesdays 4 – 6 PM
October 10, 26	
<b>STATE PERMITS</b>	<b>BOROUGH HOUSING</b>
Wednesdays 1 – 3	<b>INSPECTIONS</b>
	Tuesdays 5 – 6 PM
	Borough Hall