



# Bulletin



Volume 39 Number 4

December 2015

**BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS**

By Sharyn Walz

## **REFERENDUM ON BOND ORDINANCE DECEMBER 15th, Stacey Bonna takes Oath of Office as a New Council Member, Fire Department Needs Assessment Distributed, Deli Opening is Further Delayed**

On November 9th, Stacey Bonna was officially sworn in as a member of the Roosevelt Borough Council. Sharyn Walz was appointed to the Environmental Commission. Kelly Tyers was appointed as Public Works Superintendent as well as Risk Manager. Jacob Barrett was approved as a new member of the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company.

The Department of Environmental Protection has designated January to be Radon Action Month. This is a statewide program and Mayor Battel strongly encouraged residents to become educated about the dangers associated with having radon in the home, how to test for radon and the various methods of eradication. Councilman John Impellizzeri advised that, in New Jersey, short-term test kits must be used and they are available from Kansas State University for only \$15.

For the Community Development and Code Enforcement Committee, Councilman John Impellizzeri stated that the owners of the deli have still not submitted the necessary applications to the Department of Health, which is delaying the opening of the deli. The tenants on the 2nd floor apartment above the deli will not be permitted to remain there, as the zoning variance stipulates that the apartment can only be used as a residence by tenants working in the business below. Also, the illegal bed and breakfast on Homestead Lane was issued a citation. Residents were cautioned that hunting season is now open through mid-February, and

hikers should wear blaze orange or other bright colors to ensure visibility.

Councilman Michael Ticktin, on behalf of the Environment, Health and Public Safety Committee, discussed a meeting with the Chair of Millstone Fire Commission. It is Millstone's position that it is imperative that Roosevelt maintain a viable fire company to ensure both communities are jointly protected via mutual aid agreements. Councilman Ticktin was contacted by the Jewish American Historical Society about installing a marker on the side of the road highlighting Roosevelt's Jewish roots. A representative from the Society will be invited to come to a future Council meeting to discuss details of this proposal.

Councilman Tom Curry advised that Public Works had contacted a tree company to handle a tree that was down near the school.

Councilwoman Peggy Malkin, reporting on Finance, advised that the Borough's CFO confirmed that funds are available to utilize a cleaning service for Borough Hall. A motion was approved to hire the same cleaning services as is used by the school.

Councilman Jeff Ellentuck commended Anna Murray on her work with the youth of Roosevelt and announced that the Fun Run raised \$500 for breast cancer research. Councilman Ellentuck discussed several other topics

Continued on Page 4

**I N S I D E T H I S I S S U E**

A New Roosevelt Public School Mural	5	Roosevelt Arts Project Roosevelt	14
Environmental Commission	6-7	Roosevelt String Band: A History	16
Letters to the Editor	8-13	Board of Education	17

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 39th 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.

### Roosevelt Open Studio

Roosevelt School Art Room Tuesdays 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Open for Roosevelt Residents over 15

Contact: Ellen Silverman, Home: 609 490 0557, Cell: 609 865 7396

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.boroughbulletin.org](http://www.boroughbulletin.org)., the official website of the Borough Bulletin that is maintained by Bulletin Trustee Bob Francis. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please go to [www.boroughbulletin.org](http://www.boroughbulletin.org) and press the "Push Here to Sign Up for Bulletin" button.

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is published monthly, except August and January by Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bob Clark, Bob Francis,  
Rick Pressler, Kevin McNally,  
Michael Ticktin

### EDITOR

Michael Ticktin

### MANAGING EDITOR

Rick Pressler

### TREASURER

Kevin McNally

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Beth Battel                      Michael Ticktin  
Sharyn Walz  
April Suk  
Mary Robinson Cohen

### BUSINESS

Kevin McNally

### GRAPHIC DESIGN

Hope Pressler

### WEB MASTER

Bob Francis

### DISTRIBUTION

John Lenart

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



## From the Mayor

By Elsbeth Battel

Dear Neighbors,

This will be my final letter to you as Mayor. It has been a great pleasure serving the Borough over these past numerous years and I thank you for the privilege.

Over the years I have seen many changes for the good in Roosevelt:

1). The preservation of so much open space. When I first came on the Planning Board we were threatened by developers seeking to build massive housing developments on what is now Green Acres, County Park and preserved farmland. Thanks to Fund for Roosevelt, Mayor Hamilton and the Planning Boards and Councils we are now secure in maintaining Roosevelt with its original greenbelt secure.

2). A major important improvement has been the growth and strengthening of the Emergency Services. In the early 2000s Jack Rindt joined the First Aid Squad and built it into the fabulous organization it is today. Prior to that we had barely enough people to answer a single call and often relied upon the help of individuals who were willing to drive or give a hand but were untrained and therefore unqualified by law to assist on calls. Jack not only built the membership, but has acquired two new ambulances to carry patients to the help they need. "Neighbors helping neighbors."

3). The early 2000s we had a Fire Company of a few dedicated individuals who, despite their best intentions, were not all qualified to carry out the duties as prescribed by law. The equipment was old, insufficient and unreliable, and there didn't seem to be any "new blood" coming to carry things into the future. Then April and Chris Suk and Dan Archer appeared. Together with John Lenart (already a member), and under the guidance of Jack Rindt, they steadily built the Fire Department into the strong and capable company it is today. April Suk, who also serves Roosevelt as OEM, is a wizard at organizing, finding, and acquiring grants and equipment. Encouraged by Forestry Service's John Reith, she sent out emails to the Monmouth County Fire Marshall Hank Stryker, who helped April acquire a command vehicle and two new trucks—one from Tinton Falls and one from Morganville—that were far superior to the very old previous equipment. She further secured grants and donations for necessary fire-fighting equipment. Brendon Powers was one of the first new young men to join and he encouraged another five stalwart volunteers to sign up. Now the squad is strong and well equipped, thanks to the before mentioned individuals who have volunteered and sacrificed their time and efforts, and who could potentially sacrifice a good deal more to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Roosevelt.

We, the citizens owe it to these fine volunteers to support the Emergency Services by approving the bond ordinance that is the subject of the December 15 special referendum election. PLEASE VOTE YES!

4). Volunteering is not new to Roosevelt but it is one of the best things about our town. The School Board, the Environmental Commission, the Planning Board, the Council, RAP, the Borough Bulletin, the litter pick-up, the trails maintenance, the Emergency Services, the Seniors, and many other groups that I am remiss in failing to name, all staffed and run by volunteers, represent the fabric of this marvelous community.

Thank you for the privilege of serving on the Council and as your Mayor these past twelve years.

Beth

P.S. VOTE YES!

### 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

Continued from Page 2

including increased compensation for the Zoning Officer in light of additional work hours, coordinating with Hightstown to consider a leaf pick up for 2016, and the Borough Engineer receiving an award for her work at the sewer plant. The Council also determined that Borough Hall would be closed on Friday, November 27th as a paid holiday for staff.

In response to an inquiry letter received from Isaac Menda, a presentation was shown to clarify some additional points regarding funding for the EMS Building and proposed alternative solutions. Councilman Ellentuck's motion to purchase a tent to cover the fire truck recently received from Wall Township was approved. The tent could be used in the future for community events, such as the annual Fourth of July celebration. Leaving the truck out in the elements is not an option, as water damage could cause cracks and mold. The referendum on the Bond Ordinance for the EMS Building will be held at Borough Hall on December 15th, 2015.

Councilwoman Jill Lipoti, reporting for the Utilities Committee, provided several maintenance updates: the exterior of the water plant has been painted, the fencing around both the sewer and water plant is now secure, and new windows will be installed at the water plant early December. The sodium aluminate tanks are being sent out for periodic cleaning. Councilwoman Lipoti and Councilman Ellentuck attended a recent League of Municipalities meeting and gathered information regarding energy audits, storm drain mapping, pipe cleaning and other activities that could lead Roosevelt towards obtaining Sustainable Jersey certification. They also attended a seminar on the pros and cons of utility privatization. They were able to confirm that the water regulations that require even distribution of water costs across a company's customer base are not applicable to the sewer

rates, however, legislation on this matter is currently being considered. It was also noted that there is a Division of Rate Counsel, who represents the best interest of consumers regarding utility rates and policies.

#### Public Comment

On behalf of the Invasive Species committee of the Environmental Commission, Chairman Steve Taylor advised the Council that the committee is interested in holding an "Attack on Autumn Olive Day" in coordination with a brush pick-up day. The Committee has identified a borough-owned area to target near Spruce Lane, and would also like to offer themselves as a resource for any resident who needs assistance identifying or removing Autumn Olive from their private properties. The Council provided their support for the project and the committee will coordinate a day with Public Works in the early spring of 2016. Volunteers will be needed for this project in order to have maximum impact. Please email the Invasive Species Committee at [Rooseveltinvasive@outlook.com](mailto:Rooseveltinvasive@outlook.com) if you are interested in helping with this project.

Mary Tulloss expressed concerns regarding the quality, taste, and smell of the drinking water in the event that Roosevelt's utilities are privatized. Council responded that any decisions regarding the utilities will be made only after carefully considering all of the factors, including addressing any public concerns and consulting an engineer who specializes in water/sewer utilities. It is important to have the utilities assessed to learn their value prior to negotiating with any outside company, and to realize that privatization is available in varying degrees; it is not necessarily an "all or none" proposition.

Eitan Grunwald reviewed the recommendations that came out of the Environmental Resource Inventory, one of which was that Roosevelt develop a forest management plan

with a focus on wildfire hazard mitigation. After researching several options, Eitan requested and received approval to move forward with the process of applying for both Federal and State funding to develop such a plan with the assistance of the NJ Audubon Society; this process requires a municipal match. Officials from the Assunpink Wildlife Management Center are interested in coordinating with Roosevelt, and this partnership may expedite the funding process. Eitan has also received assurance of cooperation from the Roosevelt Fire Company, who may have access to different sources of funding.

At the Cemetery, a new double tombstone was erected, which is prohibited since plots are not pre-assigned. A proposal will be drafted to require permits for future monument installations.

April Suk provided the Council and public with a Fire Department Needs Assessment, which describes the fire risks and equipment requirements in great detail. The Fire Company's Open House was a success and the next event will be on December 13th, as families are invited to have cookies with Santa at Borough Hall from 1-3 PM. April reported that when it snows, members of the Fire Company dig out the fire hydrants and reminded residents not to park next to the hydrants. April also reported needing more "No Parking When Road is Snow Covered Signs" and commended the Code Enforcement officer on enforcing this important ordinance for the benefit of everyone's safety.





# A New Roosevelt Public School Mural

By Larissa Bondy

RPS is in the midst of creating a new mural for our school, to compliment the original Ben Shahn mural that draws visitors all the time!

This mural will be created by the students facilitated by a group called BucksAIR, the AIR standing for artists in residence.

This project involves each student creating a tile that symbolizes something special for them in Roosevelt. The tiles will be fired in the new kiln, purchased through a grant from the Roosevelt Education Foundation. Once the tiles have been fired, they will be glazed by the students, and fired again. The final installation is completed by BucksAir and volunteers from the community.



Please contact Larisa Bondy at [Larisa@rps1.org](mailto:Larisa@rps1.org) if you would like to give a few hours of your time in January or February to help install this mosaic mural.



Once the mosaic pieces have been installed between the children's tiles, the mural grouted and our final masterpiece will be complete. The mural will be at the entrance to the school, so that everyone that enters can share in it.

Special thanks to all that helped raise the money to make this mural. It truly has been a community effort. The contributors are RAP (Roosevelt Arts Project), The Roosevelt Education Foundation, The Roosevelt PTA, the Roosevelt Teacher's Association, The Roosevelt Student Council and The Roosevelt Board of Education.

Thanks again to all who donated and helped make this project a reality. Please come and visit the school in the spring and gaze at the artistic interpretation of what current RPS students see as Roosevelt.

## ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS

All dogs over the age of 7 months must be licensed in the municipality where they are kept. Licenses are renewed each year in January. You may purchase dog licenses in person at the Borough Hall. Preferred times are Tues – Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm.

In order to process your license the following is required:

- Proof of rabies vaccination – State Law requires proof of rabies vaccination valid through October 31 of the current licensing year (10/31/16) for each and every dog to be licensed.
- Check or cash, no credit/debit cards. All fees payable to Borough of Roosevelt.

Basic Fees (per dog): \$7.00 license

\$1.00 annual registration fee

.20 annual Pilot Clinic Fund     Addt'l fee for non-neutered/ non spayed dog: \$3.00

\$8.20 total regular fee

\$11.20 total non-neutered dog

Late fees: Failure to obtain or to renew a license as required can result in penalty fees.

If you need a rabies certificate, there will be a free rabies clinic in Millstone on Jan. 23, 2016 from 1 -2 pm at their Public Works building on Perrineville Rd. Please call Roosevelt Borough Hall 609-448-0539 for additional info and for potential evening hours.

## Why You Should Leave the Leaves

Savvy gardeners know that keeping fallen leaves on their property benefits wildlife and the environment



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: The air turns crisp, the leaves turn red and gold and homeowners turn to the annual chore known as “fall garden clean-up”—including disposal of those leaves after they fall to the ground.

Traditionally, leaf removal has entailed three steps: Rake leaves (or blast them with a blower) into piles, transfer the piles to bags and place the bags out to be hauled off to a landfill. Yet, increasingly, conservationists say these actions not only harm the environment but rob your garden of nutrients while destroying wildlife habitat. The alternative? “Let fallen leaves stay on your property,” says National Wildlife Federation Naturalist David Mizejewski.

### Leaves in Landfills

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, **leaves and other yard debris account for more than 13 percent of the nation's solid waste—a whopping 33 million tons a year.** Without enough oxygen to decompose, this organic matter releases the greenhouse gas methane, says Joe Lamp'l, author of *The Green Gardener's Guide*. In

fact, solid-waste landfills are the largest U.S. source of man-made methane—and that's aside from the carbon dioxide generated by gas-powered blowers and trucks used in leaf disposal.

For gardeners, turning leaves into solid waste is wasteful. “Fallen leaves offer a double benefit,” Mizejewski says. **“Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as it breaks down.** Why spend money on mulch and fertilizer when you can make your own?”

**Removing leaves also eliminates vital wildlife habitat.** Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material. Many moth and butterfly caterpillars overwinter in fallen leaves before emerging in spring.

Need one more reason to leave the leaves? “The less time you spend raking leaves,” Mizejewski says, “the more time you'll have to enjoy the gorgeous fall weather and the wildlife that visits your garden.”



### Every Litter Bit Counts

What should you do with all those fallen leaves you're not sending to the landfill? Here are some tips:

- Let leaves stay where they fall. They won't hurt your lawn if

By Laura Tangley

you chop them with a mulching mower.

- Rake leaves off the lawn to use as mulch in garden beds. For finer-textured mulch, shred them first.
- Let leaf piles decompose; the resulting leaf mold can be used as a soil amendment to improve structure and water retention.
- Make compost: Combine fallen leaves (“brown material”) with grass clippings and other “green material” and keep moist and well mixed. You'll have nutrient-rich compost to add to your garden next spring.
- Still too many leaves? Share them with neighbors, friends, schools and others. Some communities will pick up leaves and make compost to sell or give away.
- Build a brush shelter. Along with branches, sticks and stems, leaves can be used to make brush piles that shelter native wildlife.

For more wildlife-gardening tips, visit [www.nwf.org/garden](http://www.nwf.org/garden)

### January is Radon Action Month

Radon causes as many as 500 lung cancer deaths in New Jersey each year. Some houses in Roosevelt have been found to have radon levels above the acceptable limit. To protect your family, remember to test your home for radon. Radon mitigation systems can easily be installed when needed. For further information, contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Radon Program at (609) 648-0394 or visit <http://www.njradon.org>.

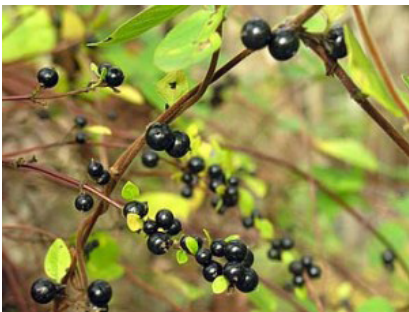


Invasive Plant of The Month:  
Japanese Honeysuckle

By Sharyn Walz

As a child, you may have drunk the nectar from the flowers of the Japanese Honeysuckle growing along your back fence. The flavor is sweet, and the heady fragrance is bottled into many perfumes and air fresheners. The vine, however, is a big problem in NJ: fast-growing, aggressive, and heavy, Japanese Honeysuckle blocks out sunlight, constricts native plants (called girdling), and weighs down trees, increasing wind damage from storms. It can actually change the forest structure by engulfing small trees and shrubs, causing them to collapse. Even below the ground, the roots compete with native plants for space, water, and nutrients.

Japanese Honeysuckle, as the name implies, is native to Eastern Asia



and came to the US in the 1800s as an ornamental. In spring, Japanese Honeysuckle is one of the first plants to sprout leaves, and as it covers the ground, natives don't stand a chance.

Leaves are oblong to oval, sometimes lobed, have short stalks, and occur in pairs along the stem. Flowers are tubular, with five fused petals, white to pink, turning yellow with age. Stems and leaves are sometimes covered with fine, soft hairs. Japanese honeysuckle blooms from late April through July and sometimes into October. Look for the small black fruits are produced in autumn, each containing 2-3 oval to oblong, dark brown seeds about 1/4 inch across. Birds often eat the berries, thus helping Japanese Honeysuckle to spread. White tailed deer eat the plant itself—and yes, it is still growing!

This is a great time to pull out any Japanese Honeysuckle from your property—the bees are mostly gone.

Care must be taken to remove the entire plant, including the roots; all plant materials should be bagged and taken off-site. Mowing large patches of honeysuckle may be useful if repeated regularly but is most effective when combined with herbicide application. Mow at twice a year, first in mid-July and again in mid-September. Plants can also be grubbed out using a pulaski or similar digging tool, taking care to remove all roots and runners.



References:

- [http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/japanese\\_honeysuckle.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/japanese_honeysuckle.htm)
- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/loja1.htm>
- [http://www.nj.gov/dep/njisc/Factsheets/j\\_honeysuckle.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/njisc/Factsheets/j_honeysuckle.pdf) Copy-right
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources, [www.ohiodnr.gov](http://www.ohiodnr.gov)

SCHOOL NEWS

On November 24, our students were treated to an assembly presented by Young Audiences of New Jersey: “Maggie McGee and the Good Character Bandwagon.” The school sponsored this assembly as part of its character education program and as an opportunity for our students to experience the richness that attending live performances of the arts provides.

Through puppets, the actors explored the idea of what it means to have good character.

A follow-up activity was led by our music teacher, Ms. Reynolds, our art teacher, Ms. Witlieb, our social worker, Ms. Roth, and Mrs. Cohen.

Classroom teachers used the assembly time to meet together as a professional learning community to look at student data to improve student achievement.

By Mary Robinson Cohen,  
Superintendent and Principal



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Opinions expressed here are those of the writers.*

Dear Editor,

On Referendum, Vote NO

During the December 15th referendum, Rooseveltians should vote NO. Otherwise, taxpayers will be saddled with as much as \$571,400 in additional bonded indebtedness for a grandiose new building that is not needed for effective emergency services in our tiny community.

Fire, first aid and emergency management needs can be fully satisfied by existing durable buildings: the current firehouse and the municipal building, each with three vehicle bays. Relatively modest renovations can enable those six bays to accommodate all reasonable needs of a fire department with two engines, a first aid squad with two ambulances, and file space for an emergency management officer.

Simple renovations are required for ventilation of the firehouse and municipal building bays, a new roof for the firehouse, an extension of the firehouse for one large pumper engine, a solution for drainage and seepage issues at the firehouse, and strengthened paving in front of both buildings. These, and any other, concerns can be addressed with phased projects, grants, modest infusions from the Borough's historically high municipal budget, and, if necessary, a much lower figure for bonded indebtedness than the \$571,400 currently allowed by the ordinance that the referendum should reject.

Roosevelt's fire department has never had more than two pumper engines to fight fires. Only a handful of houses in town are without close access to fire hydrants. When the fire companies in sprawling Millstone Township, which lacks a city water system, fight fires, they often fill their pumpers and large-capacity tankers with water from Roosevelt's water system. Two pumping engines in Roosevelt could check a fire distant from any hydrant until a mutual aid company could arrive to assist in putting it out. This is just what would happen should Roosevelt's firefighters arrive first at a fire in the part of Millstone closer to Roosevelt than to Millstone's own fire companies.

It is Roosevelt's participation in the mutual aid system that provides us with the greatest assurance that a major fire in our town would be extinguished expeditiously. This is especially so since our main mutual aid fire assistance comes from the fire company in nearby Clarksburg, which has salaried firefighters on duty during daytime hours. We need not worry about having to pay for this mutual aid because none of the other communities participating in mutual aid has ever billed us for it, just as we have never billed them. The mutual

aid agreement includes first aid responses. Our first class first aid squad frequently responds in surrounding towns and has never billed them for its services.

Keep in mind that the vast majority of our fire company responses involve incidents other than fires. Only a handful of fires requiring pumping engines have ever occurred in Roosevelt.

Voting NO on the referendum would not deprive our enthusiastic volunteers of a proper level of support. It simply would send a message to Council members that their plan for hasty demolition of a sound structure and substitution of an unnecessary edifice, while ignoring reasonable alternatives that rely on renovation of existing buildings, does not fit Rooseveltians' expectations of thrifty spending by their elected officials.

The need for frugality is especially great given the Borough's current dilemma of looming expenses associated with deteriorating water and sewer systems. The chair of the Council's utility committee has estimated that those expenses may require funding in the vicinity of \$2 million. We may not have much choice other than to pay those costs because of clean water mandates in Department of Environmental Protection regulations, as well as the need to call a halt to constant repairs following breakdowns of pipes, valves and other ancient infrastructure. In meeting emergency service needs, where we do have more discretion, we should proceed in the most inexpensive way possible.

The two-engine, building-renovation option in no way withdraws support from our volunteers. It just requires them to work within available means the same as all the rest of Roosevelt's organizations and individuals. There is no specially equipped senior center in Roosevelt. Public recreation facilities are modest or non-existent. If a house has a leaky roof or develops some mold, it is not torn down. To keep water out, the roof is repaired, and gutters, downspouts, drains, and sealants are installed, or soil is regraded. If a garage is too small for modern vehicles, it is extended. Similar, thrifty solutions should be applied to our sturdy public buildings.

Sincerely,  
Bob Clark  
Lou Esakoff

---

Dear Editor,

Two things have prompted this letter. First, it is clear that confusion still exists regarding the facts, finances and laws as they relate to the Emergency Services Building. Second, I was presented with a proposal by the "Public Committee."



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

Regarding the facts/law/finances:

- The maximum increase in taxes would be \$70 per year, not \$300 per month as some have been told.
- The Council has not chosen a plan. We have expressed our willingness to consider any reasonable plan but we would be foolhardy to choose a plan without speaking with professional firms. We cannot retain a design/build firm and we cannot implement any plan unless the Bond Ordinance is approved with a "Yes" vote.
- Fire and First Aid already have all the equipment they need. They just need a safe place to put it.
- If we lose our First Aid team, we will likely have to consider using MONOC, as in the past. They charge for services. Also, they need safe reasonable facilities to house their equipment and their personnel require on-site ready room facilities, neither of which we have now.
- If we have no firefighters, we will have to pay Millstone \$0.11 per hundred of assessed valuation. That is \$220 to \$450 per household plus increases vs. a maximum of \$70 per year.
- Typical NJ firehouses cost \$3.5 to \$5.5 million and more. A steel pole building is hardly luxurious.
- The steel pole building was the idea of Council members, not the Fire Department, when it became apparent that the cost of a "band aid" that did not meet all our needs was almost the same as a new building.

Regarding the "Public Committee" proposal:

I was asked by the Public Committee to present their proposal to the Council in a public meeting as they did not want to do so. Their proposal is:

- Create a concrete or brick 'bump out' in front of one of the firehouse bays to allow the Wall truck to be backed in. In other words, the bump out would be sufficient to house the cab of the Wall truck.
- Dispose of one fire truck.
- Waterproof the existing firehouse, including trenching around the sides and back. We discussed, but I did not get an answer to the question of whether their proposed costs include a new drain line under the parking lot and related excavating and repaving costs.
- Move the parking lot for the public behind the Borough Hall so there is clear access for the fire trucks.
- Use the existing third bay of the firehouse for storage and an OEM office.
- No improvements to the First Aid garage.
- The project would be spread over three years with

funds to come from the current budget. The project would be built in part with volunteer labor.

- They conservatively estimate construction costs at \$340,000.

While this proposal will be compared to other proposals we will consider if funding is approved, this cost is remarkably close to the original estimate of construction costs. The engineer estimated the cost of her original proposal at \$391,000. That is a \$50,000 difference. Their alternative plan does not include soft costs (as required by law), nor do they include the potential for any cost overruns. So, if we add those costs back into the equation and compare apples to apples, if bonded, their plan would save \$4.82 to \$8.26 per year in taxes over worst case scenario proposed by the Borough engineer. That is \$0.40 - \$0.69 per month.

Of course, their plan assumes volunteer labor and ignores the Fair Pay provisions of the law. Based on their financing proposal, we would pay \$1800 +/- per year in additional taxes per household for the next three years. Even if we were willing to pay an additional \$1800 per year in taxes, State law does not permit us to increase taxes by that amount.

If we rely on the proposed plan, we would lose all repairs to the First Aid building (no widening of doors or exhaust system), a fire truck, all the trees behind the Borough Hall, space for the public works equipment, file space, office space and exhaust systems for the fire house.

Some may think this plan represents a worthwhile tradeoff. I do not.

Jeff Ellentuck

---

To the Editor,

Who are we who will vote NO on the referendum?

We are residents of Roosevelt who are concerned about leaving current and future residents with a higher tax bill for a project that can be done for half the price.

We are citizens concerned about the very large upcoming expenditures for mandatory updating of our water and sewer systems.

We are citizens concerned about selling our homes at market value when our time comes to leave Roosevelt.

And lastly, we are not, contrary to ugly rumors, citizens against the Fire and First Aid Squads; on the contrary we support both with our donations and are in favor of an adequate and more affordably renovated Emergency Services Building.

It is as clear and simple as that.

Lou Esakoff

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

To the Editor,

After 25 years as a member of the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company I decided to retire and let the younger members do what I could no longer do. All of those years the Fire Company had inadequate facilities according to state mandates. Thankfully, no one had any serious problems from that environment. Now we are faced with giving our emergency services volunteers a place to do the job they are trained to do – protect the town. I look at this as a way to give back to all the dedicated volunteers through a safe working environment. We all pay about a \$1000 for home insurance and about \$1000 for car insurance and we hope we will never have to use it. Over a 20-year period that amounts to \$20,000. The cost of a safe working place for our volunteers comes out to \$70 a year per household, or \$1400 over 20 years. Now go to the polls and cast your vote on December 15 and hope you never have to call 9-1-1.

Thank you,

Robert Francis  
Retired FireFighter

---

To the Editor,

VOTE NO on DECEMBER 15

I am a supporter of our Fire Department and First Aid Squads. I know how important volunteers are to our community. Having been a volunteer myself for many years, I realize the sacrifices made for public service. I admire and thank them collectively and as individuals for their service to our town. It has been argued that those of us who assert our support for our squads but do not think a new building is the way to meet their list of needs, are somehow naive. I along with other citizens, some of whom do not support this major project, collected a substantial amount in donations for the 4th of July Committee. When the Committee disbanded, we unanimously decided to donate the balance of the remaining proceeds to the Roosevelt Fire Department whom we support.

The building of a new emergency services building is NOT right solution for our squads list of needs, and this is NOT the right time to borrow up to \$571,400 to build it.

I had the pleasure of serving the town as Mayor and School Board President. I have been involved with the decision making process and planning for many projects large and small. Since the origin of the town, we have not added any new municipal, utility or school buildings. We have always chosen to renovate or build modest extensions on the original buildings. The proposal to build a new emergency services building is an unprecedented one in our history and deserves much scrutiny and careful consideration by our citizens. It deserves a public vote. I am proud to have been one

of the citizens who supported bringing this momentous decision directly to the public via a referendum (as wisely provided for in State Law) so the public can decide how its tax dollars are spent.

Many of our homeowners cannot afford to suffer yet another property tax increase on the heels of a recent school tax increase.

In the past, the Council and the School Board communicated and coordinated the timing of projects which would result in tax increases so that during any tax year, our homeowners would not get hit with the one-two punch of tax increases in Borough and School taxes. Although at times both the town and school had projects on its to-do list, one or the other public body would often choose to delay their project so taxpayers were not hammered with an increase by both public bodies. Sadly, this is no longer the practice. This is not the right time to hit our taxpayers with a second major project (the construction of a new emergency services building) right after taxpayers were just hit with a large property tax increase for major school renovations. The ill-advised timing of this major municipal building project with little regard for our taxpayers is sufficient alone for a NO vote on December 15.

This is a time to make repairs, not the time to build a new building.

When the school had leaks in its roof and the stucco on the exterior of the building needed work, the Board didn't borrow to build a new building at taxpayer expense. It repaired the roof and the walls of the original building. When the Borough Engineer recommended that the Council build a new water tower because the original needed repair, the Council opted to repair the original one to save taxpayers money.

Want and need are not the same thing.

For the last few years, I have wanted a new car. But, because our budget is tight, I opted to repair my old car and live a more modest existence. Sure the Fire Department WANTS a new building, undoubtedly it would meet all of their needs and then some, but want and need are not synonymous. I am absolutely in favor of meeting the needs of the Fire Department but, like many of our homeowners, I can't afford their wants. I am sure many of you are in the same position.

A NO vote on December 15 has absolutely nothing to do with your support or lack of support for our squads.

You will be voting on a particular proposal, to borrow up to \$571,400 to build a new building to address the needs list of the Fire Department. By voting NO, you are rejecting the idea that the only way to meet our squads

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

needs is to have a large, new building constructed. You are voting on a specific proposal, not whether or not you support our squads.

Some Council members have asserted that it will be difficult to attract and maintain ES volunteers if we do not provide them with a new ES building as a way of showing our appreciation of their efforts as volunteers. That is perhaps the worst rationale for building a new ES building. I served for years on the Council and had to look at that old 1960's style fake wood paneling and a couple of inadequately framed pictures hanging slightly cockeyed on the wall. I never once felt that I or any other member of the Council deserved a new Hall or even new paneling.

Borrowing up to \$571,400 to build a new building would be just part of the costs of this solution for our taxpayers.

When you pay your mortgage every month, you soon realize that your mortgage payment is not the only bill related to home ownership that you must pay for out of your budget. The same would be true if we decided to build a new building. Having prepared both school and municipal budgets, I know that in addition to the cost of borrowing to build that brand new ES building, there will be a long list of recurring monthly expenses related to having that new building, including utility bills, upkeep, and insurance policies. Because the new ES building plans include an additional fire engine bay to accommodate the recently acquired but unnecessary third pumper truck, the additional truck will need to be periodically equipped, inspected, and maintained. The addition of the third truck will add additional annual expenses. When I was on the Council and School Board, we understood that whenever a new project was begun, we had to account for the ancillary, recurring expenses related to that new structure. These monthly bills MUST be budgeted for and included in the municipal budget. The costs of maintaining that new building, new trucks, and new equipment would come out of taxpayers pockets in every budget year.

New buildings, like new houses, don't come with anything inside them. They require lots of new stuff.

If a new building is built, there will be room for lots of new equipment (more stuff) and you can almost guarantee that new equipment, storage lockers, etc., will fill that void. All that new equipment must be purchased and maintained and budgeted for. Remember, when someone quotes you a low-ball figure that seems too good to be true, it probably isn't true; there are often many other (unlisted) costs. Just as with car loans, "The large print giveth, the small print taketh away."

The Council's decision making process was not inclusive. When the School Board wanted to repair the school

roof and walls, they reached out to the public and asked for their informed consent to undertake this project. The School Board invited the public to tour the school to see for themselves what was needed. In my opinion, this is the right way to go about things—you need to get the informed consent of the taxpayers before proceeding on major bond issues. The "informed" part is very important, and the School Board and administration does an excellent job of informing the public about what is needed, then asking for their approval. Of course, one of the reasons for this kind of outreach is that the school is required to go to referendum for bonding approval. Knowing they must get approval, the Board of Education wisely takes great care and invites the voters into the decision making process.

The Council was begged to bring its proposed bonding ordinance to the public for approval. Municipal governments can choose to bring important bond issues to the public if they want to and often (in other towns) they do so voluntarily. The Roosevelt Borough Council decided not to bring this building project to the public for approval. The School Board enthusiastically invited the public to tour the school, including a guided tour of the roof, before proceeding with its capital project.

Shouldn't we trust our elected officials to make decisions for us?

It has been argued that we should trust our elected officials to act in our best interest because they were elected by us for that purpose. Normally, I might agree with that premise. In this instant I do not agree. Until the most recent election, many of our Council members were not elected by the public but appointed by the Council to fill a vacancy in office. To make matters worse, there have been times when the Democratic Committee allowed someone who had no intention of serving to remain on the ballot so they could be elected to hold public office. Soon after they were elected they resigned. The Democratic Committee then provided the Council with a short list of people to fill that vacant seat. So, even after our citizens voted for a particular candidate, in actuality they had no intention of serving as full term, and the Council decided on who they wanted to fill that position. These people were in effect placeholders, not truly elected officials in the conventional sense.

Additionally, we haven't had a truly contested election in years and because there often is no opposition, there is seldom any knowledge of where our appointed or elected Council members positions are on many matters. When you are running unopposed from anyone in your own party with no viable opposition party, you never have

Continued on Page 12



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

Continued from Page 11

to espouse your positions or values. Voter turnout is very low by Roosevelt standards. Certainly there are many people in town with differing viewpoints, and I have tried to encourage some citizens who I feel would make good Council members to run. Often I've heard that they feel the Council is a toxic environment that squelches opposition viewpoints, so they don't run. Should we trust public officials whose opinions and positions are unknown, many who were appointed by the Council to act as our representatives because we elected them? Certainly not. Trust is earned not given blindly, and it is difficult to put your trust in a system that is dysfunctional in too many ways.

Trust your own judgement.

Who should you trust then? You should hear all the facts and seek those that may not be freely offered or disclosed. You should listen to both sides of the issue. Then you should trust your own opinion, and go to the polls to express it freely. The Council should respect the result should it be NO.

Sincerely,

Michael Hamilton

---

Dear Editor and Fellow Rooseveltians,

Support Our First Responders and Vote No on the Referendum

Supporting our First Aid Squad and Fire Department does not equate with incurring over \$571,000 plus interest in new debt (\$760,000 at a modest 3% interest rate). In deciding whether or not to ratify the Borough Council's bond ordinance, I asked myself several questions. Is a \$571,000 plus interest new fire-house/emergency building what Roosevelt needs most? Considering that we've had fewer than four fires in the past 30 years and Millstone's Fire Department (less than 7 minutes away) almost always responds to a fire alarm in Roosevelt, my answer was No.

Next, I asked myself if Roosevelt will have to start paying Millstone to respond to our fire alarms unless we authorize this \$760,000 in new debt. Again, after researching the issue, the answer was No. I found no factual support for the contention that we will have to pay Millstone if we vote No on the bond referendum. There is no separate mutual aid agreement between Roosevelt and Millstone. There is one Monmouth County Mutual Aid Agreement covering first aid and fire which each municipality ratifies. Unless Millstone decides to forego receiving help for first aid and fire emergencies, it is not going to pull out of the coun-

ty-wide Mutual Aid Agreement.

In any case, I wondered whether the timing is right to saddle all the households in Roosevelt with a new debt of over half-a-million dollars. It came to mind that in July, the Council reported that Roosevelt's sewer plant needs 2 million dollars of work done. Our water-sewer bill is already outrageously high and it looks as if it's going to get higher. Given the number of houses that have been foreclosed and that are for sale but not selling, I can't see the wisdom or logic of incurring a new \$571,000 debt (\$760,000 with interest) before we know how much the water-sewer bill will be increasing.

There are lots of ways to support the volunteers on our stellar First Aid Squad and Fire Department, and the current facilities can be upgraded and renovated each year out of our existing budget. After all, do we really need to pay the borough attorney \$80,000 every year?

Sincerely,  
Maureen Parrott

---

Editor,

I note that, according to the Bulletin article, an independent committee of experts is looking into the present proposal for the Emergency Services Building. I have the following questions :

1. Who are these experts
2. What are their credentials ?
3. Who hired them ?
4. Are they being paid and if so who is paying them ?
5. Do they hold meetings that are open to the public ?

Jeb Shahn's proposal that a committee of town folk volunteer to digitize records is a good one. Has Jeb volunteered to organize and run this committee?

Respectfully,  
Bert Ellentuck

---

To the Editor,

Top 10 reasons to vote "yes" in the referendum:

10. It will save you money in taxes. Financing for a new emergency services building will increase your taxes by up to \$70 per year. Paying for another fire company to provide service to Roosevelt would cost you \$220 to \$450 per year.
9. It will save you money in insurance. Having a fire company in town that is robust will decrease our fire response rating and lower your insurance cost.
8. It is fair to our neighboring towns and allows us to

receive mutual aid. Roosevelt and our neighboring towns can support one another.

7. It is fair for all Roosevelt residents. Regardless of whether your home is near a fire hydrant or it requires water to be pumped some distance, Roosevelt residents can be assured that their responders are prepared and equipped to respond.

6. It decreases our vulnerability to forest fires. We love the fact that Roosevelt is so close to the woods, but those trees are potential fuel for fires.

5. It increases our resilience. Climate change brings more frequent and more severe storms. It brings greater potential for droughts, floods, and fires. Preparedness brings a level of resilience which will be more and more important as climate conditions change.

4. It supports the volunteers in our community. Our emergency responders already dedicate much of their “free” time in training and readiness, as well as in response to emergencies. They need a building which protects their equipment and gear and which is safe. A vote “yes” is also a way to say “thanks for all you do.”

3. Roosevelt is an amazing community. Unifying our town with emergency services that are not too big, not too small, but just right, is our goal. We need to recognize the interrelatedness of people, the planet, and the practical matters of finance, business, public policy, and human behavior. We need to support all aspects of our town – the school, the arts, the environment, the senior citizens, and the people who do Tai Chi. Supporting those that support all of us makes sense.

2. WWFD? What Would Franklin Do? To quote Franklin D. Roosevelt, “There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still.” A vote “Yes” gives us a path forward, to work together to achieve common goals.

1. The number one reason to vote “yes” is to allow this important dialogue about the values of the community to continue. You have elected candidates to Borough Council to represent you, and we want to do everything we can to minimize costs and maximize benefits for Roosevelt residents. We want to do the fiscally responsible things that will make our community the best it can be for current residents and for the future. We don’t want to simply “kick the can down the road” and leave problems for the next Council to discover and solve. We want to solve them as a community, with open and transparent dialogue. Vote “yes” and keep coming to council meetings so we can learn your concerns and do our best to address them.

Jill Lipoti

## Letter to the Editor

Amidst all that is going on these last few months, I keep hearing the same whispers over and over again, and I need to speak out on it.

Did you know that the Chief of the Fire Department is an appointed position? Did you know that every year the members of the Fire Company vote on that position, but the winner of that election is merely a recommendation? The Borough Council appoints the Chief. The Borough Council makes the ultimate decision on who is responsible for being the incident commander at the scene of an emergency. We vote based on who we feel is best suited to lead us at the scene of a fire, and the Council validates or throws out that vote.

That out of the way, the Fire Department is made up of individuals, but at its core it is an organization whose mission it is to save lives. In the three years under the current chief it has lost three members and gained thirteen. Why do I bring this up? The Fire Department is not a static organization. People join, people leave. People move in to town, people move out. We are a relatively new organization; most of our members have only been firefighters for a year or two. If we can retain them as members they will move up in the ranks, but we have to have a department that’s capable of supporting them so they can grow, learn, and gain experience first.

I keep hearing that people are against the Fire Department because they don’t like the Chief. To say you won’t support an entire organization because you don’t like one person is simply irresponsible.

The Borough Council is trying to get funding to build an Emergency Services Building to house fire trucks and ambulances and the necessary day to day activities of a Fire Department and First Aid Squad. It’s not the Taj Mahal, it’s not the “Cadillac of buildings,” there are no “luxuries,” nor is there a “party room.” Its three offices, a meeting room and a garage, and hopefully the added luxury of a working toilet.

You and I may not be here in 20 years, but these organizations still need to be. I ask you to stop making this personal and look at the bigger picture. Think about the importance of this for the entire community and for the next generation of residents who will volunteer for these organizations. Think about that when you go to the polls on December 15th. Think about the future of Roosevelt.

April Suk

Treasurer, Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company  
Coordinator, Roosevelt Office of Emergency Management  
Girl Scout, PTA Member, Mother, Wife, Resident

# The Roosevelt Arts Project

The Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP) is a collaborative venture of friends and neighbors in and around Roosevelt, New Jersey. Bringing together artists in a variety of media, our mission is to foster collaboration and present their work to the public.

Founded in 1986 by the nationally known artists, Bernarda Bryson Shahn and Jacob Landau, and others including writers and musicians, the Roosevelt Arts Project presents a series of annual programs. This varied series premieres new works by Roosevelt playwrights, painters and potters, folk singers, poets, and composers, as well as experimental collaborations.

DATE	VENUE	EVENT
Saturday, December 12 8:00 PM	Borough Hall	<b>Electronic Presentation Portfolio</b> Although many of us focus on traditional media, much of the working talent now focuses on electronic media. Even those working in traditional media turn to the web and interactive delivery to market and sell their work with online portfolios and interactive delivery systems, using computers, tablets and phones as their tools. We will do a brief overview and demonstrate some of the most effective and user-friendly ways to put your work into an electronic form for viewing and marketing.
Saturday, January 30 8:00 PM	Borough Hall	<b>Funny Stories &amp; Tales</b> Members of our community will read stories and tales from various traditions (including Jewish, Islamic, Celtic and American) to make us smile and make us laugh (and perhaps even shed a tear or two as well?).
Saturday, March 26 8:00 PM	Borough Hall	<b>Soundings</b> Brad Garton will read excerpts from three of his “book-apps”, personal multimedia meditations with integrated sound, graphics and text. Part performance, part concert, and part story-telling, these excerpts will include tales taken from life in Roosevelt.
Saturday, April 16 8:00 PM	Borough Hall	<b>A Leap in the Dark</b> Join the Roosevelt Poets As they explore the ordinary Mysteries around (and within) us.
Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9 8:00 PM \$10 suggested contribution (\$5 students and seniors)	Borough Hall	<b>“The Roosevelt String Band in Concert”</b> David, Paul, Ed, Sam, Kai, Joe and Howie will present an evening of folk music guaranteed to stimulate great thoughts, mighty feelings, sweet sensations and a whole lot of fun

## The Roosevelt Mural

The mural shown in the header was created by Ben Shahn in 1937-38 to commemorate the New Deal resettlement community of Jersey Homesteads, now called Roosevelt, N.J. The mural can still be seen in the Roosevelt Public School. As one of the first and finest art works in the town, it is only appropriate that it should serve as the header for the RAP site.

Voluntary Contribution: For most events \$5 per adult, for the String Band \$10 per adult, \$5 for seniors and children.

Visit RAP’s webpage at <http://www.rooseveltartsproject.org>

Be sure to join our mailing list at [http://www.rooseveltartsproject.org/mail\\_form.php](http://www.rooseveltartsproject.org/mail_form.php) so that you get the brochure sent to you via email each season and timely reminders of each upcoming event.

For further information call Robin Gould at (609) 448-4616.



In July of 1968, Irene Block took her first vacation as an adult and her life would be forever changed. Irene traveled with her girlfriends from Ohio to the Catskill Mountains for a week of fun and adventure, and quite unexpectedly met her soon-to-be husband. Irene first came to Roosevelt that same year to visit Bruce's family, who lived at 13 School Lane. Irene and Bruce were married the following year, and moved to Hightstown. Irene spent her first year feeling isolated from her family back in Ohio, but then a home on North Valley Road became available and the newlywed Blocks moved back to Roosevelt. The cost of the home at that time was \$17,000!

Bruce and Irene quickly started their family in Roosevelt. They have raised two daughters, both of whom grew to be compassionate and giving people like their parents. As the girls grew, Irene decided she would make a concerted effort to make friends, and became involved with other parents accompanying their children on field trips. Irene also spent two years as a Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts. Irene, who was trained as a nurse, worked at the co-op nursery school and then at Meadow Lakes, providing care for the elderly. Irene found her ultimate niche by joining the First Aid Squad and considers her 10-year service as the "highlight of my career."



Irene describes the First Aid Squad as a true family and a wonderful experience. Her nursing philosophy includes the quiet acceptance of death as a part of life, and this philosophy provided comfort to Irene as she cared for her mother until she passed.

Irene's favorite memories of her life in Roosevelt include the huge BBQ parties she and Bruce host to celebrate the Fourth of July. Over the years, the parties have grown from having a few friends over for burgers to hiring caterers to feed 80-90 people and earning the titles of "Mr. and Mrs. Fourth of July." Friends and family come to enjoy the food, the laughter, the swimming, and even the Slip 'n Slide. Most guests bring a dessert, and Irene enjoys sharing the desserts with the seniors at Solar Village.

Looking back, Irene commented that once you come to Roosevelt, it is the people of Roosevelt that keep you here. People in Roosevelt truly care for one another, check up on neighbors who may not be feeling well, get involved with various activities, and nurture a sense of belonging within this community. Irene is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Synagogue, and remembers that when she first arrived, the Synagogue was empty. Roosevelt experienced what was originally thought to be a revitalization of the Jewish community, but the Yeshiva misrepresented itself to the Board of Trustees and the reverberation divided the town with a bitter court battle. While the Synagogue currently hosts a good Rabbi, a real "mensch," Irene pointed out that the Roosevelt community is resilient and capable of healing no matter what issues may arise. "Unity" is Roosevelt's trademark characteristic.

Bruce was born and raised in Roosevelt, and remembers when



Frenchie's gas station was the hub of the town, the place to be. "Frenchie" was a nickname affectionately given to Leon Vasseur, whose sons worked the station after school, pumping gas, fixing cars, and talking about hot rods. Afterwards, they might take a walk to Sol's grocery store, which was located where the current Post Office stands. At the time, the Post Office was tiny and stood where the bulletin board is now. Everyone knew everyone, and if kids stood on the "hitching corner" (Pine and N. Rochdale), they could get a ride into Hightstown to go to the movies. Other favorite pastimes include playing volleyball at the school, or building a tent fort in the backyard to eat, play cards, and sometimes smoke cigarettes. Bruce remembers hanging out with Mark Pogrebin, who lived on Pine Drive, across the street from the Shally family who kept a monkey as a pet!

Irene and Bruce describe the town culture at that time as "Mayberry". Much of the work needed in the borough was done by volunteers, and this was very different from the way things were back in Ohio. Open Studio days were held so artists could showcase their work and their music. It's good to see that tradition continuing today. Irene's advice to any newcomers: Join something and meet people; don't be a hermit! Sound advice from a wise and wonderful woman.

# The Roosevelt String Band: Our History

By David Brahinsky

The year was 1986 and our town was holding its 50th anniversary with a weekend of artistic events. One of those was an evening of music with some of the town's folk musicians including Paul Prestopino and me. The weekend was so much fun and so well received, that a number of the town's artists, poets and musicians decided to create a non-profit to make our town's abundant and hidden art and music an ongoing part of our community life. This was the start of the Roosevelt Arts Project.

I asked Paul if he would join me to form The Roosevelt String Band, using the model of The Incredible String Band which had just two musicians and had been very popular in the late Sixties and Seventies. I had been learning the music of Canadian singer-songwriter Stan Rogers who died a number of years before and I wanted to do a show of his music.

Some weeks later I heard Ed Cedar play the fiddle at the school and I asked Paul if he thought we could bring him in since a lot of the songs could use a fiddle. Paul reminded me that Ed played a number of instruments, including the guitar and bass. Ed agreed to join us. Meanwhile, my teenage son Joshua was studying the upright bass and he agreed to join us as well. So now we were four.

Our first concert was in 1987, a show consisting of just the songs of Stan Rogers. I don't believe in false modesty, so I'll just tell it like it was: we were a big hit. We filled the Borough Hall and got a great reception from the audience.

As the years went by we added musicians and singers, subtracted musicians and singers, and kept going, one way or another year after year. Terrel Spence, who used to live in town, played the trombone one year. Warren Craig, another former

Rooseveltian joined us on guitar and vocals until he moved to Washington D.C. and couldn't get away for rehearsals. Alan Neiderland, a masterful mandolin player who lived on Lake Drive for a few years joined us until he too moved away. After he left, Paul had a chance to get back to playing the mandolin with us, along with the banjo, a few different types of guitars, a harmonica once in a while ... I'm sure I'm leaving out an instrument or two. John Parrot, a master blues musician, was with us for a couple of years and was the stimulus for an all blues show that we did one year. Anita Cervantes joined us on vocals for that show.

Judy Trachtenberg, who had been singing beautiful harmonies with me in my music studio and loved folk music joined us as a backup singer. Later she became a lead singer as well. Judy was a great lover of folk music and introduced us to a number of singer/songwriters that I had not been aware of such as Kate Wolf, Cheryl Wheeler and Richard Thompson among others.

Howie Jacobson (who I had met when he was my daughter Rachel's teacher at Princeton Day School), a natural comedian, singer and musician became an important band member. He still shows up when he can get away from his home in North Carolina.

It was great loss when Judy died at the age of 52 in 2001, after having lived with the challenge of diabetes for 30 years. Half a year later, Kai Altair, a young friend, who had been coming to the String Band from its inception (since she was 7 years old) asked if I was looking for a female vocalist to replace Judy. She said that she had always wanted to sing with the String Band. Who knew? She was studying to be an opera singer and had a beautiful voice. She joined

us for a few tunes in 2002 and from then on has been a main stay in the group. She also has developed her own career as a singer in NYC.

Her then boyfriend, Joe Pepitone, drove her to rehearsals at Ed's studio on Sunday evenings and eventually revealed himself to be a terrific musician and singer as well. He recorded us that year (our one CD) and then joined the band. Over time they broke up, Kai married someone else, Joe got a new girlfriend, but they continue to be are friends and musical colleagues and band members.

Both Paul and Ed sing lead on one song each year, and at some point Ed has his daughter Samantha sing with him. She hadn't even been born when the String Band started performing. A few years later Kai got so busy with her N.Y. performance career that she couldn't guarantee being in the band and so Samantha stepped in as the female vocalist. And when Kai returned, we had two ... and we still do.

For many years we did shows on specific themes such as "Songs of Work. Songs of Play," "Songs of Love," "Songs of the Sixties," "The Blues" and so on. Eventually we ran out of themes and just did songs of all sorts.

For a while RAP got hooked up with The Peddie School for our larger events, and we began performing there in their 530 seat auditorium. Over time, we decided that we preferred the intimacy of the Borough Hall, but having developed a large following we realized we needed two nights, which we still do.

Generally, I organize the sets, play the songs for Ed and he charts them, then we get together for a number of rehearsals over the months until the two Spring performances. Paul brings in a song to sing, and for the last few



**MISSION**

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

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

The RPS Board of Education met on November 17, its first meeting following the election earlier in the month. In addition to the usual Board business, the Board appointed Judith Goetzmann to a one-year position to complete the unexpired term of Gabrielle Balon who was required to resign when she moved out of the Borough.

By Rick Pressler

The Board reviewed election results for the three positions available. Leo Gordon and Natalie Warner were reelected to three-year terms. John Petrillo was elected through a write-in campaign. The new Board terms begin in January 2016. A total of 193 votes were cast.

Other news: RPS now owns a new snow blower. This will save school staff hours of work in clearing sidewalks after snow storms. The school has also purchased a new leaf blower.

The Board also approved the contracting of work to trim or remove trees that threatened to fall on, or otherwise damage, the building

The next Board of Education will be on December 17, 7:30 pm at the school.

**2015 Rabies Clinic**

The 2015 Rabies Clinic will be held on November 21 at the Borough Hall, 33 N. Rochdale Ave. from 10:00 am to Noon. Dr. Petranto, of Plumsted Animal Hospital, will again graciously donate his time to perform the vaccinations. Clinic is free to residents. Dogs must have proof of rabies vaccination which are valid through 10/31/16 in order to be licensed in January 2016. All resident dogs over the age of 7 months must be licensed each year in accordance with state regulations.

**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.

Continued from Page 16

years, Samantha and Kai have been bringing in songs, which often are original music, which they perform.

Paul is so experienced and talented as a folk musician that we usually defer to his judgement when figuring out arrangements. Ed plays a large role in this as well, and of course, we all have our say. It's a very cooperative experience and nary an unkind word has been spoken in 28 years.

This season's shows are set for Friday May 6 and Saturday May 7 at 8 P.M. at the Borough Hall. We will be performing songs by Richard Thompson, Steve Goodman, Bruce Springsteen, Mary McCaslin, Bill Morrissey, Tim O'brien, John Prine, Tom Waits, Nancy Griffith, Guy

Clark and a number of others yet to be determined. And then there's the old reliable "traditional," usually Celtic or American.

We'll set up on the Thursday before the show and have what we lately have been referring to as our "dress rehearsal." That's when Howie shows up to teach us whatever songs he decided to sing lead on as well as get in sync with us with his fiddle and harmonies.

Being in the band has meant a lot to me and I think this can be said for most of the members. In terms of musical education and development, I couldn't have had a better exemplars than Paul and Ed. I

know that Samantha, Kai and Joe feel the same. I love to sing harmony and counterpoint with other singers and so having had Judy and presently Kai, Samantha, Joe and Howie to sing with is a great and deep pleasure.

**"Wrapping For Roosevelt "**

Come and have your holiday gifts wrapped for you! All are welcome, from Students to Parents to Senior Citizens.

Wrapping paper provided by the Roosevelt PTA.

Wrapping provided by the Roosevelt Student Council, "doing one thing" for our community.

Wednesday, December 9th, 3:00-3:45 p.m. in the RPS Lobby



## Contributors to the Bulletin 2015/2016

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

James Alt & Susan Schwartz  
Robin & Robert Axel  
Janet & Richard Bernardin  
Bruce & Irene Block  
Linda Block  
Eric Blumenfeld &  
Annie Raulerson  
Charlotte Bondy  
Bondy/Vuolle Family  
Alexandra Bonfante-Warren  
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna  
Jacqueline Anne Carperter  
Susan & Robert Cayne  
William & June Counterman  
Paul & Elise Cousineau  
M. K. Drury  
Virginia Edwards  
Bertram & Shan Ellentuck  
Bob Francis  
Judith & Ed Goetzmann  
Vindhia Gordon

Robin Gould  
Karen & Eitan Grunwald  
Len & Michelle Guye-Hillis  
Al Hepner  
Constance & David Herrstrom  
Louise & David Hoffman  
Cynthia Imbrie  
In memory of Bess Tremper  
Sheila & Phil Jaeger  
Henry and Kate John-Alder  
Anna & Ben Johnson  
Lynn Lawson  
Karen Leibowitz  
Jill Lipoti & Brad Garton  
Steven & Mary Macher  
Julia McArdle  
Geraldine Millar  
Ed Murphy  
Murray family  
Teri Nachtman  
Lilia and Youri Nazarov

Lian Neeman  
Tom Orlando  
Bob & Alison Petrilla  
Gregg and Elizabeth Possiel  
Michael Przychocki  
Roosevelt Arts Project  
Merle & Irv Rose  
Marguerite Goldberg Rosenthal  
Helen Seitz  
Jonathan & Jeb Shahn  
David Socholtzky  
Shirley Sokolow  
Arthur Stinson  
Michael & Marilyn Ticktin  
Mary & Rod Tulloss  
Carol Watchler & Ann Baker  
Judy & Bob Weinberg  
Frank Wiesinger &  
Theresa Secks  
Mark & Judith Zuckerman

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

#### 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.

Web Master – Help establish and maintain a new Bulletin web site.

---

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

---

AUTOMOBILE SERVICING

COMPACT KARS

3 Trenton Lakewood Road,  
Clarksburg, NJ 08510  
Complete Mechanical & Auto Collision  
Repairs/Towing/Select Used Cars  
609-259-6373

LANE TIRE CENTER

Complete Auto Care Center  
All Work Guaranteed/Foreign &  
Domestic  
387 Mercer St., Hightstown  
448-9500

SPECIALTIES

PET SITTER

Fully Insured  
609-448-8682  
Discount to Roosevelt Residents  
Jaymie Witherspoon

PET PLEASERS

Dog Training Services  
Certified Dog Trainer  
Pet Sitter  
Boarding & Grooming  
609-426-4209

MENDIES FAMILY FARM

65 N. Rochdale Ave., Roosevelt  
Year-Round Farming  
Community-Supported Agriculture  
(CSA)  
Spring/Summer & Winter CSA member-  
ships  
(609)-820-8809 • www.mendiesfarm.com

ATTENTION ROOSEVELTIANS!

We have been handling houses in Roosevelt  
on every street in town since the early  
1940's.

Let us show you how we can save you  
money.

THE ADLERMAN AGENCY,  
INSURORS

317 Forsgate Dr., Monroe Twp., NJ  
08831  
(609) 655-7788 Mel A. Adlerman CLU,  
CPIA

MUSIC

GUITAR INSTRUCTION

Age 7 & up  
David Brahinsky: 443-1898  
STORYTELLING & FOLK SINGING  
AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES.

PERSONAL CARE

TAI CHI CLASSES

Roosevelt Boro Hall  
Wednesday 9:30 am – 11 am  
Thursday 6 pm – 7 pm & 7 pm – 8 pm  
June Counterman 609-448-3182  
Email bilcount@quixnet.net

MATH TUTORING

ROOSEVELT STUDENTS:  
Elementary through College  
Do you occasionally need help with math  
homework or help preparing for a test?  
Call Mary Tulloss (Retired H.S. Teacher)  
for appt.: 609-448-5096  
Tutoring provided at no charge  
in loving memory of Sarah Tulloss.

HOME IMPROVEMENT  
CONSTRUCTION, E T A L

Youri Nazarov Complete  
Home Remodeling  
609-443-3388  
Long term contractor with Twin Rivers  
Association. Now - a resident of  
Roosevelt - Kitchens, bathrooms, base-  
ments, flooring, interior doors, painting,  
architectural moldings and so much more.

Free estimates. Licensed and insured.

GREG DEFOE

Handyman Service  
Interior/Exterior Painting  
Complete home repairs and renovations  
Fully insured  
PROMPT RESPONSE GUARANTEED  
80 Pine Drive, Roosevelt, NJ 08555  
609-448-4883 cell: 609-577-4081  
gdefoe123@verizon.net

EAST WINDSOR FLOOR COVERING

We've got your entire floor covering needs  
\*\*WOOD\*\*VINYL\*\*TILE\*\*CERAMIC\*\*  
Wall-to-Wall Carpets, Area Rugs  
East Windsor - 609-443-6999

MICHAEL D. PRYZCHOCKI,  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR, INC.

Small Job to Total Construction.  
Roofing, Additions.  
Renovations – Bathroom, Kitchens,  
Remodeling – Major and Minor Repairs.  
References Available. Fully Insured,  
Free Estimates, Certified Contractor.  
10% Senior Citizen Discount 448-2180  
N.J. Lic. #13VH01307200

HAGUE HEATING & COOLING LLC

For all your Heating &  
Air Conditioning needs  
Family owned and operated  
Over 30 years in the business  
NJ LIC.# 19HC00144600  
Call 609-448-5424 Fax 609-426-0534

ARTHUR R. STINSON CONSTRUCTION

Since 1982 Specializing in Home  
Addition, Bathrooms & Kitchens &  
Finished Basements  
Brick & Concrete Patios-Stamped  
Concrete  
Energy-Saving Windows & Doors  
Ceramic Tile  
Free Estimates State License  
448-0154 #13VH00923900  
Fax 448-1122 Fully Insured

TOM ORLANDO PLUMBING  
& HEATING

Master Plumber's License #12179  
Fully Insured & Bonded  
Hot Water Heater Replacement or Repair  
Hot Water Boiler Replacement or Repair  
Sewer Line or Water Service Replacement  
Repair or Replace Faucets, Toilets, Hose  
Bibbs, etc.  
609-903-6488



DR.K's DESIGNSCAPES INC.

P.O. Box 516, Roosevelt, NJ 08555  
(609) 448-1108 / (732) 939-2085  
www.drk-s.com  
Fully Insured & Licensed  
Craig Kaufman, President  
Rutgers Landscape Architecture  
Graduate  
Snow Plowing & Snow Removal  
Lawn Mowing / Tree Removal / Pruning  
Designs / Planting Plans / Landscape  
Lighting  
Spring & Fall Clean-Up  
Mulch / Stone / Top Soil  
Gutter Clean-Out / Power Washing  
Fertilizing & Weed / Pest Control  
Driveways / Retaining Walls  
Concrete Staining / Sealing  
Patios Natural Stone & Concrete Pavers  
Landscape Lighting  
Fencing / Fire Wood



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Freehold, NJ  
Permit No. 6

PRSRT STD  
Postal Customer  
Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0221

**D E C E M B E R**

1 Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
1 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
2 Wed.		Recycling Pickup 
10 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
12. Sat.	8:00 pm	<b>Electronic Presentation Portfolio, Borough Hall Roosevelt Arts Project</b>
13 Sun.	10:00 am	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Training Jack Rindt, Training Officer
14 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
15 Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, Jeff Klein, President
<b>15. Tues.</b>		<b>Special Election for Referendum on Emergency Services Building, Borough Hall</b>
16 Wed.	7:30 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall, Eitan Grunwald, Chair.
16 Wed.		Recycling Pickup 
17 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061
23 Weds.		Roosevelt Public School, Early Dismissal
24 -31		Roosevelt Public School Closed for Winter Break
28 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701

**J A N U A R Y**

5 Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
5 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
6 Wed.		Recycling Pickup 
14 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
10 Sun.	10:00 am	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Training Jack Rindt, Training Officer
11 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
18 Mon.		Roosevelt Public School Closed, Martin Luther King Day
19 Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, Jeff Klein, President
20 Wed.	7:30 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall, Eitan Grunwald, Chair.
20 Wed.		Recycling Pickup 
28 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061
25 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
30 Sat.	8:00 pm	<b>Funny Stories &amp; Tales. Stories and tales from various traditions. Borough Hall</b>

RECYCLING DATES  
December 2, 16  
January 6, 20

ZONING PERMITS  
Tuesdays 4 – 6 PM

STATE PERMITS  
Wednesdays 1 – 3

BOROUGH HOUSING  
INSPECTIONS  
Tuesdays 5 – 6 PM,  
Borough Hall

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