

Bulletin

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February 2006

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Impending Recall Election Dominates Reorganization Meeting

By Michael Ticktin

On January 4, the Roosevelt Borough Council held its annual reorganization meeting. Re-elected Council members Beth Battel and Dan Hoffman were sworn in for their new terms, and Ms. Battel was re-elected as Council president. Among the Council members whom they rejoined was Bob Silverstein, who was sworn in at the December meeting to replace Jeff Hunt, who resigned because he was moving out of Roosevelt.

For many years, it has been customary for the mayor to deliver a message to the community at the reorganization meeting on the "State of the Borough." In fact, such a message would be required if Roosevelt were governed under the Optional Municipal Charter Act (the "Faulkner Act"). In his message, however, Mayor Neil Marko focused on the mayoral recall election that is scheduled to be held on February 7, characterizing it as "a significant event in the history of Roosevelt" about which "many people had expressed feelings of sorrow." The general theme of his remarks was that the proponents of the recall were motivated by prejudice and were bringing discredit upon the community. (In the recall election there will be two ques-

tions before the voters. The first will be whether Mr. Marko should be removed from office immediately. The second will be who should replace him in the event of an affirmative vote on the first question. The two candidates on the ballot will be Council President Battel and Mayor Marko himself.)

In response, later in the meeting, Councilman Michael Hamilton said that the mayor's message should be used as an opportunity to strike a positive note about the community and inspire people to work together, not for attacks on opponents. In further response, recall committee members Dolores Chasan and Virginia Edwards denounced Mayor Marko's allegations as unfounded, while recall committee representative Jeff Ellentuck protested name-calling and removal of recall committee posters from the bulletin board. Virginia Edwards said that the mayor's remarks were illustrative of the reasons why the committee opposes his continuation in office.

As always happens at the reorganization meeting, the Council filled those positions that it is required to

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please report any bear sightings to:

State Bureau of Wildlife Management
Kim Tinnes
Wildlife Control
609-259-7955

As happens every year, this is the time we begin to realize that even though there have been, for the most part, very generous contributions, not enough residents have done so.

We ask now for those who have not done so yet, or those who can give more, please do so. We are beginning to run short!

If you have a child who will be ready for kindergarten in September, please call the school at 448-2798 to let them know. They would like to make as informal count before the actual registration which takes place March 13 and 14.

Be sure to vote on February 7th in the Recall Election.

In the December issue's Planning Board Report, we mistakenly identified one of the designated redevelopment properties on South Rochdale Avenue as #21. It is, in fact, #19. The house at #21 is quite clearly the antithesis of a redevelopment property.

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All members were present at a special meeting of the Roosevelt Planning Board, which convened at 7:00, November 28, to consider three requests for variances, with assistance from board attorney Michele Donato. First before the board was a request by Mark and Manuela McCosker for a variance to be allowed to keep two sheds in the rear portion of their side yard. They stated that they had placed the sheds in the sideyard because they thought it was legal to do so, and had counted 33 instances in town where sheds were erected in such locations. Ms. Donato explained that, in order to grant a variance, it would be necessary for the board to find either that any placement of the sheds that would be allowed under the zoning ordinance would impose a hardship, or that the alternative offered by the applicants provided a better way of achieving the goals of the ordinance. Ms. Donato said that a letter from one neighbor, Cynthia Imbrie, which had been provided to board members, should not be considered since Ms. Imbrie was not present to present her position and answer questions. Another neighbor, Kirk Rothfuss, stated that the placement of the sheds in an area that cuts into his property interfered with his enjoyment of his property. Board chairman Ralph Seligman pointed out that the current rule derives from the need to maintain the visibility from the street of the woods behind the houses and that this is part of the greenbelt design of Roosevelt which is the main reason the community is on the National Register of Historic Places. In response, the McCoskers withdrew their application, and requested only that they be granted until spring to move the sheds to a conforming location behind the house. This request was granted by the board.

The second application before the

board was a request by Bert Margulies to be allowed to build a new garage in a side yard. His original garage was converted into a room. The request was motivated, he said, by the requirement that cars not be left on the street when it snows and the lack of adequate space in his driveway for all of his vehicles. Ms. Donato, however, pointed out that he had requested a variance as to lot coverage, which did not appear to be necessary, but had not mentioned any waiver of the sideyard requirement, and that it was therefore necessary that he revise the application and give new notice to all owners of property within 200 feet.

Third before the board was an application by Ken and Carolyn LeCompte, the purchasers of the Pine Valley Swim Club property under contract, to obtain variances that would enable them to build a house and garage on what Ms. Donato called "a classic isolated undersized lot". The lot has an area of about 1.3 acres in a zone with a 2.3 acre minimum lot size. However, it is unique in being the only lot with municipal water and sewer in the R-100 zone. As a condition to receiving the right to build on an undersized lot, an applicant must show that he has attempted to buy land from adjacent owners that would make the lot conforming. However, Michael Ticktin, the owner of the only adjacent lot big enough to have land transferred from it and still be conforming, said that he had no desire to sell any land to the LeComptes, and certainly no desire to make them buy his land. He thanked the LeComptes for including the preservation of the trees near the adjoining residential properties in their application. Neil Marko, speaking as an owner of property within 200 feet and not as a board member, recommended that the board impose a requirement that the LeComptes provide a fire hydrant.

However, Mr. LeCompte said that this would not be practicable, since no new water mains would be installed, and the board did not endorse this recommendation. The application was unanimously approved, with Mr. Seligman abstaining, as he had not been in the room for the entire discussion and did not wish to listen to the tape, and Messers Ticktin and Marko not participating because they are both 200 foot property owners.

At its December meeting, the board began hearing an appeal brought by the Roosevelt Preservation Association (RPA), headed by Bert Ellentuck, against the determination by Zoning Officer Bob Francis, in response to a complaint made to him by Mr. Ellentuck on behalf of the RPA alleging that Congregation Anshei Roosevelt and its tenant, Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah, were violating the zoning ordinance by maintaining a private secondary school at the synagogue building, which is located in the R-40 residential district, since the zoning ordinance does not make private schools a permitted use in that district. Mr. Francis, after visiting the synagogue and consulting with the municipal attorney, Ira Karasick, had concluded that the current use of the building for a program of religious education was not in violation of the zoning ordinance.

At the hearing, Mayor Neil Marko recused himself from the hearing on the grounds of his membership in the synagogue. Council representative Beth Battel also recused herself when it became clear that the nature of the appeal was such that it could result in an application being made for a use variance, on which the class 1 (mayor) and class 3 (Council) planning board members would not be allowed to vote, and that her participation at this stage might taint the final outcome. Ralph

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From the Mayor

Hello Everyone. As I write this, it is the middle of January. The Recall election is but a few short weeks away. I find this whole business upsetting. Not terribly upsetting but upsetting none the less.

Councilman Mike Hamilton was asked a short time ago by a reporter from the *Examiner* what I should have done in the situation where a Yeshiva wanted to make a deal with the Synagogue. For someone in Hamilton's position, this was not a difficult question, since Hamilton knew that THERE WAS NOTHING THAT COULD BE DONE. He knows, since he has been both a mayor and a councilman, that the oath of office that one takes upon taking office says that we must defend the Constitution and uphold the law, which means that government can not interfere in the legal activities of religious organizations.

This situation is actually easy for people like Hamilton and the others involved in this recall farce. I call this a farce because they have consistently lied about what their true motivations are. They have hidden their agenda and they have made Roosevelt a laughing stock.

Shortly, you will be asked to make a decision about the recall. The decision will be whether to recall me as mayor. You must ask yourself a question. Do you believe what has been said about me? Do you believe that I have done wrong for Roosevelt? Do you actually believe what guys like Hamilton, Jeff Ellentuck and Ann Baker have been saying? Did they ever offer you any proof?

Here is the truth and everything

else is a lie: I have been a demanding mayor. I do not like to go to Council meetings where councilmen talk endlessly and do nothing. I expect results. I believe that when an issue arises, we have to get good information, which means getting an expert to advise us, be that Dr. Petranto about the feral cats or our engineer about the siren. I believe that the job of the mayor is to ensure that all residents have their rights protected. Some of your councilpersons have run afoul of this. And some of them just think that showing up three days a month is all that is required. I do not.

In March of this last year, a Yeshiva school came to town and wanted to make a deal with the Synagogue. I resigned as President of the Synagogue when they showed up. Since they have been here, the Council has forced me to discuss this at public meetings against my better judgment and against the advice of the Borough Attorney, has tried to seize Synagogue property, and has sent in Fire Safety, Health Department and Zoning inspectors. All of these extra ordinary inspections have been passed. And finally, a group of disgruntled residents, assisted by a few Council members, are trying to recall me.

The synagogue and the yeshiva have not asked nor made any application to the Borough for anything. They have made no zoning requests, no building requests, no planning board applications, no building permits, no licenses, nothing, nada, zip. They have been probed and inspected far more than any other resident or business or school in town and that still does not satisfy some.

Some in town, assisted by some Council members, have lied about me. From accusing me of a conflict of interest without any evidence or proof whatsoever, to accusing me of NOT recusing myself when I should. I have been accused of getting kick backs, of having secret meetings, of trying to sell the school, of lying about when I first met Yeshiva people. All of these accusations are totally without merit. I challenge, indeed I demand, that someone or anyone produce one shred of evidence or backup about these items. They will not, and they cannot since there is no evidence to produce. Their allegations are all made up.

I have been accused of trying to hurt the Fire Department, of insulting Councilmen, of irritating the school. Well, our Fire Department fights reform and review, our Councilman insult each other more than I ever could, and I have tried to work with the school but have been rebuffed at every turn by the school board.

The biggest sham played on the public has to be the reason for the recall. The recall existed for one explicit purpose. By having a recall before January 1, the recall people tried to prevent me from appointing new members to the Planning Board, which ultimately, will have to decide any future variance applications made by the Yeshiva. The recall failed to accomplish that, even when they went to court. I have had nothing but positive comments about the Planning Board appointments that I have made. The recall continued even after their court failure, but clearly, it is now an act of vengeance

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The mayor of Roosevelt should be diplomatic, flexible, and willing to see different viewpoints. He or she must be capable of critical self-examination. The mayor must look out for the Community's interests, and not just further his or her own interests. He or she must work to bring people together, not pit them against each other. Most of all, the mayor must be honest and above reproach.

Despite Mr. Marko's loud and continuing cries and accusations, the recall movement is not about religious freedom, or the right to pray, or constitutional rights. The recall movement is about the good of the Borough and its residents. It is about putting a stop to the self-dealing, conflicts, disdain, divisiveness, evasion, half-truths and power grabbing that have characterized Marko's reign.

Certainly the Yeshiva issue galvanized many people. But it did not cause the recall. The recall movement started before we knew about the Yeshiva. The issue did give people who are not usually involved in politics the opportunity to see Marko in action as the mayor, up close and personally.

The Yeshiva issue has given the Mayor a skirt to hide behind. *The Examiner* newspaper recently asked Mr. Marko *in his capacity as mayor* whether he thought the Yeshiva was a good thing. He replied that he thought it would be good for the synagogue. He said nothing about whether it would be good for the Borough. Is the Yeshiva good or bad for the Borough? Does it violate our zoning laws to build a private business in the middle of our town? Whatever the case, the individual serving as mayor should be focused on the Borough's best interests.

In short, the recall movement is about Mr. Marko, and only about Mr. Marko.

Some Major Reasons and Examples.

What follows are many of the reasons for the recall effort. Most have been stated before. They are clear to many, but they

do not seem to be clear to Mr. Marko.

Inability to Work with the Borough Council. Mr. Marko is unwilling to work within the strong council/weak mayor form of government that we have in Roosevelt. The Council has had substantial difficulty working with Mr. Marko due to his insistence on running all phases of government directly. Five of the six Council members seated this summer signed the petition supporting his recall.

He interrupts and argues with members of the Borough Council, condescends to them during Council meetings, and has told them they cannot speak when he disagrees with them. He has been evasive and careless with facts, changing his position depending upon which individuals are involved. His job is to work closely with the Council, but instead, in a recent *Examiner* article, he stated he "could be effective as mayor without the Council's support."

The Board of Education and RPS. Mr. Marko ignores the views and warnings of the Board of Education, insults them individually and as a group, oversteps his authority and fails to demonstrate real support of RPS.

Mr. Marko has done little to help the school survive. He failed to attend meetings regarding Senate Bill S-1701, which mandates changes in school financing to reduce administrative costs, and which will have a substantial effect on the viability of our school.

The Board of Education warned the Mayor that the town's emergency siren had to be removed from the school for years, and yet he failed to discuss the problem with them until after the roof construction contracts were signed, and work was about to begin. The mayor went to the Board of Education without the knowledge or consent of the Council and took a stand against removing the siren though the Council has approved and budgeted for its removal.

He tried to insist that the school buy a bus that would be of no benefit to the school, would increase the budget and cause logistical and insurance problems for the Borough and RPS. He harangued the Board when it would not agree to his plan, as he also did in the case of the siren.

He insisted on trying to interfere with the roof repairs at the school, over which he has no jurisdiction, and has gone directly to school employees over whom he has no authority. He has used this *Borough Bulletin* as a pulpit to bully and insult the School Board members.

The Fire Department. Mr. Marko has used his position as mayor to delay and obstruct Fire Department enlistment, attempting to divert applicants to the First Aid Squad instead. When questioned about this, he was evasive and misleading.

Conflicts of Interest. Mr. Marko does not recognize conflicts of interest and self-dealing, and refuses to recuse himself when they occur. He is not open about his involvement, interest or intentions in his transactions, and he fails to fully disclose the effects of these transactions to the Council and the Borough residents. One example of this is the Pine Valley Swim Club.

The Mayor was involved in discussions where it was proposed that the Borough purchase the Pine Valley Swim Club, of which he is a shareholder. He argued that the purchase of the pool would be in the best interests of the Borough because the Borough would save approximately \$1,200 a year paid to the pool for the Roosevelt summer camp. He failed to disclose that:

- the annual cost to maintain the pool had risen to approximately \$27,000 per year
- the pool had been uninsured
- the pool required another approx. \$50,000 in repairs before it could be used

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Quote:

“A plan is a list of actions arranged in whatever sequence is thought likely to achieve an objective.” - **John Argenti**, author and founder of the Strategic Planning Society

Happy New Year to all and thank you for keeping Roosevelt neat, clean and in compliance with zoning.

What will be needed in 2006 for all projects that need a site plan review? The forms will be available on the web site by the end of January. All forms for a project are required before a review can be made. Three to five business days will be needed to review the forms and site plan. Zoning information will need to be checked for compliance with the ordinance. Thank you for your cooperation in complying with the zoning ordinance.

Here is the list: for filing 8 1/2 x 11 paper size.

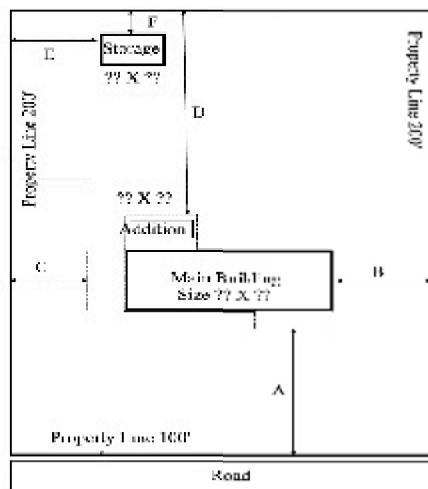
Please provide the following information on the site plan. All code information must be included in order for the plan to be accepted for review. Insert measurements at letter indications.

- Indicate the scale of the plan (engineering scale ie: 1" = 40')
- Indicate the name of the owner and the address, lot#, block# of the property
- Brief description of project
- Show the square footage of each of the following:
 1. Lot
 2. Existing dwelling(s)
 3. Addition(s) to dwelling(s)
 4. Accessory structures (ie: garage, storage)
 5. Addition(s) to accessory structure(s)
- Show the location, square footage and use of the new structure(s)
- Indicate the maximum height of the new structure(s) (Use Elevation

diagram)

- Provide lot coverage (the area of the site occupied by buildings, storage areas and vehicular use areas) information for the following:
 1. Square footage of vehicular use area
 2. Total square footage of building area & vehicular use area proposed.
- Provide the current lot coverage calculation
- Identify any applicable overlay zone and indicate how this project complies.
- Show at least one street perimeter setback measured from the carport or garage and one measured from the front of the dwelling
- Show all easements of record on the property
- Indicate the zoning on the property and the surrounding properties
- Provide a legal description of the property (ie: subdivision name and lot number or metes and bounds legal if not a subdivision)
- Also need approval from State building inspector & state construction inspector. At Borough Hall Monday from 1 to 2 pm.

Sample drawing or use your site



survey plan.

Filing space is limited so use 8 1/2 X 11 paper please. Thank you. ■

By Clare Sacharoff

The end of the year dinner held Dec. 30th was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended. A special “thank you” went to Pat Moser who was responsible for making and planning the event. Also thank you went to Geri Millar, Doug McIntyre and Bob Francis for their efforts.

Dolores Chasan stated the Recreational Committee will be starting a foreign film series to be held at the Borough Hall. The first one will be *Les Enfants Paradis* on Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. She also announced there will be a bus trip on a Tues. evening in April to the George St. Playhouse. Dates for these events will be posted and printed in a future Bulletin.

A movie at a local theater preceded by brunch was planned for the monthly trip on Jan. 17th, also proposed was a chicken and rib lunch for Jan. 16 at 3:00 p.m.

Alan Neurath was elected treasurer for the senior club. He also hosted the Dec. meeting.

Ellen Francis will be hosting for the Feb. meeting. The meeting will be held Feb 6th on a Monday at 1:00 p.m. because of the election to be on Tues., Feb. 7th.

Happy New Year to all our readers. ■

From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful time with family and friends. As we begin 2006, we thank each of you for your continued support of Roosevelt Public School.

School News

We do not have the winter doldrums at RPS. We are a hub of activity due to the tireless efforts of our PTA. Many thanks are extended to the PTA for coordinating our Schoolhouse Hooky Day, and to everyone that gave their time to lead an activity. Our students sang to the music of Dave Brahinsky, beautified our school with their artwork, enjoyed a movie, complete with popcorn, and danced the afternoon away. The PTA is also sponsoring our 100th day of school celebration, which falls on February 15th, and they are sponsoring an assembly program on February 6th. The excitement continues with one of our favorite events, the Winter Carnival, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 4th. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

March 13 and 14, 2006 are slated for kindergarten registration. We would like to take an informal count of students that will be attending kindergarten next year, prior to the 13th and 14th. Please call the school at 448-2798 at your earliest convenience to let us know if you are going to register a student for kindergarten in September. Detailed information regarding registration procedures will be forthcoming.

The student council will be conducting a fundraiser called "Pennies for Patients" to help raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. RPS will be collecting spare change for the months of February and March. Student council raised \$116.00 from the clothing drive. Thank you to everyone that donated clothing.

Every January we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King is remembered for

his kindness, and students learn about acts of kindness during this time and throughout the year. This is a good time to reflect about how we deal with anger and stressful situations. In today's schools, students learn that anger is a normal and healthy feeling. Many adults did not discuss these things when they were in school, so sometimes these concepts are not confronted at home. In school, we teach our children that it is okay to feel angry; it's what we do with anger that matters. We teach children to figure out why they are angry, then cool off before acting; and most importantly, to talk about how they feel. Sharing feelings and knowing that someone is listening, are the best ways to avoid escalating behavior from anger. Adult words and actions help children understand the value of being kind.

Federal and State News

The legislature has declared January as School Board Recognition Month. The school board members are the policy-making bodies for local school districts. This day was created as a way to thank board members for their work on behalf of the communities. The Roosevelt School Board is comprised of dedicated, conscientious residents who commit a great deal of time and effort to assure that our school programs run efficiently and productively. A message from our board president, Linda Grayson is posted on our Web site. This year's board

members are: Mark Aakhus, Sharlene Ellentuck, Jill Lipoti, Assenka Oksiloff, Mary Tulloss, Allen Newrath, David Ticktin, and Jaymie Kosa. Please join us in thanking our board members for an outstanding job.

The federal government has affirmed, that under the guidelines of the No Child left Behind Act (NCLB), states must develop and administer achievement tests, based on the state's content standards, in language arts literacy and mathematics for students in fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Prior to this year, state approved standardized assessments were administered in third, fourth, eighth, and eleventh grades. RPS previously utilized the Terra Novas to assess students in grades one, two, five and six. The new assessments will be designed to improve the quality of testing, and to improve instruction by providing more useful data to schools. The Riverside Publishing Company's New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge 2006 (NJ ASK 2006), is the testing instrument that will be utilized. Tests will be administered April 4 – April 13, 2006. Testing for third and fourth grades (NJ ASK), will take place March 20 – March 24, 2006. Testing dates for second grade have not been confirmed. Detailed information will be sent home as the test/assessment dates approach.

I am available should you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to a productive 2006. ■

February 2006 School Dates	
Feb 3	Pizza Day & Report Cards Distributed
Feb 9	PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Feb 15	As of this writing, 100th day of school celebration
Feb 17 & 20	School Closed
Feb 23	Board of Ed Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Feb 24	Pizza Day

Wetlands Restoration Project and Grant

Roosevelt residents sometimes wonder where public money disappears to, and why the Borough doesn't do something to produce outside funds. Such grants are pursued (almost any extensive road repair project is the result of a grant by the State Department of Transportation), and in the case of the Environmental Commission, we received at \$131,000 matching grant from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Covered by that grant are rehabilitation of the so-called Notterman tract (at the southeast end of town behind the Solar Village), and the restoration of Empty Box Creek in the area bounded by Rochdale Avenue, Valley Road, Farm Lane and Lake Drive.

In the case of the Notterman tract, it was sold by the Notterman family to the NJDEP, and is being administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fund For Roosevelt provided a seed mixture to raise native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. The area has looked really good, but it needs mowing twice a year with a tractor-drawn mower. It provides excellent cover for amphibians, reptiles, birds and small mammals. It looks much better than the weed patch that preceded the rehabilitation.

Empty Box Brook's restoration is a more elaborate process. There has been considerable silting up of the brook because of construction in neighboring Millstone. The situation is so bad that there is no continuous stream in a portion of the area: the water has spread all over and considerable effort has to be made to replace the stream bed and connect it with the portions still more or less intact. This is a lengthy and expensive process, and is where most of the money goes.

At the beginning I mentioned that the grant was a matching grant. The

Borough has to match the State/Federal funds with money, or with in-kind contributions. That means that volunteer labor is counted against the funds that the Borough owes, and anything that is donated (for example, seed) counts in a similar way. In some cases the Borough actually spends either money or uses Borough employees to work on some aspect of the project, although this part is very minimal.

Creative Habitat, Inc., our contractor for the project, actually plans to go to portions of the streambed, dig them out, restore the bank, and plant native trees on the site. In order to do that, a temporary bypass has to be built to route the water around the area being worked on. Otherwise, what is done would be destroyed by the next morning. You can see that this is a pretty painstaking and intricate process, and we will need volunteer help at some points to carry away soil, to cut down and eventually kill invasive plants, to set trees and wrap them with wire, etc. Each volunteer hour will be rated on a predetermined scale as worth from \$30 to \$90 an hour, depending on the nature of the work.

We have already completed some activities. In addition to the work on the Notterman tract, the wetlands portion of the long block which is the site of the rehabilitation has been surveyed and marked with flags and posts. We have notified property owners within 200 feet of the project, and filed our permit application with DEP. As soon as the permit from DEP arrives, we will be able to enter upon the next phase, which is to work on the creek bed.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Borough Hall, leave your name and phone number, and let the person answering know that you want to be a volunteer in the Wetlands Restoration project. ■

RCNS February Newsletter

By Ginny Weber

During January our class learned how community helpers help us every day. To celebrate the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, we visited the Roosevelt post office to learn how we receive our mail. The children mailed postcards to themselves and were very excited when they received them.

The children learned about Arctic places in January as well. Their projects included polar bears and penguins, and they learned how they live in the harsh climate. We also observed various birds and animals that we see in the winter. We made bird feeders to provide food for our feathered friends. We reviewed how some birds migrate to warmer climates and some animals hibernate for the winter.

Our class also enjoyed acting out and reading some favorite nursery rhymes in January. Our projects included Humpty Dumpty, Hickory Dictory Dock, and Jack & Jill.

During February we will learn about keeping our hearts healthy. We will listen to our hearts after exercise and at quiet time.

The children love to celebrate Valentine's Day, a day of friendship for our class. They will make special mailboxes for exchanging valentines at our friendship party.

During President's Week we will learn interesting facts and fables about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The children learn about George W. Bush and other presidents as well.

Dental Health Month is in February. We will learn to care for our teeth by brushing and flossing properly as well as eating foods rich in calcium. We are planning trip to Hamilton Dental Associates. The children love their rides in the dental chairs! ■

Yoga

The Recreation Department is continuing its very popular yoga program this Winter at Roosevelt Borough Hall. On occasion, classes will be held at the Roosevelt School. Classes will be instructed by Kym Kulp, a certified Yoga Instructor who teaches at The Peddie School and throughout the area. While yoga mats will be provided, participants are welcomed to bring their own. Classes will be offered on Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The cost of the program is \$80.00 per person. Program dates are January 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7. Walk-ins are welcomed!

Foreign Films

The Recreation Department invites all area residents to Borough Hall on February 26th at 1 p.m. for another edition of our Foreign Films.

Children of Paradise

Hailed as one of the greatest films of all time, *Children of Paradise* re-creates the glittering world of backstage life in 19th century Paris. Grace, an elusive courtesan, is loved by four men, a talented mime, an ambitious actor, a nihilistic villain, and a snobbish aristocrat. Bursting with passion, jealousy, and deception, the screenplay has been called “the finest work...ever composed for the screen.” (The Washington Post).

Community Dance Night - “Dancing with the Stars”

Residents are invited to a Community Dance Night on March 25th at the Roosevelt School, from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.. This special event will be led and DJ’d by Candace Woodward-Clough. Candace has extensive training in Ballroom Dance, Jazz, Tap, Acting and Singing. She has acted, danced in or choreographed several Off-Broadway and summer stock productions, as well as movies, soap operas and videos.

The night will start with an hour of brief instruction of various types of dances, based upon the interest of those in attendance. The remaining two hours will be devoted to an open dance party! No dance experience is required – adults and children are welcomed. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Movie Night

The Recreation Department invites all area residents to the Roosevelt Public School gymnasium to enjoy the following movies on the “big screen”:

Saturday, February 11st, 7:00 p.m. “SKY HIGH”

In this live-action Disney action-adventure comedy, *Sky High* is a special high school that trains youngsters to be superheroes. When 14-year-old Will Stronghold becomes a freshman there, he is assigned to the sidekick track, which doesn’t sit well with his famous superhero parents.

But eventually Will’s superpowers begin to emerge, and when a serious threat is posed by super-villains, he does everything he can to rise to the occasion and set things right.

Saturday, March 4th, 7:00 p.m. “CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY”

This whimsical comedy is based on the book by Roald Dahl, as was the 1971 movie *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, which starred Gene Wilder. This time around, Willy Wonka is played by Johnny Depp, and young Charlie Bucket is played by Freddie Highmore. Charlie is one of five lucky kids who are taken by the quirky Wonka on a tour of his visually stunning chocolate factory, where they have wonderful adventures.

Summer Camp

The Recreation Department is now making plans for our 2006 Summer Camp program. Further information regarding the program will be available in the March *Roosevelt Bulletin* and at the Roosevelt School.

For further information on any Recreation Department programs, please contact (609) 448-0539, x3. The Recreation Department is also looking for ideas for new programs, activities, and trips. Please let us know what you would like to see offered to our community! ■

To the Editor:

This past year has been a tumultuous year for the citizens of Roosevelt. It is not often that a community comes together in large enough numbers to force a recall election of a local official. As a small community where most of us have close relationships with neighbors on both sides of this question, we must be committed to moving beyond this painful issue once we vote on the recall and potentially for a new mayor.

The questions before the voters this February 7th are first, should Mayor Marko be recalled from office, and second, who is best positioned to lead our town as mayor after February 7th. The ballot will ask you to select between Neil Marko and Council President Beth Battel to fill the vacated Mayoral position.

As the elected Democratic committeewoman and committeeman in Roosevelt, we believe that since a majority of the voting citizens of Roosevelt signed a petition to successfully initiate the recall of Mayor Marko, we have an obligation to honor the wishes of the voting majority and endorse an alternative Democratic candidate for mayor.

To this end we want to urge voters to cast a second vote at the Special Election on February 7 for Beth Battel to be our new mayor. There is much that needs to be done to heal divisions and move forward with effective leadership for Roosevelt, and we believe Beth Battel is the woman for the job. Beth is in her second term on Council and has the skills that are needed to provide leadership for our town and the governing body. Beth is a calming presence on the Council, and as Council President has chaired many contentious meetings during 2005 when the mayor stepped down to answer questions from the public.

Everyone who has attended those sessions knows that Councilwoman Battel shows nothing but respect to the public, and has skillfully refereed heated exchanges between the Mayor and residents in the audience.

Anyone who knows Beth Battel recognizes that she cares about our town, its environment, and the well-being of all of us as individuals. She has the insight to empower the rest of the governing body to do everything that is necessary and within its power to sustain Roosevelt as a viable and diverse community. We can get beyond the acrimony of this past year with healthy, effective and caring government.

Looking beyond February 7th, if Mayor Marko is recalled and Councilwoman Battel is elected to replace him, this will create a vacant Council seat which must be filled by the Council. As in the past when a Democratic Council seat became vacant between elections the elected Democratic Committee presents the council with the names of three Democratic candidates to fill the vacancy from which the Council chooses one. We are always seeking interested registered Democrats for Council positions and would appreciate hearing from you if you feel that you are prepared to serve your community in this most important capacity. Please call either Ann at 443- 8780 or Kirk at 448-3713.

*Ann Baker, Roosevelt Democratic
Committeewoman*

*Kirk Rothfuss, Roosevelt Democratic
Committeeman*

Dear Fellow Citizens of Roosevelt,
Please consider supporting my mayoral candidacy in the February 7th Special Election.

I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the community of Roosevelt. In 1987, I joined the

First Aid Squad, and was a member for 12 years - 7 years as captain. In 2000, I became a member of the board of directors for the Fund for Roosevelt. In 2001, I was appointed to the Borough Planning Board. And, in 2002, I was elected to the Borough Council.

I have been Borough Council President for the past year and was recently chosen by members of the Council to continue to serve in that position throughout 2006.

If elected, my goals would be to restore teamwork, and to bring peace and civility to our council meetings.

My major concerns are:

The safety and security of all our citizens.

The continuation of the Roosevelt Public School - a jewel in our town.

The conservation of our environment - the farmland, wildlife, and open space.

The support of our Emergency Services.

The appreciation of our citizens who serve as first aiders and firemen.

The preservation of our unique and historic community.

I hope you will come out to vote for me on February 7th. I will appear on the ballot as Elsbeth Battel.

Thank you,
Beth Battel

To the Editor:

I read with amazement and amusement Neil Marko's "From the Mayor" column in the November *Bulletin*. His spin on events and circumstances is unbelievable. For instance, he claimed that the citizens of Roosevelt would have to bear the entire cost of defending the turndown of the recall petitions in court.

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Stories from the Midwest

Roosevelt, New Jersey, may seem like an unlikely place for this Midwesterner to land. I proudly claim my adopted town, but I do like to transport myself mentally to my family roots out on the plains and near the headwaters of the Mississippi and even beyond the Canadian border. I can do this best by thinking of my father's family, hardy. Minnesotans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Grandpa, B.D. Watchler, grew up in Mountain Lake in a farming family. When my sisters and I were very young, we'd often coax my dad with the plea, "Tell us about The Little Boy." This was a series of yarns we never tired of hearing about the adventures of an unnamed farm boy, undoubtedly Grandpa, with such gripping installments as the day the skunk got stuck under the floor of the school and the spring day the Little Boy broke the ice to go swimming in the river, on a dare, no doubt, but I do not remember the details.

Dad came by his story-telling ability quite honestly from his mother, Ruth Munger Watchler (later Dietz). Grandma comforted and entertained us with lots of stories especially around the Christmas tree during the years when we all lived in Cleveland. But she turned her story telling into an even greater gift by writing down as much family history as she could remember in a book inscribed "with love" to my father with copies to each of my siblings. The book has always been a source of pleasure and pride for me.

In her accounts Grandma augments the stories of Grandpa as a farm boy.



Grandma Munger (my great-grandmother) with Carol

"School," she writes. This was really something. It is the only instance I know of (and she taught in such schools, so she should know) where the country school was built with dormitories upstairs and the children lived there from Monday morning to Friday evening, returning home for the weekend. That old school was still standing in 1946 but with some changes. However Ben showed me how it was in his day. Each child brought his food supply for the week, mostly cold meat, potatoes and bread. They all ate together in the dining room behind the schoolroom. A solid wall from front to back with no doorway completely separated the boy's dormitory from the girl's. The board were not going to have any funny work! Once a skunk got under the cellar space and had her family there. Grandpa Watchler (my great-grandfather) as chairman of the school board was called to get them out which he did. I guess that is the historical basis for the skunk story mentioned above.

As a young man, Grandpa came to Winona, Minnesota, found work in a hardware store, and met my grandmother when he became active

in the church in town. The Baptist Church had been a focus of Grandma's upbringing and became a mainstay for the two of them throughout their lives.

Grandma's book has some stories of her parents—Dr. Leland Howard Munger and Kitty Cooley Munger—that are among my favorites. This one is about her older brother whom she never got to know. "In the fall of 1889, disaster struck our little village in the form of diphtheria raging and spreading throughout the community. Hardly a home was left

untouched, even the doctor's house. In November, little Guy Munger, the beloved eight year old first son of the doctor was stricken. My great-grandfather Munger, the doctor, could hardly be home at all and he and his wife knew that they would lose their son. So they sat down and talked it over with him...little Guy's eyes filled with tears and he said, "Oh papa, I don't want to go away. Bethie (his sister) will be so lonely and you'll forget all about me!"

They assured him that they would take another child who did not have a father and mother into their home and after his death the doctor and his wife didn't forget their promise...I think the sorrowing parents found it easier to take a girl in Guy's place and so they brought Christine home and legally adopted her and did everything for her that they would have done for Guy.

The story has a beautiful sequel in which Grandma tells about her other brother George returning to that small town years later. "He found the house all gone...and then he went on into the cemetery to see if he could find little

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fill, with no notable changes, and adopted other routine resolutions. Mr. Silverstein replaced Mr. Hunt on the utilities committee and as representative to the environmental commission.

The appointments that were clearly of greatest significance were those made by Mayor Marko to the planning board. In addition to reappointing Assessor Michael Ticktin as the public official (class 2) member of the board, he appointed Lou Esakoff and Steve Yeger to four-year terms as public (class 4) members, replacing Mary Ann Rossi and Jessica Hecht, and appointed Bob Dermody to the alternate position that has been vacant since Ms. Rossi was made a class 4 member. In addition, the Council reappointed Ms. Battel as the Council (class 3) representative.

The timing of the planning board appointments has added significance because they come in the midst of a hearing that began at the December planning board meeting on an appeal by the Roosevelt Preservation Association, which is headed by Bert Ellentuck, of the decision by Zoning Officer Bob Francis not to issue a violation notice concerning use of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt's synagogue building as a secondary school by Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah. That hearing will resume on February 14. ■

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Guy's grave. To his surprise he found the grave, as green and fresh as could be. He wondered and wondered how this could be, and turned away, still wondering.

Now, in the village any stranger is noticed. As he went back down the street a woman came out from one of the houses and looking sharply at him, said, 'Could you be the son of Dr. Munger?' George said, 'Yes, I am. I'm George Munger.'

The woman informed George that, on the night Guy had died, her baby came. They had called the doctor, not knowing his son was close to death. How grateful they were when they learned what Dr. Munger had done for them, leaving his wife alone to come to assist them. There had been some complications with the birth that made it touch and go for a while. The family had wanted to do something special in gratitude, so when the Mungers moved away from town, they promised they would take care of Guy's grave as long as they lived. And that was how it happened that Guy's grave had perpetual care.

My Dad's family history was shared abundantly in our household, but we were less familiar with the stories from my mother's side. She was an adopted child herself and after her

death in 1989 we prevailed on Dad to research the background we did not know. Dad was a tenacious researcher and was able to piece a lot of the puzzle together. He then went back to investigate more about his own family and expand on clues in my Grandma's book. So now, although my sisters and brother and I are scattered to all corners of the US, we all carry the stories with us and have great role models who have taught us to keep our history alive ■

About Two Square Miles Of Stories

Everyone in our two-square mile town has old family photographs and memories of the people in them. These pictures and your memories are narratives waiting to enrich us all. So, join us in a Roosevelt Show and Tell project - find an old picture or two and tell us a story in a few paragraphs.

For information telephone:

Pearl Seligman	448-2340
Bess Tremper	448-2701

RESIDENTS!

This is your newspaper. We would be happy to hear from you either in the form of letters or articles which we would be pleased to include in our publication each month.

That's what this paper is for — to help us to get to know one another as well as to let you know what is happening in the town.

Let us know what you think, what you do.

How about it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 10

Mr. Marko wrote, "The Borough Attorney will defend this case and you and I will be paying his fee. The current estimates are that this will cost the Borough roughly \$5,000 in attorneys (sic) fees. This is on top of the couple of thousand already spent on this."

In fact, the Borough carries insurance to cover the cost of defending our officials in suits such as these. Surely Mr. Marko knew that. So who actually pays? As the Times reported on November 4th, the insurance company coughed up \$7,000 to pay the Borough attorney. That should cover the "roughly \$5,000" plus "the couple of thousand already spent on this."

Furthermore, Marko had the chutzpah to claim that the "The reason recall petitions were rejected was because the Recall Committee ignored the clear requirements of the ...recall statue ..." and that "instead of following the law, they ignored it."

What absolute nonsense.

The original recall petitions were on forms provided by the Borough Clerk, who is our local Election Official. After 292 people had signed the petitions the Recall Committee discovered that the Clerk had been given the wrong forms by the County.

Using new forms from the N.J. Division of Elections the Recall Committee collected 191 signatures – in under 24 hours. The Borough Clerk rejected these petitions because the first page, which she had already approved, didn't have a statement saying there was no statement of reasons for the recall.

The third petition, on forms certified by the Court, and therefore not subject to appeal on technicalities, had 212 signatures. This doesn't represent a fall-off of support from the original petition; it's just what six weary petition carriers had the energy to collect

in under a week.

Over 200 Roosevelt citizens were willing to sign a petition – three times - calling for an election to recall Neil Marko as Mayor of Roosevelt. Only 159 signatures are required.

Judge Alexander Lehrer, in ruling on this matter, said, "The bottom line is that if the spirit of enough people in Roosevelt want a recall election, then a recall election will be called." The cost of a recall election would be borne by the taxpayers, as Marko pointed out. Of course, it wouldn't cost the taxpayers one cent if Neil Marko stopped spinning the facts, accepted the inevitable - and resigned.

Bert Ellentuck

*Former Mayor, Councilman, and
Planning Board member*

To the Editor:

Mayor Marko has been so far off track regarding the recall election that he has only added to the evidence needed to support his recall. First, the Mayor was inaccurate and misleading in his statement at the reorganization meeting when he said that the Yesihva issue is the sole reason for the recall movement. I beg to differ. As a supporter of the Mayoral Recall, I have been motivated by the Mayor's actions in the sale of a private pool to the borough when he knowingly had a financial interest in the sale. I have been prompted by his neglect for and rejection of our strong-council/weak-mayor form of government. I was further motivated by the Mayor's overzealous actions to bully the school board into ignoring state law and fighting to leave the siren atop of the school, despite others' and my numerous attempts to mend relations with the school and come to a mutually beneficial agreement. Finally, perhaps top of my list of reasons to recall the Mayor is his inability to lead

this council and our community in a responsible and thoughtful manner.

The fact that a wholly contentious and emotional debate has come upon us, the Mayor has been all but absent in his candor and insight into how to deal with this issue. Yes, the Yeshiva. I will state that the Yeshiva itself is by no means top, bottom, or even on my list of reasons to recall the Mayor. In fact, his obfuscation of the facts and double-talk have confused me to the point that I have no idea what role he has even played in the Yeshiva. However, his actions, be it in the writing of divisive columns to the *Borough Bulletin*, misleading interviews, slanderous statements, and outright undiplomatic and offensive comments towards those who attempt to challenge the Mayor, all speak to his inability to lead our community.

Mayor Marko has failed to provide any sense of mission, any sense of urgency, or any standard of cohesion in governing the Borough. Rather than tackle issues central to the proper functioning of the Borough, be it improving our infrastructure or tax base, the Mayor has left the council bogged down in peripheral and minor issues, cats, chickens, and school buses, rather than clean and cheap water, closure of the gas station site, or public safety. Instead of opening his mind to the potential that sits before him in both the community and the Council, the Mayor has resorted to shouting down Council members when rightful requests for statutory leadership at committee meetings is requested.

No, Mayor Marko, it is not the Yeshiva issue that has revealed Roosevelt's true character, rather it is being in a position of power and authority that revealed yours, and I believe that you, as an intelligent and caring human being, are completely

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Selling or Renting or Fixing Up Your House? Read On!

By Ed Goetzmann

Read on to understand the differences between Borough Ordinances and N.J. State Requirements.

1 **Construction:** All structural changes and improvements (not usual maintenance and upkeep) including additions, redefining the exterior of the house, electrical or plumbing changes and improvements require a Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) issued by the State Construction Official. contact Robert Ward (609-633-2423) who is at the Borough Hall every Monday from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. to answer questions and to issue building permits before the work begins and a C.O. when the work is completed. Take the State C.O. to the Borough Housing Inspector, who does general inspection and will issue a Permit for Permissible Occupancy.

2. Selling or Renting When Construction is Not Involved: A Borough of Roosevelt Permit for Permissible Occupancy is issued by the Borough Housing Inspector (\$75.00 fee). The current Borough Housing Inspector is Ed Goetzmann (443-4938).

The purpose of these dual processes is to have the State of N.J. ensure standards of sound construction and the Borough of Roosevelt ensure standards of safety, compatibility and attractiveness throughout our community.

Community Shares Agriculture meeting on Feb. 23

Carol Watchler

The Roosevelt Community Shares Agriculture (CSA) program will be

back this season with a new farmer. Farm owner Ed Goldstein has sought a person experienced with organic farming and CSA share holders as well as any interested persons can learn more about plans for this summer's organic produce at a meeting on Thursday, February 23, 7:30 pm, at the Borough Hall. Sign up forms will be available at the meeting. For further information, please contact Carol Watchler, 609-448-5215, carolwatchler@comcast.net.

Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training & Response News

By Jack Rindt, Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training Officer

In the month of November, the squad responded to eight first aid squad calls. In Roosevelt, four were medical emergencies, and four were mutual aid calls to Millstone Township, all of which were medical emergencies. In the month of December, the squad responded to three first aid squad calls. One of the calls was in Roosevelt and two were in Millstone and both were medical emergencies.

The training for December was the State of New Jersey Incident Command Systems I-100 and I-700 in accordance with the directives the President of the United States, in Homeland Security Directive No. 5, and State of New Jersey Executive Order #50.

The I-700 is mandatory training. This is for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for all firefighters, police, EMS, public works employees, and anyone within the local government that is in the Emergency Response Plan. At this time the Roosevelt First Aid Squad is at 100% compliance.

The squad responded to 94 emer-

gencies from January 1 to December 31. Last year, the squad did a total of 73. As one can clearly see, our number of calls have increased.

The squad responded to 79 medical emergencies, nine motor vehicle accidents, and six fire stand-bys. In Roosevelt, we responded to 51, in Millstone 42, and in East Windsor one.

The First Aid Squad is now looking to buy a Pulse Oximeter which is used to measure the amount of oxygen in one's system and can also monitor one's pulse. This would be a great aid in helping us with cardiac and respiratory emergencies. The cost of this machine is \$700.00.

The squad has started to put away funds for a new ambulance. Any contributions for the new ambulance would be greatly appreciated. Please indicate that your contribution is for the New Ambulance Fund. Please make out checks to Roosevelt First Aid Squad, P.O. Box 274, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. The First Aid Squad is always thankful when anything can be contributed. A second ambulance in town will help insure that one will always be around.

Do you want to be challenged, help your community, maybe start a career or just help people? Join the Roosevelt first Aid Squad: **We Need Members!**

As I stated in the past, our membership is small. We can not always be around to answer calls because we have jobs and family commitments just like everyone else, but, if we are home, we will respond. In the past, Millstone Township First Aid Squad has helped us and still helps when they can. Unfortunately, Millstone First Aid Squad is also having a hard time in responding to calls. If the Roosevelt First Aid Squad and the Millstone first Aid Squad continue to have enough

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ROOSEVELT FIRST AID SQUAD TRAINING & RESPONSE NEWS

Continued from Page 14

members who can donate their time and effort to help our communities, we may have to look into alternative measures such as calling MONOC for an ambulance. If MONOC comes and transports you as patient or family member for an emergency, a fee will be incurred. We do not want this to happen, that's why **we need members!**

If you would like to join the First Aid Squad, you can contact any squad member, stop in during our business meeting that is held on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Borough Hall, or the second Sunday of each month when we hold our monthly training which starts at 10:00 a.m.

The squad only has six Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) at this time. We are always looking for new members to join and **we pay for all training**. New members can join at the age of 16 and become New Jersey Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). By becoming an Emergency Medical Technician with the Roosevelt First Aid Squad this could lead to paying positions with career ambulance companies.

In case of an emergency dial 911.

Thank you.

Review

Roosevelt Poets

The sound of poetry and music filled the Borough Hall at the 2005 RAP Poetry Reading on December 10th. *The Almost Winter Solstice* was the theme of this delightful evening. The music, provided by David Brahinsky and Denny Kronemeyer, complemented the poetry beautifully.

Judith McNally, assisted by Rod Tulloss, read several of Judy's dialogs to which the author occasionally

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FROM THE MAYOR

Continued from Page 4

and intimidation against me and the synagogue. They had spent thousands of dollars of money in court and they were going to put the town through hell regardless of the result.

So there you have it. Now you have the true choice Roosevelt. The recall people and their friends have gone around town saying all these horrible things about me. Do you believe them? Can you believe anything they say? Do you trust them? Have they ever given one shred of proof of any of the accusations they have made about me? One shred about one thing? Nope. There is no proof because they made up all their accusations. They do have an agenda. It is to satisfy their egos and find purpose in their empty lives. They never even had the guts to admit that the recall was all about the Yeshiva, and we all know that is what this is about.

Most of us here in Roosevelt live for other purposes. We live to enjoy life, to see our children prosper, to see our community develop into a place we are proud of. Most of us bristle at the thought of intolerance or even the notion of government interference in our lives. Others, such as the recall proponents and their friends, have made deceit, intolerance and cowardice into a political policy.

This recall is all about me, I acknowledge that and so does the law. But it is larger than that. If you vote against me, you are voting FOR the intolerance, the deceit, and the cowardice. If the recall succeeds and Beth Battel is elected, then guess who gets to appoint a new council person to take Beth's council seat. Committeewoman Ann Baker and her friends. Remember, the mayor does not vote (except to break a tie).

Sadly, recalling me as mayor will not only be about me, it will permanently put a mark on this town's history. We

will be a town that recalled its mayor for standing by the law and the rights of its people. A town that wanted to put pressure and illegal influence on a house of worship through its local government even when legal counsel told them they were out of line. This will now be our history, and our legacy. A mayor will be recalled for doing nothing illegal or immoral but instead holding firm to his oath of office when that wasn't a popular platform.

Rest assured, however, that on February 8th, I know that I will be a happy man. My wife and children love me, my friends and neighbors respect me and I am secure in my career and my family's future, and I know that my service to the Borough has been honorable. Depending on the results, some of the rest of the town may not be so lucky.

At the start of this I told you about Councilman Hamilton and the reporter. Do you know what Councilman Hamilton said to the reporter? He said that I should have done what former Councilwoman Elly Shapiro did, who "stepped down from her seat on the Council in January (2005) in order to help with synagogue matters." The only problem with that statement was that that was not what Elly did. She actually decided not to run in early 2004, many months before January and her term just expired in December 2004. In other words, Hamilton just lied through his teeth. Would you expect anything else other than a lie from Councilman Hamilton?

Thank you for your time and I wish you all a lot of peace and prosperity, and for most of you, no hard feelings at all. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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capable for seeing this recall for what it truly is and not for what you portray it to be to simply cover your own ineffectiveness and mistakes.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hoffman, Council Member

To the Editor:

I would like to express my support for Beth Battel as the Mayor of Roosevelt. Beth possesses both the desire and capability to be an excellent Mayor. I have seen her leadership when she replaced the Mayor during several council meetings. She handles herself and the council with style and understands the role of the Mayor in a strong council/weak mayor system. The fact that she runs a successful business and has excellent ties to Roosevelt further lend strength to why she should replace Neil Marko as Mayor.

I urge all citizens to vote for Beth in the Recall Election. The choice is really a choice between a competent leadership or a Mayor who hides behind legal threats and double-speak.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hoffman, Council Member

To the Editor:

I would like to explain why I decided to join the Recall Committee.

I have lived in Roosevelt for 11 years and have two children in the Roosevelt Public School. This school is the center of our community. When we first moved here, our main priority was the school system. My husband and I liked the fact that it was a small school, and the atmosphere of a small town community was very important to us.

I believe that it is a mayor's responsibility to represent the whole community, and the community's best interests. The Roosevelt Public School is a vital part of our community, and our present mayor has done nothing to support the school. Instead, he has written negative comments about the school board, sidestepped the recreation program, and did not even appear at the town meeting concerning Senate bill S-1701, and how it could possibly affect our school. (S-1701 became law last year mandating several changes in school finance. Because Roosevelt is such a small school and therefore has a high per pupil administrative cost, the law put a lot of pressure on the school to reduce administrative costs.)

I am not saying that the mayor is responsible for bringing children into our school, but by publicly disregarding this town institution, the present mayor clearly shows he does not care what happens to the school, or the children who attend it.

When Mayor Marko is asked about his involvement with our school, his only reply concerns the placement of the town siren. The siren is an issue, but it is absurd that it is the *only* issue Mr. Marko can address when talking about the school. A mayor should work with the school board and the recreation program to encourage and support the school's continued success and show at least some concern about this important and vital town institution. The foundation of every state is the education of its' youth.

There are many issues that need to be addressed in this community, and our

school is only one of them. It is, however, the one that motivated me to join the Committee to Recall Neil Marko.

Sincerely,

Jill Joyce

To the Editor,

I signed the petition to recall the Mayor because, unlike when he was running for office, Mayor Marko has never explicitly stated his position on the most recent plan to develop a residential portion of Roosevelt, a plan opposed by a vast majority of the townspeople. His neutral, non-committal response of "Let the law run its course" would not have been definitive or reassuring enough five years ago, and it is not reassuring enough now.

Ron Kostar, 18 Pine Drive

To the Editor:

This is to call attention to and thank Jay and Ann Goldman for consistently being there in the winter over the past several years to shovel off our driveway and walk. As we become older, creakier and more limited by small and large disabilities, it becomes less and less possible to take care of such arduous tasks as snow removal by ourselves. The Goldmans, who also do other neighbors' driveways and walks on Rochdale Avenue, give a new depth to and understanding of "good neighbor."

Ed Moser ■

REVIEW

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added her own flute accompaniment. The *Dialogs* embody a sneaky kind of humor. Each one starts quietly, slowly builds up, then toward the end, shifts and culminates in a droll revelation about what came before. It's a formula, but so deftly done that I never get tired of it.

David Herrstrom read six poems of his, starting, in keeping with program's theme, *Winter Solstice*, a brief, intense evocation of rapture at nature's ways of starting the new season. Introducing *Persistent Complex Objects*, a longer poem, David described it as "a meditation on hands." Pondering about this poem's emotional impact, it occurred to me that David, in his poetry, has a way of moving from the concrete to the heartfelt. He pulls together the ordinary, views it from different angles, and culminates in universal truth. This is also true of the other poems he read: *The Art of Triangulation*, *All About Tunnels and Holes*, *At the Feet of the Cedars*, and *Loneliness of Pain*.

Rod Tulloss read works by various poets selected by Robert Bly in an anthology dedicated to Ezra Pound.

Scott Carpenter read mostly his own poems, including one about the "almost winter solstice" theme.

Wes Czyzewski read several of his Assunpink poems and others.

Robert Axel read his own *Pocket Pearls* as well as poems by Louise Gluck, Adam Axel, and Barbara Adam.

Those who read during "Open Mic" were Maya Z. Kaisth, Sharon Grau, Mark Zuckerman, David Brahinsky, and Ben Johnson. ■

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Continued from Page 3

Seligman, the chairman of the planning board, could not participate in the hearing because his house is within 200 feet of the synagogue property and he is therefore deemed to be an interested party. The board members present and able to vote were Ed Moser, Jane Rothfuss, David Ticktin, Michael Ticktin and alternate member Tim Hartley. Five members or alternate members are needed to constitute a quorum.

Edward Liston, the attorney representing Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah, challenged the impartiality of Mr. Hartley, and of Mary Ann Rossi, who was not present, on the grounds that they had signed petitions for the recall of Mayor Marko. He also challenged the impartiality of Mrs. Rothfuss, on the grounds that her husband had expressed opposition to the establishment of the yeshiva in comments made to the press. Asked by board attorney Michele Donato if they could hear the case impartially, both Mr. Hartley and Mrs. Rothfuss said that they could and would do so.

The board heard testimony from Mel Friedman, who identified himself as a life-long resident of Roosevelt and former member of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, concerning developments within the congregation. It also heard testimony from Mr. Francis concerning his investigation and the basis of his decision. The hearing will resume on February 14. In the interim, Ms. Rossi and Jessica Hecht have been replaced by Lou Esakoff and Steve Yeger, and the vacant alternate position has been filled by Bob Dermody, all appointed by Mayor Marko without need for approval by the Council.

On January 10, the planning board, with its new membership, held its reor-

ganization meeting. Ralph Seligman, Jane Rothfuss and Ann Kassahun were re-elected as chairman, vice-chairwoman and secretary of the board and Ms. Donato and Tom Thomas were reappointed as the board's attorney and planner, respectively. The board also heard a concept plan for development of the 14 acre property on the south side of Oscar Drive/Witches' Hollow Road immediately adjoining the Millstone border that is owned by the Rogers family. The plan was presented by Bill Martin, whose wife Ellen is one of the Rogers siblings and whose house is on the property in Millstone that is immediately adjacent to the 14 acres. Mr. Martin and his planner presented a proposal to subdivide the property into six lots, as permitted by the zoning, and have those lots served by municipal utilities. In response to comments from Carmela Roberts, the borough engineer, Mr. Miller agreed that it would make sense to have the new homes have their own wells, given the lack of capacity of the water system, and to extend only sewer lines. As part of the project, Oscar Drive would have to be improved, either to a new cul-de-sac or as a through road to Millstone. In response to concerns about maximizing preservation of woodlands, Mr. Martin asked if the board might consider allowing development on smaller lots, with one or two additional lots, in exchange for transfer of the rest of the land to the borough. The board indicated that it would be interested in looking at a proposal along those lines. Mr. Martin indicated that he would return with revisions for further discussion. ■

FROM THE RECALL COMMITTEE

Continued from Page 5

- he had an ongoing financial interest in the sale of the pool

As a result, the Borough would have had to pay out **more than \$77,000**, plus insurance, to operate the pool the first year, plus more than \$27,000 per year after that in order to “save” \$1,200 per year. Due to the fact that the pool had no insurance, any injury claims could also have become the Borough’s liability. This transaction falls within the definition of “self-dealing,” which is more egregious than a mere conflict of interest.

He also argued that the pool would benefit the town because it would be open to the public, failing to mention that he was negotiating with the other private pool club in town (presumably on behalf of Pine Valley Swim Club) to assure that Pine Valley Pool would be open to the public only on weekends.

Marko also neglected to disclose that he brought representatives of the Yeshiva to the Pine Valley property and proposed that the club sell the property to the Yeshiva as a location for a dormitory, a cafeteria and a classroom building for a substantial amount of money. These three buildings were to be built on an acre or less. This is the same mayor who claims that he never had any financial interest in the success of the Yeshiva. When a resident called the realtor handling the pool property and asked if it were zoned for housing, the resident was told not to worry about the zoning because the Mayor was a member of the pool club and would “take care of any problems.”

Mr. Marko refuses to acknowledge that his involvement with the Yeshiva is a conflict of interest. If an elected official represents two organizations which may be in conflict, such as the Synagogue Board and the Borough, he has a moral and legal obligation to recuse himself. Instead, Marko is intent on seating a Planning Board that will

ensure that a private school and related dormitory are built in the Borough.

Divisiveness. Mr. Marko has consistently used personal attacks, insults and divisive language when dealing with other branches of local government and the public. As an example, he responded to the recall campaign by accusing his opponents of being bigots, anti-Semites, communists, terrorists, bullies, intimidators, anti-synagogue and liars.

Alienation of his Political Party. His actions have been so far out of the realm of accepted behavior the Democratic Party has stated that they will not support him in any future election.

Dealing with the Public. At Council meetings, Mr. Marko interrupts, condescends and argues with the public. He tells residents they cannot speak at meetings when he disagrees with them and refuses to even pretend to consider their objections and suggestions.

He speaks incessantly to the press, but takes the position that he cannot speak with Borough residents...his constituents...because it would violate his legal obligations. When the Recall Committee acted to give Borough residents the right to hold a special election, he made it clear that he would fight any attempts for a recall vote, with Borough funds if necessary.

Judgement, Misstatement and Changing Stories. Mr. Marko proposed that the Borough accept wastewater from surrounding areas in order to bring in income. In order to make sure the plan was approved, Mr. Marko misstated the size of the trucks that would be used, was inconsistent in the facts and changed them when it suited him. He was warned that the risks of a spill might outweigh any benefits of the program and that the wording of the proposed ordinance did not adequately protect the Borough. He neither analyzed the risks, nor considered revising the language of the proposed ordinance.

Instead, he berated the public and council members and tried repeatedly to pass the ordinance in its original form.

Similarly, when reasonable questions of zoning were raised in connection with the Yeshiva, he lashed out at Borough residents, using vile language.

Mr. Marko makes much to do about standing up to defend the constitutional rights of the Yeshiva, but the real issue is zoning. The mayor has been less than honest concerning the Yeshiva, including:

(a) His Involvement. He has proclaimed from the rooftops that he first heard about the Yeshiva in March 2005. According to various sources, including the Yeshiva, he met with Yeshiva representatives much earlier, possibly as early as September 2004. He did not disclose his economic interest in selling Pine Valley Pool to the Yeshiva, or any other incentives he may have. He voted to bring armed guards into the Borough on behalf of the synagogue, and repeatedly stated that he had resigned from the synagogue board before that vote, which was intentionally misleading.

(b) Yeshiva and Synagogue Plans. Although the Yeshiva has consistently stated that they intend to teach and house between 100 and 200 students, Marko has stated the number to be 12 to 50, depending on the timing and the question. He continued to adhere to the position that the lease would be for one year, though the Synagogue finally announced they had signed a four-year lease.

The issue is the mayor. Who does Marko represent? When is he telling us the truth – or even part of it?

Mr. Marko pursues his own interests rather than the interests of the community. He is not the person to represent us, or our historic Borough. He has lost the confidence and respect of the majority of registered voters in town. It is time to recall him.

Vote on February 7. Vote to recall Neil Marko. ■

SWEETS for the SWEET

In February we have two 'serious' holidays – the two presidents' days - celebrated with endless political speeches, a huge amount of flag waving, and, of course, day-long sallies to take advantage of the major sales at the malls. Fortunately, we also have Valentine's Day. This is definitely a more cheerful event though it, too, seems to require trips to the mall. For many devoted couples, there's a pressing need to prove their affection with boxes of chocolate, boxer shorts with funny sayings, black lingerie with lots of lace and armloads of red roses.

Congress ought to get its act together and switch Presidents' Day to early February – say the weekend *before* the 14th - so those devoted couples might get some of this swag on sale. Makes sense to me!

In our home, and perhaps in yours, food is love - and undying love is best expressed with delicious, homemade, sweet food! So, by all means, get the Godiva, the undies, and the flowers, but consider topping it all off with this really quick and easy cheese pie. You can "Valentine-it up" by topping it with a heart made of strawberry halves!

Sweet Cheese Pie

This is a *New York Times* recipe from 1962.

Heat oven to 350°

1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs

1/4 cup melted butter

11 ounces cream cheese at room temperature

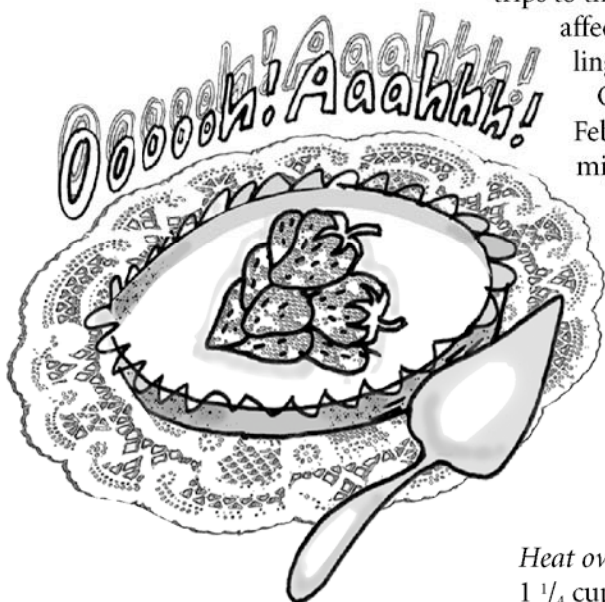
2 eggs – room temperature

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups sour cream

Additional 1/8 cup sugar



Combine the cracker crumbs and melted butter and press this mix evenly on the bottom and sides of a 9" pie plate. In a large bowl blend the cream cheese until smooth. Add the two eggs, one at a time, beating each well. Continue beating at low speed and gradually add the sugar and vanilla extract. Pour this mix into the crust. Bake 20 minutes. Now - turn the oven OFF.

Blend the sour cream with the additional 1/8 cup of sugar and spread evenly over the pie. Return the pie to the oven for 4 minutes. Cool briefly, then chill. Garnish with berries if desired. ■

When Smoke Gets In Your Eyes And House And Lungs

During a winter of very high home heating oil and gas prices, it's important to realize that each time we fire up a fireplace or wood-burning stove to supplement the heat produced by our furnaces, we may be creating a significant negative effect on the health of our neighbors. If you doubt it, take note that even the Bush administration's Environmental Protection Agency expresses concern over the pollution caused by wood burning. (On second thought, why wouldn't they, they're selling oil & gas not wood.)

One EPA statement says: "Smoke may smell good, but it's not good for you. If you are healthy, you are not usually at major risk from smoke. Smoke is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic matter burn. The biggest health threat from smoke comes from fine particles (also called particulate matter or PM). These microscopic particles can get into your eyes and respiratory system, where they can cause health problems such as burning eyes, runny nose, and illnesses such as bronchitis. Fine particles also can aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases—and are linked to premature deaths in people with these chronic conditions."

Wood smoke adversely affects children, old people and people with heart or lung disease, such as congestive heart failure, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma. Smoke from wood burning stoves and fireplaces is far more polluting than emissions from oil and gas burning furnaces.

In our corner of town, wood smoke from stoves and fireplaces often casts a cloud over the neighborhood. The smoke invades our house to the extent

that our eyes sting and water and our breathing becomes uncomfortable. All of us who burn wood can get guidance about burning wood in the cleanest possible way by visiting the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/woodstoves/efficiently.html>. There are practical measures that wood burning stove and fireplace owners can take to reduce the noxious effects of smoke on others.

The Blizzard of 1996

It has been a decade since the Blizzard of January 7 and 8, 1996. In January, area media outlets reflected on the intensity of that storm in the metropolitan areas of Philadelphia and New York City. I went back to my weather logs and Weather Almanac column of February 1996 to refresh my memory of the storm. In Roosevelt, we had a total snowfall of 26 inches. The blizzard conditions made drifts much deeper than that. The Blizzard of 1996 was just one of many winter storms during the 1995-1996 winter season. Several ice and snowstorms made it a very difficult season.

Smoke: Small particles produced

Weather Word

by combustion that are suspended in the air. A transition to haze may occur when the smoke particles have traveled a great distance (25 miles to 100 miles or more), and when the larger particles have settled out. The remaining particles become widely scattered through the atmosphere. It is reported as "FU" in a meteorological observation and on the METAR (Meteorological Aerodrome Report). Source: www.weather.com/glossary/s.html

November 15 - December 15, 2005

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	33.8	11.5	22.7	0.00
16	52.2	31.6	41.9	0.85
17	41.0	28.9	35.0	0.00
18	39.0	27.3	33.2	0.00
19	39.9	27.0	33.5	0.00
20	34.5	20.3	27.4	0.00
21	34.0	17.1	25.6	0.00
22	37.0	25.0	31.0	0.00
23	53.6	31.0	42.3	0.00
24	54.0	31.0	42.5	0.93
25	52.0	29.0	40.5	0.09
26	49.0	39.0	44.0	0.00
27	45.0	28.0	36.5	0.00
28	52.3	28.0	40.2	0.00
29	48.9	39.4	44.2	0.00
30	45.9	32.5	39.2	0.50
31	42.3	28.2	35.3	0.00
1	45.0	31.3	38.2	0.25
2	47.3	30.7	39.0	0.00
3	43.9	36.1	40.0	1.75
4	41.4	31.6	36.5	0.29
5	51.3	34.2	42.8	0.05
6	43.5	30.9	37.2	0.00
7	35.1	20.5	27.8	0.00
8	46.4	32.0	39.2	0.00
9	58.1	34.0	46.1	0.00
10	49.5	30.6	40.1	0.00
11	53.4	32.2	42.8	0.00
12	54.3	37.9	46.1	0.25
13	48.6	35.2	41.9	0.00
14	58.8	32.9	45.9	0.45
15	33.1	22.3	27.7	0.60
Total Precipitation	6.01			

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

2005 - 2006 SEASON

NEXT EVENT:

Saturday, February 11, 2006

**AN EVENING WITH SCHUBERT: SONGS AND PIANO MUSIC
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TICKTIN, SOPRANO**

Saturday, March 11, 2006

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Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2006

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

Saturday, May 20, 2006

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Saturday, June 17th, 2006

**ART BY ROOSEVELT ARTISTS SELECTED FROM PRIVATE
COLLECTIONS IN ROOSEVELT**

The exhibit will be in the Eleanor Gallery in the factory, 11a.m to 7 p.m.

All events are at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building except where otherwise noted.

Voluntary Contribution:

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

Next year, during the 2006-2007 season, the Roosevelt Arts Project will be celebrating its 20th anniversary of providing varied cultural events for the community. One of the projects we have in mind for this celebration is the creation by community residents of a mural that might be set outdoors in Roosevelt. Your ideas and your active hands-on participation will be welcome. For this project phone Deirdre Sheean (443*4179), Naomi Brahinsky (443-1898) or Judith McNally (448-4580).

Visit RAP's webpage at <http://music.columbia.edu/roosevelt>. There is a link at the top of the page to the site where people can sign up to be on our e-mail list.

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

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2005 - 2006

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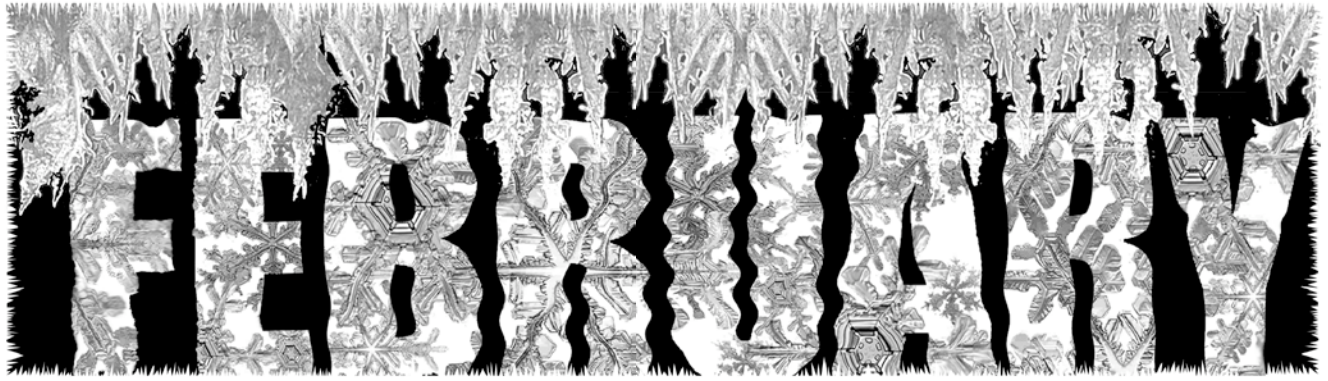
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448-3713 or email: kirkjane@juno.com

Saturdays – 7:00 p.m. – Movies at RPS- See page 9

February

3	Fri	RPS Pizza Day
6	Mon 7:30 pm	Council Agenda Meeting, Borough Hall Neil Marko, Mayor 443-6818
	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check Boro Hall
	1 pm	Seniors Meeting Borough Hall Gerry Millar, President 448-0351
7	Tues 6 am - 8 pm	Special Mayoral Recall Election, Borough Hall
8	Wed	RECYCLE
9	Thurs 7:30 pm	PTA Meeting RPS—Jill Joyce, 443-9423 or Deidre Pizzarelli, 448-2126
	7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting RPS Linda Grayson, President 443-6462
11	Sat 8 pm	RAP Program-“The Young Schubert”- Alan Mallach & Cecelia Ticktin (see RAP Page)
12	Sun 10 am	First Aid Squad Training, Boro Hall Jack Rindt 448-9475
13	Mon 7:30 pm	Council Action Meeting Boro Hall
14	Tues 7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall Ralph Seligman 448-2340
15	Wed 7:30 pm	Environmtl Com. Mtg Boro Hall Dave Schwendeman, Chair 443-6204
16	Thurs	Kreps School Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences
	7:30 pm	Synagogue Bd Mtg, Elly Shapiro, 443-3575
17	Fri	Kreps School Early Dismissal
		RPS Closed - Presidents' Weekend
20	Mon	RPS Closed - Presidents' Day
		Post Office Closed
21	Tues 7:30 pm	Council Committee Meeting Boro Hall
	7:30 pm	First Aid Squad Business Mtg, Boro Hall Jack Rindt 448-9475

22	Wed	RECYCLE
23	Thurs 7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting RPS Linda Grayson, President 443-6462
24	Fri	RPS Pizza Day
27	Mon 7 pm	Council Committee Meeting Boro Hall

March 2006

2	Thurs 7:30 pm	PTA Meeting RPS—Jill Joyce, 443-9423 or Deidre Pizzarelli, 448-2126
4	Sat 10:30 am	PTA Winter Carnival RPS—Jill Joyce, 443-9423 or Deidre Pizzarelli, 448-2126
6	Mon 7:30 pm	Council Agenda Meeting, Boro Hall
7	Tues	RPS Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences
	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check Boro Hall
	1 pm	Seniors Meeting Borough Hall Gerry Millar, President 448-0351
8	Wed	RECYCLE
9	Thurs	RPS Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences
	7:30 pm	Synagogue Bd Mtg, Elly Shapiro, 443-3575
	7:30 pm	Roosevelt School Board Meeting RPS Linda Grayson, President 443-6462
10	Fri	RPS Pizza Day

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