

Bulletin

Volume 28 Number 4

February 2004

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Marko Takes the Helm as Mayor; Hamilton Elected Council President

By Michael Ticktin

The Borough Council began its 2004 session promptly by conducting its organizational meeting on New Year’s Day. Neil Marko and Michael Hamilton were sworn in as Mayor and Councilman, respectively, thus exchanging the positions they had each held in their previous term. Councilman Jeff Hunt, who was re-elected, was not able to attend the organizational meeting and was sworn in at the following meeting.

As part of the organizational meeting, the Council elected its President for the year. The Council President has the authority to exercise the duties of the office of Mayor in the Mayor’s absence. Mr. Hamilton nominated Councilman Hunt. Councilwoman Pat Moser, however, then nominated Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton was then elected by a vote of three to two, with Mr. Hamilton voting for Mr. Hunt.

At the regular monthly meeting held on January 12, Mayor Marko appointed Councilman Hamilton as his designee to serve in his absence on the Planning Board. Under the Municipal Land Use Law, the mayor of a municipality is automatically a member of the Planning Board. However, the law was amended a few years ago to allow mayors to appoint a special designee, someone other than the alternate members, to represent them in their absence. This is a provision of the law, however, that had not been used by previous mayors in Roosevelt.

Mayor Marko also reported on a hazmat training program that he had attended at the sewage treatment plant. He noted the “absence of any sewer ambience,” and commended Toby Moore for doing an “extraordinary job” in keeping the system, which still has many original components, operating smoothly. He also expressed the

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're back! There will be an issue every month from now on, through July.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

This additional contribution to *The Bulletin* is a result of our becoming sponsors of the Roosevelt Website, so that our website is linked to it.

Bob & Alison Petrilla

We are grateful for the contributions we keep receiving from our residents but, as usual, our funds are running low and hope those of you who haven't yet contributed will do so. We Need You!!

New Mayor Marko would be pleased to see our residents at the monthly Council meetings. The next one will be Monday, Feb. 9th at 7:30 p.m.

Larisa Bondy is looking for volunteers to help with the Annual Winter Carnival at the school on March 6th. If you can help, please fill out the form on page 12 and get it back to her.

Seniors: Notice that the Blood Pressure Checks will start at 12 noon instead of at 12:30 p.m. from now on at the monthly meetings.

Are you using our library at the school? It is open every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Thoughtful neighbors pick up after their dogs. Are you a thoughtful neighbor?

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NEW MAYOR AND COUNCIL KEEP OLD GUARD

Continuity reigned as the Borough Planning Board reorganized during its January 13 meeting. Taking advantage of a provision in the Municipal Land Use Law, newly installed Mayor Neil Marko designated former Mayor Michael Hamilton, now the Council President, to serve on the Planning Board in his absence. This permits Mr. Hamilton, who is expected to attend the lion's share of Board meetings, to continue contributing to the Board's work. Mayor Marko can still take over the mayor's seat and vote during any meeting he attends.

Mayor Marko also appointed Ralph Seligman to another four-year term. The Board elected Mr. Seligman to continue as Board Chairman. Members indicated they would likely return Jane Rothfuss to the position of Vice Chairwoman when she takes the oath for a new term. The Council elected Beth Battel to continue as its representative on the Board. Mayor Marko designated Tax Assessor Michael Ticktin for another year as the municipal official member of the Board. He also appointed Edwin Moser, who serves on the Environmental Commission, to another Planning Board term and Mary Ann Rossi to continue as an alternate. Also serving on the Board are members Jessica Hecht, Robert Petrilla and David Ticktin, who is a member of the Roosevelt Board of Education. Timothy Hartley serves as an alternate.

The rare consequence of the appointments and designations is that all the residents who served on the

Board last year will continue their service into the current year. In addition, the Board decided to continue Ann Kassahun as Board Secretary, Michele Donato as Board Attorney and Tom Thomas as Planning Consultant. The only "no" vote was David Ticktin on Ms. Donato's appointment.

The Board will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. Official notices will appear in the *Asbury Park Press* and the *Messenger-Press*. At the request of Board members, Board Secretary Kassahun graciously agreed to put up with some personal inconvenience so that meetings could occur in time for the *Bulletin* reporter to meet the deadline for submission of articles, enabling news of Board activities to reach Borough residents while still timely. Mr. Seligman also thanked Ms. Kassahun for "being so efficient" in the handling of Board business.

The continuity will assist the Board in furthering its major projects for 2004: revision of the zoning and parking ordinances. This activity continues substantial work of the Parking and Zoning committees during 2003 and follows the Board's successful shepherding of a Redevelopment Plan to ordinance approval by the Council in November 2003. When fully implemented, the plan will lead to rehabilitation of five derelict properties now blighting the town, including the long-abandoned service station. It also will enable Roosevelt to meet its affordable housing obligation. Members of the Redevelopment Committee are Messrs. Michael Ticktin, Seligman,

Hamilton and Thomas.

At the December 9 meeting, Mr. Hamilton extended thanks on behalf of the Council and himself for the Board's service during his mayoral administration of the last four years.

The Parking Committee began earnest discussions about changes in parking restrictions when Ms. Rothfuss and Mr. Hartley presented an interim report, drawings and slides of photographs taken by David Ticktin at the December 9 meeting. The presentation showed problems throughout the Borough and proposed tentative solutions. Ms. Rothfuss and Messrs. Seligman, Moser, Hartley and David Ticktin serve on the Parking Committee.

Mr. Seligman said, "It is shocking how much green has been encroached on [by illegal or inappropriate parking] in the town. Ms. Rothfuss noted, "There is excessive, free-form parking going on around the community." Mr. Petrilla indicated that safety issues should be an important concern as the Board prepares final ordinance recommendations for the Council.

Parking recommendations being considered include new definitions of front and side yards and permitting just one driveway/parking area per home, with any extensions to be contiguous. All driveway/parking areas would have to have prepared surfaces, such as gravel, asphalt, brick, concrete, or the like. Maximum driveway/parking area width at the street would be 20 feet for an unattached home and 16 feet for an attached home. In the front yard, no driveway/parking area would be allowed

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Mayor Neil Marko's speech at the inauguration meeting of the new government on January 1, 2004.

I want to extend a warm welcome to all members of the public who have come to show their support for the council and myself by coming to this Reorganization Meeting. I will endeavor to make my comments brief.

There are three ideas that I have been thinking about in advance of this day. First is my unending appreciation for the effort of Mike Hamilton and the rest of the Council. Most of the efforts of Mike have gone unnoticed by the public but one just has to scratch the surface to see the effect of his hard work. In the past few years, the Borough has experienced several stressful, arduous, and time consuming events, such as multiple lawsuits, serious utility problems, and a host of other major and minor events. Mike has remained steadfast to his principles and has given the leadership that we needed at those times. He served all residents with fairness and dignity. He turns over to me, an office with very few outstanding problems. I, as should all of you, be thankful that he will now be a member of the Council.

The second cogitation upon which I have dwelled is the direction of Roosevelt. I feel that the Borough has recently turned a corner and many issues that have been left unresolved for years have been or are now being addressed. Those items include our recent successes in litigation, our renewed interest in improvements to our public utilities, our new Master Plan, our efforts in dealing with derelict properties such as the gas station, and positive developments in efforts to cooperate with surrounding towns. To be sure, the Council has much work and effort in store for the future, and there will be some great successes and maybe some not so great successes, but the outlook for Roosevelt has never been brighter, and the desire and will of the Council and residents has never been stronger.

Last, I want to comment on the place that we live. The other day I was watching TV and I saw on our local cable access station, a meeting of some government board from one of our neighboring towns. Initially, I thought that it would be really nice if we could

do something like that. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that what makes Roosevelt such a wonderful place to live, is the unbelievable fact that broadcasting our government meetings is not needed at all. In Roosevelt, we know our neighbors and we know our officials. We expect, here in Roosevelt, that if a resident has an issue, he or she can contact the Mayor or a Councilperson directly, and have a conversation as if he or she were talking to their next door neighbor, because we are all just next door neighbors. We have no reason to broadcast our meetings to the so-called masses because in Roosevelt there are no masses. I will close my words now but I would once again like to thank you all for coming today, and I especially would like to thank my wife and children for their unending support and patience which allowed me to be here. I hope that my efforts and the efforts of the Council will be successful and that we can all look forward to a better life. ■

Are you taking advantage of the Roosevelt Library in our school?

To keep it alive, it needs to be used.

As CSA Weinbach has said:

“A town library would be a terrible thing to lose!”

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

It was still warm when several members of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission, family members and friends hiked sections B and C of the Roosevelt Woodland Trail. Good thing too because some of us got pretty muddy and wet zigzagging the trail and stream in search of debris. Participants included Kevin Laurita and daughters Sylvia and Amelia, Kirk Rothfuss with David and Ellen, the Dermody family Susan, Bob, Cheyenne and Lucas, a neighbor of Kevin's and me with daughter Abbie.

Our mission was to continue the Town's litter pick-up along the trails and to remove garbage from Empty

Box Brook. Some bravely volunteered to walk the center of the stream to make looking for stuff to remove easier. I am sure we will try this again but perhaps prepared with old clothes and sneakers (right Jane?) and during the warmer month of August.

Day-dreaming now of a warm Spring and Summer (It is about 5 degrees outside as I write this!), I hope more of you readers take advantage of our trails. We urge everyone who is interested in our environment to attend a Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting. Perhaps you could help us finish the Roosevelt Woodland Trail to cemetery hill? We

could use your help and participation. Next meeting is February 18th, 7:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Borough Hall.

Thanks! ■

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are 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.

From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

Happy New Year one and all! I hope this year will find everyone in good health, loved and comforted by those important people in your lives. Our school community gave generously to families associated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Monmouth County. Our students have been involved with a variety of service learning activities, and they are learning the joy of giving time and care.

Speaking of giving, we have received a donation of hundreds of videos from Mark Kleinman. These videos include both classic and contemporary movies. We are processing them into the library and they will be available for borrowing. In addition, Mr. Kleinman has presented the school with an original piece by Stefan Martin. We will enjoy the gifts from Mr. Kleinman for years to come.

Every January we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King is remembered for his kindness, and students learn about acts of kindness. This is a good time to reflect about our own anger and how we deal with it. In today's schools students learn that

anger is a normal and healthy feeling. Many grown ups 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's okay to feel angry, it's what we do with anger that matters.

Anger can actually help you if you use that energy to get things done, handle an emergency, fix problems, make your needs known, or work out differences with others. Naturally, anger can be hurtful to the angry person and others. We teach children to watch for the signs that they are getting angry: tense muscles, a mean voice, a desire to break things, feeling down. The guidelines for children are naturally the same for adults. The first thing is to figure out why you are angry, then to cool off before acting; and most importantly, to talk about how you feel. Sharing feelings, and knowing that someone is listening, are the best ways to avoid escalating

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RCNS February Newsletter

By Ginny Weber

In January, our class welcomed in the New Year by making our New Year's Eve wishes and crowns. We also learned how the New Year is celebrated in other countries.

The Class learned how different community helpers do their jobs every day to give people the things they need. The children made library cards to check out books from the RCNS library. They also made doctor kits and stop signs. To celebrate Ben Franklin's birthday, the class visited the post office. Mr. Kim showed us how mail is delivered and stamped. The children love to find out how much they weigh on the postal scale.

Our class learned about Arctic places in January. We made polar bears and seals. We also observed the different animals and birds that we see in the winter. We made bird feeders to feed our feathered friends. We reviewed how some birds migrate to warmer places and that some animals hibernate for the winter.

During February, we learned about keeping our hearts healthy. We will listen to our hearts during quiet time

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February School Dates

February 3	Early Dismissal
February 6	Pizza Day
February 10	PTA Meeting
February 13 & 16	School Closed
February 20	Pizza Day
February 24 & 26	Early Dismissal - Conferences
February 26	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

By Gladys Nadler

Items for this column can be submitted to Ron Kostar by phone 443-4179, 18 Pine Drive, or e-mail at ronkostar@cs.com.

Scattered news briefs floating in from around town include the following:

Haley Reimbold has continued her community work at Hamilton College by serving as Director of the Hamilton Action Volunteer Outreach Coalition. HAVOC is a community-service group that addresses the needs of people in the Utica-Hamilton community that are not being met. Haley also leads the HC Red Cross Campus Club and maintains Dean's List Honors, volunteers at a local day care center and tutors/mentors for children in the Utica, New York area.

Lian Garton has been nominated for the Trenton Times All-Star Academic team. Lian was the 2002-2003 Hightstown High School Mathematics Department Student of the Year and HHS's New Jersey Institute of Technology Woman Leader in Engineering for 2003. She is a member of the HHS Math League and was a competitor in a Seton Hall Mathematics Competition, The Rutgers Academic Challenge and The College of New Jersey Computer Science Competition. Needless to say Lian is a brilliant student who ranks number one in her class.

Ina Clark, a junior at The Peddie School, recently completed the Fall Term with High Honors. Ina was inducted as a full member of

Mu Alpha Theta, National Mathematics Honor Society, and is competing in the Chemistry Olympiad.

Brandon Tyers is making a mark for himself as one of the better wrestlers in the area and perhaps in the state. Brandon, who wrestles at 125 pounds, currently has an 8-0 record for a resurging Hightstown High varsity wrestling team.

Nathaniel Kostar received High Honors for the fall semester at Cheshire Academy, in Connecticut, where he is a Post-Graduate student. Nathaniel is also a starting guard for the Cheshire varsity basketball team, and is averaging 10 points and 6 assists a game for a team that plays some of the best prep school teams throughout New England.

Jessica Hamilton recently graduated from Rutgers University with a double degree in biology and mathematics and has been accepted to medical school for the fall.

An apology and a promise: Due to a computer problem, I was unable to "call up" a list of Honor Roll students for Hightstown High School for the fall semester, but this problem will be remedied in time for the March "Notes." And as always, if you do have news please send your clippings to ronkostar@cs.com, or mail them to me at P.O. 620. ■

At its January 6 meeting, the Senior Club planned a night at the theater to see the musical "Footloose" at the Peddie School on February 20.

Other plans for the new year include breakfast and a movie on January 20 and a luncheon at the Borough Hall on January 23.

In other business, the group decided to invest in a flexible Vanguard mutual fund account and to donate \$25 to the First Aid Squad in memory of Ann Gornham who died in January.

Refreshments were donated by Tony Wisowaty.

In December, the group held its second annual holiday luncheon on the 16th. The club voted to donate \$25 to Womanspace. Florence Johnson provided refreshments at the December 2nd meeting.

The Senior Club meets at the Borough Hall the first Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. All Roosevelt seniors are welcome to join. ■



First Aid Squad News

By Carol Watchler

The year 2003 was a remarkable one for the Roosevelt First Aid Squad — a large increase in the number of EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) working on the squad, establishment of a "Driver-only" category of membership, and, most importantly, increase in the local response to first aid emergencies to assist in a high percentage of the 911 calls that came from Rooseveltians in need. This reverses the previous trend of depending on our closest neighboring squad to back up our local squad.

Records indicate that during the past year the First Aid Squad responded to ten trauma calls, thirty medical calls, and two fire calls. The squad transported the patient to an emergency room in almost every one of these calls. "Trauma" refers to a call that arises out of an accident, whether in the home, out of doors, or on the road. "Medical" indicates calls where a patient is ill. The squad attends fire calls as a precaution in case our services are needed.

Included in the above responses were some situations in which Roosevelt First Aid Squad was able to provide back up service to our neighboring township as they have done for us on so many occasions.

In addition, the squad members have participated in regular drills, training courses, and meetings. We have upgraded equipment as needed and begun revision of the organizations by-laws.

As we wrap up the old year, here are a few New Year's resolutions we can suggest for all residents. These will **help us to help you** if your household ever needs to call on the

First Aid Squad. First of all, if we are responding for someone at your residence, we need to see your house number clearly. Be sure that your house number is displayed prominently where emergency responders can plainly see it.

Secondly, as we move ahead in the new year, please take a moment to prepare or update a list of medical information for each member of the family. Have it written down and easily available. This list should include names and contact information for your doctors and your pharmacy, as well as the names and dosages of any medications that you use, both prescription and over-the-counter products. In addition, name and telephone number of a relative or friend who can be contacted, if necessary.

The ideal location to keep this is at your refrigerator. Secure with a magnet on the outside or fold it and place it in a small vial in the shelves in the door of your refrigerator. In either case, the information should be clearly labeled, for example, "Medical information for _____, updated ___/___/___." And be sure to update the information when it changes.

Last thing to consider is whether you or anyone in your household is willing to volunteer to serve the Roosevelt community as a First Aid Squad member. If you would like to learn what this requires, please contact Elise Cousineau, 371-3344.

Mallach Plays Bach

By Gladys Nadler

About thirty people heard pianist Alan Mallach play Bach's *Well-Tempered Klavier*, Book II at the Borough Hall on November 16.

Unlike most Roosevelt Arts Project events, this one took place on a Sunday afternoon, a lovely time for a concert.

Before playing, Mr. Mallach offered some background information about the composer and music to be performed. Johann Sebastian Bach, who lived from 1685 to 1750, created the system of counterpoint which became the basis for music harmony. "Klavier" is the generic term for any keyboard instrument, e.g. the harpsichord, the pianoforte, and the modern piano.

"By the end of the seventh century," Mr. Mallach explained, "People figured out how to tune the instrument. They called it 'equal temperament.'"

Bach laid down all the rules of counterpoint in his *Well-Tempered Klavier*, Book I. This major work was a collection of preludes and fugues, pieces written in each of the twenty-four keys to demonstrate "equal temperament and counterpoint," Mr. Mallach said.

Years later, in 1744, Bach wrote the *Well-Tempered Klavier*, Book II, a "mishmash with no grand design," Mr. Mallach said. Book II included "all the musical ideas of the time," he explained. Since Book I, the forte-piano, which allowed more variety, had come into vogue.

Mr. Mallach then proceeded to play all of Book II on the piano. The performance was a celebration of Bach's genius in creating pieces with a variety of melodic themes, mood, and rhythmic patterns. I could not help marveling at how, in addition to this major work, Bach also composed all those great concertos, sonatas, cantatas, and oratorios.

Thank you, Alan, for giving us such an ambitious, well-played program.

Town Topics Continued on Page 13

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

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hope that more residents will take the opportunity to visit the plant. On another note, Mr. Marko reported that he has been having discussions with vendors for replacement of finance and purchasing systems.

Councilman Hamilton, who is now the head of the finance committee, reported that he is in the process of reviewing year-end figures as part of the process of preparing the new budget. He also stated that Borough Treasurer Anna Debevec will be preparing monthly budget reports, which will allow the Council to have current information as to the status of municipal accounts.

Councilman Dan Hoffman reported that he has been having discussions with Hightstown officials regarding the use of signs urging motorists to slow down. He will also be meeting with the Board of Education to discuss issues of common concern.

Councilwoman Moser, in her capacity of liaison with the Senior Citizens' Organization, noted that the organization had made a donation to the First Aid Squad in memory of Ann Gornham.

The Council introduced an amendatory ordinance raising the fee for a municipal certificate of occu-

pancy to \$75.00. This fee would include the cost of an inspection and one re-inspection. If more than one re-inspection were needed, an additional fee would be required. A certificate of occupancy issued by the Housing Inspector, currently Ed Goetzmann, is required every time a new owner or tenant occupies a house or apartment.

The Council also adopted a resolution agreeing to contribute a municipal share of 16% of the cost of acquisition of development easements by the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board, while rescinding a similar resolution passed at the December meeting agreeing to contribute 2%. The difference, as was made clear by Rod Tulloss, is that the Fund for Roosevelt, Inc. has agreed to pay 14% out of the 16%, but the State and Monmouth County wanted that to be a matter between the Borough and the Fund, and not part of the agreement with the State and County. The actual payment from Borough funds will still be 2%. ■

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Continued from Page 3

closer than 12 feet from the side property line. Driveway/parking areas would be allowed in a side yard no closer than 12 feet from the side property line as long as they did not extend past the house line into the rear yard or exceed 12 feet in width. A driveway/parking area could be widened beyond 20 feet for an unattached home or 16 feet for an attached home, provided the expansion began no less than 20 feet from the curb and the total area of driveway and parking within the front yard did not exceed 30 percent of the front yard area. Lastly, the Zoning Officer would review materials and designs for any driveway creation or expansion. The Committee reported that its members were split on the question of whether parking areas should be prohibited on Borough right of ways.

The Zoning Committee is completing its review of zoning ordinances and will soon be prepared to report on specific recommendations for changes. Members of the Committee are Ms. Hecht and Messrs. Michael Ticktin, Moser and Seligman. Planning Consultant Thomas recommended that the planned community development zoning (PCD I) governing the former Notterman tract — now part of the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area — be repealed as soon as possible.

In his January 13, 2004 report, Zoning Officer and Housing Inspector Edward Goetzmann indicated that he would work with buyers and prospective buyers of properties to ensure that certificates of occupancy are obtained before occupancy. On December 9, 2003, he reported that letters had been sent to two residents of Lake Drive regarding the parking of commercial vehicles in a residential area. ■

Abie's Irish Rose



Byer Family

Many years ago, there was a popular Broadway show called, "Abie's Irish Rose" about a young Jewish bridegroom who married a beautiful Irish woman and all the trials and tribulations they met.

Well, my father, Abraham Byer, was a young Jewish bridegroom, who fell in love and married a beautiful Irish woman – my mother Veronica or as he so often put it, "his beautiful Irish Rose."

Dad was one of ten children, eight boys and two girls, whose parents had emigrated from Eastern Europe.

First, my grandfather Isaac came, leaving his wife and a few children back in the old country. After a few years, my grandmother Triva arrived not knowing the language and had a difficult time communicating.

My grandfather started out as a shoemaker – then he owned a saloon in Trenton. After learning that my

Uncle Max should run around barefoot – having been born with a clubfoot – my grandfather sold the saloon and bought a farm. Believing in education, they sent the older boys to college and the older boys helped the younger boys get a higher education. Three sons became dentists, one became a doctor and my father attended Rutgers School of Pharmacy and graduated as a Pharmacist.

Later on, Grandpa Isaac sold the farm and started a scrap metal business on East State Street in Trenton.

The family grew up in a house on East State Street in Trenton that later became offices for Uncle Yale, who was a doctor and Uncle Sam, who was a dentist.

Quite the opposite of Dad, my mother Veronica was an only child. Her mother, Marie worked as a beautician on cruise ships. Mom was raised by her maternal grandmother

while her mother worked. My mother attended secretarial school in Trenton and worked for her Uncle Tom Hertsman who built furniture in Trenton.

Mom met Dad at a dance and there was an immediate attraction. My father feared that his family might not approve because of her Catholic background. After a few months, Mom and Dad eloped to Elkton, Maryland where they were pronounced man and wife. To Dad's relief, the family not only accepted Mom but also grew to love her.

In Allentown, NJ, Dad bought a storefront on the corner of Church and Main streets. It became Byers Drug store for many, many years. It still remains but is now called Walters. After living in a small house in Allentown, Mom and Dad bought a house on No. 11 and No. 13 on Main

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TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 10

Street, Allentown. This house was originally built in 1795 for John Clutch, who had been a Revolutionary War soldier and later was part of the Underground Railroad during the Civil War.

No. 11 was originally a bakery and No. 13 was the house part. My brother and I were raised in that house and my husband, Carl and I were married in the living room of that house. The Borough of Allentown recently has been given historical designation.

My brother, John, and I were born in St. Francis Hospital and were only 13 months apart. Mom said it was more difficult than having twins.

My mother stayed home and raised us in the Catholic tradition. Although we celebrated all the Christian holidays, we also celebrated the Jewish holidays. My Aunt Anna and Aunt Bess, Dad's two sisters, taught Mom to cook all the Jewish traditional dishes.

I attended St. Mary's Academy in North Plainfield while my brother went to Bordentown Military Academy.

Unfortunately, though we were a very happy family, Mom developed a severe case of diabetes that she died from in her early forties. I was nineteen when Mom passed away. The first time I actually saw Dad cry was at the mass for my mother.

My father's family, the Byers, had a family plot in the Jewish section of Greenwood Cemetery in Trenton. Dad had my mother buried there though in "the dark of night," Dad took a priest to bless my mother's grave. He felt that's what she would've wanted.

Years later, after Dad remarried, my stepmother, who was Jewish, expressed a desire to be buried in the same cemetery where Dad had his plot. He called me and asked if I would mind giving up my plot at the Greenwood Cemetery. I replied, "I wouldn't mind" - since I get a free plot at the Roosevelt Cemetery.

Although Dad remarried, I know my mother remained "the true love of his life."

I am grateful for having had such loving parents. Because of that and my Jewish-Catholic upbringing, I feel I am better able to respect and appreciate all religions and cultures. ■

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:

Marilyn Magnes 448-6402

Pearl Seligman 448-2340

FROM THE OFFICE OF CSA, DR. DALE WEINBACH

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behavior from anger. Adult words and actions help children understand the value of being kind.

Our school has a Professional Development District Plan, that is created annually by the staff professional development committee. We survey teachers and school community members to determine the professional needs of teachers. In this way, our teachers stay current with educational research and findings. This translates to an up-to-date curriculum that impacts positively on student achievement. Our professional development goals help us achieve our school mission, which states:

The mission of the Roosevelt Public School district is to educate and inspire students to excel academically, to become independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators, and life long learners. By nurturing and challenging the unique potential of each student, our children will develop individual, social and civic responsibility as well as respect for themselves, each other, and the environment.

You can see that our mission statement drives our programming here at school. ■

The PTA has been busy these winter months. We had a successful "Holiday Gift Fair", and we cannot thank Lee Griffiths enough (the out of town Kindergarten Mom) for running the event flawlessly. We hope to see a repeat performance over the years!

By now, assuming there was not a SNOW DAY (said in a screamy voice) on January 23rd, we held our second annual "Schoolhouse Hooky Day". This is a day where the kids can go to school and play hooky at the same time. This year's event consisted of four activities; Popcorn and a Movie, Kickboxing, Drum Circle and Cooking. The day runs from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. and this year included

ice cream at lunch as well. Now that's a school day!

We are organizing a Roosevelt Trenton Titans night. The Titans offer discounted tickets if we fulfill a minimum. The game is on Sunday afternoon, March 21st at 3 p.m.. If you are interested and have not returned your form, please do. If you need one, contact me.

Our next meeting is **Monday February 9th at 7:30 p.m.** We hope to see you there!

And of course, our biggest event of the year is our **Winter Carnival, Saturday March 6th**. The event will run **10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** and all are welcome. We are still looking for

donations for the Chinese Auction from individuals or businesses.

Have a carnival game in your backyard or an idea for making one? Let us know, we love to add new attractions to this event. I have attached a volunteer form if anyone is interested in volunteering. You do not need to have a child in the school to help out. It is always a fun day of games and prizes! If you are in the school system you can wait for the form to come home with your kids. Otherwise, feel free to cut out and fill the form below and mail to PO Box 53, or just drop it off at the school.

Yes, I would love the fulfilling experience of volunteering for the annual Roosevelt Public School Winter Carnival on Saturday, March 6th.

I can help out:

_____ Friday, March 5th for set up at 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 6th:

_____ 9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

_____ 11:30 a.m. – 1: 30 p.m.

_____ 9:45 a.m. –1: 30 p.m.

_____ 1:30 p.m. – 2: 30 p.m. for clean up

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Continued from Page 8

Reactions to Governor McGreevey's "State of the State" address

by Jill Lipoti, President, Bd. of Ed.

Governor McGreevey outlined a broad vision for public education funding in New Jersey in his "State of the State" address. The Governor is concerned about property taxes, and believes that school administrative costs are a major contributing factor to the increase in these taxes.

The New Jersey School Boards Association provided a counterpoint to this view. Their facts show that despite a 27% increase in New Jersey public school enrollment from 1989-90 to 2002-03, and a 28% increase in the number of classroom teachers during the same period, there has been a 0% increase in the number of school administrators. New Jersey ranks 21st among the 50 states in the percentage of school expenditures going toward administration.

Governor McGreevey proposed a plan to penalize the state's 172 one-school districts for administrative spending. There are 616 school districts in New Jersey, of which 172 operate one school. Twenty-six of these are regional high school or county wide vocational and special services school districts. There are 146 districts that operate one elementary school (like Roosevelt). The NJ School Boards Association provided facts to oppose any additional restrictions on administrative costs in these districts. The median expenditure per pupil in these 146 districts is lower than the statewide median, based on New Jersey Department of Education statistics. Additionally, 42 of these schools have been awarded "Blue Ribbon", "Star School" or "Best Practice" schools by the U.S. and N.J. Departments of Education. These schools have been leaders in innova-

tive programs which provide quality education while keeping costs low.

The Governor called for requiring shared services in the state's one-school districts and penalizing schools that spend above a certain benchmark for administration. Edwina Lee, the executive director of the New Jersey School Board's Association, commented on the Governor's State Of the State Address. She said, "These solutions would have limited impact on property taxes statewide. A real statewide solution would be to shift a substantial part of school costs off local property taxes and over to the state. That would help the greatest number of New Jersey taxpayers - especially those in moderate- and middle-income communities."

The facts support Ms. Lee's position. New Jersey ranks 45th among the 50 states in the percentage of school funding supplied by state government in 2002-03. Nationwide, 50% of public school funds came from state governments in 2002-03. However, in New Jersey, only 37% of the school funding was supplied by the state. The rest came from local property taxes.

The Governor outlined his broad vision for funding of public education. Specifics, such as how a requirement for shared services would be implemented or what the benchmark would be for penalties for administrative costs, will be left to the NJ Department of Education. Therefore, it is impossible to say how the Governor's vision might affect the Roosevelt Public School. However, since we are among the one-school districts that were singled out in the State of the State address for attention, we plan to be active in providing comments on implementation. The Roosevelt School district has already taken advantage of many shared services to keep costs low. As an example,

our music teacher is shared with the East Windsor School District. We share transportation costs with other districts for our out-of-district placements (called jointures). We participate in purchasing groups that get lower costs items by making bulk purchases. We will be pursuing additional opportunities for shared services with the Roosevelt Borough Council. We are masters at pinching a penny!

This article is not meant to criticize the Governor for his vision for public education in New Jersey. The Governor has drawn attention to the issue of public funding for education. This issue has been neglected for years in favor of less politically divisive issues. We firmly support the Governor in his efforts to improve reading scores. We are proud that Governor McGreevey visited the Roosevelt Public School to present an award to one of our students. However, as the NJ Department of Education formulates its implementation plan, it is important for school boards like Roosevelt's to open a dialogue with those officials to provide a factual basis for decision making. We hope that our frugal spending practices over the years will be rewarded and that we will not be penalized.

Being from a small school district, we would have a limited impact on the State Department of Education policy. However, working with the NJ School Boards Association, we can amplify our voices and present a message that will resonate with many other districts. A school can provide focus for community involvement, and in Roosevelt, the interaction between community members and school children has been rewarding to all involved. We will keep you informed of our efforts. ■

Last year was a remarkable one for precipitation. Total precipitation for the year in Roosevelt was about 15 inches above normal! That's 32% more rain than the normal 45.88 inches. Averaging 2003's 60.58 inches of precipitation across 12 months results in average monthly rainfall of over 5 inches. Of course, the spread of precipitation over the year was not that consistent.

Last year the wettest month was June with 8.12 inches, normal for the month is 3.53. The driest month was January, with 3.37 inches, normal is 3.28. April showers brought the second driest month at 3.65 inches, normal is 3.95. Our total rainfall for 2003 outpaced Monmouth County's total by about 11 inches. The annual precipitation for the entire county was 49.20 inches in 2003.

You may remember that the state was divided into six Drought Regions during a long dry spell in 2002. Roosevelt is in the state's Coastal North Drought Region. Our region now has near normal or above normal ratings in all categories: 90-day precipitation, 90-day stream flow, reservoir, and ground water.

Indeed, all of the state's Drought Regions now have the same ratings. The state's combined reservoir levels have been well above the 39-year average level for each month since October 2002. Further confirmation of the obvious comes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration. NOAA's Drought Severity Index indicates that Roosevelt is in an unusual moist spell.

Enough about our abundance of water, what about the last year's temperatures? In 2003 the global warming trend continued, at least in our little place on the planet. Roosevelt's 2003 average annual temperature of 53.2 is 0.4 degrees above normal.

July 4, was the hottest day of the year. The day's top temperature was 95 degrees. On the night of January 18, the temperature fell to 6.3 degrees, the lowest for 2003.

But 6.3 degrees is more than twice the low temperature so far in 2004. On January 16, the low temperature was 3.0 degrees. Let's hope February doesn't have as many temperatures in single digits as January. As of January 18, there have been four days so far with low temperatures below ten degrees.

New Jersey Weather Event

"Snow began during the morning of [February] 16 [1996] and fell steadily through midnight before ending early on the 17th. Accumulations averaged 6 to 8 inches, but there was a swath of one-foot snows along the New Jersey Turnpike corridor from Gloucester County northeast through Middlesex County. There were 17 accidents alone in Dover Township (Ocean County), and 15 fender benders in

Trenton. A seven-vehicle accident closed the southbound truck lanes of the New Jersey Turnpike for more than two hours in Middlesex County. This led to a 10-mile back-up. There were a half dozen other accidents on the Turnpike." Source: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgiwin/wwcgi.dll?wwevent~ShowEvent~271177>. In Roosevelt the storm brought 11 inches of snow.

Weather Word

I thought I would share an Internet weather link instead of a weather word this month. At <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lmk/terms.htm> you'll find definitions for weather terminology used by the national weather service and most forecasters. You can also learn definitions of the many weather warnings and watches. ■

December 15, 2003 - January 15, 2004

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	50.2	29.5	39.9	1.10
16	47.3	29.3	38.3	0.00
17	54.1	35.8	45.0	0.00
18	37.9	31.5	34.7	0.50
19	38.1	27.1	32.6	0.00
20	39.6	24.6	32.1	0.00
21	38.1	22.8	30.5	0.00
22	52.2	31.1	41.7	0.00
23	56.8	39.4	48.1	0.00
24	57.4	43.3	50.4	0.20
25	43.5	32.5	38.0	0.91
26	40.6	30.0	35.3	0.00
27	50.0	30.0	40.0	0.00
28	47.1	25.2	36.2	0.00
29	51.6	28.6	40.1	0.00
30	53.4	36.7	45.1	0.07
31	45.7	31.5	38.6	0.00
1	46.0	30.6	38.3	0.00
2	50.2	30.4	40.3	0.00
3	54.9	41.9	48.4	0.00
4	52.9	43.2	48.1	0.00
5	45.0	38.1	41.6	0.25
6	40.5	28.0	34.3	0.50
7	28.9	18.3	23.6	0.00
8	33.6	19.9	26.8	0.00
9	28.0	10.6	19.3	0.00
10	16.7	4.1	10.4	0.00
11	27.7	6.8	17.3	0.00
12	39.0	24.4	31.7	0.00
13	45.1	28.6	36.9	0.00
14	28.9	11.8	20.4	0.00
15	22.8	8.8	15.8	0.00
Total Precipitation	3.53			

Continued from Page 6

as well as after exercise.

The children eagerly anticipate Valentine's Day this month. We make special mailboxes so the children may exchange valentines. We stress the meaning of friendship and kindness at this time.

During President's Week, we will find out interesting facts about Washington and Lincoln as well as stories about the presidents. The children will learn about George W. Bush as well.

Dental Health Month is also in February. We will see how to take care of our teeth by eating foods rich in calcium and brushing our teeth properly. We are also planning a trip to a dentist's office. The children love their rides in the dental chair! ■

RESIDENTS!

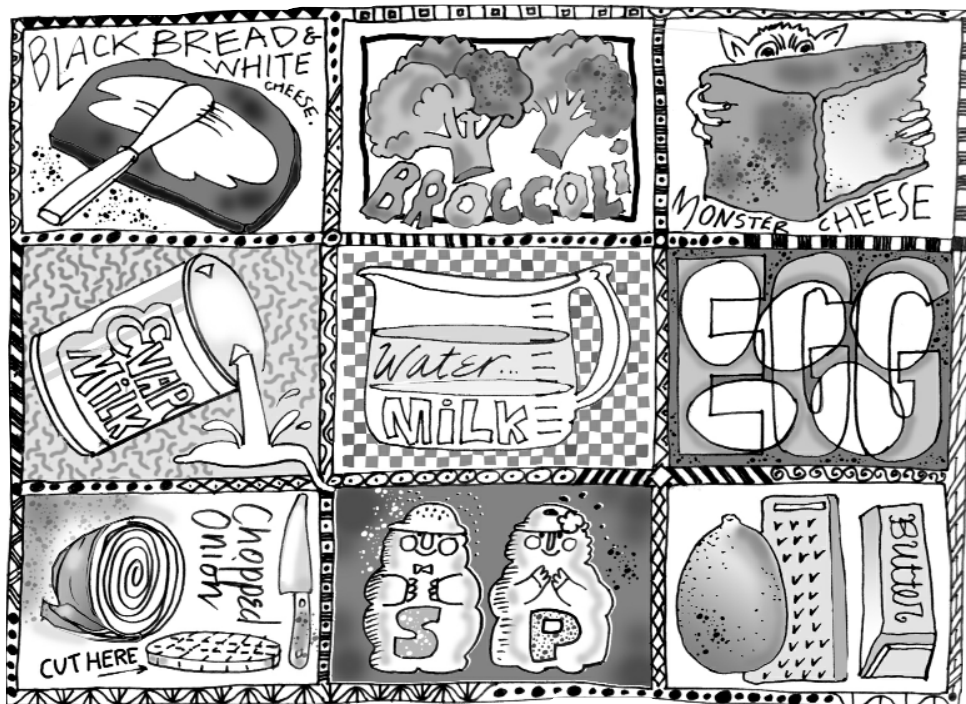
This is your newspaper. We would be happy to hear from you either in the form of letters or articles which we would be pleased to include in our publication each month.

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?

Broccoli Strata



My daughter, Evelyn, is a vegetarian from way back. I think it may have been fostered when we had liver when she was about twelve years old and she just decided she couldn't eat it!

When the children had their birthdays, I always asked them what they would like for their birthday dinner. About ten years ago, Evelyn's birthday was coming up and I started looking for something different to make. I think I found this recipe in the newspaper and it was a hit for Evelyn and the rest of the family. We use it often because everyone likes it and it is something I can make ahead that I know will cover the vegetarians present at a get-together. This recipe is in our "Family Cookbook" that grandson Will and daughter Jennifer made in 1999.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 lb. sliced pumpernickel bread | 5 eggs |
| 8 oz. cream cheese | 2 tbs. onion, finely chopped |
| 10 oz. broccoli, cooked | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt |
| 8 oz. sliced Muenster cheese | 1 tsp. grated lemon find |
| 1 large can evaporated milk | $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. black pepper |
| 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water | 2 tbs. butter, melted |
| 1 cup milk | |

Grease 13 x 9 x 2 baking dish. Spread bread with cream cheese and cover bottom of dish with these slices of bread. Cover with broccoli. Top with Muenster cheese. Beat together other ingredients (except butter). Pour them over all. Drizzle with butter. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or overnight. Bake in 350-degree oven for 60-70 minutes. I have found it always seems to take longer. I bake it with the foil on for at least an hour, and then take it off so that the top gets a golden brown. Let it set for about 10 minutes then cut in squares. Serves 6-8

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 2004 SEASON

Saturday, February 14, 2004

8:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall

ROOSEVELT POETS

Join the Roosevelt Poets for an evening of "Valentines with a Slam" and musical accompaniment.

Saturday, March 20, 2004

8:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall

THE STORY OF PIETRO MASCAGNI

Pietro Mascagni will be presented in a conversation and recital with mezzo-soprano, Cheri Katz and pianist, Alan Mallach

Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1, 2004

8:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

The Roosevelt String Band, with David Brahinsky, Paul Prestopino, Ed Cedar, Howie Jacobson, and Sarah Houtz, will perform folk songs of contemporary singer-songwriters and from various folk traditions.

The Roosevelt String Band double CD is available Call 443-1898.

Saturday, May 22, 2004

8:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall

ARTNOLOGY/COMPUTER MUSIC AND INSTALLATIONS

Brad Garton, Wiska Radkiewicz and Wes John-Alder will explore the intersection of technology and creativity, featuring new works of computer music, interactive performance and sculptural installations. They will be joined by researchers and artists from Princeton and Columbia Universities.

Saturday, June 4 and June 5, 2003

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Factory, located at 34 North Valley Road

ART IN THE FACTORY

Art exhibit and opening reception will feature many accomplished artists from town, some of whom have become internationally known.

Voluntary Contribution:

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

MURAL POSTCARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT



The Roosevelt Arts Project proudly offers for sale our beautiful three-panel reproduction of the Ben Shahn mural from our school. The postcards are available for \$2.00 each and a small number of flat, unfolded copies, suitable for framing, are available for \$10.00 each. All proceeds go to the Roosevelt Arts Project to cover the cost of these cards, enable us to produce future postcards in our Roosevelt Arts series and to support RAP exhibits and events. Cards are available at the Borough Hall or by calling Robin Middleman at 426-4583. The Roosevelt Arts Project is a tax-exempt cultural organization funded exclusively by admissions and donations. RAP appreciates your support. ■

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2003 - 2004

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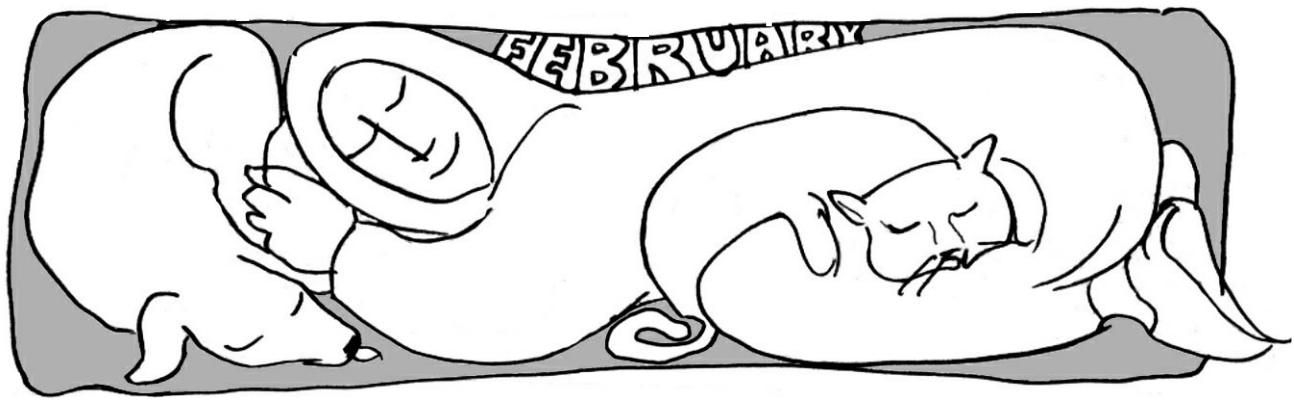
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Every Wednesday 7 - 8:30 p.m., Library open at RPS (adults need Monmouth County library card)
Call Delores Chasan, 609-448-2062 for information

Every Saturday at RPS 7:30 p.m., Cartoon Movie;
8:30 p.m. Family Movie Call Rec Commission 448-0539
or check Bulletin Board

February

2	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Borough Hall, Neil Marko, Mayor 443-6818
3	Tues		RPS Early Dismissal Professional Development
		12:00 noon	Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall
		1 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall Gerry Millar 448-0351
5	Fri		RPS Pizza Day
9	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall Neil Marko, Mayor 443-6818
		7:30 p.m.	PTA Meeting, RPS Larisa Bondy, President 443- 7430
10	Tues	7:30 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall Ralph Seligman 448-2340
11	Wed		♻️ RECYCLE
13	Fri		RPS Closed
14	Sat	8:00 p.m.	RAP Program Roosevelt Poets Borough Hall Robin Gould 448-4616
16	Mon		RPS Closed Post Office Closed - President's Day
17	Tues	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meeting Borough Hall Neil Marko 443-6818

18	Wed	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Dave Schwendeman, Chair 443-6204
19	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting Neil Marko 443-6818
20	Fri		RPS Pizza Day
23	Mon	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings Borough Hall Neil Marko 443-6818
24	Tues		RPS Early Dismissal Parent Conferences
25	Wed		♻️ RECYCLE RPS Early Dismissal Parent Conferences
26	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Board of Ed Meeting RPS Jill Lipoti, President 448-9214

March Preview

1	Mon	7:30 pm	Council Agenda Meeting Borough Hall Neil Marko, Mayor 443-5227
5	Fri		RPS Pizza Day
6	Sat	10:30 am	RPS PTA Winter Carnival, RPS Larisa Bondy 443-7430

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