

Bulletin

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Council Delays Action on Zoning Amendment and Noise Ordinance

By Michael Ticktin

At the April 11th meeting of the Borough Council, Mayor Beth Battel announced that the public hearing that had been scheduled on a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance that would have allowed schools, dormitories and related facilities as a permitted use in the R/Ag-400 zone was not being held because the proposed ordinance had been withdrawn in response to comments given to the Council by the Planning Board, but that a revised version of the ordinance would be introduced at the meeting instead. (For an ordinance to be passed, it must be introduced at one meeting, which is called “first reading,” and then voted on after a public hearing at another meeting at least two weeks later, which is called “second reading.” In addition, all land use ordinances must be submitted to the Planning Board for review.)

The Council was also scheduled to have a public hearing and second reading on a proposed noise ordinance. This ordinance, based on a Millstone ordinance that was upheld by the Appellate Division in a case involving the Clarksburg Inn, does not refer to decibel levels. Previous attempts to adopt a noise ordinance that referred to decibel levels were

unsuccessful because of the fact that we have neither a decibel meter nor a person trained to use it and that, even if we did have such a person, the noise might not continue long enough for the trained person to arrive with the meter and measure it. Council members did not state any reason for not moving the ordinance, other than to say that they wanted more time to think about it. The ordinance was proposed in response to a recent incident in which people were causing significant disturbance to residents by making a lot of noise in the street in the early hours of the morning, and there was no ordinance for the police to enforce.

In the public portion, Nona Sherak, who has been appointed as the chairperson of the CATV committee, asked that other members be appointed. She also expressed concern about flooding of the land behind her house due to apparent blockage of the stream that passes through there and asked that something be done. She was told that the stream is on private property, which limits the ability of the municipality to take any action. Herb Johnson, who had come to the meeting in response to a notice concerning the public hearing on the proposed zoning amendment,

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If you haven't made a contribution to the 2006 - 2007 edition of the *Bulletin* or can contribute more, please do so as we are running out of money!!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN ROOSEVELT

The following events will be held at the Borough Hall
May 3, 8 p.m. - Annual mtg of Roosevelt Senior Citizen's Housing Corp.- Pg 4
May 6, 2:30 p.m. - The Mural Unveiling - Pg 13
May 12 - Plant Sale for Mother's Day outside of Post Office
May 12, 7 p.m. - Movie Night in the gym - *Cheaper By the Dozen 2*

UPCOMING EVENTS OF THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

May 3, 1 p.m to 4 p.m.
Opening day for Covenhoven House, Holmes-Hendrikson House, Marlpit Hall in Middletown and Allen House in Shrewsbury

For information, call (732) 462-1466.

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

As well as to David Schwendeman, 443-6204



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

Board Adopts Master Plan & Land Use Ordinances Reexamination Report

At a special meeting held on March 27, the Planning Board adopted a Report on its reexamination of the Borough's master plan and land use ordinances, including the zoning ordinance. Municipal planning boards are required by law to conduct such a reexamination, and adopt such a report, at least once every six years. Failure to do so may result in the zoning ordinance becoming unenforceable.

The Reexamination Report recounted the history of the Borough's continuing efforts to preserve its historic legacy and maintain its status as a state- and nationally-recognized historic district, including preservation of farmland and open space, redevelopment of abandoned and deteriorated buildings and elimination of industrial zoning of land north of Oscar Drive. It also notes that the Federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) requires that municipalities consider the impact of their land use regulations on religious uses, and prohibits them from imposing such regulations in a way that substantially burdens an applicant for a religious land use unless the law serves a compelling public interest and is the least restrictive way of accomplishing that interest.

The report notes that the historic residential area in the R-40 zone was designed as a planned community and has been preserved in accordance with that original character. Restriction of intensive uses within that zone is necessary for the preservation of the plan and its spirit, and serves a compelling public

interest in accordance with State and National Historic Register designations. The report goes on to state that one issue before the Borough is whether it can find a means of accommodating religious schools desiring dormitory uses within its borders in a manner consistent with the master plan and the state and national historic designation, and concludes that such accommodation can only be made in the R/Ag-400 zone, where there are sites that are large enough to accommodate a school, dormitory and related facilities without impairing the historic plan.

An ordinance to make that change to the zoning ordinance was proposed by the Council at its March 26 meeting and referred to the Planning Board for review, as is required by law for any amendment to a land use ordinance. While finding the proposed ordinance to be consistent with the reexamination report, the Planning Board identified several ambiguities and errors in the text. Consequently, the Council, having a second reading of the ordinance at its April 11 meeting, withdrew the ordinance and introduced a revised text that incorporated the changes recommended by the Planning Board. ■

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expressed his objection to allowing any dormitories in the R/Ag-400 zone, as well as to recognizing any exemption in the noise ordinance for farmers protected by the Right-to-Farm Act.

Councilman Bob Silverstein, chairman of the Utilities committee, reported that the aeration slats at the water treatment plant had been completely blocked by iron deposits, creating a massive spillage of water in the plant. The problem was corrected for the short term by power-cleaning, but the condition of the equipment is such that it must be replaced, at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

Administrator Bill Schmeling reported that the new siren had not yet arrived and he was trying to find out where it was. It is to be erected on a pole in the vicinity of the Roosevelt Memorial, a location from which it should be audible in most of the town. He also mentioned that there was a disparity between the contract offered by Dr. K. for lawn cutting and the bid that had been accepted by the Council, and that this would have to be resolved.

Borough Clerk Krystyna Olejnik announced that the next bulk garbage pick-up would take place on May 21. ■

COMMUNITY MURAL UNVEILING!

Come one, come all to the Community Mural Unveiling
Sunday, May 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the Borough Hall

Light refreshments and music

There will be a brief dedication ceremony including remarks by:
Roosevelt Arts Project President David Herrstrom
Mural Artist Katherine Hackl
and Mayor Beth Battel

From the Mayor

By Elsbeth Battel

Dear Neighbors,

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of Roosevelt, (originally Jersey Homesteads). It is with great anticipation that I look forward to seeing the mural the Roosevelt Arts Project is doing to commemorate this event. I've seen drawings, and they are beautiful.

Roosevelt is on both the National and State Historic Registries, primarily because of the Green Belt design of our Borough. The Green Belt concept establishes undeveloped space between all buildings (side yards), and preserves communally owned property beyond the rear yards of nearly all the residences in town. This design gives every homeowner the illusion of a spacious piece of property and privacy. It is one of the things that makes our borough special.

Questions have arisen testing the

boundaries of what individuals can do on their own property relative to what is permissible under the current zoning ordinances. Zoning Officer (and Administrator) Bill Schmeling has put together a check list for building permits and for variance applications to simplify the procedure for residents. To apply for a variance the home-owner needs to show a hard-ship relevant to the property as well as a good to plans of the community served by allowing a variance. When the variance application comes before the Planning Board the Boardmembers must consider the care of the past and of the future along with the passing moment in the present. These representatives have a duty to consider the larger public good and the preservation of life-style more than any one entity's entreaties.

The Green Space is a public treasure for all to enjoy. ■

By Clare Sacharoff

There were 15 people at the April 3rd meeting.

Our guest speaker was Rich Del Forzo from the Monmouth County Dept. on Aging. He spoke about depression which is more prevalent among women, though more men commit suicide. Depression is an illness which is 80% curable. There are many ways to treat depression. In less severe cases, talking to a group or to friends and doing regular exercise are two ways which seem to work.

At the regular meeting the group voted to go to the Freehold mall April 17th by bus preceded by brunch at Johnny B's. People were picked up at their homes at approximately 9:00 a.m.

On the last Friday, April 27th, there was a chicken luncheon at the Borough Hall at 12:30 p.m.

Molly Bulkin was the hostess for the April meeting and Karen Block will host the May meeting. ■

TOWN TOPICS

Review of Digital Sound & Art

by Jennifer Kohlhepp

Roosevelt artists Brad Garton and Wishka Radkiewicz collaborated with Terry Pender and Gregory Taylor on the evening of April 14 to enchant a full audience of townsfolk and others at the Borough Hall with a soulful presentation called Digital Sounds and Art.

Wishka and Brad started the program, held in cooperation with the Roosevelt Arts Project, with impressions and sounds from Procida, one of the Phlegrean islands off the coast of Naples, Italy. The artists took the audience on a tour through Procida via a slide show of Wishka's beautiful photography complemented by a soundtrack Brad, a computer musician, created from audio recorded during her stay on the island. The photographs predominantly highlighted the area's architecture, quaint

and modest stucco buildings huddled together like close-knit families. Church bells sounded in the arches, people spoke leisurely in the cafes and dogs barked all amidst little traffic created by bikes, mopeds and hatchback vehicles. Water lapping up against boats knocking softly into the docks quietly told of a way of life that Wishka gave an exclamation point to with a picture from the vantage point of being in the small town on an island surrounded by other islands in the vast sea.

After the slide show, Brad described his first solo musical piece of the evening called "MMI" as a composition he created after recently being diagnosed with cancer. Surely it had a different impact on everyone in attendance but I closed my eyes during the performance and had a vision of a child holding a large bouquet of blue balloons. He's slowly released one after another into

an ominous sky. Raindrops started falling to the earth. The clicks of lightning and the gongs of thunder got ever closer and as the bass of the storm really dug in the balloons scared stiff in their lofty ascent. They're now tethered to some anchor heavy noise and made sounds shrill like a choir of children. The boy reached out his hands and played the falling raindrops like an upside down piano. As he reversed his feelings into the softness of each drop, a new note, a new chord, a new music came out. Let go the balloons into the heavens. The blue moved back into the sky.

For the third performance of the evening, Brad, who is a professor of music at Columbia University, where he also serves as Director of the Computer Music Center, joined Terry, who played the mandolin and who is the Technical Director of the Columbia University

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From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

I'm delighted to announce that, once again, the Roosevelt Public School budget passed by a wide margin. Thank you all for your support and commitment to education.

Congratulations to incumbents Mrs. Linda Grayson and Mrs. Jaymie Kosa. Thank you both for serving another term. Also joining the Board are newcomers Mrs. Kelly Yang and Mrs. Victoria Carduner. Mrs. Yang was elected to fill the vacant seat left by Dr. Aakhus and Mrs. Carduner filled Dr. Lipoti's unexpired term. I look forward to working with you. Welcome aboard!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Aakhus for his service as a Board member and to introduce the new Board members.

On behalf of the Board, teachers, staff, students and administrators, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Mark Aakhus for his three years of service to the school. During his tenure on the Board, Dr. Aakhus served as Vice President and chaired numerous committees. He was instrumental in creating and writing the Budget Summary and the Board Newsletter and was often the spokesperson for the Board. He has inspired us with his integrity, insight and vision. Dr. Aakhus will be missed, but we know that he will remain an active member of the school community. Thank you for your dedication and leadership. Best of luck!

Kelly Yang has been a resident of Roosevelt for three years. She is married and has 2 daughters. Kelly has taught English as a Second Language at Manalapan-Englishtown School District for over 10 years. She has an M.Ed. from The College of New Jersey.

You can see her jogging around town.

Vicky Carduner is a consultant specializing in software implementation projects for institutional investment firms. She has lived in Roosevelt with her husband and 2 daughters for 12 years. Her husband is a partner in Silver Decoy Winery in East Windsor. Mrs. Carduner was the treasurer of the Roosevelt Community Nursery School. Her hobbies are gardening and golf.

Every three years the State requires schools to create a Three Year Technology Plan. Our technology committee recently completed the 2007-2010 plan. The plan addresses the maintenance and upkeep of the school's telecommunications and networking equipment and infrastructure, the implementation of staff development opportunities in technology integration, the infusion and integration of technology into the curriculum to enhance higher order thinking skills, and the creation of effective ways of using technology to

reach out to parents and the community. Thank you Mrs. Ronnie Levine, Mr. Jeffrey Santanello, Dr. Assenka Oksiloff, Mr. Allen Newrath and Mr. Fletcher Grayson for the time and effort you devoted to creating this document.

Teacher Appreciation Week is the week of May 7th. In 1984, the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week to honor local educators and to acknowledge the commitment, passion and contributions that they make to education each and every day. Please join me in thanking Roosevelt Public School's teachers and staff for their dedication, hard work and commitment to the students and to the Roosevelt Community.

We have many exciting events planned for the remainder of the year. The PTA sponsored Talent Show was a huge success. Students and adults provided a variety of acts ranging from dancing to singing to hula hooping. Thank you Ms. Larisa Bondy,

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May 2007 School Dates

- May 9** PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 10** Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 11** Pizza Day
- May 12** PTA Plant/Yard Sale (in front of Post Office)
- May 17** Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- May 18** Gymnastic Show, 9:00 a.m.
- May 24** Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 25** Pizza Day
- May 28** Memorial Day, School Closed
- May 29** Art Show, 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL NEWS

Continued from Page 5

Mrs. Kacie Mixon and Mrs. Kelly Yang for coordinating this event. The PTA is also sponsoring a Mother's Day Plant Sale on May 12th. On Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m., the annual Spring Concert will take place. Under Ms. Beth Glickman's direction, students will perform a variety of choral and instrumental selections. Mr. Howie Kaufman is facilitating a Gymnastics Show on May 18th at 9:00 a.m. and on May 29th at 7:00 p.m., RPS will host an interactive Art Night facilitated by Barbara Atwood and the 6th graders. Attendees will be able to create art projects and see the artistic creations of our Pre-K- 6th grade students. Please join us for all these wonderful events.

Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Orientation is May 24th at 10:00 a.m. Detailed information will be sent home as the day approaches.

Our sixth grade students will continue the tradition of creating Roosevelt projects. Each year the sixth grade students become very involved in creating a meaningful project that explores some area of the Roosevelt community. The projects will be on display after June 7th. Please feel free to come see the projects. I extend an invitation to one and all to join us for Graduation 2007 on Saturday, June 16th at 4:00 p.m..

On behalf of the Roosevelt School Community, I would like to extend our sympathy to the victims, their friends and family and the to the entire Virginia Tech. family. Our hearts go out to you. ■

REVIEW

Continued from Page 4

Computer Music Center, and Gregory, who is a computer musician who traveled to Roosevelt from Madison, Wis., in an improvisational piece that led the audience through the sounds of jungles, marshes, tea rooms in Japan and out to a sparkling sea. At one point, I heard the door to another realm open and inside a group of gods played a game of marbles with the planets. The noise of glass on glass kicked up as one marble knocked another out of the ring. Then, somewhere on earth, probably in Roosevelt, an emergency siren went off to end the piece.

Next, Brad treated everyone to a composition he had just finished the day before titled "Drugs." He said the piece reflects what he feels like on the medication he is being treated with. The work made me feel as if there was a horse and a locomotive racing neck and neck toward a finish line. I heard a heart beat like a machine and the sound of ringing in my ears. Then, all of a sudden, glorious music played. The notes took me out of my head and into feeling throughout my entire body, but there was little time for that as the sounds of breakfast cooking on the burner, a car hydroplaning through puddles on the way to work, and noises of the city crowd soon distracted. Also, in the distance there was a lulling sound like sleepiness and nausea. The noise slowly built up into what overthinking sounds like. Neurons like machine guns firing off thought after thought like gunshot after gunshot. The piece ended though with more comforting sounds of home, the covers going back over the head and the noises before slipping back into dream.

Prior to the last piece Brad gave a short political speech and noted how Richard M. Nixon declared war on cancer in 1968. Since then, Brad said, the American government has only dedicated as much money to cancer research as it currently spends on four months in Iraq. This is just another example of

how detached the government is from the people and another reason why we need to make efforts now toward positive changes in this country. The final composition expressed such optimism and was dedicated to Sweet Rosemarie O'Brien. Terry played an Irish song on the mandolin that weaved in and out of a Gregory and Brad created soundscape that filled Borough Hall with the aurora borealis.

What's Up with Roosevelt CSA

By Carol Watchler

Roosevelt Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is alive and well this 2007 season. We will be sponsoring a short series of programs titled "A love affair with the Earth" to be held at the Roosevelt Borough Hall in May and June. The first program on Wednesday, May 9, will feature our farmer, Dave Burlew, talking about the joys and challenges of organic farming. There will be ample opportunity to ask your questions so come on out if you are a CSA shareholder, a backyard gardener, or an interested community member. All are welcome. The program is scheduled for 7:30 pm and refreshments will be provided.

The next event on Wednesday, June 6, also 7:30 p.m., includes a video and discussion. We will view "Exploring a New Cosmology," a 40-minute poetic and incisive reflection on our human-Earth relationship. Discussion and refreshments will follow.

There are still openings for shareholders in the Roosevelt CSA. Contact Tara Keegan, 609-477-0467, or Bobbi Teich, bobbiteich@comcast.net for details. You can also e-mail jerseyfarmhouse@aol.com and Dave will send you a CSA brochure with a sign up sheet. In addition, Roosevelt Community Supported Agriculture is now listed on www.localharvest.org with lots of details, photos, and a sign-up link. ■

Volunteer Request

We are coming down to the wire with the SILTATION ABATEMENT GRANT and we have to match some of the money with 'labor in kind'. The project is located at the end of the Roosevelt Woodland Trail near the path between Solar Village and Lake Drive. The project is to replant in the flooded area and remove 'Invasive Plant Species' and to try to restore the site back to woods.

There are several activities, both wet and dry, where we will need volunteers to help. There will be plants to plant, phragmites to pull and other weeds to wack. Plenty of outdoor fun for all ages. We expect to start near the end of May but the dates are not yet set. If you would like to be on a call list please telephone me at 609-443-6204 with contact information or you can e-mail davetaxi@aol.com but put ROOSEVELT in the subject box. Thank you.

Frog Calls Continue

Frogs are calling quite regularly now and amphibians are migrating all over the place. Watch and go slow where bridges cross over streams like the one over Empty Box Brook on Tamara Drive here in town. Many species can be seen crossing on warm moist evenings.

Identifying the sounds made by the frogs and toads of North America can be difficult and challenging. When I was studying Vertebrate Zoology my Dad turned me on to the classic album "Voices of the Night" by Cornell University's Laboratory of

Ornithology. Try Amazon.com to purchase. It is best listened to in a dark room with black light posters glowing from the walls and incense smoke wafting about the room. Call me if you can't find it and you are serious about learning and I'll try to find my loaner tapes.

Coyotes?!?!

I'm reading the book *Roosevelt, New Jersey (1972)* by Edwin Rosskam. Although most of the early names are unfamiliar to me, the history is very interesting. Mr. Rosskam (page 10) also talks about how pleasant it is to walk the town and see the pretty flowers, birds and rabbits. "Or, if you're very lucky, a deer with big eyes looking at you before he crashes into the undergrowth."

Well today we are lucky all the time! Not only are deer thriving but so are many other animals. A few days ago someone asked me about the Black Bear and I told her it has probably left the area but now we may have other concerns and should watch out for coyotes. The next day there was a report (radio, TV and newspapers) of a coyote in eastern Monmouth County that snatched up and injured a 22 month old child. The child will be ok but vigilance over small children and pets is necessary throughout our area. Please report any coyote (and bear) sightings and try to get a picture of one for the *Bulletin*. The Roosevelt Environmental Commission will try to arrange a Coyote talk by experts, similar to the Black Bear talk we had last year.

Turkey Hunting Season Alert

Do you hear the woodpecker's hammering the dead trees? There are about eight different species that live in central New Jersey. They are marking out their territories at this time and this also alerts me to the fact that turkey hunting season has begun. Be very careful in or near the Assunpink and wear orange or bright clothing when in or near the woods and fields. This hunting season runs from mid April through May, but remember that there is no hunting allowed on Sundays in New Jersey.

Our Next Meeting

If anyone has a newsworthy nature note of interest or comment of environmental concern, please give me a call at 609-443-6204 or drop a note to PO Box 203. Thank you for reading this column and I hope you all got your wood debris out to the curb in time for collection and chipping.

Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. on May 16, 2007. Everyone is welcomed to attend. And I did bring in a full mount of an adult coyote to the March meeting and now the request is to see a mounted skunk at the May meeting! ■



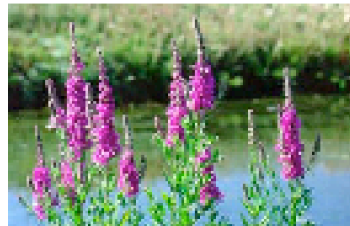
Greenbelt Gossip

The temperatures are warming, spring showers are highlighting fragrances and blooms encourage the desire to spend time outside...



Multiflora Rose

walking, gardening, relaxing or just in appreciation of the season. Unfortunately, now is also the time that some invasive non-native plants start to exert their unnatural and uncontrolled negative impact on the environment. At first glance, they may look pretty, but invasive plants can pose a serious environmental threat in the greenbelt area and in adjoining backyards. Previously, invasive non-native plants were often used in landscaping and for erosion control, but this later proved to be very problematic. Invasive plants are species that aggressively compete with



Purple Loosestrife



Japanese Barberry

and displace native plant communities. Non-native invasive plants impact ecosystems in every state in the United States. The result can be the loss and destruction of forage and habitat for

wildlife, reduced groundwater levels, soil degradation, increased risk of devastating wildfires and diminished recreational enjoyment.

Sometimes governments make mistakes. A sad example of an ongoing local problem caused by non-native plant introduction may now be found in both Roosevelt Borough and the adjoining state-run Assunpink Wildlife Management Area. In the 1960s, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife introduced autumn and Russian olive shrubs (*Elaeagnus umbellata* and *E. angustifolia*), natives of East Asia and Eurasia respectively, to the Assunpink WMA to enhance wildlife habitat, feeling that the berries they produce in abundance would prove to be an excellent mammal and bird food resource. They also expected an erosion control benefit, using the plants to revegetate disturbed areas. These shrubs will do well where other species cannot, due to their nitrogen-fixing capabilities. The autumn olive is rather drought tolerant, and the Russian will thrive in wet soil conditions.

However, as birds and mammals consumed the large amounts of the fruit produced by Russian and autumn olives, they also inevitably spread the undigested seeds over large areas. These plants proliferated very rapidly, growing in thick colonies. This has, in our area, resulted in the crowding out of many native plant species, the shorter varieties incapable of growing in the shade created by the

stands of these woody shrubs.

Easily identified, these shrubs often look like bushy trees, locally reaching heights of about fifteen feet. Their leaves are lance-shaped, covered with lustrous, silvery scales. The Russian olive often has peg-like thorns on its trunk and branches.



Autumn Olive

Although some scientists are dedicated to solving invasive plant species problems, they can not shoulder the burden alone. A successful resolution requires an effort from each of us. Unfortunately many nurseries are still selling non-native invasive plants such as purple loosestrife, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, burning bush, Norway maple and English ivy. Avoid buying and using invasive plants when landscaping your property. Remove invasive plants on



Russian Olive

your property and make others aware of invasive plants, especially nurseries you visit. Checking out the Native Plant Society of New Jersey's website (<http://www.npsnj.org>) makes it easy to become familiar with their comprehensive list of potentially harmful invasive plants.

“Conservation is humanity caring for the future.”—Nancy Newhall
-Future topic requests? -write the McCuskers at PO Box 131. ■

Darden's Mill and R. Darden

Nestled in the mountains of West Virginia is Elkins, a little community that prospered as a railroad boomtown at the turn of the 20th century. My father, Ralph Darden, was born and raised there. Even though Dad left Elkins for good after getting his civil engineering degree at the University of West Virginia and a stint in the U.S. Army Engineers during the Korean War, my mother claimed that Dad could go back to Elkins at any time and be known by people walking down the street. My explanation for that was that Elkins has a small (population, 7000 in the 2000 census) and that many people stayed there after growing up. I knew that my uncle and my grandfather, both George E. Darden, still lived there or in one of the outlying communities that grew over the years (adding about 14,000 living near Elkins).

I didn't get much of a chance to test my mother's assertion about Dad's celebrity status. My family did not make many trips to Elkins from our home in Levittown, Pennsylvania, perhaps because of the distance or because my father's beloved mother died when I was only 9 months old. I have only a few memories of Elkins. However, in my parents' home, there has long been displayed an old photo, circa 1930, of Darden's Mill that was located in Elkins. As a kid I thought it was cool that there was a building with our name on it and family history in a "southern" locale very different from where I lived (a "northern" post-WW2 suburban development). But I didn't think much about the history of Darden's Mill. A few years ago, my mother gave me and my siblings a copy of the familiar mill photo. One of my sisters jokingly asked, "Hey Dad, whatever happened to Darden's Mill, and where the heck is my inheri-



tance from the business?" This is the answer I found about Darden's Mill and its owner, my great-grandfather, from talking with my dad as well as from various Elkins publications and some Internet sleuthing.

My great-grandfather Ralph Darden, for whom my father is named, was born in Murfreesboro, North Carolina. In 1890 he moved to Elkins, making him one of its earliest residents. At that time, according to a 1906 publication of The Elkins Board of Trade, "there were only a half dozen houses, no sidewalks and very little to indicate to the superficial observer that the city was destined to become what it has grown to be." Apparently great-grandfather, who came to be known simply as R. Darden, recognized the possibilities of the place, going into business for himself in 1894. By 1906 great-grandfather was a director in the Trust Company of West Virginia, the Elkins Milling Co., West Virginia Eastern Telephone Co., and was president of the Elkins Cash Grocery Company. Ultimately the Darden Company owned two buildings in Elkins, a dry goods store (the Darden Block) and a grain mill, as well as a coal yard, doing a lively business delivering coal to many homes in the area.

The mill was built in 1902 originally as the Elkins Milling Company. For almost 18 years R. Darden was one

of its officers but in 1919 he bought the mill and renamed it Darden's Mill. The mill handled flour, chicken feed, and crack corn (whatever that is). Farmers from around the area would bring in grain to be milled. Throughout their school years, my father and his brother and sister were well-known among the rural kids who were bussed from 10 miles outside of Elkins to come to the public school. The children of the farming families had high regard for the Darden Company due to the important relationship between their families and Darden's Mill.

For his own family, R. Darden built a three story Queen Anne style home in the center of Elkins. Typical of a small Southern town at that time, there was no doubt that the family would be going to Great-grandmother's house for dinner every Sunday, or that Willann, the housekeeper and cook, would make a tremendously tasty dinner. Great-grandfather R. Darden never drove a car, preferring to be driven by William, his chauffeur, in R.'s Packard Touring car. R. Darden lived in grand style, going to Florida every year and playing golf every day the sun shined. The family joke was that Great-grandfather R. lived one year too long; when he died he left \$35,000 in debt to his sons, my grandfather George and his brother, Harry. So much for my inheritance!

My grandfather was in Pittsburgh at Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon University) studying engineering when R. became ill. Being the oldest son, he did what was expected and came home to manage the Darden Company, running the day-to-day operations but making no major decisions because R. stilled called the shots. This arrangement went on for twenty

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TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

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years until R died. Due to the success of the business and my great-grandfather's lifestyle, it was the opinion of folks in Elkins that my grandfather had money, but he worked only for a salary all those years. It was Great-grandfather R. who had money, so it was R. my dad first ran to with his report card from school. Being a good student, Dad was glad that R. paid for performance.

My father's high school friends jokingly called him "R." as well, since he was also a Ralph Darden. The "real" R. Darden died in 1946 when my father was in college. My grandfather sold Darden's Mill a few years later to start a different business with Dad's brother, and Dad went to work as a surveyor. During the Korean War, my father was sent to the Philippine Islands to help map them. Later, "little R," as I jokingly referred to Dad while researching this story, married my mother and went to work for the Martin Company of Baltimore, the city where my older sister and I were born. Later my father took a position with General Electric in Philadelphia, moving my family north to Levittown, Pennsylvania, where my other siblings were born to a family with Mountain State roots but middle class means.

So what happened to the grand lifestyle of R. Darden? Competition caused the Darden Company to go bankrupt in 1946. And what became of the Darden House, the Darden Block, and Darden's Mill? All three structures are now part of a Historic District in Elkins that includes 65 buildings. The Darden House, having been neglected, was bought and threatened with demolition by the city, but since 1998 has been leased to the Elkins Historical Landmarks Commission which has been working to preserve it. It now is home to several non-profit organizations. The Darden Block is a restaurant/bar, and while the storefront has been

Continued on Page 11

Yoga

The Recreation Department is continuing its very popular Yoga program this winter 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 welcome to bring their own. Classes will be offered on Tuesday nights from **6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Walk-in fee is \$10.00 per class. Program will continue throughout Spring. Please contact 609-448-0539, x3 for an updated schedule.

Movie Night

The Recreation Department invites all area residents to the Roosevelt Public School gym to enjoy free movies on the "big screen" on select Saturday nights. Movie titles are subject to change. Please contact (609) 448-0539, x3 for updated information and movie titles.

Saturday, May 12th, 7 p.m. "Cheaper by the Dozen 2"

The jumbo-sized Baker family are back in this sequel to the 2003 box-office hit. College football coach Tom Baker (Steve Martin) and his wife, author Kate Baker (Bonnie Hunt), have decided its time they took their sizable brood of 12 children on a summer vacation, and so they pack up the cars and take the kids to Lake Winnetka for some camping. Not all the kids are happy about this, but the one who is really annoyed turns out to be Tom, who discovers his old rival Jimmy Murtaugh (Eugene Levy) is also staying near the lake. Jimmy and his trophy wife, Sarina (Carmen Electra), also have a large family of eight children, and Jimmy and Tom seem intent upon one-upping each other at every opportunity.

Foreign Films

The Recreation Department invites all area residents to Borough Hall on May 20th at 7:30 p.m. for another edition of our Foreign Film series. Please contact the Recreation Department for further details.

Summer Camp Program

The Roosevelt Recreation Department will once again be partnering with the Millstone Recreation Department to provide a comprehensive Summer Camp program for Roosevelt children. Further information is available at the Recreation Office.

Summer Workshops And Programs

The Roosevelt Recreation Department will be offering several programs including a sports camp, science camp, and theatre arts workshop for children this summer. Further information is available at the Recreation Office.

Summer Concerts

The Roosevelt Recreation Department will be coordinating a number of concerts on the school grounds in June, July, and August. Further information will be available at the Recreation Office in late May.

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

Tuna Au Poivre

This is a version of steak au poivre that foregoes not only the beef, but also the cream & the cognac. And it's quick! You can get it on the table in under 15 minutes.

Ideally the tuna gets cooked "black & blue" – i.e. well crusted on the outside, and rare inside. It's hard to do this in a home kitchen, as our stoves can't generate the very high heat that restaurant stoves can, but by using a cast iron pan and grapeseed oil, we can come close.

1 ¼ to 1 ½ pounds of tuna steaks – a couple of nice, thick pieces of fresh fish – as close to sushi grade as you can get

2 tablespoons of black peppercorns

1 teaspoon whole fennel seeds – optional

1 tablespoon of grapeseed oil* – (or, lacking that, use olive oil)



1. Crush peppercorns and fennel seeds – coarsely - with a mortar and pestle. Don't crush them too fine, or the pepper taste will be overwhelming.
2. Press the crushed peppercorns & fennel on to the top & bottom of the tuna.
3. Heat the oil or butter in a skillet – preferably cast iron - that's just a little larger than your pieces of tuna.
4. When the skillet is very hot, add the tuna.
5. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes on each side (for sushi grade tuna served rare) – or 4-5 minutes on each side for medium, pressing it with a spatula to maximize contact with the pan.
6. Serve immediately.

*Grapeseed oil can be heated to high temperatures without smoking. ■

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 11

modified, the upper stories are reportedly unaltered, with the name Darden still visible in an embossing.

And the fate of Darden's Mill, the building that prompted my sister's financial question and my curiosity about the family's history? Used later as a farm supply store and a furniture showroom, the mill was slated for demolition in 2002. However, the mill

was saved from the wrecking ball when a local preservation group obtained a year's delay to prove the feasibility of rehabilitating it. In 2003, the group purchased the mill and proposes to use it for an interpretive center for the region. Rehabilitation work has begun, and Darden's Mill was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

So it turns out my inheritance as a Darden is not financial but is architectural and historical. My two children share the name of Darden as their middle names. Now I plan to extend the inheritance of the great, great, grandchildren of R. Darden, and the grandchildren of "little R." Darden by visiting Elkins and Darden's Mill in the future. ■

March in Roosevelt was another month with a higher than normal monthly average temperature. At 43.3 degrees, March 2007 was 2.4 degrees warmer than normal. But in line with its famous “lion and lamb” nature, March had the coldest temperature of the year with a low reading of 9.8 degrees on the eighth. That was the only single digit reading from the beginning of winter through March.

The first month of spring was also a bit drier than normal. Three-point-five inches of liquid equivalent precipitation fell compared to the normal average of 3.95-inches for March.

Here’s a weather proverb I found the other day. “When the stars begin to huddle, the earth will soon become a puddle.” It’s really a silly proverb in that it obscures rather than reveals. The translation is that when clouds are increasing in the night sky, many stars are hidden but the visible stars appear to gather or huddle together. Increasing cloudiness is a fairly good predictor of rain. So, the proverb stated more precisely is “When clouds increase it will rain soon.” However, I don’t want to be too critical. It is nice to see huddle and puddle together in a sentence.

The following proverbs from the web site *The Phrase Finder* are more satisfying:

“When the ditch and pond affect the nose, then look out for rain and storm blows.”

“Sound traveling far and wide, a stormy day will betide.”

Rain develops as the density of the air drops. This density change causes sound waves to travel differently, usually farther than normal. This allows for a better mixing of the air which carries the fragrance of the flowers, or the putrid smell of the marsh or ditch to the nose. High air pressure, associated with fair weather, tends to hold earthly scents to their source. When low pressure arrives, the odors are released and can be sniffed.

Weather Word

Knuckles is slang for the lumpy protrusions on the edges, and sometimes the underside, of a thunderstorm anvil cloud. They usually appear on the upwind side of a back-sheared anvil, and indicate rapid expansion of the anvil due to the presence of a very strong updraft. They are not *mammatus clouds*. *Mammatus clouds* are rounded, smooth, sack-like protrusions hanging from the underside of a cloud (usually a thunderstorm anvil). *Mammatus clouds* often accompany severe thunderstorms, but do not produce severe weather; they may accompany non-severe storms as well.

March 15 - April 15, 2007

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip	Degree Days
15	71.7	41.7	56.7	0.00	8.3
16	42.1	29.3	35.7	0.63	29.3
17	40.6	27.0	33.8	1.28	31.2
18	40.1	27.9	34.0	0.00	31.0
19	48.4	24.6	36.5	0.00	28.5
20	52.9	36.9	44.9	0.00	20.1
21	45.7	27.9	36.8	0.00	28.2
22	68.4	39.6	54.0	0.00	11.0
23	62.8	52.0	57.4	0.05	7.6
24	57.6	44.4	51.0	0.23	14.0
25	54.9	40.6	47.8	0.08	17.3
26	58.8	36.1	47.5	0.00	17.6
27	77.9	44.2	61.1	0.00	4.0
28	68.0	45.3	56.7	0.00	8.4
29	57.6	35.8	46.7	0.00	18.3
30	63.7	31.1	47.4	0.00	17.6
31	59.2	36.5	47.9	0.00	17.2
1	52.3	38.8	45.6	0.00	19.5
2	65.8	42.8	54.3	0.10	10.7
3	63.7	43.5	53.6	0.00	11.4
4	47.1	40.1	43.6	0.00	21.4
5	50.0	35.8	42.9	0.85	22.1
6	48.7	32.5	40.6	0.00	24.4
7	46.2	29.5	37.9	0.00	27.2
8	45.9	30.4	38.2	0.00	26.9
9	50.4	29.8	40.1	0.00	24.9
10	52.9	30.2	41.6	0.00	23.5
11	55.9	28.6	42.3	0.00	22.8
12	46.9	40.6	43.8	0.15	21.3
13	53.6	40.8	47.2	0.75	17.8
14	56.8	33.3	45.1	0.00	20.0
15	57.2	40.8	49.0	1.10	16.0
Total Precipitation			5.22.22		
Total Degree Days			618.9		

Roosevelt Arts Project

RAP

20th Anniversary

1987-2007

Friday, May 4, Saturday, May 5, Sunday, May 6, 2007

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND WILL INCLUDE:

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5 at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall
A perennial favorite of folk music by an exciting mix of musicians in an intimate setting

ART IN THE FACTORY Friday, May 4, 5-7:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun., May 5 & 6, 12-5 p.m. at the Eleanor Gallery
An exhibit of Roosevelt Artists' works in various media.

ARTWALK IN THE WOODS Saturday, May 5, 1 - 5 p.m. (continuously), Roosevelt Amphitheater
An installation of art in an outdoor setting offers a unique twist on art and sound and their incorporation in the local ecosystem.

THE GUIDED WALKING TOUR Sunday, May 6, 12:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. starting at Borough Hall
A refreshing way to experience the architecture and history of the town.

DEDICATION OF THE ROOSEVELT MURAL Sunday, May 6, 2:30 p.m. at Borough Hall
A year long community project donated to the town by RAP in celebration of the Roosevelt Arts Projects' 20 years.

Voluntary Contribution:

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

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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2006 - 2007

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Please send your events and activities to Jane Rothfuss, Box 122, 448-3713 or e-mail: kirkjane@juno.com

May

1	Tues	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Boro Hall 448-0351
2	Wed		RECYCLE	
4	Fri	5 – 7:30 pm	RAP Program, Exhibit of Roosevelt Artists Eleanor Gallery (See RAP Page)	
		8 pm	RAP Program, Roosevelt String Band Boro Hall (See RAP Page)	
5	Sat	12 – 5 pm	RAP Program, Exhibit of Roosevelt Artists Eleanor Gallery (See RAP Page)	
		1 – 5 pm	RAP Program, ArtWalk in the Woods (continuously) Amphitheater (See RAP Page)	
		8 pm	RAP Program, Roosevelt String Band Boro Hall (See RAP Page)	
6	Sun	12:30 & 3:30 pm	RAP Program, Guided Walking Tours starting at Boro Hall (See RAP Page)	
		2:30 pm	RAP Program, Dedication of Roosevelt Mural Boro Hall (See RAP Page)	
8	Tues	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Jane Rothfuss, Chair	Boro Hall 448-3713
9	Wed	7:30 pm	PTA Meeting Kelly Yang	RPS 908-1102
10	Thurs	7:30 pm	Roosevelt School Bd Mtg Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462
11	Fri		RPS Pizza Day	
12	Sat	7:30 pm	PTA Mother's Day Plant & Flower Sale 6th Grade Bake Sale Kelly Yang	Post Office 908-1102
		7 pm	Recreation Dept. Film - <i>Cheaper by the Dozen 2</i> Boro Hall (See Rec. Page 10)	
13	Sun	10 am	First Aid Squad Training Jack Rindt 448-9475 (Call 9 am - 6 pm)	Boro Hall
14	Mon	7 pm	Council Action Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-7701
15	Tues		Voter Reg. Deadline for Primary Elections Ann Baker, Dem. Committee	448-5215
		7:30 pm	First Aid Squad Business Mtg Jack Rindt	Boro Hall 448-9475

16	Wed		RECYCLE	
		7:30 pm	Environmtl Com. Mtg Dave Schwendeman, Chair	Boro Hall 443-6204
17	Thur		RPS Spring Concert	RPS
18	Fri	9 am	RPS Gymnastic Show	RPS
20	Sun	7:30 pm	Foreign Film Boro Hall (See Recreation Page 10)	
21	Mon		Big Garbage Day Krystna Olejnik, Boro Clerk	RPS 448-0539
24	Thur	10 am	2007/08 Kindergarten Orientation	
		7:30 pm	Roosevelt School Bd Mtg Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462
25	Fri		RPS Pizza Day	
28	Fri		Memorial Day	
			RPS Closed	
29	Tues	7 pm	Council Action Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-7701
		7 pm	RPS Art Show	RPS

June Preview

1	Fri		PTA School Dance Kelly Yang	RPS 908-1102
4	Mon	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Boro Hall 448-0351
5	Tues		Primary Election	Boro Hall
			RPS Field Day - Early Dismissal	
6	Wed		RPS Field Day (Rain Date) - Early Dismissal	

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