

# Bulletin

Volume 26 Number 9

July 2002

## B O R O U G H C O U N C I L N E W S

### Ordinance to Allow Cell Tower on Water Plant Lot Introduced - Rents to be Used to Reduce Water-Sewer Charges

By Michael Ticktin

Mayor Michael Hamilton began the June 10 Borough Council meeting by reporting that an ordinance was being introduced to allow construction of a monopole cellular telephone tower on municipal property in the Light Industrial Zone. With such an ordinance in effect, the Borough would be able to enter into a contract with a cellular telephone company that would allow them to construct a tower on the water plant lot on Oscar Drive. The Borough would require that other companies be allowed to use the tower as well, and would receive rentals from all users. The rentals received would be applied to the water-sewer budget, thus allowing a reduction in the rates, which are currently \$125 per month.

While on the subject of rates, the Mayor also reminded those present that water metering would be in effect by the end of 2003, in accordance with a directive from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which requires meters so that water usage can be monitored and waste discouraged. Just how metering would affect fees has not yet been determined. It should be apparent, however, that the higher the minimum rate, the less variation from current rates there would be, and the more households that

use little water would continue to subsidize those that use more water. The objective of any fee schedule would be to bring in the same amount of money as is brought in with the current uniform rate. Mayor Hamilton also announced that DEP was making phosphate discharge standards for Assunpink Creek ten times as restrictive as they are now. This may necessitate additional treatment procedures in the sewage treatment plant. However, it would also help greatly if all residents would be sure to use only low phosphate laundry detergents.

In other matters, the Mayor announced that the report on regionalization of the school districts in the western Monmouth "panhandle" was now available for public review, that he would be meeting with a court-appointed master on June 14 in order to discuss the resolution of the U.S. Home litigation and that the Borough would be awarding a \$50.00 savings bond to an RPS graduate who demonstrated leadership. He closed by inviting people to walk around the town and use the new paths that have been created in the public woodlands.

The Mayor then opened the public portion of the meeting. Jonathan Block once again asked about speed bumps and

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MANY THANKS!

With this issue, we finish our 2001-2002 publishing year. The 2002-2003 year will begin with the October, 2002 issue and, as usual, we will be leaving out the months of January, August and September of 2003.

We want to thank all of our supporters and contributors who have so generously helped us to be able to bring the *Bulletin* to you this year.

And equally important, we thank all of those who volunteer their time and effort to produce our publication as well as all of those who contribute their excellent writing skills.

We believe we have done a creditable job and all of us are happy for the respite we need which will inspire us to try to do even better when we return in October.

An enjoyable and healthy summer to all!

*The Editors*

## FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Almost all the trees and branches have been removed from the curbs. However, some citizens are putting fresh trees and branches out. The Borough will not be collecting the fresh ones. We cannot have a permanent operation going. Very soon, we will dispose of the collected branches by having them ground into chips and used around the Borough where needed.

## PINE VALLEY SWIM CLUB MEMBERSHIP

To The Residents:

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE RECREATION FOR YOUR FAMILY THIS SUMMER AND FUTURE SUMMERS?

Pine Valley Swim Club has membership openings. The initial, one time membership fee is \$500 and annual maintenance fee is \$600. Membership is limited and extends to one membership per household.

Members are provided keys to access the pool at their convenience and are responsible for their own safety when the Lifeguard is not on duty. Guests are limited, however there is no extra charge for guests. Other than family members, in-town guests are limited to weekdays only. An adult must accompany children under twelve years of age. Guests must be accompanied by a member.

The initial membership fee is refunded under the following conditions: a written letter is received stating that you no longer wish to be a member, return of the keys, and upon sale of your membership.

Fees are to be mailed to Pine Valley Swim Club, P.O. Box 313, Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0313. Membership is not limited to Roosevelt residents only. The swim club is non-profit, however it is not tax exempt.

Thank you,

*Pine Valley Swim Club Board Members*

## REMEMBER, GOOD NEIGHBORS PICK UP AFTER THEIR DOGS.

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# Gold Farm Advises Board of Farming Plans

William Phelps, Manager of Gold Farms, informally advised the Planning Board at its June 11 meeting of the firm's plans for the farm, which lies north of Nurko Road bordering Millstone Township. The farm is one of two in the Borough's northern farmland that has been preserved in perpetuity for agricultural-purpose open space with the assistance of the Fund for Roosevelt. Mr. Phelps, representing Robert Gold, the farm's owner, said he wanted the Board to be aware of the type of enterprise that would exist at the farm and its efforts to integrate amicably with the community. After Mr. Phelps' presentation, the Board advised him to submit a formal application seeking the buildings and structures needed for active farm operations.

Mr. Phelps explained his vision for making a small, community-involved farm successful economically and as a way of life. He said the farm would have a rich variety of agricultural enterprises, including rare-breed animals and crops serving niche restaurant markets. He noted that his operation would use organic, non-chemical methods and apply techniques gleaned from Rutgers, Penn State and Cornell universities. As much energy as possible for the farm operations would come from solar, wind and geothermal applications.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) would help support the farm, according to Mr. Phelps. Under this concept, households pay for shares of produce at the beginning of the season — \$500 for a full share and \$250 for a half share. Shareholders come once a

week to the farm to pick up produce harvested that day. A dozen herbs and more than 32 vegetables will be available at different times during the season, which ends in October. Those interested in signing up can call 609-426-8788 for details.

Mr. Phelps added that special events, such as school trips, volunteer and family days and BBQs, are being planned to involve the community with the farm. Two college students — a nutritionist and a resource manager — have been hired. Two senior field people and two to four flexible time workers also will be brought on board, according to Mr. Phelps. He added that mobile homes would provide worker quarters, and ancillary buildings would be needed to support farming operations. He said he would keep dogs to discourage deer from foraging among the crops.

Board Chairman Ralph Seligman noted that state law governs the quality of housing for farm workers. Board member Michael Ticktin said the Borough did not need a "right-to-farm" ordinance because state law covers such matters.

In other business, Mayor Michael Hamilton reported that Ann Grady of the Regional Plan Partnership invited Borough officials to a June 18 meeting to learn how to comply with anticipated state tightening of standards for preserving watersheds. Mayor Hamilton said Roosevelt is the only municipality that discharges phosphorous — found in detergents — into the Assunpink Creek. Mr. Ticktin opined that the cost of compliance

might be covered by "state mandate, state pay" legislation.

Mr. Seligman distributed binders for memoranda he intends to publish periodically to advise the Board on planning issues. He also provided data from the 2000 Census and noted that some of the census information diverges from that available from other, more reliable sources.

The Board's representative on the Environmental Commission, Edwin Moser, reported that the Borough received a first-of-its-kind, \$106,000 "Action Now" grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection's watershed management office. With matching funds of \$9,000 from the Fund for Roosevelt, \$10,000 from the municipal government, and \$2,000 from other sources, a total of \$127,000 will be available for control of erosion at the Notterman tract, removal of invasive plants and planting of a nursery for native vegetation. ■



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# FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

**New Jersey Law (N.J.S. A.**

**40A:60-5), states that “the mayor shall be the head of the municipal government” and “shall recommend to the Council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the borough.”**

The summer is upon us, so this is my last Mayor's column until the *Bulletin* resumes publication in the fall. Summer nights now are soft and fragrant with smell of honeysuckle. The air is filled with the songs of the birds and the sounds of other wildlife that make Roosevelt their home. It is a marvelous time of the year to walk through town or hike the trails that run throughout the forests that surround our houses. I would like to wish you a healthy and happy summer.

*The Recreation Coalition...* was able to arrange for the band Entrain to perform at a concert in the school gym on June 15th. The free concert was well attended by many families. Band members commented about how nice it was to see young children and older people enjoying themselves together. The band left for their next performance in New Hampshire and a subsequent tour of China feeling quite impressed by our town. They said that they would love to be invited back again.

The new Roosevelt Community Education and Recreation Coalition was established with a \$30,000 grant from our 30th district state legislative office. The children's summer camp, now overseen by the Recreation Coalition, provides a wonderful series of programs. The Recreation Coalition also sponsors golf, bowling and yoga lessons at a minimal cost for all ages. The mad science program has been a big success. The Recreation Coalition will purchase a new movie projector for VCR and DVD's and will provide free outdoor movies on the school grounds this summer. Families are welcome to bring blankets and chairs to watch under the stars during movie nights.

*Water Meters...* The N.J. State Department of Environmental Protection has mandated that Roosevelt install water meters by January 1, 2004 for all homeowners and businesses hooked up to our water and sewer utilities. State regulations require municipalities to monitor usage and account for 'unaccounted-for water', i.e. water that may be wasted due to leaks in systems. The Council is continuing to explore ways to help ease the costs of this state-mandated improvement.

*An ordinance regulating the zoning of cell phone towers in Roosevelt* was introduced at first reading during the Council's June action meeting. Each cellular company is willing to pay as much as \$30,000 per year to place antennas on a tower in town. Since there are five licensed cellular companies in our area, this could be a significant source of monthly revenue and the proceeds could be used to

lower our water and sewer rates and fund improvements such as the installation of water meters.

*The Fund for Roosevelt continues to preserve farmland...* On June 16, 2002, I was informed by Rod Tulloss that the Fund for Roosevelt is the new contract purchaser of the farm belonging to the Frank Hoffman estate. The 20-acre Hoffman property is located in the northern portion of the land that was formerly under contract to U.S. Home Corporation.

*An update on the U.S. Home lawsuit...* U.S. Home Corp. is suing the Borough to secure a court-ordered approval to build 266 single-family houses in the farmland north of Oscar Drive. Recently, the judge appointed a building master to assist the court in addressing the many factors related to this litigation. A building master is a planner who has expertise relating to affordable housing as administered by the New Jersey Council On Affordable Housing (COAH). Representatives from the Council and the Planning Board, as well as our attorneys, met with the master on June 14th to begin to define the issues. Those present felt that it was a productive meeting.

*Property values* have risen lately in Roosevelt. Recently, a small sixty-year-old home on Farm Lane that was purchased for around \$70,000 several years ago was sold for approximately \$125,000. Houses do not stay on the market for long these days in Roosevelt.

Why are our property values rising? Roosevelt is perceived as a desirable place to live and raise a family. We

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# From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

As the 2001-2002 school year reaches its conclusion, it seems a good time to reflect on the activities of the year. At the beginning of this academic year, we were all catapulted into the atrocity of the attacks on our country and our citizens. The importance of every day occurrences paled while we tried to make sense of the horror of 9/11. A strong sense of community prevailed while we tried to help each other face the shock of the reality of what had happened. In school, we strove to restore a sense of safety and security for the students. In so doing, we were able to gain the equilibrium we needed to continue. We could never go along as if nothing had happened, but we could move forward into the school year, motivated by the faces of the boys and girls that greeted us each day.

This year, more than ever, it became so clear to me that Roosevelt Public school is a special place where students, teachers and community are connected. During the course of the year, it was wonderful to see the parents and other community members join the students in a variety of different activities and projects. Our Roosevelt residents are valued resources for our program.

We had our first year of full day kindergarten. The kindergarten students quickly became integrated into school. They joined in all the special events and activities with the rest of the student body. It was wonderful to see how well they adjusted to a full day of school. Each morning the students gathered to share the important events in their life that occurred when they are out of school. They listened to one another, asked questions of one another,

and learned to appreciate each other's special gifts. I enjoyed chatting with the kindergarten parents as they gathered in the afternoon to pick their children up from school.

The Second Step curriculum was implemented in every class this year. Through it, students had the opportunity to learn about empathy, and to appreciate the feelings of others. The importance of good relationships will continue to be a focus.

We introduced Fabulous Fridays this year. Once a month students were able to select from an assortment of creative activities that are not a part of the usual school day. Some examples include scavenger hunts, computer club, crafts and various games. Groups were all multi-aged, giving the children an opportunity to mix with students of other grades. Our teachers amazed me with the amount of creative, entertaining and exciting activities they produced.

Technology continued to play an important supportive role within the school. The sixth grade students became accomplished with making movies. They had a wonderful team of teachers with whom they produced an in-house yearbook. For our Puerto Rico Day celebration, the fourth graders had a slide show about the government of Puerto Rico, which was available for all classes in the computer lab. Students of all ages accessed the Internet for research on a variety of topics.

We sang, we danced. We had gymnastics, health night, field day, winter concert, monthly assemblies, field trips, DARE graduation, contests and more. Whenever we needed parents, they were here to help – to prepare and

serve food, chaperone on field trips, plant outside, supervise on the playground, and be a terrific audience for whatever the children were presenting.

Our PTA supported our many activities and provided the children with enrichment programs that were educational and enjoyable. Our library volunteers demonstrated 100% commitment to the library program and never missed a library night during the entire school year. There were people who came to the school night and day if the boiler bell was ringing or the CSA locked herself out of the building! I am grateful to each and every person.

Members of the Board of Education worked diligently to provide whatever was needed so that we could continue to provide the best possible educational program to the children of Roosevelt. They joined with the municipality to create a recreation coalition. They joined with the western Panhandle to examine regionalization options. They continue to explore every avenue available to find outside funding for projects.

We wish the graduating class of 2002 success in middle school.

We will say goodbye to Lynn Hemberger, our sixth grade teacher, and wish her the best as she follows a new path in her career.

We wish Mr. Murphy well.

I extend warm regards to everyone for a safe, healthy, relaxing summer. The administrative staff will be in the school during the summer months to organize for the upcoming year. Please stop by. ■

Items for this column can be submitted to Ron Kostar by phone 448-5191, 18 Pine Drive, or ronkostar@cs.com.

Awards were in order this month for Roosevelt students, so let's get right into it:

For graduating RPS 6th graders, CSA Dale Weinbach announced the following award winners:

- Nathan Bard Social Service Award: Gabrielle Velasquez
- Graham Nisnevitz Math Award: Joseph Zahora
- Dominick J. Rossi Academic Achievement Award: Hunter Ellentuck
- Roosevelt Historic Commission Award: Thomas Septak
- Mayor's Leadership Award: Matthew Stinson
- Environmental Studies Award: Julia Grayson

Emily Silverstein and Lian Garton should also be commended for the fine jobs they did directing the Krepes Middle School and Hightstown High School Bands respectively at the June 22 graduation ceremony.

The Roosevelt winners at Senior Awards night at Hightstown High School on June 13 included:

- Academic:
  - Molly Petrilla: Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Award & A. Danforth Cope Memorial scholarship Award.
  - Sarah Skillman: E. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Award & Ella Mount Burr Educational Trust Award.
  - Shaun Conover: Rocky Brook Garden Club Environmental Award.
  - Haley Reimbold: Ella Mount Burr Educational Trust Award & James Patrick White Memorial Award.

Athletic:

- Sarah Skillman: Stephanie Dara Berman Memorial Award for field hockey.
- Christina Septak: Kerri Romannow Award for field hockey.
- Haley Reimbold: 3 + 3 Award for athletes in three varsity sports.
- Molly Petrilla: Scholar Athlete Award for fall season (tennis) & Most Valuable Player Award for tennis & New Jersey Scholar Athlete Award presented by the New Jersey State Athletic Association.

Varsity letters were also awarded to Reuben Alt (hockey); Jesse Parsons (swimming); Brandon Tyres (wrestling); Nathaniel Kostar (basketball); Haley Reimbold (cross country, girls winter and girls spring track); Christina Septak (field Hockey); Sarah Skillman (field hockey); Brandon Lugannani (soccer, baseball; and, Molly Petrilla (tennis).

The latest news on colleges that seniors probably will be attending next fall included: Shaun Conover, Mercer County Community College; William Edelstein, Polytechnic University (Brooklyn); Brandon Lugannani, Mercer County Community College; Alex Metzger, Mercer County Community College; Alicia Moore, West Chester University; Molly Petrilla, University of Pennsylvania; Haley Reimbold, Hamilton College; Sarah Skillman, Albright College.

Laurel Hamilton has been elected President of the HHS class of 2005.

Ilan Grunwald should also be commended for scoring incredibly well on the SAT exams. Ilan, son of Karyn and Eitan, scored a perfect 800 on math and a 720 in verbal, proving what everyone already knows: that Rooseveltians are among a lot of other things, smart.

On August 9-11 and 16-18 at the HERE ARTS CENTER at 145 Sixth Ave, NYC (between spring and Broome streets), resident Robert Axel will be performing in a one man play entitled *Lola is Sick*. Robert reports that the play was originally designed to include two characters, but since the other actor became ill he has been called on to be both characters. *Lola is Sick* is set in Spanish Harlem where a maintenance man, played by Robert, "lives many lives in his fantasies and in his interactions with the real world." The HERE ARTS CENTER box office can be reached at 212-647-0202 or online at [www.here.org](http://www.here.org).

Jessica Hamilton has spent her junior year studying abroad at the University of Melbourne in Australia. She recently spent several days exploring the Fiji Islands and backpacking through New Zealand and Tasmania. In July she will be traveling along the East Coast of Australia and exploring the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef.

And finally, hats and shoes off to all those who attended the live concert on June 15 in the RPS gym, where the little known but highly skilled rhythmic band Entrain entertained each and everyone. No entrance fee was charged. Mayor Michael Hamilton and the Community Education and Recreation Coalition headed by Eric Schubiger and assisted by Bruce Reimbold were instrumental in putting the concert together. Jubilant from the start, the audience included everyone from 8 months to 80 years old, and there was much smiling and dancing.

The Neighborhood Notes is now going under water and will be out of reach until September, at which time there should be plenty of new news. Have a safe aquatic summer. ■

## About One of Our Forthcoming September Storytellers

Jaymie Reeber Kosa loves wonderful stories. She has been telling them all of her life, but in 1994, she started sharing her stories with small audiences. A resident of Roosevelt since 1998, Jaymie is most grateful for her family, David, Trevor and Lucky, who encourage and support all of her creative contributions to the world.

## Recuperation Equipment Available

By Herb Johnson

The Roosevelt First Aid Squad has available, to lend Roosevelt residents, several practically new pieces of equipment for recuperation. Honey Socholitzy, Cynthia Imbrie, Louisa Roskam and Bess Tremper donated them. There are two seats for bathtubs, one of which has a sturdy back and an extension which goes over the side of the tub to facilitate sliding across the seat. Also available are two walkers and one commode with arm rests. Call the squad's president, Herb Johnson, to coordinate borrowing and returning, 609-443-1947.

Training of some of the more than 12 persons who volunteered to join the squad is waiting for the EMT course to be given in Manalapan, a location not far from Roosevelt. Seven people took the Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course this month. Jack Rindt was the qualified instructor who guided the volunteers through the steps of resuscitating adults, children and infants. Mr. Rindt gave the time for the course as part of his volunteer service on Roosevelt's First Aid Squad and the Fire Department.

Irene Block, Ellie Shapiro, Kay Drury, Lois Hunt and other volunteers have been doing much needed service in promoting Project Revive to gain more trained members for the squad.

## Luncheons With Lyndon And Lady Bird

By Lois Hunt

"Mr. President, the last time I saw you, you were in your pajamas." Now there's an opening line for you! The four of us, LBJ, Lady Bird, my beloved Earl and I were the only ones left after a luncheon in the East Room of the White House. He had just complimented us on our performance, and that's what I came up with. What a total dork! The president's reaction to that sass was not quite a blush, but more of an "aw shucks, ma'm" look. I reminded him of the circumstances and he was slightly amused. Lady Bird thought it was very funny.

This scene took place at the end of the second of several brief encounters that had begun about a year earlier. Earl Wrightson and I were starring at the Blue Room of the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, when we received a phone call from Liz Carpenter, Lady Bird's social secretary. I can only assume that the call was a result of her husband's position as writer and critic on the show biz rag, *Variety*. He had always been most flattering on any Earl Wrightson and Lois Hunt performances.

And so, when Mrs. Johnson needed some classy entertainment, Ms. Carpenter suggested the singing duo that was performing just a stone's throw from The Elms. That was the name of the residence of the Vice President, Lady Bird and the two younger LBJs, Linda Bird and Lucy Baines.

Ms. Carpenter had called to invite us to sing at a luncheon at The Elms, when Mrs. Johnson would be honoring the wives of the Japanese cabinet ministers, whose husbands would be attending a meeting at the White House.

Of course there was some protocol involved. Once we had agreed to sing, we were asked to join Mrs. J. on the evening before the affair, to see the room in which the luncheon would

take place, check the piano, and join Mrs. Johnson in a tot of bourbon and branch. The checking etc. was purely perfunctory, the bourbon wasn't. Our hostess was adorable, folksy and charming. We heard about her trials as the mother of teenagers... "I just can't get shoes on those girls." And there were tales about The Elms, which had been the home of Perle Mesta, The Hostess With The Mostest.

The room in which we chatted was a cozy fruitwood-paneled study which Mrs. Mesta had had dismantled from a mansion in France and installed in this lovely home in Georgetown. This was the house in which Mrs. Mesta held forth as the most renowned hostess in D.C. To our astonishment, we learned that this celebrated woman had actually lived in a small apartment on the top floor with just a hot-plate and no kitchen.

There was no kitchen in the whole house. When all of those extravagant gala affairs were held, the caterers would bring in all the linen, silver, crystal and china along with the food. And when the party was over, everything got trucked out. There weren't even facilities for washing the dishes. The Johnsons had had to create a whole new kitchen when they moved in. Mrs. Mesta imported a whole salon from France, elegant as all get out, but no kitchen. I couldn't help wondering how she made out in that department when she was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg.

And so after all the delightful conversation, Earl and I prepared to call it an evening. But Mrs. Johnson said, "Oh, you can't go yet. The Vice-President will want to meet you." (I wonder who else remembers the Maidenform bra ad: "I dreamt I met the Vice-President in my Maidenform bra") Lady Bird continued "He has a bad cold and he's upstairs in the bedroom so we'll just go

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## LUNCHEONS WITH LYNDON AND LADY BIRD

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up for a few minutes”...which we did.

Mr. Vice President was indeed upstairs in his green bedroom, in his green silk pajamas with his initials LBJ, embroidered from just below his shoulder to just above his ankle...no short distance. He was a very tall, soft spoken man who greeted us warmly, but since there were already four other people in the room (all very tall Texans in ten-gallon hats) we assumed we were interrupting something momentous, and didn't want to intrude. So, we thanked the Vice President for his hospitality and headed back to our real world.

The ladies' lunch the next day was an elegant affair. It was preceded by a formal presentation of a lovely Japanese cherry tree to be planted at the entrance to The Elms. The Diplomats' wives were joined by their American counterparts and several other influential Washington women. My luncheon partner was Peggy Guggenheim... Earl and Freddy lunched somewhere upstairs on trays. Our presentation of American Musical Theater classics was most enthusiastically received, if I do say so m'self.

About two months after the tragedy of November '63, we were playing at the International Club of the Shamrock Hotel in Houston, Texas when we received another call from Liz Carpenter. She knew that we were free on Monday nights and she would arrange to fly us to Washington with the mail after our late show on Sunday; if we would be so kind as to sing at a luncheon in honor of Queen Frederika and Princess Irene of Greece. This would be the first entertainment at the White House since the assassination.

The guest list of 114 people included the entire cabinet and many members of Congress and the diplomatic corps. Greek-Americans from all over the country were included, from the arts,

finance, publishing, etc. There would of course be extensive press coverage. Would we sing? Would we!!!

This time was considerably more demanding. After our 10:30 performance, we were whisked out to the Houston airport. We boarded a plane that was full of mailbags, took our sleeping pills (which hardly worked at all) and we were off to see the White House!

There in the early ayem we were met by Lady Bird who offered breakfast to Earl and Freddy. Me, she shipped off to her hairdresser, a serious necessity after having slept among the mailbags.

When I returned from the hair-house, we proceeded with the protocol, which turned out to be much more critical than at the last luncheon in the very intimate atmosphere of The Elms.

Because of the size of the guest list, there would be people seated quite near the piano. This time there was no room left for a grand piano, so we would sing with a spinet, which was too percussive for the people seated near it! Major problem, protocolwise. Lady Bird to the rescue, she said: "We've got a lot of black fabric left over from the funeral. It's somewhere in the basement." She commandeered it to be brought up; and, it was measured, cut and stapled to the backside of the offending spinet.

At this point, Mrs. J. 'lowed as how we must be totally drained from the trip and all, and recommended what turned out to be a rather Alice in Wonderland experience for both Earl and me. Fred opted to take a nap somewhere or other.

The two of us were taken downstairs to the fully equipped medical office of Dr. Tavell. This charming woman had been JFK's personal physician. It was she who had recommended the famous rocking chair. But on this occasion, she was charged with the simple task of pumping up two sagging singers, so we

would be up'n'attem in time for our performance a couple of hours hence.

Dr. Tavell gave us each shots of vitamin B12 (which worked) and then asked each of us to "open wide." At which point she inserted a set of calipers in each mouth! She explained that she was very much interested in the size of singers' apertures, probably because her daughter was an opera singer, currently performing in Italy.

This long story, plus a short lecture on the subject of apertures, all while Earl and I stood in the middle of her examining room in the bowels of the White House, on our day off from an engagement halfway across the country...Alice in Wonderland.

Moving right along... We had coffee in the Red Room and chatted with the First Lady for a short time. Then it was a matter of marking time until we were seated among the other luncheon guests.

I sat at one of the large round tables. I only remember the Alsop brothers (newspaper columnists) and Elia Kazan at my table although there were six other guests. Earl was seated at the head table between Undersecretary of State Ball and McGeorge Bundy. As lunch finished, Mrs. Johnson introduced Earl, referring back to our having sung at The Elms.

The *Washington Post* reported: "Miss Hunt's introduction to the act was probably the most dramatic that's ever occurred at the White House... After his first song, the young, attractive bearded Mr. Wrightson burst into "I Hear Music When I Look At You" and moving among the tables as he sang, he was suddenly joined by one of the women guests while seated at the table, gloved and hatted like all the rest. It was Miss Hunt, who stood and became part of the duet. It was startlingly effective to say the least. They also mentioned that we "sang enchanting musical comedy airs, ending with a

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By Clare Sacharoff

To the Editor:

On Thursday night, May 30, the Western Monmouth Panhandle Alliance Regionalization Task Force presented its findings before a small group of people in the Allentown High School auditorium. According to a "Public Opinion Survey" conducted by the Andrew Brown Research Group, "The citizens of Roosevelt clearly prefer (53%) sending students to a new high school in Millstone for grades 9-12 and the Millstone Middle School for grades 7-8 over sending them to East Windsor (22%) or Upper Freehold Regional (6%) schools." Upon hearing this, my heart sank – for Roosevelt, the tax savings are significant and cannot be ignored but at what price I thought to myself.

Our experience with the East Windsor School district has been nothing but positive. Our oldest son (a junior) has received a good education and has become a well-rounded individual, we feel, in great part because of his experiences at Krepes and Hightstown High School. The courses he has taken over the years have been challenging and his teachers have always been attentive to his strengths and weaknesses and kept us up to date on his progress. Both the administration and faculty have held high expectations for him that have been conveyed in numerous ways. Phone calls to guidance counselors have been returned promptly and questions and/or problems addressed in a timely manner. Absences or tardiness have never been overlooked. In general we have been pleased with the academic opportunities Hightstown has offered. It is, however, the social atmosphere – the people he has met and gone to school with over the years that we have been most thrilled with.

We have gotten to know many good kids and many of their parents, as well, from all walks of life. Hightstown, as we have come to discover, is a rich, multi-cultural community with over 42 different languages spoken at home. The numerous national flags that hang from the ceiling as you walk into the front lobby depict this. A recently painted mural, A Walk Through Time, illustrating an historical timeline from the Renaissance to the present by Hightstown art teacher Bill Plank has been described as being "too Eurocentric" and "marginalizes other cultures and under-represents women." These remarks have sparked a spirited debate among the students as well as the local community. As one letter to the editor in the Hightstown-Windsor Gazette said "no matter what your opinion, the mural has created an opportunity to learn." Dr. Abalos, the Princeton professor who pointed out the mural's short-comings, goes on to say that the "ultimate good of the art work's criticisms is that they will raise questions and open debate." Would this kind of debate have occurred in another more homogenous school district? Maybe, but not as easily or as passionately. It is these kinds of learning experiences which we value and hope to give to our fifth grader. I fear, however, that the tax savings for Roosevelt might be too tempting and regionalization will be eagerly pursued. I hope this isn't the case.

*Deirdre Sheean*

To the Editor:

Our family is so thrilled about joining The Gold Organic Farm's CSA! The people are kind and dedicated, the vegetables are abundant, and everything is chemical-free. We urge everyone in town to support our local

*Letters continued on Pag 10*

Two new members have joined the Senior Citizen Club. They are Gladys Nadler and Ann Kassahun.

Ginny Edwards served refreshments for the June meeting. Hostess for July was Louise Baramowitz.

On June 18, several members attended a concert at the PNC Center featuring Roberta Flack.

Another event was titled "Salute to Seniors." This was held on June 21st in Long Branch. Refreshments and entertainment were provided.

On July 2 speakers from the State came to speak. Their topics were Insurance Fraud and Consumer Awareness.

The August meeting will be held on the 6th. All meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. ■

**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.**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Continued from Page 9*

farmers because they need people to manifest their vision. So, take a drive or a walk down Nurko Road and discover it for yourself.

*The Kosa Family*

To the Editor:

### **View From A Tax/Utility-payer Who Takes It Personal**

When an elected governing body spends taxpayer money, it's personal. When the Mayor and Council mismanage our resources and spend our surplus for their own agenda at the expense of the middle-class taxpayers, it's personal. When the quality of my life gets increasingly less affordable because of the Mayor and Council's agenda, it's personal. The Mayor thinks he is fighting a holy war against monstrous tyranny, but the only tyrants are the Mayor and Council and they are waging war on hard working middle-class families of Roosevelt.

The way Mayor Hamilton misquotes my letter he must be confused:

The Mayor and Council did not post advertised dates of committee meetings at the post office or Borough Hall. If you don't advertise a meeting you can't have a public meeting with all Council members and the public. The Mayor quotes me as stating "There are no longer open public committee meetings and council members meet behind closed doors excluding other members like George Vasseur." I actually wrote "There are no longer open public committee meetings and council members can now meet behind closed doors excluding other members like George Vasseur." I never claimed the Council was meeting behind closed doors only that they could. I don't think for one minute the Mayor and Council are doing anything illegal. I believe there are two ways to

conduct government, open and objective or closed and narrow-minded.

My feelings are the present governing body is close-minded and not as forthright as they could be. The Mayor states "the official 2002 Municipal Budget indicates that our surplus actually grew 7% over the prior year (from \$430,510 to \$454,000) and we continue to exercise fiscal restraint and careful monetary policy."

According to sheet 39 of the official 2002 Municipal Budget the **surplus balance on Dec. 31st 2000 was \$649,484.78, on Dec.31st 2001 it was \$618,615.29, current surplus used in 2002 budget \$384,000.00 and surplus balance remaining in 2002 \$234,615.29.** If that is what Mayor Hamilton calls fiscal restraint, then we can expect a lot more tax increases in the future.

The Mayor claims that \$82,000 for legal expenses is inaccurate, then what are the costs related to the U.S. Home litigation? Last year the **Council spent \$24,559.82 on legal services. This year the Mayor and Council have appropriated \$36,000 for legal expenses. In 2001 the Planning Board's budget was \$16,500, they spent \$26,382.43, this year the Planning Board's appropriations are \$46,800.** Nowhere in the official 2002 Municipal Budget is there a breakdown of the Planning Board's appropriations. Isn't anybody curious to know what this lawsuit is actually costing us? It's funny how US Homes decided to sue Roosevelt after the Mayor and Council rescinded PCD II (which would have limited family houses to fewer than 100 units).

Considering US Homes had spent two years coming to Planning Board and Council meetings, and following PCD II requirements, then getting the rug pulled out from under them, you

would have to be naive not to expect a lawsuit. If the Mayor and Council were being naive, then they are not doing a good job of protecting the taxpayer. If the Mayor and Council were not naive and deliberately put us in harm's way, then **I did not volunteer my tax money for Mayor Hamilton's war.** The Mayor and Council want to play war, let them use their own money, not taxpayer money.

I write a letter and the next thing you see is an article from the Council on affordable housing. It's taken a year and a half for the Council to let us in on their affordable housing plan. Where was the Council in presenting all the options to the public, where was the dissemination of information to the taxpayer? Why hasn't the Council asked for a public consensus by holding a referendum on the Council's affordable housing plan?

The Mayor and Council have already appropriated \$175,000 in this year's budget and hired a company (which we know nothing about) to administer their program without approval from you, the taxpayer who will ultimately foot the bill.

The article does not tell us which houses the Council is going after, who is going to oversee these affordable units once they are sold and what will it cost the town to maintain these subsidized affordable houses. The problem with cost estimates, is they look great on paper but in real life they are always much higher. If it cost \$100,000 more, our financial obligation will also be \$100,000 more. The problem with getting grant money is that you don't always get what you ask for. If Roosevelt gets \$200,000 less in grant money, our financial obligation will also be \$200,000 more. Costs can increase very dramatically once a project is started.

*Letters continued on Page 11*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Continued from Page 10*

The basic premise of the Mayor and Council's affordable housing plan is to spend a lot of money on rehabilitating 5 original Roosevelt houses, which we don't own and sell them for a lot less than what we spent to rehabilitate them, to families who can't afford them. This is a poor excuse for a plan. The only thing it will accomplish is spending taxpayer dollars and raising taxes. The Senior Village, which provides affordable housing, decreases our taxes and decreases our water bill, should be the model of a design that works for the benefit of Roosevelt.

The Planning Board and Council have only one thing on their collective minds, the prevention of any Planned Adult Community no matter what it costs the taxpayer. Six years ago Roosevelt voted on a referendum for growth, we voted overwhelming in favor of a Planned Adult Community because of the potential benefits to the taxpayers and utility payers. This Council should have honored the voters' wishes, at the very least they should have given the taxpayers a chance to reject a proposal as we did with the Notterman tract.

Mayor Hamilton writes, "Mr. Kaufman states that only Councilman George Vasseur, his Republican running mate in the June primary, deserves your respect." Again Mayor Hamilton misquotes me, this is what was written "I have attended many Council meetings, and watched as the Mayor and members of the Council have belittled, insulted and shown absolutely no respect for Councilman George Vasseur. George Vasseur is the hardest working member on the Council. The number of hours he works, overseeing the operations of the water/sewer plants, is enough to fill a full time position. It's time the Mayor and Council gave George the respect he has earned and we can show our respect by giving him a vote

of confidence this November."

You have to earn respect to get respect, and George Vasseur has earned that respect. The Council failed to show respect by not electing him Council President, which is an honorary position given to the most senior member of the Council. **I have noticed Council members echoing the Mayor's mantra that we are unpaid volunteers whenever they are criticized. You are not unpaid volunteers. You are elected to do a job as public officials.** Obviously members of the Council have a problem with not being paid because they mention it all the time.

I found a flier in my door the other day. It was from the Democratic candidates; I read it and I have a few questions. The Democratic candidates state that they "support responsible land-use and open space preservation that meets the needs of Roosevelt taxpayers" what does that mean? Taxpayers need tax reduction and preserving more open space will not reduce our tax burden but increase it. They also state they want to "understand the financial burden of the monthly water/sewer bill and will continue to find ways to reduce that cost such as debt refinancing and finding new sources of revenue." If the Democratic candidates don't understand that the water/sewer bill is a financial burden on all utility payers by now, they will never understand. They have not been paying attention to Council meetings because **the Mayor has already stated that we will not be able to refinance the sewer debt.** I think the Democratic candidates need to do their homework before making empty campaign statements.

*Again, most sincerely,  
Stuart Kaufman*

*Letters continued on Page 17*

## COUNCIL NEWS

*Continued from Page 1*

when they would be placed on Lake Drive. The Mayor said the matter would be discussed at a committee meeting the following Monday night, which Mr. Block was welcome to attend. After expressing criticism of what he saw as delay on the part of the Council, Mr. Block asked, "What do we get out of stopping developers?" and denounced the Council for spending \$500,000 on defense of the lawsuit. Mayor Hamilton said that we get the right to determine how much development takes place and where, rather than having the decision made for us by a builder. He also said that the cost to date of defense of the lawsuit has been about \$50,000, not \$500,000. Mr. Block further denounced the Council for allowing the town to have a derelict appearance and reiterated various other points that he had raised at this and other meetings. Council members took issue with his arguments and his manner of presenting them. Councilwoman Elly Shapiro said, at one point, "We are working towards a common goal. We do not have to take abuse. We have heard your views." Mayor Hamilton asked Mr. Block which budget items he would cut in order to have more funds for those items that he would favor.

Gary Shiner followed up on Mr. Block's comments about speed bumps by asking how it was decided where to put them. Mayor Hamilton said that two speed bumps were placed near the Pine and Tamara Drive intersection because school children use the path that comes out there, while another was placed on School Lane because the school requested it. Farm Lane was also selected because it was recently repaved and therefore would not need to be repaved again for a while. Councilwoman Shapiro assured Mr. Shiner that Lake Drive would get a speed bump. She noted, however, that a

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## COUNCIL NEWS

*Continued from Page 11*

speed bump is not a cure-all, because some people still speed once they pass it.

Debbie Shiner protested what she characterized as failure of the Council to maintain the appearance of the community. She specifically mentioned a tree that is leaning on electrical wires in the South Valley Road walkway between Lake Drive and Farm Lane. Councilman Jeff Hunt said that that is a job for the power company, not the Borough public works employee, and that he would report the problem to the company.

Joe Block then protested the absence of warning signs when the speed bumps were first put in. He also protested foul odors emanating from the manhole in front of his house and asked that the curb by the storm drain in front of his house be fixed. Council members indicated that these issues would be taken care of.

Tom Husko asked how the water rates, which are already quite high will be affected by metering. Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes said that that had not been determined yet.

Kelly Mitchell, who is a crossing guard, asked that the Council ask Monmouth County to install rumble strips on Rochdale Avenue and to trim trees that impair visibility, and that this be done before September. Mayor Hamilton replied that these matters would be brought to the attention of County representatives.

The public portion was then closed and the Council moved on to committee reports.

Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes reported that the Administrative Committee was working on a new personnel policy.

Councilman George Vasseur reported that a proposal for labor for installation of water meters had been received and was being reviewed by the

Public Utilities Committee.

Councilwoman Pat Moser said that the Public Works Committee was investigating removal of the siren from the school building. The cable has already been removed, so the siren will not sound. The Mayor suggested that School Board members be invited to attend the next committee meeting to discuss this issue, since removal of the siren might create roof problems.

Councilwoman Elly Shapiro, reporting for the Environment, Health and Safety Committee, said that seven residents had taken the CPR course for rescue workers and had applied to join the First Aid Squad. They are also taking a defensive driving course and will be taking the 50 hour EMT course. She added, "it looks like we will have a viable First Aid Squad, which is terrific." She also noted, in her capacity as Council representative on the Environmental Commission, that last month's *Bulletin* incorrectly stated that Mark Aakhus had planted grasses intended to prevent erosion at the cemetery, when, in fact, he had taken pictures of plantings of such grasses on the former Notterman tract. She also urged residents to support the Sierra Club in its opposition to Governor McGreevey's proposal to allow use of all-terrain vehicles in State parks. She cited the destruction that trespassing ATV riders had been responsible for at the cemetery and nearby portions of the former Notterman tract, which is now part of the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area.

Councilman Jeff Hunt, speaking for the Community Development Committee, announced that there would be an open air concert at the school on June 15, that the revived July 4 committee, headed by Susan Dermody, was arranging for food, a parade and children's activities, and that the new

community recreation program was going well.

The Council passed two ordinances, one setting salaries for employees of the summer camp and the other authorizing the charging of program fees for the Community Education and Recreation Program. As required by law, there were public hearings for both ordinances, but no members of the public testified.

Ordinances were then introduced to amend the zoning ordinance to allow construction of a cellular telephone tower on municipal property in the Light Industrial zone, to establish salaries for municipal officials and employees for 2002 and to set the alcoholic beverage license fee for 2002. Hearings on these proposed ordinances will be held at the July 8 meeting.

Resolutions were adopted to establish a dedicated trust fund for application fees to offset the cost of the public defender in the municipal court (which is conducted in conjunction with the Millstone municipal court), to insert in the 2002 budget an item of a Clean Communities grant from the State in the amount of \$285, to establish fees for the Community Education and Recreation Program and to hire Jameson Parker and Brian Moore as junior counselors/substitutes for the summer camp. The fees that were established were \$65.00 for the yoga program, \$25.00 for golf lessons, \$50.00 for the "mad science" program and \$50.00 for the bowling program. After passing motions concerning the leasing of a copier, the payment of up to \$500 for the 4th of July program and approving the use of the Borough Hall by Wiska Radkiewicz for a piano recital and a resolution to pay the bills, the Council adjourned. ■

# TWO BROTHERS

When I was little, I used to tell people that I had two mothers and two fathers. People would look somewhat askance at this, but, in some senses, the statement was true. My family's story, like so many others, has been shaped by personal circumstances and by the cataclysmic events of the 20th century. These determined the fate of two brothers, whose paths diverged at an early age, but who ultimately shared a daughter.

The brothers were born in Madan, Bulgaria, a village 60 miles south of the Danube River. Sons of a well-to-do landowner, they were from a family of six children, three of whom survived to adulthood. Their parents, Stoyan and Jordana, valued education very highly. Consequently, both brothers left home at an early age to attend boarding school, which was considered an unusual practice at the time for children from the villages.

The older son, Assen, left for Paris in 1932, when he was only 16, to pursue a degree in medicine. He apparently never quite made it there – rumor had it he was having too good of a time along the way – but he did eventually settle upon Prague. His studies were

cut short, however, by the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and the outbreak of WW II. After the war,



Assen, left, and Zwetan, right, as schoolboys

Assen decided to finish his degree at Humboldt University in Berlin, which recognized his earlier coursework and allowed him to specialize in general surgery. It was there that he met his future wife, Christa, a German girl who had just turned eighteen. She was working for a Bulgarian dentist who introduced her to Assen. After their marriage in 1949, they decided to immigrate to the U.S., where Assen did a residency in Brooklyn and Christa worked as a lab technician.

Meanwhile, the younger brother, Zwetan, was setting his sights upon a law degree. He began his studies in the

capital city of Sofia in 1941. Although the beginning of the war did not affect him as much, it ultimately had quite dire consequences for him. With the Russian invasion of Bulgaria in 1944, the country was run by a puppet communist regime. Among other things, the new government forced any alleged political adversaries out of positions of power, often through violent means. The oldest brother in the family, Simeon, had been involved in local politics and served as mayor of his town before the war.

After the occupation, he was jailed and sentenced to life imprisonment, which was eventually commuted to seven years of hard labor. The entire family was branded as political outsiders. When Zwetan went to attend classes one day at the university, he saw signs posted listing all of the students who were not to return. His name was on the list. After his expulsion, he was forced to join the military. Later, Zwetan returned to his village, where, at the very least, his romantic life became a bit more exciting. Quickly identified as the most eligible bachelor in the town, he caught the eye of

*Continued on Page 14*

## TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

*Continued from Page 13*

Vasilka, a young woman who had come to the village to work as a midwife. Zvetan and Vasilka married and in 1958 my sister, Jordanka, was born. Three years later I was born.

By the early 1960s, East and West were truly two separate worlds. While America was enjoying a postwar boom, Bulgaria was in economic shambles. The country had been primarily agrarian before WW II and had not made the desired transformation into a modern industrialized state. Many people left their villages to look for work. My mother was able to find work as a midwife in Sofia, which was a five-hour drive from our village. My sister and I stayed in Madan with our grandmother for long stretches of time. Eventually, my father found employment in a production plant outside of Sofia and the four of us moved to a suburb of the city. We lived in a one-room apartment with very primitive facilities and no indoor toilet.

In America, Assen and Christa had successfully started a medical practice in Cleveland, Ohio. Their one disappointment was that they were not able to have children. Shortly after my birth, my parents in Bulgaria offered to have them adopt me. This was an opportunity to send one of their children to America and enjoy the benefits of the West. It was also an incredible gift to Zvetan's brother and sister-in-law, who very much wanted a child. The adoption took nearly four years because of the complicated legal proceedings involved. When I arrived in America, I was a few months shy of my fourth birthday. I do not remember much about that period in my life, although I recall wanting desperately to talk and act like the other kids. Luckily, we lived next door to a family

of seven children, so I was provided the "quick immersion" method.

Over the years, the family members saw each other only sporadically. The two brothers, Assen and Zvetan, only saw each other three times after my adoption: once in Yugoslavia, once in the U.S., and once in Germany. My Bulgarian mother was able to visit the U.S. once as well. After I turned 18, I was able to visit Bulgaria more frequently.

Assen, who passed away in 1995, was never able to visit his homeland again. By the time of the velvet revolution, he was too ill to travel. Younger generations will have it easier, we hope. Last summer, my sister's two girls were able to play with their new American cousin, Gabriel.

People often ask me why I was adopted. As with most things, there is no simple answer to this question. However, one thing I do know for certain. It happened in a family that has struggled to stay together over many years and many miles. ■

### 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:

Robin Gould	448-4616
Marilyn Magnes	448-6402
Pearl Seligman	448-2340

## FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

*Continued from Page 4*

have a very good small school with award-winning teachers and an average class size of around 15. The Fund for Roosevelt has been successful in preserving farmland, woodland and open space, and other land has been preserved under the State Green Acres Program. Land preserved for farming is a revenue-positive ratable because farmers pay taxes and require little in the way of services.

Data gathered for the past few years as part of the Panhandle School Regionalization Study reveals that as new developments are built in Millstone and Upper Freehold, taxes will rise dramatically. As the children from these new developments enter the school systems and fill them to capacity, expensive new construction projects will be required. The Panhandle towns are Millstone, Roosevelt, Upper Freehold and Allentown. Roosevelt taxes have stabilized over time and our demographics show that we can expect very little, if any, growth in the school population over the next few years.

*RPS graduation...* I was pleased to present the first annual Mayor's Leadership Award on behalf of the Borough Council at this year's graduation ceremonies at the Roosevelt Elementary School. The award is presented to the sixth-grader who exemplifies qualities of good leadership. This year's winner is Mat Stinson. Congratulations to Mat and his family.

Sixth-grade graduation in Roosevelt is a rite of passage when graduates express in their own words what it means to grow up in Roosevelt. The whole town comes out to participate in yet another tradition that makes our town such an extraordinary place.

Michael Hamilton, Mayor  
443-5227  
mham82@comcast.net

**Painting the Weather**

On vacation in London this spring, Robin and I came to an intersection of interests at the National Gallery when a brochure on a café table simultaneously caught our attention. The small violet brochure told of an art exhibition that featured works in galleries across the UK. The show is titled “*Painting the Weather*.”

The British Broadcasting Corporation and the National Gallery, London have developed what they describe as the world’s first fully interactive art exhibition. It’s sure to catch the eyes and ears of artists, art lovers and weather-watchers worldwide. The exhibition features over one hundred paintings in which weather plays a notable role. The “*Painting the Weather*” television program was broadcast on the BBC in June. But, the TV portion of the exhibition is just the tip of the iceberg. The Internet presentation is the star of mediums in this show. You could travel to England to see each of the paintings in over fifty UK galleries and still not benefit as fully in such unique ways as by going to the exhibition web site.

At the “*Painting the Weather*” web site (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/paintingtheweather/>) you can listen to an audio tour and see each painting. The paintings are accessible by title, theme, weather type, artist or art collection. Once you get one of the paintings displayed on your monitor, you have a lot of information available. For example, right now I have “Autumn” (c. 1644) by David Teniers the Younger on the screen. From here, I can see a copy of the painting, zoom to sections of the painting, and find that the estimated outdoor temperature of the scene depicted is 17 degrees Celsius.

While viewing some paintings,

you can listen to a weather “forecast” based on the current conditions in the painting. You can also listen to biographical information about each artist and an explanation of the techniques used to depict the weather in the displayed painting.

Take note teachers: this interactive attraction is a natural for exploring an area where science and art overlap.

Please take the time to experience “*Painting the Weather*” on the web. It is a very well executed presentation with easy access and a substantial depth of content. It’s a wonderful way to experience weather and art on a hot steamy July day in New Jersey.

**As the Leaves Turn**

Have you ever noticed that when the wind turns the backs of tree leaves to you that it rains soon after? While this phenomenon may not always indicate rain, it does rain often enough to wonder why. When trees grow, their leaves follow a pattern. The pattern is established by prevailing winds of the area. When storm winds come, they almost always come from the opposite direction of prevailing winds. That is why the leaves ruffle backwards and show their undersides before a storm.

**New Jersey Weather Event**

On July 5, 1900, a spectacular three-day fire began when a bolt of lightning struck a Bayonne oil refinery.

**Weather Word**

CEILING is a weather term for the height of the lowest layer of clouds, when the sky is broken or overcast.

Have a great summer!

Note: Due to a vacation this month’s temperature/precipitation table contains readings from a nearby location outside Roosevelt for the days of May 15 through May 3.

**May 15 - June 15, 2002**

High	Low	Avg	Precip	
15	68.0	46.9	57.5	0.00
16	80.1	44.1	62.1	0.00
17	78.1	57.9	68.0	0.00
18	54.0	41.0	47.5	1.70
19	59.0	37.0	48.0	0.00
20	55.0	36.0	45.5	0.00
21	57.9	37.0	47.5	0.00
22	64.9	37.0	51.0	0.00
23	73.0	41.0	57.0	0.00
24	82.9	48.9	65.9	0.00
25	71.1	54.0	62.6	0.00
26	73.0	53.6	63.3	0.01
27	77.0	59.0	68.0	0.00
28	79.0	63.0	71.0	0.00
29	81.0	60.8	70.9	0.00
30	85.8	57.2	71.5	0.00
31	88.7	62.6	75.7	0.00
1	85.1	62.6	73.9	0.34
2	82.6	60.8	71.7	0.00
3	74.8	50.4	62.6	0.00
4	81.5	55.4	68.5	0.00
5	88.5	63.1	75.8	0.00
6	86.5	65.1	75.8	0.15
7	69.6	55.2	62.4	1.66
8	72.9	47.5	60.2	0.10
9	79.5	51.4	65.5	0.00
10	81.1	61.5	71.3	0.00
11	89.2	58.3	73.8	0.00
12	90.9	67.3	79.1	0.10
13	73.2	59.4	66.3	0.41
14	61.5	57.7	59.6	0.25
15	68.9	56.3	62.6	0.65
Total Precipitation			5.37	

# Great Chicken & Shrimp Jambalaya in an Hour



This is not an original creation, however it comes from a trusted source that has helped me develop a love for cooking. *Cook's Illustrated* is a wonderful composed, ad-free, bi-monthly magazine that is published and edited by Christopher Kimball. It offers tips, resources, product evaluations and book reviews while providing a variety of recipes for appetizers, main dishes, side dishes, sauces, vegetables and desserts.

www.cooksillustrated.com can provide more information, but the staff is committed to testing, crafting and perfecting every recipe they offer their readers. Moreover, the beauty in this magazine is that they offer someone who wants to become a better cook the opportunity to understand the hows and whys behind a delicious recipe in no non-sense Vermonters' language.

Because andouille varies in spiciness, we suggest tasting a piece of the cooked sausage and then adjusting the amount of cayenne in the jambalaya to suit your taste. If you can't find andouille, try tasso, chorizo or linguica. If using a chorizo or linguica, consider doubling the amount of cayenne. The onion, celery, bell pepper and garlic can be chopped by hand instead of in the food processor. The shrimp don't need to be deveined, but you can do it if you prefer. If you're serving only four people, you may choose to skip the shredding step and serve the chicken on the bone.

- 1 medium onion, peeled ends trimmed and quartered lengthwise
- 1 medium celery rib, cut crosswise into quarters
- 1 medium red bell pepper, stem removed, seeded and quartered lengthwise
- 5 medium garlic cloves, peeled
- 2 tsp. vegetable oil
- 4 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- 8 ounces andouille sausage, halves lengthwise and cut into 1/4 inch pieces
- 1 1/2 cups (10 ounces) long-grain white rice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp minced fresh thyme leaves
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper (see note)
- 1 (14 1/2 ounce) can diced tomatoes, drained with 1/4 cup juice reserved
- 1 cup bottled clam juice
- 1 1/2 cups canned low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 large bay leaves
- 1 lb. Medium-large shrimp (31-35), shelled
- 2 tb minced fresh parsley

1. In food processor, pulse onion, celery, red pepper and garlic until chopped fine, about 6 1-second pulses, scraping down sides of the bowl once or twice. DO NOT OVERPROCESS; VEGETABLES SHOULD NOT BE PUREED.
2. Heat oil in large heavy-bottomed Dutch oven over medium-high heat until shimmering but not smoking, about two minutes. Add chicken, skin-side

*Continued on Page 17*



## BREAKING BREAD

*Continued from Pag 16*

down, and cook until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Using tongs, turn chicken and cook until golden brown on second side, about 3 minutes longer. Transfer chicken to plate and set aside. Reduce heat to medium and add andouille, cook, stirring frequently, until browned, about 3 minutes. Using slotted spoon, transfer sausage to paper towel-lined plate and set aside.

3. Reduce heat to medium-low, add vegetables and cook, stirring occasionally and scraping bottom of pot with wooden spoon, until vegetables have softened, about 4 minutes. Add rice, salt, thyme and cayenne; cook, stirring frequently, until rice is coated with fat, about 1 minute. Add tomatoes, reserved tomato juice, clam juice, chicken broth, bay leaves and browned sausage to pot; stir to combine. Remove and discard skin from chicken; place chicken, flesh-side down, on rice. Bring to boil, reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Stir once, keeping chicken on top, flesh-side down. Replace cover and continue to simmer until chicken is no longer pink when cut into with paring knife, about 10 minutes more; transfer chicken to clean plate and set aside. Scatter shrimp over rice, cover and continue to cook until rice is fully tender and shrimp are opaque and cooked through, about 5 minutes more.
4. While shrimp are cooking, shred chicken with a fork off the bone. When shrimp are cooked, discard bay leaves; off heat, stir in parsley and shredded chicken. **SERVE IMMEDIATELY.** ■

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Continued from Pag 11*

To the Editor:

Stu Kaufman's personal attacks on Mayor Hamilton in recent letters have become so vicious and persistent that I think it's time for someone to respond to them. Otherwise, as Yeat's ominous line forewarned ("the worst are full of passionate intensity"), people might actually start believing them simply because they're so passionate.

No one – neither Stu, the Mayor nor the town – benefits from vituperation and venom. Of course there are debatable issues confronting the town, and more than enough room for conflicting opinions, but the intensity of anger, jealousy and resentment informing Stu's recent diatribes do absolutely nothing to illuminate those issues or advance his positions, whatever they may be. On the contrary, his anger only incites and misdirects, and ultimately obstructs the possibility of any

positive dialogue.

Mozart had his Salieri and now Mike Hamilton, who I know for a fact is no Mozart, is apparently stuck with his Stu Kaufman. I guess that's the price a person has to pay for trying to do something positive and being pretty good at it: being hounded by other less capable people who are motivated primarily by jealousy and resentment.

Elections are coming up, of course, and it's obvious that Stu's letters are motivated by his latest desperate attempt to get re-elected and, judging from his righteous tone, save the town. But maybe the town doesn't want to be saved, and from the sounds of Stu's spleenful letters, maybe his candidacy is more suited to Talk Radio than to a Council seat.

*Sincerely*

*Ron Kostar*

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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.

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## LUNCHEONS WITH LYNDON AND LADY BIRD

*Continued from Page 8*

most thrilling Rodgers and Hammerstein medley.” It was for us a most thrilling experience.

A lot of that day is one big blur now, but the finale is still clear in my mind.

After all the guests had gone, only five of us remained, President and Mrs. Johnson, Freddy and the two of us. We made small talk, and this is the point at which I delivered myself of the fresh remark about the President’s green pajamas, in spite of which the President was most gracious, thanking us for our contribution to the day’s festivities. Mrs. Johnson asked if we would please send them some of our recordings, which we certainly were more than happy to do. Then we were driven back to the airport and were on our way to Texas to pick up where we had left off just a day before.

We were further involved with the LBJs next, when the President was campaigning in ‘67. We would get a call from Liz Carpenter somewhere on the road, where we happened to be concertizing (whenever our schedule coincided with one of the campaign stops), and asked to come and “warm up” the audience before Himself arrived for his speech. Each time, Lady Bird or the President would request that we stay to be thanked personally.

What’s left of all this? Besides the memories of a brief ever-so-light brush with history, I still have two framed Xmas cards, a couple of inauguration invitations, several photos of Earl and me with the President and his most charming First Lady. There is still a yellowing copy of that full-page Washington Post account of the Queen Fredrika tribute, and two beautifully framed “thank you” notes from Lady Bird. The notes are seriously faded, having been exposed to too much sunlight...but the memories, though also faded, linger on.

I remember being forced through

noisy heaving crowds to get to the platform, by large Secret Service men, and then being lifted bodily over sawhorses.

P.S. Last month Bess Tremper, *The Bulletin’s* managing editor gave me a copy of Katharine Graham’s autobiography. She was the owner and publisher of the *Washington Post*. From it I received a kind of thrill which comes rarely at my great age. She wrote about having attended a luncheon for the Queen of Greece in January of ‘64. Thank you Bess.

### Of Lambscapes and Transparencies

*By Robin Middleman*

A recent journey to see the Flemish art treasures of London, Bruges and Gent brought a renewed appreciation for Roosevelt’s own community art treasure - the Mural by Ben Shahn in the Roosevelt Public School.

The genesis of this journey was a wish to see the *Gent Altarpiece* (1432) by Jan Van Eyck (and brother Hubert?). This incredible multi-panel work is also referred to as “the Mystic Lamb” and “Lamb of God” because the large central panel has the image of a lamb (symbolizing Christ.) Among the many innovations by Van Eyck in this work, this panel is considered the first fully realized landscape (which Ron dubbed a “lambscape”) in the Western art canon. Although it has been moved from its original chapel for security reasons the Altarpiece remains in the Cathedral of St. Bavo, which, based on the vicissitudes of its history, is amazing. Stolen by Napoleon and by Hitler, in between, a church cleric sold off 6 of its 24 panels, which ended up in the hands of a German art dealer. The people of Gent felt such ownership of this work, that when the Treaty of Versailles was signed, part of that agreement was for Germany to return the missing panels to Gent.

While there are many obvious differences between the altarpiece in Gent and the Roosevelt mural there are also connections. Here are some of the analogies I came away with. Created via patronage (private vs. public) to tell a story through imagery (sacred vs. secular) in and for a specific space and site (again sacred vs. secular) through artistry that stands on its own through time. Each work is an intrinsic part of community identity and is the subject of pilgrimages from visitors from around the world.

Returning home to Roosevelt, I received a copy of the just published *Twentieth-Century American Art*, part of the series *The Oxford History of Art*, which features an illustration of our town mural. Through the grapevine, art historians have contacted RAP for use of the mural transparency in their publications and articles. It is significant that out of Ben Shahn’s entire oeuvre our town mural is often selected to illustrate art historical works.

Here is a listing of publications to date (this only covers works that used the RAP mural transparency, not, of course, Ben Shahn’s extensive bibliography):

*The Oxford History of Art - Twentieth-Century American Art* by Erika Doss, published by Oxford University Press; “Oliver Larkin - the Four Freedoms” by Alan Wallach, published in *American Art - the Smithsonian American Art Museum; Common Man Mythic Vision, The Paintings of Ben Shahn*, the Jewish Museum, Princeton University Press; Diana Linden - for an article in the *Jewish Scholar*; *The Encyclopedia of New Jersey* for a piece on Roosevelt by town historian Arthur Shapiro (forthcoming).

RAP will donate these works to the Roosevelt Public school to start a small reference library available to students and visitors to the mural. ■

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# ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 2002-2003 SEASON PREVIEW

At the Open Board Meeting on Sunday, June 2, ideas were discussed for programs to be presented in the next season, which will be the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the Roosevelt Arts Project.

The Arts Project presents new work by local artists, poets, and musicians encouraging collaborative efforts and multi-media experiments. It is committed to presenting cultural events for the enjoyment of Roosevelt and the wider community.

The 2002-2003 Season will open on Saturday, September 14 at 5 p.m. at the Borough Hall with Storytelling featuring Jamie Kosa and David Brahinsky. This event is geared for children of all ages. Voluntary contribution: \$5/family.

On Saturday, October 12, at 8 p.m. at the Borough Hall, RAP will present the new generation of Singer-Songwriters, former Rooseveltians Ivan Rubenstein Gillis and his Band, with Michael (Nahmias) Brett.

Additional events are being organized and will be highlighted in the RAP Brochure for the 2002-2003 Season, which will appear in the fall, as well as here.



## 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 Gould at 448-4616 or 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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Visit the RAP website: [www.music.columbia.edu/roosevelt](http://www.music.columbia.edu/roosevelt) ■

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## July

<b>1</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>2</b>	Tues.	12:30 p.m.	Senior Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall.
		1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, President Gerry Millar, 609-448-0351.
<b>3</b>	Wed.		<b>♻️ RECYCLE</b>
<b>4</b>	Thurs.		Independence Day.
<b>8</b>	Mon.		Summer Recreation Program starts, Margaret Schlinski, 609-443-5180.
		7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>9</b>	Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Ralph Seligman, 609-448-2340.
<b>15</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committees Meeting, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>17</b>	Wed.		<b>♻️ RECYCLE</b>
		7:30 p.m.	Project Revive - First Aid Support Organization, Borough Hall, 609-448-9314.
<b>18</b>	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Neil Marko, 609-443-6818.
		8:00 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Rod Tulloss, 609-448-5096.
<b>22</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committees Meeting, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>25</b>	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 609-448-4440.
<b>31</b>	Wed.		<b>♻️ RECYCLE</b>

## August

<b>5</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>6</b>	Tues.	12:30 p.m.	Senior Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall.
		1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, President Gerry Millar, 609-448-0351.
<b>9</b>	Fri.		Last Day of Summer Recreation Program.
<b>12</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.

<b>13</b>	Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Ralph Seligman, 609-448-2340.
<b>14</b>	Wed.		<b>♻️ RECYCLE</b>
<b>15</b>	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Neil Marko, 609-443-6818.
		8:00 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Rod Tulloss, 609-448-5096.
<b>19</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>21</b>	Wed.	7:30 p.m.	Project Revive - First Aid Support Organization, Borough Hall, 609-448-9314.
<b>22</b>	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 609-448-4440.
<b>26</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>28</b>	Wed.		<b>♻️ RECYCLE</b>

## September

<b>2</b>	Mon.		Labor Day
<b>3</b>	Tues.	12:30 p.m.	Senior Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall.
		1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, President Gerry Millar, 609-448-0351.
<b>7</b>	Sat.		Rosh Hashanah
<b>9</b>	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 609-443-5227.
<b>10</b>	Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Ralph Seligman, 609-448-2340.
<b>11</b>	Wed.		<b>♻️ RECYCLE</b>
<b>16</b>	Mon.		Yom Kippur
<b>19</b>	Thurs.	8:00 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Rod Tulloss, 609-448-5096.
<b>25</b>	Wed.		<b>♻️ RECYCLE</b>

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