

Community Update

July 28

- Good evening everyone. This is mayor Bob DeFillippo and I want to welcome you to tonight's Township Council meeting.
- First, an update on the Corona Virus. The number of increased confirmed cases continues to be small, thanks to everyone's efforts to follow social distancing guidelines.
- However, like in our last update on June 14, confirmed new cases also continued to rise slowly but steadily. Since our last update, Roxbury had 18 new reported cases, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 315.
- That should serve as a stark reminder that it remains critically important for everyone to continue to practice and take seriously social distancing indoors and outdoors. And, just an observation, wearing your mask below your nose does not count and you look ridiculous.
- With the recent nice weather, our parks, fields, trails, and playgrounds have been reopened and are being heavily used. You may have noticed new signage around our parks that list the social distancing guidelines people must follow in our outdoor recreational facilities. We ask that residents please adhere to the guidelines for everyone's safety.
- All reports are that township residents have been doing a pretty good job following the social distancing guidelines. Thank you to everyone for your continued cooperation.
- Outdoor recreation facilities are being heavily used, which was one of three topics that were discussed recently with Gov. Phil Murphy during a last-

minute lunch meeting on Thursday, July 16, at the Windlass Restaurant on Lake Hopatcong.

- The governor invited the mayors from the four towns that surround the Lake – Roxbury, Mt. Arlington, Hopatcong, and Jefferson – to continue a discussion on the condition of the lake.
- During the nearly two-hour meeting, the mayors told the governor that we needed the state to release money it had promised to help prevent another algae bloom, like the one that virtually closed the lake last summer.
- I am happy to report algae bloom is not a serious problem so far this season.
- We also pointed out the need for more help with weed harvesting.
- Weed harvesting was discontinued by the state following the tragic death of weed harvester operator Curt Mulch, a long-time Landing resident.
- The third matter raised was the practice of closing the gates at Lake Hopatcong State Park when it reaches only 50 percent capacity. It is a long-standing practice that leaves families -- many who travelled long distances -
- with nowhere to go.
- We said the pandemic is making matters worse.
- In some cases, after being turned away by the state park, people use the municipal parks and fields in the communities around the lake, which contributes to a severe overcrowding of those facilities.
- The governor listened and committed to reviewing all three issues and we have already seen some movement concerning the release of funds to fight algae bloom.

- It was a strange meeting to be called at the last minute, but the view of Lake Hopatcong from the Windlass Restaurant is beautiful, and the mayors appreciated the face time with the governor. I want to thank Lake Hopatcong Foundation Chairman Marty Kane, Councilman Mark Crowley, and state Sen. Tony Bucco for helping to shape our agenda.
- By the way, the state park administration told us one reason they cannot increase capacity is a shortage of lifeguards. They specifically asked us to reach out to our communities to help find lifeguards – preferably trained and certified – to apply for jobs at the state park.
- I am very pleased to report that Safewise, a security company that ranks the 100 safest cities in the U.S., has just informed us that Roxbury is now ranked 40 on the list of safest cities in America. Our congratulation goes out to our police, who do an outstanding job for the community every day.
- I am also pleased to add another restaurant to our list of restaurants able to serve outside. Circle Bowl & Entertainment, 1107 Rt. 46 in Ledgewood, has been approved for outdoor dining. Additionally, Luigi's Pizza and Giancarlo's Bakery, both located on Route 10, will have outdoor seating.
- Thanks to Councilman Rich Zoschak, we learned that our senior club members were asking for access to the Senior Center's Library. According to Township Manager John Shepherd, we will be able to accommodate this request but by appointment only. Interested seniors need to contact the Recreation Department who will schedule a time and date for their visit.
- Thanks again to Councilman Zoschak.
- Now, I have some exciting news. Working with the Recreation Advisory Committee, Recreation Department, Township Manager John

Shepherd, and Deputy Mayor Fred Hall, Roxbury Township is going to have a Drive-In Movie Night at Horseshoe Lake for the community.

- We will be publicizing the event very soon. But here are some of the details:
- The Drive-in Movie Night will be held on Friday, August 14. The Rain date is Saturday, August 15th.
- Reservations are expected to be accepted starting Aug. 1.
- A giant screen will be erected near the band shell at Horseshoe Lake and cars will park in the lot – to adhere to safe social distancing, we think we can fit about 150 cars in the lot.
- The movie will be Frozen II and will begin at 8:30 p.m. We expect the sun to set around 7:57 p.m. on that date.
- The movie is being provided through the Roxbury Township Library. I would like to thank Library Director Radwa Ali and our Youth Services Librarian Lynn Gaillard for making the movie available and with helping to make the selection.
- Remember to check the library's web site for lots of new content, programs, and activities.
- Now, I need to say something about the group of community supporters who came forward to fund this activity. These are some of the same people who year after year sponsor our fireworks during the Beach Blast, which as you know had to be cancelled this year.
- In particular, I want to thank Steve Alford from the Rotary Club who found about 20 sponsors in 20 minutes. The response was overwhelming, and we

will be talking more about the sponsors soon. I am going to read a list of those who have come forward to help fund the drive-in night:

William C Diamond Plumbing

Tammy Abrusci RE/MAX Heritage Properties

Gary Ribe RE/MAX American Dream

A Brilliant Solution Power Washing

Mt Freedom Printing

PJ's Auto Body

Nisivoccia LLP Accounting & Consulting

Valley Pharmacy & Surgical Supply Center

The Roxbury Diner

Alford Financial Group

Luigi's Pizza

Legends Car Wash

Fullerton Ground Maintenance

Equity Home Mortgage

Tim Smith and Family

Bob & Kathy DeFillippo

- Because of their generosity and commitment to the community we do not plan to charge for Drive-In Movie Night.
- We will ask each car that registers to make a \$10 donation to the Roxbury Social Services Department. All proceeds will go to help families that are in need.
- The donations for social services will be accepted when people register for the movie on Community Pass.

- Movie goers will not be allowed to get out of their cars during the movie other than to use the portable bathrooms.
- And, last but not least, the high school Interact Club is expected to give away prepackaged, sealed bags of popcorn.
- With all of this, we have paid careful attention to adhere to the guidelines for public gatherings, such as this.
- As always, everyone's cooperation will be necessary for this event to be successful. More detailed information will be provided shortly.
- Next, a reminder that the Township in partnership with Table of Hope and Habitat for Humanity, are planning a second Mobile Food Giveaway. It will be held at Horseshoe Lake on Wednesday, August 12 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon.
- The food giveaway features groceries, fresh produce, dairy, and canned goods. We had a good turnout at our last event.
- Finally, tonight, something sweet.
- Cliff's Homemade Ice Cream in Ledgewood -- not only is it a North Jersey staple, having stood just off Route 46 since 1975, now it has a new accolade to tout: best ice cream shop in New Jersey according to a new state-by-state list by The Daily Meal, according to a recent NJ.com report.
- Here's what the website had to say about Cliff's: "Strolling an old school boardwalk is a must in New Jersey, and so is hunting down a quality ice cream cone. Cliff's Homemade Ice Cream in Ledgewood has 11 flavors of soft ice cream, 60 hard hand-dipped flavors and seasonal options on the menu. Of the many eclectic flavors, Crooked Cookie, Whiskey Turtle Fudge and Rocky Road are just a few locals rave about."

- Cliff's also made NJ.com's own list of the Top 35 ice cream shops in New Jersey, posted earlier this month. We highly recommend the double dark chocolate fudge crunch."
- I know the deputy mayor prefers vanilla milk shakes. Congratulation to Cliff's for that outstanding recognition and for being one of the things that makes Roxbury such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.
- With that, we hope everyone stays well and safe.
- Back to our meeting agenda.