

Community Update
9/22/20

- Good evening and thank you again for joining us tonight. We hope everyone continues to remain safe and well.

Badini

- We begin tonight's Community Update with the sad news that Mrs. Grace Elizabeth Badini, the wife of former Roxbury Mayor Robert Badini, passed away on September 14. On behalf of the Mayor and Township Council we wish to express our deepest condolences to Mr. Badini and the entire Badini family.
- Bob Badini served as Ward 3 Councilman from 1992 to 1995 and served as Mayor in 1994. As is customary, his wife of 70 years, Grace Badini, was appointed as the Township Hostess for the 1994 calendar year.
- I know several Council members who served with Bob and knew him, and his wife will be remembering them later in the meeting.
- I would like to ask everyone to join me in a moment of silence for Mrs. Badini. Thank you.
- Turning now, let's look at where we are with the COVID-19 virus in Roxbury. Since our last Council meeting, confirmed COVID cases took an unfortunate jump from 333 to 350, that is 17 new cases. That is not the direction we were hoping for in Roxbury. Some of the cases are from college students who are not currently living in Roxbury, but the cases are reported with their home address.

- I know we are all tired of this pandemic and even less tolerant of the quarantine and social distancing rules we are expected to follow. But it is too dangerous to relax those guidelines.
- We are coming into the cold and flu season and now is not the time to stop wearing masks and staying six feet apart – especially when we are indoors.
- While a few of these cases can be tracked back to our young people who contracted COVID after arriving at college, the larger number is attributed to people who are right here in our town. Please, I urge you to continue to follow social distancing guidelines by wearing a mask and staying six feet apart.
- With that, I would like to briefly address the three persons reported by the Roxbury School District who recently tested positive for COVID-19. First, we hope that all involved recover and return to good health.
- The district informed parents and guardians about the situation and stressed that pupils at the schools were not in danger of exposure.
- We have been in close contact with the district, which is coordinating with public health officials and following CDC, state, and local health department guidance.
- We will continue to work closely with the district and to offer any assistance they may require.

Voting

- Next, I would like to turn to the General Election on Nov. 3. All registered voters will receive vote-by-mail ballots, which are scheduled to be mailed

to registered voters no later than October 5th. If you do not receive your ballot by then, please contact the County Clerk's Office.

- You can mail back your ballot, return it to a poll worker on election day, or drop it off in a secure lock box.
- Our Clerk Amy Rhead has posted on the township's website all the information you need to vote in this exceptional election year.
- We will have two polling places in Roxbury on election day – town hall and the senior center at Horseshoe Lake. You can go to the township website to find the polling place for your area of town. You will also receive a post card in the mail that will indicate your polling place. You must go to the polling place for your section of town.
- You may also drop off your completed mail-in-ballot at town hall, where a secure lock box is expected to be installed in the next few days. Roxbury is one of only 15 communities to have a secure lock box in town.
- Election officials are urging voters to carefully complete their mail-in-ballots and mail them as early as possible.
- Whatever you do, please do not throw your mail-in-ballot away!
Regardless of what you have heard, returning your mail-in-ballot, either by mail or in person, is a safe and convenient way to ensure your vote will be counted. Throwing it away only ensures that your vote may not be counted.

Home for the Holidays

- I am very sorry to announce that we can add Roxbury's highly popular Home for the Holidays festival, which was scheduled for December 5, to the

list of events to be cancelled because of the pandemic. The organizing committee made this difficult decision in the interest of public safety. Hopefully, these and all the other events that have been cancelled can be brought back next year.

Basketball

- Last week, Township Manager John Shepherd and I received quite a few emails from parents asking us to replace the basketball hoops in township parks that were removed at the start of the pandemic – a step we took to protect the public.
- We have heard and understand the frustration of these parents and as a result, we have decided to replace basketball hoops at parks at the following locations:
 - Mooney Mountain.
 - Berkshire Valley.
 - Port Morris.
 - and Dell Avenue.
- As we have in the past, township employees will monitor the basketball courts. If players and observers practice reasonable social distancing, we will consider a limited reopening of the basketball courts at Horseshoe Lake.

JCP&L/BPU

- This morning, Township Manager Shepherd and I participated in a Zoom call with members of the New Jersey Board of Public Utility (BPU) about the horrendous job JCP&L did in responding to tropical storm Isaias in August,

when more than 17,00 Roxbury residents were without power – some for more than a week. The BPU regulates public utilities in New Jersey.

- The meeting was arranged by Assemblywoman Aura Dunn and I wish to thank her for giving mayors from around the region an opportunity to tell the BPU about the missteps, communication breakdown, and general lack of response on the part of JCP&L.
- The mayors called for an independent investigation of JCP&L and we will work with Assemblywoman Dunn to make that happen. You may recall that this Council unanimously approved a resolution soon after the storm calling for an independent review.

Flags

- Finally, here is a story about how residents saw something that was wrong and helped us make it right.
- About a week ago, Sam Horton of Eyland Woods, wrote on a popular social media site that a few of the American flags displayed around town were in bad condition and needed to be retired.
- He sent me note and told me so.
- Township Manager Shepherd and DPW head Rick Blood took a look. And we agreed with Mr. Horton.
- Tonight, I am happy to report that seven flags were removed and replaced with bright new flags on Main Street and Eyland Ave.
- Thank you, Mr. Horton, for your love for and appreciation of our national flag.
- Thank you again for joining us tonight. Now back to our agenda.

Presentations

- We have several presentations tonight. The first are for three new Eagle Scouts:

Eagle Scouts

1. Justin William Berge
2. Derek J. Dougherty
3. Thomas J. Schulz

- All from Boy Scout Troop 159, these young men represent the very best of our Roxbury youth. It is always an honor to recognize when a young man reaches Eagle Scout. It is an amazing achievement.
- As I usually do, I wish to point out that Eagle Scouts do not just happen. I believe they are a reflection of the way they were raised by their families and a product of the support they receive from their community.
- Gentlemen can you tell us a little about your Eagle Scout project, starting with Mr. Berge. Thank you. Mr. Dougherty. Thank you. Mr. Schultz. Thank you.
- Your Certificates of Achievement and a Township Coin will be sent to you.

Police Recognition

- Next, I am proud to recognize the actions of two members of our Roxbury police force: Sgt. Kenneth Rocco and Cpl. Erick Henriksen.
- On June 7 this year, Sgt. Rocco and Cpl. Henriksen responded to a call from the Mt. Arlington Police Department for mutual aid at an accident scene where a pedestrian was struck and run over by a vehicle, resulting in a life-

threatening leg injury. They called EMS and began giving life-saving medical treatment until medics arrived, which saved this resident's life. The Roxbury Township Council commends you for your bravery and professionalism.

- One more thing, both Sgt. Rocco and Cpl. Henriksen were recently honored by the Mt. Arlington Council along with officers from Mt. Arlington. In doing so, Mt. Arlington Mayor Mike Stanzilis noted the “great working relationship Mt. Arlington has with Roxbury.” I could not agree more.
- Thank you, gentlemen, for bringing honor to Roxbury, our police department, and our community.
- Congratulations.