

Community Update
Oct. 27, 2020

- Welcome and thank you for joining us tonight. We hope everyone is staying well and safe.

COVID-19

- We start tonight as usual with the COVID-19 update for our community. It is difficult for me to report that the number of confirmed COVID cases in Roxbury went up a troubling 37 cases since our last Council meeting on Oct. 13 – from 391 to 428. – another hard-to-ignore jump, in part because we crossed over the 400-threshold.
- To put this in context, our increase was consistent with the rate of increase in New Jersey, which prompted the governor yesterday to extend the current public health emergency for an additional 30 days. This also extends all executive orders issued under the Governor’s authority and all actions taken by any executive branch departments or agencies in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Morris County authorities are also warning of a recent increase in the rate of COVID-19 cases in the county, pointing to increased indoor gatherings prompted by cooler outdoor temperatures.
- The New Jersey Department of Health has indicated that it is anticipating a second wave. The state also attributed an increase in the transmission rate to gatherings, especially gatherings held indoors.
- Morris County Health Officer Carlos Perez warns that as the weather turns cooler, everyone should remember that indoor gatherings should be

limited to immediate household members. In addition, as people plan for seasonal holidays and celebrations, they should limit the number of close relatives and friends in attendance and, if possible, plan parties outdoors.

- The county health officer added that it is important for people instructed to quarantine and isolate by their local health department and/or healthcare provider do so to prevent the spread of infection.

Health professionals emphasize that COVID-19 is preventable if individuals continue to:

1. Wear a cloth face covering when in public (both indoors and outdoors).
2. Practice social distancing (maintain a 6-foot space between you and others).
3. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve, not your hands.
4. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Do not touch your eyes, nose, or eyes with unclean hands.
5. Get a flu shot.
6. Stay home if you are sick and avoid sick people.
7. If you become ill, call your healthcare provider before going to a doctor's office or emergency department of a hospital.

Planning to travel during the upcoming holidays?

- Remember: There are 38 states/territories on a state issued travel advisory list, and the list is updated and changes regularly. Anyone leaving New Jersey to travel to a state/territory on the travel advisory list should quarantine for 14-days upon their return to the state.
- More information is available at the NJ COVID-19 Information Hub

Voting

- Election Day is exactly one week from today. There has been a brisk and steady stream of voters using the secure lock box behind Town Hall.
- According to the Morris County Board of Election, more than 6,000 Roxbury residents have voted. That number was from yesterday and probably does not reflect every vote. Also, it has certainly increased given the number of people using the drop box.
- That is 6,000 people out of a possible 18,968 registered voters. Not bad but it could be much better.
- Let me put that in context. The good news is that the township has already cast almost half of the total number of votes cast 2016 – the last presidential election. In 2016, 12,550 Roxbury residents cast ballots. But – and this is the bad news -- that was out of only 17,126 registered voters.
- In other words, we can do better.
- On behalf of the Council, we urge every registered voter to vote in next Tuesday's election. You can still mail your completed ballot or – better yet - - you can put your completed ballot in the secure lock box at Town Hall.
- You may also vote at two polling places in Roxbury on Election Day. They are located at the Senior Center at Horseshoe Lake or at Town Hall. Please make sure you go to the polling place for your part of town. You should have received a card telling you where you can vote. The information is also located on the Township's website.
- You will not find any voting machines at those polling places. Instead, you can hand in your completed ballot – the one you received in the mail, or

you can request a provisional ballot. You should be aware that a provisional ballot may not be counted for many days after the election.

- Instructions for replacing lost ballots or ballots not received in the mail can be found on the Morris County Clerk's website.

Food Drive

- The Roxbury Interfaith Council sponsored a food drive this past Saturday, another reminder that the pandemic is not over, and neither are the other hardships that came with it, such as food insecurity.
- According to Pastor Carie Morgan, the food drive was very successful – volunteers from Friends of Roxbury Social Services were joined by members of the Presbyterian Church and Thrivent Financial.
- The goal was to have the community donate 500 food items and Thrivent Financial would match that with a \$500 donation to Social Services.
- Pastor Carie said they lost track of donated items, but it was well over the 500 goal. They also estimated that about 40 cars brought items.
- She said it was another great experience that shows the amazing generosity and character of the Roxbury Community.
- On behalf of the Council, I wish to thank everyone involved.

Fall Clean Up

- Finally, another great community event, more than 100 volunteers hit the streets on Saturday for our Clean Communities Fall Litter clean up. The cleanup removed close to 600 pounds of trash and debris from our roadways and parks.

- Along with the many other volunteers who made the day a productive one, I would like to compliment the Roxbury Interact Club and Project Graduation organizations for their hard work.
- A major “thank you” to the members of the Shore Hills Swim team, who adopted the area of Shore Hills Park, and the Roxbury High School Lacrosse team, who adopted Reger Rd. Both areas will now have biannual cleanups as part of the Adopt- A-Spot program.
- And, of course, thank you to Kellie Ann Keyes, who coordinates this annual event.
- Kellie Ann told me to say: together, we made a real difference in a few hours.
- Thank you again for joining us tonight. Please stay well and safe.
- Now, back to our agenda.