

Community Update
August 25, 2020

- Good evening and thank you for joining us this evening. As much as we would all like to put 2020 behind us, it is hard to believe that the summer is nearly over.
- I do not have a lot to go over tonight and most of what I have to say is pretty positive.

COVID-19

- Starting with our COVID-19 update, we recorded four confirmed cases of the virus in our township since our last meeting on August 11, bringing our total cases in town during the pandemic to 321.
- Four new cases out of nearly 24,000 Roxbury residents – that is certainly something to feel good about. All I can say is thank you and congratulations to each and every resident who consistently practiced social distancing and wore masks when required both inside and outside. It was through your efforts these past months that we can safely say we have nearly eliminated the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- However, we must not let our guard down now. Experts tell us that with the flu season approaching, we need to continue to practice social distancing to avoid a new flair-up of the virus.

Power Outages

- Once again, we had a handful of weather-related power outages over the past few weeks. Nothing like the 7,000 homes that went dark after tropical

storm Isaias (ees-ah-EE-ahs). But another reminder of how fragile the power company infrastructure is in our area.

- As we promised at our last meeting, the Council will be voting on a resolution tonight calling on the state Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to conduct a full investigation of JCP&L's consistently slow and inadequate response to power outages in our area. In addition to sending it to the BPU, we will also be sharing this resolution with other municipalities as well as our state leaders.

Drive-in

- On Friday, August 14, the Township held a drive-in movie at Horseshoe Lake. It was a beautiful night for the sell-out crowd of about 175 cars. The movie was Frozen II and there were lots of kids in the audience.
- Those who attended told us that it was a great event for the community. I'd once again like to thank our sponsors who allowed us to offer the movie to the community free of charge:
 - William C. Diamond Plumbing
 - Tammy Abrusci, Re/Max Heritage Properties
 - Gary Ribe Remax American Dream
 - A Brilliant Solution Power Washing
 - Mt. Freedom Printing
 - PJ's Auto Body
 - Nisivoccia LLP Accounting & Consulting
 - Valley Pharmacy & Surgical Supply
 - The Roxbury Diner
 - Alford Financial Group

- Luigi's Pizza
 - Legend's Car Wash
 - Fullerton Ground Maintenance
 - Equity Home Mortgages
 - Tim Smith & Family
- Because of the generosity of our sponsors, rather than charge admission, we decided to ask participants to contribute \$10 per car, which was donated to our Social Services Department.
 - So, in addition to having a good time, movie-goers also provided Social Services with a much-needed check for \$1,500.
 - I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in making this event happen, including the town's Recreation Advisory Committee, Deputy Mayor Fred Hall, Township Manager John Shepherd, the Recreation Dept. led by Bret Douglas, and Steve Alford from the Roxbury Rotary Club.

Chamber/Walmart

- John Shepherd and I also had a chance to talk to the Roxbury Chamber of Commerce last week. During the pandemic, we have met regularly with the Chamber and other civic and religious groups.
- We had an interesting discussion concerning how the pandemic has forced people to work from home and we also heard from the new manager of the brand new Walmart that is expected to hold its grand opening at the Shoppes at Ledgewood (that's the old Ledgewood Mall) on October 7.
- As previously reported, the manager, Anthony Moreno, told the Chamber that they are in the process of hiring 400 employees to staff that store. He also said Walmart plans to be a major contributor to the community and

that they have already reached out to our first responders, civic organizations, and schools to invite them to submit grant proposals.

- We are delighted to welcome Walmart back to Roxbury. 400 new jobs now is a tremendous shot in the arm for the community, and we are pleased the redevelopment of the Ledgewood Mall is progressing on schedule.

Concert

- This past Friday night, Horseshoe Lake was rocking to the music of local band Hoi Polloi. (For the record, there is absolutely a connection between band leader, Jim Albrect and Councilwoman Albrect – they're married). A large, socially distanced crowd enjoyed a great concert courtesy of the Roxbury Arts Alliance. Just a beautiful night – great music.

St. Elizabeth

- Finally, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Main St. held a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday for its new rectory. It was an honor to participate in the ceremony along with Councilwoman Jaki Albrecht and Councilman Rich Zochak, as well as state Sen. Anthony Bucco and county Surrogate Heather Darling. Congratulations to the church on beginning this new project in our community.
- Thank you again for joining us tonight and stay well.
- Now, let's return to our agenda.