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## Upgrades coming at Horseshoe Lake park

By MIKE CONDON  
EDITOR

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**ROXBURY TWP.** – Things are about to get even better at the township's main recreational facility, the Horseshoe Lake complex in Succasunna.

Recreation Director Keith Knudsen presented an overview of what is being done, what has been done and what is planned when he spoke at the Roxbury Rotary Club meeting Thursday afternoon at LaStrada Restaurant on Route 10.

"We have a lot of exciting things going on," Knudsen said, addressing about a dozen Rotarians who were at the meeting.

"We are working on improving the Horseshoe Lake Park. We plan to improve the parking situation, install more softball fields and install an artificial turf field," he said.

More lighting is also planned for the facilities, located at 72 Eyland Ave.

In addition, he said plans are under way to improve the annual Beach Blast next

Please see related editorial on page 4 and a video at [roxburyregister.com](http://roxburyregister.com).

year. The annual night event was held at Horseshoe Lake island this past June as a way to ring in the summer season.

"The police department has some new ideas, and we are hoping to make next year's even better," he said, adding that public feedback on the event has been very positive.

Knudsen said the new canoe and kayak rental program, which is operated by the Ramsey's Outdoor store in Ledgewood, has been very successful this season. The retailer rents its canoes, paddleboats and kayaks so residents can take them out around the lake.

"I'm very excited about this. And we had a free day that we are going to continue once a year," he said.

PLEASE SEE LAKE, PAGE 2



The decades old gazebo, located on the property of the Roxbury Township Public Library, will soon be lifted by crane, rotated and placed closer to Main Street, Succasunna.

## ROXBURY LIBRARY MAKES PLANS TO MOVE GAZEBO

By MIKE CONDON  
EDITOR

**ROXBURY TWP.** – Things were abuzz on the front lawn of the public library on Main Street in Succasunna Thursday morning.

Township Public Works Director Rick Blood was measuring the library sign, taking the preliminary steps to move the sign to the other side of the parking lot. Once that's done, a crane will lift the gazebo, rotate it, and set it down on a new foundation directly in front of Main Street, facing the roadway.

"The plan is to move the sign next week," Deputy Mayor Bob DeFillippo said, referring to this week. After that, the new foundation will be constructed.

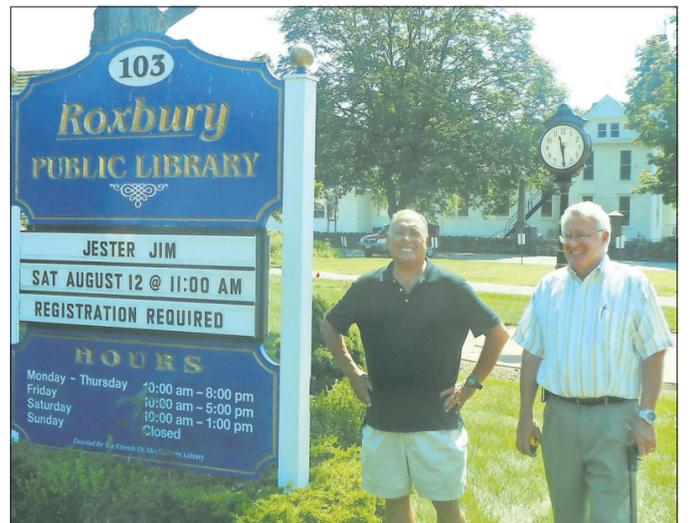
"This thing is literally going to be lifted in the air with a crane and moved," DeFillippo said.

Although the gazebo has sat on the front of the library grounds for decades, it is set way back from the road, in a shady area behind a big tree.

"It just doesn't get used much where it is now," DeFillippo said.

"The library board of trustees came up with the idea to move it about a year ago. This has been in the planning stages for about a year," he said.

Local builders Dan and Don Dyrness, who were instrumental in building the gazebo, will oversee the move.



Photos by Mike Condon

Roxbury Deputy Mayor Bob DeFillippo, left, and Roxbury's Public Works Director Rick Blood pose near the Roxbury library's sign on Main Street, Succasunna. The sign will soon be moved to the other side of the library parking lot, the first step in moving the gazebo on the library property closer to the road.

Dan Dyrness also built the walkway leading up to the gazebo as part of his Eagle Scout project years ago.

Moving the gazebo within the next two weeks is very ambitious, DeFillippo said, but plans are to have it moved, spruced up and re-introduced to the public by

Olde Succasunny Day on Saturday, Sept. 9.

But, moving the library's sign to the other side of the parking lot is the first step.

Blood said he has no idea what, exactly, is holding the freestanding

PLEASE SEE GAZEBO, PAGE 2



Roxbury Recreation Director Keith Knudsen speaks before the Roxbury Rotary Club Thursday afternoon at LaStrada Restaurant. At left is Rotarian Bill Diamond. At right is Rotarian George Wien.

## Roxbury Fire Department to fete 100 years

**ROXBURY TWP.** – The Roxbury Fire Department will celebrate 100 years of fire service beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12 with a parade that will start at Kenvil Avenue and continue down Main Street, Succasunna, to the Company 1 fire house.

Parade spectators will see more than 100 emergency vehicles from 40 neighboring towns, including the original 1917 Model-T Ford Chemical Engine that answered Roxbury's first fire call, according to a release issued by the department.

Immediately following the parade, the department will host an open house block party at Company #1 firehouse at 122 Main Street in Succasunna. This event is free to the public and festivities will take place rain or shine. For more information, contact Tommy Bilancia, parade coordinator at 973-296-1308.

According to a release issued by the all-volunteer department, the Roxbury Fire Department's history began on June 9, 1915 when Mr. and Mrs. Squire awoke to smoke and fire

filling their Main Street house.

At that time, Roxbury did not have a fire service. Instead, neighbors scrambled to the burning house with buckets of water. The Dover Fire Department came to offer aide, but the fire had already consumed not only the Squire's residence, but also neighboring houses and stores.

No one was hurt, but the fire sparked the formation of Roxbury's first fire department. Two years later, on June 19, 1917, the Roxbury Chemical Fire Engine Company was estab-

lished on Main Street in Succasunna. One hundred years later, Roxbury Co. 1. is still located on Main Street. Today, the Roxbury Fire Department has three fire companies with a total of more than 100 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians. These volunteers provide around the clock lifesaving services to the residents of Roxbury and those who visit the township.

All are invited to attend and celebrate 100 years with the department members.



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# LAKE: Improvements coming at Roxbury park

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When asked what he could use the most, Knudsen said he needs more volunteer coaches for recreational teams, especially basketball coaches.

The level of volunteerism for coaching positions and other posts, however, is extraordinary in Roxbury, Knudsen said.

"We have a lot of people who are very dedicated to making sure our sports programs do very well. Not all towns have volunteer like this," he said.

He mentioned Maplewood, where he worked before coming to Roxbury, as an example.

"In Maplewood, if we wanted coaches, we had to pay people. The volunteer base is great here," he said.

## Challenges

He said he oversees a big township department, with a small office of only three employees. The department, among other things, runs the day camps and summer camps.

This summer, he said, has proven especially challenging for some of those programs, due to repairs and renovations going on in some of the elementary schools, where the programs are housed.

"In fact, finding places for all of these programs has been one of the most challenging things of my career," he said.

Knudsen said there are also some discussions of improving the sign/announcement board at 72 Eyland Ave.

"We are trying to get an electric sign that shows more. We probably have 10 or 12 events going on in town at any given time that people want to know about," he said.

Cost, however, could be an issue. Estimates show that it



These new "Be Alert" signs at Horseshoe Lake are designed to make walkers, hikers and joggers more aware of their natural surroundings.

will cost about \$25,000 to retrofit the existing sign with new electronics, and \$50,000 to totally replace it with a new sign.

Another challenge, he said, is coming up with a way to get rid of the drainage problem in the front parking lot at 72 Eyland Ave, right in front of the building.

"It is flooded there all the time. I hate that area. We either have to come up with a way to drain it, or I have to start stocking it," he said,

drawing laughs. He was referring to stocking it with fish.

The weather, he said, also has not been on his side this year.

"This is one of the wettest springs and summers we have ever seen. And that makes scheduling and re-scheduling very tough. I still have some of the spring leagues just finishing up their games now and other teams trying to get their last games in because of the

rain," he said.

Rotarian Steve Alford asked Knudsen if he has heard any complaints about the new signs up and around Horseshoe Lake urging walkers and hikers to "be alert."

Knudsen said the signs are necessary due to uneven terrain at areas such as Memory Lane on Horseshoe Lake island.

"Memory Lane is not paved. It's a lot of roots sticking up. We put these signs up to warn people to pay atten-

tion to the natural surroundings as opposed to texting on their phones," he said.

## New President

In another matter, Alford introduced new Roxbury High School Interact Club President Emily Mayor.

The Interact Club works with the Rotary Club in providing services and helping the community.

Mayor, who will be a senior in September, will also undertake the upkeep of

the Rotary Club's Facebook page, loading it with new news items, photos and calendar items.

"I'm very excited to have her be president this year," Alford said. "Her time in the Interact Club is just like my time in the Rotary Club. I was overwhelmed at first, and didn't know what to do. She is taking it and making it her own, which is exactly what was recommended to me by a former Rotary member," Alford said.

# Morris Habitat For Humanity accepting applications for new home in neighboring Mine Hill Township

Applications are now being accepted for four single family homes on Randall Avenue in Mine Hill.

Once completed, the homes will be sold as affordable home ownership to the selected applicant. The sales prices will range from \$135,000 to \$225,000 and are based upon income and household size.

There will be four homes featuring two to four bed-

rooms. One home is a renovated three bedroom with one bath. The second will be a cape cod with two bathrooms and three to four bedrooms. The last two will be ranches with two to four bedrooms and one or two baths. All of the homes will have a basement; some of the bedrooms may be located in the basement. The homes will be energy efficient and feature ener-

gy star rated appliances. Three of the homes will be handicap adaptable.

The Habitat for Humanity homeownership program does more than put a roof over someone's head. In affordable, healthy, decent, stable homes, families can provide stability for their children, a family's sense of dignity and pride grows, health, physical safety, and security

improves and educational and job prospects increase, according to Morris Habitat.

Applicants should check online at [www.morrishabitat.org/homeownership/apply-for-home-ownership](http://www.morrishabitat.org/homeownership/apply-for-home-ownership) for details on qualifications. Applicants should have a household income of at least \$30,000 and there are maximum income limits based on household

size. Additionally, applicants should have good credit scores and a clean credit history. Most important to Morris Habitat is the willingness of the applicant to fulfill the Habitat path to homeownership requirements. These requirements include attendance and participation in home buyer education workshops and the willingness to contribute "sweat

equity" in the amount of at least 300 hours helping to build their home. All the details will be discussed at the mandatory orientation meetings which will be held at Morris Habitat for Humanity, 274 South Salem Street, Randolph.

Date and times include: 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m. on Saturday August 26 and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 30.

# County says keep plastic bags out of recycling stream

The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority is urging county residents to keep all types of plastic bags out of the recycling content they put at the curb for recycling collection, stressing that plastic bags are a major hindrance to recycling operations.

Plastic bags are one of the worst contaminants in the recycling process, on a list of unwanted materials that also include scrap metal, wires, hazardous waste, chemicals, diapers, syringes, nee-

dles, propane tanks, and hangers, according to the county.

None of these items should be included with curbside recyclables since they can hurt employees and disable machinery.

However, plastic bag contamination is especially troublesome because it causes the Morris County MUA's recycling system to shut down several times a day. The plastic bags wrap around rotating axles, wheels and disks of the MUA's me-

chanical sorting and processing system, bringing the system to a halt.

"When the machines are silent, production stops and the receiving lines back up, resulting in a reduction in recycling processing efficiency, safety, and the value of recyclables, while labor costs go up," said MUA Recycling Specialist Chris Vidal.

"At times, plastic bags slip through the sorting process and wind up in the paper bales," said Vidal. "Since plastic, ob-

viously, is not paper, it is a major contaminant of paper bales and can lead to the paper being unmarketable and, therefore, not recycled."

For these reasons, plastic bags, including garbage bags, shopping bags, zip-lock bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, wood pellet bags, etc. and plastic film, shrink-wrap, plastic wrap around cases of water bottles, packing pillows, bubble wrap, flexible plastic food packaging, etc. are excluded from the Morris County

MUA's single-stream recycling program.

So, what to do with plastic bags? They can be recycled at select supermarkets and stores. The bags, including supermarket type plastic bags and bread, newspaper, dry cleaning and other plastic bag, must be empty, clean, and free of moisture or food when recycled at these locations.

In addition, to cut down on the number of plastic bags consider using reusable cloth shopping bags when heading to the

store. Keep a few in your trunk or back seat, advises Vidal.

There is one exception to the "no plastic bag" rule in Morris County's single-stream program: Shredded paper. Shredded paper must be placed in clear or see-through plastic bags so it can easily be seen and manually be removed at the start of the recycling sorting line. Loose shredded paper is too small to be captured for recycling and falls through the automated sorting system.

# GAZEBO: Library makes plans to move it front and center

FROM PAGE 1

sign down.

"I have no idea. We're gonna find out. I don't

even know how long this sign has been here. It has been here as long as I have, and that's 15 years," he said.

DeFillippo said many local professionals and business are contributing to the effort, with the Dyness family taking the

lead.

Scott Fullerton, of Fullerton Landscaping, will be landscaping the project.

Board of Trustees President Jan Wasek said the board and library employees are "extremely excited" about the prospect of moving the gazebo, making it more visible, sprucing it up, and using it for events, such as concerts and the like.

In fact, a concert to dedicate the new gazebo is planned for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10.

"It will definitely be ready by Olde Sucksun-ny Day," she said.

"That's on Sept. 9. And Sept. 10 will be the concert," she said.

The North Jersey Wind Collective is expected to

play on Sept. 10.

The North Jersey Wind Collective (NJWC) is a group of music professionals, dedicated to the performance of high quality wind band music. Hailing from music departments across the country, the NJWC fosters an alliance among musicians who wish to play large ensemble works with their peers. The group aims to bring to a diverse program of music to a variety of audiences and, with their powers combined, "fight the powers of evil" through their pursuit of musical excellence, according to the group's website. Wasek's son, Evan, is one of the conductors of the group. He also plans the tuba.

Library employee Sue

Unger said the gazebo, in its current state and location, is used only a few times per year. The annual township Christmas tree lighting takes place there and sometimes, she said, people pose for wedding pictures there.

The new gazebo will be front and center with Main Street, and will also, when needed, be surrounded by white folding chairs to accommodate crowds for concerts and the like.

Wasek isn't quite sure when the gazebo was built, but said it was likely in the 70's.

"It definitely needs some work," she said.

It also contains - and will retain - portions of the original Wolfe home, which used to sit nearby.

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