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Road Repair Goals Exceeded by Roxbury in 2015



By FRED J. AUN

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ROXBURY, NJ – The Roxbury Road Department managed to do all the road work it planned in 2015, and even some it didn't, said township public works department director Richard Blood.

As the year began, [Roxbury Mayor Jim Rilee said residents could expect an increased focus on road repair and repaving](#). Blood said the crews "did everything that was approved" by the (township) council when it crafted the 2015 budget. "Actually, we did more than

what was originally on the list," he said.

Those extra jobs included unanticipated repaving jobs on sections of Eyland Avenue and Parkview Drive, work needed to repair holes and damage caused by last winter's extreme cold, said Blood.

Also accomplished, but not planned, was the repaving of the so-called "presidents streets" on Mooney Mountain, including Jefferson Drive, Madison Drive, Kennedy Drive, Lincoln Drive, Rose Court and Glenn Drive.

For that work, the township hired a company that "used a new method of recycling the asphalt in place," said Blood. In the method, called "hot, in-place recycling," special machinery heats and removes several inches of the existing asphalt, mixes it with rejuvenating oils and re-applies it.

The method is said to be faster, more environmentally friendly and less expensive than traditional road repaving. Blood said the hot, in-place recycling cost Roxbury 17 percent less than it would have cost to remove the old surface and lay completely new asphalt on the 2.1 miles of "presidents streets" repaved this year.

Another major 2015 project, nearing completion, was the drainage, curbing, sidewalks and paving installed on about 1,900 feet of Succasunna Road in Landing on the border of Roxbury and Mount Arlington, said Blood.

"The township is increasing the emphasis and funding of road paving," said Blood. He said that "leading up to and including 2014" Roxbury paved between two and three miles of road yearly and spent about \$500,000 per year on road resurfacing.

In 2015, the township paved 5.25 miles and it plans to pave about 4.2 miles in 2016. "It sounds like we're paving less in 2016 than 2015, but some of the road widths affect how far you go," said Blood. "If a road is only 20 feet wide, you can go a long way."

In 2015, Roxbury spent about \$1.1 million on road work. "In 2016, we are on target to spend \$1.2 million," said

The department is ready to the inevitable snow and ice of this winter. Thanks to the inordinately mild weather so far, the road department has not used very much of its salt supply.

"I think we barely dipped into our budget or supply, based on one event in October," said Blood. "But don't forget that, starting tomorrow, we're in the 2016 year, and winter is both ends of a year. It's January, February and March and then November and December. The weather forecaster said we could expect mild weather for December and January, but a snowy February."



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