

MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE
Week of July 6, 2015

Parsippany's July Fourth celebration was an amazing success with a wonderful exhibition of fireworks that pleased both young and old. I had the opportunity to see and talk with so many of our residents. In my conversations, I was thanked ten times over for the dynamic music by "The Trip". Having them entertain during this event was especially gratifying and I will make every effort to have them return some time in the near future.

During the fireworks display, I could not help but wonder how the tradition of setting off fireworks on Independence Day began. I discovered that it started as a result of John Adams envisioning fireworks as part of the festivities to celebrate the birth of a new nation. On July 3, 1776, he wrote a letter to his wife stating that the occasion should be commemorated "with pomp and parade, with shews, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from the end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more." The first commemorative fireworks were set off on July 4, 1777 in Philadelphia. And the custom continues!

For those of you who attended July Fourth at Parsippany Hills High School, you may have noticed people in bright green shirts walking around. They were members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and are in attendance at all of the Township's major events like the Summer Concert Series, Fall Festival, Memorial Day Parade and July Fourth Fireworks. These volunteers are trained to assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders may not be immediately available to help – or they might be asked to assist responders with emergency preparedness in their communities.

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area. If this is something you might be interested in, please reach out to Eric Hubner at ehubner@parsppany.net. Classes are slated to begin in the fall.

Please remember that school is out, the streets are busy and our parks are full. Please drive carefully and keep a watchful eye on children playing near the street. A child could dart out at any moment into the street in pursuit of a ball or toy, so please drive with caution.

Another title for Par-Troy Little League East Girls Senior Softball Team!! They have now claimed the title of Section Champs. Next stop Lodi, New Jersey to compete in the State Championship Tournament. Great job ladies! Parsippany is proud of you!!

I would like to thank the Morris County Freeholders for awarding Parsippany over \$180,000 from the County's Preservation Trust Fund to help preserve the Smith-Baldwin House and Craftsman Farms. It is important that historic properties like these are saved and preserved for future generations. We appreciate the County's support in these efforts.

Road Department

The Road Department has been busy repairing many of the older catch basins in town. Some are beginning to sink and orange cones have been placed atop the grates throughout the streets of

Parsippany. Please watch out for the DPW employees making repairs. Please contact my office if you notice a defective catch basin that has not been addressed.

The crews are repairing belguim block curbing that has been displaced or damaged. If this affects you, please report your address to my office.

Our Clean Communities Crew consists of young men aged 14 – 19 who have been hired for the summer through monies obtained from the State via a Clean Communities grant. They have been busy doing roadside clean-up and assisting DPW crews with their chores.

Parsippany Library

The children's department at the library is busy with summer activities for kids of all ages. The summer reading club began on June 29. Everyone enjoyed the Sciencetellers program which was the kickoff event for the summer. There is still time to join the club and encourage your child to have a lifelong love of reading. Pick up a copy of the activity sheet at the children's services desk. Turn in the completed activity sheet by Saturday, August 29 and your child will receive a goody bag full of prizes.

Zumba for Kids will be held at the Parsippany Library on Mondays from 3:30-4:15 pm. The last class is scheduled for August 3, 2015. Learn some new moves and have fun exercising with Zumba! Comfortable clothing and sneakers are recommended.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Storytime. Friday, July 17, 10 am for ages birth to 4 years. Join us for stories, songs, and fingerplays, and learn about the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten reading initiative.

Check out www.parsippanylibrary.org for information about more children's programs.

Mount Tabor Library

Summer Reading 2015 Every Hero Has a Story has begun! Visit the branch and join the Mount Tabor Superhero Squad. Tell who your hero is, your super power and super name to add to the display.

Join us for Rise and Shine Storytime for ages birth to 4 years on Thursdays, July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 10:00 am.

Weekly drop-in crafts are offered to make in the library or to take home. Red, white and blue windsocks were featured for the 4th of July holiday.

Visit the library's on-going displays on loan from The Morris Museum.