

MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE
Week of July 27, 2015

The end of July means it is almost August, aka “back to school” month for many of our college bound residents. For all of those Parsippany High School and Parsippany Hills High School graduates just beginning their freshmen year, I wish you much success. For some of you, it can be the first time away from home and while exciting, it can be a little intimidating. Nevertheless, I hope you will use good judgment and study hard.

While I am saddened that the Par-Troy East Senior Girls Softball Team lost in yesterday's semi-final game, in my eyes, the girls are true champions. Aside from energizing Parsippany, this team went further than any other Little League Softball Team in Parsippany history winning the District, Section and NJ State titles. But more than that, they have always engaged in good sportsmanship and fair play. I am so proud of all they have achieved – both on the field and off. Like the US Women's Soccer team, these exceptional female athletes are now role models for our youth earning their respect and admiration. Congratulations, girls. You make Parsippany proud.

This week has been oppressive with temperatures soaring into the 90's. With temperatures this high, the heat can be unsafe for senior citizens and people with respiratory ailments. The Township opens cooling centers at the Community Center and the three public libraries which are open during working hours. For information, you can call my office at 973-263-4262 or Human Services at 973-263-7163. Please check on your elderly neighbors.

Tax bills will be mailed out next week. This year, the grace period will extend to September 4th.

Human Services/Community Center

New at the Community Center every Friday from 9am to 12pm, will be a fully trained Medicare counselor from the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, S.H.I.P. Anyone with questions about Medicare Health Insurance is welcome to use this service. Call 973-263-7351 for an appointment. Drop-ins are also welcome.

This week the Emergency Food Pantry received a food donation from The Children's Institute (TCI) High School in Livingston. TCI is a school for adolescents and young adults with autism and related disabilities. Please remember that we are always in need of donations – not just during the holiday months.

The next movie to be shown at the Community Center will be “The Hundred Foot Journey” on Friday, August 7, at 1pm.

On August 5th, from 9 am to 3 pm, AARP is sponsoring a Smart Driver Course which will be held at the Community Center. If you want to learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies and new traffic laws and rules of the road, you must register at 973-263-7352

Engineering

I am happy to report that the Vail Road reconstruction project has been completed and the Lake Parsippany reconstruction project has just begun.

Parks and Forestry

This is the busy season for the men of Parks & Forestry as they are actively maintaining all of our township properties as well as the 31 parks we own. You will be happy to learn that they have finished resealing and color coating the handball court at Smith Field. It is now ready for play.

Parsippany Library

Lake Hiawatha Library held its first raffle drawing of the summer. Two lucky children who come to the Lake Hiawatha branch won great prizes, including Minecraft toys and a bucket of toys for outdoor fun. Another raffle drawing will be held at the end of August. Prizes for the August raffle are on display at the library. Patrons will receive a raffle ticket for each item checked out, through the end of August. The more you read, watch movies, or take out any library materials, the better chance you have to win prizes! So, come to the library today to discover all we have to offer!

There are many children's programs scheduled for the month of August at the Parsippany Library. Join the summer reading club before August 29 for a chance to win prizes and discover new books. Two lucky children already received the special gold heart prize in their summer reading goody bags.

Join the "1,000 books Before Kindergarten" program at the Parsippany Library. This free program encourages parents to read 1,000 books with their child before he or she starts kindergarten. Children receive small incentives from the library after reading a set number of books. Children who are read to at a young age have a larger vocabulary when they enter kindergarten. Sign up today at the children's department and you will receive a packet which includes a reading log.

Jersey Jugglers will teach 3-4 Ball Juggling at the Parsippany Library parking lot on Halsey Road Tuesday August 11, 2015 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Enjoy a special performance at dusk. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

Recreation

The summer concert held on July 29th, "Hotel California", was a smashing success. We are lucky to have such a great selection of music for the series. We are looking forward to the next concert, "Time Machine", sponsored by Provident Bank on August 13th so mark your calendars for a fun-filled evening. You will also be able to take advantage of the annual barbecue prepared by ShopRite.