

## MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE

Week of January 4, 2016

The New Year brings new beginnings and on January 1<sup>st</sup> the Inauguration for three Council Members took place at Town Hall. I welcome back veteran Council Members Mike dePierro and Paul Carifi, Jr. and new Council Member Loretta Gragnani. I look forward to working with the Council and new Council President Lou Valori in continuing to achieve greater advancements for Parsippany in 2016.

On Monday I had the pleasure of swearing in eight Special Officers to the police department. Robert Jamieson, Paul Christal, Marcus Dalakian, Joe Drury, Anthony Nardone, Daisy Negron, George Peterson and Michael Ruggier are men and women who will assist the police department by performing routine patrols of schools, township properties and parks. They also have full police authority while on duty and play a key role in keeping our Township safe.

For those residents who are frequent visitors to the Community Center many may know Michele Picone. Michele is the backbone to the programs and departments that aid our senior citizens and residents in need. Her caring ways and dedication to the towns' residents are an asset to the community and I am pleased to announce that Michele has been officially appointed as Director of Human Services.

The Parks & Forestry Department has been taken advantage of this warm winter to make many improvements and repairs to our various parks in town. Recently they installed a new pavilion at Manor Park to utilize for picnics and gatherings. More updates to the parks will continue in preparation for the spring and summer months.

Tragically two house fires occurred this week in town. Everyone made it out safely, thanks to the quick action of our fire departments and first responders. The loss of home and possessions are devastating to the victims. I was on hand to make sure that these residents would have assistance in dealing with these tragedies. We are here to help in times such as these and we have numerous skilled people and resources to rely upon when something like this happens. No one need deal with circumstances such as these alone. This is what community is all about, not just enjoying the good times but helping each other and reaching out when misfortune strikes.

As I've mentioned before in previous updates, I have been advocating against the horrendous practice of human trafficking. I co-sponsored a resolution with other mayors at the League of Municipalities to raise awareness of this heinous crime and spoke about what local government can do to create a zero tolerance policy in their communities. I am honored and humbled to be receiving the **2015 Abolitionists Award** by the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking. I mention this to all of you so that you too can become advocates by being aware that this criminal act happens everywhere, not just in big cities. It is my job as mayor to make Parsippany safe for everyone and this zero tolerance abolitionist movement is a necessary step in doing so.

## **Community Center**

The Stretch and Strength class held at the Community Center on Mondays at 10:30am, has openings for new participants. This class uses resistance bands, weights, bender balls, and is performed half in the chair and half out of the chair with no cardio. The class is held in the downstairs exercise room and is pay as you go, \$3 per session. Call 973-263-7351 with questions.

Movies being shown at the Community Center in January are “Antarctica,” on Friday, January 8th, which documents the unusual life of the researchers stationed on this southernmost continent and “Against the Sun,” on January 22<sup>nd</sup> which portrays the harrowing true story of three WWII airmen stranded at sea after ditching their plane.

## **Parsippany Library**

The Lake Hiawatha Children’s Department started out the first week of the New Year with book clubs for elementary school students. The Treasure Hunters Book Club, for children in grades 3-5, is held on the first Monday of each month at 4pm. My Very First Book Club, for children in grades K-2, is held the first Thursday of each month at 4pm. Both clubs run through the school year. Children who attend discuss books and participate in fun, book-related activities. Registration is required for both programs. Patrons can register online, by phone or in person.