

MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE

Week of January 11, 2016

We have all settled in to the New Year and have begun to work towards the goals we would like to achieve in 2016. While it is important to move forward, and we do so with anticipation, it is also nice to look back on the accomplishments of the previous year. I am proud to say that last year was an extremely productive year for the Township. With cooperation from the various departments within the Township we were able to undertake and complete numerous projects and make improvements to our infrastructure. Our Engineering Department oversaw sixteen streets which were reconstructed with new drainage and curbing and 25 streets that were milled and paved.

Under the guidance of the Parks and Forestry Department our street tree reforestation program has been completed. This program, which was implemented after previous hurricanes and winter storms, replaced the numerous trees that were lost through the high winds and heavy snows. The expansion of Smith Field Park has begun, as well as revitalizing various other parks in the township with upgrades and repairs.

Another improvement that was a direct result of what we learned from Hurricane Sandy and which was a major accomplishment for our Water Utility was the completion of the Standby Generator/Improvement Project. This major Capital Improvement project included the replacement of a 250 KW diesel generator at well #8 and a new 180 KW natural gas generator at well #18. New electrical transfer switches were also installed at other various wells in town. These improvements greatly strengthen the options available to the Water Utility in the event of another major power failure as was experienced by Hurricane Sandy.

We have purchased many new vehicles to add to our fleet in the Roads Department. Front loader garbage trucks and an additional street sweeper have replaced many old and outdated vehicles. Additionally, DPW has been the first department in which a new GPS tracking system has been implemented. This system which is designed to assist management will boost efficiency, improve driver safety, reduce fuel costs and help with vehicle maintenance issues.

2015 saw the reduction to sewer rates by 15% which provided a savings to nearly 21,000 ratepayers. The safety of our town has been improved with the hiring of 8 new police officers which brings our total force to 101 members up from 87.

Business has grown as well. We welcomed many new small businesses to the area and we will now see the addition of a Whole Foods, CVS and two Starbucks in town. While seeing new development we have also preserved the past by receiving grant monies to improve the historic Smith Baldwin House on South Beverwyck Road. Safeguarding our past is as imperative as planning for our future.

I would like to remind everyone that today we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In tribute to his achievements, this evening Temple Beth Am will be holding its annual interfaith

service which honors Dr. King. I am pleased to be speaking at this event which brings together people of all faiths, nationalities and races.

Please remember that in honor of Dr. King's birthday all Township offices will be closed Monday, January 18, 2016.

Copyright 2016 Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills. All rights reserved.