

## MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE

Week of January 18, 2016

Once again we are preparing for another major storm to hit our area. Accumulating snow and high winds are expected Friday night into Saturday. Please be assured that we are diligently following all weather reports and updates so that we are duly equipped for what Mother Nature may bring our way. Our snow plows and salters are ready to go and our Office of Emergency Management has been planning and organizing various responses to fit the needs of the community. Rest assured that our residents' safety is foremost in our planning of any storm.

When snow storms affect our area we all must do our due diligence in keeping everyone safe. For that reason I would like to remind residents that our streets must be kept cleared of all vehicles once the snow begins in order for fire and rescue vehicles to pass through in the event of an emergency. Additionally, all sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours of the storm's ending. Fire hydrants must be kept clear of snow at all times as well to allow our firefighters access should a fire occur. A blocked fire hydrant can cause the loss of valuable time which makes the difference in saving a home and lives.

I would like to encourage everyone to keep the spirit of community going by helping our elderly neighbors who may have difficulty shoveling. Also, we have just installed a generator at the Community Center so we are prepared to set up a warming shelter should the need arise.

The threat of bad weather ultimately brings back memories of being without power during Hurricane Sandy. While no power company can guarantee that there will be no power outages, I would like to let you know that JCP&L, in 2015 has had its best service reliability numbers in 13 years. Last year most JCP&L customers averaged less than one power outage during the year with the average time spent without power being just over an hour in duration. JCP&L's continuation to improve its reliability is reassuring at any time but especially when storms occur.

This week I presented a proclamation to the Township Council regarding a topic I have been diligently speaking out about and advocating against, the practice of human trafficking. As I mentioned recently, I believe it is imperative to raise awareness within the community that this criminal act happens everywhere, every day and in every state across the nation. The more attention this garners from the public the better chances we have to abolish this modern day form of slavery. Working together against this crime brings a greater chance to ending it.

This week we welcome a new Township Clerk, Khaled Madin to Town Hall. Mr. Madin will be bringing his experience from the Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs to his new position. I look forward to working with him and wish him well as the newest member to Town Hall.

Other Noteworthy News:

## **Community Center**

If you require assistance with paying your heating bill you may be eligible for aid through Morris County's Home Energy Assistance Program. Call 973-366-1131 for further information.

If you are using space heaters to heat your home please remember to take precautions and use them properly to avoid the chance of fire.

- Never operate a damaged heater
- Never leave the heater unattended while operating
- Keep any combustible material away from the heater i.e. curtains, bedding, papers, sofas
- Be sure the plug fits securely in the socket
- Never power the heater with an extension cord
- Place the heater on a level surface and never near water

The Food Pantry is in need of food donations of non-perishable items. Located at the Community Center the Pantry is open from 9am to 5pm.

## **Parsippany Library**

On Wednesday, January 20, children in grades K-3 had a chance to practice reading aloud to a therapy dog at Lake Hiawatha Library. Children who sign up for this monthly program can read for 10 minutes to a cute, gentle and non-judgmental listener. Children love interacting with the dogs, and at the same time, build confidence and improve their reading skills. An added future attraction will be the addition of a cat and a guinea pig at some of the sessions. The upcoming Read to a Dog dates are Wednesdays, February 17, March 16, April 20, and May 18, from 7 – 8 p.m. Those interested should call the Lake Hiawatha Library at 973-335-0952, or register in person. Each child will take home a "certificate" for being an awesome reader!

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