

## MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE

Week of  
February 1, 2016

Public safety is a major concern of mine and the welfare of our residents is always a priority. This is why I would like to bring to your attention a crime that is an invasion of your privacy. IRS phone scams, in which people are threatened over the phone with owing tax money, have become more and more prevalent, especially now at tax time. Everyone is a potential target, particularly the elderly and foreigners. Recently two Parsippany residents have fallen victim to this criminal act which preys upon fear and lack of information. The only defense against these thieves is knowledge of how they operate and what to do in the event you receive such a call. These phone scams are not just limited to the false portrayal of the IRS. There are scammers claiming they are someone from your family in need of money, scams in which you can get rich quick or where you are told you are a winner of a prize. Scammers will say anything to cheat you out of your money. Remember just because they may know your name, make small talk and seem pleasant does not mean you should trust what you are hearing. Putting pressure on the victim is what they do best in order to get what they want.

Along with the Parsippany Police Department I would like to pass along the following tips:

- The IRS does not ask payment via pre-paid debit cards or wire transfers
- The IRS will contact you via USPS mail first, then a possible phone call
- Do not trust your caller ID. Scammers will spoof their caller ID to look legitimate
- The IRS will not threaten you with immediate arrest or force you to stay on the phone
- If you suspect the call is fraudulent, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040
- Report your experience to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222
- Never give out personal information such as social security numbers, PIN numbers or credit card information

When in doubt – don't. Chances are if you are surprised at hearing from the IRS then you are not really hearing from the IRS, it's a scammer.

In a continuing partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension we are completing the final project conducted through the Troy Brook Phase II Implementation grant. This grant was received by Rutgers from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. This grant has enabled the township to implement environmentally friendly ways to improve the drainage at various municipal locations which normally would empty into the historic Troy Brook. This remaining project will install porous asphalt in areas of the municipal parking lot. Porous asphalt is similar in appearance to regular asphalt but is specially milled to allow stormwater to drain immediately down through the asphalt to a stone layer underneath. The water is filtered through the stone allowing for cleaner groundwater to be returned to the storm sewer system. Since the water drains immediately it also prevents the occurrence of black ice. This grant truly allowed us to minimize the effects of pollutants draining into Troy Brook and damaging its ecosystem.

Thursday night I presented certificates to Parsippany High School Hall of Fame inductees. Each year PHS honors alumni and staff members who have earned recognition either while in school or during their careers. I would like to congratulate the 1999 PHS Redskins basketball team, Clarence Curry III graduate of 2000, English teacher Ann Greiner, and Dr. Jon Molinare and Nancy Russo Petryna both from the Class of 1980. Their notable achievements have merited them a place in the history of the school.

*Other Noteworthy News:*

### **Community Center:**

Any resident who would like to have their blood pressure checked by our nurses can come to the Health Department located at the Community Center between 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday. No appointment needed.

The Food Pantry distributed over nine tons of food last year to Parsippany residents in need. The food pantry is located in the Community Center, 1130 Knoll Road, Lake Hiawatha, and accepts donations of non-perishable items Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm. Donations dropped at the Town Hall donation box.

### ***February Movies:***

Movies begin at 1:00pm

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - **Love and Mercy**, the story of the Beach Boys co-founder Brian Wilson.

Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> - **Pawn Sacrifice**, the story of the intense World Chess Championship game between Bobby Fisher and Soviet Grandmaster Boris Spassky during the cold war.

### **Parsippany Library:**

Special themes are connected to each month of the year. Everyone knows that February is *Black History* month. But, did you know that it is also *Children's Dental Health* month, *Friendship* month, *Chocolate* month, and *Bird Feeding* month? And, of course, we can't leave out, *Library Lovers* month! So, **come to any of the three Parsippany Library branches** to check out books on these or other topics of interest, as well as to attend our free, exciting and engaging library programs.

The MOMS Club of Parsippany is sponsoring a special musical program by Circle Time Live for preschoolers from birth to age five. This program will be held at the Parsippany Library on Monday, February 29 at 9:30 am. Registration is required to attend this special event. Meet members of the Moms Club and learn about this organization.

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