

MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE

Week of
February 8, 2016

February may be short on days but not on holidays and celebrations. In fact there are more recognized dates during this time than in any other month. Ground Hog Day, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays and of course Super Bowl Sunday are all acknowledged days of commemoration or festivity. We also mark Black History Month as well. I would like to congratulate one of our police officers, Sergeant Allan Griffin, for being a distinguished honoree by the College of Saint Elizabeth's Police Studies Institute and being one of the 2016 Black History Award Recipients.

Congratulations are extended as well to Parsippany police officer Patrolman Remo D'Alessandro for receiving the award for Outstanding Law Enforcement at the Rotary's Annual Distinguished Service Awards ceremony. I also would like to recognize and congratulate the Parsippany High School Academic Decathlon Team which placed first in the region at the New Jersey Regional Competition by winning the Super Quiz. They will now be advancing to the state competition at Ramapo Hills High School. On behalf of the Township I wish them the best of luck!

Additional congratulations are extended to Bruce and Karen Rand who will be celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. The Rands have been residents of Parsippany since 1983 and I would like to wish them continued health and happiness in all the years ahead.

We as a community care about all of our residents and some residents may require a bit of assistance when it comes to being able to stay in their homes. Many senior citizens and disabled people in our neighborhoods rely on the kindness of their neighbors to help them. However, not everyone may have someone close by to help them; that's where I am asking for your help. There is no greater reward than being able to give back to your community or help a fellow resident. If you are willing to shovel snow after a storm or do yard work to assist someone in need please contact my office at partroymayorsoffice@parsippany.net or call 973-263-4256.

Cold weather has hit our area and we will be experiencing record breaking freezing temperatures this weekend. Below are a few tips to help prevent frozen pipes:

- Pipes by exterior walls need special attention. Insulate those pipes that are vulnerable.
- Remove hoses from outside faucets. Faucets cannot drain properly with hoses attached.
- Resist the urge to lower the thermostat if you are gone for the day during severe cold weather.
- Open the doors to kitchen and bathroom cabinets to allow the heat from the room to warm the pipes
- Keep a steady stream of water trickling from the faucets. Running water does not freeze easily.
- Drain all outdoor pipes and turn off the water to any sprinkler system.

If a pipe freezes:

- Know where the main water emergency shut-off valve is located. (Usually by the meter)

- To prevent a pipe from bursting, open the faucet it supplies with water. Then add heat to the area where the pipe is located. (A hair dryer may work)
- If a pipe does burst, immediately turn off the water to your home. (Emergency shut-off valve)

Hopefully a few precautions can prevent a lot of damage.

While we are submerged in the cold weather it is hard to imagine the warmth of summer. Nevertheless, those hot days will be back and with it the arrival of mosquitoes. It may be a bit ahead of the game to start planning but the Morris County Health and Mosquito Control officials have been meeting to discuss the Zika virus and are advising people to take extra precautions this year by discarding or regularly cleaning outdoor items that may hold standing water. Old tires, dirty birdbaths and unused containers are all potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Please remember these are precautionary measures not meant to cause alarm.

While discussing the summer season, JCP&L recently announced that their customers will be receiving a bit of a break during this time. Customers' monthly bills will fall by \$1.12 or 1.2% to \$91.26 as of June 1st. This comes in time when electricity usage is at its peak.

I would like to bring to our residents' attention that on or about April 4th, the NJDOT will be closing the entrance ramp from Route 46 westbound to Route 80 westbound for major repairs. This is the ramp that is just past Edwards Road and before you reach the Arlington Shopping Plaza. This closure is expected to run until August 31st. So please plan alternate routes when traveling in that area as the possibility for traffic delays are likely.

I'd like to remind everyone that in observance of President's Day all Township offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th. And please enjoy your Valentine's Day as well!

Other Noteworthy News:

Community Center:

AARP income tax preparation services are available at the Community Center every Tuesday 9am-1pm until April 15th. Open to all residents 62 and older or disabled. Call 973-263-7351 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Upcoming Health Clinics are: Child Health Clinic on February 23, and Podiatry Clinic on February 26. Call the Health Department at 973-263-7156 or 7157 for more information.

Parsippany Library:

The children's department at the Parsippany Library has many resources for preschool teachers. There are kits on themes including colors, fire safety, pond life, weather, and outer space. Each kit comes in an easy to carry box and consists of four to seven books, activity suggestions, and either a puppet or a CD. Kits can be borrowed for two weeks to use in the preschool classroom.

There are also book club kits for scout leaders, parents, and elementary school teachers. Each junior book club contains 12 paperback copies of the same title, activity suggestions, and discussion questions. Junior Book Club kits may be borrowed for four weeks.

Lake Hiawatha Library:

The *Read to a Dog* program, at Lake Hiawatha Library, has been moved to a new day and time. The new schedule will give more children a chance to read to these cute and gentle listeners! Reading aloud to a pet is a fun activity that helps build children's confidence and improve their reading skills. The new dates will be Thursdays, March 24, April 28 and May 26, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Those interested should call the Lake Hiawatha Library Children's Department at 973-335-0952, or register in person, for a 10-minute session. Each child will take home a certificate for being an awesome reader!

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