

## MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE

Week of  
February 29, 2016

Economic development is crucial to any municipality wishing to advance growth and progress in its business community. Small enterprises are just as important as the larger corporate structures. Without either commodity municipalities struggle to maintain a low tax threshold for its residents. Not only do businesses bring revenue to towns and cities but they provide the opportunity of employment as well. It is also imperative to bring in the right businesses since a partnership will be established between the business organizations and the municipality both whom are working for the good of the public. I have been an advocate for economic growth since I entered office. Parsippany has grown through the years and has become a thriving metropolis of a variety of establishments. This achievement has brought recognition to the township and this week I was invited by the NAIOP New Jersey, the well-known commercial real estate development association to participate on a panel at their Annual Public Policy Symposium. NAIOP is a powerful network of trade associations, asset managers and commercial real estate developers. The theme for the presentation was *Engaging Local Leaders to Reinvent our Communities*. The Mayors from Wayne, Hackensack and Trenton joined me in discussing what was going on in our respective towns, public policy issues, opportunities that developers should be aware of and COAH reform. Views and ideas were exchanged regarding trends in demographics, economics and technology. Transforming our communities while meeting modern day challenges are what mayors face today and these forums allow us to learn, teach and focus on reaching our goals.



Members of the Panel

Our youngest residents are always a pleasure to meet with and this week I met with third grade students from Northvail School to explain the Faulkner E form of government which is what Parsippany follows and the duties of being mayor. Many perceptive observations were made and numerous questions followed. Based on the discussions that we had I believe our future will be in good hands.

“Read Across America” which is celebrated on Dr. Seuss’s birthday has been established as a day to motivate young children in finding the joys of reading. The National Education Association came up with this idea in 1997 to rally enthusiasm for reading much in the way we rally for sports. I have participated in this for many years and it is always gratifying to see the student’s enjoyment as they listen to the stories. This year I was invited to read to Miss Suzanne Calabria-Petersen and Ms. Maloney’s first graders at Intervale School and Mrs. Krail and Mrs. Worthington’s third grade students.

While on the subject of children, I would like to let everyone know that our Parks and Forestry Department has completed the work on the new play structure at Mountain Way Park. Warm weather ahead will bring ample opportunity to check out the new equipment and enjoy.



Mountain Way Park

Finally, I would like to congratulate Officer Pete Rizzolo on his promotion to Sergeant on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sergeant Rizzolo has been with the Parsippany Police Department since 1992 and it was my honor to promote an officer who has received two Unit Commendation Awards and One Command Citation Award during his time with the Township.

*Other Noteworthy News:*

### **Community Center**

**The Health Department** – The next Podiatry Clinic is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and is open to Parsippany residents 65 and older. Call 973-263-7156 for an appointment.

**The Community Center** is one of Morris County ‘s Nutrition Sites. A hot, nutritious lunch is offered Monday through Friday, 11:30am – 1:00pm to senior citizens. A donation of \$2.00 is recommended. Please call 973-884-1868 two days in advance to reserve. Deliveries to the home bound are also available.

Every Monday through Friday at the Community Center, exercise instructors offer the following classes: Senior Fitness, Stretch & Strength, Line Dancing, Falun Gong, Project Heathy Bones,

Yoga, Ballroom Dancing, and T`ai Chi Chuan. Classes are either pay as you go \$3.00 each session, or free. For more information call Gloria at 973-263-7351.

**Parsippany Library**

Come to the Lake Hiawatha Children's Department to participate in our March Madness Tournament of Books! Fill out a ballot to vote for your top choices. Among the contestants are the following books or series: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Big Nate*, *Middle School*, *Dork Diaries*, *Geronimo Stilton*, *Magic Tree House*, *Curious George*, *Pinkalicious*, *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson & the Olympians*, *Frindle*, *Wonder*, *Elephant & Piggie*, *Fly Guy*, *Pete the Cat*, and *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Each week throughout the month of March, winners will appear on a new ballot, until the last week in March, when the winning book will be announced!

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