

MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE
Week of April 11, 2016

As Mayor of Parsippany, I take very special pride when someone from my town is being recognized for outstanding performance. It is no secret that our Business Administrator, Ellen Sandman, is a true professional, leader and a selfless individual who excels at every endeavor. I had the pleasure of being there as Ellen accepted the 2016 Leadership Morris Alumni Achievement Award bestowed upon her by the Morris County Chamber of Commerce. Ellen was a graduate of the Leadership Morris Class of 1998 and is still admired for her community service and leadership abilities. Receiving awards with Ellen were Sheriff Rochford and Jurate Flory, Executive Director of Employment Horizons.

September 10th – 16th is Crime Victims' Rights Week. As part of the Morris County Prosecutor's Outreach Program, I attended the ceremony highlighting the importance of victims' rights and how far we have come throughout the years. Gone are the days when victims were banished from the courtroom and forbidden to speak. Patricia Stewart was the victim/witness advocate for many years at the Prosecutor's Office before becoming Coordinator of the unit. She recently retired and was honored for her tireless work with victims of crime for 25 years. The keynote speaker, Patty Sly, Executive Director of Jersey Battered Women's Service, spoke of the strides being made with regard to domestic violence. JBWS has just celebrated their 40th anniversary and has been instrumental in aiding victims by providing housing and support services. Perhaps the most newsworthy announcement was about the new Family Justice Center that is opening this month on the fourth floor of the Administration Building. Victims of domestic violence will find everything under one roof from legal services to support services.

As Mayor of Parsippany, I was asked by Hanover Councilman, Thomas Gallagher, to attend and join the Coalition for Education and Positive Choices. There are 39 towns in Morris County and the goal is to get elected officials, school superintendents and police from every municipality to join. We had a great start with Hanover Township, East Hanover, Morris Plains, Florham Park and Parsippany in attendance. The purpose of this coalition is to educate adults in the latest drug trends and get children involved by holding events to keep them occupied such as basketball and baseball games with police, teen dances, etc. We hope to educate through the Scouts programs, PTA's and surrounding towns. Tom Gallagher stressed the importance of making each and every child feel important by providing ways to uphold their self-esteem. I am very impressed by the active participants which also included the Morris County Sheriff's and Prosecutor's Offices. Please watch for the latest update on the Coalition.

The official kick-off for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life has begun. I was asked to take part in a group photo with other Mayors from Central Morris County to call attention to generating needed funds to fight cancer. Mayors Roman Hirniak of Randolph, Russell Greuter of Rockaway Borough, Michael Dachisen of Rockaway Township, Thomas Andes of Denville, Jim Dodd of Dover, Councilman Doug McWilliams representing Mayor Peter Holmberg of Mountain Lakes and I stood together united in the cause to fight this deadly disease.

Community Center

The computer lessons are up and running and the program is proving to be both popular and successful. The volunteer students from Parsippany Hills High School and Parsippany High School are doing a wonderful job. If you would like to join in on the learning experience, please call Stacey or Gloria at 973-263-7351 or 7352 to book an appointment.

Health Department

The Child Health Clinic is being held Wednesday April 20th at 10 am. Call 973-263-7156 for an appointment. Families must not have insurance or Medicaid NJ Family Care Plan A.

Office on Aging

Medical Transportation is offered for senior residents of Parsippany who have no other means of transportation or family members to service them. Please call the Office on Aging at least one week in advance to schedule transportation to a doctor's appointment. Persons must be ambulatory. Call 973-263-7351 or 7352 for an appointment.

Parks & Forestry

Now that spring is upon us, many of you will begin enjoying the amenities that Parsippany has to offer. In preparation for the season, Parks & Forestry has been busy tending to our park system. They have mulched and opened all picnic areas in the parks in addition to mulching the playgrounds in Druid Hill, Lake Hiawatha, Mountain Way and Knoll Handicapped Parks. If you have driven by our Victory Gardens on Parsippany Boulevard, you will notice that the plots have been tilled and have been readied for planting.

Parks and Forestry is happy to report that the Township's Community Forestry Management Plan was approved by the State Forestry Service. On April 29th at 11 am in Veterans Memorial Park, we will be celebrating Arbor Day with a huge ceremony attended by State officials and dignitaries from the towns around us. Please mark your calendars as we celebrate "40 years of Tree City".

Water Department

The Water Department began their annual hydrant flushing this week and is steadily progressing with the installation of irrigation meters. Please remember to run your water if it is slightly discolored due to the flushing.

Housing

April 13th began the biennial inspections for Brookside Senior Center.