

MAYOR BARBERIO'S WEEKLY UPDATE

Week of
May 2, 2016

Drug abuse is a problem that has spanned generations. The drug culture has lured many innocent victims into its grasp with millions of casualties as a result. The world today is a much savvier place than years ago as a result of the internet and computers. Children and teens are at risk every day from a trend that they may perceive as being “cool.” Heroin usage has more than doubled since 2007 and some experts consider this an epidemic. It is rapidly increasing among all demographics and does not discriminate from any area in the country. As Mayor of Parsippany I was asked by Hanover Councilman Thomas Gallagher to join the Coalition for Education and Positive Choices. Because of my concern for the youth of not just Parsippany but everywhere, I felt this was a positive way to reach out and make a difference. The purpose of this coalition is to educate adults in the latest drug trends and to get children involved in various activities and events that will keep them occupied and provide ways to improve or uphold their self-esteem making them immune to the allure of drugs. The hope of Tom and the Coalition is that all 39 towns in Morris County will join and help in this fight to keep our youth safe and drug free. The Morris County Sheriff's and Prosecutor's Offices have also joined on. For a more detailed explanation of the Coalition please watch my upcoming interview with Tom Gallagher and Bill Schievella, who is Morris County's Under Sheriff, on Pride in Parsippany TV21.

May not only commemorates Mother's Day but is also Older Americans Month. Older adults are a growing and increasingly vital part of our community. They are blazing trails in all aspects of our communities. They are reinventing themselves instead of slowing down and are making positive impacts on people of all ages. Morris County Clerk, Ann Grossi, has established the Cecilia “Cissy” Laureys Senior Volunteer Award to honor those older individuals who have dedicated their time by helping to improve services for senior citizens just as Cissy did. This is a noble ceremony and one of which I am proud to be attending. I would like to thank Ann for her thoughtfulness in honoring and bringing much needed attention to our wisest treasures.

This week we had an international guest visiting the Parsippany Rescue & Recovery team. Ana Lara a head dispatcher for a fire department in Valparaiso, Chile where she has worked for 50 years was warmly welcomed and given a tour and education of operations. This was a tremendous opportunity for everyone to learn from each other and become acquainted with techniques that may vary from ours.



We have been planning our Summer Concert series. This year we will be presenting The Bronx Wanderers, YEEHAW, The Cameos and Time Machine. Please check out our website or Facebook page for dates and times.

Please mark your calendar as well for our annual Memorial Day Parade which will take place on Monday, May 30th at 12 noon. This year the parade will march down Sylvan Way and Route 202. We also hold a wonderful ceremony at 10:00am at Veteran's Park to honor the fallen and remember their heroism. I encourage everyone to join me there to salute our heroes and pay them homage.

Finally, I would like to extend a warm and happy Mother's Day to all of the moms and grandmothers that make our lives special and mean so much to us!

Other Noteworthy News:

Community Center

The hot weather is coming, but The Parsippany Community Center offers a place to cool down and relax. If you want to just sit and have a cup of coffee or tea, we have free coffee and tea. Often snacks find their way to the kitchen, too! If you want to be active there is so much to do here throughout the day. Low impact exercise classes such as Senior Fitness and Stretch- and-Strength take place weekly and they are pay as you go, \$3.00 each session. Tai Chi, Ballroom Dancing, and Line Dancing will take your mind off the heat. Pool tables and ping pong tables are available at all times. There's an exercise room with treadmills, bicycles and free weights. If you're a card-player, there's Bridge, Mahjong and Pinochle going on throughout the week. We also show movies twice a month. There's so much going on at the Center it could fill a whole page. Located at 1130 Knoll Road, the Center is open 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday.

Friday May 13th, the movie **Advanced Style** will be shown. This documentary examines the lives of seven unique New Yorkers whose eclectic personal style and vital spirit have guided their approach to aging. In room B at 1:00 pm; 1 hour and 12 mins.

Office On Aging – We have **NJ Transit Reduced Fare Booklets** for Seniors 62 years and over. Those between the ages of 62 – 65 can apply for a NJ Transit Card as well. All are available at our office.

Health Department- Our next Child Health Clinic is on May 18th, at 10am. Please call the nurses for an appointment and more information @ 973-263-7156.

Parsippany Library

Lake Hiawatha Library will be hosting LEGO Robotics programs during the extended Memorial Day weekend. Both programs will be presented by Parsippany-based Steam Works Studio. Children, grades 1-3, who attend the *LEGO Robotics* program, at 1:00 pm or 2:30 pm on Friday, May 27, will build and program robots using computer software and LEGO bricks. Children, grades 4-7, who attend the *Robotics EV3 Mindstorm* program, at 1:30 pm on May 31, will learn how to build and program using LEGO Mindstorm EV3 robotic kits. Children do not need prior experience with computer programming in order to attend. Call the Lake Hiawatha Library at 973-335-0952 to register for these 1-hour workshops. Registration begins two weeks prior to each program date.

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