



# Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills

## MAYOR JAMES BARBERIO



Weekly update of 09/26/16

### **After nearly thirty years of attempting, the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills has finally acquired 124 acres of the Forge Pond Property located between Smith Road and South Beverwyck Road.**

The Township has also received a \$600,000.00 check from the developer, Parkside Gardens, to assist the Township preserve the historic Forge Pond dam. Mayor James R. Barberio stated "This is a great day for Parsippany. The Township has been trying to get this property for decades, and I'm proud that my administration got it done. I must also credit Council President Lou Valori and Councilman Michael dePierro for assisting his administration. "Council President Valori and Councilman dePierro were very instrumental in assisting the Township acquire this property. Both participated in settlement meetings and advocated the importance of this acquisition to their colleagues. Under the terms of a prior settlement reached with Parkside Gardens back in June 2013, the 130 acre Forge Pond tract was to be subdivided into two parcels with approximately 6 acres to be developed into a 52 unit townhouse project and the 124 acre balance of the property, including the Forge Pond Dam, to be conveyed to the Township, subject to certain conditions. Under the prior settlement, the developer had agreed to give the Township \$350,000.00 to preserve the Forge Pond Dam. A dispute ensued between Parkside Gardens and the Township, eventually prompting the Township Construction Officer to recently issue a stop work order on the job site. Parkside Gardens filed a law suit and sought emergent relief from Judge Minkowitz to remove the stop work order. At a hearing conducted on September 19th, the Judge refused to order removal of the stop work order and directed the parties to attempt to resolve their dispute. A special meeting of the Parsippany Council was held on September 27th to approve the settlement and settlement documents were signed yesterday afternoon at Township attorney John Inglesino's office. Councilman Michael dePierro stated "preservation of the dam structure is a significant piece of Parsippany's heritage. Agricultural tools were manufactured at the Forge prior to the Civil War and the Forge was used to make cannon balls during the Civil War. It is my hope that the Forge Pond dam can be placed on the historic registry." Council President Lou Valori added, "Preserving this important piece of history is another significant accomplishment and demonstrates that great things can happen when the Mayor and Council work together."



### **Prosecutor's Community Outreach Program**

I and Parsippany's new youth counselor, Sunny Sullivan-Fullerton, were in attendance as Morris County Prosecutor, Fred Knapp, led the war on drugs at his Community Outreach Program on the heroin and opiate epidemic. The audience was informed about new pending legislation regarding the prescribing of opioids. Brad Seabury, Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Special Operations Division, gave a presentation on the use of Narcan, statistics on drug use in Morris County and introduced CARES which is lauded as the pathway to get into treatment. The session impacted everyone. I have always attempted to reach out to the younger children in the schools and make them aware of all of our new programs. Parsippany also hired a new youth counselor to address issues, with the students.



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I welcomed the Spanish exchange students from Parsippany High School along with Jay Duhl, Spanish teacher from the "High". They were quite impressed with their visit to Town Hall and had a multitude of questions for me about Parsippany. They spoke English quite well and seemed to grasp the many facts spoken about. I was presented with a tee shirt with the names of the two sister cities, "Parsippany and Palencia, Spain 2016-2017."

Each day the township's Health Inspectors go out on the road, and make unannounced inspections of our local restaurants. Ensuring food safety and protecting the public health are the goals of each inspection. If violations are found, establishments are given a time period to correct, and inspections are made to ensure corrections are done. In 2015, eight hundred and seventy-four (874) food establishment inspections were conducted. Remember, if you intend to open a new food establishment, or serve food or beverages to the public at any event, please call the Health Department for guidance. They can be reached at 973-263-7160.

**The Parsippany Library invites children and their families to meet children's book author Audrey Vernick on Thursday, October 6 at 7 pm.**

She will talk about creating her stories. Ms. Vernick's books will be available for purchase after the presentation. Her books include *First Grade Dropout*, *Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?* *Brothers at Bat*, and *Two Naomis*. This event is recommended for children age five and older and their families.

