

Little Silver NEWSLETTER



Mayor
Robert C. Neff, Jr.

Council Members

Donald S. Galante
Christopher Healy
Michael Holzapfel

A.J. McNally
Christian Smith
Corinne Thygeson

Administrator / Clerk
Kimberly Jungfer

August 2020

Message From Mayor Neff

To Our Residents and Businesses;

The more things change, the more they stay the same, someone once said. Perhaps that wise person lived in Little Silver.

First, we're pleased that **our regular newsletter is back**, after four months of my letters-in-lieu, focusing on the COVID-19 crisis. A small sign of normalcy, perhaps.

As to things staying the same, our August newsletter last year began with this sentence: "Our stormy Monday at the end of July left some of us without power, but thankfully the downed trees and wires caused only minimal property damage, and no injuries."

Substitute Thursday for Monday, and that could be the beginning of this month's newsletter. Here are a couple **reminders for when we get hit with such storms**:

*JCP&L has, since Superstorm Sandy, vastly improved its ability to communicate the status of its power restoration efforts, which you can find at firstenergycorp.com, or by calling 1-800-LIGHTSS. You can also report outages that way.

*Please do not call police with questions about power outages. They will be inundated with emergency calls during a storm, and will have no information about the status of power restoration.

*Likewise, never call the Fire House directly to report an emergency. Dial 911 or call police at (732) 747-5900. The Fire House is not staffed 24/7, especially when our volunteers are constantly out on calls, as they are during storms.

Thanks for your cooperation in helping our extraordinary first responders do what they do best: helping you in an emergency, which they did flawlessly during the recent storm.

And by the way, if you haven't done so, please take a minute to **sign up for emergency texts, emails and phone calls**. Go to littlesilver.org, and click on Emergency Services at the top of the page, and then click on Two River Alert – Code Red Emergency Notifications. You can also call (866) 939-0911 for assistance. We're in the midst of hurricane season, so now would be a good time.

So as to things that change, there is much to report.

Due to COVID-19 and the State's orders and guidelines **borough hall remains closed to the public, but is fully staffed**. Phone calls and emails are answered, and contact-free personal visits, such as to pick up or drop off documents, can be arranged.

The Little Silver Library has been providing services and information by way of its website, and is now open for curbside pickup of books and publications. We know our residents love the library as a place to sit and relax with a good book, a newspaper, a book club meeting, or to plug in to its free wi-fi, and we continually discuss the safety and potential protocols of opening up again to in-person visits. We're not quite there yet, just as many local libraries are not.

The recycling center has been open during the week for many weeks, and will now be open again on Saturday mornings. Please wear a mask whenever dropping off recyclables.



AUGUST Borough Calendar

Saturday, August 1st
10 am – 1 pm: Post Office
Museum Closed

Thursday, August 6th
9:30 am: Municipal Court
Virtual
7:00 pm Planning Board
Virtual

Monday, August 10th
6:30 pm: Council Workshop
Cancelled
7:00 pm: Council Meeting
Virtual

Tuesday, August 11th
8:00 pm: Rec Committee
Virtual

Thursday, August 20th
9:30 am: Municipal Court
Virtual

Wednesday, August 26th
7:00 pm: Environmental
Commission Virtual

...continued

Our local businesses are open, and many restaurants have taken advantage of the ability to host outside dining. Please patronize them often. Even with the small business grant program run by Monmouth County – we are sharing that information on all our communication platforms – they were hit hard. We're aware of at least two that won't be returning (Hoffman's Ice Cream, which will be keeping its other stores open, and the Salon in the same group of shops), so please remember that ball team sponsorship, the great bagel you bought downtown, the gift card donated to a local charity, the personal service you receive from our friendly local merchants, and shop local. And when you dine *al fresco*, tip as generously as you can.

Our recreation programs are operating as they are able under the state's orders. Summer camp had to be cancelled, but check elsewhere in this newsletter for a recreation program status update, and monitor its website for information as the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold.

Our walking trails and parks remain open (they were never closed), and now our **playgrounds, tennis courts, and public restrooms have reopened**. Please obey the signs advising of COVID-19 protocols where posted, and please note that there is now a sign-up system for the tennis courts.

Environmental Day, which was cancelled in March, may be revived in October. For those who like the paper shredding, clothing donation, electronics disposal, and environmentally-friendly services, advice and discussions, the Environmental Commission is planning on an October date in a socially distanced fashion, outside at the Woman's Club. Watch for a date.

A few **public safety and infrastructure improvements** are moving forward soon: repair of the railroad crossing on Silverside, presently scheduled for August 27 but subject to potential rescheduling; the repaving of the large train station parking lot; and various road and sidewalk improvements, including sidewalk installation on the north end of prospect.

Associated detours and public notices are always put out on our information platforms, and changes and detours are often put out on our Code Red emergency alert system mentioned above.

Our police department has for several years hosted a **National Night Out** event in August, complete with free food, drink, demonstrations and exhibits. The department was sad to report that the pandemic has forced the cancellation of this year's event. The next event will be without **Lt. Kevin Halpin**, who retired last month after 29 years of service to the borough. Please wish this kind, dedicated officer well in his well-deserved next chapter.

The Parker Homestead hosted a successful virtual concert in lieu of its seasonal Ramble on the front porch, thanks to resident Dave Ballard and the Homestead trustees.

They are exploring the possibility of a fall in-person concert on the lawn, and potential other events, so please stay tuned for further information about activities at this historic farmstead.

As to the COVID-19 numbers, as of this writing, **Little Silver has had a total of 45 positive cases** since early March. Municipalities do not receive details such as current active cases, percentages of positive and negative tests, and the like. Over the past two months, the number of new positive cases has been minimal, bouncing up by three just over the past ten days. Our Health Commission continues to conduct contact tracing, so if you are contacted, please cooperate. The information is kept confidential.

We know you're tired of hearing it, but please **continue to follow the state's orders** (all can be found at [covid19.nj.gov](https://www.covid19.nj.gov)), wash your hands frequently, wear a face covering whenever with others aside from your immediate family (especially when indoors, but also outdoors when socially distancing is impossible) and keep an eye out for your friends and neighbors. We've all read about the resurgence in other states, so please continue to help keep our numbers down here.

Little Silver Helpers continues to help those in need, and to accept donations. That great volunteer group can be contacted at [littlesilverhelpers@gmail.com](mailto:littleSilverhelpers@gmail.com), or at (732) 383-5017. And for those who may benefit from some **counseling or emotional assistance**, NJ Mental Health Cares can be reached at 1-866-202-HELP (4357) for free, confidential support. This is not easy.

The Borough Council, Planning and Zoning Board, Environmental Commission, Board of Health, and Traffic and Safety Committee continue to meet via Zoom. It's not an ideal platform, but so far, so good. Our Shade Tree Commission and Recreation Committee will have public meetings again soon as well. Our health board has been very helpful in the Borough's response to the pandemic, by the way and we appreciate our Planning Board's efforts to continue hearing applications. **Please check the website and our other communications platforms for meetings times or changes, and for information about how to participate remotely.**

Lastly, we note with sadness **the passing of Harold Scott**, a long-time Boy Scout leader in Little Silver. He was also a member of the Fire Police, and a crossing guard. Hal, or Scotty, was remembered beautifully on line by so many, and his son Rob has kindly offered to donate much of his Scouting memorabilia from the 1960s, 70s and 80s to the town. God speed, Mr. Scott, and thank you for service.

On behalf of the entire governing body, we wish you all good health during the Two River area's summer season. As always, please call borough hall with any concerns, or contact me directly by calling my home phone at (732) 576-8595, or emailing me at bobneff80@gmail.com. Peace.

Did you know...? We have moved our Tennis Court reservation system to an online platform to streamline the process! You will be required to create profile the first time you log on at: littlesilver.tennisbookings.com

Reservations will still be required for the courts and they continue to be for passive recreation use only.

If you have any questions please contact Carlye Laido at claido@littlesilver.org

LITTLE SILVER REC THANKS OUR SPONSORS

Riverview Center Women's Auxiliary Care To Give

Dr. Gregory Coakley, Two River Orthodontics

Ryser's Landscape Supply

The VanDeBoe Family

Little Silver Travel Basketball

Grand River Supply

Little Silver Carvel

SWL Collective

Messano Associates, Inc

Shamrock Enterprises

Target Transportation

TideWatch Physical Therapy

ON Partners

TGI Friday's

The Donohue Family

The Trotte Family

BCG Advisors

Computacenter

Gluck Walrath Law

LS Police Local 359

Livingston Physical Therapy

Galkin Orthodontics

Athletes Alley

EA Armstrong Realtors Agency

BC Electrical Contracting

Cullen Funds

ACME

Fresh Personal Trainers

Gianni's Pizzeria

Liberty Wealth Solutions

Heritage House Sotheby's International Realty

Leon Avakian Engineers

Kane Brewing Company

Little Silver Carvel

McOmber, McOmber and Luber Law

Next Level Technologies

PAZZO Restaurant

Tonneman & Connors LLC

Johnsen Diamond

Little Silver Fire Department

REC REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SPORTS PROGRAM

COACHES ALWAYS NEEDED & APPRECIATED

ONLINE: www.littlesilver.org

Fall SOCCER GRADES K-8

Soccer Registration is open! No fees will be charged until the season is up and running. Deadline for registration is August 10th.

Keeping the health and safety of our children in mind, Little Silver Recreation has decided not to participate in the broader NMSA soccer league this fall. In the interest of limiting our young athletes' and their families' exposure to other towns, this year, Little Silver will *only* play other Little Silver teams.

Fall Girls Field Hockey Grades 5-8

Beginner and advanced players welcomed.

For more information contact Carlye Laido at claido@littlesilver.org

Library News

In order to help ensure the health and safety of our patrons and staff, the library will be closed for the foreseeable future. While we have been proud to stay open to serve the public amid storms and other emergencies, the best way that we can serve our patrons now is to help contain the virus, especially as our patrons include many seniors and others at high risk.

During this time, the library is open for front door pickup which is available Monday through Saturday 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Patrons can either call the library at 732-747-9649 to request materials or place a hold on our online catalog that can be found on our website at www.littlesilverlibrary.org. You can even request items from the county library. Once your item is available, we will call you to arrange for pickup. This process has been working well and patrons appreciate it. The same procedure will be used for museum passes when they open. The library has been offering virtual programs for children and adults and will continue to do so. Please consult our website and follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram for the latest information and programming events. If you don't already receive our e-newsletter, please call us with your email address so that you can be up-to-date.

**Little Silver
Borough Hall**

480 Prospect Avenue
Little Silver, NJ 07739
732-842-2400
www.littlesilver.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BoroLittleSilver/

Business Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Borough
Directory**

Emergency: 9-1-1
Borough Hall
732-842-2400

Police Department
(non-emergency)
732-747-5900

Tax Collector
732-219-0812

Tax Assessor
732-842-7039

Zoning Officer
732-842-0261

Municipal Court
732-842-3881

Board of Health
732-493-9520

Public Library
732-747-9649

Fire Department
(non-emergency)
732-741-0934

MESSAGE FROM THE TAX OFFICE

Tax bills were mailed by Friday, July 17th. Third quarter property taxes are due August 1st. The grace period has been extended to Friday, August 14th. Due to the pandemic, Borough Hall is still closed to the public. Payments can be made by mail, drop box (available in the police department entrance vestibule, open 24/7) or online at www.littlesilver.org (fees apply). Due the current economic situation, if the amount billed cannot be paid in full at this time, our office does accept partial payments. Unfortunately, per NJ State Statute, any balances remaining after the grace period ends will incur interest back to August 1st.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS,
PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS AND
VARIOUS COMMITTEES ARE MEETING VIA
ZOOM**

Since March of this year, when COVID 19 caused a shutdown the Mayor and Council have continued to hold public meetings via Zoom. Municipal Court has continued to hold court sessions and the Planning Board resumed meetings in June both via Zoom and many of the Borough committees are starting to meet again on this virtual platform. If you would like to virtually attend any of these meetings, login or telephone call in information can be found on the Borough website, www.littlesilver.org, the Borough Facebook page and Constant Contact. You can always call Borough Hall at 732-842-2400 to find out meeting dates or check the Borough website for upcoming meetings.