

Little Silver

NEWSLETTER



Mayor
Robert C. Neff Jr.
Council Members

Donald S. Galante
Kevin Brennan
Michael Holzapfel

A.J. McNally
Christian Smith
Corinne Thygeson

Administrator / Clerk
Kimberly Jungfer

April 2021

Message From Mayor Neff

Lots of news, from the passing of a wonderful volunteer to a new face in town to the budget, but first, a request for continued caution.

In March, our little ones hunted Easter eggs by the gazebo and visited with the Bunny, and we cleared out our attics, garages and basements at a hyper-busy Environmental Day. Both days were gorgeous, and optimism filled the air.

We wore our masks and socially distanced, and the egg hunt was done in multiple stages to limit congestion, but it almost felt like normal, thanks to the Recreation Department, the Little Silver PBA, and our Environmental Commission.

I say almost, because as I write this at the end of March, new COVID cases continue to appear in Little Silver, typically three or four a day. And while the vaccine supply is increasing and more of us have become eligible, here is the simple reality: if the numbers of new cases don't come down, the state has promised to slow the reopening.

So please continue to follow the familiar prescribed protocols, and help contain this thing. We know it's draining, but hang tough for the foreseeable future.

That said, with your help, we anticipate a time, as soon as possible, when state restrictions are further relaxed, and we can further reopen.

Among other things, the town is discussing protocols to get the public back into Borough Hall, the Woman's Club, and the Library. Concerns for the public's and our employees' health will drive our decisions, but we're moving in that direction as quickly as we can safely do so.

In addition, the expectation is that we

will have some form of in-person Memorial Day ceremony. We're not quite sure what it will look like yet, given that we'll be required to comply with whatever guidelines are promulgated by the state at that time. But we'll surely do something to honor our fallen soldiers.

Next, the town was saddened to learn of the death of Steve Strauss in March. Steve was a life member, trustee and former lieutenant in the Little Silver EMS. Police noted that he responded to so many first aid calls that he was always one of the first EMS members that new officers met.

Universally, Steve was recalled as a devoted volunteer and mentor, as a friend, and as a gentleman. Little Silver will miss him, and we extend condolences to his family, his friends, and his EMS colleagues.



Looking forward, the Borough Council has introduced the municipal budget, which will come up for a public hearing this month.

Our CFO, Laura Geraghty, tells us that overall spending stayed relatively flat, with a total spending increase of \$160,000, half of which was due to mandatory statutory expenses.

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Borough Calendar

Thursday, April 1st

9:00 am: Court Virtual
7:00 pm: Planning Board Meeting Virtual

Friday, April 2nd

Boro Offices and Recycling Yard closed

Monday, April 5th

7:00 pm: Mayor & Council Regular Meeting Virtual

Tuesday, April 13th

8:00 pm: Rec Meeting Virtual

Thursday, April 15th

9:00 am: Municipal Court Virtual

Monday, April 19th

7:00 pm: Mayor & Council Regular Meeting Virtual

Tuesday, April 20th

7:00 pm: Board of Health Meeting Virtual

Monday, April 26th

8:00 pm Shade Tree Commission Meeting Virtual

Wednesday, April 28th

7:00 pm: Environmental Commission Meeting Virtual

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In addition, our volunteer services budgets increased somewhat because of the Active Threat/Tactical project training necessary to keep our devoted first responders and the public they serve safe in the current environment.

Still, the municipal purposes increase is less than a tax point and is \$161,341 under the two-percent tax levy cap.

So, with the overall increase in property valuation, the municipal tax rate will decrease this year from 0.446 in 2020 to 0.440 in 2021, meaning that a house valued at \$700,000 will see a tax decrease of \$48.00, assuming the value remained the same. Please remember that your municipal tax rate is just over a quarter of your yearly tax bill; because the school and county (making up more than two thirds your tax bill) have not yet passed their budgets, the overall tax rate is not yet known.

Ms. Geraghty advises that savings in the budget were attributable to smart departmental spending, shared services on equipment and certain borough operations, and dollar-for-dollar reimbursement of our COVID-related expenses (through Monmouth County and the CARES Act).

And speaking of Ms. Geraghty, this is her last municipal budget. Our friend Laura is retiring in July, and deservedly so, after many years of devoted service. Conscientious and always friendly and helpful, Laura was a consummate, reliable professional, and we will miss her. Please take the opportunity over the next couple of months to wish her well in her next chapter.

Looking forward, we're pleased to note that our sidewalk project has been jump started after COVID- and weather-related delays. Many of you have seen the work, either in person or posted on line, beginning with the 'missing link' on the north end of Prospect from before Crest and extending all the way to Harding Road.

We're also trying to keep up with post-winter potholes, using cold patch as a temporary fix, and sharing the hot patch machine we purchased with Rumson as it is available. We have some real dingers on our list.

In other improvement notes, our Department of Public Works has done an extraordinary job with the courtroom in borough hall (while it has been empty) completely removing the old fake wood paneling motif dating to the early 1970s and replacing it with a blue, white and gray color scheme on wainscoting and sheetrock walls.

Rick Ferrante and Rocky Nolin of our Public Works department did very skillful work, with lots of input from Director Jimmy Gannon and other denizens of interior decorating in and around Borough Hall. Because we did not have to contract out for this work, the financial savings to the borough was huge. Thank you to all involved.

In similar skilled fashion, Larry Harrington, Nick Plevier, and Brody Heron of public works reconstructed the raised wooden garden boxes and the compost box at the Community Garden, just in time for spring planting.

Those projects and the hard work plowing snow in February, and now taking care of the 'new grass on the field[s]' for our athletes, has kept our public works folks hard at work: a tip of the hat to them when you can, please.

Next, Councilman AJ McNally, along with the offices of Sen. Declan O 'Scanlon and Assemblywoman Serena DiMasio, organized an effort to get vaccine appointments for our seniors and other eligible recipients, focusing on those who may have had a difficult time navigating the electronic sign up maze.

Many have already been signed up. To seek assistance, please call borough hall at (732) 842-2400, or log on to the borough website at www.littlesilver.org. Thanks to AJ and all involved for this thoughtful effort.

As to that new face, please welcome our newest police officer, Christopher Ibarra. Chris comes to us from Rumson, and hit the ground running after a swearing-in by Zoom, with new family members in Brazil looking on. We're excited to have him join the force. When you see him, please welcome him to town.

Lastly, as we move into warmer weather, our resident naturalist, John Heidema, has been walking our trails and keeping a sharp eye out. He's seen owls, eagles, herons and other waders, and so many other wonderful critters in and around our fair borough.

We'll continue to publish John's writings periodically. But even if you don't have the chance to catch up with John, please do get out and enjoy our natural spaces and trails. You'll be glad you made the effort.

On behalf of the Governing Body, have a wonderful spring! If you have questions or comments, please call borough hall at (732) 842-2400, or contact me at home at (732) 576-8595, or by email at bobneff80@gmail.com.

Robert C. Neff Jr.
Mayor, Borough of Little Silver



Recreation News



Summer Recreation is moving forward - which means we need counselors! Please see the information under the Summer Rec tab on the Recreation Website.

Applications are due by April 15th and you must have finished 9th grade.

Please email claido@littlesilver.org with any questions. <http://littlesilver.org>

Camp registration will begin June 1st.

Environmental Day 2021 held by Little Silver Environmental Commission was hugely successful!

*An entire truck was filled and then some with electronic recycling.

*Three quarters of the clothing truck was filled with donation for The Mission of Trenton.

*The paper shredding truck almost reached capacity.

The Environmental Commission would like to thank everyone for their support, donations, and responsible recycling!

BRUSH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Brush only: January – October

Brush may be placed to the curb at any time during this time period.

Reminder: *No grass clippings are to be placed to curb for pickup.

*Do not mix brush and leaves

*Do not place within 10 feet of a storm drain



Collection of **BRUSH ONLY** runs January through October.

Library News for April

Celebrate DIA this month! Diversity in Action...with Peacock Surprise! – Grades K and up

Saturday, April 17 from 10:00-11:00 am

Enjoy a unique, interactive workshop presented by Seema Moondra of **Enjoy Explore India**. Discover the art and culture of India through storytelling and design your own piece of peacock artwork! Please have crayons, markers, pencil, and paper ready at home to complete the project.

Join us on Zoom for this fun-filled event! Advance registration required beginning April 3. The Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants the day before the event. Register on the Monmouth County Library Children’s page.

Make Space This Spring!

Presented by Jamie Novak

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 01:00 PM via Zoom

If you have too much stuff and not enough time to go through it all then this is the program for you. Join best-selling author and organizing humorist Jamie Novak for this virtual program that will teach you what to do first and how to go sort it all out.

Register for this class on our website under Virtual Programs at www.littlesilverlibrary.org

Preschool Take and Make Crafts switch out weekly and can be found on our front table.

A selection of **jigsaw puzzles** is also available to borrow on our front table, which will be quarantined upon return.

Residents may check out the following museum passes with a Little Silver library card in good standing:

- **American Museum of Natural History**
- **The Frick Collection**
- **Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum**
- **Museum of the American Revolution**
- **New-York Historical Society**

Call the library at 732-747-9649 for details on how you can reserve passes.



Little Silver Community Garden has reached capacity with all 57 assorted-sized plots claimed!

**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

**Some friendly reminders from our
Department of Public Works:**

- The Little Silver recycling yard is open to residents only from 8 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday and 8 am to 12 pm Saturday.
- There is no longer a schedule for brush pick-up; it is picked up continually from January through October.
- Branches must be no more than 4 feet in length and 12 inches in diameter.
- Make sure brush piles do not block storm drains (or within 10 feet), as this can cause backup and flooding.
- Do not mix leaves and brush together; as per state law, they need to be recycled separately.

Traffic & Safety Tip

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Texting and driving is one of the most dangerous forms of distracted driving. At any given moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010. Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on America’s roadways.

This April, and throughout the year, let’s work together to spread this lifesaving message:

U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

Did you know...?

Grass clippings can be healthy for your lawn!

“Grasscycling”, or leaving your grass clippings behind when you mow, is a natural way to fertilize. Grass clippings contain water and nutrients, especially nitrogen. When the 1” or less clippings are left on your lawn, they release their water and nutrients as they quickly decompose, allowing your grass to stay healthy, thick, and green.

Grass clippings can also be used in compost or as mulch around your plants.



*Please remain vigilant,
wear a mask, stay at
least 6 feet from
others, wash your
hands frequently, and
avoid crowds. Please
visit our website for
vaccine information.*

THANK YOU!