

August 2015:

Little Silver recently received a top ranking in a list of great places to raise a family. There are lots of reasons for that, chief among them our volunteers and employees, who help create a friendly sense of community.

Our August events and news items, and a new addition to our website, are great examples of what makes our town special.

First, our Recreation Department is again hosting Sunday Night Concerts in the Park. Located directly behind the Municipal Building, the concerts run from 7 to 8:30 Sunday evening, beginning August 9. In the event of rain, the concerts will be moved indoors to the Little Silver Woman's Club at 111 Church Street.

All are invited to pack a picnic, bring a chair or blanket and enjoy an outdoor concert in the center of town. Check our website, www.littlesilver.org, for the complete schedule.

Next, our Police Department on August 4 is hosting National Night Out behind Borough Hall from 6 to 9 p.m. Please stop by, bring the kids, and meet our officers. There will be safety and crime prevention programs, emergency vehicles, demonstrations, bounce houses, animals, movies, music, and food.

And related to that, please watch for increased police bicycle patrols beginning this month. Our officers, on the department's initiative, are looking forward to connecting with residents in a way that patrol cars sometimes don't make possible.

Before you head out to these events, you might want to check our website to see what John Heidema has been up to. You might have seen John, with his white hair, string trimmer or clippers in hand (or both), walking our nature trails and other public areas that might need some touching up.

John's knowledge of the town's flora and fauna, both native and invasive, runs deep, and is informed by his decades of experience as one of the town's premier, volunteer public caretakers. His periodic, detailed trail notes – the Heidema Report - are now posted on the website for all to enjoy, and as a useful forecast to the conditions of our trails, should you be headed out for a walk.

Yet another volunteer effort, by talented high school student Theo Cheevers, will provide the borough with a resource to help it assess our less "natural" trails – sidewalks and crosswalks. Theo will be mapping and documenting the location and condition of our walkways, and preparing a report for the Governing Body this fall.

We appreciate Theo's assistance in our continuing efforts to improve and maintain these areas.

Next, a couple reminders, for the good of the order:

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First, if you have not already done so, please have your landscaper or yard maintenance company register with the borough, as now required. Registration will help us to enforce our brush and limb pick up times, as published on our website.

Next, please remember that lawn signs are not permitted without the permission of the Borough Council, which is reserved for charitable or town-wide events to benefit the community. Contractors' signs, signs advertising businesses, and the like – with the exception of real estate 'for sale' signs – are not allowed.

No one loves having to impose rules – but these help the borough maintain safety and appearances. Please help us stay on top of those “greatest towns” lists.

I would also like to let those of you who missed it in the papers or on local websites know that there is a proposal to build a one-story “renovated warehouse” style office building on the vacant property where the Wicker Rose, and for long-time residents, Mike’s Toys, used to stand. This property has been vacant for some time for a variety of reasons, and we thank owner Ray Smith for seeking to build something that will fit in – brick façade, slate roof – with the surrounding area, character of the town, and nearby train station.

The proposal will be more formally presented and noticed, and subject to a public hearing, in the near future.

In closing, I’d like to recognize our two newest Eagle Scouts, Andrew Noglows and Sam Gregg. Congratulations on this great and rare accomplishment in the world of Scouting.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish you cool running this August. 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.

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