

## Mayor Message July 2016

Creeping crawlers and flying pests kept our health and public works folks busy in June, which led to some advice to help keep us healthy. That news, graduations, ball games, campouts, a giant party, and great progress came to Little Silver in June.

### **So let's do the advice first:**

As summer showers continue, standing water can pose a problem: it's a great breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can carry the Zika virus, and perhaps more commonly, though less publicized, West Nile Encephalitis and other viruses.

The county has a spraying program, but our Board of Health encourages residents to help out by eliminating or covering any pools or containers of standing water. In addition, says the board's Dr. Tim Sullivan, anyone aware of a pool not being maintained should contact the borough at 732-842-2400, which will then notify the health officer.

Dr. Sullivan also reports that fish placed in ornamental ponds will eat mosquitoes, so populate those ponds with some colorful disease fighters! More information can be found on websites of the Centers for Disease Control and the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Advisory Board.

Ticks were also an issue, and our Scouts, trail walkers, and athletes were reporting them in greater numbers than usual. As it does every year, our public works department followed an approved treatment regimen, which seems to have helped.

We will continue to monitor both issues. More information, including information about the county's tick testing program for those who have a concern about a tick bite, can be found on [www.co.monmouth.nj.us](http://www.co.monmouth.nj.us).

### **In School News:**

June, of course, brought eighth grade and high school graduation ceremonies. The weather was perfect for both, and we're proud to say that Little Silver's own Sarah Baker, an EMS cadet and a scholar-athlete, was RBR's valedictorian this year. Both she and Little Silver's Joe Ferguson, the high school's salutatorian, gave thoughtful remarks as they and their classmates celebrated their high school years and looked to the future.

My contact with both our high school and our grammar schools is a constant reminder of the quality of our public education institutions and the extraordinary achievements of their students, so if you get the opportunity, check out their websites at [www.rbrhs.org](http://www.rbrhs.org) and [www.littlesiverschools.org](http://www.littlesiverschools.org). As both school districts do periodically, the high school has been involved in a broad assessment of its direction in the next five years, and those involved in that process will present the results of their efforts to the RBR Board of Education on August 6.

### **In Other School News . . .**

Little Silver is losing a long-time crossing guard to retirement. Mamie Holmes, who has been crossing our children for 36 years, is hanging up her stop sign. We wish her well and thank her for many years of service.

We do the same for teachers Melissa Ryan and Debbie Glackin at Point Road, and Donna McCarthy and John Quinn at RBR. Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Glackin taught two of my children, and were wonderful, so I know the tug-on-the-heartstrings effect of the retirement of someone who touched so many young lives - again a reminder of how lucky we are here in Little Silver.

### **Parker Homestead—1665:**

The Parker Homestead was also busy in June, hosting a Scout campout, and an old time baseball game, open house, and display of the Parker family's collection of 1909 baseball cards, discovered in a cookie tin.

Behind the house, renovation of the Homestead's old barns, at this writing, were nearly complete. The barns are an awesome addition to this national historic site, and we encourage everyone to watch for more events and open houses. Parker Homestead – 1665 Inc., the charitable foundation running the Homestead, recently won a grant to replace the kitchen roof, evidence of the constant planning and maintenance this dedicated group handles.

### **Liquor License Public Hearing**

Looking forward, a public hearing has been scheduled for July 11 on the two ordinances that will govern the placement and regulation of the borough's first retail consumption license. Following passage of the ordinances, the borough will schedule a public bid for the license, approved by referendum last November.

### **Road and Utility Work Progressing**

Lastly, while work was still progressing as of this writing, we're hoping that by the time this reaches you, the extensive road and utility work on Prospect Avenue in the downtown area will be complete, or nearly so. We're grateful to the county for keeping this project moving, especially since it will be followed by the replacement of a gas line on Branch, from Rumson to Brookside, and the repaving of Branch in that area.

### **In closing . . .**

We hope everyone had a great time at Little Silver Day, and our thanks to all those who spent so much time putting together the event, and to the Little Silver Foundation and its sponsors.

Summer is in full swing, and on behalf of the Borough Council, we wish you all the best that the season has to offer. 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*