

Sometimes it's not the big new projects, but simply maintaining what we have, that occupies the borough. July seemed to have been that kind of month.

August may be a bit more innovative – and musical.

In July, we learned the roof at borough hall needed replacing, so we did that.

At the library, our air conditioning was less than cooperative, requiring repair and further investigation into a permanent fix (though it is cool there once again, so please come visit).

And in our schools, the Point Road School windows were being replaced, in addition to the usual summer maintenance projects (including playground resurfacing), to keep our students safe and warm this school year.

None of this makes for earth-shattering news, but we need to stay on top of these maintenance and improvement issues to keep Little Silver the special place that it is, and to avoid costlier repairs or replacements down the road.

July was not all maintenance and routine, however. Bob Sickles of Sickles Market and a group of volunteers put together Little Silver's first "Blackberry Pick" in the fields behind the Parker Homestead. It was a huge hit, with dozens of families coming out to pick the big, ripe berries from the thornless bushes.

Thanks to Bob and his merry band of volunteers for making this happen. There are discussions about making this an annual event.

It's hard to believe that the summer is so far along, with fall and the start of school right around the corner. Before summer's end, though, we hope you'll join us at the August summer concert series in the borough fields behind Borough Hall.

In a change from last year, when the concerts were at the gazebo, they will take place this year on three Sunday evenings in August at the new Butch Ryser Memorial Patio overlooking the borough ball field.

Kicking off the series on August 10 at 7 will be Little Silver's own Tim McLoone and the Shirleys, playing a mix of Broadway tunes, blues, oldies, R&B, and classic rock. On August 17, country and blues band Harper's Fellow will take the stage – or the patio – at 6:30. And on August 24, at 7, the Stone Bullets – a talented, local teen group – will end our series on a high note.

Grab your family and friends and some blankets and chairs (and maybe some insect repellent) and come enjoy the sounds of summer.

August also means that the September 13 fundraiser for the Parker Homestead is just around the corner. Look for information in local publications and invitations as they go out. The Parker Homestead - 1665, Inc., a local tax-exempt organization raising funds to help complete restoration of the homestead, and the Monmouth County Historical Association, have teamed up to bring a first-class fundraiser to the Homestead.

In the meantime, the renovations of the barns behind the Homestead continue to move forward, and we would caution the curious that this is indeed a construction site that should be avoided, for safety's sake, until the work is complete.

Lastly, a quick reminder to help our Department of Public Works get the job done: please do not drop off recyclables after 2 p.m., as posted. Late drop-offs cause problems for the trucks returning to the yard.

Please also be reminded that only residents are permitted to drop off recyclables – if you are aware of others doing so, please let us know.

In closing, 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. On behalf of the governing body, we wish you all a peaceful, safe August – and hope to see you at the concerts.