

## November 2015

Now that it's November, and the last of the harvest is in, I'd like to recognize an effort that brought some of us out from behind our electronic devices to reconnect with the land a bit.

The Community Garden behind the Parker Sickles Homestead was an enormous success, spearheaded by our Environmental Commission and supported by so many that I am not going to name names for fear of leaving someone out.

It was, in the truest sense, a community effort, and Lunch Break in Red Bank received over 125 pounds of the garden's produce, helping to feed the hungry. Here's to everyone who believes, like every farmer, that what goes down, must come up!

Speaking for growth, brush and limb pickup has ended until January to allow for leaf pick up. Please do not mix brush in with leaves, because the disposal site will not accept them. If you are not a do it yourself type, please let your landscaper or maintenance workers know. Our public works men (who, by the way, do not make these rules) will be grateful for the assistance.

November also brings us Veterans Day, which the borough will observe with a brief ceremony in Memorial Park on November 11 at 11 a.m. Please join us to honor those who fought for their country, including many from Little Silver.

Singers and musicians from our schools will perform, and Scouts will raise the flag in our veterans' honor. Thanks to the Garden Club for reviving our Veterans Day ceremony last year, and for everyone's efforts to make it a continuing tradition.

Next, an update on the Prospect Avenue paving project in the downtown area. This is a county road, and we had been informed that the county would begin in October. The plan now is to wait until Spring.

While the delay is frustrating, it is due in part to a drainage issue at the corner of Church and Prospect, which is being repaired, and the borough's intention to improve the safety of the Prospect/Kings/Willow intersection in cooperation with the county. The safety improvements, including lit signage, are best performed before the road is paved.

We also understand that paving after the cold weather passes eliminates the risk that snow plowing or the application of ice melter will damage the new pavement before it fully cures.

Around the corner from Prospect, on Rumson Road, the Parker Homestead project continues to progress. The borough has signed a lease with Parker Sickles Homestead – 1665, which is moving forward with interior renovations funded by money this charitable organization has raised.

This group also plans a major capital fundraising campaign in the near future, and the borough expects to go out to bid shortly to complete the renovation of the three barns. We look forward to long partnership with the Homestead organization, and to the regular opening of this historic homestead to the public and our students.

Over at the Library, the Friends of the Little Silver Library has purchased a display case in honor of Marcia Craig's 25 years of service to the library. The library will use it to show off local book collections, so if you have one you'd like to share, please stop in and let Librarian Anita O'Brien know.

Looking ahead a bit, the PTO will host a great holiday fundraiser on December 11 at Barnes and Noble at the Monmouth Mall. Teachers and parents will be providing free gift wrap for all your purchases, and music will be provided starting at 7 p.m. by the Markham Place band and chorus.

A portion of the purchases goes to the PTO, which uses the proceeds to purchase books for the school libraries. The PTO is also collecting food from K-8<sup>th</sup> graders from November 9 to 19 to benefit The Children's Center of Monmouth County, and will pack the food in backpacks on November 20 for delivery to our youngest community members in need.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish you a healthy, happy Thanksgiving.

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](mailto:bobneff80@gmail.com).

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