

September 2015:

A real community-minded August is past, and a busy September is in the works, as we move past Labor Day, head back to school, and look forward to cooler weather.

First, a fond farewell. At this writing in mid-August, the clock is ticking, and our long-time Police Records Clerk, Amy Hirsch, is beginning to clean out her desk.

By the time this Newsletter comes out, her desk will be clear, and Amy will have entered retirement after serving Little Silver for 31 years. Amy will continue to serve the Little Silver Emergency Medical Services as a trustee.

We wish Amy a long and happy retirement, and thank her for her years of service. Now who's going to organize our Memorial Day service? That was one of a number of things that Amy did that don't generally fall under the heading of "records clerk". She will be missed.

Next in the news, it has been 34 years since Little Silver residents were asked whether they would support the issuance of a license to sell alcoholic beverages on the premises of a restaurant or bar.

A November 4, 1981 article in the former Register newspaper, remembered by many as the "Red Bank Register", tells the story: of 3,681 registered voters, 1,616 voted against issuing such a license, known as a retail consumption license, and 715 voted in favor. A crushing defeat.

This year, the question will again be put to a vote.

Resident Matt Kelly gathered enough Little Silver voter signatures, about 350, to have the referendum resurrected, and in November's general election, voters will be asked: should the retail sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises be permitted in Little Silver?

If the measure passes, the Borough Council may consider issuing such a license, and has over the past several months discussed potential restrictions with respect to the size and design of such an establishment, the location, the hours of operation, and other issues that are likely to arise should the measure be approved.

The license, should the borough issue one, would be put out to public bid. Mr. Kelly's proposal – the only one presented to the Governing Body - envisions a family-friendly restaurant with a bar where residents could gather, for instance, after a local sporting event.

In other news, we expect to be able to demolish the house on Rumson Road between the main entrance to Sickles Park and the Parker Sickles Homestead in the very near future. The home was badly damaged when a pipe burst last winter, and the repair costs are prohibitive, even with insurance proceeds.

The concept going forward is to use that small portion of land as supplemental parking for Sickles Park, which can overflow, particularly when the sports fields are heavily used during recreation events. The current two-way entrance would be closed, and the one-way entrance would be widened and be made a two-way, so that those using the new lot wouldn't have to cross a busy road.

The concept is that any new parking lot would be buffered along Rumson Road, and that a unique "Smoke Tree" on the property would be saved.

Next, some of you may have noticed that many of the borough's "Welcome to Little Silver" signs are in rough shape. The town is forming a committee to look at a new design and to do a little shopping in the interest of keeping replacement costs down.

Coming up, the borough's library invites residents to display their photography there in September. The theme is "Images of Summer" and the photos will be on display all month.

While you're there, check out the new powered sectional couches in the tween/teen zone, which allows users with laptops, tablets and phones to plug in and stay connected in comfort. Just one more reason to visit this great little spot, which set attendance records in July.

Next, for those who made insurance claims for Sandy damage, FEMA is reopening and reviewing claims upon request. If you believe you were short-changed or otherwise have issues with your claim, you must call 866-337-4262 on or before September 15, 2015. More information is on www.littlesilver.org.

Looking back quickly, the fields behind Borough Hall and the Library were busy this summer. Our Recreation Department again hosted its free August concerts on Sundays behind Borough Hall, with acts that appealed to all age ranges and musical tastes.

And our Police Department hosted, for the first time, a National Night Out, where our officers met and chatted with residents, conducted safety and crime prevention programs, and answered questions about their emergency vehicles. Over 400 hotdogs disappeared quickly, along with what seemed to be a bottomless supply of ice pops.

Chief Shaffery asked me to extend the department's thanks to our residents for the terrific turnout.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish you a smooth transition to the post-Labor Day season. 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