

Little Silver NEWSLETTER



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Robert C. Neff Jr.

Council Members

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Stephanie Keenan
Michael Holzapfel

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Administrator / Clerk
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June 8, 2020

To our Little Silver residents, businesses, and friends:

This is our fourth letter mailed to every resident and business since the pandemic started, and we're pleased that everyone's efforts have brought us to the point where we're now beginning to reopen. Following are COVID-19 updates and some borough news.

First, the numbers: in Little Silver, we have gone from two positive cases in early March, to 31 positive cases as of April 28, and we're now at 37 total positive cases over that entire period of time. The most recent new case was reported more than a week ago, even with the increased testing.

So, while we are not provided with the number of residents who have by now fully recovered, the spread clearly has slowed here and in our area in general. That does not mean, however, that we can ignore the state regulations now in place. Social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, and staying home unless necessary remain parts of the state orders.

Second, the state's directives are constantly changing, often daily. If you have any doubt about whether an activity is allowed, or whether there are any restrictions on a particular activity, please go to the source: www.covid19.nj.gov, where all of the state's orders can be found, with summaries. Little Silver, as it must, continues to follow and gently enforces those orders when infractions are found.

Third, as most know, some of our restaurants will set up outdoor dining beginning June 15, and many of our businesses will reopen as well. The borough acted to allow all of our restaurants and businesses to open – under the restrictions required by state – as early as the state so allows.

As these welcome reopenings occur, please continue to use common sense and basic courtesy, and follow any state rules or orders. Failing to do so not only endangers others (including, potentially, our extraordinary first responders) but jeopardizes the business or restaurant. They have been put through so much, and some are concerned for their very survival. Please patronize them enthusiastically and often, but be considerate and courteous, especially in dealing with owners and employees.

Fourth, Little Silver Helpers continues to be there for those who need help shopping, picking up prescriptions, or just finding your way. Whether you wish to donate, need help, or want to help others, you can email littleilverhelpers@gmail.com, or call (732) 383-5017. And for those who may benefit from some counseling or emotional assistance, NJ Mental Health Cares can be reached at 1-866-202-HELP (4357) for free, confidential support.

Fifth, many continue to report difficulty getting state unemployment benefits, although we understand that situation has improved somewhat. While Little Silver itself does not administer those claims, the state continues to direct applicants to go to www.myunemployment.nj.gov for updates and to report issues.

Sixth, we would be remiss during this crisis if we did not pause to acknowledge the senseless death of George Floyd and the protests that have ensued. Little Silver speaks with one voice in condemning the

actions that led to his death, along with racism and prejudice of every kind. We note that our own Police Department viewed what occurred as a senseless murder that reflects neither the morals nor the values of the LSPD. Our officers, who are professional and well trained (including in the areas of sensitivity and de-escalation), have been called out twice now to assist, at their own peril during a pandemic, in respectfully keeping the peace and protecting others during the protests in Asbury Park. Let us all renew our efforts to promote peaceful coexistence, to understand others, and to oppose injustice at every turn, in whatever form it may take.

And seventh, following are some general borough updates.

Public works, police, our administrative folks, our courts, and all departments continue to serve our residents, though public buildings remain closed. The Borough Council continues to meet and conduct business by Zoom, and our Planning and Zoning Board is now doing so as well. Our library continues to offer the same online services that it always has for cardholders, puts out helpful information and activities on its website and Facebook page, and continues to hold virtual book club meetings; we hope to be allowed to reopen that borough treasure soon.

In addition, our sidewalk project continues to move forward. As usual, we've arranged for directly-affected residents to safely review plans as they are developed. And the remainder of Branch Avenue has now been paved, with the delayed paving of Markham Place and other roads to start soon.

We are also pleased to advise that NJ Transit is scheduled to begin repairing the extremely bumpy railroad crossing on Silverside Avenue on July 16. The estimated repair time is about 10 days, during which Silverside will be closed at the crossing. Please plan alternate routes, and follow the detours.

With respect to the summer recreation camp, our dedicated recreation department is exploring whether the camp can be held in some fashion given the restrictive guidelines put out by the state. Many towns have already cancelled their summer programs, but we are working hard to see if that can be avoided. We hope to have news on that topic - one way or the other – in the next few days.

And last – but definitely not least - we're proud to say that Little Silver's own Michael Tobin is the valedictorian of the Red Bank Regional High School class of 2020! Michael is off to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in the fall. It's a tough year to graduate, with our high school and eighth grade conducting virtual graduations, but our students should know they have our support and admiration, as evidenced by the many special drive by observances, signs, and postings. Congratulations to Michael and all our graduates!

I anticipate that July will see the return of our regular newsletter, as businesses and activities begin to reopen and we return to some semblance of our pre-pandemic lives. As we've always said, come what may, Little Silver Warriors have the right stuff, and you all continue to impress. If you have questions, please call Borough Hall at (732) 842-2400, or email the person you have been dealing with. Our employees are working either remotely or in the building. And if you have an issue getting through, please feel free to email me at bobneff80@gmail.com, or call me at home at (732) 576-8595. Be well, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Neff', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Robert C. Neff Jr., members of the Borough Council, and your Borough Administration