

Little Silver NEWSLETTER



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April 28, 2020

To our Little Silver residents, businesses, and allies:

In this, our third letter mailed to every resident and business since the pandemic started, we report on COVID-19 developments, on town business, and on a town-wide event that you won't want to miss.

First, we hope this letter finds everyone well. We continue to advise those who feel sick to contact their physician. Testing both for the virus and for antibodies is improving, and is increasingly available.

Second, please see the enclosed flyer for information about an upcoming celebration of our strong community values and the courage of our first responders and others. This is a wonderful chance to show your appreciation and support our volunteer services. There is a May 4 deadline involved, so please give the flyer a look.

Third, the numbers: In Little Silver, we have gone from two positive cases in early March, to 33 positive cases as of the writing of this letter. That progression has ebbed and flowed, and is not much different than the progression in many surrounding towns. We have not been provided yet with the number of residents who have by now fully recovered.

Fourth, while we can debate the meaning of the numbers, what everyone needs to do – with new positive cases still coming in - is to continue to follow the governor's Executive Order 107 and the administrative orders that have followed. In a nutshell: stay at home, go out only as allowed by the Order's various exceptions, and practice social distancing at all times. If you have any doubt about whether an activity is allowed, please go to the source: www.covid19.nj.gov, where all of the orders can be found, with summaries. Little Silver, as it must, follows and gently enforces those orders when infractions are found.

Importantly, continue to wear your cloth face coverings when patronizing our restaurants and stores. Failing to do so not only endangers others, but jeopardizes the business, which is required by the state's order to enforce the facial covering requirement.

Fifth, we're closely following the development of plans by the state and federal government to begin safely reopening. The governor is saying that a two week downward trend in the 'curve' – not just a flattening – will be required before even minimal steps will be made toward reopening. All the more reason to continue to stay home and abide by the orders.

Sixth, we want to emphasize that, despite the closing of state parks and Sandy Hook (a federal park), Little Silver's parks, fields and trails remain open. Thank you for scrupulously practicing social distancing and following the governor's orders when you visit – that will allow us to continue to keep them open. Presently, playground equipment, tennis courts, and basketball courts are closed, though we are working on a protocol for safely opening the tennis courts.

Seventh, for those who need assistance shopping, picking up prescriptions, or just finding your way through this ordeal, Little Silver Helpers remains a hard-working presence. Whether you wish to donate, need help or want to help others, you can email littlesilverhelpers@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.

Eighth, we hope you all enjoyed the Easter Bunny's town-wide visit, and her escort by the EMS and police! We can't thank all those involved enough for spreading the joy of the season, to young and old. And we hope that you enjoy the next town-wide event just as much – again, please take a moment to review the enclosed flyer, especially with respect to meeting a May 4 deadline that will benefit all of our first responders.

As so many have observed, we may be weathering this separately, but we're in it together. Along with the Light the Night event in the flyer, residents have been encouraging others to step outside and make some noise every Tuesday at 7 p.m. to thank our healthcare workers and others. Feel free to join in (though be mindful of any 'early to bed' neighbors, perhaps with infants), and show your support for our frontline folks on a weekly basis.

Ninth, please remember our businesses, who have been so supportive for so long, and who are now fighting to survive. We're continuing to maintain a list of town businesses and contact information on our website at www.littlesilver.org, and the county has assembled a list as well, which can be found at www.takeoutinmonmouth.com. The county's list has a Little Silver-specific section. Our businesses can email takeoutinmonmouth@visitmonmouth.com to be listed or correct a listing. For businesses looking for grants or loans, the state is awaiting additional federal funding to staff those programs, and in the interim is directing businesses to <https://faq.business.nj.gov>.

Tenth, in the related issue of unemployment claims, many have reported difficulty getting benefits or even getting through. While Little Silver itself does not administer those claims, the governor's office has advised us that it is working to better staff that program and to better handle the claims. The state is directing applicants to go to www.myunemployment.nj.gov. At this writing, that site was not available, but the governor's office tells us that any delay in processing will not mean a later start date for the calculation of benefits.

Lastly, in the borough, 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, though we are still working on holding a viable Zoning Board meeting, which is a bit more involved. Our library continues to offer the same online services that it always has for cardholders, and puts out helpful information and activities on its website and Facebook page.

In addition, our sidewalk project continues to move forward. As usual, we've arranged for directly-affected residents to review plans as they are developed, in a socially distanced fashion. And the county will soon pave the remainder of Branch Avenue.

Our stamina and patience is being tested, but Little Silver Warriors have what it takes. Hang in there. Better days are ahead, and just think how sweet they'll be! 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 remotely, with one working in Borough Hall at any given time. 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 – I'm there, as we all are. Be well, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Neff", written over a white background.

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