

Promotions, a new addition, cell tower news, National Night Out, a concert and more to follow during this busy summer season.

First, we're pleased to advise that Stephanie Brannagan has joined the Borough Council. Mrs. Brannagan comes to the governing body with experience on the Board of Education and other volunteer efforts. Welcome Stephanie!

Stephanie will serve out the term of retiring councilman AJ McNally, who we welcome as our new CFO, Treasurer and Tax Collector. Lots of outstanding community service from AJ and Stephanie.

On the same evening our new councilwoman was sworn in, the meeting room was full of family and colleagues supporting Frank Salerno and Peter Giblin, both of whom were promoted to sergeant on the Little Silver Police Department.

Peter's dad Shannon, a former LSPD chief, pinned his son with the sergeant's badge worn by Peter's grandfather, Harold, continuing a valued Little Silver tradition. Sgt. Salerno and Sgt. Giblin are both long-time residents and volunteer first responders, in addition to their service on the LSPD.

If you see our new sergeants in town, please congratulate them on their well-deserved promotions.

While we're on the subject of the LSPD, the department has worked really hard to put together the return (after COVID knocked it out last year) of National Night Out on August 3 from 6-9 p.m. behind Borough Hall and on the Markham Place fields. This is a great town gathering, with free food and beverages, fire department and EMS demonstrations, crime prevention tips, emergency vehicles, slides, games, a DJ, and more.

Please bring family and friends and come out to meet our hard-working, professional, and friendly community police department.

Next, Verizon plans to reduce the number of radio head units on its cell tower platform from nine to six, and to increase the number of antennas from six to 12. Our understanding is that the radio frequency output would remain significantly below the federal guidelines, and that no new equipment would be placed on the school side of the platform, which would remain empty.

While there has been some disagreement with Verizon about whether it must submit a formal site plan for approval at a public hearing, the governing body has reached an agreement with Verizon in which Verizon has consented to file a development permit application with the Zoning Board official. If this application does not meet all the requisite criteria, a public hearing will be required. The date of this public hearing will be posted as soon as it is confirmed.

In addition, another carrier, AT&T, has expressed an interest in locating their equipment on the tower. The borough has advised that it is not interested in further encumbering the tower, which also supports the town's critical emergency communications antennae.

Lastly, communications carriers are beginning to place 5G equipment in some towns. While that has not occurred yet in Little Silver, the law regarding the very limited ability of towns to influence the placement of such equipment is in flux, with a proposal that would further limit a town's say likely to be considered again in the fall by the New Jersey Legislature, according to news reports.

Little Silver and its professionals are closely monitoring these developments, at a time when demand for these telecommunications services is ever increasing, and will seek to maximize its ability to have some control over 5G placement in town, and to enforce its rigorous telecom ordinance wherever possible.

In other news, the number of new COVID cases here and elsewhere has ticked up slightly over the past couple of weeks. Please get vaccinated, if you haven't already. The town periodically puts out information about vaccination sites, and our health commission has arranged for free vaccination clinics, but it is relatively easy to get an appointment, which can often be handled by a quick call to your pharmacist.

Little Silver continues to ask those entering our public building who have not been vaccinated to wear a mask for everyone's comfort and safety.

With respect to sidewalks, roads and other infrastructure, I want to thank everyone for your patience regarding the closure of a lane and, at times, both lanes on Silverside. Between the new sidewalks, paving and striping by the borough, and the work being done by the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority (the sewerage authority) installing new pipes, it was sometimes challenging to keep in mind that these temporary inconveniences do indeed lead to long-term improvements.

Switching gears, just a reminder: if the summer heat's too much for an outdoor adventure, or if indoor activities are more your thing, please don't forget about the borough Library, located on Prospect Avenue next to Borough Hall. Air conditioning, wifi, a breezy patio, and so much more await readers of all ages. And their child-oriented offerings are second to none.

And lastly, the John Luckenbill Pops Band has kindly offered to perform a free concert at the Gazebo on Markham Place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 5 (Labor Day weekend). The rain date is Monday, September 6 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Luckenbill's family has deep roots in Little Silver, and we're fortunate to have this very accomplished band – which performs at multiple shore venues and around the state – pay us a visit. The concert will also memorialize John's mom, Harriet, who passed away in March this year, and who enjoyed attending the concerts put on by John, and before him his dad, John Sr., who was a long time music teacher and band leader from Little Silver.

Bring a blanket or chair and come listen to one of the finest bands you'll hear anywhere, and take part in Little Silver's rich musical history.

In closing, this is my regular reminder during hurricane season to register with CodeRed for emergency notifications. If you haven't done so already, visit [www.littlesilver.org](http://www.littlesilver.org), and click on the CodeRed button on the left side of the home page, or pick up a registration form in

borough hall. You can call borough hall or CodeRed directly at (866) 939-0911 for assistance.

As always, borough hall is available from 8 to 4 to take your calls with questions or concerns, or I can be reached at [bobneff80@gmail.com](mailto:bobneff80@gmail.com), or at my home phone at (732) 576-8595. On behalf of the governing body, we wish you the best of everything this August.