

Mayor's Message July 2021

Graduations and the Fourth of July – it must be summer. News about car theft, safety, the passing of two favorite Little Silver sons, some of your pet peeves, and more to follow.

Flags are proliferating around town as Independence Day approaches. Indeed, as we emerge from the pandemic, our extraordinary country has lots to celebrate.

That said, safety should rule the day, and aerial fireworks and those that explode remain illegal. If they're not the type you can purchase legally in local stores, they're likely outlawed.

So as we celebrate, please heed the words of Police Chief Dan Shaffery: be courteous and respectful of your neighbors; be alert to the danger of brush fires; guard against injury to yourself and others; and be prepared to be charged if caught with illegal fireworks.

And look forward to celebrating again next year with all ten fingers.

Looking back, June saw our fourth graders 'move up,' and our eighth graders and high school seniors graduate – in person! Congratulations to all these students and parents on persevering during a particularly difficult year.

At Red Bank Regional High School, we were pleased to see the many honored students during the Senior Awards Ceremony – students who excelled under trying circumstances. Among the honorees, Kevin McCarthy was recognized as the graduate from Little Silver with the highest GPA. Kevin will continue his education at the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

We wish our graduating seniors all the best as they move on to their next adventure. Wherever you may roam, please remember to share your talents, time, and your great education with your community.

We also had some sad news recently: the passing of two people who contributed so much to Little Silver.

The Hon. Chester Apy served on the Borough Council, in the State Assembly, and as a judge of the Workers Compensation Court, among other things. I got to know him as an early advocate of the renovation and use of the Parker Homestead, and as an old-school believer in civic responsibility and public service.

We extend our sympathies to his wife Flo and family members, and know that Little Silver is a better place for Chet's efforts.

Likewise, Tom Reardon contributed so much to Little Silver, particularly as a baseball coach and member of the Recreation Committee, among many other civic endeavors. We extend our sympathies to Tom's wife Loretta, and his children and family.

Tom, who passed in late May, and Chet, who passed in June, will be deeply missed. We thank them for their service to their town.

Looking forward, at this writing, the forecast for late June and early July was lots of heat and humidity.

As you try to stay cool, please remember our air-conditioned, wifi-ready Little Silver Library. Log on to the library's website or Facebook page to learn of the many services and activities provided by this gem. Like other borough buildings, the library is open to the public.

As with other borough buildings, Library visitors who haven't been vaccinated against COVID-19 are encouraged to wear masks.

Next, this is my regular reminder to sign up for our Two River Alert (Code Red) program. In an emergency, this is the best way to get critically important borough information, particularly if the website is not accessible.

This is hurricane season, so please take a minute to sign up, or if you are already signed up, please check to make sure your contact information is up to date. To do so, go to littlesilver.org, and click on Emergency Services at the top of the page, and then click on Two River Alert – Code Red Emergency Notifications, or click on Code Red on the left side of the home page. You can also call (866) 939-0911 for assistance.

Speaking of emergencies, it's easy to be lulled into a false sense of security in Little Silver: it's a safe town. But that's when thieves strike.

Recently, another expensive vehicle was stolen from a driveway when the key fob was left inside.

It's easy to do, but it's a mistake. Truth be told, I used to be one of the worst offenders, sometime leaving my wallet in the car as well. So that a car thief could put some gas in the car he stole, I guess.

Since working with the police, I've changed my ways. It's easy, just remove your key fob and any valuables from your car, and lock it up. Don't help make Little Silver a target. This message brought to you by your reformed mayor and your Police Department.

And lastly, just a couple 'good neighbor' reminders that residents call about every once in a while:

- *For dog walkers, please dispose of your pet's waste when you get home – not in someone else's garbage can.

- *Stop for pedestrians in a cross walk – any cross walk. It's the law.

- *Dogs are not allowed on the track at Sickles Park. They're allowed virtually everywhere else, so please respect this rule.

- *Don't litter. It seems that it still needs to be said. Trail cleanups and Public Works can't do it all. The town supplies garbage and recycling receptacles in all public places.

- *Smile and offer a kind word. It sure beats a gripe, every time, and it's contagious. Remember, Little Silver was voted one of the ten happiest places to live in New Jersey – let's keep it that way!

On behalf of the Borough Council, we wish you the best that the lazy, hazy crazy days of summer have to offer. 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.