

Mayor's Message June 2021

Lots going on in town, but first, some 'almost-back-to-normal' news.

At this writing in late May, '**reopening**' is the word of the day.

We've just had a successful outdoor, in-person Student Government Day.

We're looking forward to an in-person Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony to honor those killed in battle.

We're expecting to reopen the Library and Borough Hall, including the Courtroom, to the public, on June 1. Further details are in this Newsletter.

We're anticipating an active summer, especially outdoors, and more often than not, without mask requirements, especially for vaccinated people, both outside and inside. Summer Camp registration begins June 1.

Our graduates are scheduled to walk, in person this year, to receive diplomas earned during a difficult – to say the least – school year.

And the state has just released Order 242, which is somewhat confusing, but which clearly lifts many of the restrictions that had been in place for over a year. It can be found at <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-242.pdf>.

So as we spread our wings again, please remember those who helped get us here – our medical workers, our volunteer EMS, fire department, and fire police, our Police Department, Little Silver Helpers, administrators and teachers, parents of school children forced to adapt to trying circumstances, and so many others – and of course please remember those we lost to COVID-19.

Please also continue to pay attention to any additional state orders, which Little Silver follows, as it must, and especially to the available vaccine advice and availability. Even home-bound residents can arrange to be vaccinated, and some vaccines are being approved now for younger residents.

And please, if you haven't shopped or dined locally recently, reacquaint yourselves with our shops and restaurants. They're open for business.

In retirement news, one person who assisted us during the pandemic by budgeting and recouping COVID-related expenditures, **Laura Geraghty**, will be leaving us on June 30. Laura has been our CFO, tax collector and treasurer for many years, and worked in our finance office for many years before that.

Laura was extraordinarily knowledgeable, and her work in all things financial has helped keep Little Silver running smoothly for years; our consistently positive audits and sound fiscal position are due in large part to her hard work.

We will miss Laura's advice, always accompanied by a friendly smile. Please, if you find yourself in Borough Hall after June 1, or have a moment to call, please wish Laura well in retirement with her growing (grandchildren!) family.

Next, it's that time of year: our Board of Health is sharing information about **ticks, mosquitoes, and sun protection**. Please look for details in Borough Hall and on the website. In addition, information on ticks, mosquitoes, and other summertime pests can be found at <https://bit.ly/3tC953l>.

Over at the **Parker Homestead**, the kitchen renovation is proceeding, and the trustees plan to have a grand reopening in September. If you'd like to help fund the renovation, which is being done on a shoestring and elbow grease, go to the Homestead webpage and purchase a personalized wooden spoon, which will be hung in the kitchen.

As to the **various projects proceeding around town**, sidewalk work has concluded on Prospect and Rumson, and very nearly on Pinckney, and will begin soon on Conover and

Eastview to complete the link to the train station from Silverside. After that, sidewalk repairs will begin on Point, Harding, Seven Bridge, and Kings, hopefully to be completed over the summer and prior to school opening.

Sidewalk and curb repair on a large portion of Silverside will begin shortly as well, with repaving to follow.

As to additional repaving, the remainder of North Sunnycrest is also expected to be done this summer, along with the repaving of the lane on North Rivers Edge that was dug up due to the NJNG project. NJNG will also spot-repair some areas on that street. In addition, various drainage repairs around town are slated for the summer.

Regarding the long-standing water main replacement project near the Red Bank border, that is essentially complete, with restoration of the staging area continuing, under the observation of our Public Works Department. The water company will also be repairing areas of Salem, Standish and Alden where the road was dug up due to the main replacement.

Additional road paving projects to begin in late fall (barring any issues) will be the subject of public bidding once the specifications are complete, hopefully in July.

Looking back, with Memorial Day in the very recent past, it seems fitting to remember the heroism of Little Silver resident and **Air Force Captain Thomas B. McDerby**. Thirty five years ago, he and three crew members were killed when their jet tanker crashed near the former Howard Air Force Base in Panama. Captain McDerby had steered his failing craft away from a village, likely saving many lives.

We are proud that Captain McDerby called Little Silver home, and honor his legacy of service to his country.

Lastly, at the risk of being repetitive, every household and business should be signed up to receive **emergency alerts**. If you are not enrolled, PLEASE go to www.littlesilver.org and click on the CODE RED button to the left of the page.

You can also call (866) 939-0911 or borough hall for assistance. June is the official start of hurricane season. Please do it.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish you all a safe, happy and healthy summer 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.