June brought success to our ballplayers and our schools, as Red Bank Regional High School set its well-prepared graduates loose on the workplace and colleges, and Markham Place wished a fond farewell to its eighth graders, who look forward to bright futures.

We can also look forward to safety and aesthetic improvements downtown, thanks to the owners of the Acme shopping plaza.

Amid that success, addressed below, questions about the cell tower at borough hall have caused the borough to look to add to its communications abilities.

At this writing, the borough plans to institute a Facebook page. It will take monitoring and updating efforts to keep that site current, to keep the website current, to get the newsletter out, to put out alerts, to post events on the borough sign, and otherwise to perform those tasks that go with making information accessible.

It will also take some time for our hard working, but small, office staff to streamline communications improvements, particularly with their other responsibilities, but they are coming, thanks in large part to the efforts of councilwoman Corinne Thygeson.

In the meantime, in response to numerous questions about the tower, Councilman Don Galante issued a statement at a June meeting of the Borough Council, a copy of which can be found at www.littlesilver.org, providing background and information.

In addition, the borough continues to monitor the tower’s radio frequency waves in multiple locations, which have all been far below the FCC’s required safety threshold.

The topic of communications also brings me to my periodic reminder to everyone who is not signed up for our Two River Alert (Code Red) program, to do so. In an emergency, this is the best way to get information updates from the borough, and otherwise to obtain information that might be of critical importance, particularly if the website is not accessible.

Especially given that we are in the midst of hurricane season, 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. You can also call (866) 939-0911 for assistance.

Now for the baseball news: Shane McCarthy, who spent his pre-high school baseball days here in Little Silver, has been drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals. A Warrior, and both a travel and rec ball player here, Shane is well-remembered as a standout from his earliest playing days. We wish him the best.

We also want to mention that the Little Silver Little League team made it to the championship game against Fair Haven in June, and that the Thunder travel baseball program was again successful this year.

In non-sports news, the Parker Homestead was again busy in June, hosting an old time baseball game, open house, and display of the Parker family’s collection of 1909 baseball cards (including Ty Cobb), discovered in a cookie tin.

This month, the Homestead is looking for volunteers to help sort and store the contents of the three recently-renovated barns on July 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information and to sign up (although unexpected help is welcome too), email elizhh@comcast.net.

And for those of you who have asked about the status of the bar-restaurant planned for the lot between Brave New World and the large train station parking lot, the prospective owners, Brickwall at Little Silver, tell us that they are moving toward presenting a plan to the Planning Board in the coming months.

Following a public referendum approving the borough’s first liquor license for such an establishment, and the passage of enabling ordinances, Brickwall has been working on its plan for the past several months.
Lastly, the Planning Board in June approved an application by Markham Prospect Associates, LLC to update and make over the Acme parking lot, and the store and associated shopping center façades. The effort is intended to improve the appearance, safety, and user-friendly aspect of this important downtown area.

We look forward to seeing the renovations come to fruition in the coming months.

Summer is here, and on behalf of the Borough Council, we wish you all the best that our area has to offer at this time of year. 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.