Message From Mayor Neff

It seems every month brings news both great and sad to Little Silver, and February was no different.

At the beginning of the month, we lost one of Little Silver’s great, true-blue citizens, George A. Darragh Jr. George had been a member of the Borough Council, served as Council President, and finished his last term as Mayor.

He was also a founding member of the Little Silver EMS, a life member of the Fire Department, a former president of the Board of Health, and taught CPR throughout Monmouth County.

And he somehow found time for a paying job as well: for 30 years, Mr. Darragh was a beloved biology teacher at Monmouth Regional High School. If we had the space, we’d tell you more.

George’s life of service is the stuff of legend. We thank the Darragh family for sharing him with us, and extend our condolences to his wife Phyllis and son Scott.

Mayor Darragh will be missed, but in his tradition of public service, we hope that he would be pleased to hear that plans to install a new, 95-foot communications tower at Borough Hall are proceeding, as we move forward with a critical safety improvement.

The current tower is 62 feet tall, including its antennae, but is so old and out of date that a communications consultant recently refused to climb it for safety reasons. More importantly, it is simply inadequate, creating “dead zones” around town where our emergency radios suddenly go silent.

The new tower will fix that dangerous condition. It will serve the Police, Fire Department, EMS, Department of Public Works, and State Police and County hot-lines. In addition, its cost will be borne by Verizon, which will then lease space for cell platforms to enhance local phone service as well, for an enormous cost saving and continued financial benefit.

Next, in some good news for Little Silver and the region, we received word in February of a $900,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to address the impacts of coastal hazards and storm surge in our area.

The grant, the result of an application by the Two River Council of Mayors, will partner the Department of Environmental Protection, the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Louis Berger Group, the Rutgers Climate Institute and the Borough of Oceanport as the representative of the Two River Council in a project that will define the costs and benefits of resiliency options in communities surrounding the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers. It will include information, expertise and opinions from every town, and will identify independent and regional measures to improve storm and flood resilience.

The Two Rivers Council of Mayors works to resolve common issues in communities located along the Shrewsbury and Navesink rivers, and this regional proposal has been two years in the making. We will keep everyone informed as the post-Sandy undertaking unfolds.

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Also in February, we learned that Police Sergeant Paul Halpin and Patrolman Joe Glynn, shortly after 6 o’clock on a chilly Sunday morning, followed their noses to locate a smoky porch fire on Rumson Road. They evacuated the residents, extinguished the cause, and called in our Fire Department, snuffing out a threat to life and property. 

Thanks to these two officers for this heads-up discovery and quick action taken during a routine patrol.

At the end of the month, the first chili cook-off to benefit the Little Silver EMS, hosted by the Embury Methodist Church, was a huge success, and the EMS extends its thanks for all those who brought their appetites, and chili, in support of those who help all of us in our time of need.

Looking forward, our volunteer Fire Department will host its annual Saint Patrick’s Day party, dinner, and all-around good great time on March 12 at 3 p.m. at the firehouse. Check www.littlesilverfd.org for ticket information and details of this community event.

And the following week, our Environmental Commission will host Environmental Day at the Woman’s Club on March 19, from 9 to 1. Residents can drop off electronic waste, bring papers to shred, and drop off used clothing, among other things. For more information, please see the announcement in this Newsletter and on www.littlesilver.org.

You can then head over to our annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Little Silver Police PBA Local 359, which will take place at 1 p.m. on March 19 at the Markham Place Gazebo. Bring the little ones early, at 12:30, for a Bunny Photo.

As a final note, some of you have raised with me and others concerns about the Point Road School drop off. Our police and traffic officers and experts are working with our colleagues in the Little Silver schools to address these concerns. This will be a work in progress, so please be patient.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we hope you enjoy this lion-lamb 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.

Robert C. Neff, Jr.
Mayor, Borough of Little Silver
**RECREATION NEWS**

**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
Sponsored by LS Police PBA 359  
Saturday, March 19, 1:00pm  
Markham Gazebo  
Bunny Photos at 12:30pm  
Rain Date: March 20

**REC SUMMER CAMP**  
June 27-August 5, M-F, 9-noon  
Grades 1-8, Sign Ups Start June 1

**SUMMER REC CAMP COUNSELORS APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED THRU MARCH 30**  
Applicants must have completed 9th grade and be available for the **entire 6 week camp** from June 27 thru August 5. Since there are only a few spots open each summer, work experience with children recommended. Applications available at Borough Hall or on rec web at www.littlesilver.org

**COMMITMENT ETHIC**  
Little Silver Rec believes that our sports program teaches the life skill of **COMMITMENT** and requires both parents and players upon joining a team to **HONOR THEIR COMMITMENT** to their teammates and coaches for THE ENTIRE SEASON.

**Rec Coaches Rutgers Safety Clinic**  
Highly Recommended For All Coaches  
Wednesday, March 23, 7:00-9:30pm  
Little Silver Women's Club  
Provides lifetime partial civil immunity protection to volunteer coaches under NJ law  
To register: DougGlassmacher@gmail.com

**LITTLE SILVER PUBLIClibrary**

**Water Color Painting with Carol Bruno**  
Wednesday, March 16 and Wednesday, March 23  
Get ready for Spring at the Little Silver Library while learning the basics of water color painting. Little Silver artist, Carol Bruno, will instruct us as we paint pansies using water colors. This will be a two-session class that will take place at the library on Wednesday, March 16 and Wednesday, March 23, 1:00-2:30 pm. All materials will be supplied. Space is limited so please sign up at the library. Participants will leave with their own creation of a water color painting of pansies.

For more library news and updates, visit www.littlesilverlibrary.org

**Volunteer Opportunity**  
**Little Silver Environmental Commission**  
Learn more about the Commission at www.littlesilver.org  
Interested residents should contact  
Environmental Commission Chair  
Bonnie Winters Akey at bonw@aol.com

**Congratulations!**  
Markham Place School boys' basketball team, coached by Don Nolan, defeated Fair Haven Knollwood School to capture the Middle School Championship before a standing room only crowd at Markham gym.
The Little Silver Charitable Foundation will host the inaugural “Little Silver Day”. This community event will be catered by Little Silver’s own Sickles Market, The Turning Point and The Little Silver Seafood Company. There will be an endless amount of kids’ activities and games for the youngsters, along with attractions for the adults.

Shore Point Distributors, American Water Company and the Little Silver ACME will be supplying the event with liquid refreshments. A full lineup of talented musicians are set to entertain on the Little Silver Day stage — Pat Guadagno, Dave McCarthy, Rick Dill, The Stone Bullets, Tim McLoone & The Shirleys, and The Haven are all ready to rock ‘n’ roll! The conclusion will be capped off by a spectacular lightshow, illuminating the night sky for all ages to enjoy.

New Jersey Assemblyman Declan O’Scanlon, McLoone’s Restaurants, and J&S Stark Billing & Consulting, Inc. have stepped up to sponsor the Little Silver Day apparel. Many sponsorship levels are still available through the Little Silver Charitable Foundation for businesses, families, and individuals interested in getting involved with this community event. Those interested in sponsoring the Little Silver Day can contact Rick Brandt at 908-675-7646 or RickBrandt80@gmail.com. Visit www.LittleSilverFoundation.com for more event information.

Seniors of Little Silver
The Seniors of Little Silver will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 1:00pm at the Woman’s Club. Come check out the "surprise program", sing a few songs and enjoy the refreshments. All Monmouth County seniors are welcome.

Little Silver Garden Club
Meeting Thursday, March 10, 9:30am at the Woman’s Club

Program features speaker Tanya Ashuck presenting a hands-on demonstration creating a right angle floral design.

Guests are welcome to attend and enjoy the company of others, discuss garden and nature topics, horticulture and design displays. A floral design competition entitled “Shades That Soothe” will be judged.

For information contact
Katharine McCleary, 732-747-4891