March 2018

Someone once said that the winds of March are the yawn that precedes the re-awakening of spring.

In Little Silver, there isn’t much about March that’s very sleepy. In fact, it’s a pretty eventful month, with lots to talk about. And our March winds support eagles’ wings (a note about that below).

First, our police chief reports three commendations for officers who resuscitated victims of cardiac arrest, with the support of our all-volunteer first aid squad and others.

In February, officer Frank Salerno, and in a separate case officer Michael Lahey and Lt. Paul Halpin, helped revive two men in cardiac arrest, in both cases using AED devices. They worked with our all-volunteer EMS squad, MONOC, and in one instance our friends across the river in Oceanport and coworkers, in life-saving first-responder efforts.

The officers received commendations and the praise of our EMS chief, Tom Smith. Let’s hope we never take for granted our volunteer and professional guardians for their heroic work.

Looking forward, March begins the spring clean-up ritual, with a couple of new developments this year.

First, many have noticed the work going on at our ball fields to improve drainage. Our recreation and public works departments are always hard at work this time of year out on the fields, and this year their efforts are complimented by the drainage improvements paid for by the Open Space fund and a grant from Monmouth County.

Next, as residents begin to clean up, we want to again remind everyone NOT to mix brush and leaves together when putting debris out at the curb. Those materials go to separate facilities. Properly registered landscapers will be aware of this, but please remind them.

And lastly, beginning April 3, recycling will go from twice-a-month to every-other-week pick up, resulting in additional pick ups during the year. Additional information about trash and recycling pickups, which will now begin a bit later, at 7 am, is elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

In other news, the Environmental Commission’s annual Environmental Day takes place on March 24 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Women’s Club, where residents can bring electronic items for disposal, donate used clothing to Lunch Break, and bring documents for shredding. There will be composting and rain garden workshops, and more.

This is a family-oriented event, and a real service to the community. Check elsewhere in this newsletter or on littlesilver.org for more information, and support your Environmental Commission – which recently received Bronze Certification from Sustainable Jersey, a statewide effort to promote environmentally-friendly practices and policies.
And of course our all-volunteer Fire Department will host its annual St. Patrick's Day party and fundraiser, this year on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, at the firehouse from 3 to 10 pm. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities for this family event with great food, dancing, music, and more, please go to littlesilverfd.org and support the LSFD.

Last but not least, I want to remind everyone of the wonderful events that are always happening at two terrific Little Silver institutions: the historic Parker Homestead, and the Little Silver Library.

At the homestead, the non-profit Parker Sickles Homestead 1665 Inc. has obtained two grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to expand its public events and to restore the old sweet potato frame. You’ll also see a brand new bridge at the creek adjacent to the homestead, courtesy of the great group that serves as caretaker of this historically significant treasure. Please go for a walk, see for yourself, and get a sense of our town’s rich history. Watch for upcoming events as spring and summer approach.

There’s also lots going on at the Library, including Little Silver residents sharing their talents with the community: Carol Bruno giving watercolor classes on either March 7 or March 9 from 1-3 pm; Molly Gearty presenting The Joy of Herbs on March 15 at 1 pm; and Jeanne Blodi teaching us in an essential oil make-and-take project on March 21 at 1 pm. Patrons can sign up at the Library, and there’s more on littlesilverlibrary.org.

So the eagles: our resident naturalist and all-around caretaker of our walking trails, John Heidema, reports sightings of bald eagles in and around Little Silver, including the former Fort Monmouth property. They are majestic, distinguished by their large size and white heads. So when you go for a walk on our nature trails or near the Shrewsbury River, keep an eye out for this inspiring bird.

On behalf of the governing body, we hope your March is more like a lamb, and less like a lion. 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.