August 2019

Our stormy Monday at the end of July left some of us without power, but thankfully the
downed trees and wires caused only minimal property damage, and no injuries. And we were
fortunate that the heat wave that preceded the storm had dissipated, making the lack of air
conditioning at least tolerable.

But the storm also served to remind us of a few safety protocols, which are worth
mentioning before we get to August’s news.

First, we’ve all experienced the frustration and inconvenience of power outages. And
we all want to know when our power will come back on.

But please understand that the police and our emergency services will not have that
answer. Electricity is supplied by JCP&L, which, since Superstorm Sandy, has vastly improved its
ability to communicate the status of its restoration efforts. You can typically find the best
information the company can provide on their website, firstenergycorp.com.

In large-scale power outages like the recent one, which affected the entire state,
causing the utility to bring in workers from across the country to help, precise estimates may
take some time to provide. During such events, your town advocates for prompt restoration and
for accurate time-to-restore estimates, and I am in frequent contact with JCP&L. We post any
information we receive on our website and Facebook pages, and if needed send it out on our
Two River Alert system to reach the broadest possible audience.

In the meantime, police and emergency responders are handling multiple emergency
calls about downed wires, potential injuries and damage, blocked streets, and possibly, as with
this past storm, electrical fires.

So please do not call police to inquire about the status of power restoration. They do
not have that information, and they need to keep the lines clear for emergency calls.

In the same vein, never call the Fire House directly to report an emergency. Dial 911 or
call police at (732) 747-5900. The Fire House is not staffed 24/7, especially when our volunteers
are constantly out on calls, as they are during storms. Dispatchers reached by calling 911 or
police are trained to get you the quickest response possible.

Lastly, it is worth reminding everyone to always avoid downed wires, even if they
appear not to be live. Our fire chief, Michael Welsh, tells us that even if a wire has been
powered off, emergency appliances such as generators are capable of causing a wire to have
power even when it has been shut off at the pole.

No wire is safe until JCP&L has tested it and says it’s safe, so please steer clear. That is
also the reason that our public works department cannot begin clearing tree or branches from
roadways when wires are still present. Until JCP&L is actually on scene and can test the wires,
public works is prohibited for their own safety from going anywhere near them.

So my last storm-related reminder is one you may have heard before, but at the risk of
sounding like a broken record, please take a minute to sign up for emergency texts, emails and
phone calls. Or, if you are already signed up, please check to make sure your contact
information is up to date. 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.

Thank you for helping us to help you in times of crisis. And thank you to our Emergency
Management Office, Police Department, Fire Department, Fire Police, EMS, Department of
Public Works, our council and administrative folks, and everyone who pitched in to get
information out, clear the roads, put out our fires, keep us safe, and bring us back to normal as
quickly as possible.
In one more piece of safety-related news, there were two car thefts from residences in July. In each case, the keys were left in unlocked cars. Little Silver is a safe town, but not immune from crime – and leaving keys in unlocked cars is an invitation to theft. Please lock your cars and discourage the bad guys from visiting us here in town.

So as to August, our Police Department is hosting National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6 on the Markham Place fields and behind Borough Hall, from 6-9 p.m.

There will be free food, drink, demonstrations and exhibits, and our officers will be there to talk about crime prevention and their efforts to keep us safe. Come say hi, meet our guys in blue, and visit with our volunteer EMS and Fire Department. There will be a DJ, bouncy house, and more. More information can be found on littlesilverpolice.org, where you can click on the department’s Facebook page.

Over at the Little Silver Library you can grab a book or read a newspaper in air conditioned comfort. Join a book club, pick up a free book, get free tickets to events and destinations, and attend various events and classes. Check out littlesilverlibrary.org or the Library’s facebook page for all the August news, or just stop in.

For those of you who enjoy the Parker Homestead, it is now open every Sunday from 1-4. When you stop in, pick up a t-shirt depicting the famous Parker Farm truck. Another musical Ramble is coming together in September, we hear.

Next, the county Board of Taxation has now certified the 2019 tax rate in Little Silver, which has decreased from 1.998 per $100 of assessed valuation last year, to 1.990 this year. Your property tax funds the regional school district (usually a point or two over 20 percent), local school district (usually a bit over 40 percent), county (usually about 12 percent), municipal purposes (usually about 20 percent), and county library (about 1 percent) budgets, and the county open space (about one percent) and local open space (about half a percent) funds.

On behalf of the entire governing body, we wish you smooth sailing during the Two River area’s 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.