July 2019

Graduations, pickle ball, fireworks (the legal kind), our cool town Library, old-time baseball and more bring Little Silver to life this time of year. And rain, rain, rain has made us green and lush with the end of spring and the start of summer. Here’s what’s in store.

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First, with the approach of July 4th, a reminder: some fireworks may be legal now in New Jersey (the result of a 2017 change in state statute), but the majority, including aerial (capable of shooting higher than 12 feet) and exploding fireworks, remain illegal without a permit.

In addition, our local ordinance prohibits disruptive noise that deprives neighbors of the quiet enjoyment of their property.

So please be courteous and responsible – only those 16 and over may use the legal fireworks, which include snakes, snappers, poppers, handheld and ground-based sparklers, and novelties such as glow worms. Some of these can be purchased locally.

Ever vigilant, Chief of Police Dan Shaffery notes that even the now-legal fireworks can be harmful if misused. He recommends adult supervision, never mixing the pyrotechnics with alcohol, and an awareness of your surroundings. And of the illegal fireworks, he says, “anything that goes boom, we can confiscate.” Fair warning, and a safe and happy Fourth!

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Next, June marked various formal graduations in the borough - from nursery school, fourth grade, eighth grade, and high school – bringing with them all the emotions that these rights of passage evoke.

At Red Bank Regional High School, Page Lootsma was recognized as the graduate from Little Silver with the highest GPA. Page is headed to Northeastern University’s College of Engineering in the fall. And our other graduates of all ages received so many other recognitions and awards that it is impossible to list them here.

To all of our graduates: congratulations! And to those moving on to the military, jobs or schools that will take you away from us, please remember your hometown, and be sure to share your abilities, your friendship, and your great Little Silver education with your new communities.

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Speaking of school, RBR will have a new principal at the helm next year. After a lengthy search, Julius W. Clark has been appointed to fill the big shoes of Risa Clay, who is retiring after 27 years with the district. Among her many other accomplishments, Ms. Clay wrote and received a grant to found the Source 19 years ago, which continues to remove obstacles to education, and to provide scholarships with its community partners.

We will miss Risa and wish her well, and welcome Mr. Clark, who previously served in the Red Bank public school system and others, and was selected from a large pool of applicants. He was teacher of the year in Red Bank in 2014, and comes to us with administrative experience from West Windsor-Plainsboro School District. Welcome Mr. Clark!

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In the world of recreational sports, the Tidal Wave team in the fourth and fifth grade division, and the Rubber Duckies of the sixth and seventh grade division, won their softball championships in the Two Rivers Little League. Girls rule!

But of course, our rec program also serves adults in the borough, from Cardio, Core and More to concerts. New this year is an adult, co-ed kickball program every Thursday evening at Firehouse Field at 7 p.m. This is a pickup game, and all grownups are welcome. Relive that gym class glory!
In addition, the Santelle Park tennis courts have now been lined to accommodate Pickle Ball. Court availability will remain first-come, first-served. Lots of interest has been expressed in this growing sport.

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Coming up, the Parker Homestead on Saturday, July 13, from 11-3, will host its fourth annual old time baseball game (played by 1864 rules) at Sickles Field, across from the Homestead. The teams will be wearing vintage uniforms, and the Homestead will be open and showing off its collection of colorful 1909 baseball cards (Ty Cobb! Christy Mathewson!).

The event is free and open to all.

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Also, as summer heats up, remember our air-conditioned, wifi-ready Little Silver Library. The library conducts an excellent reading program for kids and adults, plus other activities, and has free tickets to area attractions. Stop in, sign up (or sign the kids up and pry them from their electronics), and treat yourself to the pleasure of a good book.

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Next, this is my regular reminder to sign up for our Two River Alert (Code Red) program. In an emergency, this is the best way to get critical information from the borough, particularly if the website is not accessible.

This is hurricane season, so 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. 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.

On behalf of the Borough Council, we wish you a wonderful summer in the beautiful Two River area. 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.