September, 2019

Little Silver let no grass grow under its feet this summer, with a special meeting to award a sidewalk contract, some sprucing up, and the organization of a number of fall events keeping everyone busy.

But first, just a reminder: yes, it’s already that time of year - Red Bank Regional High School, Point Road School, Markham Place School and St. John’s Nursery School are all back in session this month. Please drive safely.

As to the sidewalk contract, the council unanimously approved awarding a contract to replace or repair the sidewalk (and some curbing) on the west side of Branch Avenue, hoping to smooth the way for our students, commuters and other pedestrians.

We were privileged to have Leo Olsen at the special meeting, who will start seventh grade this month at Markham Place School. Leo, who uses a wheelchair, spoke in support of the repairs to portions of the sidewalk where disrepair made his travels to school along the western side of Branch Avenue difficult.

The Branch sidewalks are a large component of a town-wide sidewalk repair and installation project that will extend over the next year or more, as currently planned. We will continue to provide updates as portions of the project come together.

For those of you who enjoy the natural walking spaces in town, our resident trail expert and caretaker, John Heidema, reports that our public works department has done a thorough job trimming the summer overgrowth of brush from our trails, including from the boardwalk and vicinity at the south end of Prospect.

John, who you may see walking with his manual hedge shears at the ready, can be a discerning observer of our trail efforts, so we appreciate the kind words. Come out, walk our trails, and see for yourself the natural beauty in our hometown.

You will also catch John’s writings on our website periodically; last month, John wrote of our wildlife, from the 3-inch wingspan of the tiny ruby-throated hummingbird that invaded his home, to the 80-inch wingspan of an eagle soaring high above Little Silver Creek.

Looking back quickly, thanks to the Little Silver Police department for again hosting our very well-attended National Night Out – a family-friendly community event where residents of all ages were treated to an Army helicopter landing, demonstrations, displays, food and drink, and the chance to meet our police and our volunteer Fire Department and EMS. Great job by all involved!

Looking forward, on October 1, 2019 the borough’s ban on point-of-sale, single-use plastic bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene containers goes into effect after being passed back in March. Help out our businesses by bringing your reusable bags to shop local –
borough hall still has a few free bags, and the volunteer Fire Department has many more bags available for a very nominal donation.

On September 21, 2019, at 2 p.m., Little Silver men’s softball will sponsor a **fundraising tournament** at Library and Borough Fields to celebrate the life of little **Maeve Behan**. Proceeds will fund improvements at the school courtyards and the creation of a butterfly garden at the Sickles Field playground, where Maeve played. For more information, please check the PTO website.

Also coming up is an **important archeological event at the Parker Homestead** – sort of. On September 29, 2019 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Homestead will host a clean-up and exploration of its last large storage trailer. Who know what treasures might be found! All who are prepared to get dirty are welcome.

In other Parker Homestead news, **Cub Pack 3** will be building and launching water bottle rockets and hosting a barbecue at the Homestead on September 14, from 1-3. Bring friends interested in joining Scouting in Little Silver!

And on September 22 from 8 to 2, the Homestead hosts its annual **Antique and Vintage Car Show on the front lawn**. Participant registration starts at 8, and there will be food, a DJ, and a trophy presentation at 1:30.

Looking a bit further into the future, the **Little Silver 5K** is scheduled for October 6. To register for this great race and school fundraiser, go to [www.littlesilver5k.com](http://www.littlesilver5k.com). In addition to the well-regarded 5k, there will be a kids’ fun run before the 9:30 event at RBR, and kiddie dashes afterward at 10:30.

Lastly, Little Silver is proud to have native daughter and **field hockey standout Megan Senkeleski** join the Red Bank Regional staff as varsity field hockey head coach. Megan will also be coaching the recreation field hockey program for 5-8 grades. See more rec information elsewhere in this newsletter.

On behalf of the governing body, we wish everyone a happy Labor Day, and again remind everyone that our schools open this month - take it easy behind the wheel, please. 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.