Mayor’s Message
October, 2017

September was busy, with affordable housing, back to school, and a wonderful softball tournament engaging our fair borough. Good stuff on tap for October, too. More about that shortly.

First, I want to talk trash.

The contract with our current trash and recycling hauler expires in March 2018. The borough will therefore be going out to bid for the award of a new contract beginning in April 2018.

As our experienced administrator will tell you, there is nothing like discussing a trash collection system to light up a town’s switchboard. So we want to continue to make sure those who would like to be heard on the issue have that opportunity.

Following on discussions at its September 11 and 25 meetings, where many residents spoke to the issue, the council will again be discussing the topic at its October 16, 2017 meeting, and will likely determine at that time what the specifications for the bids for the new contract should be. All interested residents are invited to attend.

It is possible that the council will choose to go out to bid for a number of different collections methods, and then choose the best one after the bids come in. That presents the possibility of change from the current system. Among the variables are 1) the allowable start time for pick up (currently 6 a.m., with some discussion of going to 7 a.m. or another time); 2) the number of zones (potentially going from the current 3 to 2, which would eliminate Saturday collection; 3) bidding the trash and recycling contracts separately; 4) going to one day a week trash pickup during the cooler months; and 5) increasing the number of recycling pickups.

There are pros and cons to each variable, and one possible set of specs would allow the system to stay the same, with harsher penalties directly in any new contract for picking up before the start time, or spilling debris or liquids from the collections vehicle, both of which have been concerns. If you can’t make the meeting, please call the Borough Clerk’s office directly to express your opinion.

And speaking of debris, please remember to keep leaves separate from limbs and brush when putting that material to the curb. It will help Public Works immensely, since leaves are recyclable and go to a different facility from limbs and brush. At their discretion, public works can refuse to pick up combined piles, so please do your part (or have your landscaper do his/her part). Thank you.

In other news, through the efforts of our Environmental Commission and a grant they obtained, the borough now has water bottle refill stations supplying cooled water – and we strongly urge our residents to use them in lieu of those ubiquitous disposable plastic bottles of water. Be environmentally friendly and bring a reusable container to either Sickles Park or the Borough/Library field, and fill ’er up!

At press time, more than 400 people had used them in just a few short weeks, which helps lower our carbon footprint and reduces litter and waste.

Looking to our schools, Little Silver’s own Willow Martin, a senior at Red Bank Regional High School, wrote a short play that was selected from more than 450 submissions (from all over the world) for performance by the New Jersey Repertory Company.

It’s quite an honor, even for seasoned playwrights, and Willow was the youngest entrant in the competition, at just 16. Willow’s play, “The Late Shift,” will be performed by guild actors on October 8 at 2 p.m. at NJ Rep’s theater in Long Branch. Check out njrep.org for tickets.
Looking forward, a true Little Silver classic, our **Halloween Parade** sponsored by the Little Silver (all volunteer) Fire Department, is scheduled for 1 p.m. on October 22, to be followed by service of donuts and cider at the Firehouse. Lineup is at the Rumson Road tennis courts. The rain date is October 29.

And speaking of classics, the Little Silver PTO’s **Little Silver 5k**, a major fundraiser, takes place on Sunday, October 1, starting on Ridge Road near the high school at 9:30, with a pre-race one-mile fun run and a post-race party at the firehouse. Check [www.littlesilverpto.org](http://www.littlesilverpto.org) for further information.

Looking back to September, I want to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of our school teachers, softball players, recreation director Doug Glassmacher, Chef Pete Roskowinski, and so many others for coming out to the **softball tournament** to benefit little Lily Ince, who is battling a difficult disease. Their efforts, and the words of mom and teacher Lindsey Thompson Ince, were an inspiration. Thank you all.

Also in September, the **Parker-Sickles Homestead 1665 Inc.**, the charitable, volunteer group caring for the Homestead, hosted their second well-attended antique car show on the homestead’s front lawn.

Keep an eye out for future community events at this historic gem – and if you received the group’s annual fund raising letter, please consider contributing what you can to support this hard-working group’s efforts.

And last, but not least, the council in September held a well-attended special meeting to educate the public about its efforts to comply with the state’s requirement that each municipality allow for the construction of a certain number of **low and moderate income homes**.

The town’s struggle with compliance, and protecting itself from a builder’s remedy lawsuit, continues, and details of the presentation at the council meeting by our planner and counsel are posted on littlesilver.org. Please check it out.

On behalf of the governing body, we wish you all a happy and healthy Fall season. In closing, 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.