October 2018

Our somewhat soggy mid-September bumped an outdoor event or two to October, but we were still very busy here in town, and will continue to be through the fall.

In the Borough Council arena, the governing body passed a series of ordinances after a special meeting and public hearings to settle our affordable housing obligation. The settlement, awaiting the blessing of a Superior Court judge, will protect the borough from suits by developers seeking to take control of our zoning and compel the construction of high-density housing without the right of borough review, public comment or Planning Board oversight.

For those who have followed this issue and come to the hearings and meetings, the governing body appreciates your input in this years-long effort. For anyone with questions about this difficult issue, please check the borough website for a recording of the affordable housing presentation, or stop by Borough Hall.

In addition, the Council passed an amendment to our zoning ordinance that prohibits the sale or cultivation of recreational marijuana, or its paraphernalia. The ordinance anticipates that the state government may legalize or decriminalize the use of marijuana in the very near future, and had the support of our schools and our police.

Not everyone agreed with the ordinance, and a robust public hearing and discussion preceded its passage.

Next, it bears noting that we escaped Hurricane Florence, but the devastation in North Carolina served as a stark reminder of the risks that come with living near the coast. So that you can receive critical information in the event that we have such an emergency (or any emergency) here, Florence was also a good reminder to sign up with the borough for Code Red emergency notifications. To do so, or to update your contact information, go to littlesilver.org and click on Emergency Services at the top of the page, or call borough hall for assistance. Also known as the Two River Alert System, Code Red is the best way to stay abreast of emergency notifications.

This is also my yearly reminder, as the leaves start to come down, to keep leaves separate from limbs and brush when putting that material to the curb. Leaves are recyclable and go to a different facility than limbs and brush, and Public Works can refuse to pick up combined piles, so please do your part.

And one more reminder: we’re all enjoying the nice improvements and upgrades at the Acme shopping plaza, but some are forgetting that there is now a cart-return kiosk in the parking lot. Please make use of it and help keep the parking spots and lanes clear.

Looking forward, Parker Homestead 1665 Inc., the charitable volunteer group caring for the Homestead, will host a musical “ramble” on the front lawn on Sunday October 14 from 3-6, featuring performances by The Honey Badgers and other local musicians. The show is free, but is intended to benefit the Homestead, so donations are welcome.

In addition, fund-raising dinner parties will be held throughout town on October 19 from 7-10 p.m. to fund future improvements, renovations and maintenance at the Homestead. Please visit www.ParkerHomestead-1665.org to purchase tickets or learn about sponsorship opportunities.

Lastly, a great annual Homestead tradition, the antique car show, was rained out in September, and rescheduled for October 21.

In school news, on October 3 at 7 p.m. at Red Bank Regional High School, the Board of Education will host a presentation on the upcoming bond referendum in the Media Center. The district-wide referendum, in which all registered voters can vote, will
take place on December 11, and involves proposed improvements to the athletic and educational facilities.

And last but not least, the annual **Halloween Parade**, sponsored by the Little Silver (all volunteer) Fire Department, is scheduled for 1 p.m. on October 21, to be followed by service of donuts and cider at the Firehouse. Line up is at the Rumson Road tennis courts at 12:30 p.m. The rain date is October 28.

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.