

Just a couple helpful hints and news items this month, as we continue to deal with COVID-19 and the vaccine distribution effort.

First, the big snow at the end of January bypassed our little town (the benefit, or the curse, of being a 'shore town'), but let's assume for safety's sake that we'll eventually get hit by a major snow storm.

Please be prepared, and help others prepare:

1. Make sure you are signed up for **emergency alerts**. To do so, please go on www.littlesilver.org, click on the Emergency Services button at the top of the page, and then click on Two River Alert – Code Red Notifications in the drop-down box. Or call borough hall for assistance.

2. Our public works department has sufficient equipment, manpower and resources to respond to even the heaviest snow. However, public works cannot clear every **sidewalk**. If you have a sidewalk, please include it in your snow removal efforts, particularly if you are on a school route, or on a route to the train station or downtown.

3. Please help out our all-volunteer Fire Department by clearing any **snow-covered fire hydrants** in your neighborhood.

4. If you use gas power, clear snow from your outside **dryer vents and the gas meter** to prevent the possibility of carbon monoxide infiltration – a tip courtesy of your all-volunteer LSFD.

5. Please **report power outages** to JCP&L at 1-888-LIGHTSS (888-544-4877), or by going to www.jcp-l.com and clicking on the “view or report outages” link. Calling the police to report an outage may distract them from responding to emergency situations.

As to **COVID-19**, there is always a delay in writing the Message to the time it is then published and received by residents, so I hesitate to post much that may be substantive at the moment, but might not so be a week from now.

I can, however, say that state and federal officials continue to work to improve vaccine distribution, and that the Borough is doing what it can to put out new information and assist those who may be baffled by the process. In that regard, please do what you've been asked to do for nearly a year to prevent the spread, and take the initiative to stay on top of efforts to get everyone vaccinated. We'll try to help by posting new developments on the website, littlesilver.org, and on Facebook, and sending out fliers when appropriate. Any emergent development will be put out by Code Red alerts (see above).

In communications this past month, we have received numerous letters, and a really nice Facebook post, thanking **our first responders (police and our volunteers)** not only for their professionalism, but for their kindness and compassion. This year, Tom

Smith will lead our fire department, Don Niles will again serve as chief of our fire police, and Chris Faherty will head up our EMS. Please think of our first line workers, and support them whenever possible.

Next, two Borough Council news items. First, partially in response to a recent region-wide emergency response to a home in town, the council is **considering an ordinance** requiring landlords to register with the town, and imposing a bond obligation on the homeowner upon two tenant convictions arising from tenant activity. It's certainly not a large-scale problem here, but the proposal is intended to enable the town to better communicate with landlords, and act if a problem situation arises.

Second, a Council committee will soon form to begin coordinating the **Borough's celebration of its 100th birthday in 2023**. Some of you have mentioned to me that you'd like to be involved, and if others would like to help, please call Borough Hall and we'll put you on a list.

In another nice improvement at low cost, our **Public Works** department has taken down the old fake wood paneling in the Courtroom (painting over it wasn't working well) and is sheetrocking, painting and touching up its walls. Their timing works well, since the room is closed to meetings during the pandemic. It's really coming together!

Lastly, in speaking with police **Chief Dan Shaffery** this week, I was advised that – yet again – **a luxury car was stolen**, aided, in part, by a key fob left inside. We're a safe town, but an occasional target for luxury car thieves. I wrote almost the same thing two years ago – please take our chief's advice to lock up your valuables, including your cars, and help keep us all safer.

On behalf of the entire governing body, we wish you a safe, warm, and happy February. 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.