We’re looking forward to a change in the way we collect recycling in Little Silver, so while it might not be the most exciting news to hit town, please bear with me for a quick explanation of what to expect. We think you’ll find the new system much more convenient.

We’ve got other news too, but hang in there for this announcement, which will affect every household in town.

In April, we’ll be moving to “single stream” recycling. For the uninitiated, that simply means that you will no longer need to “sort it out before you set it out.”

Presently, there are four recycling collections every month. Two for cans and bottles, and two for newspaper and cardboard. In other words, you can put out cans and bottles twice a month, and newspaper and cardboard twice a month.

But you can’t mix the two.

Starting in April, you’ll still be able to put everything out twice a month. The difference is, for each collection date, you can put out every recyclable item – newspaper, cardboard, cans, and plastic and glass bottles. No need to separate them.

New schedules and information effective April 1 are included in this Newsletter and the Borough website, and we wanted to alert everyone to the change well in advance.

This news gives me the excuse to remind everyone once again to sign up for the Two River Alert system by calling Borough Hall or visiting www.littlesilver.org. In addition to providing you with information and directions in an emergency, the system is used to alert residents to important town-wide news, like a traffic issue or bridge closing – or the start of a new recycling program. It can be invaluable, so please take a minute and sign up.

Meanwhile, the Mayor’s Message took a break last month to allow space for other important news. So we’ll try to catch you up on a few things:

First, the Borough held its annual organization meeting in January. At that time we thanked our outgoing volunteer services leaders – the wife/husband team of Fire Chief Peter Giblin and EMS Captain Liz Giblin. We also swore in our new leadership for 2015, Fire Chief Reiss Pfleger and volunteer EMS Captain Mike Welsh. The time that these volunteers spend training, practicing and responding to calls is extraordinary, so please thank them when you have the opportunity.

Our 2014 Fire Police Captain, Dan Kelly, agreed to serve another year in 2015. Our volunteer Fire Police are out in every kind of weather, for emergency events and community gatherings alike. Please drive slowly and carefully when they’re out directing traffic, and follow their direction.

In addition, we had a new face on the dais in January. Councilman Rick Scott, M.D., resigned late last year because of new job responsibilities in Chicago. Dr.
Scott was a strong voice on the Council, and had been elected just days after Sandy damaged so many homes, including Dr. Scott’s. Under the worst of circumstances, Dr. Scott steadfastly served the town, and I’d like to thank him and wish him well.

By the way, while his job may take him to Chicago, Dr. Scott still lives in town, so don’t be surprised if you see him around.

Taking his place is Glenn Talavera. Glenn has long been involved in town as a volunteer, and has a background as a state trooper. He’s a great addition to the Council. We welcome his service, and thank his wife Lori and two wonderful girls for loaning him to us.

Next, I’d like to highlight a volunteer effort that helped feed the hungry at the end of 2014. The Community Outreach committee of the PTO organized a food drive in the schools, and ended up with more than 250 bags of food to bring to Lunch Break, a vital Red Bank program that feeds those in need every day. The committee has more such events planned, so please watch for them and help out when you can.

Lastly, some of you know that I’ve written a poem for the Reorganization Meeting every year, looking back at the past year and ahead at the year to come. For anyone interested, you can check this year’s out on littlesilver.org. It won’t raise your literary IQ, but it tried to be informative.

One thing mentioned was the plan to replace the sidewalks on Prospect and Church. We were excited to receive a State grant to fund that work, and look forward to beginning the installation this year.

In closing, I’d like to thank the Borough Council members for everything they do. Don Galante (our outgoing president), Dane Mihlon (our 2015 president), Stuart Van Winkle, David Gilmour, Dan O’Hern, and Glenn Talavera work hard and are always accessible to our residents.

As always, please call Borough Hall with any concerns, or contact me at my home phone, 732-576-8595, or email bobneff80@gmail.com.

**On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish you a safe and healthy winter.**

Robert C. Neff, Jr.
Mayor, Borough of Little Silver