Sometimes we have so much going on, I don’t where to begin. This is one of those times, so please forgive the somewhat random order of the following items.

***

First, we note with sadness the passing of former council member Marc “Dan” Denton. Many remember Dan, who passed away in April, as a fisherman and tennis player, and know his wife Connie as a long-time area realtor, and their three children.

We thank Dan for his service to the town, and extend our sympathy to Connie and all of Dan’s family.

***

Next, my yearly reminder: yes, there is a brush and limb pickup schedule, which you’ll find in this newsletter and on littlesilver.org. Please help us keep our streets clear by following it. And please make sure your landscapers are properly registered with the borough, as required, and are aware of the schedule.

I understand it’s not always convenient, but it’s a matter of both safety and aesthetics. If I’ve got stuff to put to the curb, and it’s not my week, I stage it on my front lawn, and give it a shove into the street when my week comes along. You can try that, or simply time your clean-up to occur during your week to place debris to the curb.

***

So let’s move on to some bragging: our Red Bank Regional High School cyber team took second place among more than 2,200 competitors at the national CyberPatriot competition in Maryland in April.

Check our website and elsewhere in this newsletter for details. Watch for these students to do great things as they move out into the world, helped by the education they received at our hometown high school and their coaches, Mandy Galante and Jeremy Milonas.

***

Looking forward, May 21 will mark the first Taste of Little Silver, sponsored by the Little Silver Charitable Foundation. This family friendly event in the heart of downtown will feature our businesses presenting a “taste” of their wares and services, and is sure to be a great town gathering. Please check the website and elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

***

And speaking of firsts, there is an initiative in town to make Wednesdays not just Wednesdays, but “Walk and Wheels Wednesdays," when students are encouraged to walk or bike to school. Organizers are hoping that families and whole neighborhoods will participate, getting some fresh air and exercise and reducing traffic.

Brings back memories of my old green stingray and biking to Point Road School – usually late. Give it a try. The council is continually seeking grant assistance making sidewalk and road safety improvements to encourage this effort.

***

May also brings our Memorial Day parade and ceremony. As usual, the parade steps off at 8:30 a.m. on Memorial Day from the corner of Willow and Parker, and ends at Memorial Park. We’re excited to have the Red Bank Regional High School Marching Band this year to help lead our parade.

Whether or not you attend the event, please remember the young men from Little Silver who lost their lives in battle: Richard L.J. Conner and Henry G. Woodruff in World War I; John R. Toomey, a paratrooper killed during the Rhine jump in World War II; Tom Firth, who died in a gun battle in South Vietnam in 1965; Jordi Grez, who was killed by an IED in Iraq in 2005; and Tinker Dorn of Shrewsbury, killed by sniper fire in South Vietnam, and whose brother Dan, a long time Little Silver resident, has assisted in our ceremony for many years.

***
Lastly, the Borough Council in April passed the **2017 Municipal Budget**, a description of which can be found on littlesilver.org.

The budget increases spending by under $80,000.00, most of which is due to increased contractual obligations. Overall spending by departments again stayed relatively flat. In addition, the governing body, on its auditor’s recommendation, determined to slightly increase our surplus to guard against unexpected spending requirements – a necessity hammered home by Superstorm Sandy.

All that translates to an increase of less than a tax point, which means that, with the overall increase in property valuation in the Borough, the municipal tax rate, after last year’s decrease, will increase only slightly from 0.428 in 2016 to .433 in 2017.

In short, a house valued last year and this at $650,000 will see a municipal purposes tax increase of only $32.50, following last year’s decrease of $18.

Please bear in mind that this constitutes less than a third of your annual tax bill, the remainder of which constitutes the school tax, the county tax, and the penny open space tax. Once all budgets have been passed, the overall tax rate will be calculated, likely in July.

Again this year, conservative spending by our various departments, shared services, and innovative health insurance planning have helped us keep costs down. Thanks to everyone involved in this yearly effort.

On behalf of the governing body, in the word’s of the old sailor’s fair-thee-well, we wish you clear skies and following seas as we head toward the summer months. 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.