It was President Harry S. Truman (and perhaps others according to a quick web search) who once said that it is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

So it is with Little Silver’s volunteers. From the Fire Department, to our EMS and Fire Police, to our PTO, Buck Backers, and similar school organizations, Little Silver has a rich vein of volunteers running through it. And none of them seeks out the spotlight.

It was nice, therefore, to spend an evening last month at the Coaches Appreciation Dinner, organized by our recreation director, Doug Glassmacher. Recognized were Dan O’Hern, who served as liaison to the recreation committee during his productive tenure on the Borough Council; Lisa Perfetto, who has retired as secretary to the recreation department; and the ever-youthful, indefatigable Judge Terry Flynn, who has for 40 years run the clinic for our youngest soccer players (including his grandson).

Marylou Mannino, Tim Dengler and Justin Griffin were recognized for their service on the recreation committee. And all of our volunteer coaches, of course, were toasted for their devotion to our young athletes, treated to dinner courtesy of Chef Pete Roskowinski and the RBR Culinary Club, and served by RBR culinary student Brandon Trani.

In addition, the Borough Council last month recognized 78 volunteer students, not just from Little Silver, but from surrounding towns, who form Little Silver Shovels, the group that helps seniors and others who might find it difficult to shovel out from under the white stuff. Lots of work for those youngsters this year!

Just a little credit for those who accomplish so much: our volunteers.

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Next up: your governing body’s yearly reminder to comply with the 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. It’s a matter of safety, compliance with environmental regulations, and aesthetics.

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May 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. It ends at Memorial Park, where our ceremony will feature our school musicians, student essayists, our Scouts, dancers and others, and remarks from a noted local veteran. 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 Little Silver resident for many years, has assisted in our ceremony.

For information about other upcoming events, including an historical trek to the Parker Homestead and beyond, and Little Silver Day coming up in June, please check elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Lastly, the Borough Council in April passed the 2018 Municipal Budget, which can be found, along with a user-friendly version, on www.littlesilver.org.

This year’s spending increase of $229,000 consisted of a $109,000 pension payment increase, courtesy of the State of New Jersey, along with some contractual obligation and utility expense increases. Overall, department spending stayed fairly flat.

Accordingly, the increase is less than a tax point, and is $160,912 under the Tax Levy Cap.
What that means is that, with the overall increase in property valuation in the Borough, the municipal tax rate will increase only slightly, from 0.433 in 2017 to 0.436 for 2018. So the average assessed home in town, valued at $665,000, will see a municipal tax increase of $13.72 in 2018.

Please remember that this is only one part of your annual tax bill, the remainder of which comprises 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, which will likely be available by June.

Again this year, conservative spending by our various departments, shared services, effective debt service planning, and the gradual funding of future capital expenditures have helped us keep costs down. Thanks as always to everyone involved in this yearly effort.

On behalf of the governing body, we wish you smooth sailing into 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.