



Photo by Jamie Cohen

OLD TAPPAN NEWS WINTER 2006

A Tradition of Spirit & Friendship

*Warmest Wishes
for a happy, healthy holiday season
to all our residents
from your Mayor & Council
and the entire Borough family*

ATTENTION PET OWNERS

NJ State Law requires you to
renew your pet's registration
by January 31



Photo by Jamie Cohen

Rabies Clinic
Saturday, January 13, 2007
At DPW, Russell Avenue

Free rabies shots
for dogs from 10-11 and
cats from 11-12

The Old Tappan Baseball and Softball Association will start its Player On Line Registration on January 08, 2007. Log onto the Borough website www.oldtappan.net; Click on Recreation Link; Click on Community Pass Link. Avoid additional late fees and save \$15 per player by registering before February 9, 2007. Visit our website WWW.ETEAMZ.COM/OLDTAPPANLL for more details.

LUNCH & LEARN

January 11, 2007
A registered dietitian from
Pascack Valley Hospital
will speak about nutrition

All Old Tappan seniors are invited
to attend this free event

The Old Tappan Fire Department reminds you
to make sure your holiday season is a safe one.

Keep live trees away from open flames like
fireplaces or candles, and make sure they
have plenty of water at all times.

Avoid electrical fires — don't overload exten-
sion cords, plugs, or circuit breakers.

As we ring in the New Year check or replace
the batteries in your smoke and carbon mon-
oxide detectors.



**A SPECIAL
YEAR-END REPORT
FROM MAYOR POLCE
INSIDE**

A YEAR-END REPORT FROM MAYOR POLCE



Photo by Jamie Cohen

At this time of year, it is important to enjoy the holidays with family, reflect on the past year, and make plans for the coming year. Take time out to experience the holiday spirit of this season with family and friends. It is a special time of year, full of warmth and comfort.

Looking back at this year, the Council and I are proud of the ways we have been able to move forward in furthering our objectives. As you should know, our agenda is shaped by the desires and concerns expressed to us by our residents. We are deeply committed to listening and responding to Borough residents and providing you with the means and information that you need to actively participate and become involved in the local decision-making process.

Some of the highlights of the past year include:

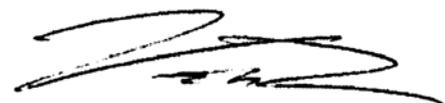
- ♦ **No municipal tax rate increase** – The Council and I were able to fashion a budget for 2006 which resulted in *no increase* in the municipal tax rate. This is the only portion of the budget over which the Mayor and Council has control, and we were able to keep the rate flat while maintaining top-quality municipal services. This continues Old Tappan’s long tradition of conservative fiscal policy which has resulted in one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the County.
- ♦ **Open Space acquisition** – By year end, we should have closed on the purchase of a 3+ acre parcel of open space to be known as Bonnabel Park. This property is located on Old Tappan Road, at the first bend as it turns towards River Vale. This property was formerly known as “Lachmund’s Bend” and was the location of Lachmund’s Hotel, a site of great historical significance in Old Tappan. It will be forever preserved as open space, with public fishing access and walking trails.
- ♦ **Delay Property Tax Revaluation** – Old Tappan was ordered by the County to conduct a town-wide property tax revaluation. Following a hearing before the County Tax Board, the Borough was able to delay the date for completion of the revaluation to 2009.
- ♦ **Concerts in the Park** - For the first time, through the efforts of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee, we were able to stage wonderful concerts in Oakes Park, our showcase downtown park.
- ♦ **Town Day fireworks** – Working with the Recreation Commission, we were able to stage a stunning fireworks display on Town Day. Fireworks are back in Old Tappan and they are better than ever, with the beautiful backdrop of the Old Tappan Golf Course.
- ♦ **Technological advances** – It has been three years since the Council and I started “paperless meetings.” We are able to access meeting information and documents electronically, virtually eliminating paper from the meeting process. As of this year, we are now able to access our meeting packets as well as a whole database of municipal documents online. These innovations allow us to make more informed decisions and govern more efficiently and effectively.

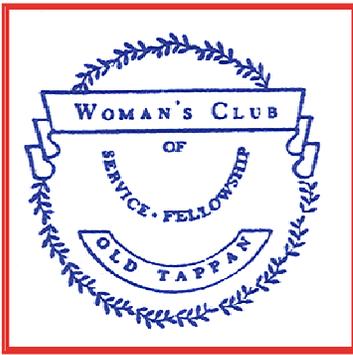
We look forward to meeting the challenges of the future and staying on the path that we have laid out over the past seven years of this administration. Among our objectives as we head into the new year and the all-important budget process are the following:

- ◆ **Keep a flat municipal tax rate** – The property tax debate rages on in the State. Rest assured, on a local level, the Council and I will do whatever we can to control property taxes. We will, once again, look to keep the municipal tax rate flat.
- ◆ **Explore shared services and consolidation** - I am forming a Shared Services and Consolidation Committee to explore avenues of cost-sharing through sharing or consolidating services with neighboring municipalities or school boards.
- ◆ **Public safety** – In this changed world, we must prioritize public safety as never before. We will look after the safety of our residents, with a particular focus on the safety of our children. Our Police Department, Fire Department, and First Aid Corps are trained and ready to address situations that may arise, and they are committed to staying “ahead of the curve” on all public safety issues.
- ◆ **Public information** – Always striving to better our systems of providing the public with the information that is necessary or useful to them, look for more newsletters and mailings from us, as well as yet further innovations to our information-filled website. Looking for ways to improve our public communications is an everyday focus of this administration.
- ◆ **Open space** – The Council and I will continue our quest to preserve and protect open space. As in the past, we will look for opportunities to acquire open space which would be funded primarily through County and State grants.
- ◆ **Control development** – Together with the Planning Board, your Mayor and Council will look to curb inappropriate development. With little developable land remaining, developers become creative and sometimes aggressive in their approach. We must continue to listen and look for opportunities to meet our needs, while refusing to allow development that is not in the public’s interests.
- ◆ **Continue technological advances** – We have implemented online access by our Finance Dept. to our banking records and will soon begin utilizing a remote deposit service. These procedures enhance our ability to have up-to-date information at our fingertips and will eliminate most physical trips to the bank, allowing employees to focus their time on other activities. We also expect to realize higher interest on our accounts due to immediate posting of deposits beyond close of normal business hours. Assisted by our Technology Committee, we will continue our efforts to develop an effective and efficient method for our residents to make online payments for everything from dog licenses to property taxes.

I hope that this provides some insight into our priorities as we move forward. While this is a fluid process and priorities evolve, our basic objectives remain consistent. We need you to help us determine and shape our goals and priorities, both in the short term and in the long term. You can help us by providing input in the budgeting process, by coming to our meetings, and letting us know what is important to you by sending letters or emails (mayor@oldtappan.net), and by calling us (201-664-1849, ext. 224). We cannot effectively govern without your input.

On behalf of the Borough family and my family, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!





Thanks to all who supported our 16th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival that was held on November 19th at Northern Valley Regional High School in Old Tappan. The festival is our annual major fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund and many community projects. In particular we would like to acknowledge: Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan, Parmigiano's Restaurant, Charlie Brown's Steak House, Mail Boxes, etc, Butterworth's Bagels, Lawrence Inserra of Shop Rite of Emerson, Wael Kioumji of Dunkin Donuts, Bud and Libby Weidmann, John and Diana Savadjian, and Tinjya and John Shahdanian.

Proceeds from sales of the Woman's Club *Treasured Recipes* cookbook benefit local projects, including the Club's Community Improvement Project for the Old Tappan Public Library and the Old Tappan First Aid Corps. *Treasured Recipes* is a collection of 500 cherished recipes from club members, family, and friends, published in an attractive padded 3-ring binder format. The cost is \$13.50. Sample cookbooks are on display along with mail-in order forms at the Library, Borough Hall, Mail Boxes, and the Golf Course Pro Shop. Cookbook orders and delivery arrangements can also be made by calling Libby Weidmann at 201-767-1097.

We invite prospective new members and guests to attend our meetings. The first meeting of the new year is on Tuesday, January 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Tappan Fire House meeting room. The program will be a game night. For information, call Pat at 201-768-8128 or Anita at 201-767-1518.



OLD TAPPAN LIONS CLUB



The Old Tappan Lions would like to thank the many donors to the White Cane Fund Drive for the blind.

A pride of Old Tappan Lions recently went to Camp Marcella, a New Jersey summer camp for blind children (ages 5 -16), to evaluate the current needs of the recreation building for which the Old Tappan Lions Club has responsibility for upkeep and furnishings. There is no charge to the children or their families for this camping experience. Donations to the Lions help us support our Camp Marcella recreation building as well as many other worthy causes.



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