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Dear Friends and neighbors,

I hope this note finds you well. Old man winter is certainly taking his time leaving with these chilly mornings and nights but hopefully he gets the hint and moves on soon.

The Council and I have had a busy April and wanted to share some of the details. We introduced our Municipal Budget which is separate from the Bergen County and our local and regional school districts portions of your property taxes. Final adoption is scheduled for our May 6th Council meeting.

I had the honor to recognize the Northern Valley Old Tappan Varsity Competition Cheerleader Team and residents Chanel Hwang and Lauren Tong for their outstanding championship performances with Varsity Cheerleading and Varsity Fencing at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Mayor & Council meeting. Also, Council President Jin Yhu and I were fortunate to be able to celebrate with Nettie Davi on her 108th birthday at her residence at Sunrise.

Just this past weekend, Stephen Wiklinski and I had the joy of throwing out the ceremonial first pitches, kicking off our little league baseball and softball seasons.

As we head into May, I want to be one of the first to wish our Old Tappan Moms a ***Happy Mother's Day***.

Our May agenda is quite full; the following are some topics and important dates.

- Many thanks to the efforts of our Veterans Advisory Committee, led by Fred Puglisi, Dr. Mark Johnson, and Frank Venditti. This committee, under the direction of Councilman Bill Boyce, has been busy over the past several months with plans to update our veteran plaques, and add to the Veterans Memorial at Oakes Park. The committee has other plans which will be unveiled at our upcoming Old Tappan Memorial Day Ceremony. Thank you to the entire committee for all your hard work.
- We will once again be commemorating Memorial Day with our annual town parade and ceremony on Monday, May 27th. Please plan on joining your fellow residents and veterans in honoring those who gave up their lives for our freedom.
- Our upcoming May 6th Council meeting will feature a presentation by our Old Tappan planning professional, Burgis and Associates, discussing the recent Affordable Housing legislation, its timeline, and effects on Old Tappan. Attend the meeting and stay informed on this important topic.
- On Monday evening May 13th at 7:00pm, State Senator Holly Schepisi from the 39th Legislative District will be in Old Tappan as part of a Town Hall meeting. She will be discussing initiatives for our district and updates on affordable housing legislation. Please make every effort to attend as Senator Schepisi and the Mayor and Council endeavor to explain and answer your questions regarding the effects of affordable housing on our municipalities.
- The Old Tappan Planning Board, which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, passed a resolution to update our Master Plan upon the suggestion of the Mayor and Council. A committee will be formed to work with the planner on the update. If you have ideas, suggestions, or questions, please feel free to attend a Planning Board meeting.

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- The Council will also be considering a Resolution opposing Senate bill #S2347. This bill, if passed in the Senate would fundamentally and permanently revise all single family and two-family zoning districts in every NJ municipality by allowing accessory dwelling units without limitations and without analyzing existing land use patterns and environmental impacts.
- The topics of school traffic safety and reliable Emergency Medical Services continue, and the Council and I are committed to ongoing discussions on both these important matters.

In closing, thank you again for your involvement in keeping Old Tappan a fantastic place to call home.

Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting or around town.

Warm regards,

*Thomas Gallagher*

Mayor  
Borough of Old Tappan