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Dear friends and neighbors,

Daffodils are up and spring is in sight. However, beware... In years past both March and April have surprised us with some substantial snowstorms. The consolation is that the accumulation doesn't hang around for long.

The planning board recently approved an application for a senior assisted living home located at 244 Old Tappan Road. Last week, the Mayor & Council was served with legal "Notices of Appeal" which require the governing body to review the transcripts of the board's hearings, of which there are many, and either reverse, remand, affirm, or modify the final decision of the planning board. I can assure you that the council and I will approach this onerous task with due diligence.

On the other hand, your Council and I have been working extra evenings to prepare the 2023 municipal budget. The process began with each department head, committee, or board chairman, submitting their requirements for the year. They then appear before us in order to justify their immediate and long-term needs along with their capital requests. Since we too are taxpayers, we are very cognizant as to how any increases may affect the tax rate, so every need and request is subject to absolute justification. Sometime later this month, our C.F.O. and municipal auditor will inform us just what the tax rate will be. Speaking of finances, I'm pleased to report that the bonding agency has once again rated Old Tappan as a triple A community. This AAA rating recently allowed us to refinance present and long-term debt at a rate of 2.8%. A most attractive rate in today's economy, I might add.

I am very pleased to report that our golf course, under the leadership of the Kemper Golf Management Company, experienced increased profits in 2022, above what had been forecast. In fact, 2023 membership already exceeds last year's. Our 52-year-old course is showing its' age and upgrades are understandably needed. We are already in the midst of making improvements to the irrigation system, additional cart paths, and a various sundry of additional items. Rebuilding of sand traps, greens, and the likes are quite costly and are being addressed for improvement over time.

Bergen County promises that the repaving of some county roads will be taking place this year. Their work continues at the Old Tappan Road bridge, and we hope that it will be completed in the near future. Rumor has it that PSE&G will soon be occupying the vacant building located at 184 Central Avenue opposite Oakes Park but sorry to say, still no definite word on a supermarket.

Enjoy the spring!

Sincerely,

John M. Kramer

Mayor
Borough of Old Tappan