

OLD TAPPAN NEWS

A TRADITION OF SPIRIT AND FRIENDSHIP

Official Borough Newsletter of Old Tappan

December 2004

Volume 41 No. 4

REPORT

FROM

MAYOR

POLCE



PHOTO BY JAMIE COHEN

The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends – a time of spirituality and friendship. It is a time to reflect on accomplishments of the past year and to plan for the coming year.

Of course, it is now that your governing body starts the budgeting process. We assess what works and what needs work. We evaluate the wants and needs of each and every department and board and committee. We plan for the coming year and the years to come. It is a time of challenge and excitement. It is the time for shaping our short term and longer term future.

Last year at this time the Council and I committed to taking advantage of favorable interest rates and investing in capital projects. In hindsight, this appears to have been a sensible approach as the costs of borrowing have risen significantly. As is often the case with these capital projects, they have all not yet been completed. We are awaiting delivery of our new ambulance. Our new “downtown” park – Twin Oaks Park – will be started in the Spring, and completed in advance of a memorial service to be held there on September 11.

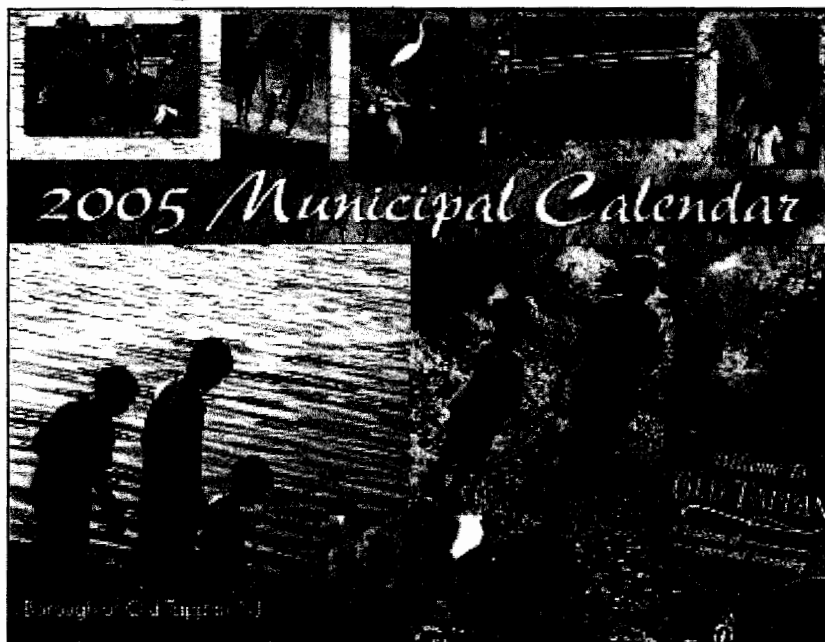
BOROUGH HALL PARK FINISHED

We did recently complete the small serene “Borough Hall Park,” located directly behind Borough Hall on Russell Avenue. The library expansion, facilitated with a Borough loan, is also scheduled to start in Spring 2005.

With these substantial capital investments last year, we have a moratorium on new capital projects for the 2005 budget. This does not lessen the budgetary challenge however. With contractual commitments through existing

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New Look for 2005 Calendar Continues Program to Improve Borough Communications



The new calendar includes this stunning full color cover.

One of the goals Mayor Polce established when he took office was to improve and increase the communication between Old Tappan's residents and your government. Since that time five years ago we have worked very hard to carry out the charge of providing timely, complete, accessible information to our residents on the many aspects of Borough activities that impact your lives. Through this newsletter, our website, the Borough calendar, special mailings and announcements posted on our Borough Hall sign we have tried to tell you the things you need to know.

But there are still too many occasions when people say to us “Why didn't you tell us about this?” or “Why didn't I know what was going on in town?” So this year we're making some changes in the way we communicate with our residents.

● Our **Borough calendar**, which will be mailed to each home in Old Tappan, has a dramatic new look. We have had the tremendous good fortune to have professional photographer and resident Jamie Cohen as our Borough photographer this year, and the calendar features her gorgeous photos showcasing the

scenic beauty of Old Tappan and the outstanding quality of life enjoyed by our residents. The monthly calendar pages have been revamped to provide more usable space for noting your appointments. We hope you'll use your Old Tappan calendar and hang it somewhere in your home where you can enjoy the great photos all year long. By selling a limited amount of advertising in the calendar, we are able to bring this beautiful product to you at no additional cost to the Borough.

● We've compiled a **Resident Handbook**, which will also be mailed to each home in Old Tappan. This booklet contains all the day-to-day details you need to know, including contact information for all the Borough departments. Please take a moment to flip through this booklet when you receive it to familiarize yourself with the information it contains. Then put it in an easily accessible place for future reference.

● Our website, www.oldtappan.net, is a constant work in progress. New features and content are being added almost every day. View photos of recent Borough events, download

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LIBRARY EXPANSION SET FOR SPRING

Library expansion plans are rapidly moving forward! Our final plans are completed and we will go out for bids mid-December for our new expansion and renovation. Construction will begin in early spring and is expected to be completed in 10 to 12 months.

HOW LIBRARY IS FUNDED

Most residents do not realize the unique way our Library operates. We are not a municipal library which would be paid for by the taxpayers and governed by a board consisting of the Mayor and his appointees. Rather, we are a private association, with our own Board of Trustees, not accountable to the Mayor and Council. However, because the Old Tappan Library is a member of the Bergen County Cooperative Library Service (BCCLS), the Borough of Old Tappan is required to fund us at the same level the state of New Jersey mandates for a municipal library (1/3 of a mil of the assessed valuation of the municipality). In 2004, this funding amounted to \$407,000.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Many people have inquired about the financing of our project. The library is responsible for raising all of the necessary funds. We started our fund-raising May 2003 and by December 2003, we had raised about \$70,000 towards our goal of \$1.3 million. We met with the Mayor and Council in January 2004 to present our operating budget. In February 2004, Mayor Polce and the Council members offered to include the library renovation in a town bond and lend us the money, so that we could begin construction now. A loan contract was drafted and the Borough lent us \$1.2 million, which will be paid back over the next 19 years through fund-raising efforts. Our yearly loan payment averages \$83,000.

Thanks to overwhelming support and generosity of our community, we had wonderful success with all of our fund-raisers this year: "Usual Suspects" - \$30,000; Pet-walkathon - \$4,500; Mother's Day bake sale - \$500; Scarecrow festival - \$275; garage sale - \$1,000; and Shhh...a silent and live auction - \$39,785.

The library is currently seeking a temporary location in Old Tappan for 10 to 12 months while we are under construction. It will be necessary for us to vacate the library, and we will relocate as much of the collection as possible to our new location. We will make all attempts to minimize disruption of our services for all of our patrons.

"Communications" cont. from page 1

forms, view all Borough ordinances and codes, and contact us through email links. Log on and check out a page or two. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised!

● This **newsletter** has been going through an updating process. It has always contained a wealth of information, but we're trying to make it more timely, more concise, and to present it in a more interesting way.

We're very proud of the efforts we're making to keep you informed. **But communication is a two way street.** We need you to take in the information we put out, and we very much want and need your feedback. Call, write, email me at carmenini@oldtappan.net. Let us know how we're doing - what you like and what you would like to see changed. A two-way flow of information is the best way to ensure that your governing body continues to provide our residents with the services and lifestyle we all treasure in our very special community.

Councilwoman Mary Carmenini

WOMAN'S CLUB SAYS "THANKS" TO SUPPORTERS

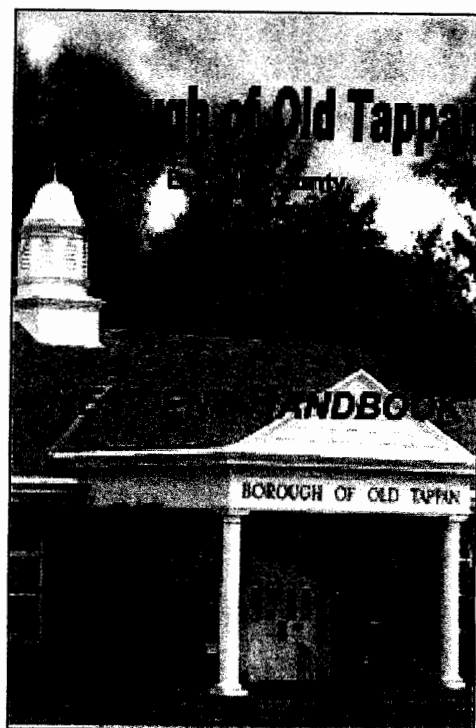
The Woman's Club of Old Tappan would like to thank everyone who supported our 14th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival that was held November 14. This year was the first time it was held at the Northern Valley Regional High School here in Old Tappan.

Welcome Packets that provide community information for new residents are available at Borough Hall. Any organization who wishes to contribute or update information for the Welcome Packets may contact Libby at 201-767-1097.

We are pleased that we continue to gain new members and we would like to have even more join us! Guests are encouraged to attend our first meeting of the New Year at the Old Tappan Firehouse meeting room at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2005. For club or membership information, call Pat at 201-768-8128 or Anita at 201-767-1518.

The Library Board of Trustees, library staff, and our fund-raising committees deeply appreciate everyone's support during this exciting time for our library. If you have any questions or would like to see the plans, please visit the library. Contributions to our building fund are welcome at any time.

*Susan Meeske, Library Director
Ronald Binaghi, Jr., Council Liaison*



Cover of Resident Handbook

Tax Collector's Office Hours

Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday (excluding holidays). For your convenience we have a drop box located to the right of the front door for "after hours." We check this box every morning. Anything received after 4:00 p.m. will be marked received the following day of operation.

Mayor's Report Continued from page 1

collective bargaining agreements, rising medical insurance costs, greater demands for services, and rising costs in general, the Council and I will have more than enough hard budgetary decisions to confront.

As always, we encourage you to let us know your thoughts. Please come share with us at our meetings (generally held on the first and third Mondays of each month). Send me an email (mayor@oldtappan.net). Drop in my office at Borough Hall on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Only through diverse citizen participation can we effectively govern.

Finally, I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and new year. I hope that the spirit of giving and the kindness and warmth of family and friends provide you with a welcome break from your everyday routine. Once again, we all get to start anew. I encourage you all to take advantage of this wondrous opportunity.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE ABUNDANT IN VICINITY OF OLD TAPPAN

There are many opportunities to enhance the recreational activities of the entire community without the need to formalize groups under the banner of the Recreation Commission.

We would like to point the way to many resources in town and within five miles of Old Tappan, and provide a means for residents to get more information by promoting these ideas on the website, in the Resident Handbook, and in this newsletter. Recreation goes far beyond baseball, basketball, soccer and football, and we feel it would be a great service to people of all ages for us to encourage participation in varied activities.

We will start with just a few ideas, and hope you will take advantage of these recreational opportunities in and around Old Tappan.

Bocce: Stone Point Park. Contact Tom Mancini - 201-768-5260, tklm2@aol.com

Golf:

● Old Tappan Golf Course. Contact Doug Meeks - 201-767-1199.

● Tappan Driving Range, Route 303, Tappan, NY. Covered and heated, open 12 months a year. Often special rates before 3 p.m. - 845-358-5557.

● Closter Golf Center, 153 Homan Ave., Closter - 201-768-0990.

Hiking, Jogging, Fishing and Birding:

● United Water Resources watershed recreation program - apply for permit at 201-767-9300 Ext. 3208 or go to www.unitedwater.com/uwnj. Very reasonable, especially for seniors. Open spring, summer, and fall.
● Paved 1/3 mile track at Stone Point Park. Open all year.
● Join *Girls on the Run* - Contact Rebecca Gattoni, 201-722-9510.

Horseshoes: Stone Point Park. Bring your own equipment.

Playgrounds: Stone Point Park, Chestnut Park, Irving Street Park, TBD School.

Platform Tennis:

Haworth Platform Tennis Association
Contact Larry Weil for more information, 201-666-0690, lweil@optonline.net. This is a game played day and night outdoors during the fall, winter and spring seasons. Great

as a competitive sport or just for fun. Very reasonable for the entire family.

● **Shuffleboard:** Stone Point Park - under the pavilion.

● **Tennis:** Northern Valley Regional H.S. Ten hard courts. Available spring, summer and fall when high school teams are not using them.

All of these activities share some common characteristics. They are not team sports that require a high level of organization. None require more than four participants, and many can be done alone or with one friend. The costs range from free to reasonable. Many are suitable for people with special needs. All are outdoors and require a moderate to high level of physical exertion. All can be enjoyed no matter what level of skill a person has. Age is not a factor. All are convenient, and, where necessary, instruction is available.

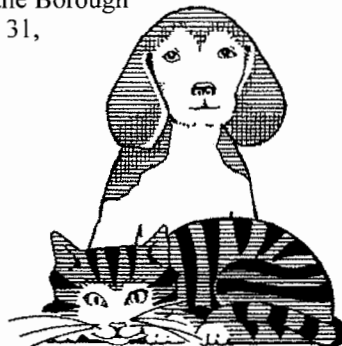
We welcome your participation. An active life style is a healthy life style.

*Larry Weil, Recreation Director
Victor Cioce, Council Liaison*

RENEWAL REMINDER FOR DOG AND CAT LICENSES

Licenses for dogs and cats expire December 31. A license application will be sent to you or you can pick one up at the Borough Hall.

You must furnish proof of rabies vaccination valid through December 2005. The fee is \$8.20 for neutered pets and \$11.20 for all others. Renewal applications must be received by the Borough by January 31, 2005.



First Aid Corps Teaches Residents Lifesaving Skills

During the month of October, the Old Tappan First Aid Corp began conducting CPR classes for the residents of Old Tappan. To date, they have taught five classes, educating seven Old Tappan residents, ten Borough Hall employees, four Old Tappan police officers, and three Old Tappan firefighters. In total, there are now 24 more people in Old Tappan equipped with the knowledge and skills to potentially save the life of a person who is not breathing or in cardiac arrest.

Currently, two variations of the CPR class are being taught. The "Friends and Family" class is approximately 4.5 hours long and teaches rescuers skills in CPR and relief of choking (foreign-body airway obstruction). It presents information about the American Heart Association adult Chain of Survival and signs of heart attack, cardiac arrest, stroke and choking in adults. The course also presents information on the American Heart Association pediatric infant and child Chain of Survival, signs of choking in infants and children, how to reduce risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and prevention of the most common fatal injuries in infants and children. All lay rescuers, such as schoolchildren, family members of patients at risk for sudden cardiac death, and other laypersons who want to learn rescue skills for loved ones should take this course.

The "BLS Health Care Providers" class is an advanced American Heart Association class and lasts approximately 6 - 8 hours long. This teaches CPR skills for helping victims of all ages (including doing ventilation with a barrier device, a bag-mask device, and oxygen); use of an automated external defibrillator (AED); and relief of foreign-body airway obstruction (FBAO). It's intended for participants who provide health care to patients in a wide variety of settings. There is a two year certificate issued upon passing a practical and written test.

The Old Tappan First Aid Corps, led by their trained instructors, Mark Geerinck, Tony Esposito, and Mike Paisner, offer these courses to the residents and employees of Old Tappan free of charge. Courses can be given to groups of three or more at the First Aid Corps building, your place of business, or even your home. Why not make it your New Year's resolution to learn how to save a life? Call Tony Esposito at 201- 666-9030 to schedule your CPR class today.

The Old Tappan First Aid Corps wishes you holidays filled with good health and happiness!

*Karen Patrico, Captain
Guy Carnazza, Council Liaison*

New Senior Events are Outstanding Successes

SENIOR EXPO

The first Old Tappan Senior Expo was held recently to provide information and expert assistance on topics of interest to seniors. All who attended agreed the event was most worthwhile, and plans are already underway to make this an annual event.

The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support of the Expo: A&P, Bi-State Deli, CVS, John Anthony Salon, MiMi's Nail & Pedicure, Old Tappan Flower Garden, Parmigiano's, Pizza Factory, Starbucks, and Young Art in Old Tappan; Beautiful Buds, Custom Framing, Gian Carlo's, Iron Horse, Sugarflake Bakery, Trader Joe's and Shaw's Book Shop in Westwood; Le Petit Gateau in Park Ridge; Rudy's Ristorante & Pizza and Stop & Shop in Closter; Wendy's, and Manhattan Fruit. Special thanks to the Church of the Palisades for allowing us the use of their wonderful facility.

This year's Expo was held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For next year, if you would be interested in the Senior Expo but cannot attend during the day, please let us know so that we can plan accordingly. Call Borough Hall at 201-664-1849, or email Senior Citizen Advisory Committee liaison Councilwoman Mary Carmenini at carmenini@oldtappan.net to let us know what time would be best for you. If enough people express interest, we will attempt to arrange the schedules of the County service representatives and other participating experts to accommodate your request.

LUNCH 'N' LEARN

Another first, the kick-off of our Lunch 'n' Learn series, was held on November 9. Lunch was provided by the Borough and Linda Cross of Bergen County presented a discussion on "Mastering Medicare." Over 100 people attended, and were very enthusiastic about this new program. The next Lunch 'n' Learn is scheduled for April 14 at the Firehouse. Mark your calendar now to participate in this enjoyable, informative event.

*Bob Colwell, Chairman,
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Mary Carmenini, Council Liaison*

HALLOWEEN IN OLD TAPPAN

Take a look at some of the prize-winning costumes from the 2004 Ragamuffin Parade. This annual event is a joint venture of the Woman's Club, the PTA and the Borough of Old Tappan.

Photos by Jamie Cohen



Van Schedule for Seniors and Special Needs

Monday: 10:00 a.m. - noon
Local medical facilities; and Shoprite Supermarket, Emerson.

Thursday: First and third week of the month.
noon - 2:30 p.m.
Old Tappan Golden Age Club meeting at the Firehouse.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. - noon
Local medical facilities and Shoprite Supermarket, Emerson.

There is NO charge for van service which is limited to Senior or Special Needs residents of Old Tappan.

For additional information, or to schedule a trip, please call our van coordinator, Vivian, at 201-767-8651.

Upcoming Events for Old Tappan Seniors - Mark your Calendars!

Golden Age Club First and third Thursday of each month
Day trips to Atlantic City in January and June. Other trips to be announced.

High School Play "Mame" February 28, 2005
Tickets are free to seniors, but you must order by mail. Forms available at Borough Hall.

"55 Alive" AAA Safe Driving Course March 2005 (watch for date)

Lunch 'n' Learn April 14, 2005

Mother's Day Luncheon May 5, 2005 Sponsored by the Golden Age Club

Father's Day Luncheon June 16, 2005 Sponsored by the Golden Age Club

A variety of other activities is being planned. Watch for future announcements. The events listed above are held in the upstairs meeting room of the Old Tappan Firehouse.

BOY SCOUTS COMPLETE HIKE ON PALISADES HISTORIC TRAIL

BSA Troop 132 recently completed the Palisades Historic Trail Hike. It began with a tour of the Fort Lee Museum, then overnight tenting in below freezing weather. The boys and leaders then hiked the 12.5 miles along the Hudson River from Alpine back to Fort Lee.

The Troop learned about the significant role this region played in gaining our country's independence. They earned a uniform patch for the first hike and an historic medal for their second hike.

Other activities include a Camporee at the NJ State Police training ground, community service at the Village and an Eagle Scout project to improve the wildlife habitat at Stanaland Park.



Fire Department Receives Grants for Breathing and Radio Equipment

The Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Department has recently accepted delivery of a new self contained breathing apparatus compressor system. Old Tappan received \$41,850 in grant money from FEMA that paid for a large portion of this equipment. Members of the Fire Department were recently trained in the use of the compressor system and it is currently fully operational.

Additional grant money has been applied for that will be used to upgrade the radio equipment at the Firehouse.

Construction on our truck room improvement project has begun. The new construction will provide a new communications room, office space and much needed storage rooms. The

project also includes a bathroom with shower that will be available to our firefighters.

Mark the date! Sunday, December 19, Santa will be visiting all streets in town to bring holiday cheer to all of our residents. Listen for the sirens during the late morning/early afternoon hours... Santa will be down your street shortly !!!!

On behalf of all of the members of the Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Department, I would like to wish all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Kevin S. Dorney, Fire Chief
Guy Carnazza, Fire Commissioner

SUCCESSFUL YEAR WINDS DOWN AT OLD TAPPAN GOLF COURSE

We encourage all residents to visit "The Club at Old Tappan," restaurant and share in the fine food, excellent service, and outstanding atmosphere. Gordon Fraser, "The Club" owner, has done a fine job in his first year at the golf course.

"The Club" will remain open on special nights during the winter

Thursday evenings will feature "All You Can Eat Pasta Night" and drinks at that time will be served at \$1.00 off.

Friday evenings will have a special of *Prime Rib*. You can get a prime rib dinner at regular price and get a second dinner at half price.

Saturdays at "The Club" will be available for any of your special events (holiday parties, birthdays, showers, etc.).

We remind everyone that the clubhouse facilities may be used by any member or resident for special occasions throughout the entire year. You can call Gordon at 201- 767- 4310 to discuss plans for any of your special occasions.

As usual, the golf course is scheduled to close on December 31. Weather permitting, the course may remain open through the New Year's Day weekend.

This has been a highly successful season for the golf course. The course has continued to move forward, and remains one of the many positive attributes of our great Borough. The success of the golf course is due to the efforts and cooperation of all involved.

RATES TO REMAIN THE SAME FOR NEXT SEASON

Looking ahead to next year, we anticipate continued success - which translates into a great benefit for the entire community. Letters went out in early December with information about golf registration for next season (2005). All prospective members should be aware that rates will remain the same as this year.

Guy Carnazza, Council Liaison

SOCIAL SERVICES' PANTRY IS BARE

Our local pantry needs your help! Requests for food have risen over the past year, to the point that restrictions have had to be placed on the quantity of goods and frequency of visits a family can now shop at the pantry. This new limitation has placed greater financial hardship on families already struggling and earnestly attempting to meet their monthly bills. As a result, we are reaching out to our community to help restock and maintain our shelves. After the holidays have been celebrated and the New Year welcomed in, keep in mind that your donation to the Old Tappan Food Supply Pantry is a gift that continues to generously help others throughout the year. Please consider dropping off a few items when you're planning on being in the Borough Hall or passing through town anytime throughout the New Year.

Products that are in great demand are: spaghetti sauce, pastas, Kraft dinners, juices, canned vegetables, canned fruits, coffee, pan-

A Letter of Thanks

Dear Community Friends:

We are very grateful to all the individuals, families, businesses and organizations that donated to the Pro-Am with a Heart sponsored by golf pro Doug Meeks in October. Thank you for all of your time and energy, caring thoughts, prayers, gifts and love during this very difficult time. A very special thanks to the Old Tappan Police and First Aid Corps in our town and the surrounding communities for their priceless assistance that day. **THANK YOU!**

The Ed Parsells Family

cake mix, cereals, cookies, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, dish detergent and laundry detergent. Donations can be conveniently dropped off at the Borough Hall (outside of the Social Services office) during business hours. Thank you for your help!

*Donna Geitz, Social Services Director
The Local Assistance Board*

JANUARY REGISTRATION for BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

IN PERSON REGISTRATION
will be held

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2005

12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. and

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005

from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

at the Old Tappan Firehouse.

(Uniform / Apparel sizes will be
available for fitting.)

Please be sure to visit our website and become a member of our Old Tappan Baseball/Softball community. You will be able to fully interact with our league on-line. Registration forms are available.

The Borough of Old Tappan
227 Old Tappan Road
Old Tappan, NJ 07675



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