

OLD TAPPAN NEWS

A TRADITION OF SPIRIT AND FRIENDSHIP

Official Borough Newsletter of Old Tappan

Winter 2004

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BUDGET REPORT FROM MAYOR POLCE



K. ZINGARELLI PHOTO

There is no more critical task for a governing body than the adoption of the budget. Through prudent planning and responsible prioritizing, the future of Old Tappan comes into focus. Decisions are made by this administration based on a philosophy of fiscal conservatism. We stress "outside the box" thinking in seeking out additional sources of revenue and limiting expenditures.

The end result of this careful deliberative process for 2004 is a proposed budget which will provide for many positive visible changes throughout the Borough, at a cost of an increase in the municipal tax rate of 3¢ per \$100 of assessed value. This is an average of approximately \$170 per single family home. The Council and I are committed to taking advantage of unprecedented low interest rates, which are likely to rise in the coming year, to finance some significant improvements to our Borough.

NEW POLICE STATION PLANNED

Among the projects to be funded in the proposed budget is a new police station. This long overdue project contemplates a state-of-the-art facility adjacent to the existing police station, which is simply not large enough to house our police force. On the issue of police, I must congratulate Kathryn McKearnin who was recently sworn in as a new patrolwoman. She is the first woman on our force and was the most qualified of an impressive group of applicants.

Continued on back page

First Woman Officer for Police Department



Council President Mary Carmenini swears in Patrolwoman Kathryn McKearnin. (Pictured from left to right) Police Chief Joseph Fasulo, Kathryn's brother Kevin, Patrolwoman Kathryn McKearnin, Police Commissioner Councilman John Kramer, Council President Mary Carmenini).

Kathryn McKearnin was appointed as a patrol officer at the January 20 meeting of the Mayor and Council. Officer McKearnin began her duties on February 1 and is presently undergoing a 20-week recruit training program at the Bergen County Police Academy. She was selected

out of a field of 92 applicants for the job. John Kramer, council liaison to the Police, reports that Kathryn will be filling a vacancy in the ranks in the Department when Captain Allan Falkenstern, a 30-year veteran of the Old Tappan force, retires in October.

TWO OLD TAPPAN POLICEMEN HELP SAVE A LIFE IN HARRINGTON PARK FIRE

Sergeant James Butler and Patrolman Jason Rothenburger, along with officers from the Closter and Norwood Police Departments, assisted the Harrington Park Police Department at an early morning fire.

The 3:54 a.m. blaze at the Brookside senior apartment center on Blanch Avenue claimed the life of one woman while the life of her husband was saved by the responding officers.

Both Old Tappan officers played key roles in the incident and are commended for their heroic efforts.

PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Old Tappan is one of nine towns participating in a program to provide recreational opportunities to young adults from late teens to 40-plus. The organization is called the *Pascack Valley Comprehensive Specialized Recreational Program*, and it offers monthly activities with over 100 participants who, for a variety of reasons, have special needs.

All residents and non-resident friends and family are welcome to participate. There is no charge. For further information call either Donna Geitz, Social Services Director, at 201-664-1849 ext. 233 or Larry Weil, Recreation Director, at 201-666-0690.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR FILING SENIORS' PROPERTY TAX REFUND

For those of you who have previously applied for "Property Tax Reimbursement" from the State of New Jersey, by now you would have received the "PTR-1" application to complete and return by March. After receiving several telephone calls from concerned seniors reporting that they have not received their automatic application, we decided to contact the State and received the following information: last year the State extended the filing deadline from March 15 to June 1. Apparently this extension wasn't only for last year. They have permanently extended the due date to June 1. As a result, the application booklets, according to the State, will be mailed out to all affected seniors sometime the first week in March. Should you need assistance in completing your application, your Borough Hall Tax Office Staff will be more than happy to assist. So please stop by any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

By now, all property owners who are tied into municipal sewers have received their first half sewer flow charge billing. Again, we bring to your attention that if you are age 65 and over, you are eligible for a reduced rate from \$243 to \$194.50 semi-annually. This is not income based! All you need do is either stop by the Tax Office at Borough Hall or call 201-664-1849, ext. 222 or 227 to receive an application to complete. We just need proof of age (copy of driver's license will do) and the completed form. Also note that there is a ten-day grace period for sewer charges as well. They are due March 1 with the last day of the grace period being March 10.

Christine Cauvet, Chief Financial Officer

AMERICAN RED CROSS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

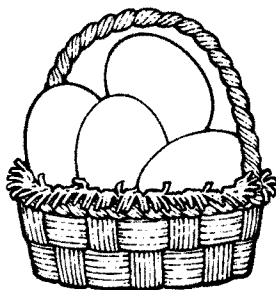
The Bergen-Hudson Chapter of the American Red Cross is in critical need of volunteer drivers for its Meals-on-Wheels and Medical Transportation programs. If interested in becoming a volunteer driver or if you would like to learn more about

Planning Board to Consider Care One (Ingleside) and Colonial Manor Applications

The 2004 Planning Board will be hearing applications including Colonial Manor and Care One (Ingleside Nursing Home Property) in the upcoming weeks. Any resident interested in being heard on these or any other Planning Board issues is encouraged to attend the meetings. The schedule is available on the Borough calendar and on the Borough website www.oldtappan.net.

Rea Epstein, Chairperson

EASTER EGG HUNT SCHEDULED



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place this year on Saturday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. Rain date is April 4. Age groups include toddlers up to children in the 4th grade. There will be plenty of prizes for those who find the hidden eggs and candy for everyone. Hope to see you at Chestnut Field where you can also visit with the Easter Bunny.

how you can volunteer for the Red Cross in Bergen County, please contact us at 201-652-3210, ext. 361. Please log on to <http://chapters.redcross.org/nj/bergen> and see how "Together, we can save a life."

On-Time Soccer Registration Again Includes Free Camp

As we have done for the past two summers, any child entering grades 1 to 8, who is properly registered for the Fall outdoor soccer season will be invited to attend a four day soccer camp (three hours each evening) in August, run by the United Soccer Academy (USA). USA is the professional soccer training organization that ran the camp last year and did a superb job.

HOW TO REGISTER

All you need to do is register your child on time (prior to July 1) for Fall soccer and you will receive a call with the details. Late registrants will be turned away, so register before July 1. Keep your eyes open for registration forms either in the mail or handed out at school during May and/or June, or you can download the form off the Borough website at www.oldtappan.net after May 1.

REFRIGERATOR MAGNET LISTS TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR SENIORS

Seniors can use the list of telephone numbers shown below to reach a variety of services offered by the County and Old Tappan. It is available as an easily read refrigerator magnet measuring 4x4 inches.

BERGEN COUNTY DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES	
Information and assistance for all older adult services	
HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program).....	201-336-7400 or 877-222-3737
CHORE.....	201-489-7786
No cost for labor, only materials used for minor home repairs - no emergencies	
MEALS ON WHEELS OF BERGEN COUNTY.....	201-336-7420
Provides one midday meal to homebound Bergen County seniors aged 60+	
SENIOR & DISABLED CITIZENS PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS CARD PROGRAM.....	800-633-6037
PAADLIFELINE/HAAD.....	800-792-9745
\$5 Prescription program/Prescription discount program/\$225 annual utility credit/\$100 reimbursement for hearing aid	
SENIOR GOLD PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT PROGRAM.....	800-792-9745
OLD TAPPAN SENIOR VAN.....	201-767-8651

Just ask for it at the Borough Hall reception desk. The magnet is offered by the Old Tappan Senior Advisory Committee. Quantity is limited.

GOLF COURSE PREPARES FOR GREAT 35TH SEASON

The Old Tappan Golf Course is gearing up to open for the 35th time on March 15. After an unbelievably bad winter, many people are eager to enjoy some needed exercise at our outstanding facility.

The Golf Course has continued to be a great asset to our community. Despite terrible weather all last season during Spring, Summer and Fall, the golf course will still be able to net over \$72,000 for the Borough. With better weather and improved conditions, this figure should increase during 2004.

WANT TO JOIN?

Information about membership is available by calling the Borough Hall or contacting the Golf Pro Doug Meeks at 201-767-1199. Registration for all interested residents is available at the Borough Hall during the business day. Non-resident membership may be available. Non-residents should contact Jeanine at Borough Hall (201-664-1849 ext. 238) to inquire about becoming a member.

Improvements are constantly being made to maintain the high quality of the entire facility. The Club House looks great with the new deck, railing and awning. Other improvements include new golf carts, new tee box on the eighth tee and a good overhaul inside the Club House.

NEW DINING FACILITIES

This year, new management will take over the operation of the dining concession at

the Golf Course. The new concessionaire currently runs the very successful Walker House Restaurant at the Paramus Golf Club. We are very optimistic that this will prove to be a great addition not only for our members but for all Old Tappan residents, as the dining facility is open to the public at all times. Plans are to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. We encourage everyone to bring a friend or the family and check it out.

Please be reminded that the Golf Course and Club House facilities may be used by any member or resident and their guests for special occasions. Applications are available from the concessionaire or at Borough Hall.

There is still an opportunity to be a sponsor and advertise at specific holes on the course. Sponsorships are available at the rate of \$500 for three years. Contact Borough Hall or the Pro Shop for further information.

In the meantime, Paul Parascondolo, course superintendent, and Doug Meeks, golf professional, are getting things ready for the anticipated (weather permitting) opening on March 15.

Looking forward to a great season.

Dan Morro, Golf Commission Chairman
Paul Parascondolo, Superintendent
Guy Carnazza, Council Liaison

Our Police Chief Suggests Safety Tips for Spring

It's about time! Spring is finally around the corner. Along with Spring comes the natural desire to get out of the house and start pedaling around with our children on those bicycles that have been in the way each time you're pulling into the garage. Please remember bicycle and pedestrian safety whether you ride or walk around town. Don't forget to wear light colored clothing while walking those pounds off at dawn or dusk and, most importantly, a bicycle helmet while riding.

WATCH FOR KIDS!

Please beware of children playing in the neighborhoods and around the parks when you are driving. Also beware of the parking regulations when going to the schools and recreation fields. No parking is permitted on the field side of the roadways so that children and parents alike have a safe view to cross so that no one gets hit by a car. Please observe these laws.

The Police Department has a large number of child booster seats still in stock. Contact our child safety technicians, Officers Joe Tracy and Jason Rothenburger, for an appointment.

OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN COMING TO AN END

The ban on overnight parking on residential streets ends April 1. But please try to park all vehicles in the driveways whenever possible, as children have a tendency to somehow always pop out from behind cars when they are parked in the streets. Residents in town house developments are reminded that parking is only permitted in designated spaces. This was a requirement that was set by the Department of Transportation and accepted by the developer when the site plans were approved. The Police Department does not have the ability to eliminate the Parking in Designated Area Only ordinance.

Remember to immediately notify your Police Department of suspicious incidents or persons and to make note of a description or vehicle.

Chief Joseph Fasulo
John Kramer, Police Commissioner

Woman's Club Offers Scholarship

The Woman's Club of Old Tappan is offering a \$1,000 Scholastic Award to a graduating high school senior who plans to continue to a course of higher education. To be eligible, a student must have been a resident of Old Tappan for at least two consecutive years immediately prior to graduation. Applications may be obtained from the guidance office at NVOT or by contacting the Scholarship Committee chairperson at 201-358-0855. Completed applications must be received by May 3.

ings of the Woman's Club of Old Tappan. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Firehouse. The program will feature Sam Polonsky, a seventh grade student from Charles DeWolf school and his dog Ishi, whom he is raising for the Canine Companions for Independence, a project of the New Jersey Federation of Woman's Clubs. There will also be a Mary Kay presentation.

For membership information, call Anita at 201-767-1518.

Guests are always welcome to attend meet-

NEW FIRE DEPT. OFFICERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2004

The Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Department installed both its Line and Administrative officers for 2004. The Line Officers, who are responsible for training, preparedness of apparatus and equipment, and most importantly, for leading the men of the Department in the fire attack were sworn in by Mayor Victor Polce on Saturday, January 3, 2004 at the Borough's reorganization meeting. The Line Officers are: Chief of Department, Kevin S. Dorney; Assistant Chief, Mark Fiedler; Captain, Nick Lepore, and Lieutenants, Tom Jung, Tom Tracy, Jim Butler and Anthony Esposito.

The Department would like to thank ex-Chief Tom Gallagher for his two years of service as Chief of Department. Tom continues to remain active in all aspects of the Fire Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

The Department also elected its Administrative Officers who are charged with supervising organizational matters, finance and record keeping. They are: President, Paul Zeller; Vice President, Brendan Wolf; Recording Secretary, Al Blumenthal; Treasurer, Paul Vossler; and Financial Secretary, Dave Keil.

At ceremonies at the Firehouse, Chief Dorney appointed Junior Firefighter Perry Duelfer as Lieutenant of Junior Firefighters and Junior Firefighter Dan Polifroni their Administrative Officer. Chief Dorney cited

both of these young men for their outstanding past performance. Outgoing Lieutenant of Junior Firefighters, Evan Kutzin, was recognized for his conscientious dedication to duty.

Kevin Dorney, Fire Chief; Guy Carnazza, Fire Commissioner



Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Department line officers for 2004 (l. to r.) Lieutenants Anthony Esposito, Tom Tracy, Jim Butler and Tom Jung; Captain Nick Lepore, Assistant Chief Mark Fiedler and Chief Kevin Dorney.

First Aid Corps Members Sworn in at December Dinner Dance



Mayor Polce swore in the Old Tappan First Aid Corps Line and Administrative Officers at their December dinner.

FD Trained in "Rescue Alive" Equipment

The Department received ice rescue training in February for our newly acquired "rescue alive" equipment that was funded by the Bergen County 200 Club. The new

equipment will enable the Department to effectively come to the aid and rescue anyone who may fall through thin ice, particularly on Lake Tappan

Fire Safety Reminders to Homeowners

Residents are reminded to check the condition of their clothes dryer exhaust systems. The Department has seen an increase in fire calls relating to dryer vents that are clogged with excessive lint.

It seems as though home heating systems have not shut off since our frigid weather started early in 2004. Please make sure that the area around your heating system and hot water tank remains clear of unnecessary clutter.

Residents who maintain a fire alarm system are urged to make certain that a neigh-

bor or nearby relative has a house key in the event that you are not at home when the system activates. The Fire Department needs to be able to enter your home to determine whether or not a hazard exists.

CHECK BATTERIES IN SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors are your first line of defense in preventing a tragic fire. Have you changed the battery recently?

Help us to help you. Please assist your Fire Department by removing snow from around fire hydrants.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

GIRL SCOUTS COLLECTION DRIVE HELPS OUT SALVATION ARMY

Old Tappan Girl Scouts collected over 300 toys, hats and gloves for The Salvation Army in December at the Old Tappan Public Library. Items were directly distributed to needy families of Rockland County during the holiday season.

Thank you to the troop leaders, girl scout volunteers, our public library and to all of the families of Old Tappan who are always so generous. This year's collection was led and beautifully organized by Cadette Leah Damin from Troop 679.

Susan Damin, Service Unit Manager



Major Dan Moore from the Salvation Army of Rockland County is joined by Girl Scouts Leah Damin, Amanda Chu, Dori Cochran-Stiff, Nicole Timpone, Jenna Whitney and Service Unit Manager Susan Damin.

U.S. Sports Institute To Conduct Summer Sports Camp For Children

The U.S. Sports Institute is at the forefront of providing summer camps for children of all abilities aged 5-14.

Give your child the chance to learn skills in 15 different sports from around the world in a positive low-pressure educational environment under the guidance of qualified coaches.

The aim is to give children a fun packed week in which they will not only further develop their sporting capabilities, but also develop the interpersonal and teamwork qualities that come with it.

The program will run during the week of July 26-30, 2004. It is available for 5 - 6 year olds from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at a cost of \$142, and for 7-14 year olds from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at a cost of \$169.

More details concerning registration and location will be forthcoming as we finalize our plans, but in the meantime, place this week on your schedule for a new and exciting experience.

Technology Committee Created

The Borough has made great strides this past year in utilizing technology to govern more efficiently. Paperless meetings, an electronic document imaging management system, expanded use of GIS, and improvements to our website are just some of the areas the Mayor and Council are focusing on.

To make sure our use of technology proceeds in an orderly and efficient fashion, the Technology Oversight Committee was recently created. The core of this Committee is comprised of Borough Staff, Council members and our computer maintenance professionals, who will meet on a regular basis. We would very much like to include some of our residents who have either technical or managerial experience in this area.

To volunteer for the Technology Oversight Committee, either full time or on an as needed basis for specific topics, please send an email to mayor@oldtappan.net indicating your area of expertise and a general idea of your availability for meetings (during the day, evenings, weekends, etc.).

Ladies Auxiliary Announces Officers; Plans Fun Fund-Raiser and Flower Sale

The Old Tappan Ladies Auxiliary has installed the following officers for 2004: President, Marie Zeller; Vice President, Tami Mazza; Secretary, Jackie Dorney, and Treasurer, Lois Gallagher. The outgoing President, Dolores Alessi, should be commended for her many years of service. The past Vice President, Sue Gallagher, has joined the ranks of the Old Tappan Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Dolores and Sue still remain active members of the Old Tappan Ladies Auxiliary.

LET'S KILL THE BOSS

The Old Tappan Ladies Auxiliary will be sponsoring a fund-raising event on March 5 called "Let's Kill the Boss." The Murder Mystery Cafe Inc. will present an Interactive Murder Mystery with audience participation, comedy, and original music while you enjoy dinner. The audience of the "Let's Kill the Boss" murder mystery plays the role of employees of the Margate Manufacturing Company, which is hosting its annual employee appreciation night. It's up to you to solve the murder! A prize will be awarded to the best detective. Tickets are \$60 per person, which includes the show, dinner and unlimited beer and wine and will be held at the Colonial Manor. For tickets or information, contact Marcia Esposito at 201-768-6797.

FLOWER SALE

We will be holding our annual flower and plant sale on May 6, 7, and 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Old Tappan Firehouse.

The Auxiliary is looking for volunteers to baby sit at the Firehouse for Auxiliary members with small children in the event of a fire or emergency. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our President Marie Zeller at 201-768-5236 or email Jackie Dorney at Samiam10963@optonline.net.

To join the Old Tappan Ladies Auxiliary, you must be 16 years or older and related to an Old Tappan Fire Department or Ladies Auxiliary member, or be a resident of Old Tappan. For more information, contact the Ladies Auxiliary President, Marie Zeller at 201-768-5236.

We are scheduled to fund the substantial renovation of the Old Tappan Library. By providing loan financing to the Library, this project becomes financially viable. There is no more important community resource than our Library. We are proud to be part of the answer to this much needed expansion.

The look and feel of Old Tappan will be changed through two park projects. An overt goal of this administration is to limit further development and foster open space. Twin Oaks Park, to be located on 4+ acres of land on Central Avenue, adjacent to our "downtown," will feature serene walking paths, a gazebo, a September 11th Memorial, and beautiful statues. The purchase of this property was funded primarily through State and County grants and the beautification of the park is also leveraged through grants. Directly behind the Borough Hall will be a small Borough Hall Park, with a walking path loop, a small gazebo, benches and tables. This project, too, was leveraged through County grants.

We are purchasing a new ambulance for our fine First Aid Corps. In order to continue the level of services which our First Aid Corps delivers, a new rig was needed. Our volunteer Fire Department is making significant renovations to its truck room with Borough funding. We can all be so proud of these groups of volunteers who are always there in our times of need.

There will be other visible improvements within the Borough, such as the implementation of our Hike 'N' Bike project, providing hiking and biking paths, and safer sidewalks throughout the Borough. This

project is funded through Federal and State grants. The area around our grammar schools will see their streets repaved and sidewalks repaired through another State grant.

Even with all of these improvements, Old Tappan has the *lowest municipal tax rate* of all 70 municipalities in Bergen County. Every single municipality in the Pascack Valley and Northern Valley has an equalized municipal rate that is at least 80% higher. Several area towns have rates more than three times as high as Old Tappan's. Year after year, Old Tappan continues to provide first-rate services for our residents while maintaining the lowest municipal tax rate in the County.

I must reiterate also that only a small portion of your tax bill is for the services provided by the Borough. In 2003, the breakdown in your tax bill was as follows:

- **11.5%** for municipal services;
 - **45%** for the elementary schools (determined by the local School Board and voted on in April – the Borough merely collects the tax for the schools);
 - **31%** for the high school (determined by the regional School Board and voted on in April – the Borough merely collects the tax for the high school);
 - **12%** for the County tax (determined by the County government – the Borough merely collects the tax for the County); and
 - **0.5%** for the open space tax fund (used to acquire open space in the Borough).
- Only one out of every ten of your tax dollars pays for all of the services provided*

Town Day Rescheduled

The Town Day date has been changed from September 4 (on the Borough calendar) to September 18.

by the Borough including the operation of the Police Department and Department of Public Works, the Borough professionals, the Borough's many boards, committees and commissions, and the administration of the Borough, as well as funding for the Library.

Your Council and I are, to a person, dedicated to getting the most out of your tax dollars. You will see – literally – the results of our efforts in 2004. We believe and are committed to bettering Old Tappan through sound planning and prudent investment in our infrastructure. The Borough's long history and tradition of fiscal conservatism has been our guide.

Join us and be part of the process of shaping Old Tappan. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for March 29 at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Borough Hall. We need your input. Please come to the hearing and share your thoughts and ideas.

COUNCILWOMAN CARMEN EIN RETIRES

Retiring Councilwoman Carmen Ein accepting plaque from Police Chief Joseph Fasulo honoring her for her years of dedicated service to our community.



The Borough of Old Tappan
227 Old Tappan Road
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