

# OLD TAPPAN NEWS WINTER 2005



Photo by Pierce Haviland

**A Tradition of Spirit & Friendship**

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR POLCE



Photo by Jamie Cohen

The holiday season is again upon us. I hope that you are able to survive the hustle and bustle and find the joy and wonder of the season. I hope that you are able to take time out to be with family and friends and experience what makes life so special.

The Council and I are looking forward to a new year of challenges and opportunities. It all begins with the critical budgeting process. This is where the coming year takes shape, where goals and objectives are determined and the course is mapped out for meeting them.

We hope that you can participate in this process. Let us know where your tax dollars should and should not be spent. Contact us ([mayor@oldtappan.net](mailto:mayor@oldtappan.net)), come to meetings, or write us a note. With your input we can govern more effectively.

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On behalf of  
the Borough family,  
enjoy a happy, healthy  
holiday season and new year!



### Rabies Clinic at DPW This Year Saturday, January 14, 2006

Please note the change in location this year.  
Free rabies shots will be given  
to dogs from 10-11 and to cats from 11-12

The **Planning Board** has concluded its 20-month hearing on the proposed expansion of the **Colonial Manor**. Although many improvements were proposed, it was determined by the Board (7-0) that this application should be denied, as too many negatives would impact on the neighborhood.

Since we will be working on the **Old Tappan Master Plan** over the next 11 months, we look forward to having many residents continuing to attend our meetings and providing their comments and questions. Watch for our agendas on the Borough website [www.oldtappan.net](http://www.oldtappan.net), and for our meeting dates posted on the sign in front of Borough Hall.

As we head into 2006, the members of the Planning Board wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

*Rea Epstein, Chairperson*

*Guy Carnazza, Council Liaison*

The **Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Dept.** would like to remind all of our residents to assist us by clearing snow and ice from hydrants located near your home. Immediate access to fire hydrants is vital when we are called upon to help you at an emergency scene.

**Clogged dryer vents**, particularly those in our townhouse developments, pose an imminent threat for Carbon Monoxide poisoning and fire. Please take a moment to inspect your dryer vent and make certain that it is free of lint or other debris.

Extension cords for **holiday decorations** can present fire hazards if not used properly. Please make certain that if extension cords are necessary that they are UL listed and in good condition. Please, Please, Please....make certain that your Christmas tree is thoroughly watered and all dried branches are removed. Consider the placement of your holiday tree and make certain it is not in contact with any heated surfaces. And remember — unattended candles are among the leading causes for house fires in the United States. Please extinguish all **candles** in a room when it is not occupied.

On behalf of all of the members of the Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Co. #1, I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

*Kevin S. Dorney, Fire Chief*

*Councilman Victor Cioce, Fire Commissioner*



### New Laws

Acting Governor Cody signed a law that will **require persons under 17 years of age to wear a helmet** when operating or riding a bicycle, roller skates or a skateboard as of March 1, 2006. Currently, persons under the age of 14 years old are required to wear a helmet when operating this equipment.

Note the **changed speed limits on Cripplebush Road and Washington Avenue from 40 MPH to 35 MPH**. Other roadways being considered for speed reduction are Orangeburg Road and Westwood Avenue.

### Promotions

At the December 5 meeting of the Mayor & Council, two veteran officers were promoted to the rank of Sergeant within the police department. Congratulations go out to both Charles Anders and Kevin Dorney. Sgt. Anders was appointed to the department in October of 1983, while Sgt. Dorney joined the department during the summer of 1984. Both Chuck and Kevin have served in a variety of capacities in the department through the years and have proven themselves worthy of promotion, both through a testing procedure and by their accomplishments. In addition to their police duties, each has served the community through membership in the Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Company, where both have served as Fire Chief. Congratulations and continued success to Chuck and Kevin.

### Police Headquarters (Old and New)

The Police Committee is working with Police Chief Fasulo and architect Joe Cecco on a new police headquarters designed to provide the facilities necessary for the operation of a modern, efficient department. The current building, which was originally constructed as a one-room schoolhouse in the 1920's, is no longer adequate to meet our needs. The new building would be located to the rear and to the side of the present building. By the way, community input is being sought as to how to use the old building once it is no longer occupied by the police. Your suggestions are wanted and needed. Please call, write, or e-mail us with your thoughts.

We would like to **thank the businesses in town for their support and contributions** towards the Officer Phil Anti-Bullying Program which was recently run in the T.B.D. School with great success. It is through these partnerships that we are able to run such programs as Officer Phil, DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training).

All the members of the Police Department wish you a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a Joyous New Year.

*Chief Joseph R. Fasulo*

*Councilman John Kramer, Police Commissioner*



**Blue Lights Aren't To Be Taken Lightly  
(pull over to the side of the road and stop)**

**By Mike Paisner**

Volunteer First Responders (Ambulance and Fire) have Blue Light Permits for good reason. And the only thing we ask of you is that you respect the use of that light by immediately yielding, to allow the vehicle displaying a flashing blue light to get by you more easily and have an unobstructed response to their building. **PLEASE PULL OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND STOP.**

As an Old Tappan First Aid Corps member and a CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) instructor, let me illustrate. Immediate access to the EMS system (calling 911 for help), immediate commencement of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and immediate use of an AED are paramount. Since "911" has already been activated when we get called, let's look at CPR and AED. Adminstrating CPR externally replaces the activity of the lungs and the heart, introducing oxygen to the body and keeping blood (and oxygen) circulating. This delays death until more advanced medical assistance arrives from Paramedics and the hospital. More important, however, is the use of an AED. It is so important that as soon as it arrives, CPR yields to its use. For every minute delay in the use of an AED after a patient collapses, the patient loses about another 10% chance of survival when they otherwise might have survived by a more immediate use. After about 9 minutes, there is no chance of survival with the use of an AED. So **PLEASE PULL OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND STOP.**

In Old Tappan, every police car is equipped with an AED and the police are trained in CPR and AED, but that doesn't detract from the fact that trained EMT's still need to respond rapidly for treatment and transport. So **PLEASE PULL OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND STOP.**

And then there are all those other emergencies, serious trauma, serious bleeding, serious auto accident, accidents and medication mistakes by the elderly, serious allergic reactions, child and infant emergencies, and every other emergency you can imagine. So **PLEASE PULL OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND STOP.**

**The Old Tappan First Aid Corps provides CPR and AED training free of charge to anyone of babysitting age and older who lives or works in Old Tappan. For info just call us at 201-666-9030.**

*Karen Patrico, Captain*

*Victor Cioce, Council Liaison*

On September 19 **The Municipal Alliance Committee** hosted the 15th annual **Mayor's Trophy Golf Tournament** at the Old Tappan Golf Course. The weather was fantastic and a great time was had by all. This primary fundraising event has proved once again to be very successful and will continue to help provide programs in our schools and throughout the community. The Committee would like to thank all participants who helped to make this tournament a tremendous success.



On October 30 the Committee sponsored our annual **Fright Night** for all students of the Charles DeWolf Middle School. The 5th through 8th grade turnout was excellent. Plans are already underway to make next year even better!

On January 27 the Committee will once again host a **Comedy Night** fundraiser. Last year's show was enjoyed by all, so mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us for a few laughs. Watch for more details as they become available.

*Captain Thomas Shine, Chairman*

Sixth Grade **Girl Scout Troop 729**, led by Sharon Annichiarico and Lorraine Zimmer, has completed the requirements for the prestigious **Bronze Award**. For their community service project, the girls chose to restore the entrance to the local cemetery adjacent to our reservoir. Many important people are laid to rest there, including four former mayors. The troop fixed the rock wall, weeded, planted fall mums and spring daffodil bulbs. Other small projects within our town included the fall cleanup at Charles DeWolf Middle School and plantings at the new Oakes Park.



**Girl Scout Troops 723 and 764** collected 233 health care kits to send to the victims of hurricane Katrina. Included in each health care kit were one hand towel, one bar of soap, one washcloth, one toothbrush, one comb, one tube of toothpaste, one nail file, and six Band-Aids. The health care kits were soon on their way to the Gulf Coast to be distributed among the hurricane victims.

The troop stood in front of A&P and Mailboxes Etc. in Bi-State Plaza in Old Tappan to collect the items. There was also a collection box at the Elementary schools.

The Girl Scouts were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Old Tappan community.



Troop 723

Girl Scout photos courtesy of troop leaders



Troop 764

The **Woman's Club of Old Tappan** would like to thank everyone who supported our 15th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival that was held on November 13th 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: A & P of Old Tappan, Boy Scout Troop 132, Butterworth's Bagels of Old Tappan, Charlie Brown's Steak House, Crafty Ladies of Trinity Reformed Church, Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan, Parmigiano's Restaurant, John and Diana Savadjian, Shop Rite of Emerson, Tinjya and John Shadjan, and Bud and Libby Weidmann.

Updated Welcome Packets providing community information for new residents are available at Borough Hall. Any organization which wishes to contribute information for the Welcome Packets may contact Libby at 201-767-1097.

The club continues to gain new members and **invites guests to attend the first meeting of the new year** on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Tappan Fire House meeting room. The program will be a game night. For club or membership information, call Pat at 201-768-8128 or Anita at 201-767-1518.

Have you heard? **The Old Tappan Library** was ranked as one of the best 100 libraries in the country! Rankings were based on statistics submitted from over 9,200 libraries throughout the United States. The Library Board of Trustees and staff extend their thanks to everyone in the community for their patronage and support.

**Winter Hours**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	9am-9pm
Wednesday & Friday	9am-5pm
Saturday	9am-3pm
Sunday	1pm-4pm

**Yoga classes** are offered on Monday and Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings. Classes are \$12 each or \$72 for six weeks. Seniors and students are \$10 per class, \$60 for six weeks.

**A Quilt Group** was started in the fall. Meetings will resume in January. Date to be announced.

**Bridge classes** Please contact the library if you are interested in taking bridge classes. It's a great social game and a wonderful way to exercise the brain. For further information call the library at 201-664-3499.

**Renovation & expansion...**The board voted on December 14<sup>th</sup> regarding a modified plan for the expansion. We anticipate going out for bids in January with a start date in the Spring.

*Susan Meeske, Library Director*

*Ron Binaghi, Jr., Council Liaison*



**OLD TAPPAN  
LITTLE LEAGUE**

The Old Tappan  
Baseball and Softball Association  
starts its Player Online Registration on  
**January 9, 2006**  
Avoid late fees and Save \$15 per Player  
by registering before  
**February 10, 2006**

PLEASE BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
**WWW.ETEAMZ.COM/OLDTAPPANLL**  
FOR MORE DETAILS.

To register online:

- Log on to [www.oldtappan.net](http://www.oldtappan.net) – Click on Recreation link - Click on Community Pass link
- Enter your User ID and Password (New registrants click on “Create an account for your Family now” and go through the simple 5-step process)
- Under “Register Now” scroll down to “Old Tappan Baseball/Softball Association”
- Select “2006 Baseball/Softball” and click the “Register Now” button
- Select participants or Register a New Player
- Verify Grade and Select Program
- Complete Credit card information or pay by Check by mail

Registration is complete.

**Ice Skating in the Park**

The Recreation Commission is pleased to announce that work has been completed on an ice skating facility at Stone Point Park. The surface has been prepared where the old basketball court was located. As weather conditions dictate, Open/Closed signs will be posted.

The Mayor & Council is planning a special celebration for the grand opening. Watch the sign outside Borough Hall for details as soon as the weather gets cold enough!

*Larry Weil, Recreation Director*

*Guy Carnazza, Council Liaison*



The **Old Tappan Lions Club** would like to thank all Residents and Advertisers for their support in making the recently published **Directory And Buyers Guide 2005 – 2007** the most successful publication ever. New residents should receive their copy of the directory when they register at Borough Hall. While supplies last, any resident or advertiser who would like an additional copy should contact Jim Maher at (201) 666-3555.

We welcome your comments and suggestions to The Old Tappan Lions Club, 48 Bi-State Plaza, PMB 252, Old Tappan, NJ 07675-7079.



This proved to be yet another successful season at the Old Tappan Golf Course. Favorable weather conditions contributed to the Golf Course bringing in their second highest total revenue. The Golf Course has continued to move forward as a major plus for Old Tappan, and remains one of the many positive attributes that make our Borough a great place to live. The popularity of golf has continued to grow over the years, and the Mayor and Council have been very supportive, and understand that the Golf Course has a positive impact on the Borough by maintaining open space, providing recreation, and bringing in revenue which benefits all residents.

Old Tappan is fortunate to have an excellent golf facility available in the Borough. The greens, tees, and fairways compare very favorably to the finest courses anywhere. Golf Course Superintendent Paul Parascondolo and his staff receive numerous well-deserved compliments on the condition of the course. Our golf pro, Doug Meeks, provides personal attention to each member and is always available for private golf lessons, either individually or in small groups. He also offers fine golf equipment and apparel for sale in the Pro Shop.

Golf memberships are available by calling Borough Hall at 201-664-1849 or calling Doug Meeks at 201-767-1199. Also, opportunities are available to sponsor a specific hole on the golf course at the rate of \$500.00 for three years.

Residents and members should be aware that **The Restaurant at the Club will remain open to the public for lunch Tuesday through Friday throughout the winter and will also be available to cater your special occasions.** This is an opportunity to have a great party in a beautiful setting. Please call Gordon Fraser at 201-767-4310 for further information.

*Dan Morro, Golf Commission Chairman*

*Guy Carnazza, Council Liaison*

## FLOOR AREA RATIO ORDINANCE AMENDED

A floor area ratio ordinance is intended to curb the recent proliferation of houses that are so large that they are out of proportion to the rest of the neighborhood. This type of ordinance restricts the size of homes in residential zones by limiting the ratio between the total area of all floors of existing and new buildings or structures as compared to the total area of the property on which the building or structures are located. Limiting inappropriate development has been an important objective set forth in the Borough's Master Plan.

However, after the Mayor and Council adopted a floor area ratio ordinance back in February of this year, there was concern that the ordinance might be more restrictive than had been intended. After reviewing the recommendations of the Planning Board and after careful deliberation, the Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance No. 886RR-05 on November 21, 2005. This eases some of the restrictions in the original ordinance by eliminating the basement and accessory structures from the calculation of floor area in all zones, eliminating two-car garages from the calculation in the RA-10 and RA-15 zones, while decreasing the permitted floor area ratio by 2% in each zone.

The maximum floor area ratio varies depending on the zone in which the property is located and the total area of the property. For example, the maximum floor area ratio for a home in the RA-40 zone on a 40,000 square foot lot is 16%. Accordingly, the maximum permitted floor area for such a structure would be 6,400 square feet (40,000 X .16). You can view the full ordinance on the Borough's website [www.oldtappan.net](http://www.oldtappan.net) (see the Newly Enacted Ordinances section on the Ordinances page).



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