

Borough of Old Tappan Spotlight

Issue 1 2020

save the date

Pizza Bingo: 2nd Mon of each month at the OT Senior Center. 11:30am-12:30pm

Zumba: Mon, 9:30am, OT Firehouse

Seniorcise Tues, 1pm, OT Firehouse

Line Dancing Wed, 11am, OT Firehouse (no classes in Jan)

Chair Yoga: Fri, noon, OT Firehouse

Senior Social Society: 3rd Thurs of month, noon, Senior Ctr

Blood Pressure Clinic: 3rd Thurs of month, 12-2pm, Senior Ctr

Easter Egg Hunt: Sat, Apr 4, rain date Sat, 4/11 at Oakes Park

Lunch & Learn: Thurs, Apr 9, noon at OT Firehouse

NV Earth Fair: Sat, Apr 25, Norwood, NJ

Memorial Day Parade: Mon, May 25

Town Wide Garage Sale: June 12, 13 & 14

Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs: Sat, June 6, Bonnabel Park

Lunch & Learn: Thurs, June 11, noon at OT Firehouse

Free Concerts at Oakes Park: Wed evenings at 7pm in July

Town Day: Saturday, Sept 12 Stone Point Park

Paper Shredding: Saturday, Oct 10, 9am-1pm at the DPW

Lunch & Learn: Thurs, Oct 8, noon at OT Firehouse

Halloween Festival/Ragamuffin Parade: Sat, Oct 24 at Oakes Park Rain date Sun, Oct 25

Tree Lighting: TBA

Senior Holiday Lunch: Thurs, Dec 10 noon at the firehouse

2020 Old Tappan Reorganization... Returning Mayor, incumbents and freshman Council members formally began their new terms of office with a swearing in ceremony at the Old Tappan Reorganization Meeting held on Monday evening, January 6, 2020. First up was Mayor John M. Kramer as he was sworn in for his second term. Councilman Matthew Nalbandian was sworn into his fifth term as Councilman. Councilman Jin Yhu was sworn in to fulfill an unexpired term he had been appointed to in April. And William Boyce was sworn into his first term as Councilman. Congratulations to all who were sworn into their positions and a heartfelt thank you for all that you do, and will do, for the Borough!!



Message from Mayor John M. Kramer



It's a dreary, misty, early winter Saturday morning, albeit uncommonly warm, and I've just returned home from a walk with Cooper. Recognizing a publishing deadline looming, I thought that I had better get moving on this writing.

Old Tappan has had many changes through the years. Having personally experienced many of these changes, I offer some history on the properties as I recall what it once was and what is in the near offering. Some 65+ years ago, where the Bi-State Plaza now stands, and the adjoining property formerly the Pearson Education site, there existed what was deemed to be a mountain of sand left by a glacier years ago. The sand was of such pure quality that for many years preceding, it was excavated by commercial entities for use in the making of concrete used widely both here and in the New York Metropolitan area.

When all was excavated, the Bi-State Plaza was built and opened in 1957 and later expanded. A recent check with the Bi-State Plaza management reported that there are no recent updates with regard to a Foodtown replacement. I know that so many of us miss the store. However, I encourage you to continue to patronize the merchants in the Plaza and hope for the return of a supermarket in the near future.

On the adjoining nearly 19 acres of vacant property to the east, a book publishing company known as Prentice Hall was constructed and opened in 1978 and in later years became occupied by Pearson Education Company.

Fast forward to the present day, 2020, another major change is about to take place. Pearsons has moved on and a planned mixed-use development is presently before our Planning Board for finalization. The yet to be named property is divided into three lots; an upscale multi-family apartment parcel, a commercial retail component fronting on Old Tappan Road, and a market-rate townhouse development including a number of affordable units. At this point, the large office building and adjoining warehouse are in the initial stage of demolition. Much of the masonry material will be processed on site and used for fill and grading.

Residents, and others, have been inquiring as to when units and apartments will become available. It is unfortunate that those answers are not available at this time. The developer has not yet announced the staging of the project. However, it is anticipated that a project of this magnitude could take several years. Please refer to the borough's website from time to time for updates.

Please feel confident that even with these changes taking place the Mayor and Council are determined to keep Old Tappan one of the best towns to live in Bergen County.

On a more pleasant note, I encourage you to come out and enjoy the concerts in the park on Wednesday evenings throughout July. Some great bands have been scheduled and it's a fun night for folks of all ages. It brings great enjoyment to me to see the children having a fun night in the park while the adults and seniors enjoy the music. Some even are up dancing. Come. Enjoy.

Finally, I offer everyone my best wishes to all for a happy and healthy New Year

John M. Kramer

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

- Winston Churchill

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED... If you would like to volunteer for any program, whether Fire, Ambulance, Recreation or any other Board or Commission email us at:

oldtappan@oldtappan.net or call 201-664-5322

Voting Information

PRIMARY ELECTION: Tuesday, June 2nd 6am - 8pm

Last day to register to vote in the Primary Election is Tue., May 12th. The Municipal Clerk's office will remain open on Tue., May 12th until 9pm

GENERAL ELECTION: Tuesday, Nov. 3rd 6 am - 8 pm

Last day to register to vote in the General Election is Tue., October 13th. Municipal Clerk's office will remain open on Tue., Oct. 13th until 9 pm. The Bergen County Board of Elections issues voter Registration Cards.

Absentee ballot applications can be picked up at the Borough Clerk's Office. The County Clerk must receive applications by mail no later than 7 days prior to Election Day. **After the 7 day deadline all applications must be hand delivered to the County Clerk no later than 3pm the day before the election.**

DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES: Your Sample Ballot indicates your District and Polling Place in the left hand corner. Contact the Municipal Clerks office at 201-664-1849 ext. 14 if you have any questions.

DISTRICTS 1, 2, & 3 POLLING PLACE: Charles DeWolf School Gym, 275 Old Tappan Rd

TIRE RECYCLING, ELECTRONICS AND DOCUMENT SHREDDING PROGRAM

Bergen Community College
400 Paramus Road, Paramus
ENTRY VIA PARAMUS RD ONLY
Sunday, April 26, 2020
Saturday, August 15, 2020

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation
200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah
Saturday, June 6, 2020
Sunday, October 4, 2020

Collection Hours: 9am-2pm (rain or shine)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

To determine accepted materials go to BCUA.org. Look under Solid Waste recycling and than Household Hazardous Waste for a list of items.

Bergen Community College
400 Paramus Road, Paramus
ENTRY VIA PARAMUS RD ONLY
Sunday, April 5, 2020
Sunday, June 14, 2020
Sunday, October 18, 2020

Bergen County Utilities Authority
Foot of Empire Boulevard, Moonachie
Saturday, March 7, 2020
Saturday, November 14, 2020

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation
200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah
Saturday, May 9, 2020
Saturday, July 18, 2020

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Collection Hours 9am-3pm (rain or shine)

For more information click on to the BCUA web site at <http://www.bcu.org>

The Old Tappan DPW yard will accept and recycle unwanted electronics which contain significant amount of toxic and precious metals. Look for the storage box in the rear of the yard.

SEWER: Please dispose of grease properly by putting it out with your garbage. Pouring grease down your drain clogs your pipes and the sewer pipes in the streets. Also, please discard swiffer type fibrous cleaning products with your garbage and not flush them. Remember it is a violation to dump cooking grease and oils down the drain as well as the connection of sump pumps and roof gutters to the sanitary sewer system.



PROPERTY TAXES: Due date 2/1/20. There is a 10 day grace period until 2/10/20.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS? Many tax bills as well as other important notices from the Tax Collector are returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. Help us keep our records up to date. Requests to change mailing address must be submitted in writing. The form is on our website.

ONLINE BILL PAY FROM YOUR BANK: Please be aware payments that you initiate with your own bank through online bill pay should be scheduled in advance of any due date to allow a sufficient number of mailing days for the Borough to receive, process and apply the payment to your account. Payments from online bill pay are sent through the mail. We do not accept electronic payment for taxes. All payments must be received by 4PM on the 10th day of the grace period. The Borough is not responsible for late payments due to delays in mail service or bank processing. **PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR BLOCK AND LOT, LAST NAME AND/OR PROPERTY ADDRESS** for us to apply the payment to the correct account.

PAY WITH DIRECT WITHDRAWAL: An alternative to online bill pay is the Direct Withdrawal ACH bank draft program we have in place for both taxes and sewer flow fees. Please check our website for application

forms and details or come in person to get an application. If you are planning to sign-up, discontinue or make a change on your direct withdrawal, you must contact our office at least two weeks before the effective date of scheduled withdrawal.

POST-DATED CHECKS: According to NJ Statute, our office is required to deposit payments as soon as they are received and we cannot accept "post-dated" checks. Therefore, please date your check the day you write it out, just as you would if you were paying in person.

BOROUGH MAILBOX: There is a mailbox in front of the Borough hall for your convenience when Borough hall is closed. All payments will be posted the following day. Do not use mailbox for regular mail.

SEWER USER FEE: Due date 3/1/20 There is a 10-day grace period until 3/10/20. Bills will be mailed out at the end of January and will be for the FULL year.

If you are 65 years old or older you may apply to get a discounted rate. Application form is also available at the Tax office or on the Borough's website. Once you have applied you do not need to apply again.

LOCAL PROPERTY TAX BENEFITS: Go to OT Website on the left side -forms - Finance/Tax Collection. Annual Property Tax Deduction for Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons: Annual deduction of up to \$250 from property taxes for homeowners 65 or older or disabled who meet certain income and residency requirements. This benefit is administered by the local municipality.

Annual Deduction for Veterans: Annual deduction of up to \$250 from property taxes due for qualified war veterans or veterans who served in peacekeeping missions and operations. This deduction also is available to a surviving spouse/civil union/domestic partner who has not remarried. This benefit is administered by the local municipality.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS: Full exemption from property taxes on a principal residence for certain totally and permanently disabled war veterans and veterans who served in peacekeeping missions and operations. This exemption also is available to a surviving spouse/civil union/domestic partner who has not remarried. This benefit is administered by the local municipality.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD...

After 25 years of dedicated service to the Old Tappan Social Services Donna Geitz has decided to retire on January 31, 2020. **A heartfelt Thank You to Donna** for her compassion and dedication to our residents in need. We welcome our new Director of Social Services, Joanne Forcellati who will take over in February. Joanne is an Old Tappan resident, has three children, currently works in our library and has volunteered in numerous positions within the community and our schools. She will continue to provide the programs and services to our residents with the help of the Local Assistance Board. If you know of someone in need of assistance or would like to volunteer, please email Joanne at social.services@oldtappan.net.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NEWS...

RECYCLING: The recycling center is opened Mon. through Fri., 7am to 3pm, and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays (except holidays). Please bring only those items designated for recycling and place them in the appropriate designated container. Do not place plastic bags in with your items. Please use the curbside pickup whenever possible to prevent an overflow situation at the DPW yard. Effective 2011 consumer electronics may not be disposed of in the trash. **We do not accept garbage, construction debris, paint or chemicals, fluorescent bulbs etc.** Violators will be prosecuted. Questions as to what is acceptable or where you may dispose, please call 201-664-4438.



STAY INSTANTLY INFORMED! Nixle keeps you up-to-date with relevant information from your local public safety departments & schools. Sign up now at www.nixle.com. Register now—its free & easy!!



The OTPD wishes everyone a happy and safe New Year. Thus far the winter season has not been too bad with respect to snow. Everyone still anxiously waits for spring to get started and the cold weather to fade. The OTPD would like to remind motorists to exercise caution in and around the area of our schools especially during the time of opening, and the dismissal of students. Please be aware of the presence of our School Crossing Guards and their very important role for keeping students safe.

We continue to receive many complaints from residents regarding various forms of scams. These scams are generally initiated via telephone, mail or email. Residents should make every effort to verify call back telephone numbers or the telephone numbers that have initiated the scam. Anyone that would like more information regarding the types of scams in our area, or residents having experienced a scam attempt may contact OTPD Detective Robert Wacht.

In the past, we have distributed yellow Courtesy Security Awareness cards to select homes. While on patrol in your neighborhood, an Officer may have noticed a condition that might pose a threat to your safety and property. Persons with unlawful intent often look for inviting conditions in selecting a target of opportunity for unlawful purposes. OTPD Officers may provide this card should they observe a condition of this nature. Residents are reminded to contact the OTPD as soon as reasonably possible when observing suspicious persons or activity.

Bicycle Safety Day will be held again this year look for more information towards the end of the school year.

The Junior Police Academy will begin February 24, 2020. This is the fourth year the OTPD JPA is being offered and we are looking forward to the cadets enjoying the various programs presented and once again having a great experience. Officer Katie Weaver may be contacted for more information regarding the Bicycle Safety Rodeo and the OTPD Junior Police Academy as the time draws near.

Lastly, we wish all residents to be safe, and encourage our residents to be alert with regard to the safety of our community. Please join with us in making Old Tappan a safer and secure place to live. The OTPD appreciates everyone's assistance in helping us, help you.



Chief Thomas Shine congratulates Councilman Ron Binaghi for being this year's Police Commissioner.

THE OLD TAPPAN FIRST AID CORPS would like to wish everyone a happy New Year. We would also like to thank the Town and our residents for the tremendous support that we received in 2019.

Last year marked the 85th Anniversary of our Corps. It has been our honor to serve Old Tappan for eight and a half decades. We would like to congratulate life member Lynn McIntosh for 45 years of outstanding service to the Corps. EMT McIntosh is still an active EMT and current Trustee of the Corps. With her 45 years of knowledge and experience, Lynn is a mentor and teacher to many, and is always someone we can depend on to provide compassionate and outstanding medical care. We also congratulate EMTs Sue Gallagher and Pat McGinnity for 15 years of service, Life Member Paul Zeller for 10 years of service, and EMT Scott O'Rourke for 5 years of service. The Corps looks forward to seeing what 2020 will bring to us. Some highlights from 2019 and things to look out for in 2020 include our welcoming & retaining **20 new members** onto the Corps in 2019. By the end of January 2020, we expect to have a **dozen new EMTs** including those from 2019. Want to get certified? See below for more information. Please be aware that we are a 100% free service; **we never bill/charge for any of our services**. We are 100%-volunteer Corps and are a non-profit. Also, when you see a flashing blue light in a vehicle, please remember to pull aside on the road if it is safe and legal to do so to let the driver pass you; we could be on the way to help a friend or family member. We are continuing to offer quarterly CPR classes at the Old Tappan library in 2020. Please sign up directly at the Library. We have certified dozens of residents in the lifesaving skill, and look forward to certifying dozens more this year. This year, an additional 15+ members received and passed Rescue Task Force training. This hands-on training taught us how to employ rapid bleeding control techniques and rapid patient extraction techniques. We also learned procedures on how to work and coordinate with law enforcement to get patients quick care during a large incident.



We were proud to have:

- Worked with Pink Heals, a non-profit, to support an Emergency Vehicle Rally in 2019 for two children with neuroblastoma. We teamed up with dozens of other first responders & agencies from throughout the area to rally support for them.
- Presented summer safety to the TBD Elementary School students during EMS Week of 2019.
- Teamed up with the Old Tappan Fire Department to provide standby EMS coverage for a successful and enjoyable Lake Tappan Paddle Day in 2019.
- Provided standby EMS coverage to the high school for their graduation ceremony, football games, and other events.

We are always looking for new members. The only requirement to join is to be age 16 or older. Training is at no cost to you. Hours are flexible and we work around your schedule. Want to get more information? Please email info@oldtappanems.org.

Congratulations to the 2020 line officers!

Pictured right: Councilman Gallagher, 2nd Lt. Alyssa Dacko, 1st Lt. Victoria Walker, Captain Rich Apramian and Mayor John Kramer.



OLD TAPPAN FIRE DEPARTMENT... As Winter winds down, the members of the Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Dept. request that residents continue to be mindful of snow accumulations around fire hydrants. Keeping hydrants clear helps us protect you and your neighbors. As Spring begins, it is time to think about maintenance of fireplaces and woodstoves. Chimneys and flue pipes should be cleaned and made ready for next year. Also, as we move clocks ahead, all are reminded to change smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries. Clothes dryer vents also require regular cleaning to prevent accumulation of flammable lint, a source of numerous fires in the past. Residents are also reminded to check Bar-B-Q grills for signs of damage over the Winter. Propane tanks should be free of rust or corrosion and gas lines should be clear of debris or obstructions. Check gas lines for spider webs!



Picture below: swearing in of Fire Chief Chris Reilly and Deputy Fire Chief Evan Kutzin.

Pictures above from left: Lt. Jin Yhu, Lt. Alex Naylis, Capt. Brian Morgan, Fire Chief Reilly, Deputy Evan Kutzin, Mayor John Kramer and Lt. Tommy Shine. Picture right: Fire Chief Reilly congratulating Council President Tom Gallagher for being Fire Commissioner for this year.



REMINDER TO PET OWNERS...

Your Pet Licenses expired on 12/31/2019



Renewal and new pet application forms for 2020 are included in this mailing and are also available at Borough Hall and on our website.

FREE RABIES CLINIC - Tuesday - Feb 11th 6:30pm-8pm

DPW Garage, 35 Russell Ave

To renew your pet license on the day of clinic, please bring completed application, copy of spay/neutered certificate (if licensing for 1st time) & payment.

2019 Events Round-up...

Old Tappan celebrated its 125th Anniversary with hundreds of residents and former residents of all ages, public officials and visitors on Saturday, October 19th during an afternoon through evening celebration at Stone Point Park capped off by a fireworks display at Old Tappan Golf Course. The 125th anniversary event was held in place of Old

Tappan's annual Town Day. The celebration kicked off at noon with the Parade of Colors led by the OT Boy Scouts and the CDW marching band. A time capsule from 25 years ago was opened which revealed a mug from the borough's centennial celebration, a floppy disc, a video cassette recorder (VCR) to record and play VHS tapes, old pictures and papers, along with an autograph book listing attendees of Old Tappan's centennial celebration. The event included rides, games, demonstrations, performers, and food trucks featuring barbecue specialties and empanadas. There was a tent where residents and seniors could view a short film providing anecdotes and memories from longtime residents of OT and a hay ride where a volunteer provided an entertaining historical tour of local sites. Other pluses included a pie-baking contest and a pie-eating contest, a petting zoo, plus a tent where coffee, tea and cookies were offered to seniors. The 125th anniversary committee sold merchandise recognizing the occasion, including short- and long-sleeve T-shirts, baseball caps, car magnets, and commemorative mugs. And an old-time baseball game, where players wore period uniforms, and games such as a bucket brigade contest made for good times.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCH & LEARN

The Old Tappan Local Assistance Board hosted their 4th Annual International Lunch and Learn on Thursday, October 10th. The Luncheon was held upstairs at the OT Firehouse and featured Italian food and culture. A fabulous Italian feast was provided. Eunjoo Lee-Huls, a Mezzo Soprano and Edward Huls, a Baritone known as "Huls Duo", a husband and wife opera team entertained the seniors with a few beautiful operatic classics. Senora Rubano's was also there accompanied by her Honors 4 Italian Class which presented some Italian music facts.

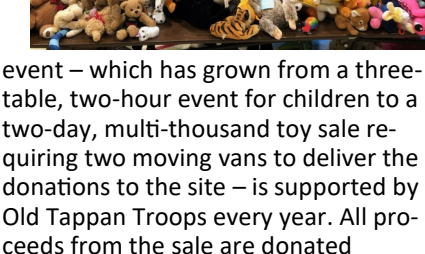
OLD TAPPAN SUPERHERO 5K... The OT EMS held their third Superhero 5K and Kiddie Dash on Saturday, October 19, 2019. The course was tough but the weather was perfect, and Captain America made a guest appearance to congratulate all the Kiddie Dashers. Thank you to everyone who participated to

support the Old Tappan Volunteer First Aid Corps, the Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Co and the Police Officer's Association.



OLD TAPPAN SCOUTS HOLIDAY TRADITION:

Troops 95535 and 96997 continued their annual tradition of supporting the Holiday Toy Sale at The Boys & Girls Club of Paterson. Leading up to the sale, the Old Tappan Cub Scout Troop 132 conducted a local toy drive, collecting gently used toys and gift items for the sale. This year marks the 35th year of the toy sale, which is always held the first Friday night and Saturday morning in December. Friday night is "Kids Night," when the scouts set up and assist local children who come to shop for their families, with no item costing more than \$2.00. On Saturday morning, the community parents can shop for an entire family for around \$10.00. This annual



event – which has grown from a three-table, two-hour event for children to a two-day, multi-thousand toy sale requiring two moving vans to deliver the donations to the site – is supported by Old Tappan Troops every year. All proceeds from the sale are donated

equally to the Center of United Methodist Aid and the Boys & Girls Club, which donates their gym each year to support this event.

2019 TREE LIGHTING... Old Tappan held their annual tree lighting on Tuesday, Dec 3, in front of the Borough Hall. Mayor Kramer opened the evening, Father Marek Wysocki delivered the blessing and the Girl Scouts were there caroling until Santa arrived on the fire truck.



WINDER WONDERLAND... Bergen County held their 4th Annual Winter Wonderland at Van Saun Park. Thank you to the OT Girl Scouts for decorating Old Tappan's tree. The girls made decorations inspired by the 80th Anniversary of the OTFAC.

