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Dear friends and residents,

It was just yesterday morning that my wife received a call from someone purporting to be our grandson, who was supposedly in trouble and being held by the police. Quickly recognizing the call as a ruse, Carol turned the phone over to me. Briefly the story went along the lines of; an auto accident, hospitalization, release to police, call from jail, all culminating with wanting me to contact his supposed Public Defender. The caller caught on to the fact that I was playing him along and he hung up on me before getting to the money request.

That's a real-life experience for me, so take heed. Do not fall prey to phone calls or visits by people claiming to be from one of the utility companies seeking payment of a delinquent bill. They usually threaten that your gas, water, or electricity will be turned off if immediate payment is not made. Call the phone number listed on your utility bill. Be wary of all requests for money. Don't act on impulse and don't be afraid to call the police when in doubt.

An ordinance governing the removal of trees on private property is to be introduced at Monday's council meeting. This ordinance is designed to prohibit the clear cutting of all trees on properties which in many cases cause a negative effect on the neighborhood. Once introduced, the pending ordinance will be posted on the town website for review until it is adopted at next month's meeting.

The newly formed Veteran's Committee, chaired by our local resident Fred Puglisi, has held its second meeting. Fred is looking to expand the membership and welcomes all veterans to join in. The Veterans Committee meetings are held at the Borough Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 4pm.

On a Personal Note...

And so, as many of you already know, I chose not to seek re-election this year and my term as mayor is rapidly coming to an end. For me it is a bittersweet moment. My years of service to the community as a police officer, police chief, councilman, and for the past eight years as mayor, have been some of the most rewarding experiences that one could ever imagine. I thank you the public, both past and present, for the support and confidence that you have shown to me and my family through the decades. As I leave my post, I owe a debt of gratitude to all the many men and women who have been a workforce here in Old Tappan through the years. Whether paid or volunteer, it is they who have made my career a success.

Thanks again. It's been a great ride.

Sincerely,

*John M. Kramer*

Mayor  
Borough of Old Tappan