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Dear friends and neighbors,

As we transition away from the cold days of winter, I wanted to wish everyone a happy spring!! For all that celebrate, may your Easter be filled with joy, hope, and the warmth of the season and for all my Jewish friends, I wish you a happy and healthy Passover later this April.

As the days get longer, many look forward to after dinner walks, children on bicycles and spending more time outside enjoying the nicer weather. Please be mindful of this and use extreme caution while driving on our quiet residential streets and roads. Let's keep Old Tappan a safe community to move about in.

With spring comes little league baseball and softball and other recreational activities and our parks and fields are busy with activity. Thank you to our DPW staff for keeping our parks and fields in pristine condition. If you haven't played a round of golf lately, spring is a great time to check out our Old Tappan Golf Course.

I'm happy to report that the Council updated our Tree Preservation and Removal Ordinance last month. We also had the privilege to honor longtime resident William "Buddy" Weidman for his many years of tireless service to Old Tappan in many capacities.

Earlier in March the Council unanimously introduced a Resolution opposing NJ Assembly Bill A4 and Senate Bill S50 aimed to overhaul the Affordable Housing legislation throughout New Jersey. Your governing body supports Affordable Housing opportunities, however, there were a number of deficiencies in this legislation which, if passed, would place an undue burden on our municipality. I, along with my Pascack and Northern Valley Mayor counterparts, also personally drafted an email to all 40 State Senators and 80 Assembly members, asking to table this bill until more discussion could be had. Unfortunately, Governor Murphy signed this legislation into law on March 20th. Your Council, our Planning professionals and I will work tirelessly to submit a plan that works for Old Tappan while adhering to this irresponsible legislation.

In closing, I want to thank again, all our volunteers, board members, coaches, library staff and residents for all you do for Old Tappan.

Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting!

Warm regards,

Thomas Gallagher

Mayor
Borough of Old Tappan