

A Tradition of Spirit & Friendship

# OLD TAPPAN NEWS

February 2007



A frosty Lake Tappan



## A New Year—A New Look

Always looking for ways to better our communications with our residents, we hope that you like the new look and feel of the Old Tappan News. We are getting information to you more frequently and consistently. For more in-depth news stories, you should look to the Old Tappan News. If you are looking for meet-

ing dates, deadlines, or events, you can rely on the new monthly Calendar of Events. Our responsibility to provide our residents with good, timely, and complete information is a constant focus of your governing body. Let us know what you think of the changes.

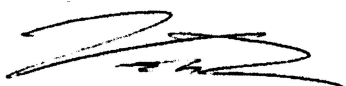
## A New Year—New Challenges

The Council and I are now completing the painstaking process of preparing a responsible Borough budget. In my opinion, there is no more critical function for a municipal governing body. It is at this time that the hard decisions are made that shape the Borough's coming year and the years to come. The Council and I, along with Chief Financial Officer Christine Cauvet, spend many hours reviewing proposed budgets, meeting with department heads and board chairpersons, discussing, advocating, defending, negotiating, and gaining consensus on what is best for our residents. Guided by a steadfast universal commitment to fiscal conservatism, we cut and slash where we can, all the while being careful to preserve the level of services to which Old Tappan residents are rightly accustomed. It is sometimes a rough and tumble exercise, and not everyone is happy, but such is the nature of meaningful deliberations.

We will feature a separate mailing on the budget in the near future as we continue to strive to open up the process and gain valuable input and insight from our residents.

## A New Year—New Opportunities

Stay tuned. There are always things going on in our special little town. Be a participant. Join our quest for an even better Old Tappan.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

If you're writing us a  
check...

You should know that Federal legislation known as "Check 21" now allows banks to clear checks electronically in lieu of presenting an original check.

As the Borough has begun an "electronic deposit" system for all checks presented to the Borough, this may result in your check clearing the same day as presented for payment.



Photo courtesy Senior Advisory Committee

Members of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee with Clowns R Us who entertained at the December Holiday Party organized by the Committee for Old Tappan's seniors.

Old Tappan will soon  
have another new park!  
See page 4 for details

## A New Year & A New Life

On December 31, 2006, Lt. Douglas Low retired after 27 years with the Old Tappan Police Department.

Doug was born and raised in Old Tappan and was hired by the Borough in April 1976 as an employee of the Department of Public Works. He moved to the Police Department in July 1978 as a patrolman. In May 1996 he was promoted to Sergeant and in 2005 he became a Lieutenant. Doug has also been a member of the Old Tappan Fire Department for the past 35 years.

Doug is known to all as a dedicated and hard working policeman and person with great integrity. In recognition of his extraordinary service that has greatly benefited the Old Tappan community, Mayor Victor Polce proclaimed Saturday, February 10, 2007, as E. Douglas Low Day in the Borough of Old Tappan.

We wish Doug and his wife Laurie all the best in the years to come. He will be missed.

Pictured are Police Commissioner John Kramer, Lt. Doug Low & Mayor Victor Polce



Photo courtesy Old Tappan Borough



## A New Year & A New Face

On January 6, 2007, Joshua Phykitt was sworn in as Old Tappan's newest Police Officer by Mayor Victor Polce while his fiancé, Kelly, held the Bible. Josh was recently discharged from active duty with the U.S. Marines after serving two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Josh will be attending the Police Academy for 26 weeks, and after graduation in June will be assigned to patrol duties within the Borough.

## A New Year & New Duties

Pictured are the 2007 Officers of the Old Tappan Volunteer First Aid Corps, along with Mayor Polce, at their installation dinner in December.



Photo courtesy OTFAC



## REORGANIZATION JANUARY 6, 2007



Councilwoman Anna Haverilla being sworn in by Mayor Victor Polce. Her husband Randy and sons Nick and Joe look on proudly while daughter Christina holds the Bible.



Fire Chief Mark Fiedler presents the Fire Commissioner's badge to Councilman Victor Cioce at the January 6 Mayor & Council reorganization meeting



Mayor Polce administers the oath of office to the 2007 officers of the Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Department



Councilman Guy Carnazza was sworn in for his third term by Mayor Victor Polce. Guy's daughter Alyssa holds the Bible.



Mayor Polce with the heads of Old Tappan's emergency services: Fire Chief Mark Fiedler, Police Chief Joe Fasulo & First Aid Corps Captain Tony Esposito



Mayor Polce commends the Esposito family on their volunteer activities as Chief Joe Fasulo looks on

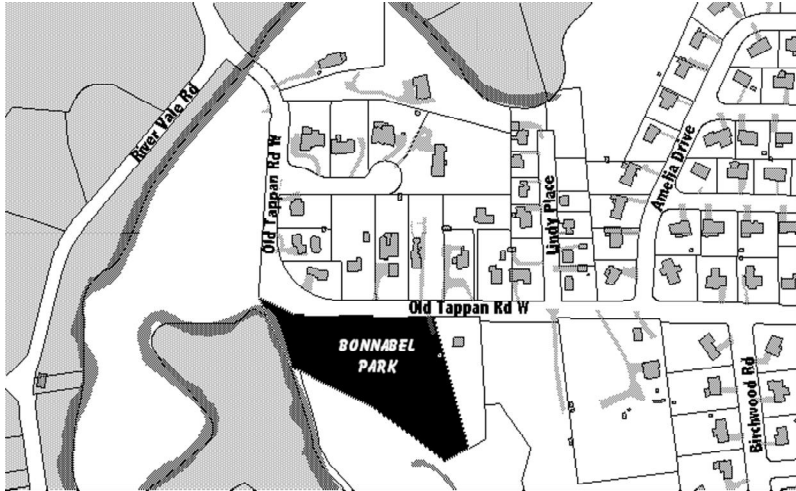


Mayor Polce wishes a Happy Birthday to his wife Joy, DPW mechanic Paul Zeller and FAC Capt. Tony Esposito



# ANOTHER NEW PARK !

## Borough to Acquire Property of Historical and Environmental Significance



The Borough will soon be completing the purchase of a 3+ acre property of great historical and environmental significance. This property, located to the left of "Lachmund's Bend," where Old Tappan Road takes an abrupt turn to the right when you are nearing the River Vale border, has been owned for many years by Mr. Henry Bonnabel. It will be called Bonnabel Park, dedicated to the memory of his wife, Erna Knies Bonnabel.

Located on the banks of the Hackensack River, the property is included in the Borough's Environmentally Sensitive District, a zone which is comprised primarily of properties in the watershed areas adjacent to Lake Tappan

and the Hackensack River. Hike the property (as you will soon be able to do) and you will see an unusually large number of huge "specimen" trees. The property was one of the first identified as a priority for acquisition by the Borough's Open Space Advisory Committee.

Approximately half of the purchase price will be funded with a State Green Acres grant that has been obtained by the Borough. The Borough will leverage the purchase with its Open Space Trust fund. The money in this Trust Fund comes from the collection of \$.01 per \$100 of assessed valuation on each property in the Borough, as approved by the voters in 1999 and renewed in 2004. The Borough will also be applying for a County Open Space Trust Fund grant in the next grant cycle to further help fund this acquisition.

## THE PAST

This is the former site of Lachmund's Hotel, a popular place to gather for entertainment or to rest in early Old Tappan. Built in the late 1870's, the hotel was originally known as Brookside Hall. It was a sprawling two-story structure on the banks of the Hackensack River. The property was once incorporated into Eastwood (present day River Vale). At a



special election on April 23, 1896, the residents of Old Tappan voted 22 to 1 to annex the property, effectively making the Hackensack River the dividing line between the two towns.

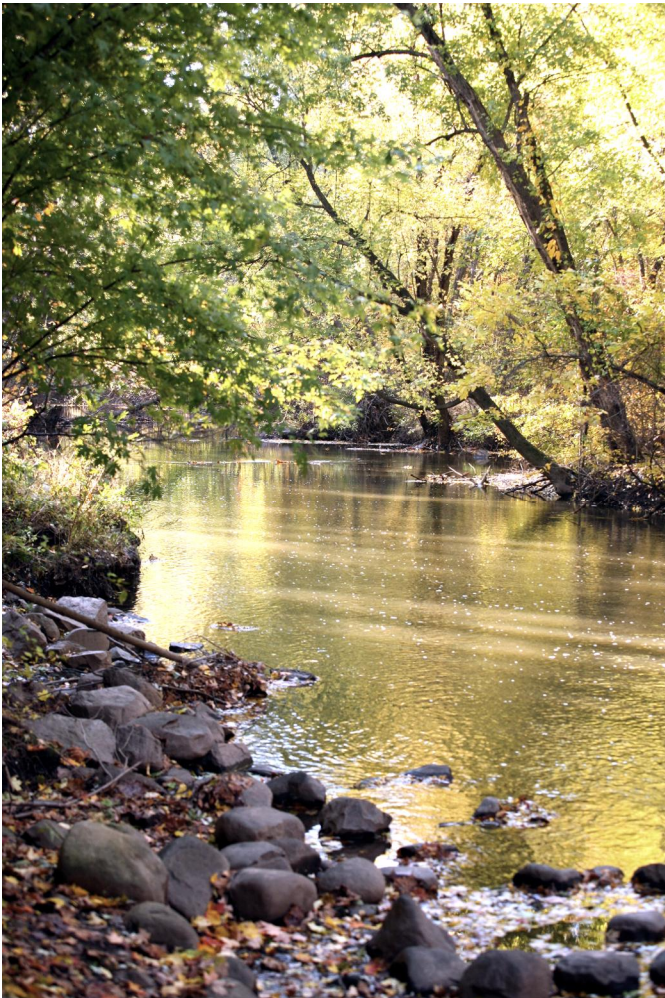
The rich history of Lachmund's Hotel, pictures and all, is wonderfully recounted in the Borough's Centennial book, "1894-1994 Edition":

"Lachmund's Hotel was built by John Lachmund, Sr. and housed the family's living quarters and a complement of dining rooms and bedrooms for summer vacationers. At one end was a general store for year-round use of residents and travelers stopping by. On the second floor was a huge ballroom which easily accommodated wedding receptions, social club dinners, large card parties, vaudeville shows and early movies. There was also a tavern on the premises which undoubtedly added to the gaiety of Collignon's mill hands [Collignon Brothers Chair Factory was nearby] on a Saturday night. The Lachmund family staffed it all."

"After 1896 Lachmund's was also the polling place where everyone voted (every man that is – the vote for women didn't come until 1920). John Lachmund, Jr. (or Johnny, as he was known) voted first because he lived there. Ballots were marked in pencil with an 'X', and tales are told of close votes where hot arguments took place and a crooked or misshapen 'X' was fiercely challenged. And there was one time when 100 registered voters were listed but 110 ballots were counted. Some jokester suggested that ten women had sneaked in!"

"After 1896, the Mayor and Council, with Johnny Lachmund as Borough Clerk [he served in this position for 57 years!], held their meetings in one of the smaller card rooms, after which they settled down to serious games of pinochle."

Lachmund's Hotel remained a focal point of Old Tappan social life until it was torn down in 1954, shortly after "Johnny" Lachmund's death.



## THE FUTURE

This beautiful property will be forever restricted from development. It will be forever dedicated as open space. With a generous donation from the Bonnabel family, the Borough intends to make Bonnabel Park a place where the public can relax, walk around, and perhaps reel in a few fish. Given its historical significance and its environmental importance, this property is a valuable addition to the Borough's growing open space inventory.

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The "Centennial Book"  
(Jo Haight, Editor-in-Chief)  
is an 80-page volume beautifully  
detailing the history of the  
Borough in words and pictures.  
It is available for review at the Old  
Tappan Library and Borough Hall.  
It may also be viewed in its  
entirety or downloaded at the  
Borough's website – click on the  
"History" button under  
"About Old Tappan."

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## 6 OPENINGS FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS



Junior Firefighters must be 16-17 years old, able-bodied, and in good health. They are expected to respond to as many alarms as possible, in all kinds of weather, and be ready to perform physically demanding firefighting work. They must regularly and punctually attend the Department's monthly drill (training session) at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month, as well as some of the training and maintenance sessions held on other Monday nights at 7:30 pm throughout the year. Junior Firefighters are provided with full protective equipment at no charge. You need not be a resident of Old Tappan to join, but Old Tappan residents will be given preference if there are more applicants than vacancies.

If you're interested in a challenging, interesting, and rewarding way of contributing to your community, visit the Firehouse at the corner of Old Tappan Rd. and Russell Ave. any Monday night at 7:30 pm to get more information, ask questions, meet the firefighters, and pick up an application.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES A MILESTONE

In October of this year Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 will celebrate its 75th anniversary. A street fair and tent dance are planned in June to mark this important occasion. Watch for further details on these and other events throughout the year.

On behalf of all the residents of Old Tappan, we salute the brave members of this fine organization who give so selflessly to protect our homes and our families.

## RECENTLY ENACTED ORDINANCES

### Ordinance No. 929-06 Amending Streets Ordinance Adopted 1/16/07

No development of any parcel of land which creates three or less total lots shall be permitted if the development includes creation of a new roadway which would render any other parcel of land not owned by the developer a corner lot, unless said owner joins in the application for development.

### Ordinance No. 930-06 Sale of Borough Property Adopted 2/5/07

Block 1805, Lot 8, Washington Avenue, approximately 11,700 square feet; and Commodore Court Right-of-Way, Wescott Street, approximately 12,500 square feet

## PETITION TO GOVERNOR TO CHANGE SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

School districts in the suburban areas of New Jersey receive a disproportionately smaller share of state funding, resulting in higher property taxes for their residents. It's unfair, it's wrong, and it needs to be changed.

School taxes are responsible for approximately 55% to 65% of property tax bills. In New Jersey there are 615 school districts; 31 Abbott school districts and 584 regular school districts. In the 2006 state budget \$10.4 billion dollars was spent on education. More than half of that amount goes to just 31 school districts; the remainder is distributed to the remaining 584 districts.

The Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA) has not been funded since 2001-2002. The funds have been frozen for the last 5 years causing massive local property tax increases.

The result of these two factors has been a yearly increase in our property taxes to fund our schools. The legislators of the 30th District, Senator Singer and Assemblymen Malone and Dancer are leading a state-wide petition aimed at bringing a voice to New Jersey taxpayers on this issue. They have asked us to urge our residents to sign this petition, which they will then present to Governor Corzine. Copies of the petition will be available in the schools and at Borough Hall until the last week in March.



The Mayor & Council with some of the Borough's many volunteers



Photo courtesy Old Tappan Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Troops 729 and 764 recently completed a project to clean used bicycles to be given to needy children. Albert's Cycle Shop donated inner-tubes and Susan and Bill DeMarzo assisted in getting helmets for each of the bikes that were funded by the families of troops 764 and 729.

## SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Each year the Old Tappan Elementary PTA offers two \$1,000 Martin G. Podmayer Awards to students graduating from high school who plan to continue their education at a four-year accredited college. The PTA also offers one scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a graduating student who will pursue training in a technical or vocational school. Eligible students must be residents of Old Tappan and graduates of Charles DeWolf Middle School.

Applications are available from the NVOT Guidance Department or can be obtained by contacting Suzanne Azarian at 201-664-4946. Completed applications must be received by May 11, 2007.

## A CHANGE IN THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

After more than 5 years of dedicated service to Old Tappan as Recreation Director, Larry Weil decided not to seek re-appointment for 2007.

The Recreation Director has involvement in nearly all aspects of the Borough's exemplary recreation programs, including administration of the sports programs and summer camp, bookkeeping, purchasing, and field usage scheduling. Larry has modernized the position through the use of today's technology, from email to specialized registration programs to the use of online requisitions, and his contributions to the Borough's recreational programs are his legacy.

At the January 6, 2007, reorganization meeting, the Mayor & Council endorsed the recommendation of the Recreation Commission and appointed Gloria Weisner as Old Tappan's new Recreation Director.

We wish both Larry and Gloria happiness and success as they pursue their new endeavors.



Any resident who did not receive an automated call from the emergency notification system announcing the cancellation of the Flu Clinic in November should go to our website, [www.oldtappanpolice.com](http://www.oldtappanpolice.com), and print a SwiftReach Notification Form. Please complete this form with your contact information and either fax or mail it to Police Headquarters. We will forward it to the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management to update their database. If you are not in the County database you will not receive future emergency notification phone calls.

# Come Join Us At...

## Old Tappan Golf Club

a beautiful, private, nine-hole par 70 golf course situated adjacent to Lake Tappan.

Offering a limited number of new memberships our club features:

- Full and weekday memberships.
- Ladies and Men's Clubs
- Complete Pro Shop
- Private Lessons Available
- Bar & Grill with outdoor deck
- Congenial Atmosphere
- Golf Outings Welcome

For more information contact Doug Meeks, Golf Professional, at 201-767-1199 or the Borough Hall at 201-664-1849 ext 238.

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All photos,  
except where noted,  
by Borough Photographer  
Jamie Cohen



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