SUMMER 2008 ISSUE

# Mayor's Message



Summer is just around the corner and many of you are making plans to enjoy the great outdoors. With the price of oil at record levels (yet poised to come lower in the near term), I am glad Old Tappan has so much to offer right here at home. Whether it is our parks and recreation facilities, or our newly renovated clubhouse (The Champions Grill) at the Old Tappan Golf Course, there is ample opportunity to stay close to home and enjoy some of the finest facilities available in Bergen County. Our DPW, under the leadership of Artie Lake, continues to do a superlative job in getting our parks and facilities in top shape, while the

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golf course, under the management of Paul Parascondolo, has never looked better.

As we go to press, we've received disappointing news from Trenton and once again, small efficient communities, such as ours, are being unfairly singled out. Instead of being rewarded for their fiscal conservatism over the past 9 years, Old Tappan is being punished. Trenton is restoring a small portion of municipal aid to the State budget, however, some of the very best run boroughs in Bergen County are receiving absolutely nothing. Reason being; their population is under 10,000. Some of the nearby towns not receiving aid are Alpine, Closter, Haworth and Saddle River. I believe that this is discriminatory and just plain wrong. Return all the Aid to all the towns and reduce wasteful spending at the county and state level. It is just not working and the WORST is yet to come.

I wish I could share final news on the budget. However, the State has not completed its work and until it does, we cannot adopt a final budget. I was pleased to see some members of the legislature considering to cut the rebate program in whole or in part as I suggested back in April. Politically it is a difficult decision, but it is the most prudent way of beginning to put New Jersey's fiscal affairs in order. Recently, Former Governor Byrne stated that he started the program to return money that shouldn't have been collected. As Governor it was the best way to offset excessive collection of funds. It was never intended to continue indefinitely. It is time to stop collecting taxes only to return them. Let's stop the rebate program and take a close look at what we truly need and start taking steps in Trenton to change our ways and serve the people. The only way that we can change the thinking and actions at the state, county and local levels is by changing the leadership in November.

On a positive note, your Mayor and Council is aggressively seeking grant funds to continue to make important investments in our community and collect all the dollars we can to keep the municipal rate low while maintaining best in class services. Grants of over 1.3 million dollars are being prepared as we speak. If successful, we will have major investments continue in our open space and parks program, while improving upon our infrastructure, including street upgrades and repaving. As you may have read recently, the Mayor and Council have also applied for grant funds to install solar energy thereby reducing our need on public utilities and reducing our short and long term costs. The funds are being sought, yet no commitment has been made by the borough as we will carefully evaluate this major undertaking and work to be sure the opportunities will bring measurable benefits to us.

Additionally, we will continue to work to find opportunities to improve services and reduce

costs. We are evaluating several proposals at this time and hope to have more information to provide to you in the near future. Recently, the Borough of Old Tappan bid some of its road repaying, along with ten neighboring communities, saving 29 % of the cost by bidding as a cooperative.

With Spring now in the air, I remind you to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Walk along the Old Tappan reservoir or in one of our several parks. It is a special time in our special little town. Let me know how you are doing and how the Council and I can make your Old Tappan even better. We invite you to attend our meetings and witness how your elected officials manage the affairs of the borough: positively, disciplined and in a totally transparent manner. Send me an email (mayor@oldtappan.net) or send in your comments through the website (www.oldtappan.net) to any of the Borough's many departments or boards, committees, and commissions. Enjoy the season!



Take a nature walk through Stanaland Park

Looking for a fun evening? Join the volunteer fire department at their annual tent dance on Saturday, June 14th at 7:00. They supply the beer, mixers, soda, ice and entertainment—you supply the friends, liquor and appetizers \$25.00 per person—Must be 21 years or older to attend—Rain or shine

## Building Department Info...

The Old Tappan website (www.oldtappan.net) provides important information regarding building permits. Residents are encouraged to go to the borough's website if you have any questions. If you are unable to find the answer to your question, please contact the Construction Official, Peter Abballe at <u>pabballe@oldtappan.net</u>. or 201-664-1849 ex. 237 between the hours of 7:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.



Building permits provide the means for Code Officials to protect us by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and therefore ensuring the public health, safety, and welfare of the Borough of Old Tappan. Some projects that require permits are: sheds, fences, driveways, sidewalks, landscaping (soil movement), etc. The Construction Official and Zoning Officer (Nick Pappas) are in charge of all property maintenance issues. If you are unsure if a permit is required, please call or email the building department.

Please make sure that your grass is kept at a reasonable height and your yard is well kept. Now that mosquito season is approaching, please be sure that there is no standing water on your property



With spring finally arriving activities around all of the parks and school fields have also blossomed. It's great to see our children exercising, riding bikes and playing sports. But, this also means more traffic around these areas and the possibility of accidents. Please be aware of children on bicycles or crossing streets when driving near any park or school. DO NOT park in any NO PARKING ZONE for any amount of time as you may be the cause of someone getting hurt when you possibly block their vision or the vision of a driver approaching. If you need that first spot, come early. With the extended hours of daylight more activities are scheduled around the areas so please be careful.

All children under the age of 17 are required to wear helmets while riding a bicycle, skateboard or roller blades.



Parents are reminded that underage drinking will not be tolerated. Both State Law and Borough Or-

dinances prohibit drinking by minors on public and private property. Liability issues should be enough to make any parent think twice before allowing minors to drink in their homes. Giving a minor alcohol is like handing them a loaded gun. Don't Do IT!!

#### Reminders;

- Handheld cell phones may not be used while driving a motor vehicle.
- Wear your seatbelt at all times (as we want to encourage our upcoming drivers of the importance of passenger safety!) Know what the GDL (Graduated Drivers License) provisions are and enforce them with new family drivers.

Congratulations to the families and students who are graduating this year from college, high school and grammar school. Keep up the hard work and try to learn something new every day. Be sure to thank your parents for giving you the opportunity to excel.

Once again, please enjoy the weather and get out of the house and walk on those new sidewalks throughout town. There is no greater ball game than watching young children play. Walk and watch.

# THE OLD TAPPAN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE has been

hard at work scheduling and coordinating programs for 2008. Old Tappan has received approval from the N.J. Governors Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for additional grant funding for the years 2009 through 2011. These grant funds are provided by penalties incurred from drug-related offenses called Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction funds.

The O.T. Municipal Alliance Committee is comprised of community members who develop the goals and objectives of the Alliance in our town. The purpose of the O.T. Municipal

Alliance Program is to promote public awareness concerning alcoholism and drug abuse as well as determine problem solving strategies for our community's unique substance abuse & prevention needs for *all* ages. Prevention education activities and programs are developed and implemented at the municipal level with the goal of bringing awareness to and reducing alcohol and drug abuse. The grant funds allow the Committee to continue some of the suc-



cessful programs of the past, and create an opportunity to develop some new programs.

The always successful **Senior Citizen Luncheon** was held on May 15th and included a two guest speakers. Emmy award winning Old Tappan resident, Roseanne Collette from News Channel 4 and our esteemed Sergeant Charles Anders were on hand to address the seniors on issues that affect the quality of their lives.

Next on the Alliance program is the TBD/CDW 4th to 5th Grade Transition Program is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, June 5th.

In order to achieve all of our objectives, the Committee also depends on community support. Keep a look out for the Mayor's Trophy Golf Outing which is our annual major fundraiser held some time in early September.

## Summer 2008 Issue

## 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter property taxes are due August 1, 2008 (pending approval of the State Budget)

Annual Deductions on Property Taxes: Senior Citizens: Annual property tax deduction of \$250 for homeowner's age 65 or older or disabled who meet certain income and residency requirements.



**Veteran Deduction**: Annual property tax deduction of \$250 for homeowners who are qualified war veterans and their surviving spouses.

Please inquire at the tax office about these property tax deductions.

**Property Tax Relief Programs:** The State of New Jersey has several property tax relief programs available, including tax deductions for eligible senior and veterans (or spouses of deceased veterans). These programs and their eligibility requirements are subject to change, so for the most up to date information, please log onto the State of New Jersey Department of Taxation website <u>www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation</u>.



Pictured are Old Tappan's Chief Financial Officer Becky Overgaard, and Councilman John M. Kramer Chairman of the Finance Committee.

???? Want to pay your taxes or other Borough fees by credit and/or debit card or ACH? These payment methods are being looked into by the Borough's Technology committee and Finance committee.

Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, PNC Bank became the borough's new official financial institution. PNC's proposal, drawn from a variety of banks to handle the town's 18 active accounts, was selected for the services that it offers and for the high rate of interest paid on our daily col-

lected balance. PNC's proposal of a 3% interest rate will net the borough, roughly, an additional \$200,000 for the year that it is guaranteed at that rate. Additionally, we are working towards allowing residents to pay taxes on-line, by credit card or by debit card. At the time of this writing, anticipated user fees for credit card payments have not yet been established.



# News on our newly acquired Bonnabel Property...

A committee comprised of 14 residents including Mr. Bonnabel has met weekly to discuss what needs to be done to enhance the use of this natural setting. The committee has walked the property individually and as a group and their initial plans are to keep the property in its natural state with the addition of benches, cleared walking paths and some flowers.

On the property is a big sycamore tree about 200 years old. The committee has been informed that this particular sycamore might be in the big tree book of NJ.

Bonnabel is a beautiful and tranquil piece of land which offers residents a place to fish or just enjoy nature. Take a walk through and tell us what you think.

**NOTICE:** We have recently been having a problem with objects in the sanitary sewer system that do not belong there. We have had the following, items of clothing, mop heads, cleaning cloths, and rocks. These items have jammed and clogged pumps, requiring the removal and disassembly of pumps from 3 different pumping stations. This is a costly and time consuming situation that should be unnecessary, it could also require the replacement of a pump costing \$5000 or more. Disposing of such items is a violation of borough ordinance §198-5. You also chance causing a back up in your lateral or in the street main outside your house which then could have sewerage backing up into your basement. We would also like to remind you that it is also a violation to dump cooking grease and oils down the drain as well as the connection of sump pumps and gutters to the sanitary sewer system.

#### Tire Recycling Computers / Electronics Program

Homeowners wishing to dispose of tires or computer or electronic equipment such as television, VCR, radios, etc, are invited to bring these materials to the following locations:

Bergen county Community Services Building 327 East Ridgewood Ave, Paramus Saturday, August23, 2008

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation 200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah Saturday, June 14 2008 Saturday, November 1, 2008

### Household Hazardous Waste Events

Household hazardous waste will be accepted at the locations listed below. To determine the materials that will be accepted please go to BCUA.org Look under Solid Waste recycling and than Household Hazardous Waste for a list of items which will be accepted. Locations and times are:

> Bergen Community College 400 Paramus Road, Paramus Sunday, June 29, 2008 Sunday, October 19, 2009

Bergen County Utilities Authority Foot of Empire Boulevard, Moonachie Saturday, July 19, 2008

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation 200 Campgaw Road Saturday, September 13, 2008 Saturday, November 15, 2008

> Collection Hours 9:00 Am to 3:00 PM (rain or shine )

## **PROCLAMATION** RECOGNIZING THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF OLD TAPPAN

 $\label{eq:WHEREAS} WHEREAS, the year 2008 celebrates the 45^{th} Anniversary of the Woman's Club of Old Tappan's Federation; and,$ 

WHEREAS, the Woman's Club of Old Tappan was founded in 1960, and in 1963 became a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and the International General Federation of Women's Clubs; and,

WHEREAS, the Woman's Club of Old Tappan is a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian organization formed for the purposes of charity, education and fellowship; and,

WHEREAS, the Woman's Club has been involved in, or founded many community activities, including the origination of Story Hour at the Old Tappan Library, co-sponsoring Baby Sitting Clinics with the Old Tappan Library, co-sponsoring the Rag-a-Muffin Parade with the Borough of Old Tappan and the Old Tappan Elementary PTA and sponsoring Breakfast with Santa; and,

WHEREAS, the Woman's Club provides the Borough with *Welcome to Old Tappan* packets; has donated equipment to the Stone Point Park Playground and to the Old Tappan First Aid Corps; donates to the Old Tappan Public Library and the Old Tappan Pantry; grants scholarships to graduating 8<sup>th</sup>



# P R O C L A M A T I O N

### **RECOGNIZING OLD TAPPAN LIBRARY**

WHEREAS, National Library Week was observed during the week of April 13 through April 19, 2008 with the theme, "Join the circle of knowledge at your library"; and,

WHEREAS, National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association as a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support; and,

WHEREAS, under the direction of the Old Tappan Library Board of Trustees, Library Director Susan Meeske and the Library staff; the Old Tappan Free Public Library provides the community with numerous programs for residents of all ages, such as, Mommy and Me, Story Hour, Bridge Class, Yoga Class, Book Discussion Groups for adults and children, Summer Reading Programs and Cultural Programs; and,

WHEREAS, in 2006, Hennen's American Public Library Ratings listed the Old Tappan



# Woman's Club of Old Tappan Celebrates 45th Anniversary of Federation

*The Woman's Club of Old Tappan* is celebrating a special 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Federation year. Early in the year, as part of its Community Improvement Project program, the Club donated the handsome community bulletin board for the entrance foyer of the newly renovated Old Tappan Public Library. Just beyond the Library foyer is a display of photographs and memorabilia commemorating the Woman's Club of Old Tappan's 45 year history.

Members sincerely thank the Old Tappan Mayor and Council for honoring the Club with a 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation presentation in April. We also thank the community for their support of our Rummage Sale in May. A 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration dinner is planned for June.

Visit the Woman's Club booth at the September Town Day for the annual free raffle of mums and for information about the Club. Come to the September meeting that kicks off the new club year, and to the annual Member/Guest Pot Luck Supper in October.

We seek and welcome new members! Meetings are generally held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, September through May at 7PM at the Old Tappan Fire House. Call Pat at 201-768-8128 for information.

#### WOMAN'S CLUB OF OLD TAPPAN COOKBOOK "TREASURED RECIPES"

Proceeds from sales of the Woman's Club cookbook, "Treasured Recipes", will benefit the Old Tappan Public Library, local scholarships and other charities. The cookbook, a collection of 500 cherished recipes from members, family and friends, is published in a very attractive padded 3-ring binder format and divided into eight food category sections ranging from appetizers to desserts and everything in between. It includes cooking terms, tips and many helpful hints. Cost of the cookbook is \$13.50. Shipping and handling, if needed, is \$5.00.

On a continuing basis, mail-in order forms for the cookbook are available at several locations in Old Tappan including the Library, Borough Hall and Mail Boxes, etc. where sample cookbooks are on display. Cookbook orders and delivery arrangements can be made by calling Libby Weidmann at 201-767-1097.



Contact Doug Meeks @ 201-767-1199 or just stop in



Back by popular demand...

### ART IN THE PARK AT OAKES PARK

SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH

1 PM TO 5 PM

Rain date Sunday, June 15th

FINE ART, CRAFTS, HANDMADE JEWELRY

#### RAFFLE FOR FINE ART PORTRAIT

Sponsored by The Social & Cultural Committee Of Old Tappan

#### CALLING ALL ARTISTS! THERE IS STILL TIME TO ENTER YOUR WORK FOR EXHIBITION

\$25.00, per 10 x 10' space. Beautiful Oakes Park is located on Central Avenue just off Old Tappan Rd.

There is a raffle to win an oil portrait of you or anyone. Please contact Olivia by phone, 201 7687521 or email <u>StarredHeavens@aol.com</u>

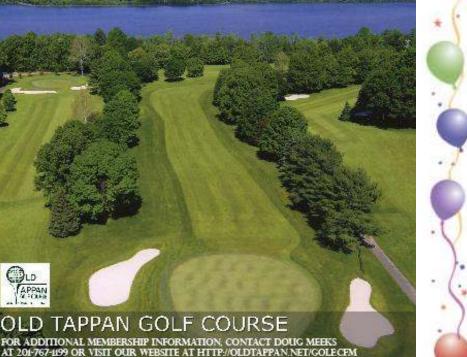
#### THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN GOLF IS NOW AVAILABLE

THE OLD TAPPAN GOLF CLUB, A FIRST-CLASS, PRIVATE GOLF COURSE LOCATED IN ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC SETTINGS IN THE PASCACK/NORTHERN VALLEY AREA, IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING A LIMITED NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2008.

SITUATED ON LAKE TAPPAN, THIS PRISTINE NINE-HOLE MASTERPIECE FEATURES:

- = FULL & WEEKDAY MEMBERSHIPS STARTING UNDER \$500 FOR ENTIRE SEASON
- MEN'S AND LADIES' CLUBS / FULL SEASON OF TOURNAMENTS
- PRO-SHOP AND PRIVATE LESSONS ON SITE FROM OUR PGA PROFESSIONAL
- . COMPLETELY NEW BAR & GRILL RESTAURANT THE CHAMPIONS GRILLE

Colon cancer is cancer of the large intestine, the lower part of your digestive system. Most cases begin as small, noncancerous (benign) clumps of cells called adenomatous polyps. Over time some of these polyps become colon cancers. About 90% of people diagnosed with colon cancer are older than 50. It can occur in younger people, but occurs much less frequently. You can take steps to reduce your risk of colon cancer by making changes in your everyday life. Come listen to Dr. Stuart Marcus, Chief of Surgical Oncology at Saint Vincent's Hospital in Connecticut, discuss Colon Cancer Awareness at Stone Point Park on Friday, June 13th., at 8:00 p.m.



The Smile Forever Foundation invites you to the 2008 Smile Forever Event

(including the walk)

When: Sunday, June 8 2008 9:30am - 12:30pm Where: Westwood High School Football Field

Help us raise funds to assist families with cancer, autism and other disabling diseases.

Please visit www.smile-forever.org for more information including helpful fundraising tips to help those in need.

Visit www.oldtappan.net for up-to-date town information



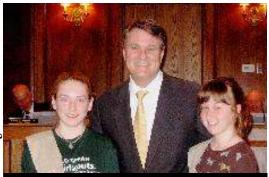
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## SEARCHING FOR SENIORS

For Our Silver Service

- Do you have a closet or garage that needs to be organized or cleaned?
- Do you have a light housekeeping chore?
- Do you have a garden that needs weeding?
- Would you enjoy some flowers planted around your home?
- Would you enjoy a library book/CD/or tape delivered to your home?
- Would you like a home cooked meal or baked good delivered to your home?
- Would you like an errand run or prescription picked up?

### If you answered "YES" to any of these questions -



YOU need the "Caring Cadets!"

During the months of July and August, two Old Tappan Girl Scout Cadets will be reaching out to Old Tappan senior citizens to achieve their Silver Service Project - one of the highest accomplishments in scouting. Their project is simply: "to help Old Tappan Senior Citizens." There is no fee. There is no donation. There is no catch. The "Caring Cadets" are insured through the Girl Scouts of America, and would like to help our seniors in anyway needed.

The "Caring Cadets" Silver Service Project can only be a success with your calls! So look around and see what projects you need done this summer! Please call Madeline @ 201-664-4719 or Jane @ 201-263-9060 for more information and to schedule your request.



**Old Tappan Girl Scout Troop 723** received the prestigious Silver Award at a ceremony on March 27, 2008. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award that can be earned by a cadet Girl Scout. The girls that received this award have earned three Interest Projects, a Career Award, and a Leadership Award which requires fifteen hours of leadership. Each girl is then required to perform a community service project which requires a minimum of forty hours. Many girls choose to work on this project on their own, but Troop 723 decided to work together as a group.

The girls chose to design a tile mural and refurbish the Charles DeWolf Middle School courtyard. With the help of Ms. Helsley, the Charles DeWolf Art teacher, and Mr. Robert Patton, an area landscaper, the girls finished their project over a two year period.

Troop 723 will have a dedication ceremony for the courtyard in June.

The courtyard will be dedicated in the memory of Señora Neumann, the seventh and eighth grade Spanish teacher who lost her battle to cancer in June 2007. Troop leader Rita Smith and the parents of Girl Scout Cadet Troop 723 are very proud of all their accomplishments.

Submitted By: Rita Smith

#### **The Old Tappan Boy Scout Troop 132** hosted their annual Car Wash/Bake Sale on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at the Trinity Church on Old Tappan Road.

The day started off a bit chilly but all the boy scouts still seemed to have fun getting wet while doing a great job washing and drying the many cars that stopped by that day. Hot dogs and baked goodies were in abundance but by the end of the day not much was left.

*Thank you* to everyone who stopped by that day to either get their car washed, buy some snack or just even donate some money.

The scouts benefit directly from the proceeds of this event, allowing the replenishment of the troop funds used on camping trips and equipment.

> Keep a look out for info on the delicious Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast!



Visit www.oldtappan.net for up-to-date town information

## Summer 2008 Issue

# Old Tappan News

What's buzzin' at our library? Our summer reading program for children of all ages. Encourage your children to turn off the computer and TV and read this summer! We will have programs for children Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and special events planned for Thursday Family Nights. Further information will be available the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>.

We have a new website filled with information about the library including programs for adults & children, access to the online catalog and more. Check it out!

#### http://oldtappan.bccls.org/.

Summer Hours will begin June 29th and ends August 31st. Our hours are: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9am-4pm Tuesday & Thursday 9am-9pm

Saturday 9am-1pm Sunday Closed

## American Cancer Society Relay For Life June 13-14, 2008 Stone Point Park, Old Tappan, NJ

On June 13, 2008, enthusiastic community members of Old Tappan and all the Northern and Pascack Valley towns will come together and walk around the clock in the battle against cancer during the American Cancer Society's signature event – Relay For Life. This overnight Relay, held at Westwood High School for the past four years, will now take place at beautiful Stone Point Park on Westwood Avenue in Old Tappan. Relay For Life will begin 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13th and will end 7:00 a.m. Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Participants are welcome to arrive at 5pm to begin walking and enjoy the amusements, activities and entertainment. The Relay officially begins with a celebration of cancer survivors at the Opening Survivor Ceremony at 6:30pm. This emotional ceremony and first lap belongs to the guests of honor, the triumphant cancer survivors. All cancer survivors (anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer) are invited to walk or wheelchair a lap around the track while being cheered on for their courage and perseverance in facing cancer.

Fun-filled amusements take place throughout the evening such as a dunk tank, moonwalk, giant inflatable obstacle course and slide, foosball and ping-pong tables, clowns, a magician, arcade games, face painting, tattoos, hair braiding and more! These activities, along with lots of music, good food, basketball courts, baseball fields and a playground make Relay For Life a wonderful event for the whole family! Participants can stay the night or leave, if they choose, at the conclusion of the Candle Lighting and Luminaria Ceremony which starts at 10pm and is the highlight of the event. It is held to honor cancer survivors and to remember those who have lost their battle against cancer. Dedicated Luminaries (decorated bags with small candles) are placed around the track lighting a path of hope. As darkness falls, the entire Relay comes to a stop. With bags glowing and candles burning, we honor cancer survivors, remember those we have lost and renew our pledge that someday we will rid the world of this disease and the suffering it causes. Everyone is invited to purchase a Luminaria bag in honor or memory of a love one.

Relay For Life is a life-changing experience. This unforgettable event raises awareness and funds to save lives, help those touched by cancer and empower people to fight back against it. With the money raised at Relay, your American Cancer Society is working toward an important goal – a future without cancer.

This is truly a regional event joining people of all ages from surrounding towns. ALL Northern and Pascack Valley towns (and beyond) are welcome to enjoy the atmosphere of camaraderie and entertainment while walking for a great cause. Join your family, friends and neighbors in this inspirational fight against cancer. Celebrate cancer survivors, remember those lost, fight back against this disease and have an extraordinary night you won't soon forget.

If you would like to participate, volunteer, make a donation, contribute goods or services, register as a survivor, purchase a Luminaria bag or need more information please contact Relay For Life Co-Chairs:

Cathy Aanonsen, 201-750-4555 (ccaa@optonline.net) and Shari Bernstein, 201-768-6335 (usn3boys@aol.com). You can also visit Relay For Life on line at www.events.cancer.org/RFLoldtappanNJ.



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# POSTAL CUSTOMER OLD TAPPAN, NJ 07675

NEWSLETTER