

# Old Tappan Spotlight



January 2021

## Message from Mayor Kramer



Aside from the pre-winter snowfall we experienced in December, so far the weather has been kind to us. On behalf of all, I extend my many thanks to the fantastic work of the members of our Department of Public Works, who among their numerous other duties, clear our roads of snow and ice so as to provide for our safe travel.

As of this writing, Old Tappan has tallied 256 cases of the coronavirus which sadly resulted in 5 deaths of our elderly population. While I recognize getting vaccinated is a matter of personal choice, I would encourage you to pre-register for the vaccine at [covid19.nj.gov/vaccine](https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccine). Hopefully in the near future, the vaccine will become more readily available so that we may all be protected. In spite of increasing numbers of those infected, there is relief in sight. In the meantime, continue with the recognized safety practices: Masks / Handwashing / Distancing.



Our Construction Department has been, and continues to be, exceptionally busy with their duties relative to the high number of new home construction, additions and alterations to existing homes. Seems the installation of swimming pools is a very popular item these days. At a recent meeting with representatives of the K. Hovnanian Company, the developer of the townhomes at the former Pearson Education site, it was indicated that construction work will begin as early as February. Several completed model units will be available for your perusal hopefully by August or September.

January marks the beginning of the crafting of our 2021 municipal budget. Six meetings of the entire governing body have been scheduled to meet with the heads of departments and chairmen of committees in order to determine their needs for the year. While the process that we follow is arduous and time consuming, it is a unique process that we, the governing body, have followed for many years and it works well for all involved. Our goal is to provide top notch services and maintaining and/or improving our amenities, all the while keeping an eye on how your (and ours too) tax dollars are spent.

Special thanks goes to our Social Services Committee for helping those in need by providing food and services during these trying times. Non-perishable food, paper goods and donations are always welcome and may be dropped off at the Borough Hall. Please feel free to contact [socialservices@oldtappan.net](mailto:socialservices@oldtappan.net) if you are in need of assistance.

Please remember to take care of your neighbors and make a call to someone who may be alone and in need of a simple conversation. I look forward to when this pandemic is behind us, which hopefully will be in the coming months, and we can then resume all our town events which we miss so much. In closing, I wish you all a happy and especially a HEALTHY New Year.

Sincerely,

*John M. Kramer, Mayor, Borough of Old Tappan*



**PROPERTY TAXES: Due date 2/1/21.** There is a 10 day grace period until 2/10/21.

**SEWER USER FEE: Due date 3/1/21.** There is a 10-day grace period until 3/10/21. Bills will be mailed out at the end of January for the first HALF of the 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.

**DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS?** Help us keep our records up to date. Requests to change mailing address must be submitted in writing - the form can be found on our website.

### **ONLINE PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR TAXES & SEWER:**

**BILL PAY FROM YOUR BANK:** Payments should be scheduled in advance of due date to allow sufficient mailing days for the Borough to receive, process and apply the payment. Electronic payment for taxes are not accepted. Payments must be received by 4pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the grace period. The Borough is not responsible for late payments due to delays in mail service or bank processing. It is important to **INCLUDE YOUR BLOCK AND LOT, LAST NAME AND/OR PROPERTY ADDRESS** for us to apply the payment to the correct account.

**ONLINE BILL PAY:** ([www.edmundsgovpay.com/oldtappan](http://www.edmundsgovpay.com/oldtappan)) Offers convenience and ease, 24/7 access, to view account information and securely pay online. Accepted payment methods are credit card, debit card or eCheck (please note fees are charged.) Link is on the home page of our website.

**PAY WITH DIRECT WITHDRAWAL:** ACH bank draft program is in place for both taxes and sewer flow fees. Please visit our website for application forms and details or visit us in person. 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.

**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 Veterans with full-time active service and proofs (form dd-214) showing honorable discharge from the military. This deduction is also available to a surviving spouse/civil union/domestic partner who has not remarried. This benefit is administered by the local municipality and audited by the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

**Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans:** Full exemption from property taxes on a principal residence for Veterans classified as totally and permanently disabled by the Veterans Association as a result of their active & full-time military service. This exemption is also available to a surviving spouse / civil union / domestic partner who has not remarried. This application requires the disability certification letter from the VA and must state that the veterans qualifying affliction was 100% disabling as well as permanent. This benefit is administered by the local municipality and audited by the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

## 2021 REORGANIZATION MEETING

In light of the Pandemic the Old Tappan Reorganization Meeting was held on Monday, January 4th, quietly and with no fan fair. Congratulations are extended to Ronald Binaghi Jr. and Thomas Gallagher on their reelection—respectively pictured below as they were sworn in by Mayor Kramer.



**TIRE RECYCLING, ELECTRONICS  
AND DOCUMENT SHREDDING PROGRAM**

Bergen Community College  
400 Paramus Road, Paramus  
ENTRY VIA PARAMUS RD ONLY  
Sunday, April 25, 2021  
Saturday, August 7, 2021

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation  
200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah  
Saturday, June 5, 2021  
Sunday, October 3, 2021

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

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS**

To determine accepted materials go to [BCUA.org](http://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 11, 2021  
Sunday, June 14, 2021  
Sunday, October 17, 2021

Bergen County Utilities Authority  
Foot of Empire Boulevard, Moonachie  
Saturday, March 6, 2021  
Saturday, November 13, 2021

Bergen County Campgaw Mountain Reservation  
200 Campgaw Road, Mahwah  
Saturday, May 15, 2021  
Saturday, July 10, 2021  
Saturday, September 11, 2021

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.

**STAY INFORMED:**

Please remember to visit our website, [www.oldtappan.net](http://www.oldtappan.net) as it is regularly updated. In an attempt to be greener and more efficient the Borough will slowly be stepping away from paper notices and newsletters. All information is now posted on our website, on our Facebook page and sent out through our town email system. Remember to sign up for town emails at [eeurl.com/gYrVWz](mailto:eeurl.com/gYrVWz), or directly from the link on our website. Also, follow us on Facebook.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NEWS:**

**SEWER:** Please discard any wipes or any swifer type fibrous cleaning products with your garbage - **DO NOT flush them**. Also, 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. 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.

**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.

**PARKING PROHIBITION:** Please remember that there is no overnight parking on any Borough street until April 1st. Also, whenever snow has fallen and the accumulation is such that it covers the roadway, an emergency shall exist and no vehicles shall be parked on any Borough street, road, highway, right-of-way or thoroughfare. Any unoccupied vehicle parked or standing in violation shall be deemed a nuisance and a menace to the safe and proper regulation of traffic and any Police Officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle. The owner shall pay the reasonable costs of the removal and storage which may result from such removal before regaining possession of the vehicle.



**COVID-19  
VACCINE INFORMATION**

New Jersey is rolling out COVID-19 vaccines in a phased approach to all adults who live, work, or are being educated in the State. Within six months, New Jersey aims to vaccinate 70 percent of the adult population. Steps to take:

**Pre-Register for the Vaccine:** Enroll in the State's vaccination registration portal at [covidvaccine.nj.gov](http://covidvaccine.nj.gov)

**For Health Care Providers:** For additional information on COVID-19 vaccination, visit the Department of Health's COVID-19 vaccination page.

**Building Department:** Please note that the Building Department now has a separate entrance on the side of the Borough Hall. Hours are from 9:15 - 1pm Monday through Friday.

**SENIOR PROGRAMS:** Unfortunately, senior programs have not yet resumed. We are considering adding some Zoom classes for our seniors. If you are a senior citizen and would like to see something like that, please email us at [oldtappan@oldtappan.net](mailto:oldtappan@oldtappan.net). Please check our website calendar periodically for updated information.



There are quite a few misconceptions out there about picking up dog poop, and they need to be addressed. Picking up after your dog is an important task for all responsible pet owners. The following are just 4 reasons why it is important to clean up after your pet.



**Law and Order:**

Please make sure to lock your vehicles and remember to take your key fob with you. **DO NOT** leave the key fob in the car. There have been numerous car thefts over the years and most of these thefts were due to owners leaving their key fobs in the vehicles. **Don't let your car be an easy target.**

**Common Courtesy:** Many things can ruin your day, but stepping in a steaming pile is definitely high on the list. When you take your pet off of your property, you are entering public shared space. Your dog's waste is your mess and it is your duty as responsible pet owner to ensure that you pick up after your pets.

**It's Just Poop, It's Natural Like Cows, It's Fertilizer:** This is not true – not all piles of poop are created equal. Cow manure has a very different make up because their digestive systems, and diets are very different. Cows are herbivores, where as dogs are omnivores, and their diets are very high in protein. Dog waste is actually so high in nitrogen and phosphorus that it can have the opposite effect of fertilizer. It can actually burn your lawn if you don't pick it up. It also causes all sorts of issues for local watersheds.

**Disease Causing Bacteria and Parasites – Harmful For Humans and Dogs** Dog waste is even more full of disease causing bacteria and parasites than other types of waste. These bacteria and parasites are harmful to humans and spread disease to other dogs. Dog waste is full of E.coli, salmonella and is a common carrier of the following: Worms (several types), Parvovirus, Coronavirus, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Cryptosporidiosis, and Campylobacteriosis. These bacteria and parasites can actually linger in the soil for years. If you don't pick up after your dog, you are putting other people and other dogs at risk of getting sick.

**It Will Just Wash Away and Be Gone Soon!** Another common misconception is that if you don't pick it up, it will quickly break down or wash away—however this is not the case with dog poop. In fact, dog waste can take as long as a year to naturally break down. Especially since we live in a climate with a colder winter season. So even if you leave the poop on the ground and it does eventually break down, all of those bacteria and parasites will be left to linger there for several more years.