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Dear fellow resident,

On behalf of the entire town, I offer my congratulations to all students who have graduated recently. Whether they be a 4th grader crossing over to middle school, an eighth grader, a high school senior, or a college graduate, they represent the future of our country.

We wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

The Changing Landscape of Old Tappan

I am the third of five generations living here in Old Tappan. As a youngster, I grew up in a rented farmhouse located on Old Tappan Road at a location where Country Squire Road now exists. Picture this if you will; Old Tappan Road from the Rivervale border east to Washington Avenue was intersected by one single street, Lindy Place. What once were five produce farms, two egg producing farms, a produce stand, a tree nursery, a restaurant, and a general store, all of which eventually became housing developments with street names such as Rickland, Birchwood, Jean, Herbst, Country Squire, Leoson, Amelia, Rectenwald, Pine Grove, and all the many interior roadways as well.

Changes like these have taken place throughout all of Old Tappan throughout the years. The fact of the matter is that change will continue to take place as we move forward. Our land-use laws and construction regulations are all covered by local ordinances, however, beginning several decades ago the imposition of laws created by the State of New Jersey have severely impacted the way in which our growth is controlled. These mandates ushered in the advent of town homes and condominiums beginning in the 1980's. The state law requires the governing body to adopt standards every five years in order to allow for adjustments for our so called "unmet need" for low- and moderate-income housing. These laws favor developers and are generally supported by the New Jersey courts.

Both past and current Old Tappan planning boards, currently staffed by 13 residents and supported by several hired professionals, continue to do their best to maintain the borough's history, character, and charm.

In closing, I offer my best to you and yours for a happy and safe summer.

Sincerely,

John M. Kramer

Mayor
Borough of Old Tappan