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Dear friends and neighbors,

School is back in session; the early mornings are now cooler, and the grass is usually wet with dew. Yes, summer is drawing to a close and now we all shift gears to welcome in the fall months with all its beauty.

Motor vehicle thefts continue to plague the state; there being 85 reports of stolen vehicles during the month of August in Bergen County alone. Many of the apprehensions have found the thieves to be juveniles working for adults with payoffs of \$1,000.00 per car. Juvenile arrests rarely result in any consequence of matter. Given the current state of "Bail Reform" even those charged as adults result in minor consequence. The Old Tappan Governing body is spearheading the drafting of a resolution asking the state legislature to address the bail situation as it applies to adults and to the penalties ascribed to juveniles in such situations. We hope that this initiative will take hold throughout all of the 564 municipalities throughout the state and bring pressure forward to have current laws changed.

It seems that we read daily and see on television the fact that underground drugs are flooding the illicit drug market these days. I dare say, that nearly everyone can relate to knowing someone or some family that has suffered the loss of a loved one due to an overdose from opioid, or other substance use. Deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone (primarily fentanyl) continued to rise and the use spreads across all ages. Fentanyl is a lab-made opioid 50 times stronger than heroin and roughly 100 times stronger than morphine and also highly addictive. It has been reported that over 60% of overdoses can be attributed to the use of Fentanyl. Let's have open conversations with one another in discussing and publicizing the dreadful epidemic of drug use and abuse. The sooner we act, the more lives and families will be spared.

Finally, on a very happy and personal note, Carol and I have recently become great grandparents to a 7lb 8oz. baby boy named Dylan Paul Meko. What a joy.

Hope to see you on Town Day,

John M. Kramer

Mayor
Borough of Old Tappan