

## Civic Corner

Thank you to all the residents for coming to our last Civic Meeting on March 16, 2004. It was wonderful to see so many residents. We had the privilege of having State Representative, John Viola and County Councilwoman, Karen Venezky attend. We also had Bud Friel from DelDot attend. This was a very informative meeting.

The number one concern from our residents seems to be the barricade at the end of Anthony Drive. This has been an issue on the agenda for a long time. The residents wanted the barricade up, so with State Representative John Viola's help, we now have the barricade. Now, the residents do not want the barricade. I spoke to Mr. Viola, and he said he will help to have it removed, but he will need a letter from the civic association saying this; and once it is removed, they will NOT put it back.

At our next general meeting on June 15, 2004 we will be talking about the pros and cons of the barricade. We will take a vote at the end of the meeting. The results of this vote will determine if the barricade will stay or go. We need every resident to come to this meeting and be a part of this decision.

I also want to let the residents know that the Civic Association will have three board positions available at the end of the year (President, Vice-President, and Secretary). These are two-year terms. If anyone is interested in finding out more information about these positions, please feel free to call me at 731-5953.

Regards,  
Janet Taylor-McDowell

## What's Around the Corner

*Provided by Karen Venesky's office and edited by Vanessa Spence*

Here is a brief update to construction in our area.

### CONSTRUCTION NEAR US

1. Calvalse Farms is approved, and they are beginning to improve the site (building roads and infrastructure).
2. The shopping strip, now called Governor's Square II, is under construction. They have a pending re-subdivision to reallocate square footage to one of the pad sites for a tenant (possibly a Krispy Creme Shop).
3. Pad sites near the Seasons restaurant are being worked on but none are under contract with a restaurant as yet.
4. No additional stores other than Joanne's Etc. store in August for the stores in the Christiana Town Center

## Sen. Tony DeLuca

The Delaware General Assembly will be in session April 27 - May 13 and then again June 1 - June 30. June 30th will mark the end of the 142nd General Assembly. Any bills that do not pass both the House and the Senate prior to this date will die. A clean slate will start when the 143rd General Assembly convenes in January 2005.

During the final two months of this session, I will be focused on my work as a member of the Bond Bill Committee, which reviews and approves the State's capital improvement projects for Fiscal Year 2005. All state agencies will come before the Bond Bill with requests, and the Committee also considers Community Redevelopment Fund requests from non-profit organizations statewide.

Debris Pit Remediation is a specific issue that I will be following during the Bond Bill hearings. Over the last few years, the State's debris pit remediation program has been stretched. Although the program has maintained funding, in recent years a large number of new debris pits have been discovered. This has generated a backlog, with some homeowners waiting up to 5 years for debris pit cleanup. I've asked the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control (DNREC) to address remediation in a holistic manner, especially in cases where multiple property owners in one neighborhood report the presence of a common pit. I've also asked them to consider reestablishing a rating system that prioritizes debris pits that pose a critical or imminent danger. Most significantly, I will be working with DNREC to find additional funding sources for this program.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Timber Farms Development in your newsletter. If you need assistance concerning a Senate or civic issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 737-4929 (home) or 577-8542 (Wilmington office).

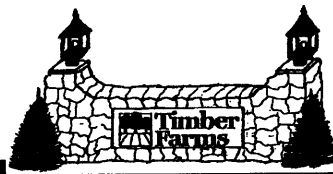
Tony DeLuca - State Senator  
11th District

## Announcements

**Civic Association Meeting** — The next general Civic Association meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m., location to be announced. Hope to see you there!

**Mail your Civic Association dues today!!** Please help your neighbors support the good work the Civic Association does for you and the community. Please send your \$20 dues to:

Timber Farms Civic Association (TFCA),  
P.O. Box 489, Bear, DE 19701



The Officers Corner

*The Officers are:*

Janet Taylor, President  
202 Holly Cove Lane  
731-5953

Jennifer Daggett, Vice President  
206 Holly Cove Lane  
737-8766

Christine Verdi, Secretary  
102 Woodland Road  
738-7108

Bob Oakes, Treasurer  
142 Woodland Road  
737-0515

TFCA, P.O. Box 489  
Bear, Delaware 19701

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TFCA, P.O. Box 489, Bear, DE 19701

**Classified Ads**

**FREE to residents and residents' businesses; all others may place an ad for \$6. Call 738-7108 before August 1, 2004. Next issue: August 2004.**

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SUMMER CAMP - Right here in Timber Farms. In its fifth year - Kid's Memory Book Camp ages 7 and up. July 12th -16th and/or August 2nd - 6th, 8:30 AM — 3 PM. We do all kinds of paper crafts not just scrapbooking. Our favorite is making handmade paper. Registration fee is \$100 plus Creative Memories ONLY supplies. Call for detailed info sheet. Vanessa Manges-Spence 369-0493 CMscrapper@snip.net.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS FAIR - May 15th, Christiana Presbyterian Church, in Christiana on Old Baltimore Pike. Refreshments, youth group car wash, door prizes. 10AM-3PM.

HOMEMADE GOURMET is it your turn to bring a snack? Try a Muffin Run. We provide a mix; you make it and present it to friends or co-workers. Earn 10% in sales in shopping dollars and a half price item. Not bad, for 30 minutes of your time. Vanessa Manges-Spence 369-0493 cmscrapper@snip.net or Sheila Dean Ross 731-7960 mommocab3@yahoo.com.

BABYSITTER/NANNY — Looking for a babysitter or a nanny? Call Liora, 302-299-1980.

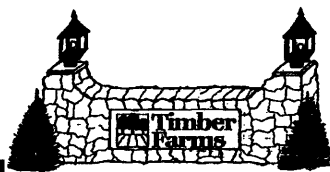
To contact the Civic Association, see any board member or write:  
TFCA, P.O. Box 489, Bear, DE 19701  
To contact the Maintenance Corporation, call one of the members below:  
Dave Schneider, 368-5643  
Bob Oakes, 737-0515  
Mike Trembl, 737-8925  
Yvonne Hunt, 456-5984  
Mike Lukas, 731-5510

**Activities & Entertainment**

**COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE** - The civic association will be sponsoring our annual Community Garage Sale on Saturday, May 15th. The rain date will be the following Saturday, May 22nd.

**BLUE ROCKS GAME** — The Timber Farms Civic Association Night at the Blue Rocks is scheduled for July 19th. As usual, we will be attending during a Fireworks Night. Our past visits have been a lot of fun. Reserved box seats are \$9.00 per person. Reservations must be received by Monday, June 14th. Please see the insert for more details.

**12TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC** — Planning is underway for the 12th annual community picnic.



## Timber Farms Maintenance Association

Since New Castle County Land Use Department is now assisting us in managing our maintenance association, there has been a change in the personnel staffing. Eddie Aroch has been assigned by New Castle County to replace Mark Veasey as our facilitator. Any questions a resident may have regarding the function and operation of our maintenance association can be directed to Eddie or the Maintenance Association board members. Eddie may be reached by phone at 395-5033 or email address: [earocho@co.new-castle.de.us](mailto:earocho@co.new-castle.de.us).

On Thursday, April 9th, there was a general membership meeting held at the Christiana Fire Hall. The main discussion of the meeting was the issue regarding whether residents be allowed to have sheds. As of this publication, no decision has been reached. When all parties reach a decision, the maintenance board will publish a detailed report of that outcome. If sheds are permitted, the maintenance board will support many of the recommended restrictions to be placed on sheds. Regards, Dave Schneider.

## Councilwoman, Karen Venezky

Dear Residents of Timber Farms:

As your representative on New Castle County Council, I am pleased to report that the first phase of the County owned Bear/Glasgow Regional Park is finished! The park, located at the north east corner of Routes 896 and 40, has completed walking trails! Still to come are basketball courts, tennis courts, a sledding hill, a skate park, and a water feature to name a few. Thank you to those who gave their input at public hearings held by the County's Department of Special Services. The park was designed incorporating the suggestions of community members, truly making it a district park that everyone can enjoy.

On March 23, 2004 County Executive Thomas P. Gordon presented his FY2005 budget to New Castle County Council. Council is currently holding budget hearings and will vote on the budget at the May 25, 2004 meeting of NCC Council.

Highlights of the budget address included no County tax increase for the eighth consecutive year and a budget surplus of 242 million dollars. In addition, the County has once again received a triple A bond rating from all three rating agencies, the highest rating given by Wall Street. New Castle County has also received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award," the highest form of recognition for a local government. Of 40,000 local governments eligible, only 2% receive this award. In addition, New Castle County received the "Special Capital Award" for its fiscal management, one of only six governments in the United States and Canada to receive this honor. You can take comfort in the fact that your tax dollars are being managed following sound financial principles, evident by the national recognition your county has received.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your New Castle County Council representative. I look forward to hearing from you.

Councilwoman Karen Venezky  
New Castle County Council, Fifth District

## The History of Dayett Mills

by Vanessa Spence

The Dayett Mills building that we see today was built in 1837. It is the third building that stood at that same site. While researching this, I never realized what a major historical significance this corner held.

The mill business was built by the first generation of the Cooch family to settle in the new colonies. Col. Thomas Cooch came from England and settled into the house off Old Baltimore Pike in 1746, along with his wife and two children. He served in the militia and was a judge of common pleas.

The Cooch property originally included the corner where Dayett Mills now sits and across the highway to Iron Hill. During these early years, Old Baltimore Pike was a toll road, and the only easy passage from Glasgow to New Castle, and the Cooch's collected the toll. They built the mill at the high point of a low lying area that covered the land from Iron Hill to New Castle--it was called Purgatory Swap. The land was impenetrable until well into the 19th century. Old Baltimore Pike provided the shortest distance between Glasgow and New Castle and to the ports as well.

Many independent things occurred setting the stage for this mill and its operation to last over 150 years. First, the water supply was steady because the Christiana River started on higher ground providing a steady ample flow to Christiana Creek. Second, Iron Hill was an attraction to draw settlers due to its iron ore. The Welsh Tract was created with a land grant from William Penn to attract Welsh to settle the area and it became known as Penncader Hundred. Settlers needed flour. Third, road ways began to improve access to the two biggest ports of the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River. Now, and along the Christiana River sprang up iron work furnaces, sawmills, corn and grain mills.

In 1770, Thomas Cooch purchased from John England the sole water rights to the Christiana Creek and the reservoir created in Purgatory Swap by a dam built over Mud Run by John England.

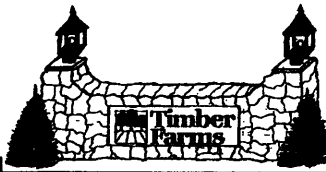
After the battle of Cooch's Bridge the mill was burned. Evidence of operation reappears in history in 1788. The same year Thomas Cooch died. His Grandson, William Cooch inherits two thirds of the estate. The decision took four years in Orphans Court since Thomas Cooch was married twice.

William Cooch moved the mill into more modern technology for the time making the mill the areas main economic artery. His sons later took over and modernized again.

In 1876 the Newark and Delaware City Railroad arrived. There was a post office bearing the "Cooch's Bridge" postmark. The area became the cultural and economic crossover for the farmer and the city folk to connect.

In more modern times technology by companies like Pillsbury, pressured many small mills to compete. Cooch too felt the economic drain on his daily operations and in 1889 William Cooch III and his brother Wilkens Cooch sold the mill to John Dayett.

*continued on back page*



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**Dayett Mills, continued from page 3**

Mr. Dayett retooled the mill and it once again became profitable. Becoming the only mill for a nine-mile radius. While Mrs. Dayett ran the post office, Cooch's Bridge population grew to over 200 in 1914 mostly due to the railroad. The Dayett's lived in the house that still stands today. In 1894, he added the mansard roof and bay windows, and it was surrounded by 75 acres of cleared land.

In 1916 a fire gutted the mill. It was rebuilt only to be gutted by fire again in 1933. This time only the walls were left. In 1948 Dayett Mills passed ownership that steadily transformed the mill operation from flour production to animal feeds. Chicken feed first in 1920. It was key in Delaware's chicken farming business. The mill worked closely with the University of Delaware's Department of Agriculture to produce specialty feeds. When pelletization of animal feeds came to be and the FDA certified diet requirements for animal feeds, it forced the mill operations to finally cease operations in 1980's.

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