

# Timber Farms Civic Association General Meeting

November 14, 2018

The Timber Farms Civic Association General Meeting on November 14, 2018 was held at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Bruce Lipphardt. Bruce introduced the TFCA Board Members. Also in attendance and introduced were: State Representative John Viola, Newcastle County Councilman Dave Tackett, and Senator Bryan Townsend. Secretary Linda Olds read the minutes from the last TFCA General Meeting on 10/17/2018. Bob Oakes presented the Treasurer's Report as of 11/14/2018, which was also in the handout, noting the following Halloween Parade / Costume Contest items are the only expenses since our last General Meeting on 10/17/2018:

Cash Prizes	\$	100.00
Christiana High School Band		100.00
Mr. Softee		250.00
Total 2018 Expenses, year to date	\$	5,338.33
Checking Account Balance:	\$	565.95
Savings Account Balance	\$	3,030.42

Bob also reported on the Halloween Parade / Costume Contest saying that it was the biggest turn-out that we have had, judging by the number of ice cream cones given out: 283! The weather turned out great and we had a 1972 orange corvette leading the parade this year. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the Christiana High School to participate in our Halloween Parade!

Next Bruce reminded everyone that our next community event is Christmas Home Decorating Contest which is set to be judged on December 21<sup>st</sup>. If that date changes, the community will be notified.

The next order of business was elections for the 2 open positions on the T.F.C.A. Board for two-year terms 2019 – 2020: President and Secretary. At the last General Meeting on 10/17/2018, Bruce Lipphardt had been nominated for President and Linda Olds had been nominated for Secretary. Dave Frampton handled the elections for the open positions. By vote, elections were held and Bruce Lipphardt was elected as President and Linda Olds was elected as Secretary.

Newcastle County Councilman Dave Tackett, a Timber Farms neighbor, handed out copies of his newsletter and talked about a couple of the events in the newsletter.

Bruce then introduced our new community police representative, NCC Police Corporal William DeJesus, who told us about himself saying that he has been on the job for 12 years and was in the Air Force Reserves for 7 years. He said that there have only been 60 calls for service from our neighborhood between May 2018 and Nov 2018, mostly non-emergency calls, which is really good. People are being proactive and calling when appropriate. There was one stolen car, which was later found in Wilmington, but it seemed to be an isolated case. He has contacted the traffic services department & they will have someone come out to Timber Farms to enforce the law in terms of speeding in the community. He spoke of one case of auto / burglary theft, which he felt was a crime of opportunity. Since there are 2 different entry / exit points, he encouraged us to get a camera at the back exit through Norwegian Woods. One resident asked about the suspicious activity of an

individual 2 days before the car was stolen. Corporal DeJesus recommended calling the emergency number in that case; however, if the individual flees and leaves the area, then you should call the non-emergency number. Another resident brought up the fact that a lot of people order on-line and there are a great deal of delivered packages, asking if the police are doing anything with the delivery companies to mitigate the thefts? Corporal DeJesus stated that while they do some surveillance in some communities, they just don't have enough police officers to do so in all communities. A resident said we should watch out, ourselves, for this type of activity, and Corporal DeJesus stated that calls about this type of activity will come up in their weekly TAPS meetings.

Next Corporal DeJesus talked about the heroin epidemic, telling us of a State-run program to deal with the opioid and heroin epidemic. It is called Hero Help Program and it is free. One can call Corporal DeJesus and he will come out and talk to an individual about the program. Also, if one completes the program and has something like a theft charge on their record, it won't be prosecuted. Lastly he mentioned an event on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, at the new Route 9 Library, to donate coats and canned goods.

State Representative John Viola spoke next, thanking us for our continued support. He has represented Timber Farms since 1998 and has a plaque stating that he is an honorary resident of Timber Farms. He said that Timber Farms is the most involved, engaged community that he has ever represented, and that our Maintenance Association is significantly ahead of other Maintenance Associations in the area. He said that he and Senator Bryan Townsend will be looking into what they can do to help Maintenance Association leaderships to see what they can do, legally, to help the associations collect the dues. He and Bryan are discussing having a regional meeting, probably in February, regarding the Ombudsman position, which was created back in 2012, to help guide Maintenance Organizations in operating effectively. They want to bring in that Ombudsman to give advice to the area Maintenance Organizations.

Senator Bryan Townsend spoke next, thanking us as well for our support. He said that nothing is actively going on right now. He, Viola, and Tackett are going to have a Town Hall Meeting at Glasgow High School on November 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 8:30 pm, to cover traffic on Salem Church Rd, the upcoming redesign of Old Baltimore Pike, and projected schedules such as the simultaneous closing of 72 and Walther Rd. DelDot Secretary will be there as a presenter. Senator Townsend also mentioned that he personally knows St. Nick and wondered if the community might want St. Nick to come to Timber Farms, maybe on Sun, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, and visit homes?

Under New Business, residents of 156 Woodland, who have just moved into the community, introduced themselves. A resident asked about posting on The Oaks neighborhood bulletin board.

State Representative John Viola spoke again about the new roads and mailboxes, saying that while the roads got a final coat, now DelDot has to approve them, and there could be a problem. There are some brick mailboxes which aren't legal. From the middle of a street to about 25 feet, onto your property, is considered right-of-way. Anything in that right-of-way has to be what is considered "break-away" – and the brick mailboxes, while very attractive, are not "break-away."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Olds, Secretary