

Timber Farms Civic Association General Meeting

November 17, 2021

The Timber Farms Civic Association General Meeting on November 17, 2021 was held at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Bruce Lipphardt. All T.F.C.A. Board Members were in attendance. Bruce introduced himself and the rest of the TFCA Board: Dave Frampton, Bob Oakes, and Linda Olds. Bruce thanked everyone for attending and for filling out the Covid-19 questionnaire. Bruce also introduced Newcastle County Councilman Dave Tackett.

The minutes from the last T.F.C.A. General Meeting on 10/20/2021 were read by Secretary Linda Olds. There weren't any questions from the floor about the minutes.

The Treasurer's Report, as of 11/17/2021, was in the Agenda package given to all attendees. Bob Oakes, Treasurer, stated that this year is the first year we have spent this much money in the 29 years of the T.F.C.A. In summary, Bob highlighted:

Total 2021 Expenses, year to date	\$ 7,984.92
Checking Account Balance:	\$ 1,291.37
Savings Account Balance	\$ 5,000.00

Bob spoke about the Halloween Parade on October 30th, which included a visit by Mr. Softee, for \$350.00. The cash prizes given for the best costumes and the Christiana Band were an additional \$200.00. Bruce added that the Halloween Parade was very well attended and that the weather cooperated and was great.

Bruce explained that T.F.C.A. dues are only \$25/year, but added that many residents give an extra donation on top of the \$25, which helps us continue the activities without having to raise the dues.

The next agenda item was the Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Bruce stated that the tentative judging date will be Monday, December 20th at 6:00 pm. If that changes, an email notification will be sent out.

The next order of business was the elections for Vice-President and Treasurer for two-year terms for 2022 – 2023. Bruce explained that Dave Frampton, who was nominated for Vice-President, has accepted the nomination and is running unopposed. By a show of raised hands in favor, he was voted in. Bruce then explained that Bob Oakes, who was nominated for Treasurer, has accepted the nomination and is running unopposed. Again, by a show of raised hands in favor, he was voted in. They will both continue to serve for the next two years: 2022 & 2023.

Bruce then moved to Agenda item #8, New Castle County Community Police Representative. He introduced NCC Police Corporal William DeJesus and briefly spoke about all the things that he does behind the scenes. Bruce also said that if residents want to contact Corporal DeJesus, the best way is to contact T.F.C.A. through email and we will contact him for you.

NCC Corporal DeJesus began by saying that he reports about every 6 months on crime statistics in the community. Mid-July there were a couple of home improvement frauds; he warned homeowners to

be cautious. If you identify a theft, contact NCC. If it is local, they can investigate it; if it is outside the state, NCC will document it and refer it. There was a burglary-in-process reported; it turned out that it wasn't and that it didn't occur. Theft from an auto was reported; they came out and took fingerprints. Corporal DeJesus explained that these types of incidents can take a long time to resolve.

Corporal DeJesus stated that, overall, the community is doing very well. In this area, in general, non-violent crimes are trending down, but violent crimes are trending up. 99% of thefts from autos are from cars that are not locked or that have a window open. He also mentioned that NCC has a lot of interesting programs, such as PPA, where you get to walk in the shoes of an officer alongside an officer. He highlighted some upcoming NCC activities:

- Dec 11 – a “Can & Coat drive” at the Route 9 Library. Our local Bear Library will also have a donation barrel
- Dec 9 - 10 – Glasgow Park Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

A resident asked Corporal DeJesus about off-road ATV vehicles seen doing wheelies -- Corporal DeJesus asked residents who see this kind of activity to try to find out/identify where the ATVs are being stored. With that information, NCC can then investigate; they can't pursue the ATVs.

Bruce reminded everyone that if you see something that looks suspicious, dial 911 first. Then, later, let T.F.C.A. know by email so that the community can be alerted.

Bruce then went back to Agenda item #7, introducing Dave Tackett to speak about the New Castle County property reassessments. Dave began by saying that NCC was sued because the last assessment was done in 1983. NCC has hired a company, Tyler, to do the assessments (website: TylerAssessment.com; the website will detail which communities are currently being assessed). NCC has decided that the results of the reassessments will be “Revenue Neutral” for county taxes, so they will adjust the tax rates down. Regarding School taxes, that may be a different situation as the school districts will decide on that; they are allowed to increase school taxes by 10%. Don Patton then explained how the School Districts raise school taxes. Dave next explained that homeowners will get a letter in the mail containing your new assessment; you can then appeal it to Tyler. The new assessments, which have to be done in 2022, will affect our tax bills in 2023. Then, after this current assessment, assessments will be done on a regular, rolling reassessment schedule (which is TBD at this time). Dave said that Tyler employees will be wearing a yellow vest, with the name Tyler on it, and they will also have NCC Badges. Finally, Dave warned everyone to be careful, stating that criminals are watching you and they are interested in stealing things.

As there were no other legislators in attendance, we skipped Agenda item #9.

Bruce asked if anyone had any New Business to bring discuss? Don Patton mentioned that residents can email him with any other questions about the school district.

With no additional new business, Bruce adjourned the TFCA General Meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Olds, Secretary