



THE TIMBER FARMS VOICE

Neighbors working together

Vol. XXII – No. 2

May 2017

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spring is here, and I'm sure many of you are busy with graduations and vacation plans. Take advantage of the warmer temperatures to spend a little time outdoors. This is a great time of year to go for a walk in the evenings.

As the weather gets warmer, I expect more activity, and more noise from the service plaza on I-95. If you live near the service plaza and you hear excessive noise, please call 911 or the New Castle County Police non-emergency number (573-2800) immediately. It is helpful for the police to track the frequency and days/times of activity at the service plaza, so please call regularly to keep attention focused on this problem, if it arises again this year.

We appreciate our residents who regularly report problems and potential issues to us by email. If you see any suspicious activity in Timber Farms, please call 911 immediately. This includes people or vehicles that appear to be loitering on our neighborhood streets, especially after dark. Get vehicle license numbers if it is safe to do so. Notify us by email after calling 911 so that we can follow up as needed.

We need volunteers for this year's neighborhood picnic, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 9. We would like help with setup, cooking food, and cleanup. Please email us if you are able to volunteer and let us know how you would like to become involved.

Thank you to all residents who have joined our Civic Association for 2017!

Bruce

INFORMATION FROM SENATOR TOWNSEND

Dear Timber Farms,

I hope all is well as the weather begins to turn and Summer approaches!

In addition to attending the Spring neighborhood meeting, I am writing here to provide an update of current legislative and local issues and to invite your continued suggestions or questions regarding happenings in our district and throughout Delaware. As always, you can reach me at bryan.townsend@state.de.us and 302-709-1516.

There are several local traffic projects to be aware of in the next two years. The first is the redesign of the intersection of Rt. 72 and Old Baltimore Pike, which is scheduled to begin by early July and conclude by year-end. On tap for 2018, there also will be a replacement of the mini-bridge on Walther Road very near Old Baltimore Pike (~2 months), as well as a redesign of the intersections of Old Baltimore Pike and Salem Church Road (several months). In the coming weeks I will send more details about these projects.

In the General Assembly, the biggest issue this year is finding a way to balance the state budget, currently projected to be at a

\$400 million deficit. As we transition from Governor Markell to Governor Carney, Delaware is faced with a very real, long-avoided series of decisions relating to our finances. Since 2009, Delaware has been able to hold budget growth relatively flat while largely relying on a series of one-time special revenues (such as legal settlements) to keep things balanced. Unlike many other states, we generally have not increased taxes. And, unlike many other states, we have tremendously low property taxes and have not reassessed the value of properties for decades. Unfortunately, we literally are unable to continue the trend of relying on one-time, near-magic sources of revenues while maintaining low tax burdens. Put simply: our needs are higher than our revenues. Governor Carney has proposed a balanced approach of cutting \$200 million from the budget and raising \$200 million in new revenues. I am committed to promoting more efficiency in government while also being honest with constituents about how we cannot continue to enjoy very low tax burdens if we want to meet all of Delaware's very real infrastructure and investment needs. By July 1, we will know the General Assembly's final decisions.

Also by July 1, Lilianna and I also hope to meet our first child, a boy due June 29. We are excited to add to the Timber Farms family, and to see many of you as we make our stroller trips around the neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Bryan

INFORMATION FROM COUNCILMAN TACKETT

Dear Timber Farms Residents,

I recently introduced legislation, Ordinance 17-033, that has the strong support of County Executive Matthew Meyer and is a move to build on County government's ongoing work to create opportunities to improve neighborhoods and tackle vacant and abandoned housing across New Castle County.

Vacant and abandoned homes can become breeding grounds for crime, are targets for arson and become a health and safety hazard for their surrounding communities. These properties also drive costs to county taxpayers, diverting public safety resources and force local government to pay for basic maintenance, grass mowing, collection of trash and address illegal dumping activity. Additionally, vacant and abandoned housing has been shown to depress neighborhood property values and reduce tax revenues that fund critical public services.

With the passage of my legislation registering a vacant home will now be mandatory and failure to do so will result in a \$1,000 fine. My current legislation takes several steps to more fully offset the County's costs for monitoring and maintaining vacant properties and to ensure full compliance with the vacant housing registry. It is very important that communities report vacant homes to our code department.

Working for you,
David L. Tackett, County Councilman

The Timber Farms Voice

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Our next Civic Association general meeting will be held outdoors at the playground off Anthony Drive on Tuesday, June 13, at 6:30 pm. Our New Castle County Police Community Services representative, Corporal Christopher Gigliotti, will be available to update us on police response in the neighborhood and to answer your questions. There will also be an update on Timber Farms Maintenance Corporation activities. Bring a lawn chair and join us!

COMMUNITY CORNER

TIMBER FARMS COMMUNITY YARD SALE

We had a great turnout for our neighborhood yard sale on May 20th. About 40 residents participated in the sale. Some residents told us that they made between \$300 and \$500 in sales. Thanks to Linda Olds and Elaine Little, who helped by passing out neighborhood maps at our entrance.

EASTER EGG HUNT 2017

The Timber Farms Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday, April 15, 2017 at our playground. More than 100 children participated. Many thanks to all the volunteers.

Candy Purchases: Linda Olds Egg Cleaner: Erica Chadick
Egg Stuffers: Emily, Heather, Maegan, Autumn Tackett, Bruce and Rema Lipphardt, Jia Duo, Christine Zaghmout, Bob Oakes. (1,250 eggs)

The following youth volunteered the day of the Easter egg hunt: Maegan, Autumn, Heather Tackett, Patrick Jankowsk, Amy Verdi, Jose and Julia Lanzona as well as the following adults: Dave Tackett, Rema Lipphardt and Kate and Bob Oakes.

A special thanks to Dave Tackett for making all the arrangements to have the Easter Bunny at our event.



Teenage volunteers for the Easter egg hunt



Winners who found prize eggs

GRADUATION NOTICES

Eesha Ahmed, Newark Charter High School and will be attending University of Delaware in the fall

Joe Ambler, Conrad Schools of Science and will be attending University of Delaware in the fall

Shawn Cabalza, Del Castle High School

Lauren Cardamone, MBA Magna Cum Laude, Goldey Beacom College

Lindsay Hawtof, Newark Charter High School and will be attending University of Delaware in the fall

Nayana Gadde, University of Delaware, Nursing Major

Meredith L. Griffin Jr., Newark Charter High School

Melissa Joerger, M. S. Atmospheric Science, Cornell University

Ahree Major, Odyssey Charter

Jennifer Maxwell, Del Tech, with her RN

Kevin McCarthy, Johnson & Wales University

Tom McCarthy, Cecil College

Veyola Rezkalla, Christiana High School

Davis Shoemaker, BS Bio Medical Engineering, University of Delaware

Genevieve Spence, Cab Calloway School of the Arts, attending University of Delaware, Environmental Engineering

Lyndsay Alexis Taddei, University of Delaware

Matthew Anthony Taddei, Charter School of Wilmington

Chelsea Vincelette, Saint Mark's High School

CJ Vincelette, University of Delaware

Anthony Jezyk, University of Delaware, Bachelors of Finance degree

Mike Lukas, Catholic University of America

Madison Wescott, Christiana High School, Dr. Nikki Watson, A.I. Dupont Resident Program, Dan Watson, Del Tech

Congratulations!

The Timber Farms Voice

TIMBER FARMS MAINTENANCE CORPORATION

The ice storm of 2017 damaged many of our trees in our open spaces and throughout our community. The cost associated with the cleanup of this storm costs \$2300.00 of unbudgeted dollars. We also experienced a broken underground water line that provides water service to the entrance area. This was also an unexpected expense in the amount of \$3200.00. The Board projects and approves a budget at the beginning of the year based on income and past expenses. These unexpected non-budgeted events are the reason that we maintain a backup fund (CD) to insure that we are funded for the unexpected.

Also I would like to thank Dave Tackett, our New Castle County Councilman, for his successful efforts in introducing legislation to streamline the processing of vacant homes throughout our county. His lone effort to sponsor the bill passed by a 12-0 vote gives the county leverage to impose fines on the lender if the Sheriff's sale process is stalled. Our own community has experienced delinquent homes that were placed under Sheriff's sale then lay vacant for many years. These homes become an eyesore, costing our maintenance corporation and the County monies trying to

maintain the appearance and structure of the building. Our maintenance corporation has spent funds in legal fees, and outside yard maintenance on these properties only to be collected if the home sells for more than is owed. We currently have a property on Woodland Road that the TFMA has filed 2 liens in Superior Court for an amount of \$3,200.00. Depending on the sale price of the home, will determine the amount paid against the liens. Hopefully we can recover the \$3,200 which include maintenance assessments, legal fees and outside maintenance. If we do not, it will be the largest financial loss for our community. This new legislation will provide a positive tool to aid maintenance corporations in collecting annual dues and processing fees.

Best Regards,
Dave Schneider
President - TFMA

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Babysitter: Heather, responsible high school student, eager to babysit. Red Cross Babysitter Certified. Please call her at 302-292-6990.

Preschool/Toddlers teacher and Assistant teacher is needed for Happy Kids Academy off Old Baltimore Pike. Must have State certificate to apply. Please call 302-369-6929 and ask for Mariam.

Tri-State Remodeling offering Group Rate to all Timber Farms residents for all exterior home improvements. Roofing - Windows - Siding - Soffit/Fascia - Gutters - Entry/Sliding/Garage Door Replacement. Please call (302) 444-8314 to request an estimate or email at john@tristateremodels.com

Loving Touch Animal Clinic a new veterinary hospital close to Faith City at 155 Stanton Christiana Rd, Newark, (302) 861-6291, offers a warm office setting where you see the same vet each visit, Dr. Smalls is offering Timber Farms residents a free first wellness visit, Call for an appointment and we are also open every other Sunday.

Firewood—2 year Seasoned Wood—Free Delivery on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays for Timber Farms Residents. Layaou Landscaping, Inc. 731-1660

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