



THE TIMBER FARMS VOICE

Neighbors working together

Timber Farms Civic Association
PO Box 489
Bear, DE 19701

Vol. XXV – No. 3
August 2020

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope you and your family are adjusting to the unique challenges that come with social distancing this year, particularly as we move into the school year and the fall holiday season. I expect that families with students are facing some complicated situations.

Our fall neighborhood social events are affected by the need to keep everyone safe and healthy through social distancing. It is unfortunate that we have to cancel our neighborhood picnic this year. The Halloween parade and costume contest will also be cancelled. We don't know yet how trick or treating will work in October. We will update you by email as our fall event plans take shape.

I encourage every resident of legal age to vote in this year's primary and general elections. Delaware has made it safe and easy for everyone to vote by mail if you prefer not to visit the polls in person. You can register to vote by mail online at ivote.de.gov. The Delaware primary election will be held on Tuesday, September 15. The Delaware general Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3. For both the primary and general elections, polls will be open from 7am until 8pm.

Take advantage of the summer weather to do something safe outdoors. Make good decisions for you and your family to keep everyone healthy. Always ask for help if you need it. We truly are all in this together.

Regards,

Bruce Lipphardt, President

INFORMATION FROM COUNCILMAN TACKETT

Welcome to the (COVID) Summer at Glasgow Park - WE'RE OPEN

We are doing all we can to ensure safe ways for you and your family to enjoy the park and events. New Castle County playgrounds and dog parks are now open for public use, but social distancing and appropriate precautions continue to be essential to prevent the spread of Covid19. Playground equipment is not regularly sanitized. Please do your part by continuing to social distance yourself from others while enjoying the park. If you are exhibiting symptoms, do not use play ground equipment, park amenities, or trails. Masks are required in dog parks.

New Castle County continues the summer concerts at Glasgow Park in August, Thursday from 6 - 8 p.m. Bring your treats and enjoy the show from the comfort of your car! All ages. Please observe social distancing and stay at your car, FREE. Thursday August 20 - Hoochi Coochi, Thursday August 27 - Best kept Soul tribute to Mowtown.

If you need details on any of the County programs or you have a concern feel free to contact my office at 302-395-8371. Covid might have affected how we work but not our dedication.

David L. Tackett, County Councilman
302-395-8371 or dlackett@nccde.org

INFORMATION FROM SENATOR TOWNSEND & REP. JOHN VIOLA

We hope you are well as the summer months draw to a close and as we all look ahead as to what the autumn will bring, especially as school begins in new forms during these unprecedented times.

There are three topics we want to address briefly here. Our contact information is below, and we welcome emails and phone calls if you have any feedback or questions.

1) Power surges. Two power surges in June again caused damage in Timber Farms. The frequency of surges in our area is unacceptable, as is how Delmarva Power continues to respond to them: denying all claims (as best we can tell), shifting burden onto homeowners' insurance and the installation of whole house surge protectors, and disclaiming any and all responsibility. We are unaware of any other area of Delaware that suffers such destructive surges on such a regular basis (averaging one every three years the past 15 years), and we do not believe it is acceptable for people to have to wonder when such destructive surges will hit and cause thousands of dollars of damage per home and possibly even graver harm. We held a virtual town hall in July with Delaware's Public Advocate Drew Slater to discuss these issues, and we have submitted a letter to the Public Service Commission urging action as part of Delmarva's current rate-increase application. We also will explore legislative changes in 2021 if efforts to increase safety and accountability are not successful at the PSC level.

2) OBP road project. Work has already begun on the evenings-only Old Baltimore Pike project that will span the next few months. Between Salem Church Road and Route 72, OBP will be repaved and intersection design/technology will be upgraded. The turn-lane configuration will be modified between the two legs of Salem Church Road.

3) COVID-19. The pandemic remains active as states all across the country seek ways to return to as productive a new "normal" as possible without setting off new waves of infections. Our hearts go out to those who have lost family members to COVID-19, including right here in Timber Farms, or have experienced other health consequences. We are concerned for those who have lost their jobs/businesses or are barely hanging on to them, and we applaud those who are prepared

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to jump into the entrepreneurial breach once more. Decisions regarding school reopening are among the most complicated and high-stakes. We want any and all feedback to know your reactions to what has happened and is happening, and to new proposals as they arise. We support following the scientific advice to stamp out this public health crisis as we encourage safe economic activity ASAP. In short: this is all unprecedented and complex, and it requires constant feedback and honest cost-benefit analysis for making the best possible decisions as elected officials. And please, when you're out, wear masks and practice safe physical distancing.

Please contact us with any feedback or questions about these or any other topics. And, thank you for anything you can do to continue to promote such an active community in Timber Farms. Your input to us directly is what makes our jobs rewarding, and your efforts to build community cohesion is what makes sustainable progress possible.

Sincerely,

Senator Bryan Townsend
bryan.townsend@delaware.gov
302-709-1516

Representative John Viola
john.viola@delaware.gov
302-598-8311

TIMBER FARMS MAINTENANCE CORPORATION

The Board of the Timberfarms Maintenance Corporation hopes that, despite the ongoing pandemic, you had a safe and relaxing summer. You certainly came through with the 2020 assessments as 98.7% of residences have paid them. This level of compliance again puts our development in the top tier of Maintenance Corporations/Homeowner Associations in the State of Delaware. Thank you very much! Having these funds available has already allowed us to sign up Shackleford Landscaping for snow removal for the 2020/2021 season.

We would also like to thank all residents who have informed us about their plans to construct fences, sheds and pools and asked for permission from the Architectural Review Committee. Please continue to do so as it avoids violations of deed restrictions and costly removals or alterations of these structures.

Another thank you to all residents who make the effort to park vehicles in the garage and driveways overnight. Not doing so is not only a deed restriction violation but could impede access of emergency vehicles responding to an emergency.

While on the topic of cars, we have been receiving emails regarding cars speeding on Timberwood Boulevard and on other roads in the development. Please obey the speed limit. Exceeding it when entering or leaving our development only gains you a few seconds and is not worth risking an accident, especially now that more residents are taking walks.

As always, contact the members of the Board of our Maintenance Corporation with any questions or concerns you have regarding items that fall under our purview. Stay safe.

Regards, Rolf Joerger, President

2020 TIMBER FARMS CIVIC'S PICNIC

To Our Timber Farms Neighbors, Friends and Family

It is with sincere regret that we must inform you that our Annual Timber Farms Civic Association picnic must be canceled this year due to the need to maintain proper COVID19 social distancing. It is imperative that we make this decision to help keep everyone safe. We believe you understand the urgency to protect the health of our families and neighbors during the pandemic.

We realize what we will be missing, Moon bounce and slides, Mr. Softee ice cream cones, our DJ, pony rides, popcorn and candy cotton, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and the BRATS, games and fun....Most of all we will miss fellowship with you!

Let us hope for the best next year! Stay Safe and Well!

Sincerely,

Rosie Tooley, Chairperson of the Civic Association Picnic

The many volunteers who signed up for the 2020 picnic

All officers of the Timber Farms Civic Association

SYNOPSIS OF POWER SURGES FROM BETH SILVER

Unfortunately, we've had a history of destructive power surges in Timber Farms. June 9, 2020. April 20, 2015. February 2, 2011. July 22, 2006. Not a record of power outages or even small surges but the BIG ones that take out your air conditioning, major appliances, etc. and even cause fires! In all the places I have ever lived and all the times I've lost power, I have never experienced ONE of these destructive power surges let alone FOUR. I've lost 2 AC blower motors, numerous individual and whole house surge protectors. This last episode on June 9, 2020 cost me \$2K in the repair and replacement of old equipment as well as the installation of new equipment to help protect me against what Delmarva Power can't or won't.

So, what's been done? I and many others have filed claims with Delmarva Power, of course. Denied or, as is the case with me on this latest one, simply unanswered to date. I've written letters to Gary Stockbridge, regional president of Delmarva and copied to our local legislators. I have not received a written response to my 2020 letter just a few phone calls from Delmarva Power with references to my claim and forwarding of the issue to their "reliability engineers". These vague referrals bring to mind a large dumpster with the term "reliability engineers" stenciled on the side. My claim is probably in there.

My correspondence was copied to Representative Viola, Councilman Tackett, Delaware Public Advocate Slater and Senator Townsend. Senator Townsend has been involved in the 2015 and 2020 incidents. Unfortunately, no results to date. In all fairness, Delmarva Power has a very powerful lobby in Delaware and Senator Townsend is unlikely to find much support with fellow legislators but we must continue to press. Unfortunately, it's all too easy in the busy nature of our lives just to let things go. Delmarva Power counts on that.

What about other regulators? Delmarva Power is currently in the middle of a rate case before the Public Service Commission

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– seeking more money, of course. Many of us filed written comments on the case and 2 of us were on the public comment teleconference. At the end of the teleconference, their attorney said they were aware of the situation in Newark and were actively investigating it even if it wasn't maybe as quick as some would like. !!!

In the end, as long as Delmarva Power is apparently not answerable to anyone, we have to try to protect our homes ourselves. Get a whole house surge protector! I will warn you they don't always work. Mine didn't this go around and I heard several other similar complaints. I did, however, have one that saved the house in 2015. So, there are problems but may be the best protection we have. In addition, it might be worth it

to invest in surge protectors for your AC. I was not aware of these. I now have a surge protector on the AC/furnace unit in the basement and one on the compressor. I'm told by several AC techs that the variable motor ACs are especially vulnerable to power surges. Investigate other quality surge protectors for your major appliances and don't forget your sump pump. I am still researching what to do with some of these but know I need to protect myself as best I can. So do you. Who knows when the next one is coming?

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FREE to members of the civic association and their businesses; all others may place an ad for \$6.00.

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Seamstress - Alterations: alter unlined items \$6, alter lined items \$8. I do clean and excellent work. Will be done in one day if needed. I have 30 years experience. Please contact me by e-mail: Alterations100@yahoo.com. I live in Timber Farms.

Lawn mowing and trimming at reasonable rates. If interested please call or text David at (302) 463-6817

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Evergreen Waste Services are offering Timber Farms residents a special offer. Weekly Trash & Recycle Collection on Tuesdays. Because we're the number one trash collector in Timber Farms we can offer you a great price (\$19.00 per month.) Call Evergreen now at 302-635-7055 to start taking advantage of the discounted services for Timber Farms Residents.

Legal Services: Stephanie Emmanuel-DeLuna, Esq. Legal representation in the areas of domestic/family law, personal injury, workers compensation, small business law, immigration, and wills/probate Stephanie@thecastrofirm.com

In need of calligraphy services for weddings, gifts, or decor? Search "Katelyn's Calligraphy and More" on Facebook or call Katelyn at (302) 584-4339 for more information.

I am available to clear driveways and sidewalks in the case of snow this winter. My name is Ash Verdi. I live at 102 Woodland Road. My phone number is 302-229-9533 (I would prefer to be contacted through text messages if at all possible as I am more likely to respond.

I would be available for snow shoveling this Winter - Paige Barnard 124 woodland 302-463-0489

My son, Tom is available for yard work, some landscaping and snow shoveling this winter His contact number is 593-7803. Thank you.

Rising Hope Therapy provides mental health services to adolescents, individual adults, couples and families. We provide a supportive and non-judgmental environment where clients can identify, explore and begin to overcome various life struggles. If you would like more information or to schedule an initial session please visit our website and/or contact us by email or telephone. www.risinghopetherapy.com---Admin@risinghopetherapy.com---302-273-3194

My name is Alison Hawtof and I'm a high school student interested in babysitting. I love playing and reading to children (as young as 2). During the school year, I am available Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. In the summer, my hours are flexible. Please contact me at (302-257-8369 if you are interested.

Shola Coker Phillip, Realtor/Home Designer, REMAX Associates, 668 Yorklyn Road, Hockessin, DE 19707. www.sholasellshomes.com, Cell: 302563-3784, Office: 302-234-3800, efax: 877-408-7952

An experienced lawn mower and a second year college student. I can bring my own mower if needed. Thank you, David Hawtof 302 463 6817.

Pressure Washing.....Do you need your siding, deck or sidewalk removed of all that dirt and mold. As a Timber Farms resident, I care about your home. I do professional work for less than the cost. For a free estimate, call Ed. Gonzales, 302-463-3224

If you are interested in joining a women's bible study for our neighborhood, please send your name and number to Doris Griffin, drdorisgriffin@gmail.com. This is a great way for some of us to get together virtually and develop connections. It would be great if we could start in September. I hope to hear from you. Thank you!

Dr. Anthony Giantinoto, Doctor of Chiropractic, conveniently located for Timber Farms Residents, 260 Chapman Rd Ste 104E, 302 294 1832. Dr. Anthony has continually strived for excellence in service, and has done his best to assist every patient on their journey from symptoms to health. Headache relief, reduced joint stiffness and better sleep are a few of the positive side-effects can expect following his treatments. dranthony@302relief.com

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