

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, February, 2011
John Serumgard, President, Taberna Homeowners Association

Welcome Home, TABEARNA!

After serving a full tour of duty as Taberna's ambassador to the New Bern 300th Anniversary celebration, TABEARNA has come home to take a watchful position at the entrance to our community. Kudos to Joyce Weller and all the members of the TABEARNA Bear Project Committee, and to all the residents who contributed, for a job well done. I hope you were able to join the "Welcome Home" party on Jan. 15 when we formally welcomed TABERNA home. He will be a great addition to our community.

Just a quick reminder: Master HOA assessments, and first quarter sub-association assessments, are due by January 31, 2011. Late fees of \$20 per month will be assessed for payments after that date.

As we start a new year, I thought it might be helpful to review the role and responsibilities of your Homeowners Association. Fundamentally, the Taberna Homeowners Association serves to protect the value of your property and your quiet enjoyment of the community. The Board is a creature of, and is restricted by, the protective covenants we all agreed to when we signed our deeds. It seeks to ensure that all residents observe those covenants and rules and regulations for the benefit of the entire community. The Board also maintains the considerable property held in common for the community so that it enhances the beauty of Taberna and adds value to our individual homes. In addition, the Board manages the financial assets of the community in a prudent and responsible manner.

Covenant enforcement is a vital if thankless job. In the 2009 community survey, Taberna residents said that covenant enforcement was their most important concern. Accordingly, in 2010 the Board, under the leadership of Willis Vincent, published in the Taberna Tribune an explanation of the enforcement process and quarterly reports on covenant violations. Our year end numbers reflect that identified violations dropped from 90 to 57, a 37 percent decline, and almost every one was voluntarily corrected. In addition, the Board prepared and posted to our web site a compendium linking covenant provision with the implementing rules and regulations (see www.tabernahoa.org), so that resident could more easily identify the few limitations imposed by the covenants. We hope residents now have a better understanding of both the rules that apply to us all and the process used to enforce them. Past president Rick Layton will take on this responsibility for 2011.

Finally, as we start the New Year, we are also completing some of the initiatives started last year. The enhancements made to Todd Denson Park were a great success judging by the increased numbers of residents using the park, including the dog park, the bocce and horseshoe courts, and the additional benches and tables. The last item on the Board approved park enhancement plan is to open a window into the park to increase the visibility and security of the playground area. This effort was delayed until winter to avoid any snakes. In early January, under the guidance of the Building and Grounds committee, this window was opened up by cleaning out undergrowth and low branches in part of the wetlands adjacent to Taberna Circle.

No major trees were removed, nor was the path of any water flow altered or impeded. We hope, as warm weather returns, the parents and children who enjoy the playground will have a greater sense of security as they use the park.

As mentioned last month, one of the items we would take up early in the year was traffic calming on Neuchatel, including consideration of speed bumps. Several of you made very good suggestions. After discussion, the Board will first ask the New Bern police department to increase traffic surveillance in that neighborhood to crack down on speeders, as several residents suggested.

As always, the Board welcomes any questions or comments you may have. Please use the "Question to the Board" segment of the web site or feel free to contact any Board member.