

President's Letter: June 2011

John Serungard, President, Taberna Home Owners Association, Inc.

Dear Taberna Residents:

At our May meeting, the Board heard a presentation by Dan Voliva of Piedmont Gas about the chance to bring natural gas into Taberna. He said Piedmont is actively seeking additional customers and would bring gas into Taberna with a sufficient expression of interest. To that end, not only is he counting the emails he has already received, he personally is visiting the community to place response cards on homeowners' front doors. If there is a strong enough interest, around 300 homes, it might be possible to have natural gas installed before this winter's heating season. Installation would be relatively painless with the gas lines being installed with boring machines. Connections to individual homes would be at no cost to any homeowner who has or anticipates installing any gas appliance larger than a set of fireplace logs. ***If you have received a response card from Piedmont and have not returned it, the Board strongly encourages you to do so.***

As mentioned last month, natural gas would be a lower cost energy source for our community. With natural gas, many Taberna residents could save on heating, hot water and cooking, even figuring in the conversion costs. In addition, with natural gas in all the surrounding communities, its absence in Taberna could adversely affect future property values.

We are just a few days away from the start of hurricane season – definite NOT the season that attracted many of us to Eastern Carolina. I know we will all heed the warnings to lay in a supply of water and non-perishable food, check the batteries for flashlights and portable radios, and plan our evacuation routes, etc. One group in Taberna has completed a slightly different hurricane related task. Our **Crime Watch Committee**, under the leadership of Sue McCarthy and Tom Tucker, conducted a tally of how many people live in each home in Taberna. In the (hopefully remote) possibility that we do get hit by a hurricane, this information will be most helpful to our CERTS team to determine if all residents are accounted for. The Area Captains and individual block captains also keep an eye out on all our neighborhoods. It's a good idea if you are going to be away for even a few days to let your block captain know so he or she can watch for any unusual activity. The Watch also serves as a liaison with the New Bern Police Department, and periodically provides information to all residents about matters of public safety.

Last month I discussed stormwater management at some length; this month I just want to add some information I received from a city official. The city is responsible for maintaining all catch basins and under-street storm drains. If you or your neighbors are having water back-up problems from any of these structures, please call the New Bern city public works department (639-7519) and let them know. They should send someone out to look it over and clean it out.

The Taberna sign policy allows only one "For Sale" or "For Lease" sign on a lot. Two signs may be placed back to back, but the result is usually difficult to read. One solution, worked out by Joe's Signs, places a separate "For Lease" sign just below, and on the same support as, the "For Sale" sign. An example is seen on the corner of Emmen and Lugano Roads. As always, signs must conform to the Taberna style.

Each month the Taberna Tribune runs a reminder about cleaning up after your dog, and I thought I could leave that subject alone. But I have heard complaints about dog walkers allowing their pets to use

vacant lots and community property and not cleaning up after them. Please, companion humans, do the right thing, even on vacant lots and community property: Clean up after your pet.

The HOA Board's next monthly meeting is Wednesday, June 1. As always, I and all members of the Board would like to hear your comments or complaints. Contact any one of us, or use the "comments to the Board" section of the website, <http://www.tabernahoa.org>.