

President's Letter: May 2011

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

Dear Taberna Residents:

Isn't Spring in Eastern Carolina wonderful?

All the beautiful flowering trees and shrubs: forsythia, loropetalum, azalea, dogwood, wisteria, cherry and so many more. And the flowers: pansies, daffodils, daisies, tulips among others.

Of course there is no more appealing place in Eastern Carolina than New Bern, with its beauty, history and the overwhelming number of happenings and events to entice and engage us: the recent Historic Home and Garden tour, Farmer's Market Springfest, concerts, lectures, golf outings, including our own **TabernaCARES charity tournament**, and the unusual, such as the **Charity Golf Ball Drop** here at the Taberna Country Club.

Taberna is as beautiful as any where in New Bern, thanks in major part to all the love, time and effort that all of you put into your yards and gardens. Thank you all for making Taberna such a beautiful place to live.

All of this is by way of introduction of a curious subject: **Stormwater**, or more specifically, stormwater management. "April showers" etc.

One of the many things the Taberna developers had to do was engineer a stormwater management system. As each neighborhood was laid out, provisions were made to ensure excess rainfall was directed into natural streams, ponds and other waterways, and not collected anywhere it wasn't wanted. This system is located primarily on drainage easements on both association property and private lots. These easements have vegetated drainage swales of varying sizes and with varying profiles. You may have such swales between you and your neighbor, or along your back lot line. Other than the curbs and gutters, there is very limited use of hard surfaced waterways, or of pipes or conduits. Pipes generally are used only to take storm water from street catch basins to natural watercourses, or to direct water flow under streets.

This system is covered by state regulation and is embodied in Taberna's very own state issued Stormwater Permit. (It only took previous HOA Boards about ten years of work to consolidate more than 25 separate permits, issued as each section was opened, into the one permit we now have.)

With the permit comes the responsibility of maintaining the system it describes, and that falls on the Board. The state agency overseeing our permit has now begun the process of conducting a periodic review of the system and its maintenance. Our Wetlands Management committee, chaired by Betty Rovins and aided by additional volunteers, will be roaming through the community armed with maps showing the draining easements, swales, catch basins, pipes and other features and seeking to determine the maintenance status of the system. In a couple of months, the state agency will return to conduct its physical review.

I realize this is more than you ever wanted to know about stormwater management (unless the system doesn't work properly and your neighborhood floods), but I wanted to let you know why you might see people wandering around the community and may be in your yard looking at the ground. It's

all for a good cause: to help insure our stormwater management system is being properly maintained, and we are in compliance with our permit.

Recently TabMail has been abuzz about bringing **natural gas** into Taberna. The HOA Board believes that the installation of natural gas would be a positive event for the community. Faced with increasing prices for petroleum derived propane, and the high cost of electricity locally, the addition of a third, lower cost, energy option would only be a plus. Residents already using propane could derive an immediate benefit with reasonable cost. Residents using heat pumps or electric resistance furnaces could have the option of converting immediately, changing over when their current unit needs replacement, or staying with electricity. At a broader level, all of the communities around us, including Carolina Colours, have natural gas. Not having natural gas service could have a negative effect on our property values in the future.

Mailbox numbers: If your original mailbox numbers have faded out, you can get new ones at no charge from the Building and Grounds committee. They will match the original numbers in style and color and maintain the integrity of our mailboxes. Just call Ron McCausland, B&G Chair, at 636-5839, or at ronchris@suddenlink.net. Ron can also provide new mailbox flags; the flags, unfortunately, cost \$12.50 each.