

President's Letter: October 2011

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

Dear Taberna Residents:

Hurricane Irene came to Eastern Carolina and it came, and it came, and it came, and finally it went. In the aftermath there were flooded streets and damaged homes, fallen and broken trees, no power, no phone and no cable. We are all thankfully that here in Taberna and New Bern, everyone came through with little personal injury.

Our deepest sympathies go out to our friends and neighbors who had to deal with damage to their homes. We wish them all the best as they repair and rebuild.

One of the bright spots for me was the way **neighbors pitched in to help neighbors**, both in getting ready for the storm and in the clean-up and restoration afterwards. Whether sharing saws or sharing generators, helping with tree removal or just yard clean-up, it all demonstrated the great spirit of community we have in Taberna.

Trees were down everywhere. For every one that came down, there was one that didn't this time but might next time, based on what took place during the storm. For that reason the Board approved a temporary relaxation of the rules requiring prior approval for tree removal, instead relying on each resident's good judgment as to whether a still standing tree would cause damage if it fell. Because the clean-up moved so swiftly, the Board at its September 7 meeting voted to reinstate the formal tree policy effective October 1. If this will cause a hardship for any resident, please contact the president.

The **Naturpark** sustained heavy tree loss, blocking the entry way, parking lot, boardwalk and trail, so it was temporarily closed. Fortunately only minor damage hit the boardwalk and none to the canoes, gazebo or dock. All has been cleared and the Naturpark is open.

Other public areas of Taberna also had trees down, but all of our structures and improvements emerged unscathed. Tree removal and related cleanup however will be costly. The wisdom of past Boards has provided an **emergency reserve fund** for just these events. We can readily pay these costs without hurting the current budget. Once all the costs are known, we can determine over what period we wish to restore the emergency fund to its full level.

The **Annual Meeting** of the Taberna Homeowners Association is tentatively set for Wednesday evening, December 7, at Creekside Elementary School beginning at 7 PM. As is our practice, all home and property owners will receive a mailed package of information, including budgets and proxy forms in mid November.

The Board has determined that with substantial expressed support for hiring a **management company**, with only minimal opposition, it would proceed to finalize a contract with the preferred vendor. References have been checked and are outstanding. A contract will be negotiated. Any initial contract will be for no more than a year so that we can make a reasonable transition without long term risk.

A special "thank you" goes out to Phil Buffa and all the Taberna and New Bern residents who helped conceive and execute the **9/11 tribute** to the fallen first responder heroes. Installed on the grounds of Christ Church on Friday, Sep. 9, it remained through Sept. 11 and allowed visitors to place names and faces to nearly all the 343 heroes.

Piedmont Gas has begun installation of mains and individual feeder lines. Please be watchful as they move through the community.

Residents are gently reminded of our **home maintenance standards**. It has been brought to the Board's attention that some homes may be in need of a bath in the form of pressure washing the siding to remove mold and dirt.

There is still time to **volunteer to serve on the HOA Board** for 2012. Please contact me or any other Board member with your suggestions and nominations.

As always, the Board welcomes your comments or complaints. Contact any one of us, or use the “comments to the Board” section of the website, <http://www.tabernahoa.org>. The next THOA Board meeting will be **Wednesday, October 5, at 3:00 PM** at the THOA office. Please note the new time.