

## President's Letter – August 2017

By: Bart Rovins – President Taberna Master Homeowners Association

Thanks to Craig Baader, Taberna Crime Watch and the Taberna Country Club for a successful National Night Out event. We had a nice group of residents across the generational spectrum. Much to the delight of the children in attendance, New Bern's Police and Fire Departments made a grand entrance complete with lights and sirens. The Taberna Country Club did a great job providing hot dogs and ice cream for those in attendance. I will say that one particular resident, who shall remain nameless did a "mighty fine" job to ensure there were no hot dogs left over at the end of the evening. On a more serious note, Craig will be working on re-energizing our Crime Watch Program.

At the Night Out, I had the opportunity to chat with Police Captain Bobby Jones and learned how the New Bern Police provides coverage to the Battleground District (that's "Battleground" as in the Civil War Battleground). The basic plan is to have a patrol office in the Battleground District 24/7. The reality is that at times these officers are pulled to respond to incidents in other districts or, due to staffing levels, there may not be enough officers on duty to provide this level of coverage. Captain Jones and I talked about the need for a "police sub-station" on this side of the river, especially in light of the continued growth along the US 70 corridor. I was assured that the New Bern Police were very much aware of this growth and the challenges of providing police response time to the several "islands" of City territory. Perhaps this might be a topic for our new Alderman to focus on in 2018?

Over the past several weeks, we have received communications from residents pointing out areas that needed repairs, landscaping attention, and trash removal from the NaturPark. Several of your fellow residents volunteered and have repaired walkways (Bill Durante and John Scirica), cut grass and edged curbing on Taberna Country Club property (Rick Nelson), removed trash from the canoe dock and cleared the paths in the NaturPark despite a drenching shower (Cindy and Walt Teasdale). I am sure that I have missed a number of others who have quietly gone about making a contribution to the Taberna Community. Please accept my sincere apologies and humble thanks if your name was not listed. I would love to know who is doing what to help. Drop me a note and let me know.

Where am I going? We live in a large community with numerous opportunities to help. Through our volunteer efforts, we have saved your HOA significant costs, made new or strengthened friendships, and improved our community. In the weeks ahead, I hope that you will hear more from the HOA Board about our volunteerism in Taberna and opportunities for Taberna to be an even stronger community. Stay tuned.

What else lies ahead for the HOA? We will soon begin work on the 2018 budgets for the Taberna Master Association and the sub-associations (Abbingtion Woods, Boleyn Creek, One Taberna Way, Taberna Landing, and Taberna Townes). The contracts with many of our landscape contracts expire later this year. CAS is in the process of sending out Requests for Proposals (RFP) from our landscapers as part of the contract renewal process. If you think that, there is a landscape service that needs to be adjusted, feel free to let me know. Just remember that adding services may increase costs.

A couple of final thoughts and updates:

The City is aware that new stop bars need to be painted on the repaved Taberna Way and its intersecting streets. I was told that there have been "schedule changes" by the City's contractor, and that the painting should be done by the end of August.

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The Taberna Country Club has asked that I remind all residents that the golf course cart paths are private paths and are not to be used for dog walking, jogging, walking, strollers, bikes, scooters, etc. This rule is necessary to protect individuals from errant golfers and to protect the course. The Club will have Marshalls monitoring the paths in the evenings.

On the morning of October 7<sup>th</sup>, the New Life Church will be conducting a 5K road race and will be using the Todd Denson Parking Lot and Park.

By the time you read this, schools will be back in session. Be mindful of children waiting for and getting off buses.

Please note John Scirica's article elsewhere in this edition about running for a position on the HOA Board. We need motivated residents to volunteer their time and intellect to work on the challenges and opportunities facing our community. Feel free to contact John or myself to better understand what it means to be an HOA Board member.

Thank you and see you around the neighborhood.