

**President's Letter – July 2017**  
**By: Bart Rovins, President Taberna Master Homeowners Association**

Here is an update on key activities and events that have occurred since my last letter:

Taberna Country Club: As I write this, the relaunch of the Taberna Country Club is in its home stretch and is reaching out to the broader New Bern community with full page ads in the Sun Journal and an article on the front page of the July 10<sup>th</sup> edition. This outreach was driven by the desire of the Club's management to provide members with a club that reaches its full potential, and not a club that just limps along as this one has for too many years. The HOA and I would hope that all Taberna owners and residents wish the Club every success in its endeavors. Since the Club is the centerpiece of our community, we all have a stake in its continuing success. While the Club is a private business with no formal or financial ties to the HOA, we are clearly in a symbiotic relationship. The success of the Club and the well-being of our community go hand in hand.

Taberna Entranceway or "what you see is what you get." The New Bern Chief of Police, in conjunction with the City attorney, have verified that this intersection is NOT under City jurisdiction. While New Bern does have extra-jurisdictional authority to enforce traffic laws, it does not have the authority to install traffic cameras. Additionally, in NC a city wishing to install traffic cameras must pay for the cameras up front as any fines raised through the cameras must go to the school system. Therefore, no traffic cameras can be installed by New Bern at this intersection. Our Community Resource Officer has told us that the New Bern Police Department is committed to continuing its targeted enforcement in this area. The police have issued several warnings and citations. Bottom Line: Please drive defensively and look both ways before you enter onto US-70.

Old Airport Road: The emails that many of you sent to Alderwoman ET Mitchell and Mayor Dana Outlaw did a great job expressing the extent of your concerns, and your voices were indeed heard down at City Hall. Last month, the Board of Aldermen directed City Staff to develop a set of plans and design specifications that are sufficient to publish a bid for a City-wide road package that includes widening and resurfacing Old Airport Road from Taberna Circle down to Old County Road in a manner that is consistent with the City's bike and pedestrian plan. Funding for this project will be on the July 11<sup>th</sup> BOA agenda. We are hopeful that the road will be 32 feet with a bike lane. ET Mitchell did not believe that this project will result in any tax or fee increases to City residents. It is unlikely that City funding will stretch to providing the monies needed to pave Old County Line at this time. However, Mayor Outlaw has committed to focusing on Old County Line road in the next budget cycle.

National Night Out: This City-wide event will be on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Plans are in place for Taberna to participate. Please plan to bring the young ones out to meet the Police and Fire personnel who protect us. More information to follow.

HOA Budget & HOA Board Positions: We will soon be entering the budget planning process for 2018. Please let me know if you have any suggestions on improvements or changes you would like to see. We will have several openings on the HOA Board for next year. Here is an opportunity to have an impact on your community. Please reach out to me if you are interested or even if you are "just thinking about it."

Finally, we have recently received reports of people "hanging out" at night in the more remote corners of Taberna. We were all at that point in life where summer nights provided us with a sense of freedom. That is all well and good and a rite of passage until those behaviors interferes with someone else's rights and freedoms. Unfortunately, we have had a couple of minor incidents where the rights and freedoms of others have not been respected. I remember from my Torts class in law school a principle

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that stated, “your rights end where mine begin”...or something to that affect. The New Bern Police Department will be targeting its patrols in these areas just to ensure that no untoward mischief occurs.

I very grateful for the notes expressing appreciation for the work your HOA Board is doing. A lot of that work is transparent to you, and that's the way it should be, but that doesn't mean it isn't important.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Thank you and see you around the neighborhood.