

Taberna Homeowners Association
President's Letter – October 2018
By: Bart Rovins, President & Mark Eckert, Building & Grounds

Our community truly needs to be appreciative of a number of people who worked extraordinarily hard during and following the storm to minimize that impacts of Hurricane Florence. There were a number of unknown residents who ventured out during the storm to help neighbors and to keep storm drains open. I do know that Alderman Bobby Aster was among this group. In my absence, Dick Stern, HOA VP, was able to push to Tabmail all the updates from the City and Alderman Aster. As soon as the storm abated, members of your HOA Board initiated the recovery process. Board members Gordy Barnes and Mark Eckert have worked tirelessly to source and supervise the tree removal process. Karen Mattingly is fully engaged with our insurance agent managing our insurance claims for damaged assets. CAS has been responsive to our questions and helpful in expediting contractor payments. I have received many thank you notes expressing appreciation to the HOA for our efforts. While these notes were addressed to me, it was clear that the authors appreciated, as do I, the hard work of the entire Board and our residents.

Community Directory

Those of you who chose to ride this one out are aware that one of the most gratifying aspects of the entire affair was the tremendous sense of community that developed as we were all calling one another throughout the storm. The collective “hug” and group knowledge was most comforting to all. And, those who stayed were able to communicate with those who had chosen to leave as to the condition of their houses. Sometimes a lack of information is the most terrifying and worrying.

But, many times people said they wanted to communicate with a neighbor, however, were unable to do so because all they had was their landline. That was lost when the power went out at 9 PM Wednesday. If they only had their cell phone numbers, they could call and check on them. As we all age, this becomes more and more important. The Community Directory! Of course! Nope. Not much help. It is amazing how much of the information in the directory is outdated, wrong, and incomplete. And worse, nonexistent for a large number of households.

This disaster points out just how important this directory can be in emergencies. Please, for all of us, get complete, current information to Tom Watson, tomandelleng8r@gmail.com, who handles updating of the Directory. Next year's Directory finalizes in November and gets distributed in January. Please check your listing and forward any changes/additions to Tom immediately. Complete information for each resident of the house includes;

- Name
- Address
- Phone numbers (cell and landline)
- Email address

Do it now. For your sake; for my sake; for all our sakes. You can send your information to Tom Watson at tomandelleng8r@gmail.com.

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Storm Preparedness/Response

If not the worst hurricane in New Bern, this was certainly one of them. While long-term residents had some idea going in what to do before and after, the newbies had something less so. The HOA is establishing a committee to prepare a manual to cover how to best prepare for a storm (both if you are planning to “ride it out” and if you are evacuating) as well as what to do in the follow-up phase. If anyone would like to participate in this activity, please contact Dick Stern (252-636-2302; deess9@gmail.com) and he will be happy to make you a part of it. Let's be better prepared next time!

We are compelled to recognize the Albemarle Landscape and Tree Service. These young men did an incredible job in cleaning out the fallen trees from HOA maintained areas. From the Taberna Way and Taberna Circle areas to Todd Denson Park and the NaturPark, all the fallen trees have been safely removed allowing us to reopen our amenities and helping residents with tree removals. In some cases, it was not possible to remove the debris and we will work on this in the future.

The “boys” from the Albemarle Landscapes and Tree Service



Tabmail

We encourage every household to join Tabmail. This is the sole means we have to get information out to the community in an expeditious manner. Based on the lessons learned during Hurricane Florence, (and with kudos to Wayne Maruna) Tabmail was an essential tool in keeping safe and disseminating timely information. To my knowledge, we were the only community with such a service that was operational throughout the storm. To join, all you need to do is send an e-mail to Wayne Maruna at wamaruna@suddenlink.net. Include your name, street address, e-mail address, and phone

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number. The only item passed to the list server will be your e-mail address. Your physical address is needed to confirm your status as a Taberna resident or property owner. In the event, you choose not to give your telephone number, note that if there is a problem with your e-mail address, i.e., bounced e-mails, we have no way to contact you to resolve the problem. You can find more information <https://tabernahoa.org/tabmail>.

Covenant Enforcement During Disaster Recovery

In the interest of helping to minimize the pain associated with recovery from Hurricane Florence and storm related issues, the HOA Board and CAS will, until December 15th, suspend the application of certain specific Covenant restrictions as they pertain to short-term property rentals (i.e., less than one month), recreational vehicles and campers, utility trailers, dumpsters, and storage containers in driveways and/or on the streets. We will review the situation again at our November HOA Board Meeting. Note that this is only for storm related recovery. The Covenant restrictions pertaining to boats in driveways and streets is still in effect. If you have a specific situation that is not covered here, please contact Bernie Dickson, CAS Property Manager at bernie@casnc.com. If you have a general question, you can contact me.

2019 HOA Elections

There will be three (3) potential openings for the 2019 Board. As of this writing, I do expect some of the incumbents to seek re-election, but that is not definite. If you are interested in joining the HOA Board and to ensure your place on the ballot you must communicate your interest to me no later than October 15th. We will send you a candidate packet that must be returned no later than October 22nd. To meet our deadline of November 1st to mail the Annual Meeting and Ballots these are hard deadlines.

US 70/I-42 Update

The meeting that NC Department of Transportation was to have on September 19th pertaining to the US70/I-42 Project in James City has been postponed without date. We will continue to look for the new meeting date and will ensure that someone from the HOA is in attendance.

Again, thank you to the many residents who have volunteered their time, efforts and resources to make this the premier New Bern community.