

Tabb Lakes Homes Association

Volume 1, Issue 3

All the news that fits, we print

Summer 2004



TLHA Board of Directors

President

Darrell Harris: 867-9045

Vice President

Ellis Sharadin: 867-8816

Members at Large

Bill Hopkins: 867-9929

David Horne: 867-8348

Christina Bethea: 867-7042

Visit us at our Web site:

<http://tabblakes.tripod.com>

The Board of Directors needs someone to fill an upcoming position due to Darrell Harris' planned move to Williamsburg. If you're interested, contact Ellis Sharadin at 867-8816. The board meets once a month.

For information about the newsletter or to turn in stories, classifieds or other items, contact editor Alison Johnson at 867-6742 or send e-mail to ali9231@cox.net.

We're looking for photos and drawings from Tabb Lakes residents to run in future editions. Send us pictures of your family having fun this summer, or original drawings by any budding artists in the neighborhood. Mail or drop off artwork to 202 Heath Place, Yorktown, VA 23693.

This issue, thanks go out to Dave Johnson - director of folding, labeling and constant support - and Bill Freehling, the best layout guy and brother around.

From the Tabb Lakes Stormwater Committee...

Here comes hurricane season!!!

Hurricane season is here again. Unfortunately, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted another above-normal season. Combined with the usual severe thunderstorms and other summer weather events, we should be ready for heavy rains and potential flooding. Here are some specific recommendations for Tabb Lakes homeowners:

- Keep your yards and drainage ditches free of yard waste, trash and debris. Leaves, trash, and branches work their way into our two lakes and can block the single outflow pipe and emergency spillway. By design, these two outlets will only release a certain amount of water. If they are blocked for any reason, our lakes will back up into homes.

- Make sure drainage pipes under your driveways are clear and not blocked by plants, bricks, leaves or sediment. This will help stop localized street flooding during heavy rains.

- For lakeside homeowners: Keep firewood, toys, buckets and other

objects away from the edge of the lakes. These get carried away during storms and get trapped in our outflow pipe. If possible, remove any debris found floating in the lakes. Our committee has removed numerous items recently, including bikes, car tires and logs.

- For homeowners on Adele Court and along Bridge Wood Drive whose yards back up to the junk yards: There is a drainage ditch that runs behind your homes that you should clear on a regular basis. Also remove any foot-bridges across the ditch. They can trap branches and debris and will cause flooding during a major storm.

- For homeowners on Conway Court: Stormwater drains from your location toward Coventry and under Coventry Blvd by a common ditch behind homes at the end of Conway Court. Make sure this ditch is not blocked and that there are no foot-bridges or boards that can block your drainage system.

- For homeowners who live

Please see HURRICANES, next page

Scooter accidents trend up -- how to stay safe

One thing lands more than 84,000 people in the emergency room each year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: Scooters.

And the growing popularity of motorized scooters, especially among children, has driven up those statistics every year. That has doctors and law enforcement officials calling for more safety measures and encouraging riders to take voluntary steps to protect themselves.

While Virginia law regulates mopeds and similar vehicles, it does not explicitly cover the use of motorized scooters on public roads. In York County, supervisors likely will consider an ordinance this summer that would

require helmets and possibly additional safety measures.

"I see kids around here riding around up to 30 mph with their bathing suits on and no helmets, and when they hit a bump I just hold my breath," said Supervisor Jim Burgett, one of the leaders on the effort. "This is a real safety issue."

Burgett would like to see something similar to regulations in Newport News, where riders must be at least 16 years old, wear a helmet, obey the speed limit and stay off sidewalks or roads with speed limits higher than 25 mph.

In the meantime, scooter owners in

Please see SCOOTERS, next page

Be prepared when the storms hit

Now is the time to put together a home disaster supply kit to keep your family safe. The American Red Cross recommends these items:

- First aid kit and essential medications
- Canned food and can opener
- At least three gallons of water per person
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Special items for infants, such as ready-to-use baby formula, and for elderly or disabled family members
- Written instructions on how to turn

off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.

It's also a good idea to identify ahead of time where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places, such as a friend's home in another town, a motel or a shelter. Keep those telephone numbers handy, as well as a road map of your locality in case major roads



A few essentials to have around for when the storms roll in.

are closed and you need to take alternative or unfamiliar routes.

HURRICANES, from page two

between Bridge Wood Drive and Leslie Lane: The backside of your homes drains through a common channel that empties into two drains behind homes at 307 Bridge Wood Dr./108 Leslie Ln. and 401 Bridge Wood Dr./120 Leslie Ln. Make sure this channel is clear of leaves and debris and the drainage grates are clean. One was completely buried with dirt and leaves just before Hurricane Isabel. This area along Bridge Wood Drive is the lowest elevation of Tabb Lakes and has one of the longest sections of drainage pipes leading to Lake 2. This area will flood first if these drainage pipes are blocked or our lakes rise more than 48".

We have been fortunate over the past three years with regards to flooding in Tabb Lakes. Last year, Hurricane Isabel only dropped about four inches of rain, as compared to 17 inches from Hurricane Floyd in September 1999. During Hurricane Isabel, our lakes did rise over 24" - which exceeded the out-flow pipe capacity - but the emergency spillway kept our lake heights at a reasonable level. All of us need to work together to prevent flooding in the future.

If you have any questions about these recommendations or would like to know more about how our drainage system works, contact **Lou Lafrenaye** at 867-8333 or LafrenayeL@aol.com.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

York County provides free Community Emergency Response Team training, an evening course that teaches basic skills to prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters. For more information on the CERT program or for class dates, call the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600 or go to www.york-county.gov/fls/index.html.

SCOOTERS, from page two

Tabb Lakes can take some basic steps to avoid broken bones, cuts or far worse injuries. When riding on a public road, remember:

- **Use a helmet and knee and elbow pads.** Doctors estimate this could eliminate almost two-thirds of scooter accidents, including many of the most serious ones.

- **Observe the basic rules of the road.** Scooters can travel as fast as many other types of vehicles. Stop at every stop sign and traffic signal. Look both ways before pulling out of driveways. Use proper hand signals when turning. Stay off sidewalks, or at least remember that pedestrians always have the right of way.

- **Don't make sudden, unpre-**



As the second-annual Leslie Lane Memorial Day parade shows, scooters and bikes are a fun part of summer.

dictable moves. Ride with the flow of traffic.

- **Concentrate on the road.** Don't do other things while riding, including eating, drinking and talking on cell phones.

- **Don't ride at night.** You'll have a harder time seeing things in your path, and cars will have a harder time seeing you.

- **Stick to smooth, paved surfaces.** Avoid places that are bumpy, uneven, wet or rocky.

- **Consider taking a motorcycle safety course.** Many of the same rules for motorcycles and mopeds apply to scooters.

Finally, parents should know that about 85 percent of scooter injuries happen to children under 15 and almost a third to kids under 8. Supervision is important for younger kids, and doctors recommend keeping anyone under 12 off motorized scooters at all times.

So have a blast this summer - but be safe!

TLHA profile of the month -- Ellis Sharadin

This is the first in a regular profile of Tabb Lakes Homes Association leaders.

How long have you lived in Tabb Lakes? 12½ years. I retired from the Air Force and made Tabb Lakes my home.

How long have you been on the Board of Directors? 1½ years

What has changed the most in the time you've been here? Public awareness about our drainage problems during major storms

What is your favorite thing about Tabb Lakes? Nice homes and people in a neighborhood with minimal restrictions compared to places like Kiln Creek. And we're boater-friendly!

What do you see as needed improvements in the neighborhood, or challenges that Tabb Lakes will face in the upcoming years? Overcoming an apathetic group of homeowners. We have over 900 adults here, but only about 30 or so can be counted on to contribute to their asso-



Ellis Sharadin, vice president of the TLHA board, says boating is one of his favorite hobbies.

ciation. The last general meeting drew less than 50 people. That's a terrible showing! This needs to improve if we are to develop a sense of community, assure the safety and security of our families and maintain the desirability and value of our homes.

How do we tackle these challenges? We've re-started the Tabb Lakes newsletter, which is essential to getting word out about neighborhood events and community concerns. The resurrection of a covenants watchdog committee, led by Joe Eubanks, is another important step because we have a significant number of new homeowners and renters who are, quite frankly, ignorant of their maintenance responsibilities. A single poorly-maintained home can destroy property values on an entire street, leading to a bad reputation for our whole neighborhood. Another area that is finally getting sorely needed attention is the Neighborhood Watch, thanks to

the efforts of Sandra and Rob Shaffer. We have slowly but surely begun to see a rise in crime in our neighborhood over the last five years. It will take a concerted effort to turn our apathetic majority into a concerned, involved group, but I believe it is doable and well worth the effort.

What are your current goals as a member of the BOD? To encourage and assist our under-manned and overworked committees, see us through our upcoming project to restore the lakes to their design depths and help our neighborhood recover its vitality and sense of community. I've served over six years in various capacities, from Covenants Committee chair to Board member. Although I intend to continue participating to some degree until I am no longer able, I would like to see more of our able-bodied and younger residents get involved in making Tabb Lakes a wonderful place to live.

Ellis Sharadin

Neighborhood position: Vice president of the TLHA Board

Birthplace: Danville, PA

Age: 55

Family: Rosemarie, wife of 32 years; grown children Marcie, Nate and Kevin; two grandchildren, Bekah and Matthew Nettleton

Occupation: Delta pilot and teacher of high school computer-aided design classes

Education: BS in Industrial Engineering, NJIT; MS in Management, Troy State

Hobbies: Boating, Coast Guard Auxiliary, photography, flying

From the Covenants Review Committee... Fighting termites

Are you feeding termites in or around your home? While these little winged insects are harmless to humans and pets, they could cost you dearly. Termites love wet landscape timbers. We all spend a lot of money on prevention, treatment and repair costs, yet we feed them and invite them into our

homes by placing wood in and around our yards and driveways. Many properties in the neighborhood already are infested. If you want to reduce the chances of your home being invaded, start by removing this food source. Consider alternative landscaping products such as concrete blocks, slate,

plastic edging or perhaps even river rock, which also don't deteriorate as fast. Take those timbers - and the termites - to the York County landfill ASAP.



What a bunch of pests! York County landfill ASAP.

INSIDE and OUT

Have a recipe or gardening tip to share? E-mail items to ali9231@cox.net. We'd also welcome stories about good deeds by your neighbors.

Recipe of the issue:

Crustless salmon quiche

(Serves 6)
 2 tablespoons flour
 ½ cup water
 ½ cup 2% milk
 ½ cup Miracle Whip
 3 large eggs, beaten
 8 ounces mild Cheddar cheese, diced
 3 or 4 green onions, chopped
 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
 2 cups canned or cooked salmon (broken into bite-sized pieces)

Preheat oven to 325.
 Whisk flour and water together until smooth.
 Whisk in milk, Miracle Whip and eggs.
 Stir in cheese, onions and mushrooms.
 Gently stir in the salmon, trying not to break up the pieces too much.
 Spray a quiche dish or deep-dish 10" pie plate with a non-stick vegetable oil spray and pour filling into dish.
 Bake for 45 to 60 minutes, or until a knife inserted into the very middle comes out clean. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Gardening tip of the issue:

When to water

The best time to drench your grass is early in the day, from 5 to 9 a.m., when you'll lose less water to evaporation. Also try to water on calmer days so the wind doesn't carry away too much of the moisture. To avoid wasting water, set up your sprinkler or hose to keep from watering driveways and streets. Finally, aerating your lawn at least once a year loosens soil and lets more of the water absorb deeper into the ground.

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

A one-stop list for Tabb Lakes residents in case of an emergency or other event. Clip it out and tape it to your fridge!

Event/Agency	Telephone
Emergencies (Police, Fire, & Rescue) -- York County Dispatcher	911
Non-emergencies (Police, Fire, & Rescue) -- York County	890-3630
Dog Bites or Stray Animals -- York County Animal Control	890-3601
Info on Poisoning -- Poison Center	1-800-552-6337
Street Signs -- Seaford VDOT	898-5151
Flooding -- York Stormwater Mgmt	890-3752
Trash Collection -- York County Waste Mgmt	890-3780
Power Outage -- Virginia Dominion Power	1-888-667-3000
Broken Water Main -- Water Connections	890-3702
Report Gas Leak -- Virginia Natural Gas	1-877-572-3342
Telephone Outage -- Verizon	954-6222
Cable TV Outage -- Cox Cable	224-2222
Mark Utility Lines before Digging -- Miss Utility	1-800-552-7001

Patriotism at Tabb Lakes

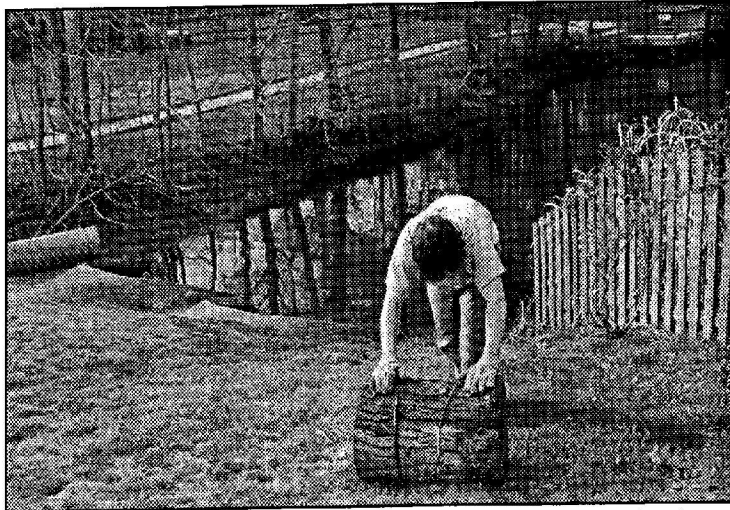


Youngsters turned out in full force to show their American pride during the second-annual Leslie Lane Memorial Day parade. There were 16 children and 14 adults out.

News shorts -- Keeping Tabb Lakes beautiful

Stay connected: The Tabb Lakes Homes Association has approved installing a neighborhood message board on Bridge Wood Drive near the lakes. The board will be available for business cards and public notices such as yard sales and babysitting and other services, as well as TLHA minutes and county regulations. Plans call for a 4-by-8 sheet of plywood on a frame with a roof and window section. The board should be place by fall.

Property pride: The Neighbor Relations Team is gearing up to start a "Yard of the Month" program to recognize the best-maintained properties in the neighborhood. Winners will be chosen based on exterior appearance and overall curb appeal of their home and yard. The goal is to help restore community pride to Tabb Lakes, not to mention increase home values. Selected homeowners will get to display a brass sign in their yard. Stay tuned to the Tabb Lakes' Web site and the newsletter for information on rules and the judging and nominating process.



A volunteer removes a log from one of the lakes to keep it from blocking an outflow pipe. Everyone can help make sure the lakes don't overflow during severe weather.

Lakes update: An environmental group has completed its study on water elevation and sediment thickness in preparation for dredging to restore the lakes to design depth. Next up is a competitive bidding process for the project.

Once cost estimates are in hand, the TLHA plans to ask York County for some help with the expense. The project start likely is still at least six to nine months away, according to board president Darrell Harris.



One final scene from the second-annual Leslie Lane Memorial... de.

CLASSIFIEDS

AVON CALLING! Do you love AVON but don't know who to call? I live right here in Tabb Lakes! AVON also hiring teenagers ages 16 to 18 to sell their newest line for teens.

If you would like more information or an AVON brochure, call Karon Martin at 867-1143 or e-mail kltmartin@yahoo.com.

To submit a free classified ad, send information to Alison Johnson at ali9231@cox.net. Businesses also are invited to submit design ads for a small charge.