

Tabb Lakes Homes Association

Volume 2, Issue 3

All the news that fits, we print

Summer 2005



TLHA Board of Directors

President

Jim Magnotta: 867-8880

Vice President

David Horne: 867-8348

Secretary

Terri Berube: 867-6325

Member at Large

Bill Hopkins: 867-9929

Treasurer

Charles Rossi: 867-8322

Web site

Clint Flanagan: 867-6860

Visit us at our Web site:

<http://tabblakes.tripod.com>

Newsletter

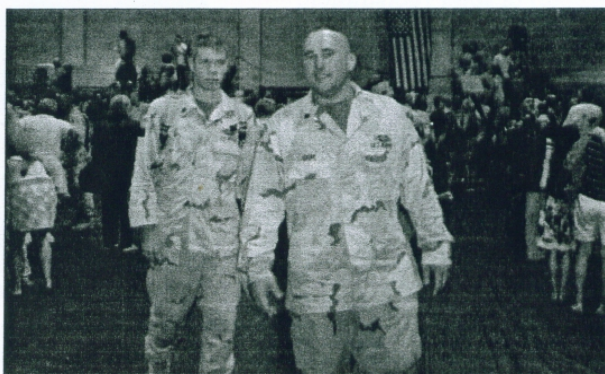
For information about the newsletter or to turn in stories, classifieds, photos, drawings or other items, **contact editor Alison Johnson** at 867-6742 or ali9231@cox.net. Kids, submit your artwork and we'll publish it! It's even better than drawing on your parents' walls.

Volunteers needed

Please consider volunteering your time on one of the neighborhood committees to make Tabb Lakes an even nicer place to live. If you're interested, contact any member of the Board of Directors to see how you can help.

Welcome Home!

Anyone traveling down Tabb Lakes Drive at the end of July couldn't miss it: A towering, inflatable Statue of Liberty near the end of one driveway. For Dan Grim, the statue was a great big welcome back sign from his parents, longtime residents of Tabb Lakes.



Dan Grim recently returned from a year serving in Afghanistan.

Grim, 29, is safely home after a year in Afghanistan with the Virginia National Guard. There, his service included securing an Air Force base, delivering medical supplies, responding to traffic accidents, cleaning up after a huge dam break and even reviving a child who had fallen into a swollen river.

Grim spent his middle and high school years in Tabb Lakes, where his parents, Frank and Jean, have lived since 1986. "We are glad he is home safe and proud of him for serving his country," Frank Grim said. "Several

times we held our breath as we received word that his unit was involved in a dangerous incident, such as the helicopter crash from his base in Ghazni. We knew he had been on helicopter missions for several days.

"He talked about many, many good things they had done for the people in the area. We are especially thankful for the many people and groups that sent him cards, packages and just prayers and words of encouragement."

See **GRIM**, next page

Fire Extinguisher Demo

The Community Emergency Response Committee would like to invite all Tabb Lakes residents - including children - to attend a fire extinguisher training seminar on Sept. 10. The seminar will start at 10 a.m. between the two lakes on Bridge Wood Drive.

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety will demonstrate how fire extinguishers work, what to look for when buying an extinguisher and how to properly put out frying pan grease fires, a common hazard in

homes today. Residents also can bring home extinguishers and battery-operated smoke alarms to check if they need to be replaced.

Emergency Response Committee members also will have brochures available on fire safety and hurricane preparedness. We have requested that a fire truck be on site so that everyone can see equipment used by fire and rescue staff during emergencies.

See **FIRE**, next page

GRIM, from last page

For Dan Grim, the best part of his year overseas was seeing the immediate impact his work had on the Afghan people. The worst, by far, was losing two fellow soldiers when a bomb struck their armored Humvee. The victims were on a security patrol in support of voter registration.

"Just when you started to feel at ease, something would happen to make you nervous," Grim said.

The weather swung between huge extremes, from 130 degrees in the summer to four feet of snow in the winter. The biggest surprise, though, was just how primitive the living conditions were for many of the country's residents. "The poverty was simply incredible," he said. "Just the lack of any type of hygiene as we know it."

After a 22-hour plane trip home, one of Grim's first actions was to drink a Guinness with his parents. "I've been thinking about that beer for a year," he laughed. He plans to take life easy for the next few months



Dan Grim, whose parents live in Tabb Lakes, pulls security duty in a cherry field.

and then apply for a job with the Roanoke Police Department.

As for that giant Statue of Liberty, Grim was pretty impressed - and not at a bit surprised that all of his neighbors and even the mailman knew he was back.

"With something 8-feet tall in the driveway," he said, "I guess it's not such a hard thing to deduce."

Thanks to Dan - and to everyone else in the neighborhood who have served our country.



Come see a fire extinguisher demonstration Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. between the lakes.

FIRE, from last page

Please note: A stretch of Bridge Wood Drive between the lakes will be closed for traffic from 9 to 11 a.m. to allow for this training event. We ask that all residents walk to the event, as there will be no parking spaces available.

This is the Community Emergency Response Committee's first training seminar, and our goal is to conduct one every year. For information on the committee and future training events, please visit our web site at <http://tabblakes.tripod.com/CERT/TabbWebCERT.html> or contact Lou Lafrenaye at 867-8333.

Neighborhood Watch Update

Get involved: The Neighborhood Watch program is up and running! We have sent out several notices, including information on local crimes, a missing child and child safety issues. If you have not been receiving these notices, please contact coordinators Sandra and Rob Shaffer at 871-1914. We also can answer questions, take comments and introduce you to your block captain so you can get on their contact list. We still are looking for block captains for the Tabb Lakes end of Tiger Paw Path and for Gardenville Drive near the Hilda Hollow intersection. Please call if you can volunteer.

Project Porchlight: Neighborhood Watch leaders are encouraging residents to leave their porch lights on from dusk until dawn, especially on the weekends. The extra light might help deter a thief - or at least increase the chances that someone will see a break-in in progress. Every little safety step counts!

It's that time again! Back to school tips

Even if it's been a while since you walked into school for the first day of a new year, you probably still remember the nerves. Here's how you can help your kids:

1) Try to finish shopping for clothes and supplies a week before school starts. That way, you can save the last days of vacation for relaxing.

2) Phase into a routine as soon as possible with bedtime, meals, morning preparations and study time. Many kids have a later bedtime during the sum-

mer, which makes them sleep later in the morning (or, in some cases, into the afternoon). Gradually put kids to bed earlier in the days before school starts (try 15 minutes at a time). If children fight you, stay firm but let them read in bed for a while to ease the transition.

3) If possible, drop by the school this month to meet your child's teacher. Especially with younger students, keep a calm and positive attitude even if you're nervous. On the first day, wake up a little earlier than usual so you can

help your child get ready and cook a good breakfast without too much rushing.

4) After school, give children some "down time" before asking questions about their day. Let them know you're anxious to hear all about it when they're ready. Then, be sure to listen carefully and give positive feedback and encouragement.

5) If you can, give your child a favorite treat or privilege after school to celebrate the first day!

Recipe of the issue: Oven-fried Coconut Chicken

This comes from the kitchen-phobic editor's favorite cookbook, "500 Five Ingredient Recipes."

Ingredients:

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup flaked coconut

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup fine dry seasoned bread-crumbs

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 pounds meaty chicken pieces (breasts, thighs and drumsticks)

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter or margarine, melted

Directions

In a shallow bowl, stir together coconut and breadcrumbs; set aside. Brush chicken pieces with melted butter. Roll chicken pieces in coconut mixture to coat all sides. Arrange chicken in a baking pan so that pieces don't touch. Drizzle any remaining butter over the meat. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 45 to 50 minutes, or until chicken is tender and no longer pink.

Tabb Lakes Community Emergency Response Program

The neighborhood's newest committee is organizing a group of volunteers who will get training to respond to future emergency situations in the neighborhood. The committee also is working to inform people about the many safety courses offered by the county. For information, visit <http://tabblakes.tripod.com/CERT/TabbWebCERT.html> or contact Lou Lafrenaye at 867-8333.

Some of the training available to the public:

Community Emergency Response

Team Training: Sept. 14 to Nov. 2, on Wednesday nights. Contact the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600.

Red Cross Training: Topics include Adult CPR/AED Training; Adult, Child & Infant CPR; First Aid Training; CPR for the Professional Rescuer; Babysitter's Training; and Disaster Training/Damage Assessment. Classes are open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For information on costs and registration, call the York-Poquoson Chapter House at 898-3090.

Paid advertisement

Lee Property Management

Specializes in the rental management of upscale single-family homes in Tabb Lakes. For the best service and income for your property:

Call: 757-739-7995

E-mail: propertymngt@cox.net

This newsletter runs short classified ads—a line or two about your business and a contact number—for free. Bigger display ads like the ones above cost \$25. Checks are payable to the Tabb Lakes Homes Association. To place an ad, contact editor Alison Johnson at 867-6742 or ali9231@cox.net.

Profile of the issue: Lou Lafrenaye

Address: 205 Monty Manor
Neighborhood position: Chairman of the Stormwater Committee and the Community Emergency Response Program

Birthplace: West Warwick, Rhode Island

Age: 50

Family: Wife Carol, sons Christopher and Jonathan

Occupation: Training Requirements Analyst, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)

Education: University of Rhode Island, B.S. in Biology (Natural Resource Management)

Hobbies: Hiking, traveling and assorted other interests, the latest being amateur radio operations

How long have you lived in Tabb Lakes? 8 years

How long have you served with the neighborhood association? About 3 years

What has changed the most in the time you've lived here? It seems like the neighborhood is becoming less transient. When I first moved here, there would be numerous homes for sale or rent in the summer.

Now it seems like more people are staying, which I believe is good. More people will take interest in our community if they plan on settling here for some time.

What are your favorite things about Tabb Lakes? This is a great community. Most people are friendly and courteous. Carol and I have made some lifelong friends and it has been a great place to raise our children. We have a great location on the Peninsula, excellent schools and very good community services. We have a few problems but, of the many places I have lived in the world, this is a still the best place yet.

What do you see as the biggest challenges that Tabb Lakes will face in upcoming years? I believe that as our HOA ages, it will become more of a challenge for each of us to maintain the condition and appearance of our homes, property and overall neighborhood. We need to insure we fix our homes and maintain our property to keep the neighborhood looking the best it can.

What are your current goals for the neighborhood? My continuing

goal is to help reduce the chance of flooding in Tabb Lakes. My current goal is to fully develop a Neighborhood Emergency Response Program. After Hurricane Isabel, I saw a lot of people helping their neighbors. What struck me was that the problems we faced could have been much worse and that we, as a neighborhood, could be better organized to help each other. After going through the county's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, I am organizing a response program with a goal of getting at least 10 individuals CERT trained. I want to organize CERT-trained members and other neighborhood volunteers and assemble teams and equipment to respond to medical emergencies or other events such as fire and safety, light search and rescue and clearing roads. This organization would be beneficial if the County Fire Department could not immediately respond to a neighborhood emergency. More information is available through our committee's postings, which are linked to the Tabb Lakes Homeowner Association's Web site.

Hurricane and Severe Weather

From the Tabb Lakes Stormwater Committee...



Unfortunately, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting another above-normal hurricane season this year. Combined with the usual severe thunderstorms and other weather events during the late summer, residents should prepare for the possibility of heavy rains. The Tabb Lakes Stormwater Committee has some specific recommendations to reduce the chance of flooding:

- Keep yards and drainage ditches clean and free of yard waste, trash and debris. Leaves, trash and branches work their way into the two lakes and can block the single outflow pipe and emergency spillway.

- Make sure drainpipes under driveways are clear of plants, bricks,

leaves and sediment. This will help stop localized street flooding.

- Lakeside homeowners: Keep firewood, toys, buckets and other objects away from the edge of the lakes. These can get carried away and trapped in the outflow pipe. If possible, remove any debris you see floating in the lakes.

- Homeowners on Adele Court and Bridge Wood Drive whose yards back up to the junk yards: There is a drainage ditch that runs behind your homes that you should check and clear on a regular basis, especially before any major storm. Also, remove any footbridges or boards across the drainage ditch.

- Homeowners on Conway Court:

Stormwater drains from this location toward Coventry and under Coventry Boulevard through a common drainage ditch behind homes at the end of the court. Make sure that this ditch is not blocked and that there are no footbridges across it.

- Homeowners between Bridge Wood Drive and Leslie Lane: The backside of homes drain through a common swale that empties into two drains, located behind homes at 307 Bridge Wood Dr./108 Leslie Ln. and 401 Bridge Wood Dr./120 Leslie Ln. Keep the swale clear of leaves and debris and make sure the drainage grates are clean. This area will be the first to flood if the drainage pipes are blocked or the lakes rise more than 48".

News & Notes...

Got trash?

York County officials are asking residents to follow a few rules on collection day. When you put your garbage toter out for collection, make sure the arrows on top of the lid are pointing toward the road. Automated refuse trucks can't pick up your trash if the toter is facing the wrong way. Also, the toter needs to be at least three feet away from any structure or obstacle, including mailboxes, cars and basketball goals. Finally, all trash bags inside the toter, even those filled with yard debris. For more information or to ask questions, call 890-3780.

Yard of the month contest

The 2005 season runs through November. Our goals are to boost community pride and promote the neighborhood's appearance. Congratulations to the Edwards family 102 Heath Place, the July winner and a long-time source of jealousy for all Heath Place residents!

Nominations are due by the 15th of the previous month. Send nominations to Tabb Lakes Homes Association, Attn: Yard of the Month, P.O. Box 8088, Yorktown, VA 23693. For more information, visit the association's web site.

Take a shot...

...at keeping deteriorating basketball goals from hurting your home's curb appeal - one of the most important factors in drawing potential buyers to a neighborhood. Fixing up or removing old or rusted backboards and torn nets is one of the focus areas for the Neighbor Relations Team.

Repair rust spots or scratches by sanding the area lightly and using rust-preventative spray primer followed by high-gloss spray enamel paint. If your rim is still intact, you can buy a new net for less than \$5 at the Sports Authority and other sporting goods stores. Rims and nets together can cost under \$50, while some backboard/rim/net combinations sell for less than \$100.

Did you know?

A collection of interesting trivia...

- York County was established in 1634. The county is 27 miles long and 6 miles wide at its broadest point. The longest distance between 7-Elevens is estimated at less than half a mile.

- While most people are aware of Yorktown's prominent role in the Revolutionary War, the town also was a major Civil War port for supplying both Northern and Southern towns (depending on which side held the city at the time).

- The county's average annual temperature is 60 degrees, average rainfall is 44 inches and average snowfall is 6 inches. The rate of correct weather forecasts is roughly .02 percent.

- The median family income in the county is \$57,956. No word how much of that money is blown on air conditioning and bug spray.

- The York River is 33 miles long and one of the deepest rivers in the world. It formed more than 4,000 years ago, roughly the same time that the ongoing road-work started on I-64.

- The Tabb Lakes neighborhood has 446 single-family homes with about 1,500 residents. None of them believes that the I-64 project will be finished 4,000 years from now.

- Sheila Noll is our representative on the York County Board of Supervisors. To contact her with any questions or concerns, call 890-3329 or send e-mail to noll@yorkcounty.gov.

- And to end on a random note, know that circular house on Tabb Lakes Drive - the most interesting design in the neighborhood? It actually does have some square corners toward its middle, according to its long-time owner.

A Tabb Lakes scene



It's hard to believe with the temperatures now, but soon the cool breezes of autumn will be upon us -- perfect for sitting back and enjoying the outdoors in Tabb Lakes.