

TABB LAKES NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW – GARY PORTER

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Ladies and Gentlemen of Tabb Lakes, please do not proceed with Architectural Review Committee (ARC)-regulated projects without written ARC approval. We've seen a rash of these incidents recently, and I'd like to ask your cooperation in putting a stop to it. The authority of the ARC is found in our Bylaws at Article IX: "an Architectural Review Committee... shall review and approve on any Lot, all plats, plans, drawings and building specifications to include (but not limited to) houses, fences, sheds, outbuildings, decks, and room additions. Decisions of the Architectural Review Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors." Additional regulations enacted by the BOD in 2000 require that boat/trailer parking areas must also be approved by the ARC. As members of the association, we

are all bound by these requirements and claiming ignorance will ring hollow. All our governing documents are part of every disclosure packet and are easily located on our website.

The ARC is in place to ensure that projects are compliant with our covenants, conditions, and restrictions as well as additional regulations, and that the projects continue to maintain a consistent look and feel of the community, thus preserving the value of each of our homes.

To the best of their ability, the ARC will also help homeowners learn about any County Code that might be pertinent to a particular project, although ultimately this research is the homeowner's responsibility. Once a request is submitted, the ARC review

should be completed in 7 – 10 working days. If you do not receive an answer in that time-frame, contact the ARC representative by phone or email – do not proceed!

Recently, we had a homeowner submit an ARC request, which was apparently lost in the mail. When the ARC approval was not promptly received, rather than inquire as to when they might receive approval

(and thus learn that the form had not been received), they proceeded with their project anyway and ended up violating a provision of the York County Code in the process. Now they may have to re-construct their project.

The ARC process protects us all – use it.



E-MAIL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM-GARY PORTER

We have only received a small amount of responses from residents who would like to be put on the e-mail notification system that we are trying to get started in Tabb Lakes. For that reason, we are re-running the article from last month. Please read and respond if you would like to be included.

The BOD is setting up an e-mail notification system for Tabb Lakes that will alert you to important news of interest to all residents. We pledge to limit the use of this broadcast e-mail system so that the e-mails don't become "just another piece of spam."

Reminders of upcoming community

events, announcements of our Annual Membership Meeting, reports of hazards or other safety information, these are some of the uses we contemplate.

These e-mail addresses will NEVER be shared with anyone -- period!

So if you'd like to be included in this e-mail notification system,

please register on the TLHA web site at <http://www.tabblakes.org/forms/eneewsform.html>. Also, if you'd like to receive your quarterly Tabb Lakes newsletter via e-mail instead of through the U.S. Postal Service, please register at the same site; and we'll save the Association the cost of printing and mailing yours.



YARD OF THE MONTH PROGRAM REVIVED-CHARLES ROSSI

After being out of action for several months, the Tabb Lakes "Yard of the Month" program has been revived. Every month, Association judges will select a homeowner whose landscaping,

flowers, and/or lawn, in their opinion, best-enhances the appearance of our community, and award him/her the "Yard of the Month" sign to display



in their front yard, before passing it on to the next winner. Hopefully, this program can run year-round, since our climate is mild enough to keep a yard

attractive even in winter. If you would like to nominate your yard or a neighbor's, please contact Lee Property Management (886-3022) and submit the name and address!

CARPOOL TO/FROM NN SHIPYARD- CHARLES ROSSI



WANTED: Carpool partner(s) for Newport News Shipyard

If you start work at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m. and leave work at 3:30 or 4:00 p.m., please call me if you'd like to carpool. You'll save about \$3 a day on gas,

and cut down on the parking hassle. Charles Rossi, 867-8322

MANAGING GEESE AND DUCKS – DAVE OTTO

Virginia laws do not prohibit feeding the geese or ducks; but if you are looking to control geese or ducks in your yard, stopping any “direct” feeding will not accomplish the task. “Direct” feeding is people who present ducks and geese with bread, popcorn, and the like. The more important form of feeding, "indirect" feeding, has far more influence on the distribution of geese and ducks. The "indirect" feeding is the turf grass lawns many of us work so hard to maintain. This is the primary factor that determines the attractiveness of an area to Canada geese. "Direct" feeding is merely a bonus and has negligible effect.

What is recommended is use of non-lethal deterrents. These are either in the form of scare devices or strategies and physical deterrents. Scare devices or strategies, by design, are intended to frighten or chase birds away from an area; whereas physical barriers are intended to prevent birds from gaining access to an area.

There are three broad categories of scare de-

vices or strategies: auditory, visual, and physical (or hazing). **Auditory** scare devices make loud or objectionable noises that frighten geese. (Note: We don't endorse these methods because of the disturbance to the neighbors as well). **Visual** frightening devices work by having the goose see, recognize or interpret, and react to an image or object that represents a potential threat to the animal. **Physical** structures can be put into place that will impede movement of geese from their resting or flocking areas toward feeding areas. Such barriers can be created using vegetation or rocks. A shrubby hedge placed along the shoreline of a water body will block the pathways geese use to exit the water and also will prevent them from seeing poten-

Seasons for Canada Geese

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mating		█										
Nesting				█								
Gosling Maturing & Foraging					█							
Molting						█						
Pond Hopping & Foraging	█							█				

Control Program (Spray times)	█	█	█	█	Treat high traffic areas as needed.			█	To prevent geese from feeding and nesting.			
Herding Program (Spray times)	█ Geese may not leave nesting sites, but will avoid feeding in treated areas.											

tial predators that might lurk on the upland side of the barrier. Vegetated barriers are most effective where the shrub's branches are compact and begin right at ground level. Chemical repellents may help keep geese from congregating in areas where their presence is not desired.

Just as important as planning a program to help remove the nuisance is when to implement the actions. The chart above may assist you in planning actions.

You can find out more information by searching the web. A few sites are listed below to assist.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries- <http://www.dgif.state.va.us/wildlife/index.cfm>, US Fish and Wildlife Service- <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/homepg.html>; US Geologic Survey, Biological Resources Division- <http://biology.usgs.gov/>; US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services- <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/phoneero.html>

However, if you enjoy the geese, disregard this article and read the next!



I LOVE LIVING IN TABB LAKES BECAUSE... – SHIRLEY FLANAGAN

Please know before you read this article, that if my yard were covered with geese, I would consider it a problem; However, it's not and thus far this summer, I have enjoyed watching a particular family of geese!

I love living in Tabb Lakes because my house is on one of the lakes, and I have opportunity to witness the various wildlife that visit the lake. This year we were privileged to be picked for a pair of Canadian geese to give birth to a family. We watched as the couple built their nest and gave birth to five little yellow goslings on May 4. They didn't stay yellow very long, only about five days. Then they began turning brown. How cute they were! I learned much from my observations.

Before they were hatched, we had a nor'easter, which turned into a nor'wester, come through and dump lots of water. I was fearful that the water would come up and over the nest as it was very close to the edge. In between showers, I went out to

survey the water level. It was within three inches of the nest. Of course, sitting on top was the diligent mother-to-be. Being the mother that I am, I was concerned that the eggs would get covered with the cold water and the mother goose wouldn't be able to keep them warm enough to hatch. I knew I could do nothing to help because if humans touch the nest or eggs, the geese would never return to them. Everything worked out, and they hatched several weeks later.

I found it odd that periodically the parents would leave the eggs unattended and go for a swim or a stroll. They never went very far! One of those times, I decided to get a closer look at the nest. It wasn't long that I heard the parents fussing at me from a distance! They moved as quickly as they could, never fully realizing I wasn't there to hurt them or their nest.

Once the goslings were hatched, it seemed all they did was eat and sleep, just like their human counter-

parts! They are now several weeks old and still come by to visit their birthplace every couple of days. There are only four goslings now, but they are nearly the same size as their parents! Their coloring is almost complete. The glossy black on the neck seems to be the last color to develop.

Some things I've learned in observing this family of geese and researching facts on the web are:

- The female leads; the male follows...to protect, of course!
- It takes 25-30 days for eggs to hatch.
- Sometimes parents need a break from parenting.
- We all protect our young to the best of our ability.
- Young ones grow so FAST!
- Some of these characteristics sound very familiar!



Goslings about 2 weeks old with their parents!

- When male and female geese are a couple, they are mates for life. They stay together through illness or injury. When one dies, the remaining one mourns, just like humans. They are emotional creatures.
- The female is the nurturer; the male is the protector.

I hope when you see them, you will look upon them with favor! They are Tabb-Lakes born! Yes, they do leave behind some of themselves, but it's a small price to pay to observe nature in its truest form. I have to remember that I am in their living room, even though they are in my backyard temporarily!

ACTIVITIES CORNER— KRIS YANCY

A great time was had by all at the Tabb Lakes Super Suppers night in April. Although participation in the neighborhood activities that followed was light, I'm hoping to get some more activities planned and on the books. I am currently working on getting a neighborhood sign posted (at least one) to advertise activities and meetings. Look for that and details on our upcoming functions. Until then, I've included a list of community events that may be of interest to you.

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays through October 3, Port Warwick's Summer Sounds Concert Series in Styron Square.

Every Wednesday, Port Warwick hosts the best of all styles of music from all across the state and region. Grab a picnic basket, a bottle of wine, a chair or a blanket and come out for a great night of music and entertainment in a family atmosphere. All concerts begin at 6:00 pm.

Thursdays through September 20, PFAC Arts Café at the Peninsula Fine Arts Museum, 5:30 pm - 8 pm. Live entertainment, refreshments, admission by donation

Fridays through August 17 - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm "Shagging on the Riverwalk" Beach Music Series.

Join us at Riverwalk Landing for the second annual concert series featuring a variety of beach music suited for all ages. Lawn chairs and blankets welcome. Sponsored by York County Tourism and Events. Riverwalk Landing. ■ Free.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays only, June 26—August 22 at 10 am Free G (Tues) and PG (Wed) movies at the Kiln Creek Stadium 20 Theaters

Wednesdays, June 27 - August 15, 10 am Free PG rated kid's movies at the AMC Hampton 24 on Town Center Way

Weekly wine tasting at Mediks Market in City Center. Check www.mediksmarket.com for upcoming events.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, July 4, 8 am - 10 pm - Twenty-eighth Annual Independence Day Celebration. Celebrate July 4th in Historic Yorktown where independence was won. The theme for this year's celebration, "Jamestown to Yorktown... A Journey Remembered," includes family-oriented

activities, an arts and crafts show, parade, classic car show, children's activities, live entertainment, concessions, patriotic concert, and a spectacular fireworks show. Sponsored by the Yorktown Fourth of July Celebration Committee.

■ Free

Saturday, July 7, 9 am - 1 pm - "Yorktown Market Days at the River". Join us for Riverwalk Landing's newest event in the heart of historic Yorktown on the banks of the York River. Located between Buckner and Ballard Streets, the market features local produce, fresh meat and seafood, baked goods, herbs, specialty cut flowers, and live musical entertainment. This week's entertainment will feature the Gurley's, a group specializing in Bluegrass and Folk. (takes place every other Saturday)

Wednesday, July 11, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Super Suppers is hosting a Ratatouille Party. Come celebrate Disney*Pixar new movie "Ratatouille" with us! It is a comedy about a Rat who wants to be a chef. Sample our Special Kid friendly dishes that are themed after the movie. Register your child to receive a special gift and treat. Space is lim-

ited! While you're here, make entrees from the month's menu and make our special kid-friendly chicken and bowtie entree. Please register for all entrees you would like to make. If you have questions, call Super Suppers at 875-1616.

Saturday, September 1, 6 pm - 10 pm - Virginia Symphony Concert. The Symphony will perform a free outdoor concert beneath the stars at 7:30 pm. Also enjoy a pre-concert performance by The Fifes and Drums of Yorktown and picnic judging beginning at 6 pm. Sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee and the York County Arts Commission. Yorktown Victory Monument. ■ Free

Saturday, September 8, Port Warwick's Fall Stroll. Join neighbors and friends as they stroll around the square, checking out each shop's activities, special sales, door prizes, and refreshments. Specials will be offered throughout the day, as well as unique opportunities to win great stuff!

**for additional Yorktown events go to <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/tourism/visitorinfo/Event.htm>

EMERGENCY RESPONSE—LOU LAFRENAYE

HURRICANE PREPARATION

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center is projecting a 75 percent chance that the Atlantic Hurricane Season will be above normal this year. With the start of the hurricane season upon us, NOAA recommends those in hurricane-prone regions to begin their preparation plans.

As a reminder, here are some basic things we should all do to prepare ourselves and our families:

1. Know what a hurricane can do and what a Hurricane Watch and Warning means, especially if you are new to the east coast and hurricane-prone areas.
2. Learn about York County's emergency management plans and VDOT evacuation plans.
3. Prepare a personal evacuation plan.
4. Assemble a disaster supply kit.
5. Prepare for high winds.



6. Know what to do when a hurricane watch or warning is issued and what to do after a hurricane.

Do not wait for a hurricane warning to begin your preparations. Plan and prepare now. There are numerous web sites and documents that are published that can help you prepare yourself and family for this type of emergency.

You can contact the York County Fire and Life Safety emergency management office at 890-3600 or go to their web

site at www.yorkcounty.gov/fls/em/indes.htm. Additional information can be found at our Tabb Lakes Emergency Response Committee web site at www.tabblakes.org/CERT/TabbWebCERT.html. This site has numerous links to organizations such as the Red Cross, Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the CDC with information on preparing for hurricanes.

**Be knowledgeable.
Be prepared.**

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STORMWATER—LOU LAFRENAYE

Hurricane and Severe Weather Preparation

Hurricane season is here. A projected above-normal hurricane season combined with the usual severe thunderstorms and even remnants of tropical storms mean we can expect an above-normal chance that we will experience heavy rains and potential flooding conditions.

Last year, the remnants of Tropical Storm Ernesto caused some flooding in our community. Some lessons learned from this storm and others are:

1. Keep your yards and drainage ditches clean and free of yard waste, trash, and debris throughout the year and especially during hurricane season. This debris works its way into our two lakes and can block the single outflow pipe and emergency spillway for our lakes and cause flooding in our neighborhood. Our two lakes drain out through one 24" pipe and an emergency spillway.
2. Ensure the drainage pipes under your driveways are clear and not blocked by plants, bricks, leaves or sediment.
3. **Lakeside homeowners:** Move your boats

higher up on land and tie them off securely. 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. How high can the lake rise on your property? Answer: Our lakes rose over 54 inches during TS Ernesto.

4. **Homeowners on Adele Court and homeowners along Bridge Wood Drive whose yards back up to the junk yards:** Check and clear the drainage ditch that runs behind your homes on a regular basis and before any major storm. Remove any footbridges across the drainage ditch. They can trap branches and debris and will cause flooding problems during a major storm.
5. **Homeowners on Conway Court:** Stormwater drains from your location towards Coventry HOA and under Coventry Blvd by a common drainage ditch behind homes at the end of Conway Court. Check and ensure that this ditch is not blocked and that there are no foot-

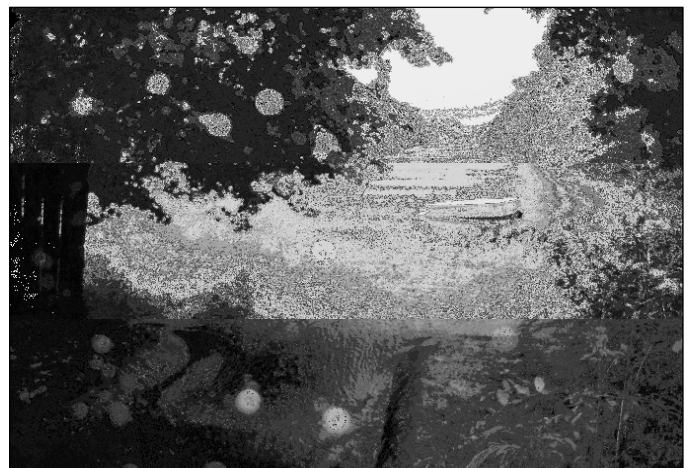
bridges or boards across it that can block your drainage system.

6. **Homeowners who live between Bridge Wood Drive and Leslie Lane:** The back of your homes drain through a common swale that empties into two drains. These drains are located behind homes at 307 Bridge Wood Drive/108 Leslie Lane and 401 Bridge Wood Drive/120 Leslie Lane. Ensure that this swale is clear of leaves and debris and the drainage grates are clean. This area along Bridge Wood Dr 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 become blocked or our lakes rise more than 48".

TS Ernesto events showed some of the problems that we can face during a hurricane. We were fortunate that during that storm, volunteers could remove a few boats and other debris that had floated away from homeowner's property before they could block up our drainage system and cause more flooding. We will not be able to do this during a hurricane.

If you have any questions regarding these recommendations or if you would like to know more about how our drainage system works, contact Lou Lafrenaye at 867-8333 or stormwater@tabblakes.org.



Free floating paddle boat about to go into our emergency spillway during TS Ernesto

**TABB LAKES HOMES
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