



# TABB LAKES NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2013



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE – BUZZ BUSDEKER

**Board of Directors**

- **President— Bob Spell,** 509-0009 (cell)
- **Vice President— Ron Maddox,** 775-2866
- **Members at Large— Dave West,** 534-7442  
**Ellis Sharadin,** 867-8816;

- **Secretary/Treasurer—Charles Rossi,** 867-8322

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

TREES OF TABB	2
TABB & FACEBOOK	2
BRIGHT IDEAS	3
DOGS	4
WALKERS & BICYCLISTS	4
HURRICANE PREP	5
VET ID CARDS	5
ADVERTISEMENTS	6
ARC REQUEST FOR APPROVAL	7
COMMITTEES & MANAGERS	8

A few residents had the benefit of a presentation from the York County Sheriff’s Department at our last BOD meeting. Much has changed in the presentation I attended five years ago. One thing remains the same; crime is still an issue in and around York County. The common theme from the deputy is residents need to continue to look out for one another. Our Neighborhood Watch Program is a very small group. The larger and more active we become is a primary factor to keep crime out of Tabb Lakes. We have two block captains and we need more. The block captain is a liaison to keep you informed. Consider joining and becoming an active participant for the betterment of our neighborhood.



I urge you to register at [www.raidsonline.com](http://www.raidsonline.com). This site is designed to provide a report of crime occurring in our region. You can tailor it for your specific needs. For example, I receive a daily report of crime within five miles of my address. I consider it useful as I can see the “hot” areas close to my home and Tabb Lakes. Additionally, Tabb Lakes has a Facebook page. Check it out and look for updates. <https://www.facebook.com/TabbLakes>

My contact info is on the last page of this newsletter. You are welcome to contact me to discuss your ideas and concerns for the overall well-being of our neighborhood. The goal of the Neighborhood Watch Program is to keep you informed as well as vigilant. **If you see suspicious activity or a crime in progress, notify the sheriff’s office first!**  
**Emergency: 911**  
**Non-emergency: 890-3621**

Below is a list of incidents in Tabb Lakes since January. Considering the number of homes and residents; our crime log is minimal. Keep in mind that one disruption to one of our friends and neighbors in Tabb Lakes is one too many.

- Tabb Lakes Subdivision Reports Taken Total: 28 (From January 1 – August 19, 2013)**
- 4 Breaking and Entering
  - 5 Property Damage
  - 4 Larceny
  - 1 Motor Vehicle Theft
  - 2 Assault and Battery (Domestic)
  - 7 Fraud/Credit Card Theft
  - 1 Drug Offense
  - 3 Mental Subject
  - 1 Runaway



**Tabb Lakes Homes Association**

**Annual Meeting**

**7:00-8:45 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 22,**

**Tabb Library**

**Conference Room**

## TREES OF TABB LAKES – LOU LAFRENAYE

This is a continuation of articles written in previous HOA newsletters about the trees of Tabb Lakes. I thought it would be helpful if our homeowners knew a little more about the trees they see as they walk through our neighborhood.

### Common trees in Tabb Lakes:

A common tree you find walking around in Tabb Lakes is the River Birch (*Betula nigra*). It is also known as Black Birch, Red Birch or Water Birch. You can find examples on each side of the road at

205 Monty Manor and along most of our streets. The River Birch are medium to fast growing ornamental tree and can grow to heights between 40 and 80 feet tall. It prefers full sun. The trunk often divides low into several trunks although it is more common to see two or three trunks for mature trees in our neighborhood. The crown is irregular because it is made up of scattered major branches from which smaller



branches grow out in all directions. The leaves are alternate (grow offset to each other), simple, 1 to 3 inches long, and are triangular in shape. This tree is most notable due to its bark. The River Birch bark is salmon pink to bronze brown that peels back in tough papery layers, giving the trunk a ragged and distinctive appearance. Since this tree prefers moist soils, it grows well in our neighborhood due to the high



water table. This is the only birch native to the coastal plain in the southeastern United States.

Planting a tree? Before selecting a tree, contact our local Virginia Cooperative Extension agent at 890-4940 or go to their web site at <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/york/> They have a recommended list of native trees that grow well in our climate and are disease resistant.

## TABB LAKES AND FACEBOOK – CLINT FLANAGAN

We're on Facebook! Those words definitely raise the excitement factor for Facebook fans; but once the emotional high wears off, we have to ask a very important question. Why are we on Facebook? I'm not a believer in the answers, "Why Not?" or "Because We Can!". In fact, many of our homeowners are Facebook fans; and, as a social network, Facebook is a very good way to quickly get information out to homeowners. Pertinent examples of this kind of information are neighborhood watch events or incidents, emergency response notices or warnings, im-

portant homeowner or board of director meetings, and community social events. Once a homeowner's Facebook account is "connected" to the Tabb Lakes account, all information posted on the Tabb Lakes page is automatically pushed to the homeowner's newsfeed. That information is then viewable on desktop computers, laptops, tablets, smart phones, and almost any other web-enabled device.

So how do you get in on this information sharing adventure? For those

with existing accounts, after logging in to Facebook, simply type Tabb Lakes Homes Association in the search bar and press enter. When the link comes back for the Tabb Lakes page, click on it and you'll go to the page. Once there, click on "Like" and you'll start receiving any new posted Tabb Lakes information. For those without an existing account, you'll first have to go to the Facebook front page at <http://www.facebook.com> and sign-up for a new account. Once your ac-



count is established, follow the above instructions for liking the Tabb Lakes page. While setting up your account, pay close attention to the security and privacy settings. It's beyond the scope of this article to go into detail on the settings; but by September 6, I'll have an article on the Tabb Lakes web site at <http://www.tabblakes.org> discussing Facebook security and privacy. Happy Facebooking!

## SOME BRIGHT IDEAS IN REDUCING CRIME — ELLIS SHARADIN

At our August 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting, we were treated to a crime prevention presentation, courtesy of the York County Sheriff's Dept. Tabb Lakes crime statistics are listed on page 1 of this newsletter. Our crime numbers are quite favorable compared to certain neighborhoods in Coventry, and York County itself has a mere fraction of crime compared to much of Hampton and Newport News. So stats for Tabb Lakes, while comforting, are still enough for your Board to consider ways to reduce crime on our streets.

If you're like me, you've agreed with the premise that we can reduce crime by improving lighting. At least, that's what I thought until I researched this article. As it turns out, lighting in itself has arguable effects on crime. Ironically, in some areas of the U.S. it's been shown that more lighting means more people on the street, thereby rendering unoccupied residences easy marks for burglars, plus criminals don't have to rely as much on flashlights, which might attract attention! On the other hand, when lighting is improved, more neighbors may be found strolling the streets, increasing the amount of surveillance by good people, encouraging better com-

munication between residents and reducing the fear of crime among our families.

So what kinds of things will help us reduce crime further? Well, let's go back to that lighting thing. Do you realize if every homeowner would replace their old-style porch and garage lights with sensor-activated lights, we could effectively prevent criminals and vandals from walking down our streets un-noticed? Even better, install 2-stage sensor lights which provide a continuous lower-wattage light during hours of darkness, and brighten up when people or cars are detected nearby. These lights are easy to install, relatively inexpensive and can actually reduce your energy bills. So that should be **Step 1**.

**Step 2** is the "pride thing". Take pride in your home and your yard. Time after time, it's shown that where communities maintain their properties well, (don't allow trash to pile up, keep the grass cut, etc.,) the rate of crime is lower. The Sheriff's Dept. will attest this is the case within Coventry, where the higher-density/lower income neighborhoods look

worse and have the highest incidences of crime. Let your home and yard show outsiders that you are someone who cares about the condition of your neighborhood.

**Step 3** is all about communication: talk regularly with your neighbors, get to know the newcomers, keep your neighbors informed about things like contractors showing up, or days when you might be out of town and the house empty. You'd be amazed how those little communications help situational awareness. You'll know immediately if something is out of whack, such as strange vehicles in your neighbor's driveway or activity in a home that should be empty. A quick call to 911 may just save a home or a life from a criminal act.

And **Step 4**: get involved with the Neighborhood Watch. Our new Watch Committee chairman is Chad Busdeder, and he could sure use your help. No one will ever ask you to patrol the streets or carry a gun; what we really need are people willing to be Block Captains for just a portion of the street they live on. A Block Captain simply organizes a telephone and/or email list with the neighbors and uses it to keep everyone

informed of security concerns. Plus, this communications list will allow those same neighbors to up-channel new concerns as they occur so the Association as a whole will know if we have a developing problem requiring us to contact law enforcement. Heck, you might even get to know your neighbors better!

Recently we interceded on behalf of a homeowner whose neighbors were letting their yard and fence deteriorate badly. The complainant mentioned that he felt Tabb Lakes was on the wane because of the age of the neighborhood. As I responded to him, it's not the age of the neighborhood that determines if it's "on the wane". It's the amount of participation and personal "sweat equity" homeowners are willing to give their community that can ensure the long-term viability of Tabb Lakes. Quite simply, being apathetic doesn't cut it when we're talking about the safety and security of our families and friends.

Consider the steps I've outlined and get involved, and we'll all benefit by living in a vibrant, more-neighborly, low-crime neighborhood.





## DOGS — BOB SPELL

Yes, this is an article about dogs -- and their owners. The majority of the article was contributed by a Tabb Lakes resident dog owner who shall remain anonymous. The point is to call for some more sensitivity on the part of some dog owners to the needs of other dog owners. (Can't we all just get along?) First, let me state for the record that I am a dog owner and have experienced first hand the problems described in the article. My response to the problems associated with walking a small dog (mine is 21 pounds) in Tabb Lakes has been to not walk my dog in this neighborhood. Let me also be clear that for the last seven of the eight years I have owned my dog, he has never been outside without being attached to a cable or a

leash. Now to the part contributed by anonymous:

Many people take their dogs unleashed into their front yards. While my dog and I have been out walking, we were charged 6 times last summer by dogs. So far this summer, we have been charged 4 times already. In most cases, the dogs' owners were out in the front yard with them. These dogs, in the best cases, have charged out to the edge of their yard at us. In the worst cases, they have charged across the street at us or even traveled down 3 or 4 houses with us. Of these, 3 times the dogs charged into an attack on my dog. Not only is this frustrating for me because I have worked terribly hard to try to get my adopted dog over her fearful aggression towards other dogs (she was doing well and making friends with other dogs, but now we are back at square one after

having these dogs charge her recently)...but it is incredibly dangerous for these other dogs who have run into the street, sometimes in front of traffic! I know I am not the only person to whom this has happened. I was out recently and saw a dog run out toward a woman walking a German Shepherd. The German Shepherd got upset, jumped up in the air at the end of its leash, and came smack down on its back on the street. I gasped when I saw it happen because I thought the dog could be hurt. Another issue along these lines is that there is a house where apparently the screen door doesn't latch (or they don't make sure it is latched and locked). They leave the front door open and the large dog barks and jumps at the door which swings open. My

neighbor and I both turn and walk in a different direction now if the main door to that house is open.

Can we please ask in the newsletter for people to be more responsible with their dogs? If they want their dog to be loose in the front yard, shouldn't they get an invisible fence or something? Of course, even while I am suggesting this, I KNOW that there are a few highly trained dogs out there that don't need the invisible fence; or some really old dogs that just stay right with their owner in the yard and would never charge out at another dog. I realize that sometimes accidents happen, too. Sometimes dogs get out. In the past two years, I have returned five dogs who were wandering the streets to their homes here in Tabb Lakes.

To anonymous, thanks very much.

## RULES FOR WALKERS AND BICYCLISTS — BOB SPELL

Many people do not seem to know the rules of pedestrian/bicycle traffic. The rule for bikers/walkers/runners is this---Ride WITH traffic (ride your bicycle on the right side); walk AGAINST traffic (walk/run on the left side). It is especially

dangerous for the bikers who are riding on the incorrect side of the road because cars turning left look right...but look for wheeled traffic coming at them from the far lane, not the near lane. (Thanks to Julie Stockdill for this reminder.)



Walk AGAINST oncoming traffic.

Bicycles: Car drivers and bicyclists are expected to observe the same traffic rules such as stop signs and red lights. Ignoring these traffic rules can lead to injuries that would have otherwise been preventable.

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS – LOU LAFRENAYE

### 2013 HURRICANE SEASON UPDATED FORECAST (as of August 2013)

Both the Colorado State University and NOAA have updated their hurricane predictions for 2013. They are both still predicting an active year. Phil Hess (our webmaster for the Tabb Lakes Emergency Response Committee), along with Clint Flanagan (our HOA webmaster), updated our web site with both agencies' information. Go to our web site at [www.tabblakes.org/CERT/hurricane.html](http://www.tabblakes.org/CERT/hurricane.html) Phil posted their info so you can see their various projections during the year. There is also a link on the site to go to the organizations' detailed reports that explains their analysis.

### INSPECT YOUR TREES TO PREVENT HURRICANE DAMAGE

Back on 13 June, we had a fast-moving storm blow through the neighborhood that had gusts up to 80 mph for a few seconds. This very short event resulted in damaged trees and numerous broken tree limbs. At least one homeowner on Heath Place sustained damage to their house and cars from a tree that split at its midpoint. Now picture what 100 mph winds over a period of time will do to the trees in our neighborhood. What will the resulting tree damage do to your property? Check the trees around your home and insure they are not damaged, diseased, or dying. Also



check for branches that may have grown close over

your roof or close to your home siding. In sustained heavy winds, those branches will shift violently back and forth and tear up your roof or siding during the storm, resulting in water and structural damage. It may be worthwhile to have a tree or branch removed by a professional before it falls on or damages your home or car during a storm.

### INSURANCE AND DISASTER PLANNING

Plan ahead in case your home and property is damaged due to a hurricane or other catastrophic event. Locate, consolidate, and secure your important paper-

work such as insurance policies, birth certificates, wills, bank documents, etc. in a safe place. As a way of inventorying your property, use a digital camera and take pictures and video of your property in each room of your home and also the outside of the house. Record the digital pictures and video on a flash drive and CD (duplicate copies) and store them in a bank vault or send them to a relative that does not live in our area. After a catastrophe, this information will help you both remember your property and prove the condition of your home. Check with your insurance company representative or go to their web site to see what you can do to prepare for a disaster.



## Veteran ID cards for those who served

Nearly 7,000 Virginia retailers offer veterans discounts and other benefits. For \$10, your Virginia Veterans ID card is a convenient way to show proof of your veteran status so you can reap the rewards.

Apply for your Virginia Veterans ID card through these DMV service outlets:

DMV customer service centers  
DMV 2 Go mobile offices  
[www.dmvNOW.com](http://www.dmvNOW.com)  
U.S. mail: P.O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001  
Fax: (804) 367-1112

You must have a valid Virginia driver's license or identification card. You will also need a copy of your DD 214, DD 256, or WD AGO document indicating any discharge status other than dishonorable.

Virginia Veterans ID cards never expire. You will receive your new Virginia Veterans ID card in the mail within a week.

For more information about veterans benefits visit [www.virginiaforveterans.com](http://www.virginiaforveterans.com).

A partnership of the DMV and Department of Veterans  
If you have questions and would like to speak to someone local, please call John "Ski" Przybylski, 757-867-9628.

**Your ad could have been here!**

If you are receiving this newsletter via USPS and would rather receive it electronically, please go to our website: [www.tabblakes.org](http://www.tabblakes.org) and fill out the form.

These advertisements are not an endorsement by the Tabb Lakes Homes Association.

If you are a Tabb Lakes homeowner who owns your own business, you still must fill out a form from our web-site and submit it in order for your ad to appear in our newsletter.

If you are a business in our community, you must fill out the form and submit it with your check. Please see our web-site for instructions. <http://www.tabblakes.org>



**Robert's Roofing & Home Improvement**

**Roofing • Decks • Painting  
Trim • Siding • Remodeling**

ROBERT PHAUP  
867-8300  
Cell Ph. 570-4643

Over 25 Years Experience  
Licensed - Insured - Guaranteed

**Honey-do List!**

- Install Screen Door
- Fix Leak In Sink
- Install New Fence
- Build Deck

**Do It THIS WEEK!**  
*Better Call  
Done Right  
Home Repair!*



Get Your Honey-Do List  
Done Now and DONE RIGHT!

Call Greg Moxley  
291-7843

FULLY INSURED  
License #2705116904



2 Day Two-1/2s  
2 Day Threes  
3 & 4 Day Fours

June Rossi, Director  
(757) 898-4395 x309

118 Old York-Hampton Highway  
Yorktown, Virginia 23692  
[smfconline.org/preschool](http://smfconline.org/preschool)  
[preschool@stmark-elca.org](mailto:preschool@stmark-elca.org)

**Hanson Tree Care**

Tree Removal\*Pruning\* Storm Damage



Licensed/Insured/Free Estimates

Over 20 Years Experience

**757-784-0723**

**Royall Painting & Repair**

Interior / Exterior  
Reconstructive Carpentry  
Pressure Washing  
Decks Stained /Sealed

Ed Tyler  
(757) 867-6615 (Office)  
(757) 897-1082 (Cell)



Free Estimates

**Your ad could have been here!**

**Tabb Lakes Homes Association  
P.O. Box 8088, Tabb, Virginia 23693**

**Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Request for Approval**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of request: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of modification:** (deck, patio, outbuilding, addition, fence, etc.)

**Plans and specifications:** Please attach a copy of plat with a sketch of proposed modification. Show approximate shape & measurements. List colors and materials to be used if needed for approval.

***I have provided an accurate representation of the planned modification. I have contacted my immediate neighbors to inform them of my proposed project. I will notify the ARC of any changes that need to be made which would affect their approval prior to resuming work on the project.***

Homeowner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Homeowner check list:**

- County permits: 890-3522
- Call Miss Utility before digging, to locate underground utilities: 1-800-552-7001

**To Submit:**

- E-mail form to Cox & Lee Management for minimum turnaround time: [coxleemgt@gmail.com](mailto:coxleemgt@gmail.com).
- Mail form to the following address:

**TLHA ARC Committee  
c/o Cox & Lee Management  
458C Wythe Creek Road, #141  
Poquoson, VA 23662**

**NOTE:** This form can be downloaded from our webpage: [www.tabblakes.org/arc.html](http://www.tabblakes.org/arc.html).

**Questions:** Call Cox & Lee Management, 757-593-6088

**Committee Action** \_\_\_\_\_ Date of receipt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as submitted  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Approved subject to modifications as required by covenants  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved for reason listed on reverse side

**Architectural Review Committee or Cox & Lee Management representative signature and date:**

**TABB LAKES HOMES  
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 8088  
Yorktown, VA 23693

<http://www.tabblakes.org>

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NORFOLK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 196

**ANNUAL HOMEOWNERS MEETING—OCTOBER 22, 7:00-8:45 P.M.  
TABB LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</b>			
<b>COMMITTEE/MANAGERS</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Activities Committee	Vacant		
Architectural Review Manager	Cox & Lee Management	593-6088	coxleemgt@gmail.com
Emergency Response Committee	Lou Lafrenaye	867-8333	tlert@tabblakes.org
Grounds Maintenance Manager	Vacant	867-9229	grounds@tabblakes.org
Lake Maintenance (Lake 1) Manager	Bob Spell	867-8184	lakemaint1@tabblakes.org
Lake Maintenance (Lake 2) Manager	Gary Porter	867-9120	lakesmaint2@tabblakes.org
Neighborhood Watch Committee	Buzz Busdeker	218-9767	watch@tabblakes.org
Newsletter Editor/Manager	Shirley Flanagan	867-6860	newsletter@tabblakes.org
Storm water Committee	Lou Lafrenaye	867-8333	stormwater@tabblakes.org
Web-Site Manager	Clint Flanagan	867-6860	webmaster@tabblakes.org
Welcome Committee	Keith Ebert	867-7133	welcome@tabblakes.org