



THE TIMBERS NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2016

LETTER FROM THE TIMBERS BOARD ON THE SNOW RESPONSE

We had hoped to get this report on the January Snowzilla out sooner. Several concerned community members came to the February 23rd Board meeting to ask about the snow plowing and removal process and to discuss how we might be able to better handle such an epic snowfall in the future. First, let us start with some of the Frequently Asked Questions of the storm.

What is the status of our contract with Blade Runners?

We have terminated our snow removal contract with Blade Runners and the grounds contract is under review. East Coast Management (ECM) is actively gathering bids for the ground contract before the Spring and Summer lawn mowing. We finished out the snow season with a contract with JES, which was the company that brought the bobcat into the neighborhood. They are a smaller company and may not be able to fulfill our needs on a full time snow basis, so ECM will begin to solicit bids for next winter.

What happened to our Plows during the storm?

This was a historic level of snow fall with most of snow falling during the day on Saturday with the addition of massive wind gusts and snow drifts causing white out conditions. If you were out regularly during that Saturday, you can confirm that the snow was blowing pretty effectively. Blade Runners had been out Friday night and at least once on Saturday Morning before VDOT came down Hillside to plow. VDOT plowed the entrances in with a level of snow that would have been hard for a full size plow to move let alone the plows that can navigate our neighborhood. This led to Blade Runners coming to the entrances and realizing they could not move the snow to enter our neighborhood.

What was the bobcat situation?

The second stage of snow recovery is removal. This is most effective when paired with proper plowing. If the snow was plowed in the neighborhood every few hours then the bobcats can be brought in to tighten up the piles to the common areas (islands and peninsulas). Since the snow was not effectively pushed during the storm it then became the task of the bobcat to move the snow to a level in which to plows could follow behind. This is a less effective method of snow control than plowing then removal.

Do we pay Blade Runners for the full snow season upfront?

Blade Runners is only paid for the snow services they perform. We do not pay them at the start of the winter for all snow plowing and removal. If you read the budget that is sent prior to our annual meeting, you will see a line for Snow plowing and removal. (continued on Page 2)

Read these Most Commonly Made Mistakes

Get AECC approval BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING TO YOUR EXTERIOR: Review current guidelines on our website or contact ECM if you have questions. A site inspection letter will be mailed for any violations. You are held responsible for compliance to that letter.

Help keep our NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN: by picking up litter, your dog's waste, and keeping toys and other objects properly stored. Bring in your trash containers asap after pick-up.

CHECK YOUR PARKING PASS : Make sure it is a valid one and is facing out when hanging from the rearview mirror. If you lose your pass you must pay \$400 for a new one.

Review Timbers RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR TRASH: Place your trash in front of your homes between 6:00 PM Sundays and Wednesdays and 6:00 AM on Mondays and Thursdays. Recycled trash is only picked up Thursday mornings and you must call Trash Away for large item pickups.

Trash can be a lure for wild animals, ensure you have it properly contained when left out overnight.

This Newsletter Is To Inform Residents of Important Events and Respond to Your Questions & Concerns

Residents are welcome to attend and present any questions or concerns promptly at 7:00 p.m., in a three-minute time limit. Please send a written copy at least 7 days prior to East Coast Management so your concerns may be fully addressed. The Board meeting will be March 22nd at 7:00 PM in the Pool House.

East Coast Management: 6703 Caneel Court, Springfield, VA 22152 * 703-569-9880 * EastCoastMgmt@aol.com

Newsletter: Questions\Comments\Suggestions\Requests—email: timbersnewsletter@gmail.com

Additional information in regards to The Timbers can be found at www.timbers-hoa.org

(continued from Page 1) This is just a budgeted number. Some winters we don't hit that budgeted number and other winters we will exceed that. This storm definitely put us in the exceed column between the two contractors doing work.

Second, let's discuss as a community what we could have done better.

The Board is in the process of upping our social media game. We have added a Twitter account @timbers_hoa and during the storm we tried to utilize our under-utilized Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/timbershoava> and once we had a statement available we placed it on the Timber website. Some have suggested an email blast list for important alerts. Our current electronic newsletter list is not particularly long so it may not hit as many of the neighbors as we would like. We did find there are pluses and minuses to the immediacy of social media. We ask that neighbors remember that the Board is a volunteer organization and that we are your neighbors.

Since we have made it past snow season, we can further discuss how the neighborhood at large can improve the plowing and snow removal process. For example, not shoveling the snow off your vehicles into the unplowed streets or open parking spaces, shoveling regularly during the snow to prevent snow piling up and making sure to keep sidewalks clear.

Let's move on to happier thoughts and warmer weather. Next month the newsletter will return to the usual programming of spring home improvements and parking reminders.

We are discussing moving to an electronic newsletter but that requires our neighbors signing up for the electronic newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically send your request to: timbersnewsletter@gmail.com. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/timbershoava>.

Please report all neighborhood concerns to East Coast Management.



Trash Away LLC is a local, small business based in Lorton, VA. If you would like a new recycle bin, please contact East Coast Management. The trash schedule will still be Monday and Thursday with Thursday being large trash and recyclable day. Starting at the end of September Trash Away moved us up in the pick up rotation, our trash will now be picked up between 7:00 -9:00 AM. Please make sure your trash is out before 7:00 AM on Monday and Thursday but not before 6:00 PM on Sunday or Wednesday. If you need large trash picked-up, please call 703-339-4560. You can follow Trash Away on Twitter or Facebook for any service disruptions or at their website trashaway.com. **Break down boxes and put them with recycling, or they will not be picked up.**

COMMUNITY TEENS CLASSIFIEDS

Baby Sitting or Dog Walking:

Tyler Moorhouse -440-724-8266

Michelle Burela—703-855-5303

Emily Lasher—703-942-6682 or 703-801-5282

Grant Murray will walk your dog -703-408-8153 or gsmur-ray99@gmail.com

Shabnam Ahmadi -703-509-9103 or ahmadischabnam@yahoo.com

Kaela Peters will babysit or walk dogs—703-489-5656

Kyla Guzman will babysit or walk dogs 703-678-3759 or Guzmancanas.kyla89@gmail.com

Toka Morsy will babysit or walk dogs—571-286-1991 or toka-morsy@gmail.com

Az Gulnar is a student at GMU offering babysitting and tutoring 703-554-4699 or azgulnar18@gmail.com

Email TimbersNewsletter@gmail.com if you are a teenager interested in adding your name and service to this list.

Disclaimer: The Homeowners Association is not responsible for the services listed. Services rendered are contracted between the home owner and service provider.



Keeping our porch lights on all night helps everyone in our neighborhoods stay safe.

Lights on for safety!

