

Memorial Day Newsletter – May 31, 2021
Timberline Valley North Housing Area

- 1. Update on the lakes:** The HOA has been working all month on various aspects of the 3 lakes. We now have new signs up telling everyone our rules on the use of the lakes. The old posts have all been refinished so they look nice. We have the fountains working again. (this will be an ongoing project as some new parts and light bulbs had to be ordered but we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis). We are also discussing various alternatives to reduce or eliminate the algae growth. We have received very positive feedback on the new signs and we hope this will cut down on the violators who do not live in TVN. IF you have a guest/friend who would like to fish our lakes that is fine as long as you accompany them while they fish. Unless you are with them they will be asked to leave. Remember, all of our lakes are “CATCH and RELEASE” We also have a new gate on the big lake to cut down on illegal parking at that site. If you need access thru the gate for a private party, etc. you are having at the lake please contact one of the HOA board members and they will get you a key for the day
- 2.** It has been reported to the HOA that some trees are being partially cut down in some of our commons areas – If you see someone doing this, let us know right away as this is an illegal activity. The ONLY Arbor activity has to be authorized by the TVN HOA.
- 3. Neighborhood Cleanup update** –Don’t forget to mark your calendars for June 5th at 9:00 am for our monthly neighborhood cleanup. Please contact Michelle Martin thru hoa@timberlinevalley.us with your info. She is doing a great job organizing this event. We have had 12 households reach out to confirm their participation, but we sure could use more assistance. We are anticipating approximately 18 adults based on responses

Please contact us if you're able to help. Look for our reception area on Timberline in front of the large lake. We are planning a start time for 9:00 am which at that time assignments will be handed out along with trash bags etc. We will be providing cold drinks, donuts and small snacks for everyone after the cleanup so we can share a few moments and get to know your neighbors. The lakes themselves aren't too bad relative to Bradley. Bradley, however, will require a whole crew onto itself ! So far, the weather looks decent. But that's over a week away. Here's hoping it stays that way. It is your neighborhood and a little bit of time from everyone can make a BIG difference to all residents of Timberline Valley North

4. A few **street signs in TVN are weathered** and hard to read at night and are being replaced. We have submitted an order to the street department for replacements.
5. **Fireworks in the neighborhood** – There have been reports of Fireworks disturbing our residents and their pets. While you're having your fun, you're scaring pets and people. Veterans with PTSD are also affected by these loud noises. Be courteous to your neighbors. Most fireworks are against the law. The non-exploding types such as sparklers, snakes, smoke bombs etc. are fine. It is the LOUD ones that EXPLODE is of a concern to us. If you do have the loud ones, as an alternative, please consider going to a park or field outside of Champaign City Limits. ***We ask that you consider your neighbors before lighting that fuse.***
6. **Friends of Geese donation (non profit).** – The HOA voted to donate \$300 to the Friends of Geese for their help in reducing our geese population. Friends of Geese tended to 6 nests. They oiled 21 eggs. It will take a few seasons to see results. So, we expect to see them back next year. See their final report below.

7. **Bradley Avenue resurfacing next year.** Originally Bradley Avenue was supposed to be resurfaced between Duncan and Staley this year, along with new lights added along the whole stretch, but due to Covid it was canceled last year. The work was originally planned for last summer, but was delayed due to budget cuts related to COVID. They were prepared to complete the project this summer, but the necessary detour would have conflicted with work that IDOT is doing on a Route 10 (Springfield Avenue) bridge. They decided it would be best to wait until next year when they would not have to worry about the conflicts caused by both projects going on at the same time. You will see the Bradley Avenue repairs done in 2022. The section will be from Bluegrass to Staley Rd.

8. If you see or would like to have something done to better Timberline Valley North, **please contact the HOA with your idea's, complaints, whatever.** It is your neighborhood and the HOA is here for you. Let's all make this a great place to live. We have revamped the HOA with the addition of a larger group so we hope you have seen and continue to see a greater effort from us. On that note, if you would like to help please consider joining our HOA. Commitments are yearly at the present time. The HOA meets once a month and then we have our TVN meeting once a year where all residents are invited to attend and participate.

9. **Yard Lights** – It is your responsibility to keep your yard lights operational as we do not have streetlights. Replace your bulbs as needed. It helps deter crime. Criminals don't like well-lit areas. Criminals like shadows where they can hide.

Kimberly M. Bradley wrote 4 original short stories for the “Friends of the Geese”. Hope you like them.

Gosling ask’s “Why Am I Hungry?”

By Kimberly M. Bradley

It was a warm summer day and all the geese had found this wonderful pond in a quiet housing area. No dogs or little kids to bother them. They paddled in the water, eating up all the little bugs they would find. Then, they went onto the grassy lawns and helped themselves to more tasty bugs. No predators to worry about. The US Government even protected them (they didn’t know that). They set up nests around the pond. Then more Geese came to join them. Life was great. They had lots of friends and plenty of food. As more Geese came to join them, it became more difficult to find food. One little gosling spoke up. Her name was Kimi, “Mama, I’m hungry”. I can’t find any more bugs to eat. Mama tried to find more bugs, but all the other geese had eaten the bugs.

Gosling ask’s “Why Do People Chase us?”

By Kimberly M. Bradley

It was a warm summer day and all the geese had found this wonderful pond in a quiet housing area. At least they thought it was quiet. At first there were a small number of Geese. Then more Geese came to join them. Soon eggs were hatching everywhere and there were more geese then before. The geese went into the yards searching for juicy bugs to eat. Of course the Geese pooped everywhere they went. And now that there were more geese, their poop bothered the house owners. The owners started chasing them out of their yards. The geese were harassed by dogs. One little gosling spoke up. Her name was Kimi, “Mama, Why are we chased out of the yards?”. “We don’t hurt anyone”. We just want to eat the bugs. But Mama didn’t know how to answer her baby. She had seen it happen before when there were too many geese in an area. People would chase and harass them. When there were only a few families, the people didn’t bother them. But Geese were born to have large families and they would return to their nesting area every year.

Gosling ask’s “Why Do People Kill Us?”

By Kimberly M. Bradley

The local park was slowly getting overrun by the Geese. They were everywhere. The city council decided to hunt the Geese to reduce their population. There were a number of hunters on the city council, so it was easy to pass the vote their way. One peaceful day, the hunters showed up and started killing the Geese. One little gosling spoke up. Her name was Kimi, “Mama, Why are they killing us?, we didn’t do anything”. Mama couldn’t answer her as she had just been shot. The hunters were proud of all the geese that had been killed and they bragged about how many they had killed. “You should have seen them running and honking everywhere”. “I had to stop shooting only when my shotgun got too hot”. “Boy this was a great day.”

Gosling ask’s “Who are Friends of the Geese”

By Kimberly M. Bradley

Kimi wanted to know who these people were. They would show up at their nests with trash can lids and chase them off their nests. When her family could go back to their nest, everything seemed ok. But the newly laid eggs had been oiled (to keep them from hatching). But the geese didn’t know that. All they knew was that their families were smaller and there was plenty of food for everyone. The Friends of the Geese were gently helping control the geese population. Kimi would live on thanks to this group.

Final report from Friends of Geese to the Timberline Homeowners Association.

May 10, 2021

Friends of Geese tended to 6 nests.
We oiled 21 eggs total.

At one site where we oiled 8 eggs, four days later there were only 3 eggs and two weeks later when we returned to take the eggs and disperse the nest, the nest was gone. Some residents mentioned the possibility of wild animals.

One resident asked for us to oil all but one egg in their nest which we did, but apparently the oil transferred to the unoiled egg from the mother so that egg did not hatch.

At two nests on the larger pond we found the eggs to be viable and so those 12 eggs were left to hatch.

We are keeping a record of the nesting sites at Timberline and will add to it each year. In addition, next year, residents will be asked to register that they have a nest on or near their property and to give us written permission to enter their property and have access to the nest. This form will be sent out in March. We will keep track of the nests in the commons area along the far side of the larger pond.

Things to know:

Geese will return to the area to nest where they learned to fly. They mate their third year for life. Prior to that they will hang out in large groups with other adolescents.

Geese should not be fed by humans. Carbohydrates found in bread and grains cause a permanent affliction called Angel Wing which prevents geese from flying.

Geese should not be chased. If they have nested on a property they will return to it each year. If chased they may build a nest on a rooftop. Friends of Geese tend to nests only on the ground.

Next year, you will observe pairs separating from the flock in early April. The mother lays one egg a day which she buries. When she has laid her clutch she uncovers her eggs and builds a nest. She remains sitting on the nest without eating for 20 days. It is important not to disturb her during this time. If her eggs are taken away she will lay a new clutch.

At Timberline we began oiling eggs on April 10th. On April 27th, we took the last unviable eggs, buried them offsite and dispersed the nests.

If you would like for Friends of Geese to return during next year's nesting season, we will. We'd like to encourage your participation, also. We are an all-volunteer organization and we encourage residents' involvement. It was actually at the suggestion of former Timberline residents, Vicki and Stephen Anderson, who had oiled eggs in previous years, that I reached out to Timberline. We will offer a training session next spring for those interested.

If you are satisfied with our service, we are a not-for-profit 501c3 organization and your donations will greatly help us to expand our reach in our community.

Donations can be sent to:
Friends of Geese

202 S. Broadway, #100
Urbana, IL 61801

Or by Paypal on our website:

<http://friendsofgeese.com/fundraising/>

Please spread the word about Friends of Geese so that we can continue our work to train and assist in humane and effective ways to prevent geese overpopulation. Our program is promoted by the Humane Society of the United States and GeesePeace. Consider writing a letter to the editor.

Thanks again for Timberline's participation in our first year!

Best regards,

Viktoria Ford, Penny Hanna, Pat Cardenas and Philip Douglas

friendsofgeese.com

Friends of Geese is fiscally sponsored by the UC Independent Media
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