

# TOM NEVERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

October 2009 Newsletter

## Some of the good news...

### ■ The Great Outdoors—

A new nature trail has been cut across Tom Nevers conservation land to give us a great new walking/bike/horse path ...running all the way from Milestone Road to the ocean.

### ■ The Skies Above—

Thanks to new efforts, aircraft noise complaints are down a full 85%. All the air taxis are now flying noise-abatement routes.

### ■ The Water We Drink—

An ongoing program to monitor our drinking water quality throughout Tom Nevers is being set up with the UMASS Nantucket Field Station.

### ■ Our Fire Safety Concerns—

The Nantucket Fire Department has confirmed that Tom Nevers has a fully-adequate water supply to meet our fire protection needs.

### ■ Sprucing Up—

Plans are afoot to “beautify a bit” that scrubby-looking corner where Milestone Road and Tom Nevers Road meet.

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# Lots of Progress To Report

## Good things are happening all across Tom Nevers!

**Y**eah...the economy is still weak and the U.S. housing market is still bad...but don't let that get you down. We live in a beautiful place and in so many ways the quality-of-life here in Tom Nevers is getting better and better.

In this newsletter, you'll see all the great things that are happening since our Tom Nevers Area Plan was approved just last summer. And you'll see that our initiatives to reduce the threat of tick-borne diseases are beginning to bear real fruit. And we intend to keep our efforts in high gear for both...until we've accomplished all the ambitious goals you've given us in your Area Plan

input and in our TNCA Member Surveys.

Yeah...this summer's weather was a bit punk...and tourism was down...but look at the bright side. Less traffic. Lower restaurant prices. Eager tradesmen who finally have the time to return your calls. And those worries that over-development and the insane spending of the zillionaires were ruining Nantucket have all been eased back quite significantly.

In no small measure, we've been given our beloved Island back! Very, very good news indeed!



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## Progress In Implementing Our Area Plan —

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### Our White Team— “Overall Stewardship”

**FOCUS**— Protecting the peace, quiet, privacy, open vistas and country-setting of the Greater Tom Nevers Area by keeping a watchful eye on all current and planned initiatives that could impact our Area...and providing or withholding support accordingly.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— We're happy to report there are no new local threats on the horizon. But we're keeping a watchful eye on two major Island-wide issues.— 1. Tick-borne diseases...and how effectively our Town government will act to address this problem.

(See separate article on this issue.)  
2. Property Taxes...They're likely to rise unless the Town finds an effective way to resolve forecasted annual deficits. ❖

### Our Gold Team— “Land Use”

**FOCUS**— Keeping our land use patterns largely unchanged. And working with the Town's “Roads & Right-of-Way Committee” to assure that our existing paper roads contribute to improved beach access and to neighborhood fire protection.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— We've had extensive discussions with the “Roads & Right-of-Way Committee” regarding their priorities in Tom Nevers. Currently, they're in negotiations with the property-owners at the end of Wanoma Way to clarify public beach access rights. ❖

### Our Grey Team— “Housing”

**FOCUS**— Heading-off secondary-dwelling over-development through a

(Continued on page 2)

# In Case You Missed It—

## ■ Our Annual Cocktail Party—

It was a fabulous evening! With more than 100 of our members enjoying a fun-filled July evening of food and drink, poolside at Eleanor and Steve Roethke's beautiful home. This was one of our biggest turnouts in several years. What a great break in the midst of a busy summer! Thanks to everyone who brought the delicious hors d'oeuvres. And thanks to Eleanor and Steve for your marvelous and always generous hospitality!

## ■ Our Annual Meeting—

Those who attended our August 1st Annual Meeting at the High School are still buzzing about the tremendously informative presentation by Dr. Malcolm MacNab...chairman of the "Nantucket Tick-borne Disease Committee." Appointed by the Board of Selectmen to develop definitive recommendations on how best to reduce our tick-borne disease problems on Nantucket...Malcolm's Committee (12 people, 7 with impressive medical credentials) is just weeks away from its final report. (We've posted Malcolm's complete TNCA presentation on our website... [www.tomnevers.org](http://www.tomnevers.org))

Attendees also learned a lot from the

lively, map-illustrated presentation by Jim Lentowski, Director of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, who contrasted the interlocking goals of Nantucket's three leading conservation groups (the NCF, the Land Bank Commission, and the Land Council.) Of the 3,000 acres of land we have in Tom Nevers, 2,000 are now under conservation...with 1,739 of them owned by the NCF. All of this conservation land is open to the public and scientifically managed by the Foundation.

Attending members unanimously approved a range of motions (e.g.-financial and membership reports, officer and director nominations, etc.) A spirited Q&A period followed. ❖

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win-win program that provides potential tax incentives to property-owners who voluntarily place restrictive covenants on their rights to add secondary-dwellings. Also, minimizing zoning violations through improved ways to report potential violations and track their enforcement.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— The current slow-down in the real estate market and in the construction industry abate, at least temporarily, our secondary-dwelling over-development concerns. So first priority is being given to our focus on minimizing housing zoning violations—particularly, occupancy overcrowding in employer-owned and rental housing...and violations in the form of adding un-permitted structures that are potentially out of compliance with zoning regulations.

Using the Town's existing Zoning bylaws as its basis, an easy-to-understand "Zoning Guidelines for Residential Properties in Tom Nevers" will be drafted, reviewed with the Town's Zoning Compliance Officer for accuracy, and then posted on our Tom Nevers website. To resolve problems, a formal complaint process will be developed to let abutters alert the Grey Team to a potential violation. If the Grey

Team concurs, the TNCA board will be asked to attempt to resolve the problem with the property-owner...but failing that, issue an official complaint to the Zoning Department. Throughout the entire process, the complaining abutter will be kept informed of the status. ❖

## Our Brown Team— "Economic Development"

**FOCUS**— Maintaining the residential character of our neighborhood by assuring that home-based businesses are kept fully aware of their need to meet all the regulations and standards specified in existing Town bylaws.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— Employing a plan similar to the Grey Team's, our Brown Team will draft an easy-to-understand "Zoning Guidelines for Operating a Home-Based Business in Tom Nevers"...and institute a formal complaint and review process. ❖

## Our Green Team— "Natural & Cultural Resources"

**FOCUS**— Working with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and the Nantucket Land Bank to make their properties even greater assets to the Greater Tom Nevers Area.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— We're happy to report progress in two areas—

1. A 4-foot wide nature trail has been cut across Nantucket Conservation Foundation land to give us a walking/bike/horse path from the end of Gloucester Street, southwest to the Mellon property. This connects with an existing trail off Milestone Road to give us a new pathway from Milestone Road to the ocean.
2. Come spring, a new walking path will be cut from Tom Nevers Road to the repositioned NRTA bus stop on Milestone Road. This will give walkers and cyclists a safer and shorter link to NRTA. ❖

## Our Red Team— "Open Space & Recreation"

**FOCUS**— Exploring with the Nantucket Parks & Recreation Commission, our Area Plan's short-term and long-term recommendations for improving Tom Nevers Field, while maintaining its family-oriented focus on passive recreation.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— Discussions have been held with Parks & Rec about funding the removal of the dangerous concrete and iron debris along the Tom Nevers Field shoreline...remnants from the days of the old Navy Base. Agreement is also being sought on the need for

a long-term master plan for Tom Nevers Field...a plan that optimizes the location, respects the uses by the year-round population, and explores safe and creative use of the space. ❖

### **Our Blue Team— “Services & Facilities”**

#### **FOCUS—**

♦**Road Maintenance**—Helping property-owners on poorly maintained dirt roads find more cost-effective solutions to their common needs.

♦**Water Quality**—Providing all property-owners with expert information on the role of non-contaminating lawn and garden chemicals and regular septic system maintenance in protecting their well water safety. And working with the U. Mass Field Station to conduct an ongoing program of water quality monitoring in our Area.

♦**Fire Protection**—Working with the Nantucket Fire Department to determine the adequacy of our current water supply

sources for effective fire protection... and if greater fire protection is needed, determining the most cost-effective way to provide it.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— We’re happy to report progress in three of our areas of focus—

1. **Road Maintenance**— Property-owners along some of our dirt roads have already begun to form informal associations, getting together to deal with improved road maintenance on their streets.

2. **Water Quality**— Sarah Oktay of the UMASS Nantucket Field Station has agreed to design and implement an ongoing water-quality testing and monitoring program for us in Tom Nevers.

3. **Fire Protection**— The Nantucket Fire Department has confirmed that we have a fully adequate water supply to meet our fire protection needs in Tom Nevers. (e.g.-their large capacity pumper trucks, their water-pumping stand in Tom Nevers Pond, our hydrant on Wood Hollow Road, plus water mains along Mile-

stone Road. In addition, a new water main close to ‘Sconset will add further redundancy.) ❖

### **Our Orange Team— “Circulation” FOCUS—**

♦**Aircraft Noise**—Keeping active on the Airport Commission’s “Noise Advisory Committee”.

♦**Bike Path**—Formally requesting that the Town give higher priority to a bike path along Tom Nevers Road.

♦**NRTA Bus Service**—Formally requesting that NRTA provide bus service down Tom Nevers Road, just as soon as funds are available.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**— We’re happy to report progress in all three of our focus areas—

1. **Reducing Aircraft Noise**— Significant progress has been made. All air taxis are now flying noise-abatement routes...and overall noise complaints are down 85% from 2008 levels.

2. **Adding a Bike Path Along Tom Nevers Road**— While still years away in the Town’s funding priorities, key Town departments have been made aware of our Area Plan’s request that a bike path along Tom Nevers Road be given higher priority. Interim solutions are also being discussed.

3. **Expanding NRTA Service into Tom Nevers**— NRTA is in agreement with our goals, but awaits further funding to implement service into Tom Nevers. Funding for one additional bus and one additional driver is required. ❖

**Many thanks...** to the 31 TNCA members who have volunteered their time and talents to serve on our Area Plan “Implementation Teams.”

You’ll find their names and email addresses on our website...along with our complete Area Plan...and the action agendas for each of our Area Plan Implementation Teams. ❖

## Keeping Your Property in Top Shape—

### ■ **Pump Up—**

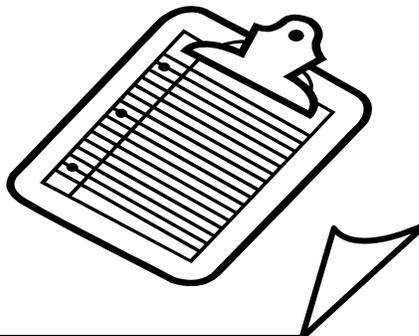
Have your septic system pumped out at least every three years. A system failure could force you to upgrade at a cost of \$35,000 or more.

### ■ **Dig In—**

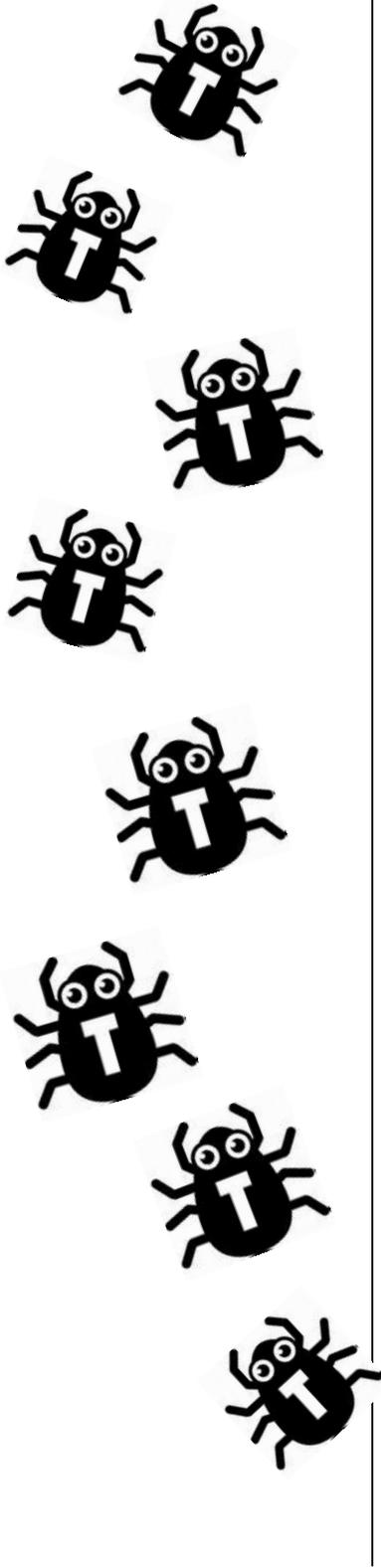
Grow a healthy lawn without over-fertilizing. A simple, low-cost soil test will tell you all you need to know...with customized recommendations. Forms and instructions for collecting and shipping soil samples can be found at— [www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest](http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest). Or, you can contact the Soil Testing Laboratory, West Experiment Station, 682 North Pleasant Street, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. You can also call— 413-545-2311.

### ■ **Fight Back—**

You can KO the number of disease-carrying ticks in your yard and garden by up to 90%. Every May and August, set out Damminix tick tubes just beyond your cultivated lawn areas, following a few simple directions. It’ll take just minutes...and for most Tom Nevers properties, annual costs should not exceed \$90. ❖



# The Tick Wars...



## Help is on the way—

By December, we should know the recommendations of the “Nantucket Tick-borne Disease Committee”...the special committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen to come up with a comprehensive plan to deal with our tick-borne disease problems on Nantucket.

From what we’ve seen to date, we have great confidence that the NTBDC will give us the expert and actionable advice we need. The majority of committee members are highly-qualified medical professionals...and other key Island constituencies are represented. Following a highly-disciplined approach that separates facts from emotion, the Committee’s report should be authoritative enough to let us move ahead decisively in dealing with this vital public health issue.

## How big is the problem?

Since 1992, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has put Nantucket at...or near the top of...their list of Lyme-disease epicenters, nationwide. And in 2008, our laboratory-confirmed cases of tick-borne diseases nearly doubled. Not only is this a major public health crisis, but it looms large in potentially threatening the future health our tourism-based economy.

State Wildlife officials estimate that we currently have upwards of 2,500 deer on the Island...about 50-60 per square mile...by far the highest deer density statewide. They’d like to see that dropped to 6-8 deer per square mile. But sport hunting alone can’t achieve reductions of this magnitude...especially because so much of the Island is posted, with no hunting allowed. And most other methods of deer reduction are extremely costly or difficult to implement. Clearly, the “Nantucket Tick-borne Disease Committee” has its work cut out for it!

## The Committee’s Goals?

- To develop a sustainable program to reduce the incidence of tick-borne diseases on Nantucket.
- To develop achievable, measurable milestones for success.
- To achieve community-wide acceptance of the plan.

## What will you find on our Website?

By going to [www.tomnevers.org](http://www.tomnevers.org), you’ll find Dr. Malcolm MacNab’s complete PowerPoint presentation from our August 1st Annual Meeting. (He’s the Chairman of the “Nantucket Tick-borne Disease Committee”.) In his presentation, you’ll find definitive information on—

- The extent of tick-borne diseases on Nantucket.
- The epidemiology of tick-borne disease transmission factors...including deer, mice, and other animals.
- The medical aspects of tick-borne diseases.
- Their healthcare and social costs.
- The pros and cons of alternate solutions...including various methods of reducing our deer herd (e.g.-hunting, capture and relocate, capture and euthanize, paid exterminators, birth control, etc.)...and various methods of using insecticides to kill the deer ticks (e.g.-spraying, 4-poster deer-feeding stations, Damminix, etc.)

Not included are the Committee’s final recommendations for a comprehensive, long-term effort that includes elements from the above options... plus an effective public education program on how to avoid deer tick exposure...and how to deal with potential infections.

We’ll learn all that in the NTBDC’s report in December. Stay tuned! ❖

**T**hrough focused actions by the TNCA board, most of us in the Tom Nevers area have become well-versed in preventative measures that one can take against tick-borne diseases. The use of protective clothing, the placement of Damminix tubes, daily “tick checks” and various measures to reduce the deer population have been presented by several leading experts, and widely discussed among members of the Tom

spray” on the market in an effort to inhibit the deer from enjoying their nightly smorgasbord. For the most part, we’ve found the sprays to be largely ineffective in keeping the deer away from our prized plants—especially roses, lilies, and hydrangeas. After one especially distressing episode in which the deer enthusiastically munched my wife’s prized ornamental lilies, I resolved to put an end to the feasting once and for all!

Our answer was the installation of an

is required to complete the “deer proofing”. Admittedly, installation can be hard work, but the results really do pay off.

So, how does all this relate to ticks? In speaking to two of the “tick experts” who have made presentations on-island in the last twelve months, both confirmed that ANYTHING that keeps deer away from one’s property will likely reduce the incidence of ticks within the property’s boundaries. Sev-

# The best “De-Fence” for deer-

By Steve Roethke

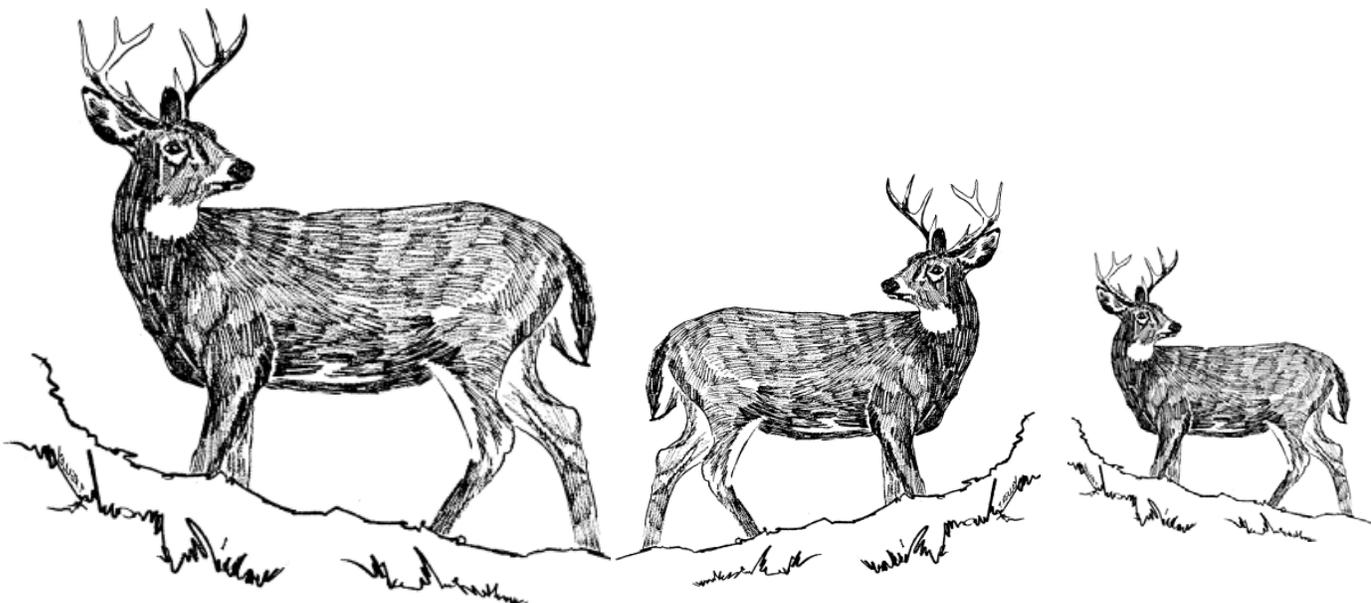
Nevers community. However, I would like to add another alternative—one that has not been widely discussed but, from personal experience, is worth mentioning. This may be particularly interesting to those who, besides being concerned about ticks, also treasure their Nantucket gardens.

Up until four years ago, our property on Flintlock Road was a feast for deer. If you’ve been to the annual TNCA cocktail party which we’ve hosted for several years, you’ll know that we are garden lovers; we derive a great deal of satisfaction from our gardening efforts. Like most folks, we’ve tried every “deer

8’ high deer fence around the entire perimeter of our property. Being a “do-it-yourselfer”, I researched various fencing products, and eventually found a commercial-grade fencing system (not the stuff you’ll find in Home Depot) that I could install myself, and one that had a proven track-record of keeping the deer out. And, because the scrub oak in the Tom Nevers area is so prolific, the fencing is practically invisible if installed strategically. In the nearly four years that we’ve had our deer fence, we have had NO deer (not one!) visit our property. Depending on garden locations and driveway placements, sometimes a gate

eral of our friends who are familiar with our efforts have had deer fencing installed and are equally pleased with the results. While deer fencing may not be a viable solution for the island at large, it is, in my opinion, an effective alternative for protecting your own “piece of the rock”.

So, if you wish to reduce the incidence of tick-borne diseases, and wish to gain the bonus of protecting your gardens, consider this effective non-chemical remedy. I would be happy to share more details with members of the TNCA community. Feel free to give me a call at 508-257-9832. ❖



# TNCA

## TNCA Officers - 2009-2010

Dual Macintyre ...President  
Jack Warner ... Vice President  
Jane Connell ... Secretary  
Steve Roethke ... Treasurer

## TNCA Directors

Kathy Baird... 2011  
Richard Heffernan.. 2010  
Robert Hestwood... 2012  
Anne McAndrew... 2011  
Ralph Mueller... 2012  
Dix Shevalier... 2010  
Robert Lucas Fischer ...  
Director at Large  
E-mail us at: [acktnca@comcast.net](mailto:acktnca@comcast.net)

## “Fair” Thanks—

■ To all in our Association who gave so generously of their time and energies to make this year’s “Nantucket Island Fair” such a big success, we say... “Thank You...Thank You...Thank You!”

■Thanks to Liz & Jose Trillos, Bob Pearson, Jane Connell, Claire & Arnie Seaquist, Bettye & John Girvin and their guest Marianne Johnstone, Joan & Dick Hofmann, Connie Johnston, and Penny & Dual Macintyre.

■By taking entrance fees, directing traffic, and controlling parking for the 2-day Fair at Tom Nevers Field you provided huge help to the Nantucket Parks & Recreation Committee. And your doing so is our way of thanking Parks & Rec for being so sensitive to our desires for peace, quiet and civility in our Tom Nevers neighborhood.

■We do it every year. Why not join us as volunteers next year? ❖

## Our Greater Tom Nevers Neighborhood

### Tom Nevers East-

Chuck Hollow/Crestwood/Flintlock/  
Green Hollow/Heath/Jonathan/ Long-  
wood /Lyons/Parson/Sandpiper/  
Sandsbury/Whitetail/Wood Hollow

### Tom Nevers South-

Bosworth/Chershire/Dorset/Elliott’s/  
Hampshire/Hollister/Lyford/Marcus/  
Mayhew/Nichols/Old Tom Nevers/  
Surrey/Sussex/Van Fleet/Wanoma

### Tom Nevers West-

Arlington/Berkley/Clarendon/  
Cornwall /Dartmouth/Devon/Driscoll/  
Exeter/Fairfield/Gloucester/  
Huntington/Ipswich/Kendrick/Marion

### Tom Nevers Central-

Tom Nevers Road

### Madequecham West-

Hinsdale/Madequecham Valley/New  
South /Russell’s/Waquoit/Wigwam/  
Wright’s Landing

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tom Nevers Civic Association  
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Nantucket, MA 02584