

# TARA TALK



## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!!

Join us in welcoming our newest neighbor to Tara Townhomes!

Zach Kube - #28

*Upcoming Tara events you won't want to miss!*

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 5th at 7PM** for our first pool gathering of the year!! Join us for a night of trivia, fun, and community. It'll be a great opportunity to meet all of our new neighbors that have moved in recently. BYOB (and study up - we have some tough questions!!)

Annual Homeowners association meeting will take place on **Monday, May 23rd at 7PM** over zoom. Do your best to attend to ensure you're in the know on all things Tara!

## TARA PET OF THE MONTH *Meet Pearl!*

Pearl is a 7 year old Toy Fox Terrier mix. She lives in #42 with her parents Brent and Susie! She loves car rides to the beach or any local park. She's very curious about cats and loves to bark at everything going on outside. When a thunderstorm hits, she runs upstairs to her donut bed in the closet for comfort. Pearl loves her new home and runs to the door whenever the stray cats, Pizza and Oreo (as we call them) are nearby. Pearl will answer to Pearline, Poo or Bacon treats. a 12/10 cutest girl ever!!



## TARA BOOK CLUB

May's book of the month is *Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America and the Fight for Cumberland Island* by Will Harlan! Contact Jan Allen in #14 for details

# EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF TARA BY JOHN PENNINGTON #25

I've been asked to provide a few early recollections of Tara. I have lived here for 50 years.

In 1969 my deceased wife, Diane, and I visited the first 3 models of the first row and noticed that the rest of the 7 acres of Tara were undeveloped. Margaret Mitchell was crudely paved but with just a few houses on it. Clarendale was still unpaved. I-75 came up as far as Marietta and I-285 had just been finished all the way around Atlanta about the same time. The condominiums at 3021 Margaret Mitchell, across the street from Tara were not built until the mid to late 1970's.

We returned in 1972 and convinced the builder to sell us #26 which was then one of the two models. We liked the quality all brick construction. We paid \$52,000 for #26. If available, #25 would have been \$67,000. Mr. Campbell Napier, the builder, lived in #25 for several years and wouldn't sell.

The original plat for Tara called for several units in the grassy area between row 3 and 4. However a huge granite mound in front of #26 prohibited that row from ever being built. Our 4th row was finished in 1972, the row below us was still under construction. The bottom row was just staked out.

By the end of 1973 all 50 units were finished and lived in, the majority were young couples similar to us. That summer we had a gala party, the biggest ever, at the pool, complete with a live Hawaiian musical combo with 100% of the residents in attendance, many of us in Hawaiian outfits.

Several times during early ice storms I walked across I-75 to my office building on the other side of the highway.

It seems as though it was a year or two before the homeowners association took over management from the builder. My best recollection is the homeowners fee was approximately \$100 at the time. At that point homeowners managed everything including the financials. My wife managed the pool for the first 2 or 3 years before a pool company was hired. Originally gas was included in the monthly HOA payments. Also Tara exterior lighting was beautiful gas lit until at some point it was voted to change to electric lights. Rudimentary cable was installed through the attics. It was after the year 2000 that we hired the first real professional management company, Scott Carter Management.

In the context of 50 years here... I must comment on a couple of the original owners. A gentleman by the name of Lion Mason, in his 90's. He wrote his autobiography, 'A Lions Share'. He fought with General Pershing in the southwest against the Poncho Villa bandits and then with Pershing in WWI. He was an Air Force pilot during WWII, flying along the US coast looking for enemy submarines. He was our first real great character here at Tara. Also, Dante Stephensen, owner of 'Dante's Down the Hatch'. He drove a model A Ford 4 door convertible with a red lantern for a tail light. They contributed much to our early enjoyment.

Enough said. Tara has been a wonderful and quiet neighborhood to live in these past 50 years and I hope it continues to remain just as it has been.

**HAVE EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEXT TARA TALK?**

**Email Ally (#19) at [allymay@me.com](mailto:allymay@me.com) and Maggie (#16) at [mginn6@gmail.com](mailto:mginn6@gmail.com) to join in the fun!**