

The Good Life...

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(608) 833-1615 – www.tamaracktrails.com / Office Hours M - F 9 am- 4 pm, or by Appointment

February 2019

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Meeting Calendar

Meetings are open to all residents.

Finance Committee

Wednesday, February 27 – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, March 27 – 4:00pm

Architectural Review Board

Wednesday, March 6 – 7:00 pm

Maintenance Committee

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Board of Directors

Tuesday, February 26 – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, March 19 – 6:30 pm

Welcome Committee

Monday, March 4 – 10:30 am

Event Calendar

Please mark your calendars

Safety Meeting

Monday, February 11 – 7:00 pm

Spring Brunch

Saturday, April 27 from 11 – 1:00 pm

Tamarack Bridge

Wednesdays from 6:30-10:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

M-FR
9 am – 4 pm
Or by appointment

Current News

Safety Meeting with Madison Police Officers

Monday, February 11, 2019

7pm at the Clubhouse

Join your Tamarack neighbors for a discussion about what is happening in our area. West District police officers, Captain Timothy Patton and Lieutenant Michael Hanson, will present current data about the area that we call home.

Our goal is to: refute rumors with facts, discuss status of some prior incidents, gather information on what should be reported to police and when, and what the police/city are doing to stem what appears to be increased crime and violence in the area.

Please come join us and find out what we can do to help.

Board News

At their January meeting, the Board of Directors approved the appointment of new member, Dean Ryerson. He will be filling an open position through the November 2019 board meeting.

Dean will continue his service on the HR Committee. This will fulfill the requirement that two HR members are also members of the board.

Dean has lived on Hemlock Trail since 2008 and has previously served on the Architectural Review Board.

Welcome aboard, Dean

At their February meeting, the Board of Directors will make an appointment to fill the seat vacated by Antonio Galvan. Thanks to all the residents who put their names forward for consideration.

Please Ignore our Dust

The Association Office space is being remodeled and we all look forward to moving back in and having our work space back together and ready to serve you.

Capri Senior Communities Project

We have been notified that the developers will be meeting with City staff during the week of February 11th for a preliminary discussion about the building's design. After that meeting, we will begin scheduling a second neighborhood meeting, probably at the end of February or the first week of March. They will present an updated design to the neighborhood for further comment.

Activities & Events



The Good Neighbor Project

Are you interested in neighborhood safety? Then please join your neighbors for Good Neighbor Night to learn how you can start or join a Good Neighbor Project!

- Get all the details about this Madison Police Dept community safety program.
- Learn from community members who will share creative ideas to help you get to know your neighbors and MPD officers and partner with them.
- Hear from the MPD Crime Prevention Unit who will share valuable safety and crime-prevention resources.
- Make connections and share ideas with other neighborhoods.

"Because Safe, Caring Neighborhoods Start with Good Neighbors!"

Monday, February 18, 2019

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

High Point Church (7702 Old Sauk Rd)



Seasonal Reminders & Projects

Grounds Update-- What to Expect - Plowing, Shoveling & Salting

Plowing and Shoveling are performed after any snowfall **greater than 1"**: Plowing of the Main Trail Centers normally starts about one hour prior to the end of the snowfall and should be completed within 3 hours of starting. The Main Trail Centers include all of the main trails and Cul-de-sacs except for the 320 individual driveways.

The plowing of the **Main Trail Centers is performed by Maple Leaf** using a pickup truck with a plow blade. During a major snow event, the Main Trail Centers are plowed after each accumulation of 5" of snow. Plowing the center of all trails should occur prior to the clearing of any of the individual driveways. If this is not done first, it slows down all other plowing and shoveling operations.

If you have an urgent need to get out during a major snow event, please call the emergency number 259-2750.

Clearing of the individual driveways does not start until the snowfall ends and are only done once during each snow event. In a normal snowfall (1 to 6"), all driveway clearing should be completed in 6 to 8 hours. In a heavier snow event clearing of driveways can take 10 to 12 hours.

Shoveling Individual walks: The shoveling of individual walks is performed when the snow depth is greater than one inch. Half of the shoveling is performed by Mother Earth Organics and the other half by Tamarack Staff. Shoveling is normally completed by 10 am to noon for and overnight snowfall or within six hours of the snow stopping during a daytime snow event. Normally the walk will be shoveled to the full width and the porch will be done at the same time.

Salting: Salting is performed by Tamarack Staff. During a snow event we salt all the hilly drives and Trails in Tamarack to keep them safe. We maintain a map of the hilly areas and a copy of this map is posted on the Tamarack website. This salting is performed with a truck mounted spreader for double drives and by hand for single width driveways (to reduce salt usage and waste). The day after a snowfall and during freeze thaw cycles Tamarack staff will check the Trails, drives and city walks for icy areas. To reduce salt usage (and help save our lakes) snow pack on flat driveways and Trails will not be salted as part of our normal routine.

Clearing the City Sidewalk: This is performed by Tamarack Staff no later than noon the day following any snow event or within a few hours of snowfall end if a daytime event. This year we are using a power broom for any snow fall less than two inches. It can clear the walk to bare concrete and has greatly reduced the amount of salt used on the city sidewalks. We will also be using a Bobcat snow blower for any snow over 2 inches.

During any snow event with less than 1" of snow: No shoveling of individual walks or plowing will occur. The Tamarack staff will clear the city walk and salt hilly drives, curves and stop signs. Residents are responsible for clearing their walk and salting between snowfalls. If you are unable to maintain your walk, please contact the office for assistance (833-1615).

Angie Swan – Landscape Superintendent

Maintenance Update

In January we started the office remodel. To date the walls have been rough framed, electrical is 90% done, and are prepping for drywall. Tim has been working on billable work orders along with the office remodel. Mitch is prepping the trim boards for the office along with the numerous other things. I have been working on the office along with getting the pool room ready and lining up bids for this up-coming season. This month we will continue to work on the office.

Josh Ostertag – Maintenance Superintendent

Board and Committee Business

Board Approves AppFolio Software— Jean MacCubbin

At their January 22, 2019 meeting the BOD accepted the recommendation of the Ad hoc HOA Committee to purchase AppFolio software to replace a number of programs, databases, and spreadsheets utilized in the office; many of which were found to be duplicative, cumbersome, outdated and lacking integrity and/or written user manuals or procedures.

After meeting since August 2018 and researching and demoing 4 homeowners association software (HOA), the group recommended the AppFolio software to the BOD. In addition, costs, vendor reputation and user recommendations were investigated and contained in their report. One major benefit of purchase and implementation so early in the year provides the benefits of the following: training staff on the system during the offseason, fewer data to enter into the system for history, as well as the availability of our volunteers for the implementation.

The Board acknowledges the work and time commitment of Lori Zunker and the resident ad hoc members: Harry Miles (chair), Don Haasl, Mary Schmidlkofer, Janet Zimmerman, Monica VanZuiden and Audrey Chase.

AppFolio Implementation Workgroup Formed— Lori Zunker

Since the Board's approval to purchase AppFolio software, I convened the **AppFolio Implementation Workgroup** to assist with the transition. I am extremely pleased by the residents that stepped forward to volunteered for the implementation process: Monica VanZuiden, Janet Zimmerman, Mary Schmidlkofer, Harry Miles, Larry White (liaison to FC), Jean MacCubbin (liaison to BOD). All bring a high level of working experience and expertise along with a desire to assist Tamarack in adopting a system that will provide efficiencies and flexibility to services, accounting, and reporting, all under 1 system.

The new software is a cloud solution with a web interface. Being a cloud-based solution eliminates the need for TT to own and maintain hardware or hire IT services to maintain the solution and hardware.

AppFolio has an experienced implementation team, which will help and guide the Tamarack team through the process. The Tamarack volunteer team has the knowledge and experience to gather the data from our database and accounting software systems and download them into excel for AppFolio to populate into their system. We have checks and balances in place to be assured the information is correct moving forward. Expect to see updates and progress reports at BOD and committee meetings, in the Good Life, or through other notifications, such as all resident emails.

What is AppFolio and How Tamarack Benefits? — Janet Zimmerman

AppFolio is a fully integrated, web-based property management software system. AppFolio will bring the accounting, budgeting and work order processes together in one interconnected system. Tamarack will no longer have to maintain its own data backup for all accounting and database functions. All data will be encrypted for privacy and will be secure.

Residents will be able to enter AppFolio via their own resident portal. Through a secure private portal, home-owners will have the ability to make payments, initiate work-orders and view the status of their work orders. Also, anyone in the community who desires may still pay their dues, initiate work orders and pay their work order bills by talking to TT office staff.

Tamarack will, for the first time in its history, have all resident billing functions integrated. Completed work orders will flow directly into the accounting software. This will save time and improve the accuracy of data. AppFolio allows the attachment of files (containing contracts,

correspondence, materials, and labor information and/or photos) to Resident Portals, bills, and cash receipts.

Will this all happen without a few hiccups? Very little in life does, and we will continue to move forward until the new system is running smoothly.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has several people to thank as we begin the new year. Thanks go to Greg Knapp and Bernie Maroney for their many years of service on the committee. Along with David Huttleston, who we also thank, they all retired from the committee at the end of 2018. We are grateful to three new volunteers, Deni Tucker, Larry White and Janet Zimmerman who will join the committee for its first meeting of 2019 on January 23rd. Several committee members assisted our Association Manager, Lori Zunker, in preparing the 2019 Budget including Don Haasl, George Meyer and Andy Owca. Don did double duty by also serving on the ad hoc committee that is researching a replacement for Tamarack's financial software. Finally, Janet Hirsch with assistance from Jean MacCubbin and Lori Zunker, assumed responsibility for updating the Assessment Spreadsheet so that owners would receive their 2019 assessment notice by December 1st as required by our Association's By-laws.

The committee found it necessary to take steps in the fall to ensure we had adequate cash flow to pay our bills. Money was transferred from the Contingency Fund in order to pay November's bills. Our hope is that we will end the 2018 financial year with enough funds to re-pay the Contingency Fund and end the year in the black.

In 2019, the committee will propose some changes to the Association's Accounting Manual which we hope will help us better manage our finances. We also plan to work closely with staff to clearly define the expenses associated with work planned for 2019 in an effort to ensure we do not experience budget overages similar to what occurred in 2018. Finally, we will delve into the long-range budget based on the findings of a firm contracted to evaluate the content of that budget.

Our meetings are typically held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. and are open to all residents.

Prudy Stewart, Finance Committee Chair

Maintenance and Safety and Security Committee Update

The Maintenance Committee met on February 5th, at 4 pm. The main topics of discussion included snow management issues, review of an RFP for storm water mitigation in the Oak Creek area, and review of proposals for a Reserve Study. If you have a concern or comment and cannot attend, please feel free to send me an email.

Stay warm, Jayne Meyer, Chair

Welcoming Committee

Frequently Asked Question: "How is the Tamarack Trails Association governed?"

The Association has an elected governing Board of Directors. Board members are elected for a two-year term at the annual member's meeting in October. The Board elects from its membership, a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer to one-year terms. The Board meets monthly. Advising the Board are eight standing committees: Amenities; Architectural Review Board; Finance; Garden; Human Resources; Maintenance; Safety and Security; Resident Activities; and Welcoming. Tamarack residents volunteer to serve on these committees. All Board and committee meetings are open to all residents.

Food Pantry Update

Have you made a New Year's resolution? Are you able to add one more? A resolution to take along a food pantry item each time you go to the TT clubhouse for a meeting, social gathering, to ask a question, etc. would be so simple and yet so helpful. Please consider it.

Dee Seyfarth - Tamarack Trails Lussier Food Pantry Coordinator

Tamarack News and Tidbits

Buckthorn Removal in Sauk Creek Greenway

Tamarack has been notified by the City of Madison Engineering Division that volunteers will be cutting brush in the Sauk Creek Greenway between Old Sauk Road and Tree Lane between January 25th and March 31st.

Volunteer cutting will target berry-producing buckthorn. This effort will curb the spread of invasive buckthorn in the Sauk Creek Greenway. Buckthorn can shade out native tree and woodland wildflower species, compact the soil and exacerbate erosion issues.

Free Sand

Residents can pick up free sand from the city at most City Parks; the closest to Tamarack is Garner Park, Mineral Point Rd. and Rosa Rd.

Ice Melt

Ice No More (a calcium/potassium chloride blend of ice melt) can be purchased through the Tamarack office. The ice melt is available in 20-pound bags at a cost of \$5.00 each. Please use the form below to order your ice melt. We keep the salt on hand for sale throughout the winter.

***** ✂ ***** ✂ ***** ✂ ***** **Cut Here** ***** ✂ ***** ✂ ***** ✂ ***** ✂ *****

Tamarack Trails Salt Order Form

Please submit this form along with your payment to the Tamarack office.
The salt will be delivered to your doorstep the following day.

Address _____

Qty _____ 20 lb. Bag(s) @ \$5.00 = \$ _____