

# The Good Life...

--- Published by Tamarack Trails Community Services Association ---  
(608) 833-1615 – [www.tamaracktrails.com](http://www.tamaracktrails.com) / Office Hours M - F 9 am- 4 pm, or by Appointment

October 2022

## Meeting Calendar

*Meetings are open to all residents*

### Maintenance Committee

Tuesday, October 11 – 4:00 pm

### Architectural Review Board

Wednesday, October 12 – 4:00 pm

### Resident Activities Committee

Wednesday, October 12 – 5:00 pm

### Finance Committee

Wednesday, October 19 – 4:00 pm

### Board of Directors

Tuesday, October 25 – 6:30 pm

### Amenities Committee

Tuesday, November 29 – 10:30 am

## Event Calendar

(Please mark your calendars)

### 2023 Budget Hearing

Tuesday, October 11 at 7pm

### Meet the Candidates Reception

Thursday, October 13 at 7pm

### Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 27 – 7 pm  
Vista West Community Room

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday  
9 am – 4 pm  
Or by appointment

Jean Hilgers,  
Office Manager  
[Jean.hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:Jean.hilgers@tamaracktrails.com)

## Current News

### 2022 Tamarack Trails Annual Meeting

This meeting of the membership will provide an overview of the past year and an update on the status of the Association.

Thursday, October 27, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Attend in person at Vista West

or via Zoom (link will be sent to all later)

### Candidates for the Board of Directors

The Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to announce the candidates for the Tamarack Trails Board of Directors.

- **George Jesien, 38 Oak Creek Trail**
- **Jayne Meyer, 201 Randolph Drive**
- **James Steinbach, 19 Mountain Ash Trail**

Find out more about these candidates.

### Meet the Candidates Reception

Thursday, October 13, 2022

7:00 to 8:00pm

Tamarack Clubhouse

*The Nominations and Elections Committee thanks these neighbors for stepping forward to ensure that Tamarack remains a vibrant community.*

### 2023 Budget Hearing

The proposed budget for 2023 will be presented.

This is your opportunity to hear about the Association plans for next year. Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

## **Board and Committee Business**

### **The Board Notes**

The Board of Directors met by Zoom on September 27. All directors except Dean Ryerson were present and 20 residents joined the Zoom meeting. The Treasurer reviewed Tamarack's financial report and board liaisons reviewed minutes of committee meetings. Major discussion topics were the financial issues, maintenance projects and the search for a new association manager.

Tamarack's Treasurer, George Meyer, discussed the latest financial report, expectations for year-end budget variances and current budget expectations for 2023. The operating expenses for 2022 are expected to be under budgeted amounts because of lower insurance costs and staff vacancies. The reserve levels are at our current minimal levels because of the 2022 stock market downturn. The Finance Committee plans to recommend that some of the unspent operating budget be transferred to the reserve accounts. They are also considering alternate investments for the portion of reserves currently kept in a checking account.

The board approved presenting the proposed budget at the open budget hearing currently scheduled for October 11 at 7 pm. The impact from the operating budget is minimal because the insurance savings cancels the increase in other operating expenses. However, because of the need to increase the reserves the recommended increase in average assessments will be 4%. This increase is less than the average annual increase during the last three years.

The Maintenance Committee presented several maintenance projects to the board for approval. Among them were a new pump for the pool, repair of the clubhouse chimneys, some gutter improvements, and concrete bumpers for Blue Spruce Trail. The Board approved all four proposals.

Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack proposed a "no-blow" option that would allow residents to opt out of leaf removal from planting beds which the Board approved. The Human Resources Committee recommended, and the Board approved, switching staff health insurance from Quartz to the Group Health Cooperative. The screening committee passed two candidates for the Association Manager on to the interview committee.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25 and the Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 27 at Vista West.

### **Contractor Relations**

We are hearing from contractors that they are being approached by residents while they are working on site. Residents should not be directing them or be disrespectful. If you have a concern about something, call the office and it will be addressed.

## **Tamarack News and Tidbits**

### **Dog Status at Haen Family Park**

The City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners (BPC) will consider changing Haen Family Park on Tree Lane from its current status as a "dog free" to a "dog friendly" park at an upcoming meeting. A dog friendly park allows licensed, leashed dogs in the park. If you wish to comment on this change, please submit your comments via email or letter by Nov 4, 2022.

**Wednesday, November 9, 2022 @ 6:30pm**  
**Location: To be announced**

You are invited to this meeting to provide comments or input on the proposed project. Questions or comments can be submitted to the BPC at [Pacommission@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Pacommission@cityofmadison.com) or 210 MLK Jr. Blvd, Room 104, Madison, WI 53703.

## Activities and Events

### **Forever Fit Fun Exercise Class**

Location: Tamarack Tennis Courts/Clubhouse

Dates: Oct. 3 – Nov 30 M-W-F 3:00 – 3:45

NO CLASS: Oct. 24 – Oct. 31

Cost is: \$70 Due Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>

Class Description:

- Warm up Movement/Stretch
- Light Cardio
- Hand Weights and Resistance Bands
- Balance Flexibility
- Cool Down Movement Stretch

Questions call Patti Sponem 608-279-3149



### **Tamarack's Annual Lussier Food Drive**

The Resident Activities Committee will be collecting items to be donated to the Lussier Community Food Pantry again this year. Volunteers will pick up items on Saturday, November 12th. Please place your donations on your doorstep by 10am that day. Lussier's Food Pantry has suggested the following items for donations:

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:** Canned beans, canned tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, whole grain pasts, brown or wild rice, low-sodium soups, juice, maple syrup, sugar, flour, jelly/jam, pancake mix.

This is a chance for Tamarack residents to pitch in and help the Madison community. Questions? – Contact Rise Ann Futterer at 608-335-0443

Pick up will be Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 10am.

Thank you for considering a donation to the LCED Food Pantry.

### **Pet Parade Reminder Sunday Oct. 16 3 pm**

Just a friendly reminder that the deadline to register your pet's participation in the Pet Parade is October 9. Please notify Lynn Waishwell by email ([lwaishwell@yahoo.com](mailto:lwaishwell@yahoo.com)) or by phone (224-209-3038) if your pet wishes to be in the parade.

A pet registration form is available in the office. You can leave the slip with Jean or call /email Lynn with the details about your pet.

There has not been much response thus far regarding the parade event. If there is not enough interest, the parade portion of the event will be cancelled. Cider, donuts and live music will be in the clubhouse from 3 to 4:15-4:30.

A final email will be sent on Monday, October 11, stating whether or not the parade will take place. For planning purposes, the team would appreciate it if everyone who plans to attend this event would RSVP to Lynn by October 9 . You can email or call

### Tam Talks

Our Tam Talk series for 2022-23 will kick-off on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM in the Tamarack Clubhouse. Watch your email, details will be coming soon!



LEARN FROM EVERYONE

### Summer Concert Series

Too Sick Charlie was a big hit at the Tamarack Trails Summer Concert Series!! Eric Heiligenstein MD (aka Too Sick Charlie) was a one man band who performed regional blues music using a cigar box guitar, electric drums and a harmonica. As advertised, his music was “truly good for what ails ya”! RAC hopes to have the summer concert series again in 2023. Watch the Good Life in the spring for more information.



### Pool Party

The 2022 Pool Party was different than it has ever been in the past! **It rained the entire day!!** Not to be deterred, RAC seamlessly changed the event from being a relaxed sit-down meal by the pool to a takeout event where people could eat in their homes and enjoy the Packers game! Thank you to all the volunteers, board members, and RAC members who were so flexible and made it all come together! All of Tamarack will hope for a sunny warm day for this annual event next year!!



## Seasonal Reminders & Projects

### **Ice Dam Season**

Winter and the dreaded ice dam season will soon be upon us. Now is the time to have your attic insulation checked along with the roof vent channels. Roof vent channels can shift so that the air doesn't move from the soffit vent to the ridge/roof vent. The homes in Tamarack have narrow soffits to begin with so keeping them clear is important. Proper insulation and venting are key in preventing ice dams. There are many companies in the area that can do this. Examples include Rainbow Insulators at (608) 836-1302, Rockweiler Insulation at (608)845-7625, Alpine (866) 261-1090, etc.

### **Reminder on Work Orders**

Just a reminder that all requests for work orders should come through AppFolio or the office. Please do not call the maintenance building or the staff directly to ask them. The staff is really busy and this is disruptive to their workflow.

The billable/personal work orders will be done as time allows during downtime such as when the weather is too bad or cold to work outside. This practice was started years ago to prevent Tamarack staff from being laid off for a month or two in the winter when it is cold and there was less association work to do. Today, there is no shortage of Association work to do. If you need something done immediately get a recommendation for a local handyperson. Also, our staff is not licensed to do plumbing or electrical work so you will need a contractor.

### **October Fall Cleanup Monday October 10th**

*Sponsored by Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack*

Again, Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack will sponsor this event. It will be held on Monday, Oct. 10th from 9 -11 a.m., with a rain date of Monday, Oct. 17th.

The group has identified two priority sites. If we get a sufficient number of volunteers we will add a third site. One site will be the small, wooded area off the walking trail between Sugar Maple Trail and Red Maple Trail. A second site chosen is the rock gardens near the Tamarack entrance sign on Tree Lane facing Vista West and behind Honey Locust. Depending on the number of volunteers, a third site will be the Red Maple shady drainage area on eastside of Westfield.

Volunteers need to contact Paulette Harder at [paulettejah@gmail.com](mailto:paulettejah@gmail.com) or 262-385-6148. Expect to bring your own water, work gloves and shovels or loppers. If you need to bring a chair, please do so. A map of the areas needing weeding or removal of woody invasive species is posted on the Clubhouse Bulletin Board.



## Leave the Leaves!<sup>1</sup>

(Food for thought from *Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack*)

***“One of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need in the form of fall leaves.”***

### **Leaf Litter 101**

For whatever reason, we just can't seem to help ourselves from wanting to tidy up the garden at the end of the season—but raking, mowing, and blowing destroys a bit of nature that is **essential to the survival of moths, butterflies, snails, spiders, and dozens of arthropods.**

The vast majority of butterflies and moths overwinter in the landscape as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, or adult. In all but the warmest climates, these butterflies use leaf litter for winter cover. Beyond butterflies, bumble bees also rely on leaf litter for protection. An extra thick layer of leaves is welcome protection from the elements.

There are so many critters that live in leaves: spiders, snails, worms, beetles, millipedes, mites, and more—that support the chipmunks, turtles, birds, and amphibians that rely on these insects for food.

Leaves provide valuable organic matter and build up healthy soil. Fallen leaves have the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties of shredded wood mulch—**and they're free!**

### **The Bottom Line**

You gave essential pollinators many flowers and a place to nest. You tended your garden and avoided pesticides. Don't carry all of that hard work out to the curb. Simply put, when we treat leaves like trash—we're tossing out the beautiful moths and butterflies that we'll surely miss and worked so very hard to attract.

While the idea is to “leave the leaves” permanently—for all of the benefits mentioned above—if you do decide you need to clean up the garden and remove the leaves in spring, make sure you wait until late in the season so as not to destroy all the life you've worked to protect.

### **From *Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack* - Introducing the “No Blow” list: an opportunity to reduce our community's use of leaf blowers**

1. Gas blowers are very polluting. “Gas-powered Blowers” burn a mixture of gasoline and oil. Because their two-stroke engines are so inefficient, more than 30 percent of that mixture is released unburnt as aerosol.

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<sup>1</sup> This information was modified from a blog by Justin Wheeler on 6. October 2017 (Xerces Society)

2. Gas powered blowers can cause hearing loss/damage. They can cause permanent hearing damage or other hearing issues such as tinnitus after just 2 hours of exposure to a blower. Battery-operated blowers are a bit quieter.

3. All blowers can cause environmental damage to the turf. Although rakes can do their own damage, leaf blowers are particularly harmful – denuding and compacting the soil, resulting in unhealthy soil susceptible to erosion. Additionally, leaves provide important nutrients and many pollinators and other beneficial critters spend the winter in leaves (see related article “Leave the Leaves” in this Good Life)

In summary, less blowing is less noise and less damage to the turf. If we are still using gas blowers then also less pollution.

### **Proposed Solutions**

The Tamarack Maintenance Committee has included a provision in their 2023 RFP to potential maintenance contractors to give priority to proposals that specify battery-operated leaf blowers,

### **and something you can do**

For the fall season of 2022, Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack (NGT), a work group sponsored by the Maintenance Committee, will offer residents an option to sign up on a “No Blow” list. *You can choose not to have one or more garden beds/mulched beds blown free of leaves in the fall this year.* You can self-identify by email to Angie Swan our landscape supervisor. Angie will keep a “No Blow” list similar to the practice with “No Spray”.

If you sign up you will be provided (by NGT) with colored flags to place in your designated bed(s) and some instructions.

The grounds staff may also identify some common area beds to be included in the “No Blow” category.

Depending on results and interest this effort could be repeated and expanded to more areas in the fall of 2023.

We would welcome your involvement with Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack (NGT). If interested please contact Jim Waeffler at 608 831-2759.