

# 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

March 2026

## Meeting Calendar

*Meetings are open to all residents*

**Amenities Committee**  
TBD

**Architectural Review Board**  
Wednesday, March 11 - 4:30pm  
Wednesday, April 15 – 4:30 pm

**Board of Directors**  
Tuesday, March 24 - 6:30pm

**Finance Committee**  
Thursday, April 9 - 4:00pm

**Maintenance Committee**  
Tuesday, March 10 - 4:00pm  
Tuesday, April 14 – 4:00pm

**Resident Activities Committee**  
Wednesday, March 11 - 5:00pm  
Wednesday, April 8 – 5:00pm

**Welcoming Committee**  
TBD

Know Your Neighbor  
Howard & Linda Bellman

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday- Friday  
9 am – 4 pm  
Or by appointment

Stacey Haberman  
Association Manager  
[Stacey@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:Stacey@tamaracktrails.com)

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

## OPEN MEETING - COURT RENOVATION PROJECT

**MARCH 11, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

Please join us at the clubhouse for an open meeting to discuss the renovation of the Tamarack courts which is projected for 2027. The Board of Directors has approved a subcommittee to make recommendations for the design, composition, and potential contractors to complete the project. This subcommittee has six members ... Debra Martinez, Rise Fetterer, Lynn Clemens, George Jesien, Les Mirkin, and Anne Rohr. The BOD liaison is Michael Boggs.

The tennis courts (now with lines for pickleball) have long been a valued amenity at Tamarack both for the community they build as well as the enhancement of our property values. They have deteriorated over time and occasional repairs haven't been sufficient to provide a good playing surface. The courts now appear to be a serious safety issue with deep cracks and deformities. While renovations have been needed for a while, they have been pushed back on the schedule for several years due to other pressing issues for Tamarack.

The working group members are anxious to get input from all Tamarack residents regarding this project. If you can't attend the meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, we encourage you to email the office at ([jean.hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:jean.hilgers@tamaracktrails.com)) with your comments and suggestions.

Given the fact that we have tennis players as well as many pickleball players living at Tamarack, resurfaced courts will encourage more play and will draw more residents to Tamarack. So, give us your ideas. For example ...

How many tennis courts and how many pickleball courts should we have?

How much space should we use?

Should we have viewing space?

Other ideas?

Please join us on March 11<sup>th</sup> or email the office at [jean.hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:jean.hilgers@tamaracktrails.com)

## **Listening Session on Closed Meeting Policy**

The Board is inviting all residents to attend a listening session regarding closed meetings of the board.

**Monday, March 16, 2026**  
**6:30-7:30pm at the Clubhouse**

Currently, our bylaws only allow closed meetings in limited situations to ensure privacy and protect the rights of individuals involved. The Board believes there are additional circumstances where closed meetings are necessary to protect the interests of Tamarack. The proposed addition to the existing bylaws is shown below in **bold**.

*Article VIII. Section 5. Executive Sessions. All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to observers, except the President may call the Board of Directors into executive session on matters of personnel, including volunteers, and alleged infractions of published rules and regulations, **and matters regarding sensitive contract negotiations and/or litigation**. Any action taken by the Board of Directors in executive session shall be recorded in the minutes of the Association.*

This listening session is your opportunity to ask questions and share concerns.

## **Neighborhood Safety & Security Meeting – Resident Feedback Requested**

The Tamarack Trails Maintenance, Safety and Security Committee is asking Tamarack residents for their help in identifying safety and security concerns in and around our community.

The Committee is honored to welcome Captain Dan Nale and Officer Hunter Lisko of the Madison Police Department and Madison 9<sup>th</sup> District Alder Joanne Pritchett as our speakers. We will be hosting a **Neighborhood Safety & Security Meeting on Tuesday March 17, 2026, at 4:00pm at the Tamarack Clubhouse and on Zoom.**

They will be addressing recent safety and security concerns in our neighborhood, answer questions and provide us with valuable safety tips. This presentation is part of a continuing discussion about the potential purchase of security camera system to enhance surveillance and deter criminal activity.

We are inviting all residents to share their specific issues, questions or concerns that you would like to have addressed, please submit them to [stacey@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:stacey@tamaracktrails.com) or deliver them to the Tamarack office by Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>. The meeting agenda will be finalized at the March 10<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Committee Meeting.

We encourage everyone to attend, stay informed and participate in this important conversation.

## **Activities And Events**

### **Mark Your Calendars: Special Program, March 19**

Jonathan Jarosinski, Director of Loss Prevention, UW Credit Union, has been invited by the Residents' Activities Committee (RAC) to deliver a special program on cyber security to help you take proactive steps to protect yourself and your accounts.

### **Financial Crimes: Awareness and Prevention**

- Credit and debit card fraud, identity theft and phishing scams

- Precautions to take
- Protecting your computer
- Steps to take if you become a victim
- Educational and informational resources

**Date:** March 19, 2026

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 pm

**Place:** Tamarack Trails Clubhouse

### **Mark Your Calendars: March 25 Tam Talk: There Are Many Roads to Santiago**

For more than 1,000 years, pilgrims have walked to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain, where the remains of the Apostle St. James are believed to have been buried beneath the Romanesque Arch cathedral Basilica. Pilgrims walk to Santiago for many different reasons, often combining spiritual, personal, and practical motivations. Traditionally, the Camino de Santiago has been a religious pilgrimage, undertaken as an act of faith, reflection, or gratitude at the shrine of St. James. Today, many people also walk for personal renewal — to slow down, gain clarity, mark a life transition, or challenge themselves physically and mentally. The simplicity of walking day after day, meeting fellow pilgrims, and focusing on the journey rather than the destination creates a powerful sense of connection, purpose, and accomplishment.

There are many different Camino routes. Last year, Stacey Campbell walked the Camino Inglés, and Christina Finet and James Steinbach walked part of the Camino Francés. On March 25, they will be sharing their experiences and photographic journeys along the Camino.

**This program will begin at 6:30 PM in the Clubhouse with access also available on Zoom.**

## **Tamarack News and Tidbits**

### **Smart Energy Living – March Edition**

#### **Before Next Winter: Two Smart Energy Upgrades**

Here in Madison, our winters show us how our homes perform. Drafty rooms, high heating bills, and cold floors aren't random – they're signals. March is one of the best times to act, contractors are more available, rebates are active, and the lessons from winter are still fresh in mind.

#### **1. Schedule a Home Energy Check**

A professional energy assessment identifies where your home is losing heat. Many homeowners are surprised to learn that heat loss often comes from small air leaks – not big mechanical problems. Residents served by Alliant Energy or Madison Gas and Electric may qualify for discounted or free audits through the Focus on Energy program (see below).

Assessments may include blower door testing, infrared scans, and a prioritized list of fixes

Cost: \$0–\$400 (rebates may apply)

Savings: 10–20% on heating bills

#### **2. Seal the Small Gaps**

Air leaks around doors, windows, and attic/basement gaps are common, and they are often inexpensive to fix.

DIY cost: \$50–\$200  
Professional: \$500–\$2,000 (often rebate-eligible)  
Savings: \$200–\$600 per year

This low-effort step typically returns several hundred dollars per year. Beyond lowering your bills, sealing drafts reduces strain on your heating system and improves year-round comfort.

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Want to Learn More or Apply for Rebates?

- Focus on Energy: [focusonenergy.com](https://www.focusonenergy.com) — statewide rebates, audits, free energy-saving kits
- Alliant Energy: <https://www.alliantenergy.com/waystosave/rebatesandmarketplace/rebatelocatortool>  
-- heating/cooling, smart thermostat rebates, energy assessment info
- MGE: <https://www.mge.com/smart-energy/ways-to-save/incentives> -- smart thermostats, energy-saving programs, home audits
- Federal Home Energy Rebates: <https://www.energy.gov/save/home-upgrades>

**Next month: Are heat pumps practical in Wisconsin winters — and when do they make sense.**

## Board and Committee Business

 <p>Neighbor for a Greener Tamarack</p>	<p><b>Neighbors for a Greener Tamarack</b> <i>“Mow less, spray less, plant more natives.”</i></p> <p><b>Community-wide Low Mow May</b> <b>Spring No Spray Program</b> <b>Spring Leave the Leaves</b></p>
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### Community-wide Low Mow May

In 2025 the Maintenance and Safety Committee and the Tamarack Board of Directors approved Community-wide Low Mow May, which will begin in May 2026. Community-wide Low Mow May replaces the No Mow May/Low Mow May program that was only for residents who chose to participate. Community-wide Low Mow May will apply to all units and common areas. If you choose not to participate in this, please contact the office.

The goal of this program is to support spring pollinators by allowing the growth of flowers upon which they feed. Grass in Tamarack will be mowed at the end of April, once in the middle of May and weekly mowing will begin again the first week of June.

If you have questions about Low-mow May, please contact Scott Butler ([botscutler@gmail.com](mailto:botscutler@gmail.com)).

### Spring No Spray Program

Three times a year our landscape contractor applies an herbicide and a granular or liquid fertilizer to the lawns at Tamarack.

The next spray date is set for some time around the end of May. The office will send out an email blast announcing the exact date. No Spray participants are asked to place a few **red flags**

(available in the clubhouse lobby) in their yards around **May 15**. Please place the red flags at the outermost edge of your property so that the applicators can see them.

By reducing the use of herbicides on our lawns, the flowers that feed pollinators, such as bees and butterflies can grow, providing vital food sources and a safe ecosystem for them to thrive. We also protect our pets and lower the risk of long-term negative health and environmental impacts in our community and beyond.

### **Spring Leave the Leaves**

Spring is on its way! It is almost time for our lawn maintenance contractors to begin their spring clean out scheduled to begin in **mid-April**. That means you have the option of signaling to the contractors that you would like leaves to remain in your flower beds.

Why does this matter? Well, the longer the leaves are left the better it is for our pollinators and beneficial insects who use those leaves for food and shelter. It also helps the health of the soil as decomposing leaves add vital nutrients back into the soil and suppress weed growth. And it lessens the amount of air and noise pollution put out by the blowers as an added plus.

Remember to be sure to place your **white flags out by April 10**. The flags should be placed at the outside edges of your garden beds that you want protected from leaf removal. An email from the Tamarack office will let us all know the date that the contractors will start the cleanup. Please use your white flags from last year or pick up some from the Tamarack Office.

### **Board Meeting Notes – February 24, 2026**

*This is an informal report about the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. Official minutes will be posted on the Tamarack website after approval by the Board.*

#### **Updates:**

- Parking changes on Westfield near Red Maple coming in spring.
- Western Alliance Bank reiterated that it would be a problem with our pool loan if Tamarack takes on debt from our owners or another bank.
- Reserve Fund Workgroup will be drafting a list of recommendations to fund necessary reserve withdrawals while keeping reserve assessments under control.
- One opening for a Maintenance Technician. Hiring summer lifeguards is in process.

#### **Motions approved by the Board:**

- Maintenance building changes which include the removal of a garage door and relocating an exterior door.
- Allowing the board to hold meetings by electronic means.
- Removing the requirement that the Treasurer must co-sign contracts.

#### **Committee Activities & Events:**

- Committee chairs for 2026:
  - Resident Activities: Mo O'Keefe and Dean Ryerson
  - Welcoming: Denise Mirkin and Annie Brunsell with Kendra Gurnee serving as secretary.
- Tennis & Pickleball Court Improvement Ad Hoc Workgroup is presenting their initial proposal to the community on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00pm.
- Maintenance Committee is holding a safety meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 4:00pm.

*This is an informal report about the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. Official minutes will be posted on the Tamarack website after approval by the Board.*

## **Know Your Tamarack Neighbor – Howard & Linda Bellman**

You will find that this month's KNOW YOUR TAMARACK NEIGHBORS are bright, accomplished, & personable — a great combination to have here in our community. Howard and Linda Bellman of 82 Oak Creek found each other on a blind date and have spent 57 happy years together. Here are their stories.

Linda, daughter of Ella & Raymond Richards, was born & raised in Janesville, WI in a happy household that contained brother Sam, and a half-brother Ray. Ray told interesting stories of his Army Air Corp years during WWII when he spent time flying over the Hump in Burma/China.

Linda worked part-time in H.S., while being interested in dramatics, and the usher's club. Following H.S., she went to Drake for one year, and then spent the other three undergraduate years here at the UW, majoring in Social Work. She then spent two years working for the Defense Dept. in Manheim, Germany, & from there, it was back to the States (Madison) to get her Master's Degree in Social Work. She then worked for the State of Wisconsin for 15 years until she retired. She was elected to four terms on the Madison City Council before moving to Tamarack. She was president of the Lussier Center when it was built. In retirement she has done volunteer work, read, played golf, & also played some euchre with friends.

Howard, on the other hand, was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio of parents Bernard & Lillie Bellman. This family was the product of grandparents who escaped the political climate in Belarus around 1902, and came to America. Howard says though many members spoke with a strong accent like the one found in Fiddler in the Roof, they were "smarter than hell", and formed a strong family.

It is hard to know exactly what to say about Howard and his schooling because he made comments like, "Did very little" (except played in a band), and I was "a poor student." HOWEVER, he did graduate from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Political Science, plus law school at the same University, and finally a Master's Degree in Labor Law from New York University. Not too bad for someone who didn't take education too seriously!!!!

Howard then worked for the Federal Government in Detroit in Labor Relations Law for two years before coming to Madison to work on the Labor Relations Board for 11 years. He was Secretary of the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations in the '80s. He has been a life-long mediator, and says he will never retire. He still does work in private practice all over the world and some pro bono work. He has no taste for hobbies.

They have shared their lives together here in Madison. They say that what brought them together was: both were mature, both had careers, both were psychologically ready, both were conventional, & the difficulties that arose between them were overcome by their similarities. They both have had illustrious careers & believe in volunteer service.

They raised three children together: Kelly (living now in Oshkosh, WI); Amy (living in Connecticut); & Andrea (living in Colorado). They have five grandchildren.

Now you know something about two more of our wonderful neighbors. They are happy with Tamarack for a variety of reasons, and we are happy they chose us.

Joyce Hasselman Waldorf, 11 White Pine Trail