

The Good Life...

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

April 2026

Meeting Calendar

Meetings are open to all residents

Amenities Committee
TBD

Architectural Review Board
Wednesday, April 15 - 4:30pm
Wednesday, May 13 - 4:30pm

Board of Directors
Tuesday, April 28 - 6:30pm

Finance Committee
Thursday, May 14 - 4:00pm

Maintenance Committee
Tuesday, April 14 - 4:00pm
Tuesday, May 12 - 4:00pm

Resident Activities Committee
Wednesday, May 13 - 5:00pm

Welcoming Committee
TBD

Know Your Neighbor
Mike & Anne Rohr

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

Stacey Haberman
Association Manager
Stacey@tamaracktrails.com

Jean Hilgers,
Office Manager
Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com

How is This for a Win-Win-Win?

Walk to **Culvers** on Mineral Point Road (Exercise!), have a scrumptious meal (Yum!) for the benefit of the Lussier Community Center (Yah!). On **Tuesday, April 14 between 4 and 8pm**, Culvers is partnering with the Breakfast Optimists Club, whose members will assist with serving you. In return, part of the gross receipts will be donated to Lussier. The sweet spot to avoid crowds and tough parking is to arrive before 4:45 or after 6:30, but of course, you are welcome in between too.

For an additional fourth Win, consider joining our Optimists club. We meet at Lussier on Tuesday mornings for breakfast and an always-interesting speaker. We have a lot of fun together as we carry out our motto, to be a Friend of Youth, and support student scholarships, the Lussier Center, and other local non-profits. Call Don Haasl (608-843-5707), Jeanne Harrelson (608-334-0433) or George Jessien (301-509-2397) for more info.

Pedestrian Safety Improvements at Westfield and Red Maple

Alder Pritchett has worked with Traffic Engineering to implement new signage, no parking zones, and crosswalk improvements at the Westfield/Red Maple Trail entrance and crosswalk. We are hoping that the work will be done as soon as the ground thaws in April-May.

Community Town Hall: Vision, Values and Goals Discussion

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 7:00 pm

Tamarack Clubhouse In-person or Via Zoom Video Conference

The Board of Directors invites the community to participate in a Town Hall to discuss our shared values and vision for our community.

Purpose: To understand values of community members to assist decision making.

To understand priorities based upon financial realities

To develop ideas to help community grow leaders

To hear from residents about concerns

We hope to see you there! This is the first step in determining priorities. There will be follow-up with the community and if needed, additional efforts to clarify and obtain input.

More to come!

Feel free to send any comments you have in writing should you be unable to attend. There will be other opportunities for input as well

“Things Are Good”

That’s the message from the Madison Police Department. At the March 17th meeting, Captain Dan Nale and Officer Hunter Lisko discussed community safety, policing strategies and crime trends in the West Police District.

Crime figures for Tamarack between January-December 2025:

- 0 Homicides
- 0 Residential Burglaries
- 0 Non-Residential Burglaries
- 0 Theft from Auto
- 0 Stolen Autos
- 0 Shots Fired
- 0-Armed Robbery

Approximately 51 Calls for Service within Tamarack’s boundary in 2025:

- 10 Check Person calls which can include a variety of things.
- 6 Alarm calls from individual homes with alarm systems.

The remaining calls were a sprinkling of other things, but nothing that suggests repeated calls for service or serious criminal activity.

The discussion emphasized the importance of community engagement and partnerships in reducing crime. Joint efforts with the dedicated managers at Wexford Ridge and at 7933 Tree Lane have had positive effects in reducing the number of calls to those properties.

Alder Joann Pritchett was also in attendance and covered strategies for personal safety when leaving home, including carrying identification and using personal alarms. She shared tips on preventing break-ins and staying safe while walking or driving in the area.

Thank you to the Maintenance, Safety & Security Committee for organizing this program.

Activities And Events

Mark Your Calendars: Tam Talk, Wednesday, April 29th at 6:30 PM

Please plan to join your Tamarack neighbors for the April 2026 Tam Talk, “**A Journey through Africa,**” co-presented by Les and Denise Mirkin and Susan and Keith Findley.

The Mirkins and Findleys will share informative and unique experiences from their travels in Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Africa. Their personal stories include colorful photographs and videos of the animals they saw. These include trekking with White Rhino, Chimpanzees, and Gorillas, and also, game adventures in National Game Parks and on the River Nile. You’ll be able to see three UNESCO World Heritage sites (although they saw more than three) including Nelson Mandela’s prison cell on Robben Island.

Please plan to join us at the Tamarack Club House. Refreshments including a few snacks and wine from Africa will be served. A Zoom broadcast will also be provided.

Kentucky Derby Party: May 2, 2026 4:00 PM

Last year the Resident Activities Committee (RAC) hosted its first-ever Kentucky Derby Party and it proved to be such fun, we're hosting another one this year on May 2nd. This year the post time for the main race of the 152nd Kentucky Derby is approximately 5:57 PM Central Time. Therefore, we'll gather at the Clubhouse before the race or from 4:00 PM on. RAC supplies the Mint Juleps and other beverages, residents are asked to bring a snack or dessert to share. Everyone is encouraged to wear his or her favorite Derby Hat and we we'll award a prize for the best hat.

Upcoming RAC Events

The Resident Activities Committee (RAC) is planning several events this spring! We will be hosting several fun activities—an April 29th Tam Talk to learn about our neighbors' vacation to Africa, the second annual Kentucky Derby Party on May 2nd, and the first of our summer concerts on June 9th. And finally, as summer comes into view, we will be hosting a new event, the "Summer Social," which will be held poolside where we'll enjoy snacks, sweets, drinks, and the wonderful company of friends and neighbors. We will send email blasts providing all final details prior to each event. However, it's not too soon to get these upcoming events on your calendars right now!

April 29, 6:30 PM, Tam Talk: A Journey Through Africa, featuring Les and Denise Mirkin and Susan and Keith Findley

May 2, approximately 4:00 PM, Kentucky Derby Party

June 9, 6:30 PM, Summer Concert featuring "Better with Friends," poolside at the Clubhouse

June 25, 5:00 PM, "Welcome to Summer Social" at the pool

New this year, RAC has been publishing a **Calendar of Recreational Events** that is posted on both bulletin boards in the Clubhouse. We urge you to check it out when you're at the Clubhouse as we continuously add events to it as RAC finalizes dates, times, and event logistics.

Have you considered trying yoga or coming back to yoga?

A Class offered at the Tamarack Clubhouse might be right for you. Taught in the Iyengar tradition. With a focus on alignment to maintain strength and balance, the class meets at 11:00 AM every Wednesday. Please contact me if you'd like to try a class for free:

jinywerginwhite@gmail.com.

Tamarack Water Aerobics Classes for 2026 Season

It is never too early to think about making a Big Splash and gaining some health benefits* while exercising with your Tamarack neighbors right here at the Tamarack Pool.

*Hours of Fun * Increased Range of Motion * Stronger Muscles * Improved Physical Health*
* Improved Mental Health * Better Heart Rate * Time Spent Outside *
* Getting Some Vitamin D * Getting to Know Your New Neighbors*

Morning Classes

9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

For dates and details contact:

Jean Hilgers:

Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com

or Patti psponem@gmail.com

608-279-3149



Evening Classes

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

For dates and details contact:

Pat: pjmaddox1@charter.net or

Teri: teriedman@yahoo.com

New and Returning Participants always Welcome!

Tamarack News and Tidbits

Smart Energy Living – April 2026 Edition

Heat pumps in a Madison winter — are they actually practical?

Last month we raised this question, and a number of neighbors had the same reaction: *sounds interesting, but does it really work here?* Fair question!

First—what is a heat pump?

It's a system that both heats and cools your home by moving heat rather than creating it – much like your refrigerator. In winter, it pulls heat from outside air and brings it in. In summer, it works like a regular air conditioner and moves heat out. This describes an air-to-air heat pump; ground source (geothermal) heat pumps are another type, but that's a story for another time.

Now, let's get to a few of the usual concerns:

“Does it actually work when it's 10 below?”

Yes—with a caveat. Modern “cold-climate” heat pumps are designed to handle typical Madison winter temperatures, even below freezing. During extreme cold snaps (the kind we get a few times a year), many systems use a backup heat source to keep things comfortable. That's normal and part of the design.

“Will my electric bill go through the roof?”

Not necessarily. While heat pumps run on electricity, they're very efficient because they move heat instead of generating it. Many households see overall energy costs similar to—or a bit lower than—older furnace/AC setups, especially with current utility rates and available rebates.

“Is this just being pushed for environmental reasons?”

For some people, that's part of the appeal. But for many homeowners, the interest is simpler:

one system instead of two, steady indoor comfort, and competitive operating costs over time. Whether it makes sense really depends on the building and the existing equipment.

“What if it breaks—are repairs complicated?”

They’re not exotic systems, but they are newer to some contractors. The good news is that more HVAC companies in the Madison area are installing and servicing them every year, so support is improving quickly.

“Do I have to get rid of my furnace?”

Nope. Some setups keep a furnace as backup (often called a “dual-fuel” system), which can ease concerns about the coldest days.

So what’s the takeaway?

Heat pumps aren’t a perfect fit for every condo, but they’re no longer just a “mild climate” option. Around Madison, they’re becoming a practical choice—especially when it’s time to replace aging equipment.

If you’re curious about costs, rebates, or how this might work in your unit, take a look at the resources below.

Resources:

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin – Heat Pumps
<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/OEI/HeatPumps.aspx>

Focus on Energy – Heating & Cooling Rebates
<https://focusonenergy.com/residential/heating-and-cooling>

Next month: Spring is here—what one maintenance task will keep your bills low?

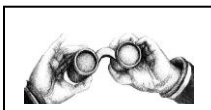
Board and Committee Business

ARB News, Updates & Reminders

Tasked with Updating the BOS

When the last update to the Book of Standards (BOS) was approved in April of 2023 by the Tamarack Board, it came with the recommendation that the document would be reviewed and updated every three years. Well, here we are in 2026 and already ARB members have volunteered to research and draft changes, additions or deletions for the BOS update to be saved for a possible roll out yet this year. The topics being reviewed originated from our Annual Walk Arouns, items not now contained in the BOS and items in BOS needing further clarification.

The topics being reviewed for possible BOS update include-- screen rooms (kits); exterior lighting (add accent lighting); healthy tree removal; ramps and graspable handrails; doors and door colors; trellises; exterior trim; house numbers; “same/same or like/like” replacements; gable vents; and the removal of abandoned attachments. **Watch for progress and opportunities to provide input.**



Still Searching for Another ARB Member

Like most committees, the maximum number of members is seven. ARB currently has six hard-working and committed members; therefore, one seat still can still be filled! **This could be YOU!** Contact either co-chair with your interest—Barrett Karabis or Jean MacCubbin.

ARB Annual Walk Around

We are hoping to put teams together for May and June to begin this annual task. Always looking for residents who'd like to join us; Maintenance Committee members too are encouraged to join in!

Reminders— Meetings and Due Dates

Meeting Dates (Weds. 4:30 pm Clubhouse)	Completed Requests Due Dates	Meeting Dates (Weds. 4:30 pm Clubhouse)	Completed Requests Due Dates
*April 15	March 30	August 12	July 29
May 13	April 29	September 9	August 26
June 10	May 27	October 14	September 30
July 8	June 24	November 11	October 28
August 12	July 29	No December	Meeting

*April date moved to the 3rd Weds. due to the April General Election.

Board Meeting Notes – March 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:

- Heavy snow and wind in March caused tree damage.
- A couple of homes sustained interior damage from broken water pipes.
- Recruiting for a maintenance technician, grounds supervisor and lifeguards.
- Revisiting potential diving platform for the pool in the future.
- Reserve Fund Work Group is soliciting recommendations to fund the estimated \$4 to 5 million cost of the roof replacements scheduled for 2029-2033.
- Community Town Hall is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd at 7pm.

Motions approved by the Board:

- Bylaw changes to Article VIII, Section 5 adding *contract negotiations and/or litigation* as reasons for convening in executive session.
- H.J. Pertzborn Plumbing proposal in the amount of \$4,977.00 to provide plumbing review and repair services, including video of the drain line, for the pool cleanouts.
- Struck & Irwin proposal in the amount of \$70,978.00 for the removal of the existing fencing and installation of new at the Wexford property line.
- Michael Boggs was appointed as liaison to the Ad Hoc Website Work Group.
- Tamarack Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Vista West at 7pm. The board meeting will be held the week before on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

Committee Activities & Events:

- ARB is researching an alternate style for house numbers.
- ARB Walk Around is scheduled for May or June.
- Garden Committee officers were elected: Dean Ryerson – chair; Peggy Siebers – secretary.
- Safety Meeting hosted by the Maintenance Committee reported that “Things are good!” at Tamarack.

Know Your Tamarack Neighbor – Mike & Anne Rohr

This month, I had the pleasure of interviewing Mike and Anne Rohr of 78 Oak Creek. They gave me a lot of information, we had a few laughs, and then it was my job to squeeze all I received onto one page.

Both were born and raised in Madison, but he went to Central, and she to West H.S. Mike's parents were Harold & Vina Rohr, and Anne's were Harold & Rosemary Donahue. Their meeting was unusual & shows us that no matter what our ages, we should be open to new opportunities. They told me that two cars of teenage boys & girls pulled up separately to an area in Shorewood. The occupants got out & Anne threw a snowball at Mike. He returned it, and the rest led to married history of 61 years.

Mike grew up in a home with five siblings, and when it came time for him to go to school after H.S., he chose Madison Business College to major in Business Administration (Accounting). He was into Medical Group Management for 39 years, and this necessitated that he spend 13 years in Madison; 15 years in St. Petersburg, FL; and 12 years in Colorado. Upon retirement, he moved the family back to Madison.

Anne who is one of five sisters, comes quite naturally, from a family that is very female oriented. After H.S., Anne went for nurses training at St. Mary's Hospital, and worked there for some time/ Later, she taught Childbirth Classes for 15 years to women in Madison & Florida.

I asked what attracted each to the other, and they said they were both athletic, and liked the outdoors; both were catholic & had come from families with 5 children; and both were social. Whatever the reason, their marriage has worked for a long time. Even now they do a variety of things together like walking their 12# Markie dog, Barney; going to their liberal catholic church; going out for fish at either Hilltop, North & South; or Sugar River Pizza; attending each other's social clubs; or traveling.

They have three children, 1: Tim, a chef out west, 2) Michael who sells Sentry Insurance in Wausau, WI, and Tracey who sells Liberty Mutual Insurance in West Bend, WI. Growing up, the whole family enjoyed camping and traveling, and they have done a lot of both in the U.S.

One thing that they are very proud of is the RAGBRAI (Registers Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa.) This ride entails 6 days and 5 nights with rides of 60-80 miles/day. Mike has done 4 of these while Anne has done 10. They rode with a group called the Dairyaires from the east side of Madison, and their Tshirts were noteworthy. The front showed the front end of a cow, and the back of the shirt showed the back end of a cow!! This was noted by a TV station.

Mike has also run in the 20-mile Syttende Mai race; hunted (deer & elk); and does a lot of fishing. Currently, he goes three days/week to Verona to the Blackhawk Bowhunters Archery Club to "shoot with the old guys." This club also has the goal of teaching responsible hunting.

Now, Anne uses her skill as a seamstress to help out her whole family; she reads some & likes to do pot gardening; she belongs to a Tuesday morning Tamarack coffee group; and she also likes to go to garage & estate sales with her sisters.

Both Anne & Mike have held offices with Tamarack, and Mike is a past president of the Breakfast Optimist Club of Madison. Lucky Tamarack to have these two special people living here.

Joyce Hasselman Waldorf— 11 White Pine Trail