

# The Good Life...

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(608) 833-1615 – www.tamaracktrails.com

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## Meeting Calendar

*Meetings are open to all residents.*

Maintenance Committee  
Tuesday, November 7 – 4:00 pm

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, November 21 - 6:00 pm

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, December 19 - 6:00 pm

Architectural Review Board  
Wednesday, January 3 - 7:00 pm

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## Event Calendar

*Please mark your calendars.*

Tamarack Holiday Party  
Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 pm

Tamarack Bridge  
Wednesdays from 6:30-10:00 pm

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## Office Hours

Mon & Wed-Fri 9 am – 4 pm  
Tuesday 9 am – 6 pm

October- November 2017

## Current News

### Annual Meeting Report

82 Tamarack residents attended the October 23, 2017 Annual Meeting. The meeting was held in the very nice conference room at High Point Church. George Meyer (Treasurer) presented the 2018 Budget and provided an overview of Tamarack's investment fund. Lou Glauner (Manager) reviewed highlights from the 2016 Financial Summary and major projects completed this year. Linda Vahldieck (Vice-President) presented a report from President, Larry Wolfinger (who was unable to attend). The report talked about challenges faced by the Board including the tight labor market in Dane County and the need to adjust staff salaries to remain competitive. Other topics covered included the equitable distribution of Tamarack's maintenance and grounds services. A thank you to Janet Hirsch, Jean MacCubbin and resident volunteers for their work on the West Place Workgroup and the upcoming service level survey. All of the committee members and chairs were recognized and thanked. George Meyer and Larry Wolfinger, the two departing Board members, were thanked for their time and service on the Board. The meeting concluded with prizes donated by the Tamarack board, committees, and staff, being raffled away to lucky residents by Jean MacCubbin with assistance from new residents Kameswari Konduri (93 Oak Creek) and Brian Shore (86 Oak Creek).

### Election of Directors

The annual election of board members was held at the Annual Meeting. Howard Bellman and Jean MacCubbin were re-elected to a second term and we welcome new members Andy Owca and Antonio Galvan. The elected Directors serve a two-year term which begins after the November 2017 Board meeting.

## **Annual Meeting – Committee and US Bank Reports Available on Website**

The committee and US Bank reports from the Annual Meeting are posted on the Tamarack website. The committee reports provide a summary of the past year's accomplishments and highlight projects for 2018 and the future. The US Bank report provides a breakdown of the holdings and historical performance of Tamarack's investment funds.

## **Board and Committee Business**

### **Board Approves Revision of By Laws**

At their September 19 meeting the Board of Director approved the revision of Tamarack's By Laws, Article VII Officers, Section 6 Duties, Item (b). Following is the approved text:

*“(b) Vice-President/President Elect. The Vice-President/President Elect shall act in the place and stead of the President in the event of his/her absence, inability or failure to act, and shall exercise and discharge such duties as may be required by the Board of Directors. Upon completion of the President's term in office, unless the President is re-elected, the Vice President/President-Elect will assume the Presidency, if so voted by the Board.”*

The complete By-Laws including this revision are available on the [Tamarack website](#).

### **Budget Hearing & 2018 Budget Revised**

Approximately forty homeowners attended the September 27 budget hearing. George Meyer (Treasurer) reviewed the proposed budget and explained the importance of the Reserves and need to build the fund to cover the projected cost for the future repair and replacement of underground water and sewer main pipes. Trimming expenses in other areas has helped control the overall increase in the average monthly assessment (AMA) which is \$10 (3.1%) for 2018.

At the hearing, homeowners requested that the 2018 Budget include funds for a 17 week pool season and presented a petition to this affect which was signed by over 100 residents. Several homeowners present also expressed concern about deferred maintenance in the areas of fence and deck rail painting, trim repairs and shrub trimming as well as a willingness to increase the AMA to hire additional staff to get caught up. The Board is planning to conduct a service level survey to obtain homeowner input for use in developing future budget and fiscal policy.

In response to comments at the hearing, the Finance Committee identified and the Board approved funds to add some temporary staff this fall to assist our full time staff in catching up on maintenance and landscape work orders.

At their October 17 meeting the Board agreed to return the pool season to 17 weeks with the additional cost covered by a \$1,775 reduction in other expenses and the addition of \$1,725 income from the hail damage insurance proceeds. The net of the changes keeps the increase in the monthly AMA at \$10.

The Board will take final action on the budget at their November 21 meeting.

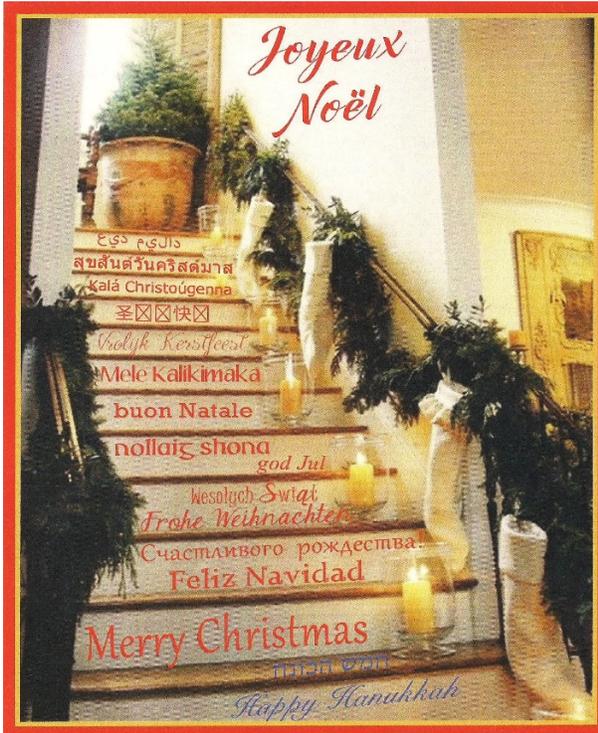
### **Garden Committee Seeking New Members**

The Tamarack community garden is located at the corner of Tree Lane and Westfield Road. The Garden Committee is looking for new members to help plan and oversee the use of this amenity. The Garden Committee meets two to three times per year to review gardening policies, set the rental rates for plots and coordinate a fall pot luck get together. If you enjoy gardening and would be interested in becoming a member of the committee please submit a brief letter stating background and interest to the current committee chair, Sandy Drew ([sdrew24@tds.net](mailto:sdrew24@tds.net)) or the office.

## **Architectural Review Board (ARB) - fall "Walk Around" between 11/24 - 12/10**

Members of the Architectural Review Board will be doing their annual "Walk Around" Tamarack properties from November 24 through December 10. The ARB inspects the exterior for safety and maintenance issues as well as overall compliance with the Book of Standards. If you see us around and want to point out areas of concern, please let us know.

## **Activities & Events**



## **TAMARACK HOLIDAY PARTY**

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 14, 2017  
6:30PM – 8:30PM**

Bring an appetizer or a  
dessert to share

Beverages - beer, wine and  
soda will be provided

## **Scheduled Projects and Reminders**

### **Seasonal Reminders**

The attached "Seasonal Reminders & Projects" cover the following topics: *Leaf Cleanup, Perennial Maintenance, Alternate Side Parking, Small White Miniature Lights, Holiday Decoration Guidelines, Snow Removal Procedures, Winter Placement of City Recycling Carts, and Winter Projects.* Copies are available on the Tamarack website and at the clubhouse bulletin board.

### **Maintenance Projects**

Here is the fall update on the work schedule for the remainder of this year. With additional part time staff and nice weather considerable progress was made on the work order back log the past month. All fence painting is being done based upon inspection and only the fences in the poorest condition are being painted.

- a. Painting of fences in Phase 1 was completed in October.
- b. Some fence painting will continue in Phases 3-4 during the first two weeks in November.
- c. Gutter cleaning is being performed once all of the leaves have dropped from the trees near your home.

- d. Work on deck and trim replacement requests will continue thru November and December.
- e. On inclement days in late November and December staff will begin to work on the dryer vent cleaning requests.
- f. Phase 2 all fences and deck rails will be done in 2018.

### **News from the Grounds Crew**

We are pleased to let you know that Angie Swan has been hired as our new Grounds Superintendent. Angie has degrees in horticulture and soil science from UW-Platteville. She did her internship at Olbrich Gardens, then worked for several years at the Bruce Company and more recently has been employed at Avant Gardening in McFarland. Bob Schroeder served as one of her references, so we feel we are in good hands and look forward to her starting work at Tamarack in mid-November.

Jason and Jeff have completed mulching all trails, backfilled along all the new sidewalks, completed all the fall shearing requests, planted the supply of new plants recently delivered and started work on pruning and trimming in Phase 5 (Cedar Creek and Pine Ridge). As they move through Phase 5 and on to Phase 4 (Oak Creek), they will attend to the resident work orders received from those trails. They will prune and trim throughout the winter. The Finance Committee recently identified, and the Board approved, funding for a temporary worker to assist Jay and Jeff this fall as they work to address the work order requests assigned to them. Soon, they will be getting all the vehicles winterized and the sand barrels put out in preparation for winter.

Finally, it's been a little like having Santa arrive at the Maintenance Building. Our 17-year old truck has "seen better days" and Tamarack recently purchased a used, but like new, pick-up truck. We will be purchasing a plow for that truck. And, we also purchased a new salt spreader and a large rotating brush that can be attached to the front of our Bobcat to make snow removal on the city sidewalks much easier and with better results.

### **Yard Waste Collection Extended thru November 17**

The Tamarack staff is collecting yard waste on Monday and Friday each week. Due to the unusually warm weather we will collect yard waste for two more weeks. The last collection date will be Friday, November 17. After this date you can place your yard waste in the "Landscape Dumpster" in front of the maintenance building.

All contractors are responsible for disposal of their own trash or yard waste. If you hire a contractor to perform your yard work, they should not place it at the end of drive for collection by Tamarack staff. They should haul it off site or may place it in the dumpster in front of the maintenance building.

### **Preparing for the Snow Season**

Sand barrels and snow plowing markers will be placed on the Trails in mid-November. The sand is available for resident use on their sidewalks and drives. After any snowfall accumulation greater than one inch, Maple Leaf will plow the streets & driveways, and Hauser Tree Care & Tamarack staff will shovel the individual sidewalks.

### **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 located at the end of this newsletter to order your ice melt. We keep the salt on hand for sale throughout the winter.

## **House Checks**

For those heading to warmer climates, Tamarack staff will conduct weekly house checks at a cost of \$7 per week. If you are interested in this service, please email [Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com).

A winter/vacation check list is available at [www.tamaracktrails.com](http://www.tamaracktrails.com)

## **Trash Collection Holiday Schedule**

The week of Thanksgiving Waste Management collection will occur on Saturday (one day later than normal). Collection will also occur on Saturday on Christmas and New Year's holiday weeks. For residents using the city recycling program, there will be no change to the regular schedule.

## **Safety Tips and Did You Know**

### **Safety Tips**

**Post Light Switch Should be Left On** – All Tamarack homeowners should leave the switch to the exterior post light in the on position at all times. The post light is controlled by a photo cell which turns the light on at dusk and off at dawn automatically. If your post light does not come on, and you've already changed the bulb, just submit a maintenance request and we will check the photo cell and socket.

**Keep Windows and Doors Locked** - With fall comes cooler temperatures and a desire to open the windows for some fresh air. As a safety reminder please be sure to close and lock your windows when you will not be home. Most thefts are crimes of opportunity and an open window may serve as an invitation for an uninvited guest. For more safety tips just visit the links to [Community Safety Tips](#) and [Burglary Prevention](#) on the Tamarack website.

**Protect Spigot from Freezing** - It is a good idea to turn off the water to any exterior spigot and remove the hose so the frost-free portion of the spigot can drain correctly.

### **Did You Know – Evergreens have a “Seasonal Needle Drop”**

Every year, evergreens experience a seasonal needle drop that is a normal part of the plant's cycle. Many evergreen needles, as they age, will turn yellow, then brown, and drop off after one to several years. In times of drought, needle browning may be particularly noticeable, because more needles are shed in response to environmental stress.

White pines show the most dramatic needle drop change. Their annual loss of needles can be especially alarming on mature white pines, as the number of yellow needles will outnumber the current season's green growth. Typically, white pines will retain needles for three years, but in autumn, 2-or-3-year-old needles will change color and drop, leaving only the current season's growth still attached.

Arborvitae sheds branchlets rather than needles which usually turn brown as they age, yet remain on the tree for quite some time before the entire small section of branch falls. Yew needles turn yellow and drop in late spring or early summer of their third year.

*Article summarized from “Seasonal Needle Drop”, The Morton Arboretum, <http://www.mortonarb.org/>*

# Tamarack News and Tidbits

## Food Pantry Update – October 2017

This month the Pantry continues to especially need hearty soups, olive oil, syrup and healthy crackers. As always, please bring your donation of non-perishable food and money (checks made out to the Lussier Center and identified as being for the Food Pantry) to the Tamarack Office. Food is collected to the left in the Office entry and picked up the third Tuesday of each month. In October, the pick-up/delivery volunteers are Sandy Drew and Dee Seyfarth. Many thanks to September's volunteers, Janice Gratch and Gene and Marge Miller.

We are happy to announce that another Tamarack resident has joined our volunteer ranks: A big welcome to Bev Mazur. We're delighted to have a Raging Granny with us! We are always happy to welcome new volunteers.

Please let me know of any questions or concerns regarding the Pantry or what being a volunteer entails.

Sybil Letzing - Tamarack Lussier Food Pantry Coordinator  
608-698-9232 • [letzing.sybil@gmail.com](mailto:letzing.sybil@gmail.com)

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## **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 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_