

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.

Finance Committee
Wednesday, February 28 - 4:00 pm

Welcoming Committee
Monday, March 5 - 10:30 am

Architectural Review Board
Wednesday, March 7 - 7:00 pm

Maintenance Committee
Thursday, March 8 – 4:00 pm

Amenities Committee
Thursday, March 8 – 4:00 pm

Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 19 - 6:30 pm

Maintenance Committee
Tuesday, April 10 – 4:00 pm

Event Calendar

Please mark your calendars.

Tamarack Champagne & Chocolate
Tuesday, March 6 from 6:30-8:30 pm

Tamarack Spring Brunch
Saturday, April 21 from 11 am -1 pm

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

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9 am – 4 pm

Current News

Snow Removal & Salting Expectations

Snow removal at Tamarack is a complex operation. It involves two contractors and Tamarack staff performing specific tasks during each snowfall. To complicate things the initial planning for each snow event is based on forecasts leading up to the storm. The timing for each task then varies based on the changing conditions (light snow, heavy wet snow, ice and drifting) during the storm.

During snow plowing operations on Friday, February 9, Maple Leaf experienced some equipment breakdowns which led to delays with Tamarack plowing operations. A plow broke down at another residential route and the plow from Tamarack was diverted. This resulted in some of the Trail centers not being plowed until late morning and early afternoon. Maple Leaf did send a Bobcat with a plow blade midmorning; but, as the driver was unfamiliar with Tamarack plowing operations, he made a bit of a mess on some of the Oak Creek Trail centers and then was pulled to a different site. Additionally, one of the three skid-steers (Bobcats) on site at Tamarack was not operational due to mechanical problems. Maple Leaf was able to divert additional equipment to Tamarack later in the day, but driveway clearing ran about two to three hours longer than normal due to the equipment problems. We have asked Maple Leaf to review their plowing operations to address and help prevent this type of situation from reoccurring.

Unrelated to this snow plowing event, the Maintenance Committee discussed snow pile locations, areas of ice that form on the trails due to melting snow piles and salting operations (which are performed by Tamarack Staff). Based on their discussion the Maintenance Committee requested that an article be placed in the Good Life that informs owners of what should be expected during both plowing and salting operations. This article appears on the next page.

What to Expect – Plowing, Shoveling & Salting -

Plowing and Shoveling are performed after any snowfall greater than 1":

Plowing of the Trail centers normally starts about one hour prior to the end of the snowfall and should be completed within 1 or 2 hours of snowfall end. The Trail centers include all of the Trails and cul-de-sacs except for the 320 individual driveways. The plowing of the Trail centers is performed by Maple Leaf using a pickup truck with a plow blade.

During a major snow event the 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 it slows down all other plowing and shoveling operations. If you need to get out during a major snow event, please call the emergency number 259-2750.

Clearing of the individual drives does not start until the snowfall has ended and only occurs once during each snow event. In a normal snow fall (1 to 6") all driveway clearing should be completed in 6 to 8 hours. For example, on Friday, February 9 the snow stopped around 8:30 am and all of the driveways should have been cleared by 4:30 pm. Maple Leaf driveway clearing ran until about 6:30 or approximately two hours longer than what is expected. In a heavier snow event clearing of driveways can take 10 to 12 hours.

Shoveling Individual Walks:

Shoveling of individual walks is performed when the snow depth is greater than one inch. Half of the shoveling is performed by Hauser Tree Care and the other half by Tamarack Staff.

Shoveling is normally completed by 10 to 11 am for and overnight snowfall or within six hours of the snow stopping during a daytime snow event.

During a very heavy snow event shoveling crews may decide to clear a single path to each front porch and return later to widen the walk and clear the porch. We will communicate this to affected residents if the shoveling will be performed in this manner. 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 six inches. It can clear the walk to bare concrete and has greatly reduced the amount of salt used on the city sidewalks.

During any snow event with less than 1" of snow:

No shoveling of individual sidewalks 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).

Welcome Tim Hanson to Tamarack Staff

Tim Hanson is a new addition to the Maintenance Staff. During his first four months he has worked on several carpentry and deck building projects.

Tim hails from Portsmouth, Virginia where his father was stationed in the Navy as a welder. He bounced around a few locations in Wisconsin with a majority of the time in Richland Center. He attended Monona Grove High School as a freshman and sophomore and Riverdale High School in Muscoda his junior and senior years. Tim has two sisters, Tia and Alisha. Every other year Tim takes a trip to Italy with his mother to visit extended family at the house where his mom grew up. Tim played two years of beach volleyball and lettered in volleyball as a freshman and sophomore at Monona Grove HS. Growing up Tim helped his dad with chores on the farm which included feeding and milking the cows at 5 am and 5 pm. Tim chose to go into the building trades and worked six years in residential home construction. He then worked for 12 years as Director of Maintenance at an assisted living facility in Portage. I have received several positive comments on Tim's job performance from Tamarack residents and we are glad to have him aboard.



Safety Forum – Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30 pm

There will be a Safety and Crime Prevention forum Tuesday, April 10, at 6:30 pm at the Tamarack Clubhouse. The guest speaker will be Officer Emily Samson (Crime Prevention and Crime Stoppers Coordinator).

She will cover the following topics followed by a question and answer session.

1. Burglar in your home.
2. Someone tries to take your purse from you.
3. You happen to be nearby when a random shooting incident occurred.
4. Should you approach a suspicious looking group of teens?
Should you take their picture?
5. Ways to prevent or reduce the likelihood of being a victim of a burglary, smash and grab or purse snatching.

Cory Nelson (West District Captain of Police) and Alderman Paul Skidmore will also be in attendance at this event.

Remember to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. You can sign up to receive police incident reports directly by subscribing at:

www.cityofmadison.com/police/newsroom/incidentreports/index.cfm

Board and Committee Business

Finance Committee News

The Finance Committee (FC) held its first meeting of 2018 on January 24th. The primary focus of this meeting was a discussion of our Investment Account which is managed by David Ellestad's team at U.S. Bank. 2017 was a very good year for our investment account which totals \$481,160. Over the past three years, our account has earned \$61,814. Equities have been a big reason for the growth with a return of 22.29 % while the fixed income (bonds) portion of our portfolio earned 4.7%. All of our investments are in diversified funds.

We also reviewed the accounting of the 2017 hail damage claim. The claim was large enough to cover all necessary building repairs with funds remaining to purchase a new truck, snow plow for the truck, a snow brush for use on the city sidewalks and a salt spreader. We will save money by not having to depreciate these items. Lou was able to sell our old truck and the salt spreader that was too large for our use.

We meet in February on the 28th at which time we will review the end of year status of the 2017 Operating and Reserve Funds. We anticipate being in solid financial shape.

Prudy Stewart, Chair Finance Committee

Maintenance Committee News

The maintenance committee has changed its meeting schedule so that it will meet all year around. There certainly is enough business to do and this way nothing will be left to wait. We will still be meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 4 pm.

The number of projects and owner requests have been a big issue. Residents have expressed concern about ensuring exterior and grounds projects getting done to maintain the great look Tamarack has. The committee, at the request of the board, has been reviewing the number of requests from owners and looking to find a way to better manage them. In some cases, individual owners have had 30 maintenance requests placed in a year while most average 5 or less.

The committee is working with the maintenance supervisor Josh and grounds supervisor Angie to discuss their work flow, the types of requests they get and their ideas for how accomplish things in the most efficient and equitable manner. This will include things like clumping similar types of requests into like groups to be done on a schedule and establishing priority categories. Of course, any emergency will still be dealt with first. The committee forwarded recommendations to the board for review and comment. We will be finalizing them at the March meeting. Thanks to Liz Farnham and Don Haasl for their work in developing the recommendations.

“Do not pile snow here” signs have become as numerous as dandelions in spring. So much so that there were few places to put snow in some areas. The committee directed the grounds staff to remove them in most cases. Angie will be working with residents on a case by case basis to determine need and placement. Please be flexible and understanding.

Spring is just around the corner and work activity will be ramping up. Thanks to our very hard-working maintenance and grounds staff.

Jayne Meyer, Chair Maintenance Committee

Activities & Events

Champagne & Chocolate

Tuesday, March 6, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Live harp music provided by artist Mary Ann Harr, professional harpist.

\$10.00 per person.

Call Jean at Tamarack Trails for reservations 608-833-1615.



Seasonal Reminders & Projects

Grounds Update

The Landscape crew has been working on snow events, one after another. We are also doing some club car maintenance and cleaning shop. As the snow melts, we will be getting outside to continue dormant pruning in Phase 2 in the month ahead. If weather is good, we will also prune Phase 3 which will complete work in all Phases.

Angie Swan – Grounds Superintendent

Maintenance Update

This month we will continue working on decks. Mitch has finished dryer vent cleanings. Tim is doing the occasional interior projects, as well as working on decks. We will move to more exterior projects with things warming up. Interior projects will be done as time permits in the order they are received, Spring is almost here!!!

Josh Ostertag – Maintenance Superintendent

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.

Safety Tip

Safety Tip – "Preventing a Washing Machine Disaster"

Burst washing machine hoses are one of the most common causes of catastrophic water damage in homes. If you have rubber hoses that connect the washing machine, then it's a good idea to replace them.

Every time a washing machine shuts off the water, a shockwave is sent through the water pipes. While installing a water hammer arrestor at the valve will protect the pipes downstream from the valve, this does nothing to protect the rubber hoses between the valve and the washing machine from water hammer.

As rubber ages, it loses its flexibility. After being subjected to water hammer over and over for many years, the rubber washing machine hose is eventually going to fail. Here are a few suggestions to lower the risk of your washing machine hoses suddenly bursting.

Turn off the water supply to the washing machine when not in use. Washing machine manufacturers tell you to do this in their installation instructions but it is a step rarely taken by homeowners.

Replace your old rubber hoses regularly. A good rule of thumb is to replace rubber washing machine hoses every five years.

Install an emergency shutoff kit. You can purchase an emergency shutoff kit, such as the type sold by [Floodstop \(http://www.getfloodstop.com\)](http://www.getfloodstop.com), which will almost surely prevent any type of catastrophic leak. These devices come with a water sensor, so if a leak is detected, an alarm goes off and the water supply valves automatically close. These kits are battery powered, and according to the web site, can be installed in about 10 minutes. Not a bad idea.

Install stainless steel braided hoses. This is the simplest step to take to help prevent a burst hose. Stainless steel braided hoses are much more resistant to bursting, and they're fairly inexpensive. You can buy a pair on [Amazon](#) for under \$17. There's a new version of these hoses called Floodsafe®, which is supposed to completely shut off the water supply in the event of a burst hose.



Tamarack News and Tidbits

Know Your Neighbor - HERE COMES.....

Cute and furry,
 whether big or little.
 A wily opponent,
 with big teeth
 Hops, runs and eats in my
 neighborhood --
 Lilies and poppies.
 Stops and stares,
 with little fear.
 Full of destructive inclinations.
 Prolific and adaptable
 Not my friend at White Pine Trail.
 Ignores my needs and wants
 like a selfish lover.
 Continues eating.
 No end in sight so fences built.
 Trade ambiance for practicality
 To win small battles,
 but never the war.

By Joyce Hasselman Waldorf

***** ✂***** ✂***** ✂***** **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 = \$ _____