

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

May 2022

Meeting Calendar

Meetings are open to all residents.

Architectural Review Board

Wednesday, June 8 – 4:00 pm

Resident Activities Committee

Wednesday, June 8 – 5:00 pm

Maintenance Committee

Tuesday, June 14 – 4:00 pm

Finance Committee

Wednesday, June 15 – 3:00 pm

Board of Directors

Tuesday, June 28 – 6:30 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday
9 am – 4 pm
Or by appointment

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

Current News

We need your help finding Lifeguards for our pool!

We're looking everywhere for summer lifeguards to work at our Olympic size swimming pool.

And we need your help! *You may already know that across the state (even the U.S.) there is a shortage of lifeguards. Pools and beaches are seeking help everywhere!*

Why the urgency? WE CANNOT OPEN THE POOL WITHOUT LIFEGUARDS, PER THE CITY.

Please use your networks to see if friends may know someone or may have students who would be interested - anybody who may be a good candidate!

Here are the specifics you can share:

Flexible hours (16-30 per week)

Two different daily shifts available: 9:15-2:45 pm or 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Work 1-2 shifts per week - or more, if your schedule allows

\$14-\$16 per hour

Pool opens: Saturday, May 28, 2022.

Applicants must have current certifications in Lifeguard Training, CPR, and First Aid. *Tamarack is willing to pay the cost of classes to obtain certifications if someone is interested.*

All interested applicants should contact Jean Hilgers at the Tamarack Office: 608-833-1615.

Activities and Events



Come and Join your Friends and Neighbors at the Tamarack **Spring Brunch!** It will be on June 12th from 10 AM- 12 PM. Flyer with more information and RSVP form attached to this email/newsletter.

Tamarack Water Aerobics Classes for 2022 Season

It is time 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 * Social Distancing * Time Spent Outside *

Morning Classes

9:00 - 9:50 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

For dates and details contact:
Jean jean.hilgers@tamarack.com
or Patti psponem@gmail.com



Evening Classes

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

For dates and details contact:
Jean citizenjean2@gmail.com,
Pat pjmaddox@chater.net or
Judy judybl@tds.net

Free Concerts in the Park

May 30 - Salute to Veterans
Forest Hill Cemetery, 1 Speedway Rd, Madison - FREE concert and ceremony
9:15 AM Concert/10 AM Ceremony
Bring a lawn chair. Madison Veterans Council and VFW Band conducted by Jim Latimer. For information, call 608 835-9861

Thursdays July 7 through August 25 – 7 pm
Rennebohm Park - 115 N. Eau Claire Ave. - Madison
Bring a chair; bring a friend, enjoy toe-tapping music CAPITOL CITY BAND
Jim Latimer, conductor. For information, call 608 835-9861

6:30 PM, Rennebohm Park, Madison
Salute the Troops - then and now. Capitol City Band conducted by Jim Latimer
Color Guard VFW Post 7591 For information, call 608 835-9861
Bring a lawn chair for listening comfort.

Fun Bridge Party

Join your friends and neighbors for a fun evening of friendly bridge!

All experience levels welcome!

When: Wednesday June 15, 6:30-9:00 PM

Where: Tamarack Clubhouse

Who: All Tamarack bridge players invited

Free, no advance registration need



Cards, tables and light refreshments provided.

For More information, contact: Mike McCowin, 7437 Cedar Creek Trail, 608-235-0649 or niwoocm@gmail.com

Seasonal Reminders & Projects

Summer Reminders from the ARB

As we begin to set up our outdoor area on our decks and patios, we must remind ourselves of local requirements for items such as grills and portable outdoor heating units. Safety, liability and impacts on insurance coverage are major concerns to Tamarack; Unit Owners shall take full responsibility for any damage to property due to use of these outdoor items. (Open fires and fire pits are not allowed in Tamarack as per City Guidelines.)

Patios, decks, sidewalks and driveways may provide a suitable base for these items. The ARB allows the Unit Owner to install up to a 15 sq. ft. area of concrete pavers or bricks as a base for a grill or an outdoor portable space heating unit at a safe distance from the Living Unit, but within the Unit Lot and not on common area. Be mindful too of set back requirements to combustible materials, such as building siding, wood deck railings, and overhanging tree branches.

The Tamarack Office has been in communication with City Fire Department and will rely on city-wide allowances or prohibitions regarding use of these items. Any natural gas connections must conform the MG&E requirements. See City's Guidelines for grills at:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/fire/your-safety/home/grill-guidelines>. See also City's Fire Safety Guidelines for Portable Outdoor Wood Fireplaces & Fire Pits at

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/fire/your-safety/home/outdoor-and-open-burning>. From our reading and as per City guidelines, these items would NOT be allowed on a Unit Lot.

Let's talk trash!

ARB

With the warmer months just around the corner, we all begin to look at changes inside and outside our Living Units. These changes may result in the need to remove various items from our household.

Just as a reminder, the large dumpsters at the Clubhouse are NOT for your exclusive use, exception being that one dumpster specifically used for yard waste.

Recyclopedia and Waste Drop Off Sites: There are numerous ways to manage used and no-longer-needed items of all sizes-- donate, recycle, sell, consign, or direct it to the trash. The Internet is a good source for "finding a home" for these items. It is always a good first step to find if the item you want to discard must have a city permit sticker for disposal or can be dropped off at a city collection site; see recyclopedia at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/2021-recyclopedia> **The nearest collection side is 402 South Point Rd.; check online first for days and times and if a fee or sticker is required for your item(s). Check your local library too if you can purchase a needed sticker.**

Weekly Trash Container: If the item is not recyclable or not hazardous and can fit into your bin for weekly trash pickup, please use this method of disposal.

Online Request for Large Item Pickup and Disposal: In 2021 the city implemented a new program to replace the previous recurring one week of the month schedule. More information on the new program is available at www.cityofmadison.com/collectionschedule. This program now requires residents to **request a pickup date** and place items out for collection NO EARLIER than 6:30 p.m. on the DAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED COLLECTION DAY provided by the city. As with City trash and recycling, TT will adhere to the City's guidelines for making Online Request for Large Item Pickup and in doing so, the goal is that fewer large items will be left on the city terrace 'awaiting' city pickup (and possibly interfering with grounds operations).

Bird feeders and lawn ornaments

Residents should remember that bird feeders and lawn ornaments must be placed in mulched areas. They may not be placed on grassy areas.

Talking with staff

A number of residents are engaging Tamarack staff and contract employees about work in progress and work orders. Please don't do this! It can interfere with the job at hand, and it's not appropriate to ask about projects. It's always fine to say hello, but questions, complaints, or requests should be sent to the office.

Landscape News

Please have visitors and subcontractors stay off of the grass.

Board and Committee Business

From Your Board of Directors:

The members of the Tamarack Trails Board of Directors and Committee Chairs have been stepping up to the plate to cover operations of the Association in the absence of an Association Manager. Thus, and with staff assistance, contract administration, financial oversight, project work, and communications are being maintained. Residents are asked to call the Association office with any concerns or questions about any work orders or other needs.

Staffing

Several staffing issues continue as the Association faces a challenging time recruiting applicants as is the case with many businesses in our area. While the Landscape Department is fully staffed, two full-time equivalent positions are vacant in the Maintenance Department. As has been noted, finding lifeguards for this summer's pool operations is a challenge, and one that is faced by most other pools in our area. The search continues, and in the meantime the pool is being prepared for the summer opening with optimism that the lifeguard situation will be remedied.

Applications are being accepted for the Association Manager position. As of this date 20 applications are on file, yet most do not note the qualifications needed to be successful in the position. Given that Association operations are being handled successfully on a temporary basis, it's important that the right "fit" is found for the position without being hasty in the selection process. A resident application screening committee is being formed as well as an interview committee to assist the Board in the selection process.

Walnut Grove Mountain Bike Path Proposal

Following input from a several concerned residents, a letter on behalf of the Board of Directors was sent to our Alder, the Madison Mayor, and Parks Department officials voicing concerns about the bike path proposal. That letter noted that the proposed bike path raises safety concerns, environmental concerns, and privacy concerns for our residents. A major concern noted in the letter was that a portion of the path would run concurrently with the current paved walking path. The letter also expressed concern about the path's impact on east perimeter picnic, relaxation and meeting areas along Westfield Rd. Also addressed were the proximity to residences, potential ingress to the Sauk Creek Conservancy, loss of trees, adjacency to the dog park, and increased park usage for other purposes.

The Board will continue to monitor this situation. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to contact the Alder, the Mayor, and the Park Department with concerns.

Upcoming Board Vacancies

Be a part of the Association's decision-making by considering running for a seat on the Board of Directors. Contact any of the current Board members with questions about what Board work involves. Join in the opportunity to seek ways to ensure that this community is a sought-after location for an enjoyable quality of life!

Engage in the Good Life

With the good work of our Resident Activities the Board encourages residents to take advantage of numerous opportunities to share "the Good Life" in Tamarack Trails. Watch for notifications regarding these events.

Another Swale Tale

What the heck is going on?

Some of you have questions and concerns regarding the swale. After the heavy rains (1 inch fell in about 30 minutes) in March a trench was created by the water running off the still frozen ground, over areas where the plants and grass had not taken hold yet, on the steep north banks at the east end of the swale. The driving rain then rushed west creating a trench and some areas of wash that exposed some plants, the landscape fabric, and a bit of drain piping at the greenway end.

The good news is that Jeffrey from David J. Frank who did the initial construction looked at the issue almost immediately after the rains. He was pleased that the soil "did its job" by allowing the water on the flat part of the swale to percolate through the soil. It wasn't muddy. By the

weekend Jeffrey's team installed erosion control tubing along the banks to stop any more runoff until the plant roots are established and can hold the water.

David J. Frank is also maintaining the swale this year and is guaranteeing their work. They are replacing damaged plants, replanting those that were misplaced and filling the displaced soil. The repair work should start within the next two weeks weather permitting. It is likely the erosion control tubes (wattles) will remain for some time to give the grass the chance it needs to take root.

In the very near future, you can count on a beautiful area that will encourage wildlife and help stop the erosion and muddy situation to the west of the swale at the greenway.

You can help by using the bridges and walkways instead of walking on or cutting through the swale.

Thank you,

The Maintenance Committee

Tamarack News and Tidbits

Way to GO...Angie & Gene!

Both of our supervisors continue to be professional members of our team as they expand their knowledge and comply with state requirements.

In addition to taking horticulture classes through the UW-Extension, Angie Swan aced her Commercial Pesticide Applicator exam and has renewed her license.

Gene Moeller completed his continuing education classes. With his Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification renewal, he'll continue working on our decks and construction projects.

Wildflower Walk

The second annual Wildflower Walk sponsored by RAC was held on May 12th in the Sauk Creek Conservancy. The sun was shining, it was a beautiful day and we saw wood anemone, trillium, jack in the pulpit, wild geraniums, wood poppies, and Virginia bluebell in bloom. A great time was had by everyone who attended. The walk was led by Tamarack residents Jim Waeffler and Wayne Koska. Also attending the walk was Si Widstrand who was a planner for the City of



Madison Parks Division and is an expert in the control of invasive species. He shared with us his knowledge of conservation methods being used in the conservancy.