



**December, 2019**

Greetings, co-owners! This newsletter is mostly about winter, which should be no surprise. Please take special note, however, of the first paragraph below.

**An issue of concern to everyone:** On the morning of the annual meeting in October, we first learned about Park Township's water rate increase by reading about it in *The Holland Sentinel*. You will be receiving shortly, by a separate communication, a detailed explanation of the impact this change will have on the association and on our budget. Look for that in your email (or your mailbox, if you do not use a computer).

#### **Speaking of snow...**

The snow season has arrived with a flourish, making the second week of November here at WWPC look a lot like January! Here are two ways you can help our snow removal crews:

- Whenever possible, please make sure your vehicles are not parked on your driveway or in a guest parking area during or following a major snowfall. The snow management contractor cannot properly access parking areas that have vehicles in them, and we will retain our longstanding policy of not plowing driveways occupied by vehicles.
- On Mondays, please place your garbage and recycling containers TOGETHER (not touching, at least six inches apart) on one edge of your driveway near the street. Do not place them on both sides or in the middle of the driveway: this hinders the efforts of the snow plowing crews.

In early November, we learned that MeadowGreen, which had been our landscape and snow removal contractor for several years, had been sold to DJs Landscaping. Their crew did a good job with snow removal their first time through on November 12. Board members have walked the property with DJs personnel, and we are hopeful for a good relationship with this new provider.

#### **Contacting the board**

Did you know that one of the most difficult board positions to fill is the person who works with the snow removal contractor? That board member fields a lot of phone calls from co-owners who have suggestions regarding how the job could be done better. Sometimes those suggestions are urgent; sometimes the suggestions arise from frustration. A couple things to remember:

- Snow events don't happen conveniently on schedule. It can take time for a snow crew to reach Waterway Pines. Once here, clearing the whole property takes from 5-7 hours, and sometimes the first areas cleared are snowed in by the time the crew finishes its first pass.
- Calling a board member in the middle of the night is not helpful: the crews won't get there any quicker just because you have awakened a neighbor.



- Errors or omissions by the snow crew, especially since they are new this season, should be reported. We ask that you use your judgment regarding whether an issue is urgent, or simply annoying, and to let that determine how you communicate with the board.
- As always, the best way to communicate with board members is to use the email link on our website (<http://wwpines.net/index.php/contact-us/>). When you choose a category from the “select your reason for contact” drop-down menu, you will send an email directly to the appropriate board member.

#### **Final Winterization Reminder (From Dennis Mulder)**

I know that many snowbirds have already left for warmer climes, but for the few remaining comes this reminder to winterize your condo for your short-term absence and for your peace of mind. The Winterizing/Absence Checklist is available at this link: <http://wwpines.net/index.php/forms> .

If you plan to brave the Michigan winter, here are some reminders:

- turn off the shutoff valve(s) for your outside faucets and drain the remaining water if you haven't already.
- turn on your furnace humidifier to “35-40,” turn on the hot water supply to the humidifier, and turn the furnace damper from A/C to Heat. If water condenses on the bottom sill of your windows there is too much moisture in your condo which could cause damage to your windows. Adjust the humidifier control below “35” until the condensation disappears.
- We also recommend you change your furnace filter every four to six weeks during the winter and change the batteries in your smoke alarms each January. Please dispose of your batteries at a battery recycle location, either Lowe's or a battery store.
- Finally, if you have any questions, contact Dennis Mulder at the association website, using “Buildings” on the drop-down menu. Thank you.

#### **Christmas decorations**

One or two people (the lucky few) were smart enough to get outdoor decorations up before the first snowfall. The rest of us are waiting for a little break in the cold! In any case, remember that all decorations should be removed by January 31.

#### **Good news for garage sales**

Here is a final piece of warm weather news: Warren Millett (339 East) has volunteered to coordinate the annual garage sale on Saturday, June 6. He would like a person to co-coordinate with him. That would involve meeting with Warren, reviewing past sales, dividing up tasks, and helping to put up and to remove signs on the day of the sale. Please consider volunteering for this short-term, well-defined bit of work for our community.

**Finally**, on behalf of all of us on the board, may you have a happy holiday season, warmed by friends, family, good food and drink, and maybe the sunshine of a warmer climate—even just for a few days.