



March, 2020, Newsletter

Greetings, Co-owners! This newsletter contains lots of environmental news, a few cautions about taking care of your unit, a list of whose decks will be stained in June, and an exhortation to do the condo wave.

Ponds, fish, and geese

The pond committee recommends the following for those who fish the ponds: most of the fish populations appear to be abnormally low. When fishing, please practice catch and release fishing with barbless hooks. This applies to all species except pike and catfish. Due to the excessive predatory impact of pike and catfish, if you catch one, please remove it from the pond and enjoy it for dinner, or call Ray Browneye at 616-786-3436 and he will dispose of it. Remember also that if you find a dead fish along the pond's edge, call Ray. He will remove it for you, and examine it to determine its cause of death.

The committee works to monitor and protect the ecology of the pond. Their current project is to install minnow fortresses (that's the word they use!) underwater to give baby fish a chance to grow into food for the bass and perch in the pond.

Speaking of pond ecology, you may notice that the pair of geese who nested on the north pond last year has returned. On the advice of our naturalist, we have decided not to disturb this pair. The male is a "dominant male" who will chase away other geese who try to nest. Better to have one pair than six or seven. Last year, once the goslings had grown a bit, the whole family moved to the Silver Ridge pond to the west, where there are other geese. We expect that to happen again. Therefore, the geese will be present for only a few weeks. Apparently, the geese-be-gone lights have reached the end of their usefulness: the geese are no longer deterred by them.

Tree project

Thanks to the twenty-two co-owners who participated in the Holland BPW Arbor Day project by reserving a free sapling to be planted along the margins of the property. This will give a kick-start to our efforts to maintain healthy landscaping all around the association. In late April, the trees will be planted.

Deck furniture? Soon!

Deck and porch furniture may be placed outdoors after April 1—UNLESS your unit's deck is scheduled to be stained. In June, units on West with addresses from 285-430



and units on Timber Crossing with addresses from 1320 to 1333 will be stained. Decks must be clear of all furniture/pots/etc. for the staining, so you may want to delay hauling out that umbrella table.

Mold control: yikes



This photo tells a story. In case the picture is not clear enough for you to understand what you are looking at, it is the base of a sliding door in a sunroom in our association. It reveals a frozen cascade of condensed moisture down the lower panel of the slider, and the by-product of that moisture: severe mold. This is the result of excessive moisture in the sunroom. The mold is a health hazard and was fairly easily removed with Mold Control. However, it could have been prevented by turning down the humidifier on the furnace and improving the flow of air between the sunroom and the great room.

Hint: if there is any condensed moisture during cold weather at the base of any of your windows, turn down the humidifier control. If there is any mold on your window frames, remove with a Mold Control product. If you have any questions, contact Dennis Mulder at the contact page on the association website (wwpines.net)

Modification requests and the matrix

We all appreciate volunteers who pitch in to do work around the association. But remember that you cannot make any changes or repairs to the outside of your condominium without the written approval of the association board. Our bylaws and



rules govern the exterior appearance and structure of our buildings. To seek board approval for a change, or for work that needs to be done, go to the association website (wwpines.net) to the Form menu and download a copy of the Modification Request form, fill it out, and submit it to any board member. Or you may fill out and submit the form online. Include as much detail as possible, including a picture or drawing. If you have a question who is responsible for maintenance or repair of any part of your condo, whether it is the co-owner or the association, consult the Maintenance Matrix on the website under Documents. If you still have questions, contact any board member.

Reminder: Key access policy

The new key access policy adopted in February requires the board secretary to maintain a list of who has a key to your unit in case of emergency. We recommend that you give a key to a neighbor, or at least to someone who lives near enough to come quickly in an emergency. See the February newsletter (wwpines.net) for the complete version of the policy. We hope to have information from every co-owner by June. You may send your information to the secretary at bamezeske@gmail.com.

Note: Observance of this policy does not remove or replace the co-owner's duty to file an extended absence form with the board secretary.

Lastly: now that the weather is improving so that we can be out and about, don't forget to wave at your neighbors. The "condo wave" is just another way to improve the human ecology of Waterway Pines.