



April, 2022

This issue of the newsletter is full of signals that winter is really over: a list of many projects that are about to begin, a call for volunteers for both building inspections and grounds clean-up, instructions for handling your own yard waste, a tick alert, questions for you about a garage sale, information about our wwpines.net website, and finally, dire warnings about what happens when co-owners don't volunteer to serve on the board.

First up, **here's what's happening:**

- Some building contractors are already at work on decks.
- The project to replace sunroom supports will resume shortly.
- DJs has removed the plow equipment, repaired areas of lawn damaged by the plows, and done an initial application of fertilizer.
- The sprinkling system will be activated in early May.

Spring Building Inspection Tour (from Wayne Terpstra)

- *We want first to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the past years assisting us to check over our buildings and keep them in great shape.*
- *Our inspection tour this year will begin with a kick off meeting on May 21st. Inspections will be accomplished in the following weeks, finishing by the end of the month.*
- *If you are available to help with these inspections, please drop Wayne Terpstra an email at wterpstra@gmail.com or call him at 319-217-0969.*
- *We are counting on the usual people to offer to help, but hoping to see some new faces as well.*

We really do appreciate the volunteers and the willingness of all who help in identifying the issues which allow us to keep all of our buildings well maintained. The items identified during the tour are a critical part in formulating the work plan for the coming season.

Volunteer grounds cleanup

- When: May 14, 9 a.m. Meet in the driveway at 426 West.
- Bring garden gloves, if you wish.
- Plan to spend most of the morning picking up branches, pulling invasive weeds, and generally tidying up.
- Contact Gerry Stoneburner (gnks905@gmail.com)
- There may be donuts.



Do-it-yourself yard and flower bed maintenance

Do you like to weed, trim, and prune the areas around your unit, rather than leaving all the work to the landscaping crew? If yes, we have some new practices for you to follow:

- All yard waste, clippings, etc., **MUST** be placed in a yard waste bag purchased at Home Depot, Lowe's or other stores in town. These bags are sturdy and biodegradable. Anything in a plastic bag will not be collected. Loose debris will not be picked up.
- You may place one bag at the end of your driveway (not on the lawn, please) each week on the day the mowers are working. If you have more than one bag, please hang on to it for another week.
- Mowing is scheduled for Thursdays (like last year). Pay attention, however, if the day changes due to rain or some other circumstances.
- DJs plans to collect the bags at the end of their workday, so please do not put anything in your driveway the night before.
- Questions? Contact Gerry Stoneburner (gnks905@gmail.com)

Tick alert

As early as March, dog owners and walkers here in the association began reporting ticks. Experts predict a big year for ticks, mostly due to changing climate conditions that make Michigan an ideal habitat. These insects carry dangerous diseases, and bite both dogs and humans. Check your pets, your grandkids, and your ankles and socks to keep everyone safe.

Do you want a garage sale?

In the past, Waterway Pines conducted an association-wide garage sale once a year. As years passed, participation dropped. When COVID hit, we skipped a year. In 2021, one co-owner volunteered to coordinate a sale in July, and ten co-owners participated.

The association has garage sale signs, and a checklist of steps to take (from when we did the sale as an association), and is happy to send email messages to co-owners.

The association board remains committed to keeping garage sales to one day a year.

If you would like a garage sale this year, and especially if you are willing to volunteer to coordinate it, please contact the secretary (bamezeske@gmail.com).



Making the best use of the wwpines.net website

How do I access the association's website?

You should have a password assigned to you by our webmaster, Sally Mulder. If you have lost it, please contact Sally for a new one.

Why would I want to look at the website? There are so many reasons!

- There is a directory so you can know your neighbors.
- There is a "contact us" link that allows you to direct questions or concerns to specific board members. Click on "about us" and there is a drop-down menu.
- There is a ton of information about recycling dates, about the by-laws and rules, about estate sales, about parking and RV's, about policies and practices, etc., etc., etc.
- There is a list of approved vendors who you might hire for work in your unit.
- There are forms for modification requests, extended absences, setting up auto-pay, etc., etc., etc.
- There is a marketplace where you can list things for sale to our community (like deck furniture, blinds or curtains that fit our windows, other miscellaneous stuff)
- There are records of board minutes and newsletters

How often should I check the website?

As often as you have questions about how the condo association operates, or what our policies are. Probably a couple times a month would be useful.

Our website is maintained by volunteer webmaster Sally Mulder. Thank her when you see her.

Finally, the dire warning and an invitation for Super Neighbors to step forward.

WWPC operates with a seven-person volunteer board. Two officers' terms expire at the end of this year. We need good people to offer their time and skills to help run this place. Other associations hire management companies when their residents do not step up. The downside of that is additional cost, and an increased bureaucratic distance between residents and the folks who interact with our vendors, buy our insurance, call to get the moles trapped, etc. If you are interested in taking a turn on the board, contact any of the current board officers, listed at the bottom of the page.

If a SUPER NEIGHBOR tee shirt would make you take the job, we'll make that happen.