



**February, 2023**

Let's start by preaching to the choir. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform co-owners of what's going on in the association, to explain how your monthly dues are being spent, and to suggest ways that we can be better neighbors to one another. Those who don't read the newsletter miss reminders of important dates, opportunities to volunteer, and information that can make your condo life go more smoothly. PLEASE READ THE NEWSLETTER.

The association sends email messages with time-sensitive and emergency information: why your lawn won't be mowed today, or when a giant crane will block access to your driveway. This newsletter, however, is the main way the board communicates with you.

So, take a minute to read, mark down important dates or reminders, and feel free to speak to the board about any changes you would like to see in this newsletter. But please don't get upset if, for example, scheduled maintenance or landscaping activities mess up your just-washed windows. We try our best to keep you informed. (See what I mean about the choir?)

**Anticipated 2023 calendar**

Spring clean-up (volunteers needed)	May 20
Annual building inspection (volunteers needed)	May 20
Pond clean-up (volunteers needed)	June
Soft-wash all buildings; powerwash/stain some decks	June (week of the 19 <sup>th</sup> )
Ice cream social	July (second full week)
Annual meeting (mandated by law)	October (second week)
Monthly board meetings	2nd Monday

In addition, roadway crack fill, sealing, and some driveway replacements will occur in the summer, likely in July/August.

As in 2022, we will continue the practice of allowing co-owners to place lawn/yard debris in biodegradable bags purchased at Meijer, Lowe's, or other stores at the end of your driveway on the days that DJs mows the property. DJs requests no more than two bags per unit, and no placing bags outdoors overnight.

Many of these activities are subject to vendors' schedules and weather. The board will keep you informed of specifics as we get closer to events.



### **Ice, ice, baby**

This has been an atypically mild winter so far, so perhaps this is closing the barn door after the horse is already gone—but here goes:

- Even after you or DJs shovel your walk, it can still be slippery. Lawn/pet/pond friendly de-icers can be purchased at Van Wieren's, Lowe's, and other stores. Look for calcium chloride, magnesium chloride and potassium chloride rather than salt. Use ANY chemical de-icer sparingly, and give it time to work.
- If the area beneath your mailbox is icy and feels dangerous to you, remember that it is no shame to drive your car to the mailbox. You might also apply some lawn-safe de-icer in that area.
- Beware of walking on the bridge in the winter: bridge surfaces freeze before the roads, often with black ice that you can't see until you slip on it.

### **Speaking of the bridge...**

...a sincere "Thank you!" to Ted Ferrell for putting up and taking down the wreaths and lights. Ted, you make it beautiful for the rest of us to enjoy.

### **Speaking of thanks...**

New co-owners are visited by volunteers (Barb Fehlig, Joan Stuttman, and Don VandenBrink, in recent months) and given a notebook full of information about the association. The volunteers also collect forms required by the association, if they have not already been submitted. If you are new to Waterway Pines, you should have a notebook. If you do not, please contact Barb at [bfehlig@hotmail.com](mailto:bfehlig@hotmail.com).

### **New opportunities to engage with your neighbors:**

#### **1. Providing dishes or meals for neighbors**

Could you occasionally help out a neighbor with a meal, a pot of soup, or even a plate of baked goods? If you are interested in this sort of neighborhood outreach, please email Betsy Sturru at [bsturru1@yahoo.com](mailto:bsturru1@yahoo.com) sometime before February 25. We'll let you know next month what kind of response we get. Thanks!

#### **2. Dinner group, anyone?**

The board has been approached by a co-owner who is interested in forming one or more dinner groups in the association. A dinner group would consist of three to five units who commit to sharing meals with neighbors periodically over the course of a year. The groups could be seasonal (summer or winter only) or year-round. Groups could be reconfigured after the first go-around to allow you to meet and mix with more people, or groups could



continue beyond a year. There are a number of new people who have come to WWPC in the last twelve months: this would be an opportunity to get to know them, as well as others who have been living here all along.

If you are interested in joining a small dinner group, please contact [bamezeske@gmail.com](mailto:bamezeske@gmail.com) to be put in touch with other interested folks.

That's about it, everyone: Spring arrives on March 20. See you outdoors!