



May, 2023

The bulk of this newsletter deals with **fire prevention**. But first, here are some announcements and reminders, an invitation, and a thank you.

Garage sale: Saturday, May 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Twelve households are participating in this year's garage sale. They are Weerstra (287 West), Toben (342 West), Arenas (374 West), Katt (391 West), Rooks (440 West), Simpkins (444 West), Persenaire (436 West), Waterway (449 West), McConnell (487 West), Montes (351 East), Koopman (382 East), and Bosman/Belanger (482 East). They are taking charge of advertising, signage, flagging the roadway to protect the sprinkler heads, and pick-up after the sale finishes. Please watch for traffic that day.

Annual volunteer building inspection, and building issues in general

Volunteer building inspectors will be coming around in the last couple of weeks of May. Here's how that works: the board member in charge of buildings generates a list of items the inspectors look for. Sometimes they need to look inside your unit. Sometimes (as during COVID) they stay outside. This year, the inspectors are looking at front porch posts, decks and railings, siding issues and cedar trim boards, and **will not** ask to come inside. If there are other maintenance issues you would like addressed, by all means tell your inspector. Please do not assume that our volunteers are going to give your unit a thorough once-over. They are not trained (or paid) for that. (Their pay is usually donuts, and you can't buy groceries with donuts.)

Additionally, **if you see something wrong with your unit** (like a loose handrail on the deck stairs, or a broken garage light, or a loose piece of siding—tell the board. Don't wait until next year's inspection. The easiest way to communicate with the board is to go to the website (wwpines.net), click on "Contact Us," and fill out the form, being sure to use the drop-down menu so that your message is directed to the correct board member.

Or, use the old-school workaround: write a note describing the issue, and give it to a board member.

It is frustrating to hear complaints about a problem being ignored when the board has never been informed of the problem in the first place. Over the last 25 years, the association has built systems to handle all sorts of condo issues—extended absences, emergency key holders, building maintenance, etc. etc. None of them will work if co-owners don't use the forms and contact methods that are in place.



Grounds clean-up seeks volunteers

Each spring, willing hands pull weeds, remove dead branches, and generally spruce up the grounds. Meet at the bridge at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 20. Wear garden gloves, if you have them. Questions? Contact Gerry Stoneburner at gnks905@gmail.com.

Deck staining and soft-washing

This year, staining will happen during the week of June 19, weather permitting. Work will be done on the west side of the association at units beginning with 285 Timberlake West through 430 Timberlake West, plus 1320-1333 Timber Crossing. Plan to move your deck and patio furniture out of the way when this work happens. Power-washing and staining can cause damage for which the association is not liable.

In accordance with a new maintenance practice started last year, ALL units will be soft-washed that same week of June 19, weather permitting. You won't need to move furniture for that, but you will want to move/protect any plants: the soft-wash process uses a mild soap that may damage plants and flowers. Don't schedule window washing until after your unit has been washed.

Driveway replacement and crack-sealing will occur in July. More details will be published next month.

Invitation to quilters: Neighborhood show and tell

How many people living in WWP are quilters? We think there may be a lot. While many of us are members of guilds or bees, some of us are solo artists. How about a one-time get together to meet other quilters? No commitment to form a group, no need for elaborate organizing. Cookies. Coffee. Maybe a glass of wine.

- When: Saturday, June 10, 3:00-5:00
- Where: 481 Timberlake East
- What: Bring one quilted item, finished or in progress, any size, to pass around and admire

Please RSVP to bamezeske@gmail.com (or drop a note at 481 East). We look forward to meeting you and sharing your projects.

Thanks for gardening at the two entrances!

Once again, Don and Joy Vanden Brink have taken on the task of weeding and planting the entryways at James Street and Lakewood Boulevard. Be sure to thank them when you see them.



FIRE SAFETY: Open flames, dryer vents, alarms, and extinguishers

Wood burning is not allowed anywhere in the association: not on decks, not on patios, not in driveways, and not in common areas.

Furnace duct and dryer vent cleaning. Lint in dryer vents is one of the main causes of household fires. As in past years, Krystal Kleen in Holland (<https://michiganairduct.com>) is offering WWP residents the following deal: \$95 to clean dryer vents, and \$445 to clean dryer vents plus all furnace ducts. Sign up between Monday, May 15 through Saturday, June 3 by going to wwpines.net, clicking on "forms," and filling out the "2023 Dryer Vent/Furnace Duct Cleaning" form. The Krystal Kleen folks will call to schedule an appointment. Alternatively, contact Wayne Terpstra (1321 Timber Crossing) to get on the list.

Smoke alarms

Spring is a good time to check that your alarms are working. They can be tested following the manufacturer's instructions. Also, on the back of each smoke detector there is a manufacturing date. Manufacturers recommend replacing these detectors every 10 years. If you are like most of us, the 10 years go by faster than we realize. If you recently moved into WWP, and you don't know how old your smoke alarms are, consider replacing them.

Fire extinguishers should also be checked. Here is information from online sources:

From [This Old House Reviews Team Buyer's Guide](#): Take a look at how the factors below affect a fire extinguisher's ability to put out a fire.

Class System

Fire extinguishers are given a rating to tell you what type of fire they're capable of putting out. The canister should clearly indicate what class the extinguisher falls under with words and graphics.

- Class A: Class A extinguishers are used on fires that involve paper, wood, plastic, and other solids. The graphic on the canister should be a campfire or burning trash can.
- Class B: This type of extinguisher is used to put out flammable liquids and gases, including oil, gasoline, propane, and methane. The graphic for this class is a gas can.
- Class C: This type of fire extinguisher puts out electrical fires caused by appliances. Its graphic is a plug and an outlet.
- Class K: This extinguisher puts out cooking oil fires. It's designed for professional kitchens in restaurants as opposed to households. The graphic for this class is a cooking pan fire.



Size

There are four common sizes for residential fire extinguishers.

- 10-pound: This is the largest extinguisher you'll find for home use.
- Five-pound
- Two-pound:
- Stovetop: This is the smallest type of residential extinguisher.

Maintenance

It's recommended that you inspect your fire extinguisher at least once a year. Extinguishers will have instructions printed on them that tell you how to do this, but most of these instructions involve inspecting the safety pin, nozzle, and valve for cracks and corrosion, and the pressure gauge for charge. Some fire departments will also inspect your extinguisher for you if you want proof from an expert that it's in working condition.

Additional safety tips from the [National Fire Protection Association](#)

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:
 - Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
 - Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
 - Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
 - Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER!