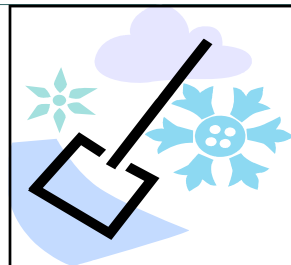
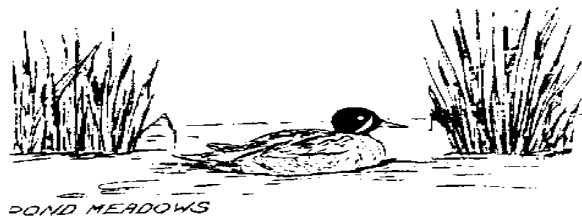


Pond Meadows Winter Newsletter



From the President's Corner.....

THE SNOW

This has been one of the harshest winters in years. The number of storms with significant snowfall seems only to have increased in February when we would expect it to diminish.

Last year, only 26 inches of snow fell. This year, over 55 inches has fallen so far. We have already exceeded our seasonal budget allocation for snow removal, and the winter is not over yet.

On February 5th, we were left with a heavy, ice and water laden, coat of snow on the ground and on the roofs. That the temperature remained below freezing for weeks added the woe of frozen solid ice clogging the gutters and downspouts. The storm on February 13th dropped more snow than many long-time residents can remember. To say it in German: genüg!

To be commended are the crews of Red Robin Landscaping who provides our snow removal service. They worked to exhaustion some days. When snow blowers could no longer be used because they clogged with ice and impacted wet snow, the crews worked tirelessly with shovels, sometimes twice in a day, sometimes in the middle of the night, to clean 15 acres of sidewalks, access roads, and parking lots. Our thanks and appreciation to them for working so diligently and hard.

Also to be acknowledged as the best examples of community spirit are those residents (both men and women) who have helped others to clear snow from cars and to salt the walks for the safety of their neighbors –



Members of the Board

Bernard Langer, President
John Dalenberg, Vice President
Shirley Everett, Secretary
Marge Davis, Trustee

THE CONDOMINIUM



To quote a legal scholar, “The condominium is ...an ongoing, open, experiment in group living.” It brings diverse owners together and imposes on them the difficult task of living harmoniously in close quarters with one another, while assuming a collective responsibility of managing the common areas for everyone’s benefit. A condominium can either reflect participatory democracy at its best or a plague of competing self-interests if a recognizable contingent of owners are indifferent to the larger “community interest.”

Condominiums are not municipalities, apartment complexes, assisted living facilities, or cooperatives. They do not employ “superintendents” to make “internal” repairs to heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, as in apartment buildings. That responsibility lies individually with the units’ owners

But condominiums parallel every other town, county, or state in that each has a distinct nature and a uniform set of ordinances, rules, and laws. When you consider moving to a town, you should first familiarize yourself with its ordinances and laws, and if you find that they pose too many restrictions on your “way of life,” you should not move there. Living in a particular community you choose to live in entails obeying its rules and laws. You impose that obligation on yourself when you choose to live there. That is the case in every town, every county, and every state. Our “open experiment” mercifully spreads over fifteen acres, not in one building, but the same principles apply: you cannot choose to disregard the rules and restrictions of the community after you consciously choose to become part of it.



DATES OF INTEREST

Dates

- March 9th Daylight Savings Time begins [turn clocks ahead 1 hour]
- March 10th @ 7:00 PM Pond Meadow Special Election Meeting
- April 15 12 Midnight Federal Income Tax Filing Deadline

FREE FEDERAL INCOME TAX FILING

AARP will complete your income tax forms at **no charge**. Qualified retired accountants volunteer through AARP to help Senior over 65 file their income taxes at no cost.

If you require such services, call the **Mahwah Senior Center 201-529-5757 for details**. This is a great Service for Seniors over 65.

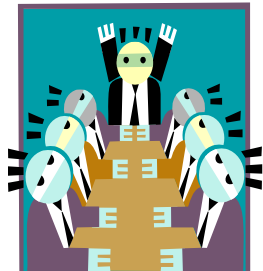


SOME NOTES

Thanks to Dave Van Hook for taking the initiative to reform the recycling shed by supervising the installation of a lock and distributing the keys to all residents. And thanks to those who helped in the tasks associated with it.

As a reminder, please note that according to Mahwah's guidelines for recycling, all newspapers must be tied and be separated from magazines (which also must be tied). The guidelines permit the commingling of plastic and glass bottles with cans.

A genuine thank you and sincere appreciation to Londy Reynolds for her long and devoted service on the Pond Meadows Board of Trustees. She has always offered very measured perspectives and ideas on the direction and tasks of the Association. She undertook the responsibilities of Treasurer with skill and experience and could always be relied upon to help formulate reasonable and fair annual budgets which maximized improvements in the community with minimum burdens on owners. She was a presence on the Board. We all wish her the best in her recovery.



Notice of an election to fill the vacated seat of Londy Reynolds for the remainder of her term (to October, 2016) was given at the Board meeting and will soon be followed with calls for nominations. The election will be held on March 10th.

Please consider the composition and functions of the Board in nominating someone or yourself. Under the By-Laws, the Board is to have five (5) members with Board elected officers who serve in specific roles. Ours is an active Board; every member has a voice in making decisions and determining policy. While the Board generally oversees fiscal and administrative policies and plans for the Association, it is the property manager, Arthur Edwards, Inc., which operationalizes and carries out Board policies and plans. It is also the property manager which interacts with vendors and the contractors who work in the community. The Board accordingly grants the property manager the discretion to carry out tasks in the most efficient and productive fashion. Keep in mind that Board members are not property managers.

The Board needs a treasurer. Everyone else on the Board already serves in some other capacity. The treasurer works on site with the property manager to ensure that proper payments are made to vendors and contractors both in the ordinary course of Association business and in accord with Board resolutions. The "burdens of office" of the treasurer are no greater than those officially borne by other members of the Board. Keep in mind that the offices of the property manager support the Treasurer by preparing the monthly accounting of expenditures and revenues for review and discussion. Please consider serving.

Thank you. Let us hope for more temperate weather.

