

THE HILLSIDE NEWS

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 6

December 2018

Holiday Lights

The holiday lights at the Hillside entrance are looking good! They were put up by Tom Prus and Dan DeVries. If you see them, let them know you appreciate their efforts. Last year they put up solar powered lights, but it was a lot of work. With all the cloudy days we have in Michigan this time of year, they needed to change out the batteries frequently to keep the lights working. So, it really helps to have regular electric power around the entrance for this and future entrance upgrades.

As Tom Prus said about this year's display, "It's not perfect, but it's a start. And we didn't have to spend a ton of money, like the quote that came in to have them put up." The plan is to add to the decorations each year. We want them to be interesting and tasteful, but not too much. We are not aiming for a "Clark Griswold – Christmas Vacation" type of holiday light show.

Hillside Board Elections – 2019

This past month, as recorded in the November Board meeting minutes, both Daryl Delabbio and Craig Wassenaar resigned from the Board. The current Hillside Board members are:

Lynn Calhoun	7/2019 (term ends)
Tom Prus	7/2019
Dave Robinson	7/2020
Tom Shaw	7/2020
Steve Warren	7/2020

The options for the 2019 Hillside Board elections are:

- Elect two Board members from the field of candidates and continue to have a 5-member Board.

- Elect four people to bring the total back up to a 7-member Board.

The current Board decided to try having 5 members for the six months leading up to the next election. They want to see how the Board functions with that number. It would seem that there are both pros and cons to having more members. So, let's see how things go until the next election.

Speaking of which, **please consider running for a 2-year term on the Hillside Board, in the July 2019 election.** If you have questions about it, feel free to contact any of the current Board members. Those willing to run in the election, should notify Natasha at Gerow Management (433-9090). She will help you with the next steps in the process.

Balance

In life, I often find it is helpful to seek a balance between opposing forces. I think this also is important in order to be a fair and responsible member of our community and to be a Board member.

From experience, it seems that some members of Hillside want the rules to be strictly enforced with limited flexibility and personal expression.

Other people want to do what they think is beautiful and best for their own homesite, with less regard for living in a condominium arrangement.

I find myself wanting reasonable, flexible, enforceable bylaws somewhere in between stringent rules and no rules. Often, I can understand when people tend more towards either end of the spectrum. I think some flexibility is important. But I start to disagree when they get farther out to the extremes.

We all should have been aware, when we purchased our homes, that Hillside has a condominium ownership arrangement and governance process. We all continue to learn about the implications of that arrangement.

How do we find the right balance? So far, the Board has been able to come to consensus on most issues. Sometimes, it can take a long discussion to get there.

As the saying goes, "You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time." (Poet John Lydgate, as made famous by Abraham Lincoln).

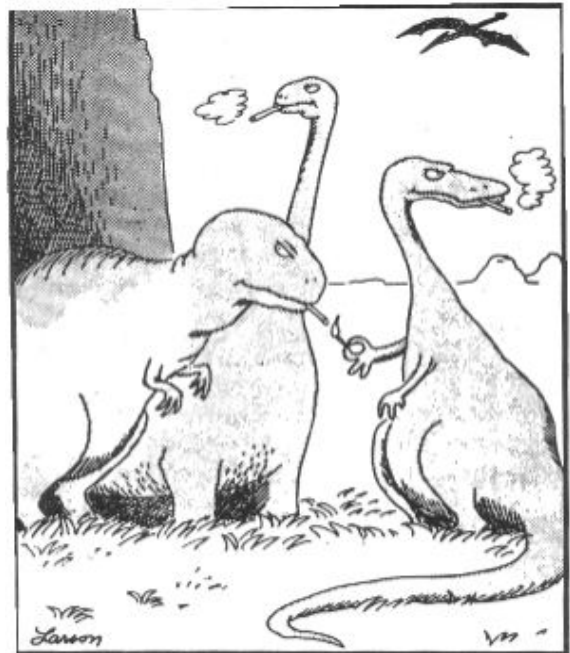
Quick Updates

- There have been no further Plainfield Township meetings to discuss either the Treetops development to the west of Hillside or the proposed Thousand Oaks swimming pool and recreational facility.
- The Board and the Landscape Committee plan to revisit the Master Landscaping Plan and the Hillside entrance proposal in 2019. You will be asked to be involved in that discussion, before any decisions are made.
- Since installation of the special (GAC) filters, Plainfield municipal water has been testing negative for PFAS. Hillside uses that source for our water.

Hillside Happenings

A great big thank you to Kate Houseman and Craig Wassenaar for graciously opening their home for our annual Hillside Christmas party. The evening was filled with friendship, laughter and plenty of good food and drink. Since our Pink Flamingo Parties have taken a hiatus, it was wonderful to catch up with everyone.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday filled with family, friends and memories to cherish.



The real reason dinosaurs became extinct