

THE HILLSIDE NEWS

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

February 2020

News in Brief

- LMP Update: Work on the Landscape Master Plan (LMP) is hibernating for the winter. Further work will be scheduled when the weather is more conducive, perhaps in April.
- Katy McCarthy: A big thank you to Katy McCarthy for being willing to serve as an interim Hillside Board Director. As was noted in the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting on January 13, 2020, she will serve until the next Board election. Then if she so chooses, she can run for a full two-year term at that time.
- Cathy Downer: A big thank you is also due to Cathy Downer for stepping up to be the Chairperson of the Landscape Committee (LC). Cathy has been serving on the LC and agreed to take on the additional responsibility. This was also in the January 13 Board minutes.
- Garage Doors: On Monday 2/17 and Tuesday 2/18, Zeeland Garage Door will be adding additional bracing to the garage doors that need it. The work will begin about 8:30 AM. There will be 2 crews that start at the entrance (both sides of the road) and make their way south to the court.
- Package Delivery: Since last November, there have been no new reports of suspicious activity or stolen packages in Hillside. Please stay vigilant and use safe package delivery practices.

Home Security Alert

On a recent Saturday morning (2/1/20), between 9:30 and 10:30 AM, a house located on South Oak Pointe Court was burglarized. The owners think that the

perpetrator(s) were watching their home because the theft occurred while they were out on a morning walk.

The incident was reported to the police. A notice was sent out to all residents of the Thousand Oaks community in an effort to make everyone aware and be on guard. Please be sure to lock your doors when you're away, even if it's only to go for a walk. Installing and using an alarm system can provide an additional layer of security. If you see any suspicious activity, be sure to report it to the police.

Announcements

- Hillside Website: Starting 2/12/20 the website www.hillsidecondosgr.com will no longer be ours. It costs money and one of our residents has been generously paying for our exclusive use of it. We have decided to let it expire. It will no longer take you to our website. In order to find the Hillside website, you must use: www.hillside.condos. Please adjust your internet browser to accommodate the change.
- Recycling: The Kent County Recycling Center (KCRC) is shutting down for needed upgrades to equipment and the recycling process, primarily paper handling. This is planned to start 2/24/20 and last until 3/14/20. Our curbside recycling service (Herrington's) uses the KCRC and so there will be no recycling pick up on Thursday 3/5/20. Anything you put at the curb that day will be treated as trash and not recycled.
 - The KCRC, as of 1/1/20, no longer accepts plastic shopping bags or shredded paper. If you put either of

these into your recycle bin, it will be removed and left at your house.

- You can consult the calendar on the Hillside website, if you need to know which days are trash only and which have both trash and recycle pickup. It also indicates, if the pickup schedule has been changed around holidays.
- For your reference, the Kent County Recycling Guide and the Herrington's Trash Collection Guide are included in the email with this newsletter.

Insurance Claims

The Board has become aware of recent home insurance concerns effecting Hillside residents. We thought it would be good to distribute information about making an insurance claim.

- It is advised that each co-owner maintain a unit owner's (HO-6) policy for their condominium.
- In an emergency, handle that situation first (e.g.- fire extinguisher, call 911, etc). Make sure everyone is safe.
- If you need to report a claim, contact Natasha or Scott at Gerow Management Company (616-433-9090).
- You should also contact your individual insurance agent.
- Property damage issues that are "sudden and accidental" are usually insurance related. More long-term problems may be maintenance issues.
- Gerow will contact Coldbrook Insurance Group, if it is appropriate and the Board approves submission of a claim.

See the [Hillside Insurance Coverage Letter](#) and [Hillside Claim Prevention Tips](#) from the Coldbrook Insurance Group, which is our HOA insurance provider. Both documents are included with this email.

Euchre Club

Pat and Cathy Murphy are interested in starting a Hillside Euchre Club. They plan to play once a month and it will be open to all Hillside residents.

The Murphys are hosting the first club meeting which will be held Friday, February 28, starting at 6:30 PM. They will supply light hors d'oeuvres and ask that the people bring whatever they would like to drink.

To start, the group will be limited to four tables, so if you are interested, please let Pat or Cathy know as soon as possible. Their hope is to get the ball rolling and then rotate the monthly game to different homes. For inquiries, please send an email to:

Patmurphy77@gmail.com

or

cathymurphy312@gmail.com

The "No New News" News

In a perhaps misguided attempt at a new column, I thought I would include past topics that I continue to be asked me about, but I have nothing new to report. Maybe I should call it "Non-News" or "No Update News" or?? It is not intended to be "fake news", whatever that is. Anyway, here it is:

- Recreation and Pool Facility: My sources have not revealed any planned start date for this project. The Plainfield Township Board approved the project last year. It will be open to members of the Thousand Oaks Golf Club. I assume it is still in the architectural design phase, but we will have to wait and see.
- Treetops: Since it was tabled in 2018, the proposed development of the land to the west of Hillside has not appeared on the Plainfield Board or Planning Commission meeting agendas. For now, perhaps no news is good news.

- Five Mile Trail: I am told that the people involved in this consortium of Thousand Oaks HOA's are seeing how things go this winter and planning for the spring. Meanwhile, walking along 5 Mile Road is what it is, and hope abounds that spring will come again in Michigan.
- Golf: The Thousand Oaks Golf Club website, when I checked, had no new information, programs, or activities to report. I guess they, and the golfers that play there, are waiting for the spring too.

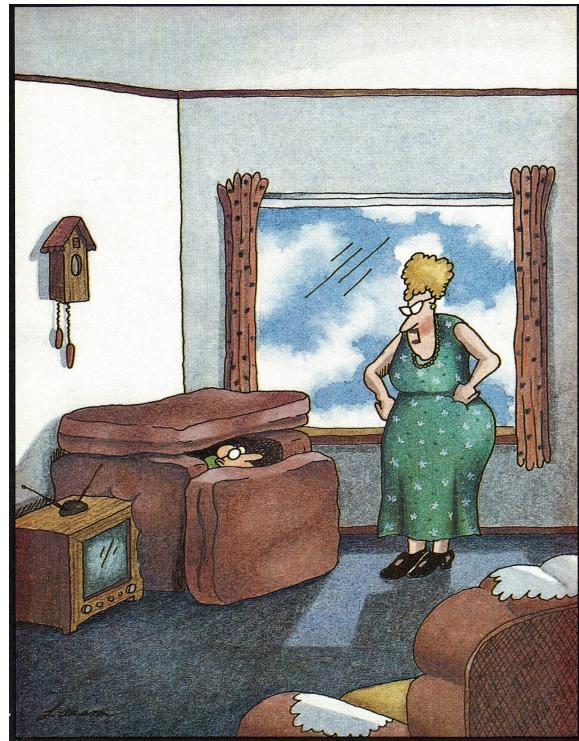
Our Community (Editorial - T. Shaw)

I thought that this might be a reasonable time to talk about our community and living in Hillside. With all that's going on in our country and politics these days, I worry that some of the divisiveness may trickle down. I really enjoy living in West Michigan and Hillside in particular. I haven't met everyone, but those I have talked to seem to be people who are trying to be good neighbors and who I would like to call my friend.

It is natural to agree and disagree on some issues, even very important ones. We should be able to talk with each other respectfully, perhaps even see things from the other person's point of view, in order to make informed decisions. Compromise can be a positive process. Sometimes we may have to respectfully agree to disagree.

We are a community of people, living in 59 condominiums, that have agreed to share some common rules and guidelines. It is not a perfect system of governance. As the sticking points become apparent, we need to keep working it out. I think, we have come a long way in the three years since we became self-governing. In order to make it function, we have to strive to work together, to maintain civil discourse, and to be fair. I am sure that there will be "bumps in the road", but from what I have seen so far, I believe we

all can continue to make Hillside a great community to call home.



**"Well, you can just rebuild the fort later,
Harold... Phyllis and Shirley are coming over and
I'll need the cushions."**

Gerow Management: 616-433-9090
Hillside website: <http://hillside.condos>
Facebook page: Hillside Condo Neighbors

