



# Travelers Country Club On The Mississippi

*A Seasonal Residential*

*Recreational Community*

## Wheels Newsletter – May 2018



### **Park Manager's Report May 2018**

Has anyone noticed anything unusual about the "10 mph starts here" sign as you enter the Park? I'm taking a survey to see how many people actually read the sign so as to cause them to remember it. It does appear the sign has been noticed as I've seen a lot fewer speeders in the park – thank you.

### **Burn Pile**

Ted Weiss, Lot 277, did an excellent job burning the burn pile a few days ago and cleaning up the area after the fire. Thanks, Ted for picking up on this project from where Dale Bergland, Lot 336, left off. Dale took charge of the burn pile for many years and now Ted has agreed to take his place.

When the pile is big enough and weather permits, Ted gets a burn permit and burns the burn pile. Usually a sign is posted by the USPS mailboxes. However, due to the unpredictability of the weather, the sign is often posted with little advance notice. Therefore, if you enjoy watching big fires and socializing, keep an eye on the size of the pile, the weather, and the USPS mailboxes. Logistically, I'm just not able to send out a bulk email each time the pile is burned.

As a side note about the burn pile, when there is a burn, please DO NOT drive over the golf course to get there. Only those playing golf are allowed on the course.

### **Dumpster Area:**

If you are unsure of what goes where, please check with the Office or our website - Member tab, Park Communications, Building & Grounds Documents. I've already noticed leaves, cardboard boxes, and construction material in the household dumpsters and un-flattened boxes in the recycle bin. Thanks.

**Thank You** to Julie Lonning, Lot 312, for volunteering to be our Wheels publisher. Julie is a graphic designer so look forward to a fresh new look to our Wheels - especially if you get the electronic copy. And, thank you to Marge Marschel, Lot 904, for an excellent job of producing Wheels over the past few years.

### **Boat Landing Area**

The Office is taking reservations for the storage lots at the boat landing. They are on a first come, first serve basis. If you have a canoe, kayak or small boat in that area but have not reserved a space, we will be moving them out of the way to make room for those who have signed up for storage lots. Thank you.

### **Golf Cart Loaners**

Just a reminder, if you have a loaner due to repairs on your cart, or bring an extra cart into the Park, please get a "rental" sign from the office so people don't bug you because you don't have lot numbers on your cart.

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**Annual Shareholder Meeting (ASM)** is Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Activity Building. As the name implies, this is your meeting - not a Board of Directors Meeting. An informational meeting (to include a fire extinguisher demonstration by the Clear Lake Fire Department) follows the ASM. There will also be information on fire extinguisher recalls. Breakfast, courtesy of TCCOM, is at 8 AM. The ASM starts at 9 AM.

**Taco Night** is also June 9<sup>th</sup> from at 5 - 6:30 PM. Tickets are on sale at the Office for \$6. Children 4 and under are free. (If you're wondering what this and other events like this are all about, just go to the website, member tab, communications for an explanation - or stop at the Office.

**The Park-wide Yard Sale** is the morning of Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. (*Usually from about 8 AM to Noon.*)

And, practice your golf cart driving skills as **Funkhana** is June 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM in front of the Activity Building. **Bingo** follows Funkhana that evening from 7-9 PM in the Activity Building.

### **Committee Chairpersons Needed:**

We currently have openings in the following committees for a Chairperson. If you are on the committee and would like to chair it or if you'd be interested in being on the committee and seeing what being a chairperson is all about, please let me know. Thank you.

- Rules & Regulations
- Personnel
- Pool
- Sundaes on Saturday (300 row) July 14, 2018 (*Information to guide you is available.*)

### **New Give 'n Take Building:**

Many have watched the fast construction progress of the new Give 'n Take building by the Activity Building over the past week. A big thank you to Rick Caouette, Lot 215, who is leading the construction team (*and who took a week of vacation time from work*) along with some of his co-workers, and Tom Klein, Lot 176, who also brought his master carpenter skills to the project. In addition, I've seen a number of other members pitching in to help Rick and Tom. The building looks great!

### **Condolences**

We just learned that Vivian Errickson, Lot 227, passed away on May 8, 2018. For more information please click on link below:

<http://www.bradshawfuneral.com/obituary/Vivian-Errickson/North-Oaks-MN/1796068>

Chuck McColgan, Park Manager

## **Maintenance and Golf Course Manager's Report May 2018**

### **Water Turn On**

We had a late start to the season this year due to some inclement weather. Fortunately the last of the frozen water standpipes thawed out the weekend of May 19th and 20th. I apologize for the late water turn on this year and realize how many people were put out because of it. If we prematurely turn on the water and flood the plumbing system surrounded by frozen ground, we risk extensive costly damage to our plumbing system -- which in turn means a large expenditure for the

park and your dues if water goes on too early. Fortunately we did not have any damage to the residential plumbing system this winter.

### **Winter Kill on Turf Grass**

The term winter kill refers to lawn damage that prevents grass from becoming green again in the spring. This damage is usually caused by a combination of factors including winds, ice, snow, crown hydration, desiccation, snow mold, and compacted soil. Thankfully, it can be repaired. One rumor I've heard around the Park this spring is the "leaf clean-up crew" didn't clean up the leaves last fall. Although there were large piles of leaves on some of the roadways over the winter, I can say that I personally witnessed the fact that all the residential yards and 99% of all the common areas were cleaned up last fall before the leaf crew got snowed in for the winter. An example of winter kill **not caused** by leaves left on the grass over the winter is the 7th green and fairway. We sustained substantial winter kill in that area this winter and there wasn't a single leaf there last fall or over the winter.

### **Swimming Pool and Cover**

The Maintenance Department experienced an amazing sight this spring. When the winter cover was removed on May 9th, there was still three inches of ice in the pool. We opened the pool that first day for ice skating, but we didn't get any takers. The pool cover we purchased several years ago is continuing to be a wonderful investment for our Park. It has eliminated many hours of hard labor and wasted expense in opening our pool each season.

### **Burn Pile and New Compost Site**

If there is any question about the location of the new compost site, please ask the Office or Maintenance Personnel for clarification. **Please do not put leaves in the burn pile. If you have leaves with twigs mixed in, please put them in the compost pile.** Thanks for your cooperation.

### **Riverbank Trimming Project**

The Riverbank trimming will be completed in the next few weeks. Although we didn't get as much trimmed as we had hoped and planned last fall, we did get a lot of brush and some trees cleared out for a better view of the river.

### **Activity Building Exterior Access Restroom Door**

The new door has been installed and the remainder of the project will be finished up within the next three weeks. That would include the installation of a concrete apron adjacent to the outside of the door and, because this will become a "unisex" restroom, a partition around the urinal will be installed for privacy. This will allow access to a restroom when the activity building itself is locked. A big thanks to the

Activities Committee for proposing and funding this convenient addition to our community.

### **Cost Savings Performed by the Maintenance Department**

The following items are listed so that the membership can see some of the extra efforts the Maintenance Department takes to reduce costs. These items have been done by the skills of our Maintenance team instead of outside contractors.

- Savings of \$750.00 (per year) to move the compost pile to its new location.
- Savings of \$2,600.00 to repair the tree trimming bucket lift in house.
- Savings of \$1,200.00 to design new fairway mower improvements.
- Savings of \$250.00 to repair a safety device on one of our rough mowers.
- Savings of \$5,000.00 (per year) by having a tree trimming bucket lift and doing our own tree trimming.
- Savings yet to be determined by adding dryer booster fans. These savings will be seen in electrical and natural gas along with the dryer units lasting longer.
- Savings of \$2,000.00 by using in house staff to repair two of the three large water wells.

This is just a partial list of what has happened in just the last few weeks. The list goes on and on. I simply wanted to inform the Park Members what the Maintenance Department has been up to -- other than just mowing grass and moving cups. A big thanks to the Maintenance Team for all the unique skills and dedication they bring to our beautiful community. I am so very proud to be part of this team and would like to welcome our newest member, Greg Schelin, Lot 103, who is responsible for the great care of our swimming pools.

Thank you and have a wonderful season

Marty Abel, Maintenance & Golf Course Manager

### **Safety and Security Committee:**

*Welcome back to the unfrozen tundra!*

The Safety and Security Committee would like to welcome you all back to the Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi Community.

Going forward it was suggested at our first meeting to look into taking a straw poll among residents for what is often called Good Neighbor Wellness Checks. The committee discussed this in-depth and chose not to take on this endeavor as it

could put a big time commitment on the committee now and in the future and could create a liability for the Park. However, the committee does encourage members who know someone in the Park who is single or may be going through some type of health issue that does not have someone to look in on them, to stop by or call from time to time to see how they are doing.

I would also like to extend a huge THANK YOU to those of you that took the time to clear areas of your lots that may have obstructed clear views at intersections left or right onto our roadways, or while backing out onto our roadways. You're doing this may have cut down on the need to purchase a number of directional safety mirrors placed at various locations within our park. Your safety, and the safety of others, is our primary concern.

In an effort to be fully transparent with our committee's considerations, the following are other considerations discussed at our meetings:

- The need for speed detection signs at the entrance of our park. (Recommendation; not need).
- The need for an automatic gate at the entrance of the park. (Recommendation; not at this time but will be monitored on an ongoing basis).
- Park safety and security rounds to be made during Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and as needed throughout the year.
- Nightly closing responsibilities at our club house.
- Speed monitoring throughout the park (ongoing).

In keeping with Our Mission Statement, we are putting the finishing touches on a Fire Department demonstration on how to properly use a portable fire extinguisher. Along with this demonstration, information will be provided about a couple of major recalls to fire extinguishers and smoke detectors/CO2 alarms. This demonstration will be held at our volleyball court just outside the doors of our Activity Building right after the Annual Shareholders Meeting and just before the Informational Meeting. As always, if you have any suggestions for our committee to consider please write them down and bring them to any of our committee members and they will be reviewed for action. Member's names are posted on the door to the Office. For those of you that are willing and wanting to become further involved in your community, we are always looking for new members to join our committee!

Mark Deminsky, Lot 163, Chairman. Safety and Security

## **Pickleball News**

Welcome back to green Minnesota! Our pickle ball courts are all cleaned up and are being used regularly. We are happy to report six new beginners that have taken the class and are ready to play.

We have play daily at 9:00 AM, and on Tuesday and Thursday, we've invited some out-of-park players to join us.

Please come out and enjoy the fun!

Gary and Nancy Johnson, Lot 262



## **Activity Report – TCCOM's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Save the dates August 4 and 5, 2018 for the **TCCOM 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.**

**Saturday evening, August 4<sup>th</sup>** - Street dance by the club house.

**Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup>** –

- 3 PM program at the Activity Building to celebrate 40 years of TCCOM and honor the members that owned in the park since the beginning.
- Dinner at 4:30 PM. Serving pulled pork on buns, potato salad, baked beans, cake, and drinks.

Tickets are now on sale at the office for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner.

- Children age three and under free
- Children ages four to eight, \$6.00 -- all others \$8.00.
- Please buy your tickets as soon as possible since we need to know how many will be attending for planning purposes.

T-shirts and golf towels with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo are for sale at the office. We can also order polo shirts with the logo.

## **4<sup>th</sup> of July Carnival**

We are planning the carnival again for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. If you would like to donate prizes for this great event, please contact me at Lot 223, or 507-640-0145.

Theresa Oberloh, Activity Chair



### **Schedule of Church Services for the 2018 Season**

- June 3 - Pastor Jack Renberg – Communion
- June 10 - Allen & Matt Carlson – Music
- June 17 - Visiting Pastor
- June 24 - Higher Call – Men’s Gospel quartet
- July 1 - Pastor Larry Kutzler
- July 8 - 6:4 Devotion - Women’s musical group
- July 15 - Pastor Dennis McGraine
- July 2 - Benson Family Bluegrass musical group
- July 29 - Visiting Pastor
- August 5 - Pastor Lee Evenson – communion  
Special music by Singing Saints – Men’s quartet
- August 12 - Cedar Lake 7 Gospel Group
- August 19 - Visiting Pastor
- August 26 - Lindley Creek – family musical group
- Sept 2 - Visiting Pastor – communion
- Sept 9 - Visiting Pastor

Laura Ingalls, Lot 125



**Editor's Note:**

This is my last edition as the Wheels newsletter editor, and I want to thank everyone who submitted articles or pictures for use in "Wheels", or assisted in any way, especially Chuck McColgan, the office staff, proofers Joanne Lindeman and Carol Shosted, as well as my technical support at home, Wayne.

Julie Lonning, Unit 312, will be taking over as editor beginning with the June edition. As in the past, Wheels submissions, preferably electronic, are due by 5 PM on the Wednesday following the BOD meeting. Please send submissions to [travelerswheels@gmail.com](mailto:travelerswheels@gmail.com) or place them in the "Wheels box" on the hearth of the Clubhouse upper level fireplace.

As our unit is still on the market, I'll see you around the Park.

Marge Marschel, Lot 904