



August 2020 – Reflections Newsletter

2020 Association Meeting Dates

Our remaining quarterly meeting dates for 2020 are below. We encourage your attendance. **The August meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.**

Thursday, August 20, 2020 – General Meeting Thursday, November 19, 2020 – ANNUAL AND BUDGET MEETING

*****NOTICE: Due to the COVID-19 virus; this meeting will change to a conference call where owners can dial in remotely*****

The dedicated dial in number is **(312) 667-4792**
Conference code number: **588227#**

We ask all owners who attend the conference call to hold all questions until the main order of business has been completed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation during this time.



Planning a Staycation During a Pandemic (Because We Know You Need It Right Now!)

Become a Tourist in Your Own

Community – Take a day (or weekend) to explore your town and visit any tourist attractions, parks, and local businesses you’ve never been to before.

Take a Meditation Retreat Every Day – Daily mindfulness meditation is like a mini staycation that can help you clear your mind and bring your awareness back to the present, giving you a much-needed break from everything happening around you.

Bring Your Vacay Destination to You – If your summer bucket-list trip to Italy was canceled, bring Italy to you. Play Italian music, watch a movie or show based in Italy, eat Italian food, and drink Italian wine. If you have some extra cash (as in, the cash you were going to spend on your trip) import goods straight from Italy. Wherever you’d like to escape to, try to re-create the environment as closely as possible. “Small shifts in the environment can have a major impact,”

Recreate a Spa Experience – Pick up some fresh bath towels, scented candles, and bath salts. Run a hot bubble bath and round out the ambience with some soothing music and your favorite book.

Set Boundaries with the People in Your Life – One of the best parts of going on vacation is disconnecting from work texts, phone calls, and emails. But when you’re stuck at home, it can be hard to escape those stressors especially if people know they can still get in touch with you whenever a question or crisis arises.

Have a Movie Night with Your Family – Pop some popcorn, pull out the cushions and blankets, turn off the lights, and spend the night watching movies with your nearest and dearest. You can splurge and rent the movie you wanted to see in the theater, or have your family members take turns choosing a movie.

Reflections “Happenings”

Below are a few property updates:

Landscaping – Hartman has completed scheduled mulching, the first round of pruning, and weekly maintenance.

Grounds Restoration – The Association is continuing with large scale restoration efforts throughout the property. Emerald Site Services completed one large retaining wall on Sweetwater Court and an additional

small retaining wall on Ripple Ridge Drive. Note that grounds restoration is based on budget availability and priority. Upcoming items this fall include turf repairs, tree additions, and a bench seating area will be installed by the pond.

Tree Care and Removal – Each winter, Kramer Tree Service performs pruning on a 3 year cycle. Kramer also provides treatments to certain tree species on the property. J&S Tree Service completed the removal multiple willow trees this spring. Although it is sad to see the willow trees go; many are rotting out in the middle and will continue to be phased out in the coming years. A final stage of tree removals will be completed this summer by Brookfield Tree Service. It is nice to have a great list of tree vendors that perform work for the property.

Other Items –Concrete walkway condition is assessed annually. Overall, concrete is in average condition throughout the property. We will perform mud jacking and caulking each summer to help prolong the life of the original concrete. Mud jacking will be completed in August or September this year.

Capital Projects – In accordance with our strategic plan, replacement of the siding will be the next major capital project. This may also entail some slight visual changes to the exterior of the buildings. Nothing has been decided on this front but architectural renderings will be available prior to the project beginning. We have collected initial estimates for the siding replacement project. Currently, the board has not decided when the project will begin or over how many phases. Nonetheless, we have the data to make an informed decision and will keep you posted when more information is available.



News and Updates from the City of Darien

Be sure to continue to visit the City's website for regular updates at www.darien.il.us. They provide press releases and regular updates on all city projects. Also, Darien Direct Connect is the city's newsletter. You can sign up directly on the website.

Newsletters

The Association's quarterly newsletter is designed to update you of community news and other important events. If you have something you would like included

in the next newsletter, please send the information to brett@elitemgt.net.

Exterior Modification Forms

Please remember that the submission of an architectural change form with an attached drawing is **required** prior to any changes affecting the exterior of your unit and common elements. Common requests include: radon mitigation systems, satellite dishes, and landscaping additions. The only exceptions are flowers in the mulch beds; **EVERYTHING** else needs prior Board approval. If you are contemplating making changes to your unit that impact the exterior, please contact the management office first with details of your plan. Thanks for your cooperation.

Please save yourself the expense and hassle by clearing any major changes with management first.

Important Contact Information



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