

# The Colony of Edina

December 2022 Newsletter

## Who should you email? The Office!

Just a reminder that if you have questions and comments, email the office and not to the board. Be sure to also CC: the office when you email maintenance so Dolly can track work

The board email is used so members can communicate with each other. As volunteers, we don't have time to respond to emails from residents - this is why we have an office manager.

## Furnace Inspection Reminder

Don't forget to submit your proof of furnace inspection to Dolly at the Office. Inspection were due by November 30 to avoid a fine.

Email or call the office if you are unsure you need to update your proof of inspection or if you need more time!

---

## Gallery Dumpster Use

Colony rules state, "All units with a garage (other than those assigned to a Gallery garage) are required to use a trash container. Residents with a trash container **shall not** use the Gallery dumpsters for their trash or recycling. The Gallery dumpsters are for the exclusive use of residents who do not have a garage."

The Gallery dumpsters are often overflowing, leaving no place for the residents that park in these garages to dispose of their trash and recycling. Garbage is often left on the floor near the dumpsters, which is unsightly and will attract pests. With the increase of burglaries to Gallery vehicles, we should limit the number of people using these dumpsters. If you don't have a trash and/or a recycling container, please contact DSI at 952-469-2239.

# Keeping the Colony Safe

## Increased reports of package thefts and vehicle break ins

- Packages sitting outside your unit attracts thieves. If you are not going to be home when an Amazon package is being delivered, consider having it sent to the Amazon Hub locker at Cub Foods or Whole Foods in Edina.
- Residents who park in the gallery garages should not leave anything outside of vehicles in their parking stall. These items attract thieves. Please be mindful not to leave your vehicles unlocked and don't leave any items inside of your vehicle that may tempt a thief. If you have been victim of a burglary, alert the Edina police at their non-emergency phoneline (952-826-1610) and then inform the office.
- Keep garage doors closed. "Hunters," as the police call them, look in garages left open.

## Organic Recycling

The Colony no longer has compost containers in Gallery garages. You can still compost your food and appropriate materials at nearby locations.

Centennial Lakes has a compost container outside of the Hughes Pavilion. You can drop compost in Bloomington at Valley View Park (201 E. 90th Street—between the pool and fields), West Bush Lake Park (95th & W. Bush Lake Road—near the Shelter 1 parking), and the South Hennepin County Recycling Center (1400 W. 96th Street). Or, at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield (6710 Lake Shore Dr. South—near the southeast end of the main parking lot).

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, 9 am -4 pm  
Tuesday, 9 am - 4 pm  
Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm

### OFFICE PHONE:

952-920-6464

### OFFICE EMAIL:

[office@colonyedina.com](mailto:office@colonyedina.com)

### MAINTENCE EMAIL:

[maintenance@colonyedina.com](mailto:maintenance@colonyedina.com)

### BOARD EMAIL:

[board@colonyedina.com](mailto:board@colonyedina.com)

### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE EMAIL:

[landscape@colonyedina.com](mailto:landscape@colonyedina.com)

### OPEN FORUM:

Third Tuesday of month at 5:30 pm

### BOARD MEETING:

Third Tuesday of month at 6 pm

# Energy Savings Tips

You can help the Colony reduce energy use and save money. Here are a few ideas:

- Replace your furnace filter once a month.
- Install a smart thermostat.
- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees F or less.
- Replace original windows.\*
- Turn down your water heater.

\*The city of Edina has a deferred home improvement loan program that can be used to replace windows. <https://tinyurl.com/2kezpu94>



---

## Snow Removal Reminder



Vehicles not removed from outdoor parking areas to allow for snowplowing are subject to towing at your expense. If your vehicle is register with the office, we will attempt to contract you prior to the tow. Download the vehicle registration [form](#) from our website.

---

## Construction Approval

The board appreciates your efforts to update units. We want to remind residents you need to notify the office by submitting an Architectural Change Request (ACR) prior to doing any remodeling to avoid a \$1,250 plus any attorney fee fine. This includes replacement of windows. You can download the [form](#) from our website.



# Join the Board!

Jeff Hamm has resigned from the Board. We thank him for his hard work over the years and the strides he has helped us make in improving our infrastructure.

As a result of Jeff's resignation, we have an opening on the Board. Our process is to put out a general appeal for applications from any owner that is interested in serving. We will review applications and interview applicants before deciding who to name to the Board. The named Board member will serve until the next election in June when they may choose to run for the Board as will any current Board member who wishes to continue serving.

Email the office or stop in during office hours to get an application.

---

## Notice of Water Heater Flushing



During the winter months, maintenance will be flushing water heaters in all units. Flushing water heaters makes them heat more efficiently and last longer, saving money in two different ways. The process is simple: a hose is hooked up to the spigot on the tank, which is then turned on. The hose will direct water into the floor drain, which also gets cleared (bonus). Be sure to respond to our request to access your unit.

---

## Selling Your Unit?

Sellers must have a walk through of a board member or property manager prior to listing the unit to identify non-conforming structures for corrections and notice to buyers, which need to be noted in the Resale Disclosure Certificate. This is not occurring. Owners may be responsible for correcting non-conforming issues after the sale.



# Letter from Driftwood to Residents

Happy Holidays to all,

With the first few small snowfalls and one big one under our belt now, we wanted to reach out and talk about expectations. We know that when there is a contractor switch over, it can be hard to know what to expect from the new contractor. We may do things a little differently than the last company, as no two companies will ever work in the same manner.

First, we want to thank everyone for the great praises that we have received on the work that we have done to this point. We also want to acknowledge that we have also been met with a few less than respectful comments to our staff members. Those staff members that received snarky or rude comments have been working outside in freezing temperatures for hours on end and overnight to open up sidewalks and driveways, plow lanes for movement, salt for safety, and yet, some people have chosen to still meet them with “they did a terrible job down there”, “are you going to get to this? It would have been nice if it was done before I had to step in the snow”. All while they are actively still working on clean up procedures. Though our folks have tough skin, remember, they are human, and kindness is always free.

When it comes to snow removal, there are a lot of things to take into consideration when completing the job. As you know, The Colony is a large property that spans a great distance. Just because you can not see any employees or equipment where you are, does not mean that we don't have plenty of staff on site. They WILL get to your area, and you will not be forgotten. The first priority is to open up drive lanes for car movement to and from the property. This is to ensure that vehicles can move as freely as possible to avoid them getting stuck in the snow or sliding on the snow or ice into any parked vehicles or buildings. This also means that while we are doing the initial clearing, we do not get close to parked vehicles or garage door openings. Our main focus is to get things opened up, not to get things perfect. Getting close to vehicles and garage door openings happens when we enter the cleanup phase so that we can take our time and not risk damaging your personal property with our equipment.

Continued on next page

# Letter from Driftwood to Residents

Once the open up of drive lanes is complete, we will work on clearing sidewalks, IF the weather does not forecast heavy winds. Did you know, that if we clear the sidewalks to the concrete and heavy winds develop, that it will create icy conditions causing more people to slip and fall? Having snow on the sidewalks can definitely be an inconvenience to walk through, but it is safer than slipping and falling down, especially for those of you who more steps to their door than others.

We take our time completing the job, focusing more on what we are doing, rather than the speed at which it is done. When speed is increased, so is the likelihood of accidental damages to the grass areas, landscaping, garage doors and your other personal property. The last thing that we want to happen is to have any rocks or debris thrown at your vehicles, windows, or buildings. It may take a little extra time for you to get to your vehicle, but that is a lot less stress than dealing with insurance companies to get your vehicle repaired or dealing with a broken window in your unit.

Once the snow has stopped and we have cleared the drive lanes and sidewalks, we finish up by completing what we call 'clean up work'. This phase is where you will see us clearing out the parking spots that were previously occupied and taking care of the sidewalks that have drifted over. Additionally, we then will go and hand shovel or pull the snow away from garage door entrances, clean up spots that were temporary snow storage, take care of any locations that may look unkempt, and go over the roads again. After every snowfall, there are days of clean up work that happen, and days that we will be out and checking for any areas that are prone to problems with melting and freezing, or slush pile up. While we can acknowledge that no matter what we do, not everyone will be happy, we try our best to make sure the majority of you are. We would love for this to be the only property that we service and focus all of our efforts on it, but that is not a feasible business practice, so there will be times that we are off completing other jobs and not there at the moment that you expect us to be there. However; it is our job to clear things out for you, and we always will! But if it is not on your timeline and you personally need it done quicker, we will not be offended if you shovel out your own garage door opening or walkway, we can even provide extra shovels if requested.