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January

# PRAIRIE WOODS

2025

HOA Quarterly Newsletter

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## President's Message

Rich Aguilar

I assumed the role and duties of the president in April 2024. It's hard to believe that 2024 is gone. The holidays seemed to fly by this year. I hope that you all had an opportunity to spend some quality time with your loved ones this holiday season.

One of my goals as president was to bring our community together and while that goal has not been completely accomplished, I do feel like we have made some real progress. Our annual picnic was apparently a success as the board received more positive comments than ever from our residents. Quarterly Board Meetings were brought back into the neighborhood and are once again a pleasure to attend as attendees and HOA Board Members seem to have a newfound respect for one another.



Moving forward, when the “real” winter weather finally hits us, we will have more opportunities to become even closer with our neighbors. We have several senior citizens who would likely appreciate their driveway or sidewalk cleared while you are out with your snowblower. Most driveways and sidewalks take less than twenty minutes to clear.

On a more serious note, the recent incidents in Las Vegas and New Orleans bring an old maxim to mind. If you see something, say something. The same thing holds true even in our tranquil Prairie Woods community. Several of our surrounding suburbs have recently had numerous car and home burglaries. Several stolen vehicles that were used in other crimes have been dumped on the street and left for days without anybody reporting anything to the police. Believe me when I tell you that the police would rather respond to something that turns out to be nothing rather than not responding to something that turns out to be something because nobody called. Many of us have Ring doorbells or other security cams on our residences. If something looks out of place or suspicious, please let someone know.

My family and I hope that 2025 brings you health, wealth and everything you hope for.

## Digital Transformation Continues

Your HOA Board moved even further into the twenty-first century when the Board authorized HOA Treasurer, Scott Kochaney, to upgrade our ancient QuickBooks desktop software with QuickBooks online.

This upgrade benefits HOA members in many ways. Online billing is now a possibility which gives you the opportunity to pay online. No more checks to write, meaning your personal banking information is more secure as it is encrypted when paying your bill and is never seen by any board member. Paper invoices no longer need to be printed out which saves money spent on ink, paper, envelopes and postage. Plus, it is more environmentally friendly. We expect online invoicing to be available for the April 2025 billing cycle.

Any resident who wants to opt out of electronic communications and continue receiving a paper invoice will have the opportunity to do so. Checks will always be accepted.

The Board also agreed to begin using MailChimp for HOA group emails to residents. This is the easiest and most efficient method for the HOA Board to connect with you and your personal email is secure. We can assure you that you will likely only receive one or two emails a month unless there is a serious Board issue that you need to be made aware of. You always have the option to unsubscribe from these emails.

We currently have only a handful of email addresses available for our residents. We desperately need your current email so that we can include you in our electronic communications. Your contact information will never be sold or go outside of the HOA database. Please complete and return the enclosed form with your January HOA dues payment or email your information to [secretary@prairiewoodshoa.com](mailto:secretary@prairiewoodshoa.com).

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## Upcoming HOA Board Election

The Prairie Woods HOA Board will hold an election on or about April 15, 2025. Two board positions will be up for election. Any resident who is interested in running for one of the board positions should contact any board member via email by March 15, 2025. The requesting resident will be issued a self-nomination form.

All persons seeking election will be afforded an opportunity to submit information that will be made available to all residents prior to the election.

There are currently three ways to cast a ballot. Residents can submit an in-person ballot, submit an absentee ballot, or allow someone else to submit proxy ballot.

Please be aware that submitting an in-person or absentee ballot ensures that you are voting for the candidate(s) of your choice. Allowing someone else to submit a proxy ballot effectively allows that person to vote for the candidate(s) of their choice.

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### HOA Board Members

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| President         | Rich Aguilar   |
| Vice President    | Sam Duggan     |
| Treasurer         | Scott Kochaney |
| Secretary         | Jen Pope       |
| Projects/At Large | Jason Geist    |

### Upcoming HOA Meetings

January 14, 2025 @ 6:30 pm  
Google Meet link will be posted on the  
HOA website and Facebook page  
[www.prairiewoodshoa.com](http://www.prairiewoodshoa.com)