



Marling Farms Community Association

P. O. Box 123, Chester Maryland 21619

Spring & Summer, 2018

Volume XX, No. 1

Upcoming Events

Annual Spring Yard Sale

Saturday, May 12th

Rain or Shine

8 AM until 12 PM

Community-wide yard

sale. This is advertised in local papers and has a good turnout typically.



Annual Ice Cream Social

Friday, June 15th (tentative)

4 PM

Ice cream sandwiches and other tasty frozen treats given to children ages 16 and below to celebrate the end of another school year.



Annual Community Picnic

Saturday, June 23, 4 PM Beach 3

Volunteers needed to help

setup, cook, and cleanup

the event! Please contact

marlingfarms@gmail.com if you wish to help.



Annual Autumn Wine, Beer, and Cheese Social

September 21, 6 PM

Join fellow community

members at our Beach 3

pavilion to sample wine, beer, and

cheese as we catch up with one

another while watching the sunset

over Crab Alley Bay. This was a well-attended event last year.



Message from the President

Spring... hurry up and get here!!!!!! It has been a cold winter for most Marling Farm residents and spring is fighting to push winter out. Hopefully the warm weather will arrive soon. With elections just finished, I would like to welcome the new board members. The current board members will transition to the board of directors in an advisory capacity to help the new Electees in assuming their new leadership roles on the executive board (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary). I would like to thank all of the board members and members at large for their service and help in the past years. We have many projects lined up and the new board will be reviewing the needs and priorities. If you have any project you feel a need to be addressed please contact us at our email address: marlingfarms@gmail.com.

We have many activities planned later in the year. Please make the time to come out and enjoy the events and common areas. Please remember to send your community dues in for this year. If you have any questions on your balance, please contact us and we will be happy to review your payment history with you. Included in this newsletter is an invoice for the current year dues. There have been several questions asking if dues are mandatory. The dues are mandatory and this is stated in the Bylaws for the community. If you need to reference the Bylaws, they are located on the Marling Farms web site at www.marlingfarms.com under the Documents tab. It takes money to pay for things like maintaining beach areas, mosquito spraying, and insurance. Without your contribution we would not be able to accomplish the tasks and events throughout the year, including a

community favorite, the summer picnic.

Marling Farms is a great community and I thank everyone for your support. We live in a great community and it is because of you, this is a great place to call home.

— Shane Wheeler

Community Association Board of Directors

President

Shane Wheeler

marlingfarms@gmail.com

Vice President

Steve Ripkin

marlingfarms@gmail.com

Treasurer

JoAnn Woodward

marlingfarms@gmail.com

Secretary

Mark Kimball

marlingfarms@gmail.com



Committee Chairpersons

Maintenance, Work Day, and
Improvements.....*Shane Wheeler*
marlingfarms@gmail.com

Community Safety.....*Steve Ripkin*
marlingfarms@gmail.com

Communication and
Website.....*Mark Kimball*
marlingfarms@gmail.com

Front Sign and
Facebook.....*Marie Martinez*
marlingfarms@gmail.com

Youth Group.....needs volunteer
Events.....needs volunteer



If you have an idea for an
article that would be of
interest to the
community then
please submit it
for the next
newsletter!



Contact us at the
following email address:
marlingfarms@gmail.com

Next Newsletter: Spring 2019



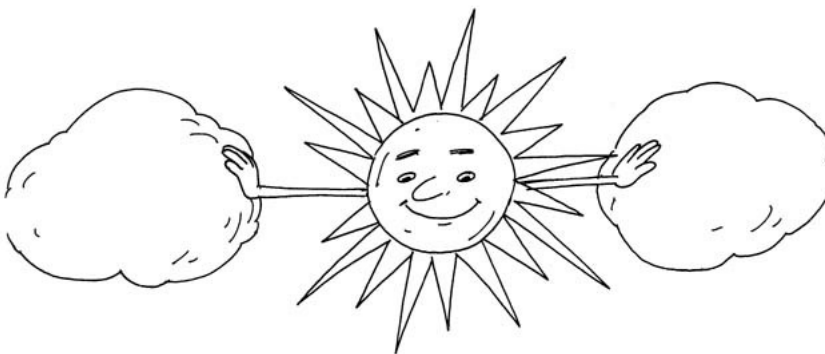
Opening statements were given by President Shane Wheeler at 19:06. Following introductions of the current Executive Council and Board Members in attendance he summarily explains the treasurer's report (this is shown on page 3 of this newsletter). The large annual costs associated with running the community were highlighted. These include mowing of our community areas, periodic mosquito spraying by the County, and insurance. Our new kayak racks built as part of an Eagle Scout project are explained as a near zero cost to the Community. More on the Kayak Racks may be found in the 2017 newsletter.

Next the Speed Trailer Data is discussed. Data from 5/31 to 6/5/2017 is shown (same plot as seen on page 6). Few comments are registered at first. Then attendees begin to open up talking about speeders, cars broken into, etc. There appears to be an overall amazement at the amount of traffic within our community and how the speeding issue is not as bad as one might think.

A presentation regarding projects done within the Community last year begins. It is stated that not many large projects were undertaken but there are some coming up as listed below.

- Beach 1 will receive a couple of shade trees to enhance the picnic table area.
- Beach 2 need a dedicated access to the water. Currently there is a path to the beach made by arranging the rip-rap there to create steps. A ramp or shallow steps made from wood or aluminum are proposed to replace the temporary access.
- Beach 3 also needs access to its sandy beach. Again the Board is looking at something concrete, steel, or aluminum to provide a permanent solution for access to the water.

[Continued on page 7]



News to Share

Welcome our new neighbors!

Please welcome our following new neighbors: Jacob Banda, Kino & Natalie Beneventi, Kris & Jennifer Buckler, Anthony & Dolores Ciotola, Patricia Clemm, Andrew & Courtney Fielding, Jason & Erica Fox, Bryan & Erika Hoffman, William and Amy Jacks, John & Mary Anna Michalski, Glenn Pauley, Kyle Voelker & Stephanie Guild, and Heidi Wilkes.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

This year's egg hunt was attended by over 40 children and hosted by Kim Euler. There were golden egg winners for each age group (0-4, 5+), so two lucky kids won giant chocolate bunnies. In addition to the egg hunt there was a carrot toss, egg races, prizes for the games, and crafts. There were tons of food contributions, so we had lots of breakfast treats.



Kim is looking for a volunteer to either take over the egg hunt or co-host it next year. If are interested in helping out with the event, please send a message to marlingfarms@gmail.com stating so.

Marling Farms Community Beaches

- ☀ For Dues-Paying Members Only
- ☀ Open Sunrise to Sunset
- ☀ Use at Your Own Risk
- ☀ Children Under 13 with Adult Supervision Only!
- ☀ Please Clean Up Your Trash and After Your Pet
- ☀ CAUTION-Water Subject to Heavy Tidal Action
- ☀ Swim at Your Own Risk
- ☀ No Overnight Parking
- Violators Will Be Prosecuted



Marling Farms Community Association Treasurer's Report: March 2018

Account balance March 28, 2017: \$24,754.93

Income

Dues	15,923.70
Miscellaneous Income (for Eagle Scout Project)	1,385.00
Ad revenue	120.00

Expenses

Lawn mowing & weed kill	(4,275.00)
Mosquito spraying	(2,250.00)
Insurance	(1,464.00)
Renovations/improvements [includes Eagle Scout Project]	(1,302.69)
Community functions [Easter egg hunt, Picnic, Ice cream social, etc.]	(1,125.66)
Delmarva Power	(464.64)
Beach 2&3 trash pickup	(360.00)
Member stickers	(334.32)
Postage	(208.00)
Newsletter	(204.75)
PO Box fees	(120.00)
Zero Waste dog bags	(64.00)
Yard sale ads	(25.00)
Website	(24.16)

Account balance March 30, 2018: \$29,961.24

—Prepared by *JoAnn Woodward, Treasurer*



Are you not receiving occasional email messages from Marling Farms? Then make sure to include your personal email address on the Dues Invoice form when you mail in your dues. This will allow you to receive timely updates on events happening in the community, notification of the occasional missing pet, and other community-centric communications.

Pet Corner by Kim Tipton



Hi all!

Well I think that spring is upon us... finally! I'm sure many of us have been chomping to get outdoors and get that spring planting started! Something to keep in mind when choosing foliage/flowers to plant in our gardens is the safety of our pets. Some of the most popular plants are poisonous to our pets. Common garden plants include Azaleas, Cyclamen, Lilies, Oleander, Dieffenbachia, Daffodils, Lily of the Valley, Sago Palms Tulips and Hyacinths... ALL poisonous to domestic pets!

Also a potential poison concern is insecticides and fertilizers. It is best to keep curious pets indoors when applying and keep areas of application off limits until safe. Better yet, explore using pet (and environmentally) safe pest control and natural fertilizer.

Animal poisoning can cause gastrointestinal distress, internal bleeding, kidney and liver failure and death. Learn the signs of pet poisoning. For more info and a complete list household toxins to pets, visit www.petpoisonhelpline.com.

Spring is also a good time to be sure that your pet is up to date on rabies shots. All dogs, cats, and ferrets over four months old are required by law to have their rabies shots and current county license. County licenses are available at Queen Anne's County animal control.



Don't forget to stock up on flea and tick control!

Oral Health

Just like we humans, it is important for overall good health to provide dental hygiene to our furry family members. Plaque forms on the teeth and gums daily. Accumulated plaque quickly begins to harden and can cause inflammation of the gums. It is good to get into the habit of practicing oral hygiene on our pets. Even just taking a piece of gauze and rubbing across your pet's teeth can help remove some of the plaque. If you get into a regular habit, your pet will most likely comply. If daily brushings are not possible, at least weekly is beneficial. Also try treats that are natural plaque removers such as raw carrots.

If left untreated, dental disease can lead to a variety of other serious health problems including kidney and heart disease. Bad breath in your pet is an indicator of dental disease.

I recommend that you visit <http://www.avdc.org/carefordogs.html> for a comprehensive look at dental disease and oral home care in dogs.

Courtesy

Please be mindful of your neighbors when letting your pets outside for extended periods of time and in the early morning and late hours. A constantly barking or howling dog can quickly upset the peace and harmony within our neighborhood.

Last but not least...DON'T FORGET TO SCOOP THE POOP!



Wishing everyone a happy & safe summer season!

Mosquito Control within the Community

Again this year, the Community has signed up with Queen Anne's County for adult mosquito surveillance and periodic spraying. At the time of printing of the newsletter, we have not been assigned a night to expect spraying. Please note that while a technician may not visit our community every week (on average biweekly service), it will always be on our assigned night. Expect an email with the exact details when the County finalizes its schedule.



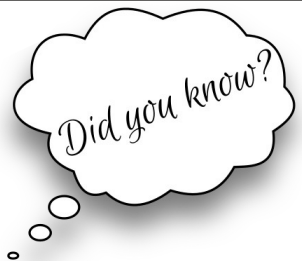
The County's technicians are instructed to turn off the sprayer when they see people and, for this reason, they ask that we stay inside when we see or hear the spray truck. The density of the adult mosquito population will be measured by landing rate counts and CDC mosquito light traps. Spraying only takes place when the density of mosquitoes reaches a standard threshold and weather conditions are conducive to successful mosquito control. Much more detail regarding this may be found on the Marling Farm's website under the Community Documents section.

- ***The Marling Farms Community Association provides dog waste bags at each of our Community Beaches.***

Queen Anne's County Code Chapter 9, Animal Control, Section 18 states the following on the Discharge on Property of Others:

A. Private property. The owner or custodian of an animal may not allow his or her animal or any animal under his or her care to defecate on the property of another without the consent of the owner of the property.

B. Public property. The owner or custodian of an animal may not allow his or her animal or any animal under his or her care to defecate on public property unless the owner or custodian of the animal immediately thereafter removes and disposes of any and all waste in a sanitary manner.



- ***How much are dues, and how is the money used?***

Annual dues are \$50, and they go mostly toward mandatory liability insurance, maintaining community areas, mosquito spraying, printing and mailing newsletters, community gatherings and beautifying our community.

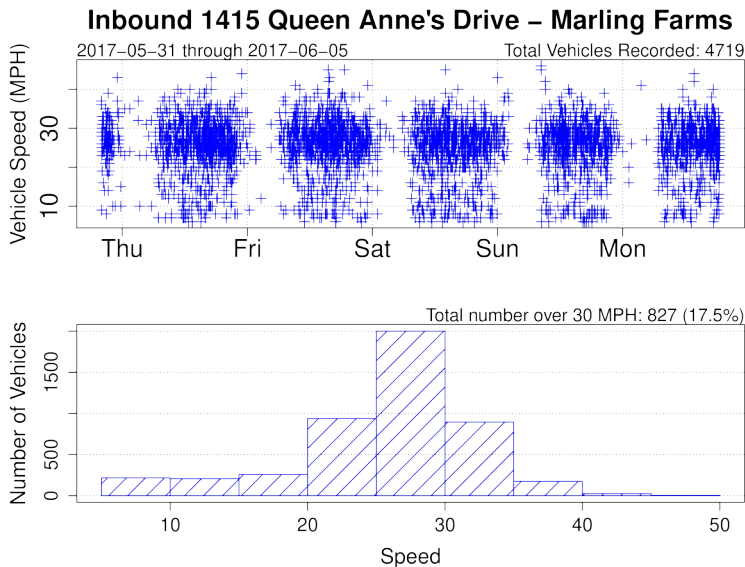
- ***Why is the community speed limit 25MPH?***

Many residents enjoy hiking, riding, and dog walking along our community roadways. Unfortunately, there are no sidewalks. During the most recent traffic safety study, it was found that the posted speed limit best remain at 25 miles per hour. Raising the speed limit 10 MPH will subtract less than one minute of commute time through the neighborhood. An added note: Parsons Island Road is posted at 30 MPH, a good idea especially considering the deer, foxes, turtles and other surprises.

- ***What can you do about speeding in the neighborhood?***

This is the most frequently asked question. If you observe ANY dangerous or illegal activity, this includes vandalism, theft and trespassing, along with speeding or aggressive driving, let the QAC Sheriff do their duty, by calling (410) 758-0770. Of course, in the case of true emergency, call 911. Please be considerate of your neighbors when driving around and through the community.

Speed Data



Speeding within the community is often a hot topic during the Annual Community Meetings. It has been stated that this is the number one problem within the Community and the Board should find a way to address it. This led to the invitation for Officers from the Office of the Sheriff in Queen Anne's County to attend our annual meeting in 2017 (see the Minutes of the Annual Community Meeting in that year's Newsletter). The summer prior to that meeting, the current President of the Board, Shane Wheeler, contacted the County asking if they could insert a Speed Trailer into the community to

gauge our problem. Unfortunately, the County's two trailers were non-functional and there was no indication when new trailers would be purchased by the County. Rather than give up and wait, Shane asked if the County would drop off the trailers to us in Marling Farms so we can attempt to fix them. Fast forward to Mid-2017 where we find one of the trailers was repaired and made functional.

This began a campaign where the trailer would be parked at various locations around the Community and data gathered. An example of such a gathering is seen in the image above. That image summarizes the traffic speed on Queen Anne's County traveling into the Community prior to the split to Bayside Drive. Two things are surprising to most people who have seen that plot. First, over a roughly five day period, a total of 4719 vehicles passed the trailer! Second, only 17.5% of those vehicles were over 30 miles-per-hour. That's a bit of traffic but most of it is not traveling at excessive speed. Space is limited here so I will summarize the data obtained at other locations within the Community in the following table.

<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Vehicle Count</u>	<u>Percent over 30 MPH</u>
5/27 - 5/30	1338 Queen Anne's Drive	Inbound	3135	23.9
5/31 - 6/05	1415 Queen Anne's Drive	Inbound	4719	17.5
6/05 - 6/10	1343 Calvert	Inbound	299	04.0
6/11 - 6/21	Entrance Marling Farms	Outbound	13584	33.0
6/24 - 7/03	Bay Side, Beach 3	Inbound	2095	03.5
7/04 - 7/17	1415 Queen Anne's	Outbound	7896	07.0
7/22 - 7/30	1812 St. Mary's Road	Inbound	1510	02.1

Do we have a problem with speeding within the Community? The numbers above suggest that the majority of traffic within the Community is not speeding if you take our limit of 25 MPH and add a buffer of 5 MPH before we call it speeding. However, the above numbers do not tell the whole story since they do not convey the one vehicle traveling in excess of 80 MPH outbound on Queen Anne's Drive at 3:48 PM on July 10, 2017. If such an atrocity is witnessed, the Office of the Sheriff has stated we may call them with any details we can give and they will have a chat with the vehicle owner if one can be identified.

On a good day—dry road conditions, good line of sight, attentive driver—it takes a vehicle in good repair traveling at 80 MPH nearly 400 feet to stop. If a child on a bicycle, skateboard, or foot is in the path of that car before it shrieks to a halt, well, you get the picture and it's terrible. The number drops to 75 feet if a vehicle is traveling at 30 MPH. Obviously not zero but more than 5 times shorter making the likelihood of avoiding an accident greater.

– **Mark Kimball**

Annual Community Meeting [continued from page 2]

At this point someone—I'm sorry I didn't record your name—brings up the fact that older photos show sand that goes out 500 feet or so. Can we put in a jetty or something else, he asks, to make this come back? Shane explains that we looked into it but the cost estimate was \$30K and states that getting contractors into the Community to address large projects like this is difficult since they don't want move their equipment for less than \$30K. Shane states we may need to raise our annual dues to cover costs that are going up.

To help cover costs within the Community, an attendee suggested that we modify the Annual Dues Invoice to include a space where a Community Member may indicate they are donating an extra amount of money to be used to enhance the Community. It is agreed that this will be done starting this year. Shortly after this there was the suggestion of raising the annual dues and allowing those on a fixed income to be grandfathered in at the present rate of \$50 per year. It is explained that we already have some residents claiming hardship and the Board allows them to pay a reduced amount.

It is also suggested we consider collecting dues per lot instead of per resident. In other words, rather than a resident who owns multiple lots being required to pay once to secure their right to a single vote on any Community issue, as outlined in the By-Laws of the Community, the resident would pay the annual dues on each lot. This leads to some discussion and the topic is tabled until a future date.

Next begins a discussion regarding areas within the Community that may require a significant amount of funds to address issues. Our Beach 3 area needs some upkeep. There is a washout area north of the pier and the pier itself needs maintenance. Beaches 1 and 4 are mowed by Community members currently but this may need to transition to the commercial service we use for other community areas. The new kayak racks will be re-roofed by taking off the OSB and putting CDX board and true shingles. This minor cost will be covered from Community funds.

The topic of annual upkeep within the Community is brought forth and a question is asked regarding who determines what jobs are done on upkeep day. Shane explains it is completely up to the new Board to decide how to spend the money. He goes on to state that while things are going OK, we never thought we should spend the entire \$14k or so that is available to do larger beautification projects since issues like a lost pier due to a storm or some other unforeseen catastrophe would wipe out the entire Community fund. Next Beach 3 water access is shown in a photo with the rip-rap in front of the sand. Shane explains that we considered concrete stairs to the sandy region of both Beach 2 and 3 but to pour the concrete would involve building a dam, pumping out the water, pouring the concrete, then keeping the water out while it sets. He explains further that we looked into aluminum stairs. Current Vice-President Steve states he wants to explore large flat rocks similar to what Hemmingways has in place along the bay and how he put in natural steps that have worked for years. This topic will be left for the new Executive Committee and Board to tackle.

The final topic of the night is the election of a new Executive Board and Board of Directors. A vote is taken on the four people for the Executive Board: **Tim Vrabel** for President, **Steve Ripkin** for Vice-President, **Donna Sutherland** for Secretary, and **Denise Reilly** for Treasurer. All were accepted in rapid succession. Next up was the vote for the Members at Large who make up the Board of directors: **Dave Sutherland, Pete Martinez, Brian Stokes, Brian Burkett, and Shane Wheeler**. A vote is taken and these people are voted in unanimously as the new Board of Directors. Thanks are given to the outgoing Executive Board and Board of Directors.

The meeting adjourns at 20:10

– **Mark Kimball**



Marling Farms Community Association
P. O. Box 123
Chester, MD 21619

ANNUAL DUES INVOICE AND NEWSLETTER

Peponi Wellness, LLC
Healing Mind and Spirit

Mary Kay Rehard, MSW, LCSW-C
Psychologist

Office: 116 S. Piney Rd, Ste. 204-C,
Chester, MD 21619
Mail: PO Box 249, Chester, MD 21619

PH: 410.216.4411
F: 443.249.3297
mkr@peponiinfo.com
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HAYLEY HILDEBRAND
214 PIER ONE RD
SUITE 102
STEVENSVILLE MD 21666

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PHONE: 410.643.3380
TEXT: 410.643.3380
FAX: 410.643.7099
HAYLEY@HARRISTAGTITLE.COM
WWW.HARRISTAGTITLE.COM

Harmony On The Bay
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Women's A Cappella Chorus

For more information:
Claudia - 410-924-0013
Date - 301-512-3288

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