



Marling Farms Community Association

P. O. Box 123, Chester Maryland 21619

Spring & Summer, 2014

Volume XVI, No. 1

President's Note

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 12, 4 PM Beach 3

Ice Cream Social

Ice Cream for those that finished another great school year!

Saturday, June 28, 4 pm Beach 3

(Rain date: Sunday June 29)

Annual Community Picnic & Youth Fishing Contest!

Volunteers needed to organize the event! Please contact marlingfarms@gmail.com.

Fall 2014, Beach 3

Annual Wine and Cheese Social

Date to be determined

Check website for details and updates:



www.marlingfarms.com

It has been a long cold winter for most Marling Farm residents. As I am starting to see everyone roaming about enjoying the nice warm days, I am always impressed with the effort everyone makes to make their yards and homes a beautiful staple of the community. The Board and I would like to continue that effort with maintaining and improving the community areas.

We have many projects lined up and have prioritized them based on need. During the last community meeting we discussed many of the projects and the priority each of them should receive. The most recent effort by the community was the "Work Day" which was held on Saturday, May 3. It is one of the most important events of the year and I would like to thank everyone that volunteered. Even a couple of hours was a great help. We were able to replace old swing set chains and repaint the play boat at Beach 3, clean up Beach 2, and get the front entrance sign weeded and cleaned up. If you were unable to make the work day, but still want to volunteer your time, please contact us at marlingfarms@gmail.com. We have many other 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. Included in this newsletter is an invoice for the current year. 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. The board has made a push to collect back dues and letters have gone out. We discussed this at the community

meeting this spring and everyone who attended was in favor of our plan and approach. If we have offended or angered anyone, that was not our intention. We needed to get people to respond and initiate a call to action. I would like to thank everyone who has brought their dues current and those who have helped us correct discrepancies in our records. We can now move forward and have a good confidence level with the accuracy of our records.

I am very grateful to have the support of senior board members JoAnn and Rocky and new board member Mark Kimball and his wife Janet. It is with their guidance that we will develop and maintain the vision of Marling Farms. The board asks for your help in making this the best community on the Eastern Shore. In striving to achieve this, we ask that everyone reach out to their neighbors and build a sense of fellowship within the community. Common values help strengthen and build the community and develop a strong network that protects our community from outside crime and vandalism. I am proud to say we have great people in this community that I am happy to call neighbors.

We still need two volunteers to lead the "Welcoming Committee" and "Youth Activities Committee". Both of these chairs are vacant and we need your help. It is very rewarding to be able to give back and become involved.

Marling Farms is a great community and I thank everyone for your support. You have proven to us that we have some of the best people in the area living right here among us. I look forward to meeting many new neighbors as I serve alongside of you as President of the Board. We live in a great community and, 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
Rocky Williams
marlingfarmssafety@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

Neighborhood Watch
Rocky Williams
marlingfarmssafety@gmail.com

Communication.....Mark Kimball
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 2015

Often board members are asked specific questions regarding the community. Here is a list of the more frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Marling Farms Community Association FAQs

How can I find the Community rules and regulations?

The easiest way, if you have internet access, is to point a web browser to <http://marlingfarms.com>. There is a radio button marked 'Documents' which will take you to the covenants and restrictions. Otherwise, contact any board member for assistance by sending an e-mail to marlingfarms@gmail.com. If you don't have access to email, ask a neighbor to send a message on your behalf or feel free to stop a board member when you see him or her.

How are these rules enforced?

Due to the community covenants being prepared in the 1950's, there are sections that may no longer be consistent with the current County Code. As such, the community has limited enforcement ability. We primarily act upon suggestions or concerns, so please, after consulting the covenants and restrictions, try to work out issues with your neighbors in a neighborly manner. The board will handle grievances on a case by case basis.

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.

I don't use the facilities, why should I pay as much as someone who does?

The facilities are for all community property owners in good standing, their legal tenants and guests. Even if you do not, for instance, use the boat landings or playgrounds, the value to the community is still there. Real estate listings always have pictures of the common areas as selling features, increasing your property value.

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 add 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.

News to Share

Welcome our new neighbors!

Please welcome our following new neighbors:
Paul O'Donoghue, Brian & Jennifer Burkett, Michael Campbell, John Coursey, Peter & Lisa Packer, Doug & Tara Rowan, Robert & Deborah Stokes, Derek Thomas, and Brian Vandemark



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

This year we hosted an egg hunt for approximately 38 children. Thanks to **Tina Stevens** and **Carol Wheeler** for organizing and hosting the event!



Parson Island Road Cleanup

This year was a bit different than previous years. One of the community members asked if he and his family could participate by starting the cleanup earlier than the planned time. Of course the answer was YES!

Thanks to **Rick Mellinger** along with his helpers: **Rachel and Nathan Mellinger and Kennedy Warren**. Their effort

cleaned the road in record time and gave the remaining volunteers a day off.



Marling Farms Community Association Treasurer's Report: April 2014

Account balance March 31, 2014:	<u>\$10,100.23</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	11,600.00
Ad revenue	90.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Lawn mowing & weed kill	(2,695.00)
Mosquito spraying	(2,250.00)
Beach 4 riprap repair	(1,840.00)
Insurance	(1,403.00)
Miscellaneous beach repairs and improvements	(1,015.05)
Picnic	(624.17)
Postage	(466.00)
Delmarva Power	(406.06)
Member stickers	(309.05)
Beach 2&3 trash pickup	(254.22)
Newsletter	(212.97)
Zero Waste dog bags	(163.50)
PO Box fees	(84.00)
Ice Cream Social	(56.00)

Youth Group (no income or expenses)

Account balance March 26, 2014: \$10,011.21

-Prepared by JoAnn Woodward, Treasurer

Spring Work Day

Saturday, May 3rd, volunteers met to tackle some outstanding chores that needed attention around the community. Thanks to **Shane Wheeler, John Banda, Craig Duncan, Pete and Marie Martinez, Mark and Janet Kimball, and Janice Mangum** for weeding the entrance flower bed, replacing chains on the swings at Beach 3, removing dead wood at Beach 2, and staining the boat play structure at Beach 3.



There is always more that can be done to keep Marling Farms the community we enjoy so much. If you find you have some free time and would like to contribute, please email marlingfarms@gmail.com and ask what small task you can complete to beautify our community.

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

Pet Corner

I trust everyone is glad to see an end to the crazy winter weather we've had. Our four legged family members are no exception. With the rise in temperatures and everyone eager to get outdoors, it's important to remember there are some specific hot weather pet hazards. Here are a few tips to keep your pet safe this season. 

Provide Sun Protection & Hydration

Animals, especially those with short or white fur can get sunburned and can also get skin cancer. If your pet will be outside for an extended period of time, apply a pet friendly sunscreen. Be sure to provide some type of shade/shelter and plenty of water.

Avoid Heat stroke

While it's tempting to take your dog on a car ride, if you are running errands, it's best to leave them in their safe haven at home. NEVER leave your dog in a parked car...not even with the windows cracked. It only takes minutes for the inside of a car to become an incinerator, easily exceeding temperatures of 100 degrees...on a 78 degree day. Your dog can quickly succumb to heat stroke and suffocation.

Secure the Pool

Pools can be just as dangerous for animals as they can be for children when left outdoors unsupervised. If your dog does swim, make sure there are steps or a ramp so they can get out of the pool. Relying on a ladder in the deep end is not advisable as the dog may be too tired to get itself up on a ladder. A doggie flotation device is also a good idea. Cats usually stay far away from the water so they are less of a risk.

Secure the Toxins

Be sure to keep items such as lawn fertilizers, weed killers, pest poisons, moth balls, cleaning fluids, antifreeze etc, in a sealed container and away from your pet's food/water supply. If you suspect that your pet has ingested a poisonous substance, seek medical attention immediately. The Emergency Veterinary Clinic provides 24 Hour emergency service-365 days a year. They are located at 808 Bestgate Road, Annapolis MD 21401 (410) 224-0331 & Baltimore (410) 974-6306.

Monitor Hand-Outs at Cook-Outs

In an attempt to make friends with your pet, guests may do so by slipping him or her treats. Dogs and cats digestive systems are much more delicate than that of humans and many foods cannot be well tolerated and may cause vomiting or diarrhea. Some foods are even poisonous to pet. Don't be afraid to ask your guests to NOT feed your pet.

Repel the Pests

Spring is the perfect time to stock up on flea/tick repellent, heartworm medication and update the rabies shot if due.

Keep Your Furry Family Member Secure

One of the things that really caught my attention this past winter was the epidemic of dogs being separated from their owners. Besides those in our own neighborhood, there wasn't a day that went by that I didn't read on social media about a missing or a found dog. I have to say I am amazed at this since the remedy can be so simple. Keep your dogs confined to your property and leashed when not indoors or in a fenced area. This is law and for the protection of your dog, as well as your neighbors. If you have an electric fence, this is the perfect time to change the batteries. Secondly tag or chip your pet. While I understand some people have reservations regarding chipping, there is just not any good reason not to tag. It is inexpensive and simple. Why would anyone not want to take these measures when being separated from our beloved pets is devastating for both owner and dog?

Last but not least, **don't forget to scoop the poop!**

Wishing everyone a happy, fun filled, safe summer season!

~Kim Tipton



Mosquito Control Spraying in Marling Farms



For the past few years, the community of Marling Farms has contracted with the Maryland Department of Agriculture for mosquito control. Last year they treated us a total of 9 times: 3 in June, 2 in July, 1 in August, 2 in September and 1 in October. This is done when the mosquito population meets or exceeds MDA's population threshold or in cases that threaten public health such as when West Nile Virus is detected. The treatment is in the form of an ultra-low volume spray (ULV) of an adulticide and larvicide.

Recently, upon calling the Department of Agriculture, we learned that, in addition to the night spraying, a representative from the Maryland Department of Agriculture comes to Marling Farms to perform a larvae check and treatment, especially in places where standing water occurs. These daytime visits happen at least twice a month. We also learned that residents can call the Agricultural Inspector at (410) 758-0920 Ext: 4140 to report standing water in the community and ask that it be treated. This is included in the cost of our treatment contract.

More information may be found on the Maryland Department of Agriculture web pages:

http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/mosquito_control.aspx

Marling Farms Annual Community Meeting

The meeting on March 26 was attended by 18 community members including the board of directors. It opened with President **Shane Wheeler** detailing the list of completed accomplishments for the 2013-2014 year. This was followed with a presentation by **JoAnn Woodward** highlighting the Treasurer's Report. One of the meeting attendees pointed out that we appear to be running a slight deficit from year to year. This lead, naturally, to a question of where we stand on dues collection.

The next 10 minutes was a lively discussion centered on the more than \$30k owed the community in past dues and what can be done to collect from previous years. The board explained that a letter will go out reminding community members what is owed and for which years. All those in attendance thought this to be a good plan of action.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of a presentation by three guest speakers: Al Helfenbein, John Viglianti, and Greg Dillon. These gentlemen represent the Lowery Farms Project. If you haven't heard already, there is a proposal to build a town center on the land currently known as Lowery Farms directly across from Safeway. The developers stated that their plan is to create something similar to the Reston or Rockville Town Centers. While the plan has yet to be finalized, the idea is to have a mix of commercial shops and living space. There was a lot of concern from community members regarding such issues as increased traffic congestion and overcrowded schools. According to the developers, the traffic issue is a known concern and a study has been done on four separate days spanning two seasons: summer and fall. The traffic data is still being analyzed and the results will factor into the final plan.

– Mark Kimball

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**ANNUAL DUES INVOICE
 AND NEWSLETTER**