

## *Dillon Beachcomber*

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**Mother Nature** seemed to have in mind a non-winter, leading into a wet & windy spring, which means several things pertinent to life in Dillon Beach.

**TICKS!** And more ticks! Anyone who has been out and about with a pet, or hiking in the grasslands has already discovered this is shaping up to be a bad year everywhere. Be sure to do a thorough "tick check" whenever you or your pets have been outside. Vacation rentals should alert guests as well. If you suffer a tick bite, keep in mind the tick must be attached 24 hrs. to infect you with Lyme Disease. If this happens and you can save the tick, the Marin Health Department can test it. The best defense for pets is a topical flea and tick preventative, available at most pet retailers and vets.

**WIND! And garbage can/recycle bin lids.** It's important cans weigh enough not to blow over, and the lids secured. Not only will your trash make a mess all over, it attracts 'critters', and makes extra work for the trash collectors. It is not OMA Parking and Safety's job to clean it up either. One solution is to install a two-part **magnetic doorstop** inside the lid/body of the can. A slight tug opens it, and when dumped in the truck the lid will fall open with the weight of the trash; it does seem to help keep the lids on. Big-box & hardware stores have them with cabinet hardware and such for \$8. Installation is five screws and a little bit of engineering/guesswork to line up the two parts inside the can, but anyone with minor carpentry skills can do it, or hire a local handyman. If we have our cans out Mon. or Tues. stop by 32 Kailua to check it out. [Suggest purchasing 8-32 size stainless screws and hex nuts instead of using screws that come with]

**WEED CUTTING and fire safety.** The grasses may not grow as tall this year with late/less rain, but they will dry out more quickly (see wind, above). Do get your defensible space work done early, clearing 100 feet or more around your property. The **Tomales Fire Department (878-2464)** can stop by and discuss your best options for fire safety. **OMA** will be clearing dead/dying trees in the open space, too.

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At the **OMA Member Meeting** in January there was a brief discussion about possibly using **barn owls** as natural rodent control. After consultation with the **Hungry Owl Project** <http://www.hungryowl.org> including marking four potential nest box locations, the information was given to the Board of Directors. Unfortunately, while all agreed it is an interesting and worthwhile effort, the cost for boxes, installation and monitoring was prohibitive. Also, since it was only for the infrastructure, there would be ongoing expenses for housekeeping, assuming owls took up residence. Since the 'per gopher caught' price tag was unknown, the project was tabled.

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**Traffic, parking and permits:** Some recent incidents call for a reminder the **speed limit** in ALL of Dillon Beach, including ALL of Oceana Marin is **25 mph**, and common sense would tell one to drive slower in fog, or when there are pedestrians/children around. Deer usually come in twos or threes, so when you see one, slow down or stop until you are sure it is safe to continue.

**Parking** in Oceana Marin is restricted to daylight only, with either a window sticker or numbered hangtag. No overnight parking is allowed at any time on any OMA street. Owners of rentals must tell guests to park off the street in a driveway. No parking is allowed on grass or open space. If you see a violation, call **Dale Holmes** at **878-2054** to request a friendly visit from Parking and Safety.

OMA is working on a **towing contract** to allow better parking enforcement as we approach summer. Questions? Contact Dale or board member **Dick Kapash**.

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Some exciting new changes and additions to the OMA Board of Directors have been made. **Luana Pinasco** and **Amanda Graves** were appointed in 2011 to fill terms of two departing board members. In Dec., with no other nominees for the Board vacancies, all members were 'elected' by acclamation. Normally, candidates for election would submit a short statement introducing themselves to the members. Please meet your two newest Board Members, now President and Vice President/Secretary.

**Luana** earned a law degree and worked 40+ years in the waste industry, now happily retired. She is married to her best friend, **Norman Main** (OMA volunteer & chair of the Compliance Committee). They purchased a lot in Oceana Marin in 1982, but waited to build their dream home until 2005. They are full time residents (when they aren't off travelling someplace interesting). Luana enjoys having time to serve on the Tomales Transit Board pursuing transportation opportunities for Dillon Beach and Tomales residents. She is also a regular weekly volunteer at the Tomales Food Pantry and is happy to be a member the Oceana Marin Board.

**Amanda** and her husband **Tim** (a local Dillon Beach surfer) have a young daughter born just after they moved to Dillon Beach a year ago after 10 years in Rohnert Park. They honeymooned on Maui, and call their home "Maui East". She enjoys being part of a tight-knit community and the opportunity to preserve views, care for the environment and meet new people. Amanda finds time for their daughter, three dogs, a horse, and a full time job as a membership & operations manager for a non-profit in Sebastopol, her many skills coming in handy as an OMA Board member.

Nov. is nomination month, with elections in Dec. for the 7-member board. Any owner in good standing may run, and is a great way to insure the Board

represents the assortment of many-talented part time and full time residents. Sharp Property Service took over the day-to-day 'business' of the Association a year ago, so Board members jobs became much easier, mainly attending and participating in the monthly meeting. (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, 9am) Members are always welcome to attend this monthly meeting to share concerns with the board, hear what's happening in our community, and perhaps decide you could be a board member, too. Meetings are in the OMA office, behind 460 Oceana Dr. Follow the path off the driveway.

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Hope you were able to attend the Jan. OMA Member Meeting and got a chance to hear from **Willy Vogler**, one of the owners of Lawson's Landing about exciting changes for the campground. Along with co-owner **Mike Lawson**, they have worked very hard, with help from **Supervisor Steve Kinsey** (Marin Dist. 4) and now himself a member of the California Coastal Commission, to craft an agreement ushering in a new era for coastal recreation in Dillon Beach.

Outstanding designers and planners are laying out a camping and resort destination with something for everyone. The options will include walk-in tent camping areas, RV and tent, RV only areas, 3 group camping spots and 20 cottage-type rentals in the area now occupied by some permanent trailers. The new boathouse snack bar will have seating for coast side picnics, plus new restrooms and showers to serve visitors.

For now, camping has been tightly restricted to an area on the seawall and near the boathouse with room for only 105 campers. They hope to get Coastal Commission approval for some camping in some meadow areas this summer.

First, and most visible to residents of Oceana Marin will be construction of a new, fully permitted & modern wastewater system to serve the property. All future development plans hinge on the completion of that project, which will take a couple of years. It will be 2013 before you see major construction. If all goes as planned in Phase I, it is still very possible the much hoped-for Sand Haul Rd. access route to the new and improved campground will become a reality.

Willy has asked to come to the OMA Member Meeting July 21<sup>st</sup> with more detailed plans and timetables. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Links:<http://www.lawsonslanding.com>  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lawsons-Landing-Official-Page/133856800364>

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Many thanks to **William Sauro**, OMA member on Kailua Way for renaming the newsletter. Everyone is invited to contribute to future editions-contact the editor or a board member with your stories, recipes, poetry, photos, whatever.

