

Dillon Beachcomber

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"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song." Maya Angelou
Heard the first scream of a flicker a few weeks ago - a clear sign of fall around here. I sure hope that beautiful woodpecker was telling us to prepare for a wet winter.

Dennis Furby, a longtime resident and Board member now moved 'to town' has once again been a huge help to the Association, with his ongoing consulting expertise getting the 5 year cycle of slurry seal on our roads done, albeit with a few hiccups, including .05" of rain; not enough to wet a whistle, but enough to disrupt the job. Volunteers like Dennis bring untold value to OMA, and we are so lucky to retain his talents as a consultant. Also, the Board was able to save a significant amount of OMA funds using Stripe and Seal directly to do the work, rather than a more expensive provider.

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**Water and sewers** aren't usual topics of conversation elsewhere, but in Dillon Beach they sure can be. There is recent good news from Cal Water, which provides water for about half the community, including the lower part of Oceana Marin. The Public Utilities Commission recently approved a new rate structure that will make water bills a bit more affordable, retroactive to Jan. 2014, with credits appearing on bills in Sept. Fixed costs are often cited as being quite high, but all users share the cost of maintaining the water treatment plant, infrastructure, fire hydrants, etc., even before a single drop of water comes out the tap. With the new structure, ratepayers who conserve will pay less than large water users (i.e.: large families or rentals) who will pay much higher water rates. Estero Mutual Water is the provider to the rest of Oceana Marin from Kailua on up, and their infrastructure costs and water rates are set similarly, but separately. All OMA's sewer charges appear as line items on our property tax bills, which can be a little confusing because the name of the company managing the sewer system is North Marin Water. While the company does provide water service to other areas of Marin County, here in Oceana, they only manage and maintain the sewer.

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Have you found the water buffalo? In Tomales? Yes, there is a whole herd of the elegant creatures at a ranch on Gericke Rd. where it intersects with Fallon/Two Rock Rd. Craig Ramini has developed a small Mozzarella di Bufala business, selling to select restaurants in the Bay Area. You can contact him and request a tour on Sundays (\$20 per person), but at the moment, there are no retail sales at the ranch itself. A nifty little thing to wow your visitors, and one of the fun surprises life at the Left Pole can bring. www.raminimozzarella.com

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**Oysters!** There is another option to get the favorite bivalve of many folks—the new Bodega Bay Oyster Co. at 12830 Valley Ford Rd. (Bodega Ave. turns into VF Rd. just past the Coast Guard Station, then after Valley Ford it becomes Highway 1 the rest of the way to Bodega Bay-same road, different names.) It is a local, family run business, and they harvest twice a week to supply the retail store with three varieties of oysters as well as clams and mussels. They have parking, picnic tables and a barbecue. There are plans to open a restaurant in the next year. Call ahead to order bags of 50 or more for your next barbecue. [info@bodegabayoyster.com](mailto:info@bodegabayoyster.com) or 707 280-0119.

**The West Marin Stagecoach** has been up and running a few months now, providing residents with a regularly-scheduled, multi-stop transit option every Tuesday (Tuesday's only) to 3 transit transfer stops where riders can get tickets and transfers to other destinations, including Petaluma Transit, (free) Sonoma County Transit, and Golden Gate Transit. There are several stops throughout Petaluma where one can shop, have lunch, get a haircut, and do other errands without the hassle of driving and parking. Cost is a nominal \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for ages 6-18, seniors 65+, and disabled passengers. The bus can take 2 wheelchairs and 2 bicycles, but no surfboards or animals other than service animals for the disabled. This wonderful new service came to us through the ongoing hard work of many people over 6 years, including OMA members Luana Pinasco, Doris Pareas, Melinda Bell and Dick Kapash. This is a one-year pilot program, so to keep the bus running, the ridership must meet certain goals. Take the bus! Go to a movie! Bring a friend or three! Invite friends from Petaluma to come here! To plan your day and get more information, pick up a flyer at the Dillon Beach PO, or 800 454-0964 [info@marintransit.org](mailto:info@marintransit.org). This service is different from the **Senior Shuttle** on Wednesday's for seniors and ADA Service. Those riders must apply through a Marin Access Travel Navigator over the phone at 415 454-0902 for the Wednesday bus.

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The OMA entry 'Totem Pole' is old, tired, and has deteriorated. The Board, local contractors, and engineers are working to determine the best way to replace it. Safety is the major concern along with cost, visibility, and anticipated life of a new marker.

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**Cruisin' on the River** – the Petaluma or Napa River, as a close-to-home field trip sounds like lots of fun. Dolphin Charters runs several different 3 hour or all day trips during the year. The Napa River tours depart from Vallejo, about an hour drive from here. Some are for affiliate groups who will take extra passengers, and you might meet some interesting Rotarians, say, or birdwatchers. Go to [trips@dolphincharters.com](mailto:trips@dolphincharters.com) and ask to be put on their email list for upcoming tours. Even just looking at the photos on the website gives you glimpses of the rivers you might never have seen before.

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Paint colors have been a hot topic recently, with a new policy in place to gradually bring our development back to the original intent and color schemes on houses. You can read the new policy on the OMA website. For interior colors, there is a cool new app from Sherwin Williams Paint Company "Chip It". It is user friendly, quick, and available to everyone, not just designers. How does it work? Using something like a plant, a piece of art, or a bit of fabric that speaks to you, take a photo, upload the picture, and hover the "Chip It" icon over the photo. In no time, the color elves inside the Sherwin Williams app will generate an entire paint color palate for you. The possibilities for that photo you took at the beach with the water, sand & sky would be endless, for instance. Sunrise? Sunset? A day when the waves are backlit and it looks like Hawaii? (Yes, I'm quite sure there must be elves...why else do computers do what they do sometimes?) <http://www.sherwin-williams.com>