

Dillon Beachcomber
Spring 2015
Oceana Marin Association

" Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul." Luther Burbank

At least we are having some nice wild flowers this spring, even with the lack of winter/rain. I about wore out my dancing shoes with every rain and sprinkle dance I knew, how about you?

The Lawson's Landing countdown clock is ticking toward the Coastal Commission deadline to remove the permanent trailers by June 2016, converting the area to visitor-serving camping spaces. This is a huge change for many who have considered the Landing a second home for decades, and offers new choices for campers never available in beautiful Dillon Beach. A new sewage handling system will be built before the camping spaces can be rented, so lots going on in Lawson's Landing in the next year. We will all need to be extra alert driving on Dillon Beach Rd., as trailers are removed, construction materials and equipment are being hauled, and a new era at Lawson's Landing begins.

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**Bats?** Marin County is home to 13 different bat species; the type here live in colonies of about 10-20 or so animals who spend nights gobbling those pesky mosquitoes. Typically, they like squeezing into protected spaces of 1/2" to nest during the day, which can be behind shutters, fascia boards, or standoffs where a deck attaches to a house. If you see small dark droppings that look like mouse droppings, it's probably from bats. Bats are a rabies vector species, but they are not necessarily rabid, just carriers of the disease, as are skunks and raccoons. It is critical you or your pets never pick up or touch a live or dead bat! Years ago one of our cats caught a bat one evening just at dark and brought it in the house; it did not survive the trip. The nightmare of having to get the cat re-vaccinated even with current shots, a full one month quarantine of all 3 cats, very scary RABID BAT signs posted all over town and ensuing hullabaloo was quite something. If your pet is a hunter, don't let them out as bats are flying in or out at dusk or dawn, and keep their vaccines current. [www.wildcarebayarea.org](http://www.wildcarebayarea.org) has an excellent 2-page article about bats in our area if you would like more information.

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Ramini Mozzarella water buffalo cheese was mentioned in a previous **Beachcomber**, and the water buffalo are still around, however, co-owner Craig Ramini died unexpectedly in Dec., so the cheese making operation is suspended while his wife figures out what the future will hold.

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**Vacation Rental** season has started, with visitors who come to enjoy all the area has to offer. Owners of rentals are reminded to properly manage garbage and recycle bins and contents, as well as educate their clients about Oceana Marin parking, speed limit and noise rules. Also, Marin County is actively searching rental sites like VRBO and AIRBNB, etc. for rental home usage in order to collect the "bed tax" otherwise known as Transient Occupancy Tax or TOT. The County will levy a fine in addition to taxes owed from owners who fail to pay.

**CatalogChoice.com** is a free & very helpful tool for slowing the flood of unwanted catalogs that arrive daily. The website lets you notify a catalog company you no longer want their offerings, which saves money mailing to someone who is not interested in their products, better for the environment, and saves you from filling that recycle bin. It can take a while to stop the catalogs already in the pipeline, but we have registered more than 100 catalogs over the years that no longer clutter our lives.

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Stemple Creek Ranch in Tomales now offers 100% natural, pastured, Angus beef and lamb, which you may have enjoyed at the Tomales Deli and K & A Takeaway. You can order for delivery directly from the ranch at www.stemplecreek.com. They offer whole, half, quarter and other beef selections, whole or half lambs, and special order cuts. You can buy it retail: Thistle Meats in Petaluma, 160 Petaluma Blvd. N, in spring and early summer, you may find it at Petaluma Whole Foods. Ranch tours and barbecues are offered several times a year, which are lots of fun and usually free.

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**Energy Upgrade California Home Upgrade**, in partnership with the PUC and paid for by ratepayers (you!) is available to Marin County homeowners who increase energy efficiency with improvements, such as upgrading a furnace or water heater, improving insulation, sealing and insulating ducts, window replacement and more; rebates for those projects can go up to \$6,800. Programs for renters like free light bulb and faucet aerator change-outs are also available. You must work within the program's specific guidelines to qualify for the rebates, which assign point values to each project; more points equals more rebate. Lots of information is available at [www.marincounty.org/energyupgrade](http://www.marincounty.org/energyupgrade) or by calling Kellen Dammann at 415 473-2698.

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OMA Board Members – all serve 2-year terms. 3 full time resident positions held by **Dick Kapash, Bob Bell** and **Jane Miller** began Jan. 1, 2014. Part time residents **Sean Van Gelder** and Dennis **Rothhaar**, full time residents **Luana Pinasco** and **Marla Parsons'** terms all began Jan. 1, 2015.

Jane Miller, was elected by acclimation in 2014 along with Dick Kapash and Bob Bell. She worked in the health professions, served on the Board in the 1990's and during the time the current CCR's were re-written. She is active in the Dillon Beach Emergency Response Team/DBERT, and enjoys the challenges both positions offer.

Marla Parsons was elected by acclimation on Jan. 1, 2015. Marla and her husband Ed have lived full time in Oceana Marin for 3 years. She is Vice President of an insurance brokerage in Santa Rosa, runs an ecommerce business here in Dillon Beach, as well as doing various interior design projects for local clients.

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**OMA Member Meeting and Town Hall Conversation** is scheduled for **Sat. July 18, 1pm** at Tomales Town Hall. Plan to attend what will be an interesting and informative meeting. As always, the Social Hour is a fun way to see old friends, meet new and chat with members of our community.