

Dillon Beachcomber

Spring 2016

"Just because you can, doesn't always mean you should" "I find common sense isn't always that common"
"Captain Happen'n" Vic Holst

What a wonderful thing to have the hills green and lush again, the stock ponds full, and not a huge amount of erosion along our coast from the most welcome El Niño winter. Hope your leaks were few, you are ready for spring and welcoming the annual arrival of visitors.

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**The OMA Member Meeting** in January was one of the best attended in years; lots of good information and speakers, plus the social hour afterward was great fun. We learned about plans for the Fire Station reconstruction, what's going on at Lawson's Landing, energy saving rebates available from Marin County, etc. Plan now to attend the **Sat. July 16 meeting, 1pm at Tomales Town Hall**, meet and greet your neighbors and Board Members, hear what is going on in our community.

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STRAW, COW, MALT and local ranches have been hard at work, along with the **Regional Water Quality Control Board** to reduce runoff of sediment and pathogens into Tomales Bay, working with 27 ranches to restore and fence off eroded creek beds, plant over 1,000 native shrubs and trees, and with the help of grants and Measure A sales tax funds, 10 new projects are being planned for this summer. You might have seen temporary **S(tudents) and T(eachers) R(estoring) A W(atershed)** road signs while on your travels around in Dillon Beach and Tomales, or other places in West Marin. As many as 3 elementary classrooms of kids from schools in Petaluma, along with parent volunteers and teachers will converge on a ranch to spend a day working on the restoration projects. They dig holes, put gel packs in the bottom to help hold water for new plants to draw from, surround the plant with a cardboard weed mat and mulch. The innovative program is administered by non-profit Blue Point Conservation Science (Formerly Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory) to educate students about the importance of protecting watersheds, and making a difference in local conservation. **C(onserving) O(ur) W(atersheds)**, with support from the USDA and the Marin Resource Conservation District works similarly, with a focus on the Walker Creek and Keyes Creek areas. **M(arin) A(gricultural) L(and) T(rust)** also lends financial support to the conservation efforts to improve water quality and protect local wildlife habitat.

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**The OMA CC&R Committee** continues to work hard at revising and updating our existing document. Many hours are invested by Committee Members and Alternates to tailor each word and phrase in every Article and Section to best reflect the overall best interests of our community, as well as meet the legal requirements of the Davis-Stirling Act, which governs how homeowner's associations are structured and run in California. When the Committee has finished their work, the document will be combed over by OMA legal counsel, and members will receive a copy for review showing all the old wording and rules, along with changes made for comparison. The finished product will go to the membership for vote, which will be to accept or reject the entire document with a yes or no vote, with one vote per property. Where several people hold an interest in a single property, it will be up to that group to decide how they will cast the single vote for that lot or home. Owners of more than one property will have one vote for each home or lot they own. Members are always welcome to attend Committee meetings. Notices are posted on the OMA website and Post Office.

**LED's are coming**, for better or worse to a fixture needing a replacement bulb, sooner rather than later. Perhaps you have stood bewildered in the light bulb aisle recently with the myriad choices now on offer, especially with traditional incandescents off the market. The short version is, a combination of new regulations and older laws that are scheduled to take effect in a few years, LED is going to be your only choice. This transition was begun with a 2007 federal law signed by President George Bush, and new, higher energy efficiency standards are set to take effect in 2018 in CA, (2020 nationally) will likely bar sales of most halogen bulbs. The new standards apply to so-called A bulbs, the traditional pear shape bulb you screw into a lamp or overhead fixture, as well as down lights and the type that goes into a recessed or track lights, or MR16, plus others with a diameter less than 2 ¼". The good news is, while initial cost for LED bulbs are still high, they can last 8 or more years longer than halogens, and twice as long as CFL's. They use far less energy, have no mercury and with improvements in color and light output are a good choice. Be aware when choosing LED bulbs, some but not all are dimmable, or may require the installation of a compatible dimmer.

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Chris Gullet is the Marin County Sheriff now patrolling Dillon Beach, along with several other West Marin towns, and is enjoying his new assignment very much. He wants to hear from the community about any concerns we may have, always welcomes a friendly wave, and will gladly stop for a chat if he has time and you call or flag him down. During a conversation over coffee recently, I expressed deep concern about traffic stacking up on Dillon Beach Rd. during warm weather weekends and busy campground days. He agreed getting emergency vehicles through congested roads was a real problem, and suggested any time locals see a situation developing to call the Sheriff and Highway Patrol.

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**Microbeads** are tiny plastic beads used in personal care products to give them the texture consumers like and to make cosmetics and facial scrubs more pleasing to the eye. They are found in high concentrations in our local waterways, higher even than practically every other major body of water in the US. Bay Area News Group reporter Paul Rogers recently reported on a new study showing that nearly 4 million pieces of plastic pour into the SF Bay every day from sewage treatment plants which do not have the technology to filter and remove them. They work their way up the food chain, also binding to chemicals in the water and posing a potential health risk to people who eat fish who have ingested microbeads. A CA bill banning microbeads in all personal care products goes into effect in 2019, which gives manufacturers time to make adjustments in their products. Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) introduced federal legislation that would prohibit the sale of personal care products that contain plastic microbeads that would become effective in January 2018. L'Oréal, Johnson & Johnson and Unilever say they will phase out the use of plastic microbeads over the next several years. Meanwhile, read labels and avoid products that contain plastic microbeads (Polyethylene, Polythene, Polypropylene, Polymethyl methacrylate, or Nylon) Instead, choose products with biodegradable, natural alternatives such as rice, oat meal, apricot seeds and powdered pecan shells. (Editor's note; plain baking soda mixed in with your normal cleanser makes an excellent facial scrub that is ph neutral and practically free.)

Contacts: Sharp Property Services 707 765-6111

[www.oceanamarin.org](http://www.oceanamarin.org) / [www.oceanamarin.com](http://www.oceanamarin.com)

Candy McCorkell, volunteer editor [kittiesmama@comcast.net](mailto:kittiesmama@comcast.net) or 878-9456

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