

Dillon Beachcomber
Spring 2019
Oceana Marin Association

Candy McCorkell, Editor

“Sometimes I sit and think. Sometimes I just sit.” Sign in Aunt Mary’s kitchen, and source of good advice. Once in a while, we need to just “sit”.

Your Oceana Marin Association: A group of members is constantly in motion is working to keep the community functional and safe in this beautiful, peaceful place. Monthly Board meetings are open to all members, minutes are posted on the OMA website, and all are urged to participate. Currently, work is in progress toward a major tree removal project (see below), volunteers are sought to help update the Design Review Rules (see enclosed) insurance policies are reviewed and renewed, work is ongoing getting the streets maintained, etc. Contact James Sharp listed at the bottom of the newsletter to volunteer for any of these projects, a Board Member position, or offer leadership for something you think needs addressing.

Fire Safety: More than ever after events of the last 3 years, fire safety for the community is top of mind for everyone, or should be. Now is when members need to be proactively cutting winter grasses short, clearing dead brush (especially coyote brush and Pride of Madeira) and giving firefighters at least 100’ of defensible space around your home. There are local workers who can help with these chores if you need assistance; most charge reasonable fees for the hard work and hauling involved. Ask around for contact information and referrals, or check Next Door for recommendations .

Dead Tree Removal: Years of drought and old age have taken their toll on many trees in the area, creating fire danger and sometimes threatening property damage if they fall. Not all trees in what appear to be open space are within OMA boundaries; many are on undeveloped parcels owned privately and the responsibility for their care/removal lies with those owners. OMA is actively working with the Fire Department and several tree companies to plan the best strategy for dealing with the OMA trees to minimize cost and maximize safety/aesthetics/prevent erosion/protect wildlife & habitat. Check Board minutes to follow current information for their removal & disposal.

Tomales Farmer’s Market: An energetic group of volunteers is working to create a non-profit Farmer’s Market to offer local meat & seafood, produce, cheese, flowers, some cottage industry products, etc. starting Saturday’s June 1, 10 am - 2 pm at the vacant lot in the center of town across from the Continental Inn and the Bakery on land donated by the owner of the old creamery. Vendors are being recruited, hopefully it will be a fun and useful addition to our local scene. They will accept “food stamps”, WIC and EBT as well as old fashioned cash. At last report they are starting small with 8 vendors, which will hopefully grow to the 20 or so booth spaces available. They are especially looking for veggie vendors. Check it out June 1 to October 26, bring your own bags or a tote; restrooms and hand wash station available.

Alliance of Coastal Marin Villages/ACMV: OMA member and local resident Melinda Bell is participating in this group effort to solve some of the problems now facing the 10 small coastal towns including traffic, parking, trash, signage, speeding, etc. as we have been “discovered” by more and more visitors to our beautiful place, and no way to turn back the clock now. **Dennis Rodoni Supervisor District 4**, various County and State officials are participating in this project, so there is hope the local concerns will be addressed soon. The ACMV met as a group April 25th, and met with Supervisor Rodoni May 9. Melinda got a lot of good feedback from Dillon Beach neighbors on Next Door which, if you aren't a member you might consider joining so you too can participate in some of these discussions and events. Thank you Melinda and all the others working to keep our small coastal enclaves someplace residents and visitors want to be in a safe and functional environment, respectful of neighbors, pets, wildlife, and visitors.

Spring pupping season for marine mammals: It's a busy world out there in the ocean, with lots of spring babies and moms, sometimes hauling out onto Dillon Beach or at Lawson's Landing to rest a while. Do not assume an animal you see out of water needs help! This is normal behavior, and they should be left alone which common sense and the law would tell you. Unfortunately for some humans, it is the stupid season, and bad things have happened when clueless people and their dogs harass the wildlife. You can call the **Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito** 24/7 if you are worried at (415) 289-7325, or our local resident volunteers who are usually around - Ted and Luanne Melden. Ted's cell is (209) 272-2800. The folks at the Boathouse, Gatehouse and Dillon Beach entrance have the numbers as well if you need to report an animal in obvious distress. Otherwise, do your best to leave a wide protective space around the creature and keep others (& dogs) away until help arrives. A good “rule of thumb” is just that - make a fist with one hand, stretch out your arm holding up your thumb looking toward the animal. If you can still see the animal around your thumb, you are probably too close, so back up until all you can see is thumb, then you are probably far enough away.

Vacation Rental Season: Visitors will soon be arriving to the wide array of rentals in the community. Owners of rental properties are reminded they need to post a list of rules at each rental, as well as give those rules and guidelines to renters when they make their reservation, and provide neighbors within 300' a 24/7 contact person phone number in case of problems. An important note is the absolute limit to the number of people who may be at or in a home at any time in OMA. That limit is a total of 12, including adults and children; any amount over that is a violation of OMA rules and subject to complaint, hearings and fines for the owner. If a home is rented to a group of 8, sleeps 12, they may not host a house party during the rental for 30, even if only 8 will be staying there overnight. Twelve. On the property. Keep the community a neighborhood, not a resort.

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