The Lighthouse

Queen's Landing Community News • December 2020

Notes from the EDITOR

Somehow this year it seems like Anchor Lane, Skipper Lane, and our own Queen's Landing Drive have more traffic than ever! Is it more cars and foot traffic from Four Seasons? Is it more people staying local because of COVID-19?

It would be great to see a sidewalk down these roads but in the meantime let me plead with those of us who walk:

- ***Walking opposite traffic*** *gives you the best chance to see vehicles approaching closest to you and take evasive action when needed.*
- ***Wear bright colors*** *in the daytime*
- ***Wear reflective materials*** *and something with a flashing light at night*
- ***Keep dogs on a short leash***
- ***Don't let distractions*** *like your phone or music take your attention away from where you're walking*

Please be safe out there!

—Mike Rabinowitz

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Holidays are once again upon us and this year will most likely be a very different season for most of us. 2020 came in like a "lion" and it is looking like it will go out as a larger and nastier version of that same "lion". It will be up to all of us to usher in 2021 in a positive and safe fashion relying on the goodness and common sense of our neighbors, the "lamb" start we all want and need. I pray everyone stays safe, remains vigilant, obeys social distancing guidelines, quarantines when necessary, and "wear the damn mask".

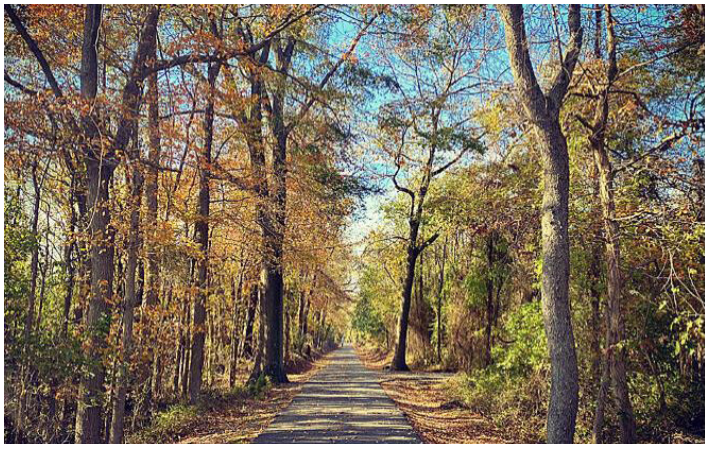
We are already seeing the holiday cheer with lights going up, some meal deliveries, and holiday face coverings being worn around the community. Our COSC did a great job putting up decorations in the common areas around the campus and is running the holiday home decorating contest again this year. We also have donation boxes in the clubhouse for Toys for Tots (unwrapped, unopened new toys) and Haven Ministries (food). Our other committees are all hard at work, holding meetings, and keeping projects on track as best we can during this pandemic. All homeowners are invited to log into committee meetings, BOD meetings, and if you would like to get involved please email the committee chair. Weeks, months and sometimes years go into planning our neighborhood projects, the only way to be involved in these projects is in the early stages. And yes, we are trying to upgrade the audio and video systems to allow for better virtual meetings.

Happy Holidays,

— Bob Karnei

WALKING Part One

By Susan Buckingham



Since many of the traditional winter holiday activities have been cancelled or postponed due to increasing Covid restrictions, I've started a list of places to walk that are both beautiful and convenient. Of course, Queen's Landing has its own delightful waterside trail which can be combined with the Castle Marina neighborhood and the Cross Island trail for a longer walk. The Cross Island (https://qac.org/facilities/facility/details/Cross-Island-Trail-134) and South Island (https://www.qac.org/facilities/facility/details/southislandtrail-136) trails are great for walking on pavement, but there are many other places to find walking and nature nearby that are often less crowded and offer more natural surfaces and settings for walking. For each, I've included a brief description of the trails, amenities, and a web address for further details.

At the western end of the Cross Island trail is Terrapin Nature Park which offers woods, meadows and beaches for a varied walk. Depending on which trail you chose, you can walk 1-5 miles. If you combine this with the Cross Island Trail, you can walk much further. The trails, although sometimes muddy, are suitable for all abilities. Some are paved for wheelchair accessibility. Unless it's a warm weather weekend, when it can be uncomfortably crowded, parking is plentiful and there are a few picnic tables and benches around for a lunch, snack or just a rest. There are portable toilets in a few places. https://www.qac.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Terrapin-Nature-Area-97

Near the eastern end of the Cross Island Trail is Ferry Point Park offering a visitor's center with bathrooms (check on hours) and parking. With both paved and unpaved trails, the park offers just a few miles of walking suitable for most. If the tide is low, the beaches are wider, and more areas are accessible from the water's edge. There are a few picnic tables and a bench or two providing a break if desired. Although not as extensive an area as Terrapin, Ferry Point offers a shallow sandy-bottomed cove with beach and fishing (with permit) on the Kent Narrows side of the park. There is also the little Chesapeake Heritage Museum which is a delight if open. Climbing the outside stairs to the towers is a great way to get extensive views of the area. Looking west from the left fork of the trail, you can even see Queen's Landing across the water. https://www.qac.org/facilities/facility/details/ferrypointpark-135

A little further afield in Grasonville is the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. Just driving in on Discovery Lane off Perry's Corner Road is an adventure through woods and saltwater marshes teeming with birds and wildlife. Occasionally, if the tide is unusually high, this road can flood barring access. Once parked, there is a visitor's center, education buildings, and a couple of lake pavilions. Besides all the programs offered, there are 4 or 5 miles of trails including dirt/shell roads, woods, marshes, boardwalk, beach, and lakeside. Be sure to go down to the kayak dock for wonderful views of Marshy Creek and check out the bird blinds and raised platforms in several spots. There are plenty of benches, picnic tables and bathrooms available. CBEC is a private non-profit with inexpensive individual and family memberships, but anyone can go for a walk. In warm weather, kayaks are available for rent—see the website to reserve. https://bayrestoration.org/

Next time: Pickering Creek, Wye Island, Adkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe State Park

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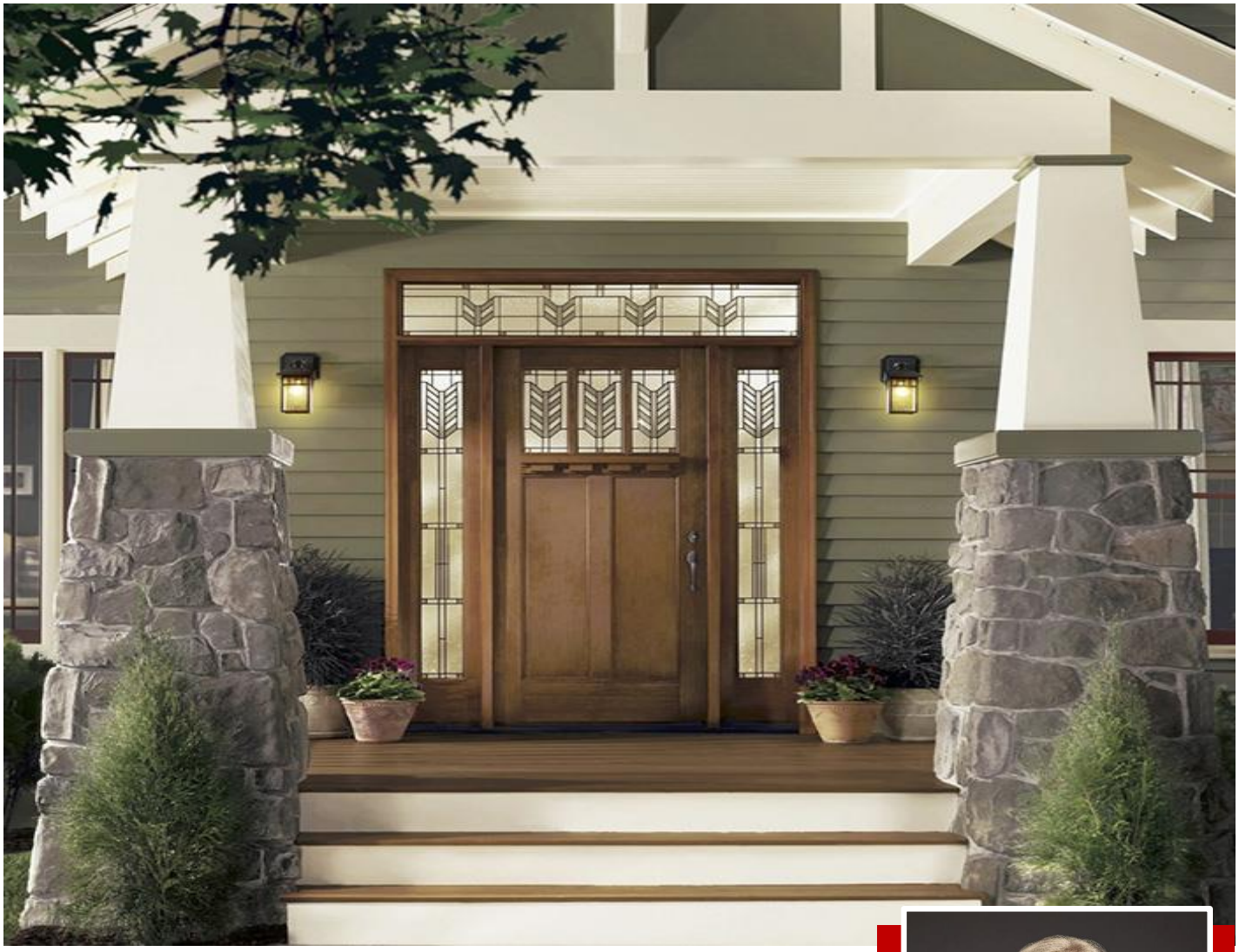

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In the Beginning . . .

Those of us who have lived for a while at Queen's Landing will perhaps remember nostalgically the time when our community published a very attractive yearly Resident Directory of homeowners. This directory was arranged by both name and unit number, and included names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all homeowners who wished to be included. It also provided a handy center-fold map of Queen's Landing, a listing of important phone numbers for Queens Landing Management, State and County agencies, and local utility companies, as well as other useful community information.

My favorite page of the directory, though, was the third page, which provided a brief but interesting history of Queen's Landing. For those who have not been fortunate enough to see it, here is a copy of that page.

In the Beginning . . .

"The view we have at Queen's Landing is stupendous. There's nothing like it in the United States," said A. John Briscuso, the developer of Queen's Landing, in 1987 as he began phases 3 and 4 of the community.

Land acquisition for his vision began in 1979 with ground breaking in 1982. Financing was a struggle because banks did not think Kent Island was ready for such a community. Home Federal Savings, in Hagerstown, Maryland, took a chance on Mr. Briscuso and Queen's Landing Development Company. Dick Phoebus, the bank's president, realized that there was nothing close in quality to Queen's Landing on the Eastern Shore.

Phase 1 and 2, comprised of 160 units, were marketed to couples, empty-nesters, and second-home buyers. In 1987, phases 3 and 4 were begun with a 25% increase in unit size in order to attract year-round residents. At that time, 60% were year-round, owner-occupied, 30% week-enders and 10% investor-owned rentals. The units ranged in size from the 700- square-foot DiCosta Grande to the 2700-square-foot Castille Grande. In 1987, plans included approximately 36 garden condominiums in a back section. These were to be four-story elevator buildings with 1100-square-foot units. The Briscuso Corporation also had plans for another development located on 274 acres northwest of Queen's Landing, which would have been a golf community of 335 homes to be known Queen's Pride at Benton Farm.

Instead, various builders completed the community over the next 15 years. Queen's Pride and the garden condos of Queen's Landing never materialized.

Did you know????

- Lake Amleto is named for the unseen first name of A. John Briscuso.
- Queen Neva is named for Mr. Briscuso's wife.
- The model names include Brava, Dorado, Adriatic and Aragon, along with the DiCosta and Castille.
- The water tower was built to resemble a lighthouse and, yes, it is on the charts as a navigational aid.
- Queen's Landing comprises 44 acres, 5 of which are Lake Amleto.

HISTORY OF QUEEN'S LANDING

Before reading this little gem, I had often puzzled about who Queen Neva was. While all of the other street names do have their counterparts in English history or English legend, I could never find any reference to a Queen Neva in any of my searches. But of course: every family has its queen, and so naturally there had to be a street named after developer A. John Briscuso's wife—especially since he had named Lake Amleto to memorialize his first name. The name "Amleto" actually does have some connection to England, since "Amleto" is the Italian version of the given name "Hamlet." In fact, there is an opera by that name, by Franco Faccio. According to Wikipedia, it was first performed in Genoa in 1865, but subsequently revived in the United States by the Baltimore Concert Opera in 2014, and a year later by Opera Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

And what about the name Queen's Landing? Certainly, no queen has ever landed here.

It is true that Princess Anne did visit nearby Centreville in 1977 https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1977/06/19/royalty-visits-centreville/00a18cc2-5729-4fa6-a5db-209d4a5698bd/ and Queen Elizabeth II also visited Maryland (but not Kent Island, and not until 2017) https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dc-sports-bog/wp/2017/10/19/wonderful-wonderful-the-time-queen-elizabeth-ii-watched-maryland-upset-unc/.

Undoubtedly Mr. Briscoe's choice of name for our community had more to do with a desire to evoke the area's historical past, and with the community's location in Queen Anne's County. Established in 1706, when Maryland was still a British

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In the Beginning . . .

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colony, Queen Anne's County was named for the then-reigning Queen Anne of England, Scotland, and Ireland (Great Britain was formed in 1707). I suspect that the real "queen" who set foot at Queen's Landing was also Briscoe's wife—all speculation, of course.

There are other questions that beg to be answered:

- Who compiled this little history?
- What do all those model names refer to? Except for the Adriatic units, I am not sure I could identify any of the other models listed, including that of my own unit.
- Who were the other builders? I think I can name some of them: the Westfield Corporation, Mallard Homes, and I believe the Anderson Corporation. Please correct me if I am wrong or if I have left out any of the builders.
- And what about our current make-up of owners and renters? Maybe we could organize some sort of census every few years.

Knowing something about our past is always fun and informative. I, for one, would like to know more. Certainly, there must be a wealth of information buried in past minutes and newsletters of our community, in local news and archives, and in the photos and memories of our residents and neighbors. It would be wonderful if we could—all of us who have lived here a while or know someone who has—collaborate in building a more extensive history of our community. I invite you to share your information, photos, and memories with the Newsletter, Website, and Communications Committee (mike@queenslanding.org).

Hoping you will share my enthusiasm—
Diane Morales

The Triple Rainbow of December 1st,

courtesy of Cindy Maltby!

Fireplace Safety Tips*

By Reg Overman

Nothing quite creates a winter holiday ambiance as well as a log in the fireplace and family gathered around to appreciate its warmth and pleasing light. At Queens Landing we have multiple types of fireplaces including; Vented, Vent Free, and wood burning. Fireplaces are an alternate source of heat and maintaining them with safety in mind is our top priority. We have compiled a list of Fireplace tips for your consideration.

- If possible, keep a window cracked open while the fire is burning, *especially* Vent Free.
- Be certain the damper or flue is open before starting a fire. Keeping the damper or flue open until the fire is out will draw smoke out of the house. The damper can be checked by looking up into the chimney with a flashlight or mirror. Do not close the damper until the embers have completely stopped burning.
- Use dry and well-aged wood. Wet or green wood causes more smoke and contributes to soot buildup in the chimney. Dried wood burns with less smoke and burns more evenly,
- Smaller pieces of wood placed on a grate burn faster and produce less smoke.
- Clean out ashes from previous fires. Levels of ash at the base of the fireplace should be kept to 1 inch or less because a thicker layer restricts the air supply to logs, resulting in more smoke.
- Vented and Wood burning chimney should be checked annually by a professional.
- Even if the chimney is not due for cleaning, it is important to check for animal nests or other blockages that could prevent smoke from escaping.
- Make sure the area around the fireplace is clear of anything that is potentially flammable (ie: furniture, drapes, papers, books, etc.). If these items get too close, they could catch fire.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Make sure it is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house. If you leave the room while the fire is burning or the fireplace is still hot, take your small child with you.
- Minimize your child's chance of burns from the hot glass front of some fireplaces. Safety screens can be installed to reduce the risk of burns.
- Put fireplace tools and accessories out of a young child's reach. Remove lighters and matches
- Install both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.
- Communicate to children as early as possible the dangers of fires and the heat generated from them.
- Gas Logs fire box should be cleaned annually. Vent Free logs collect dust and can emit a noxious smell if not cleaned.

Have a safe and happy fireplace season!

*Resource—American Association of Pediatrics—AAP

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Queens Landing Home Decorating Contest

Once again Queen's Landing will hold a Holiday Decorating Contest to recognize resident for an outstanding job of decorating their homes and promoting community spirit during the Holiday season.

The Contest is open to ALL QUEENS LANDING HOMEOWNERS, RESIDENTS, AND TENANTS.

Prizes:

The First Place winning home, based on highest total points accrued will receive a $75.00 gift card. Second place will receive a $50 gift card. Honorable Mentioned 1 will receive a $50.00 gift card and Honorable Mentioned 2 will receive a $25.00 gift card. All gift cards will be for The Gifted Crab. First three winners will also receive yard signs to display for the remainder of the Holiday season.

Rules:

1. Residents are allowed to decorate their Limited common Element (LCE) FRONT & REAR area 6' from the exterior wall or patio wall of their unit, to include placement of all ornaments.
2. No decorations are to be attached/affixed to the building exterior siding or gutters.
3. No decorations, ribbons, or lights may be attached to the lamp posts.

Judging:

The Holiday Decorations Judging Committee will be evaluating units on Thursday December 17th.

Please remember the donation boxes in the clubhouse for Toys for Tots (unwrapped, unopened new toys) and Haven Ministries (food).

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

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Phone: 410-643-5192
Fax: 410-604-2712
After hours emergency number
443-548-0191

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

1. First call 911 for fire or other life-threatening emergency
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Clubhouse Operations & Social Committee, Covenants Committee and Maintenance Committee

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Landscaping & Grounds—Maintenance Subcommittee and Pool/Clubhouse—COMAR

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Mike Rabinowitz, Secretary
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Newsletter, Website & Community Relations and Polybutylene Pipe Committee

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Please Note: *The Facebook page named "Residents of the Queen's Landing Community" is not sponsored by Tidewater Property Management Company or the Queen's Landing Board of Directors. Information posted on that page does not come from the Queen's Landing Office or Tidewater Property Management.*