



Lakeside Dockside Community Newsletter



Board Meetings Recap

By Gerard Amato

If you have not attended the monthly board meetings held every fourth Wednesday at Owen Brown Community Center, nor have you visited our fabulous new website at lakeside-dockside.org, here is the scoop of what's happened since the Annual Membership Meeting on October 28, 2015.

- A five-member Board of Directors has been established,
- American Management Company no longer works for us as of December 31, 2015.
- More than 30 residents have volunteered to serve on the Architectural, Communications, Landscaping, Newsletter, Welcome, and Neighborhood Watch Committees.
- Atlantic Maintenance Group, our new landscape contractor, has mulched our common areas, cleaned up debris left over from winter, and assessed our trees. They will test our soil, prune our shrubs, plant our flowers, mow our lawns, and paint our parking strips in the coming months.
- An annual budget for 2016 has been adopted; most 2016 assessments have been collected, and late notices have been sent out.
- Architectural and Landscape committees have sent out non-compliance notices to over 40 residents to encourage them to improve the appearance of our community by following our covenants.
- An application for Howard County Watershed Enhancement Grant has been submitted.
- Howard County's Watershed Stewards, Columbia Association's Watershed Manager, and the staff of READY (Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth) have visited our

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Web Sign-up Winner !



At the January 27 Board Meeting, Lakeside Dockside Board of Directors posed for a photo with the winner of January Web Sign-up Drawing (From left to right: Treasurer Boniface Kyalla, Secretary Melissa Davey, Member-at-Large Lena Duguid, Sweet Clover resident Marianne Eriksson, President TJ Dillard, and Vice President Gerard Amato.)

Are you tired of mowing the lawn? Do you love birds and butterflies? Do you want to add some interest to your landscape?



Contact the Bay-wise Program for a free on-site consultation by completing a Homeowner Landscape Questionnaire at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TNODTcE_hOmKRN1gZ0hefCbxRHBWdBqZnpQy1gPTBNI/viewform

You Are Invited to Earth Day Celebration!

What:

Picnic, games, live music, plant giveaway, and landscaping & erosion control workshops

When:

Saturday April 23, 3 p.m.

Where:

Common area between Lakeside and Dockside

Who:

Lakeside & Dockside residents and guests

Lakeside Dockside will celebrate Earth Day by hosting a fun-filled community event on Saturday April 23, starting at 3 p.m. in the common area between Lakeside and Dockside.

There will be food, drinks, and live music featuring musicians from Lakeside and Dockside. There will be games, raffle prizes, activities for all ages, and workshops on erosion control and landscaping.

All residents from Lakeside and Dockside are invited along with their families and friends. You may bring a dish and drink to share if you wish. Hot dogs,

hamburgers, side dishes, and drinks will be provided.

Participating in this event as a partner, Columbia Association will provide native plants, shrubs, and trees to be given away to our residents who want to add beauty and interest to their yard, to attract birds, butterflies, and pollinators, to reduce lawn mowing and maintenance, to slow the flow of stormwater runoff, and to correct erosion on their property.

Also participating in this event as a partner, Howard County's Watershed Steward Academy will be sponsoring a workshop on erosion control, stormwater management, and conservation landscape.



“So why not try cleaning up the trashy areas yourself?”

A Sea Change: My Trashy Story

by Bill Cain

As soon as I found out that our HOA has a new Board, I called the new President and asked her to do something about the trash pickup areas in my court littered with trash, trash containers, recycle bins, etc. As part of the conversation, she suggested I clean it up myself.

I said I had heard that simply policing the trash areas myself would reinforce bad behavior and make the problem worse. As time slipped by, I tried leaving fliers on all of my Sea Change neighbors' doors. When that turned out to be little more than another source of litter, I went back to the President. “So why not try cleaning up the trashy areas yourself?” she again suggested. *She's such a nice lady, but also*

very naive, I thought.

After cooling off a while, I decided to give it a try. *When this fails, I'll go back to her...*, still thinking to myself as I rolled up my sleeves, put on a pair of disposable gloves and started collecting spilt trash, hunting stray container lids, matching lids with mismatched empty containers, *etc.*

Interestingly, I never had any reason to go back to the Pres. And for those of you who live on Dockside, Broken Staff, or Sweet Clover, walk over to my court and discover for yourself what a sea change looks like on Sea Change. (For more blog posts, visit <http://www.billonseachange.com>)

Meet Our Neighbors

by Virginia Rodino



Meet Dwight Smith & Leslie Rivera!

Dwight is a teacher at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute where he has been teaching engineering for the past six years. Dwight's favorite thing about teaching is sharing his love of engineering and problem-solving with young learners. Leslie is a lieutenant in the Public Health Service and works as a reviewer for the FDA. She moved to our neighborhood from Bethesda, while Dwight came from Baltimore. They enjoy walking on the path along Lake Elkhorn. The next time you see Dwight and Leslie—make sure to say hi!

Committee Updates

Architectural

By Brandon Boron

It may be hard to believe, but spring is just around the corner! For many of us that means exciting new projects around the yard and our homes.

Please remember to consult the architectural guidelines for our community and file applications for exterior alterations BEFORE beginning any remodeling on the outside of your home (both are under "HOA DOCUMENTS" at lakeside-dockside.org).

Following these guidelines will ensure our community remains an attractive, desirable place to live and will help protect all of our property values. And, as always, feel free to contact us via the website with any questions!

Welcome

By Thordis Boron

It is so much easier to achieve our mutual goal of a beautiful and safe neighborhood if we all get to know each other!

What better way than to start with our new homeowners and renters? We have prepared an HOA Welcome Basket with some information and some goodies to help them feel at home.

If you see someone moving in, let us know, so we can visit them as soon as possible. Or even better, come with us to welcome your new neighbor!

Contact Melissa, Joan or Thordis at 443-583-4032 or lakesidedocksidehoa@gmail.com. We look forward to getting to know you!

Landscape

By Lena Duguid

1. Paint mail boxes in the Spring.
2. Hand out updated materials on Howard County trash service.
3. Repaint Lakeside Dockside entrance signs in the Spring.
4. Need volunteers to help pick up small trash in our community.
5. Relocate trash pick up in the Cul-de-Sac on Broken Staff.
6. Put metal wire around trees by the lake damaged by beavers.

If you are interested in joining the landscape committee, please call Lena at (410) 309-0911 (*continued on page 5*)



On Saturday March 5, 2016, a group of Howard County Master Watershed Stewards visited Lakeside Dockside to assess stormwater runoff and erosion concerns.

They will design a plan to treat and manage our stormwater before pollutants such as pesticides, road salt, nutrients, and dog feces flow into Lake Elkhorn, local streams, and the Little Patuxent Watershed.

Do you have drainage and erosion problems?

Contact Howard County Watershed Stewards for a free residential property assessment at <http://howardwsa.org/assessment-request/>



Beyond TPP: A Reflection on Volunteerism

By TJ Dillard

Like most townhouse communities where people live on top of one another, our community has to deal with the ongoing issues of TPP--trash, parking, and dog poop.

"People don't care! They only come to board meetings to complain about TPP," I was told. This appears to be true. I flipped through a stack of past issues of Lakeside Dockside newsletters and saw nothing but reiteration of trash and parking rules and repeated pleas for residents to pick up after their pets.



I learned that our previous board had tried everything to fix the problems. They sent out gentle reminders, posted harsh warnings, filed police reports, towed away vehicles, put liens on properties, and took offenders to court. It appears that nothing has worked because TPP remains an issue.

Maybe we should try assigned parking, marked trash bins, and poop bag stations. Maybe we should ban multiple cars, fine those who litter, and report irresponsible dog owners to the police. I don't know. I have yet found a magical solution that will get rid of the problems once and for all, but I have learned something interesting about our neighbors while searching for the solution.

Did you know that a lot of our neighbors like to pick up trash? Other people's trash? At first, I thought Lena in my court was the only weirdo who would go around picking up other people's trash. Then I met Charlotte on Dockside who would go out to the lake to fish out plastics and other nasty stuff. Phwtt! I would never do that! Then I met Connie on Broken Staff, who sweeps county streets, Lorraine on Dockside who plants trees in common areas, Bill on Sea Change who hauls trash to landfills, Charlene on Broken Staff who pulls weeds for neighbors, Tony and Constance on Broken Staff who carry plastic bags on their walks so they can pick up trash along the way. The list goes on. It's unbelievable!

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The sheer number of people like this makes me pay attention and rethink who they are. Trash picker uppers? Good deed doers? Altruistic concerned citizens? No, they are just neighbors who take up the slack when others fall short. They are people who volunteer their time to do things without compensation to benefit their community and increase their own sense of wellbeing. They live among us; they are our neighbors. Their actions show that they care about our community. Their actions, combined with the HOA's enforcement of covenants and bylaws, will ensure that our neighborhood remains a great place to live and our lake continues to attract hikers and nature lovers everywhere.

My family and I love our cottage by the lake. We enjoy the paths, the wildlife, and all the seasonal changes that surprise and delight us around the lake. TPP is not a problem; it is an opportunity for all of us to get involved and work together to carry out the vision of Columbia, a city governed by volunteers.

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community on separate occasions to assess erosion and stormwater runoff problems. They will design remediation and treatment plans and assist us in implementing some of these plans.

- We are in the process of obtaining estimates for retaining wall repairs, creating conservation landscapes, painting and repairing entrance signs and mailboxes.
- A study group has been formed to explore the issue of assigned parking in our community. A report was presented at the March 23 Board Meeting. A survey is being circulated around the neighborhood. Please weigh in and let your voice be heard.

For more details on Board meeting minutes and agendas, please visit Lakeside-Dockside.org. The password required to access these and other HOA documents will be emailed to you after you sign up to be a member of our community website.

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Communications

By Peyton Craig

We have had some great feedback on our new community website at lakeside-dockside.org. Since our launch we have updated and added a lot of information related to financials, landscaping, trash/recycling, parking and welcoming new residents. Do you have something to sell, lend, borrow or trade? Or perhaps you have a special skill or business you want to share. Our Community Classified section is up and running so feel free to submit your postings. Coming soon will be information on landscaping assistance, neighborhood safety, pet care and much more.

Our website also includes a new magazine style community Blog that allows participation with comments and discussion. We encourage all of our residents to submit their own stories for publication on our blog. For more real time social connections, we have added a community Facebook page which can be accessed from the website. Please send your feedback regarding content you would like to see and how we can improve your online community experience. Remember to check lakeside-dockside.org regularly for future updates. Be informed and get to know your neighbors for a more engaging community!



We are looking
for writers,
editors, and
layout persons.
Please contact us
if you are
interested!

