

## **OSHA Neighborhood News, April 2026**

### **WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ONLINE EDITION!**

#### **Elections: April 27, Milton Library, 10:15am**

Come early to sign in! At this meeting we will elect a new President and two At Large members.

People interested in serving our community can contact Claire Brown at [overbrookhouse@gmail.com](mailto:overbrookhouse@gmail.com). Or, you can attend the meeting and volunteer there to go on the ballot as a write-in. Prepare a very brief bio, and a note of how you want to contribute to our HOA, to share at the meeting,

Remember that our volunteer Board of Directors saves EACH RESIDENT hundreds and hundreds of dollars in dues each year. The Board takes the lead on community improvements, responds to residents' problems, manages our maintenance contractors, proposes the budget, tackles odd jobs, and keeps our records. Are you ready to be part of this?

Ballots will be available at the meeting. Proxy forms are available on our website. If you can't attend, download a proxy and give it to someone who'll attend the meeting and turn it in for you.

#### **Yard Sale & Cleanup**

Our Community Yard Sale and Cleanup is set for Saturday May 16. The Yard Sale will run from 8am to 12pm, as advertised in the Cape Gazette. This year we will have two dumpsters at a time available, one for yard waste and one for construction materials and metals. No hazardous materials will be allowed, including no paint cans.

The dumpsters will be open for your discards at the intersection of South and East Mill, from 11am to 3pm, with helpers for those bulky items. Take advantage of this chance to clear out your garage. No leaves or grass cuttings, but plenty of room for tree cuttings as well as your other discards. Go big on recycling!

#### **Picnic Needs Help!**

The Fun Size Band wants to come again for our picnic on Saturday, September 21, so that part is fine. Jim Haynes will again take us around the pond on his speedy boat, so we can enjoy the breeze once more!

Now we need some necessities: food, drinks, tables, chairs, tents, setup, games, good company. More hands make easy work, so please step up and help where you can. We need volunteers to make sure it all comes together.

Please text our Picnic Chair this year, Linde Haynes, at 443-812-5840 or

email her at [jimandlinde@gmail.com](mailto:jimandlinde@gmail.com). Or, you can or sign up with her at the April 27 meeting at the Milton Library.

### **Drainage Committee**

The Drainage/Flood Committee was formed to address the flood issues in our community caused by the Tax Ditch; our new Chair is Chris Hardt. If you have flooding problems from the ditch when spring rains begin, call Chris at 845-913-5939.

### **Flowers, Anyone?**

Grounds Chair Linda Tobin wants to put in new flowers at our entrance beds. If you'd like to help her, please send her a text at 201-982-1810 for more information.

### **Changing Landscapes**

There are lots of pressures facing birds. They get eaten by cats, slam into glass windows during migration, and face habitat loss. Their food supply is also dwindling, as pesticides and climate change affect insects, which most birds rely upon when young. The bird population is shrinking at a worrying rate.

Dr Douglas Tallamy, famous Delaware ecologist and UD professor, asks us to replace grass with native plants, to feed and sustain the birds. He is working with the Less Lawn More Life initiative to spread the word about saving the birds. And the bees, our most important pollinators, are starving as well. Find out more at: <https://www.lesslawnmorelife.com>.

The National Wildlife Federation also has a program, with checklists and an opportunity to buy a yard sign when you do the work. The board would love to see homeowners replace grass with bird and bee habitat. You can find the NWF ideas at: <https://certifiedwildlifehabitat.nwf.org> and other portions of their website.

How does this work with Sussex County and OSHA yard requirements? Sussex and OSHA are only concerned with regulating grass height at less than 12 inches. Trees and other plantings are only monitored when they obstruct street views.

Start naturalizing your yard in a small way. Define a bed for wilding, perhaps with sticks and string. Plant some native plants that will provide berries for birds to feast on, and maybe a butterfly bush. Or bee balm. Think about adding clover to your grass, to feed the bees. Go bigger in increments. You can gradually spread your success across your front and back yards.

Find the beauty in wilding and hearing birdsongs, watching bees and ladybugs, seeing fireflies again.

## **Spring Walkabouts and Rideabouts**

With enticing weather, we see more walkers about. Some simple precautions are in order.

- Please remember to walk facing traffic so you can see oncoming cars, as sometimes they don't see you.
- Wear reflective gear and/or carry a lit flashlight (aimed at the ground) at night. Remind your children/grandchildren of this as well.
- Please remember that our stop signs are not optional; nor is the speed limit. We can't afford to risk the lives of other drivers and those walking.
- Better safe than sorry!

## **Newsletter Delivery News**

This is the first edition of our newsletter delivered by email. Some people have not provided an email address; they will receive mailed copies but these will be late. If you did not get your emailed copy, please send your email address to Claire Brown at [overbrookhouse@gmail.com](mailto:overbrookhouse@gmail.com).