



The Lighthouse

Queen's Landing Community News • March 2023



Notes from the EDITOR

Hello and welcome to your March 2023 quarterly newsletter.

This month we have a walk along a new path from Cox Creek, a walk in the River (not really), and lots of info on going Kayaking!

Lots of interesting stuff in local community news.

The Documentation committee will soon present its latest Rules and Regulations update to the community via Town Hall.

The new Recreational Facilities subcommittee had its charter officially approved and is well underway working on stuff like the pool and the courts.

Speaking of which, the new pool season this year is going to be amazing, with more broad hours and even nighttime, lighted swimming!

The Castle Marina replaced the bulkhead across from the jetty that was falling apart.

The Ad Hoc Polybutylene committee presented its final report on the state of inspection and removal in the community, with less than five units now short of meeting the necessary requirements.

2023 is off to a great start!

—Mike Rabinowitz



Landscape Corner

Our community is pretty special. In comparing our community to the new colossal communities being built all around us, we have maintained great charm and character. This charm and character is driven by the people who live here. We have a small-town feel. I am not saying it's like Mayberry. Or that Bob K is Andy, but we do take care of each other, and we look out for each other. That makes people happy and helps them feel like they are a part of something bigger than themselves. In a community that is celebrating its 40-year anniversary, I think we are looking pretty good! It is inevitable that we will have updates to our units and community. That includes the landscape. Whether it is in a common area that everyone can appreciate, or on the unit level. Your landscape team is always looking for opportunities to enhance Queens Landing. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear them. We would also like some more help on the committee. No experience or green thumb required.



If you pay any attention to the units that go up for sale or that get sold. You will have noticed that our property values are doing well. You may have even gone online, to see a few pictures of the units that are for sale. You get to see what each neighbor has done creatively on the inside. Some of these pictures even inspire us. When we see something, we like, we tend to think, would that look good in my home? How the outside of our units look is also very important. While we may not own the outside land around our units, we do have use of the limited common element, which is right around our units. What does your landscape say about you? If you would like to find out exactly what your LCE is, get on the Tidewater Portal—select Community Information—then click on Governing Documents—then Plat Maps, and find your unit.

Spring cleanup has started at QL. After winter, everything could use a good cleaning! We all need to be a part of this. Around our individual units, we would like to encourage you to get started cleaning. That means cleaning all windows, doors, patios, patio furniture, any grills, and any planters that you are going to use. Getting rid of any cobwebs, old leaves, and weeds around your LCE. I know that we are all looking forward to enjoying some outdoor living!

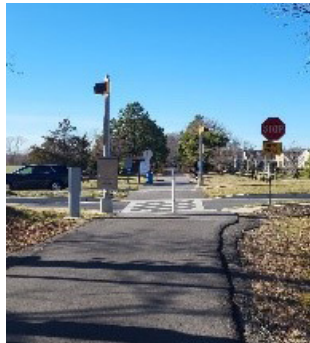
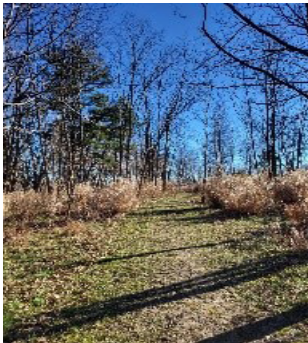
You may have already seen Chester River Landscape prepping all the landscape beds in the community. They have been removing the old buildup of mulch and putting new mulch down. If you are interested in adding anything other than annuals to your landscape. You can find the LCR online at the Tidewater Portal. If you would like help filling out an LCR, or ideas, let us know. We are here to help. This is also a great time to plant herbs, vegetables, even annual flowers. There are some cold hardy plants that you can plant right now. Do your homework though, a lot of them have to wait until it stays consistently above 60 degrees if you are going to leave them outside. Just a reminder, in QL we can't ground plant fruit or vegetables, but we can have them in containers. Your containers cannot exceed 22 inches in diameter. Always check the Rules and Regulations before making an investment in your interior or exterior.

—Your friendly landscape team

A WALK FOR ALL SEASONS

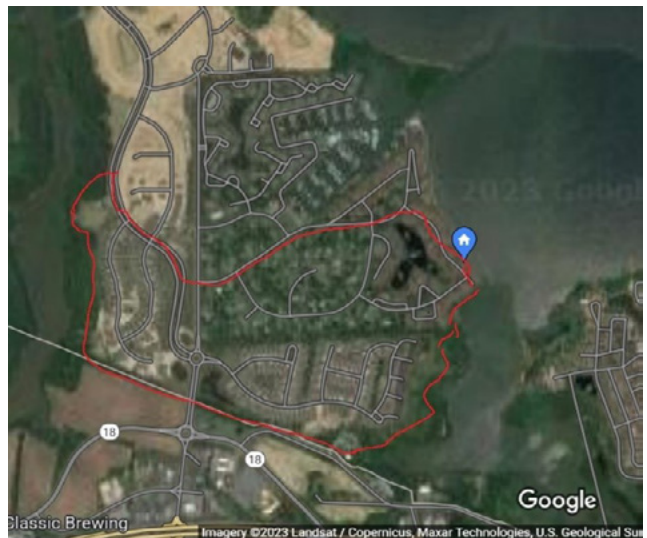
by Susan Buckingham

Despite all the construction and traffic Four Seasons has brought to our neighborhood, a new path along Cox Creek makes a nice addition to the many walks we at Queen's Landing can do from our doorsteps. The Walk for All Seasons includes two creeks, several sections of woodlands, the Cross Island Trail, and both Queen's Landing and Four Seasons Communities in about 3 miles. This walk can be extended or even doubled if a longer walk is wanted.



Wherever you are in QL, begin by heading for the kayak launch at Macum Creek. Follow the creek into the woods behind the kayak racks and meander along Macum Creek until it ends near the parking lot for the Cross Island Trail at the water tower. Go right onto the Cross Island Trail and follow through the shady woods until you cross Castle Marina Road. As you continue along the trail, just before the bridge over Cox Creek, you will see a new paved trail on the right. Take that and follow through a lovely woodland. You will pass a clearing with a pond and follow the path back into the woods. Shortly after, the path branches to the right (you can continue ahead, but after a while it ends abruptly—

not yet finished, I think). Take the right branch to find yourself out of the woods on Four Seasons Blvd. If you go left, you can extend the walk quite a bit, but for a three mile walk, go right. Follow Four Seasons Blvd. until you see the Castle Marina walking path across from Anchor Lane. Cross there and head back into QL.



The seasons bring changes to each of the areas on this walk, and I'll continue to walk it in all seasons except summer which brings ticks and snakes (yuk). You can avoid the natural paths and underbrush along Macum Creek by picking up the Cross Island Trail at Castle Marina Road. **Keep walking!**



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Safe and Happy Kayaking

by Diane Morales



Kayaking is great fun, great exercise, and a delightful way to explore the surrounding shorelines to observe nature's treats at close hand. At Queen's Landing, we are blessed to have easy access to Macum Creek and the Chester River. In our wider community, there are plentiful other opportunities for kayaking adventures.

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC), right here in Grasonville, rents kayaks and offers access to Marshy Creek, the Narrows, and Prospect Bay. You can also launch your own kayak there if you are a member.

This year they will be offering monthly guided kayak tours from May through October, as well as lessons in kayaking.

The lessons are a wonderful way for both beginners and intermediate-level kayakers to assure they have the necessary kayaking skills and safety knowledge. If you do sign up for a course, you will learn valuable information regarding proper equipment and paddling methods, entering and exiting the water when launching from a dock, safety considerations and "rules of the road" on the water, rescue techniques, and even how to safely mount a kayak on a vehicle. The course material is provided by the American Canoe Association and is taught by ACE-certified instructors. (The name American Canoe Association is misleading, as they support all paddle sports.)

Kayak vendors may also provide instruction; and if you already are a skilled kayaker but would like to improve your knowledge, there is plenty of information available on-line.

Regardless of whether you are just interested in lazy paddles on quiet waters or whether you yearn for more challenging excursions, it is always important to take some basic safety precautions.

1. First, be sure to **check water temperature** before heading out. As spring approaches and we enjoy more frequent warm days, we may be tempted to get those kayaks out for some early outings. These can certainly be delightful, but don't do so unless both water and air temperature are **at least 60 degrees**. Even if you do not plan to stray far from shore, remember that immersion in cold water can cause death by hypothermia in as little as 10 minutes. After all, capsizes do occur. Body temperature plummets quickly when immersed in cold water, and could quickly lead to hypothermia and death. Children and people of lower body weight are at even greater risk. Even if the weather is warmer, avoid wearing cotton clothing, which absorbs water, and opt instead for clothing designed to dry quickly. And by the way—to minimize the risk of capsize, remember to steer into a wave on a diagonal rather than take it broadside.

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Kayaking *continued from previous page*

2. Also check the **weather forecast**. The day may look perfect, but weather can change suddenly and with little warning. You DO NOT want to be out in a thunderstorm, or in conditions of low visibility, high winds, high waves, or a sudden change in temperature. Always be prepared to exit the water quickly in case of a sudden change in weather.
3. Regardless the weather, be sure you head out **properly equipped**. Wear a properly-fitting **life vest** and bright clothing for visibility. Make sure you have a **bilge pump**, or at least some towels that can help to remove water that might enter the kayak. It is also a good idea to carry a **whistle** and a **throw line**. If there is any possibility you will be returning after sunset, be sure to have a **light** onboard. And don't forget the **hat**, plenty of **water**, and **sunscreen**.
4. **Don't kayak alone, be prepared for emergencies, and make sure that others know your plans**. Even if you are restricting your kayaking to calm waters, it is always a good idea to be prepared for the unexpected.
5. **Beware of other boats**. Never try to cross in front of a motor boat, and remember that larger boats may not even see you. This is especially true in foggy conditions or when visibility is otherwise low. Sunset can also be a dangerous time, since the setting sun can obscure the visual field of a larger boat. In short, stay clear of other boats and assume that they do not see you. In particular, stay clear of boating channels, or if you must cross them, do so with utmost caution.

This, of course, is not an exhaustive list. The information in this article was gleaned primarily from notes I took a couple of years ago as a participant in one of the CBEC kayaking courses, and from various internet sites (referenced below). If you would like to take a course yourself, check out the first link below, or explore some of the other links to kayaking opportunities in Maryland and more information on safe kayaking.

Instruction and courses:

<https://www.bayrestoration.org/kayaking/>
<https://www.americancanoe.org/page/Courses>
<https://www.boat-ed.com/paddlesports/>

Safety Tips:

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/kayak-safety.html>
<https://www.oceankayak.com/blog/article/basic-safety-tips-kayaking>
<https://outventurist.com/kayaking-tips/kayaking-safety/>

Hypothermia:

<http://www.topkayaker.net/Articles/Safety/Hypothermia.html>
<http://easternslopes.com/2012/09/27/cold-water-paddling-safety-gear-and-know-how-for-kayak-canoe-and-sup-fun-all-year/>

Places to kayak in Maryland:

<https://www.bayrestoration.org/kayaking/>
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Boating/Pages/mdwatertrails.aspx>
<https://stepoutside.org/article/5-excellent-places-for-beginners-to-kayak-in-maryland/>

HAPPY KAYAKING!

—Diane Morales



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Take A Walk in the Chester River

by Rick Baamonde



You may have noticed recently that the tide in the Chester was so low that the actual bottom of the river was exposed from the clubhouse to Macom Creek, and off-shore for several hundred feet. At least one neighbor was seen walking on the surprisingly compact mud, only sinking in a little bit.

I talked to a few residents and a few asked why the tide goes out so far every once in a while. As a former Merchant Marine Officer, the tide tables were a big part of my daily life before everything became available on the web.

Tides can be affected by a number of factors, though. Tide tables are based on a complex combination of forces, based on the positions of the Earth, Sun, and Moon. The Earth rotates around the Sun, the Moon rotates around the Earth. Distances between each of these objects change during the month and year, exerting different amounts of pull (tidal forces) on the water covering the planet. The Moon has the strongest effect, since it is almost 400 times closer to us than the Sun. Its pull is twice as strong.

Other things can affect this, as well. Currents, winds, flooding, bottom contours and land topography, etc., can either negate or enhance a tide's pull. Bays and rivers are more prone to being affected by these than ocean coastlines. It should also be noted that this is not all just math. The National Ocean Survey maintains a network of tide stations that house equipment to measure the tide, the wind, currents, air and water temperatures, and other weather data. This data is used to modify specific local-area tidal predictions.

The bottom line is that if the Sun and Moon align when closest to the Earth during the month and at certain times of year, you will get much a lower tide than normal. If there are other factors like wind blowing against the tide, it can effect things even more.

If you ever want to check the tides for the Chester, [this is a good link](#).



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Saturday, April 15 • 10:00 am • QL Clubhouse

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