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Upcoming Events and Activities

Highlighted here are upcoming events at Kinder Farm Park over the next few months. Visit the Friends’ 12 Month Calendar on our website to see all the happenings at Kinder Farm Park.

Visit the Kinder Farmhouse Museum

The Kinder Family Farmhouse is open (the 2nd Saturday of the month) on the following dates from 11:00AM until 3:00 PM

- Saturday, May 9, 2026
- Saturday, June 13, 2026
- Saturday, July 11, 2026

Historical Society docents help guide you through the house to learn about the Kinder family and the farmland that sustained them. There is no charge to tour the farmhouse.

Pop-up Hayrides

Come join us for a hayride through the wooded trails at Kinder Farm Park on the following dates:

- Saturday, May 16, 2026
- Saturday, June 6, 2026
- Saturday, July 25, 2026

The cost is \$5.00 per person and children 3 and under are free. The first hayride departs from in

front of the Visitors Center around 10:00 AM and continues about every half-hour, with the last ride departing around 12:30 PM (see flyer on page 15).

New Nature Connections Book Club

Spring into reading with books about nature and our ever-changing environment. The second nature book discussion group will be held at Kinder Farm Park Visitor Center on Tuesday, May 19th from 2-4 PM. We will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. May’s book is: BirdGirl by author, Mya-Rose Craig. For additional information see the flyer on 15.

Annual Meet the Kids Event

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM for the annual *Meet the Kids* event, which will take place in and around the farm complex. The event features recently born animals with some fun activities like games, face painting, photo ops, and hayrides mixed in the fun. All gate fees collected on this day will go directly to the Farm Livestock and Education Program and the Kinder 4H Livestock Club. For more information see the flyer on page 13.

(continued on next page)

Upcoming Events...(Cont.)

Friends of Kinder Farm Park Meetings

All members and interested nonmembers are welcome to attend the monthly meetings to find out more about what the Friends are working on, contribute to the discussions and learn how you can help. Generally the meetings are held at the Visitors' Center, in the Harvest Hall every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Here are the dates for the next 3 months:

- June 10, 2026
- July 8, 2026
- August 12, 2026

The Friends Host Luncheon to Thank Volunteers

Jim Rausch, Chair, Volunteer Luncheon Committee

The Friends held a Volunteer Luncheon on April 26th to express heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who give their time and energy to make Kinder the “crown jewel” of the County’s Park system and one that is cherished by everyone who visits. Among the more than 50 people attending were members of the Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild, the Kinder Woodshop Club, the Historical Society, the Sawmill Club, the Tractor Club, the Masters and Apprentice Gardeners, the Farm and Livestock Education Program, and the 4-H Club. Each organization was presented with a plaque which expressed “appreciation for the exceptional support the members give to Kinder Farm Park.”



4H Livestock Club



Sawmill Club



Woodshop



Master and Apprentice Gardeners



Historical Society



Blacksmith Guild



Farm Livestock and Education Program



Tractor Club

(Continued on next page)

...Friends Host Luncheon...(Cont.)

Also attending the luncheon were some of the “perennial” Kinder volunteers who give their time and labor year after year at the Friends’ annual events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Meet the Kids event, Fall Harvest Festival, and Jingle Bell Hayride. These faithful people help make these events successful and fun for the entire family.

Two special “Sustained Exceptional Service Awards” were presented to past Friends’ President Barb Buchleitner and past Vice President Karen Haghghi for the countless hours they have given to Kinder Park and for the many projects they have chaired over the last 15 years to make the Friends’ organization run smoothly and successfully. Each award cited their “outstanding volunteer service over many years at Kinder Farm Park.”



Birth Announcements

Reported by Shawna Cassady, 4H Livestock Club Lead

Fiona, a FLEP sheep, gave birth to a set of twins on January 22, 2026, right before our huge snowstorm. Mom and Babies are doing awesome.



Sweater a FLEP ewe gave birth to a little boy very early in the morning on January 22, 2026. Mom and Baby are doing amazing.



One of FLEP’s newest Suffolk Ewes Laverne gave birth to a set of twins on February 7, 2026. She surprised us with a boy and a girl.



Muffin a FLEP ewe gave birth to a very big 16lb boy on February 26, 2026. The biggest lamb we had this year. Can’t wait to see him grow.

Doris a FLEP Dorset ewe gave birth to a set of twin boys on March 3, 2026. Mom and babies are doing amazing.



2025 Life in the Park Winning Photos

By Mike Lowman, Photo Contest Administrator

These are the winning photographs in the 2025 Life in the Park Photo Competition.



Grand Prize (Best in Show)
The Calm Between the Storms

Taken February 12, 2026, along the main road near the turf athletic fields by **Adam Pegues**



Fauna 1st Place: **Goat Battle at Sundown**

Taken in the Goat Field on December 25, 2025, by **Ranger Kerry Brooks**



Fauna 2nd Place: **Barnyard Kiss**

Taken in the main field on December 14, 2025, by **Kurt DeLorenzo**



Flora 1st Place

Pearl Crescent Butterfly on a Flower

Taken in the Pollinator Garden on July 5, 2025, by **Ranger Kerry Brooks**



Flora 2nd Place: **A Splash of Summer**

Taken at the butterfly sanctuary area on July 26, 2025, by **Kurt DeLorenzo**

(Continued on next page)

...Winning Photos (Cont.)



Landscape 1st Place

Geese Fly over the Farmhouse and Barn

This was taken on Nov. 5, 2025, the night of the Beaver Moon, the brightest supermoon of the year...After the sun set, however, the twilight skies offered a beautiful coloring, and several groups of geese flew over the barns and silos...

Taken by **Mirjam Spaar**



*Landscape 1st Place: **Kinder Winter Evening***

Taken near the barn area on January 22, 2026,
by **Carey Stavrevski**



*Landscape 2nd Place: **Winter Wonderland***

Kinder Farm Park wrapped in a winter blanket after freshly fallen snow on a brisk Sunday Morning of December 12, 2025.

Taken by **Margaux Carlin**



*People 1st Place: **Beginnings***

This is a photograph of my daughter sitting with Fiona on the night she gave birth to her two lambs last spring. This was the first farm birth my family and I had ever witnessed; it was amazing.

Taken by **Tara Perkowski**

(Continued on next page)

...Winning Photos (Cont.)



People 2nd Place: Cowboy Dreams

Taken August 17, 2025, while prepping for Luke's first livestock fair show at Kinder Farm. He won first place and reserve champion in dairy goats that day! Taken by **Alyssa Stoffel**



People 2nd Place: Kid to Kid Connection

Gavin snuggling with his goat Oreo (nubian doeling) and getting investigated by Angel (oberhasli doeling) after completing farm chores with his furry friends in the Large Dairy Squad as an active FLEP volunteer and 4H member in the Nursery Field on December 2, 2025.

Taken by **Margaux Carlin**

There were a total of 85 photos entered in the 2025 Life in the Park competition, visit the “Gallery” in the “Photos” menu selection on the Friends website at www.kinderfarmpark.org to see all of the great photos of the park that were entered in this and all the previous competitions since 2010.

See page 19 in this newsletter for details about the 2026 Life in the Park Photo Competition.

Shade Tree Project Update

By Barb Buchleitner, FoKFP Shade Tree Project Representative

Phase 1

Last year, the Friends of Kinder Farm Park kicked off the Shade Tree Project to bring shade and comfort to the animals in the pastures. The Board initially approved \$1,500 to get things started, and donations boosted the total to \$1,800. Ranger Jessica Furr took on the role of lead ranger, with Bob Short, head of maintenance, as project manager.

Throughout the year, we conducted extensive research to identify which fields most needed shade trees and ranked them by priority. We also studied the topography of these areas to assess wetness and soil conditions. At Kinder, we took stock of the equipment and manpower available to get the work done, while Bob Short secured additional equipment from other County facilities to help with digging and planting. We also planned tree placement carefully to ensure they would provide maximum shade in the fields during the peak of a summer day.

We researched native trees that would thrive in our location and be safe for our farm animals. We aimed to buy trees large enough to provide shade quickly. Fencing was necessary to protect them from the animals—especially goats, who would see them as a free lunch! We decided on a diamond-shaped layout using 4x4x8 pressure-treated lumber for posts, with sawmill volunteers supplying the fencing.

We found three wet fields and chose native Weeping Willows and Heritage River Birches for them. For the five drier fields, we went with October Glory Maples and Serviceberries. The trees were purchased, and planting began on Monday, April 20th. We’re aiming to finish planting and have the fencing up by mid-May.

(Continued on best page)

Shade Tree Project...(Cont.)

Phase 2: *Plant trees to provide a wind break in winter.*

Through the volunteer section of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park website, Annabelle Baker, a high school student from Severna Park, signed up to join our shade tree project. Annabelle is part of Tree Troupers, a program under the Watershed Stewards Academy aimed at finding spots where planting trees can best support the local ecology.

She walked through the park with Ranger Jess and Dannielle Heffner to spot areas in need of winter windbreaks. Now, she's researching suitable evergreens for the job. Hopefully, the team will have recommendations ready so planting can start this fall.



These photos show the first trees planted in Black Oak Field, a very wet area that receives runoff from the athletic fields. The field often has significant standing water in the summer, creating a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies. The tree planted is a River Birch, with fencing being installed. Featured in the pictures are Bob Short, Project Manager Jessica Furr, Bob, our newest seasonal ranger, and Barb Buchleitner representing the Friends of Kinder Farm Park—along with Dinky the goat.



Apprentice Garden, Spring 2026

By Janet Clauson, Apprentice Garden Co-Chair with Kristin Silva, Master Gardeners

The Apprentice Garden at Kinder Farm Park is a program organized by the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners. It occupies two of the community garden spaces and is dedicated to teaching families with children to grow



their own produce organically. Eight families are recruited each year to join the season-long program. Families have their own personal garden space where they can plant vegetables of their choosing, and everyone shares in the common garden areas.



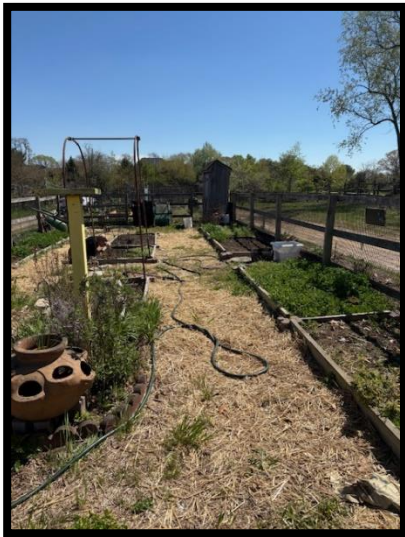
From April through September, Master Gardeners and the families meet every Wednesday at 6:30PM to plan, plant, weed, water, de-bug, fret over, learn much and harvest their own garden-grown vegetables, fruits and herbs.

At the beginning of spring, the Apprentice Garden was still sleeping under a cover crop of crimson clover, and straw covered the pathways. In late March, Master Gardeners planted cool weather crops in the common areas of the Apprentice Garden, including potatoes, lettuces, kale, and snow

(Continued on next page)

Apprentice Garden...(Cont.)

pea seeds. Rosemary, sage, thyme and lavender survived the winter in our “Mediterranean garden.” Mint is grown in big pots to keep it under control, and the hardy perennial survives the winter and begins to bud in early spring. Master Gardeners will tend these early crops, and we will assist our Apprentice Garden families with planning their garden spaces and planting and tending crops of their choice in April and May.



To follow-up with the great success of our 2025 experiment planting of the Three Sisters, a corner of the garden will be dedicated to growing a combination of corn, bean and summer squash seeds. This planting scheme

is inspired by the Indigenous peoples who planted corn, bean and summer squash together in a mound. The corn grows tall; as the beans grow up, the corn plant supports the bean vines; the squash leaves give shade to the corn and bean roots.

In 2025, the corn grew strong and tall and became part of our fall garden-gate decoration - a happy reminder of the success of the Three Sisters.

In the common planting areas, the Master Gardeners will also plant cucumber, varieties of tomatoes and peppers after the danger of frost in mid-May. Sunflowers, marigold, zinnias and other pollinator-friendly flowers are planned for the back corner of the garden to attract bees, wasps, butterflies, and other beneficial bugs. Along the outside of the fence Maryland native plants also support our local bug population.

Each season, low-till gardening techniques are used; no pesticides or herbicides are used; Leaf-gro is used at planting, and organic fertilizer is applied monthly. The crimson clover cover crop will be removed as garden spaces are planted with spring

and summer vegetables. The walkways will be covered again with newspaper and topped with straw to prevent weeds.

You are welcome to stop by the Apprentice Garden any Wednesday evening and bring your questions.

For more information about the Apprentice Garden, please contact Janet Clauson (janetclauson301@gmail.com) or Kristin Silva (ka_silva@verizon.net)

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.

Sawmill Happenings

By The Sawmill Crew

One of the most fascinating things about Kinder Farm Park volunteers is the variety of backgrounds they come from, and the sawmill crew is no exception. Among them are individuals who have served in the armed forces, worked in the federal government, the medical field, the automotive trade, and the financial industry. When it came time for the sawmill volunteers to help install a concrete pad for the engine, we discovered one of us was a former ironworker—and that skill proved incredibly useful! As many know, the sawmill was out of operation for a few weeks due to the concrete pad project. After thorough research and advice from sawmill experts, it was decided that a concrete pad would improve engine performance and extend its lifespan. Along with the new pad, additional concrete piers were added to better support the husk—the central frame that holds and supports the saw and serves as the mounting structure for the carriage that moves logs through it.



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Sawmill Happenings (Cont.)



To get the concrete pad area ready, the sawmill volunteers first removed

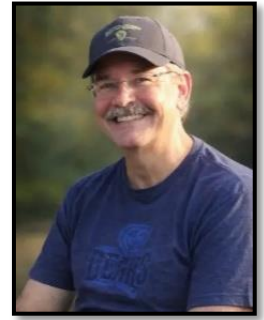
the saw, drive belts, and engine. Once that was done, the crew mapped out the site, dug it up, and set rebar into place. The next step was pouring the concrete, and we couldn't be happier with everyone's effort and how great the pad turned out. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Kinder Farm Park Board of Directors, who share the same passion and vision for the sawmill as the volunteers—one of the many reasons Kinder Farm Park continues to thrive.



Along with installing the concrete pad, the sawmill volunteers took advantage of the time before the spring rains to spread gravel in key areas where the tractor is parked and wood debris is stored.



We are deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of our cherished sawmill volunteer, Matt Brennan.



For many years, Matt spent his Wednesday mornings volunteering at the sawmill. Whether helping with operations, offering advice, or sharing stories and laughter, Matt's presence was truly special and he is deeply missed.



We'd be remiss not to give a shout-out to the ever-capable Alan Malnak, who not only laid out the rebar for the concrete pads but also crafted the beautiful bench that now sits in front of the sawmill as a tribute to Matt Brennan.

The Kinder Farm Park Board of Directors recently introduced a program assigning board members as liaisons to various volunteer groups, aiming to strengthen connections with all volunteers. The sawmill crew couldn't be happier with their liaison, Bill Hassell. Bill has been involved with Kinder Farm Park in one way or another for over 25 years, bringing a wealth of knowledge. Every Wednesday morning, the crew looks forward not just to working at the sawmill, but also to seeing Bill nearby, always ready for a friendly chat—a highlight of the day for many. The sawmill crew is thrilled to honor Bill as an **Honorary Sawyer** for his dedication, kindness, and infectious smile.

(Continued on next page)

Sawmill Happenings (Cont.)

The sawmill crew is excited to announce that they are back up and running! If you have some free time on a Wednesday morning, stop by and watch the sawmill in action.



continue to keep helping by participating in volunteer clean ups, native seed and tree plantings.

Kinder Farm Park was very happy to showcase our farm’s friendly Animal Ambassadors.



Eco Goats Participate in Earth Day

By Ranger Jessica Furr



April is Earth Month and on April 18th Park Rangers Jessica Furr and Kacie Orgera brought two of Kinder Farm Park’s

small dairy goats named Peral and Aelin to Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis to demonstrate eco-focused benefits of using goats instead of gas-powered equipment to remove invasive weed growth as part of the Earth Day celebrations. Goats are known to do an excellent job of

removing weeds and even finding some invasive weeds like poison ivy very delicious! This is one of many other fun activities geared towards sustainably and environmental protection



education to show our wonderful Planet Earth some love and care. There are many ways we each can

Celebrate Flag Day



**With Freestate Happy Wanderers
Walk in Kinder Farm Park on
June 13, 2026**

Celebrate with the Freestate Happy Wanderers on June 13, with a volkswalk at Kinder Farm Park, starting in the River Birch Pavilion. There is a 5-km and 10-km route. The trails are on natural surfaces, meadows, fields and sidewalks of surrounding residential areas. Begin between 9:00 a.m. and noon; finish by 3:00 p.m.

The Kinder Farm Park Visitors Center has displays of items from early farm life in Anne Arundel County. The Tobacco Barn Museum is open, antique tractors are on display, and a working sawmill are in the farm complex area. The 4-H livestock club is responsible for the farm animals you’ll see as you walk through the event, and the historic Kinder Farmhouse will be open for tours.

Walk fee is \$4.00 but kids and active military walk for free. Information is posted on the event Freestate website: <http://sites.google.com/svsvc.org/fhw/home> or email: wahasse1798@verizon.net

Join us for the Nature Connections Book Club!

Spring into reading with books about nature and our ever-changing environment!

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 19th, 2-4 PM** at **Kinder Farm Park Visitor Center**

Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

From the author's website:

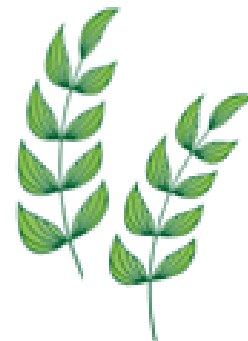
"This is her [Maya-Rose's] story; a journey defined by

her love for these extraordinary creatures. Because large or small, brown, patterned or jewelled, there is something about birds that makes us, even for just moments at a time, lift our eyes away from our lives and up to the skies."

We hope you'll join us for a discussion of this inspiring book about a young person's journey in nature!

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by letting us know you will be there.

Email address is: naturebookclub@proton.me



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**FRIENDS OF THE
Kinder
FARM PARK**

Meet the Kids!

**Saturday May 30, 2026
10am - 2pm**

**Games, hay ride, photo opportunities,
animal encounters, education, face painting,
and fun!**

All gate fees go to Kinder Farm Park 4-H and Friends of Kinder Farm Park (FLEP) Farm & Livestock Education Program

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JOIN US FOR A HAYRIDE

On the following Saturdays:

May 16, 2026

June 6, 2026

July 25, 2026

\$5/person (cash preferred)

**Children age 3 and under
are free**



- Ticket sales for the hayrides will be in front of the Visitors Center
- Hayrides will start every half-hour from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM
- Friends of Kinder Farm Park members may use their free hayride tickets

Gate Fees Still Apply

Sponsored By



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Bookmark

TREE SHADE CAMPAIGN

Learn more or
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www.kinderfarmpark.org

scan to
donate!



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The Friends of Kinder Farm Park 2026 Life in the Park Photo Competition



Categories: Fauna, Flora, Landscapes and People

Prizes: **Grand Prize** to best overall entry \$100
1st place in each category a choice of \$50 or an engraved Celebration Wheatfield Brick (a \$100 value)
2nd place in each category a choice of \$25 or an engraved Celebration Admiral Red Brick (a \$75 value)

Deadline: **February 28, 2027**

- Photos must be taken on/or after March 1, 2026, within the boundaries of Kinder Farm Park and reflect aspects of the beauty and/or life in the park
- A panel of judges will select winning photos from each category, and winners will be notified by email or phone
- For competition rules and entry instructions see the back of this flyer

RULES AND ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

1. The categories for this photo competition are **Flora** (flowers, trees, plants, etc.); **Fauna** (all animals including fishes, birds, insects, etc.); **Landscape**; and **People** in Kinder Farm Park.
2. Photos must be taken within the boundaries of Kinder Farm Park between March 1, 2026, and February 28, 2027.
3. Participants may submit up to a total of four photos in the competition, in any of the categories, either in color or black and white.
 - All photographs must be in digital format (preferably in JPG), although they need not be taken with a digital cameras. Scans are acceptable so long as they meet the requirements of these rules.
 - Cell phone photos are acceptable.
4. This competition is intended to encourage amateur photography; contest entries will not be accepted from professional photographers.
5. All entries must be original work and must not have been previously published. Participants must be the sole owner of copyright in all photos entered and must have obtained permission of any people featured in the entries.
6. **Each entry must be accompanied by the following information:**
 - **The photographer's** (parent/guardian's contact info is acceptable if photographer's name and age are identified):
 - **Name and address**
 - **Telephone number**
 - **Email address**
 - **Photograph title**
 - **A description of where and the date the photo was taken**
 - **The category in which each photograph is being entered (only one category per photo)**
 - **Notes:**
 - Entries will be returned if they lack any of the above requested information.
 - Personal details will only be used for the purpose of administering the competition and will not be published or provided to any third party without your permission.
7. Entries must be emailed to **photocontest@kinderfarmpark.org** with the subject line of **“Life in the Park Photo Contest**.
8. **All entries must be received by February 28, 2027.**
9. The Grand Prize-winning photo will not be eligible for additional prizes in the category in which the winning photo was entered.
10. No entries can be returned, and proof of posting is not proof of receipt. The organizers accept no responsibility for entries lost, damaged, or delayed in the post.
11. All entries will be judged by a panel of judges who will select the best photographs in each category. The judges' decision will be final, and no correspondence can be entered into.
12. By entering, participants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules.
13. By entering the competition, entrants grant the right for The Friends of Kinder Farm Park to display the photographs at Kinder Farm Park; publish and exhibit the submitted photographs in print and on the Friends of Kinder Farm Park website.
14. Prize winners will be invited to attend a Friends Meeting to receive their prizes, if unable to attend, the winners will be asked to pick up their prize at the Visitors Center.

***** Farm Humor *****

1. **What kind of car can you find on a farm?**
A Cattle-lac.
2. **What do you call a farmer that’s stingy about wool?** A sheep-skate.
3. **How did the farmer find the lost sheep?**
He tractor down.
4. **Why does the mushroom get invitations to every party?** He’s a fungi.
5. **Why shouldn’t you share secrets on a farm?**
The corn has ears.
6. **What do you call the boss at Old McDonald’s Farm?** The CIEIO.

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www.alexanderanimalhospital.com

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<https://jwhometeam.com/>



Connect with Jaime!



Business Community Support

The Friends of Kinder Farm Park would like to encourage our members and friends to support all the businesses and organizations featured in this publication to show appreciation for the various types of support provided to our organization and Kinder Farm Park.

Our Silver and Bronze Sponsors provide continuing support with their donations. The businesses listed below offer a discount on your purchases with your Friends of Kinder Farm Park membership card.



PARK BOOKS

- Where Readers Grow -

www.parkbooksmd.com

555 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd.

Severna Park, Maryland 21146

410-449-3100

Merchant discount to the Friends of Kinder Farm Park members, 10% discount off on any purchase online via our website at www.parkbooksmd.com, use promo code FRIENDS or, for in-store purchases, members must show valid membership card.

Discount good April 14,2026 – April 15, 2027.



568 Governor Ritchie Hwy.

Severna Park Plaza

Shopping Plaza

Severna Park,

MD 21146

Phone: 410-647-2453

Website: www.nature-junction.com

Must show your Friends Membership Card here and get 15% off large bags of Bird Seed or 10% off other purchases.

Biggy's Farm and Feed

865 Annapolis Rd.

Gambrills, MD 21064

Phone: 410-923-1120

Visit on Facebook

Must show your Friends Membership Card here and get a 10% discount on most items excluding feed.

Become a Sponsor

There are many ways your business can sponsor the Friends of Kinder Farm Park events and activities. To request an information packet with a Sponsorship application, email:

contact@kinderfarmpark.org

Specify a Subject of "Sponsorship Packet Request" and provide the following information:

- Business Name
- Business Address
- Business Phone
- Contact Name
- Contact Email

Summer 2026 Newsletter Articles

This newsletter is made up of articles about the activities and events at Kinder Farm Park, the following information is provided to people wishing to submit articles for the Summer 2026 edition of *Down on the Farm*:

1st Call for Articles: June 15, 2026

Article Deadline: July 20, 2026

Scheduled to be Published: August 3, 2026

Email Articles to: mike_lowman@verizon.net
or steven.hom@verizon.net

Articles should be submitted in digital format (preferably Word or plain text) and photos can be submitted as part of a word document or separately in JPEG (jpg) format.

***Down on the Farm* is a quarterly publication of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park**

President: Ruth Heffner
 Vice President: Alyssa Stoffel
 Treasurer: Chris Mowry
 Secretary: Fred Nicklas
 Newsletter Editor: Mike Lowman
 Assistant Editor: Steve Hom

Contact us at
contact@kinderfarmpark.org
 For the latest information, visit our website at:
www.kinderfarmpark.org