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## Upcoming Events and Activities

Highlighted here are major 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 will be open from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM on the following dates:

- Saturday, February 8, 2025
- Saturday, March 8, 2025
- Saturday, April 12, 2025
- Saturday, May 10, 2025

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.

### Deadline for 2024 Life in the Park Photo Competition

Friday, February 28, 2025, is the deadline to submit entries in the 2024 Life in the Park Photo Competition. See the flyer on page 11 for more information (prizes, rules and entry instructions).

## Friends Host Forest Bathing Speaker

Laura Falvey will be kicking off the 2025 Speakers Series with a talk about ‘Forest Bathing’ on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Harvest Hall of the Visitors Center. See the article on page 4 for more details and how to register.

## FoKFP Easter Egg Hunt

Come and enjoy our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, 2025. Open to children age 8 and under, in addition to hunting eggs, they can meet the Easter Bunny and some of their favorite farm animals. The cost is \$8.00 plus a small processing fee for children 8 and under. Visit our website at [www.kinderfarmpark.org](http://www.kinderfarmpark.org) after February 23, 2025, to register and pay (see flyer on page 9).

## Meet the Kids

Mark your calendar for Saturday May 31, 2025, 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 mixed in. More information to follow soon.

## From the President's Desk

This January brought significant snowfall and cold weather, prompting most of us to stay warm and snug in our homes. Nevertheless, activities continued at Kinder Farm Park. Here is an overview.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Debby Hartten, who has joined our board. She has assumed responsibility for the commemorative brick program and has also volunteered to assist with our Speakers Series. We anticipate engaging discussions on a variety of interesting topics.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Park Rangers and the Farm Livestock and Education Program volunteers for their diligent efforts in feeding, watering, and generally caring for our animals during the cold and snowy weather. Watering troughs were checked to prevent freezing, animals were fed, and barns were kept clean. This is a significant task in good weather, but it is doubly challenging during the winter. Thank you!

The winter breeding program is underway, ensuring that this spring there will be new animals for all of us to greet and enjoy. We even have some piglets on the way, expected to be born in late January. Our "Meet the Kids" event should be exciting.

We are currently reworking our pasture space, installing new fencing, and reconfiguring the pasture area. This will enable better use of the pastures through improved animal rotation. It will also allow certain areas to be left fallow, thereby enabling natural nutrient restoration to the land. Our sawmill and woodshop clubs have contributed to this project by supplying cut lumber for the fences. This initiative is part of the ongoing educational mission of the Friends Group.

Busy times!

See you at the park!

*Barbara Buchleitner*

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## 2025 FoKFP Officers and Board of Directors

As of the January 2025 the Friends of Kinder Farm Park Officers and Board of Directors are:

- Officers:
  - President: Barbara Buchleitner (incumbent)
  - Vice President: Karen Haghighi (incumbent)
  - Secretary: Melissa Lowman (incumbent)
  - Treasurer: Chris Mowry (incumbent)
- Board of Directors:
  - Eric Alexander (incumbent)
  - Debby Hartten, Brick Fundraiser Administrator
  - Bill Hassel (incumbent), Walking Trails
  - Ruth Heffner (incumbent) Farm Livestock and Education Program Director
  - Mike Lowman (incumbent), Newsletter Editor, Photo Contest Administrator, and Tractor Club Co-chair
  - Jen Plant (incumbent), Animal Coordinator
  - Rich Tambascio (incumbent), Speaker Program Administrator
- Non-Voting Board Members
  - Jim Rausch, Emeritus Member
  - Clara Larsen (incumbent) Jr. Member, 4H Livestock Club Representative

In honor of Jim Rausch who has served as the FoKFP President From 2009 – 2014 and on the Board from 2001 – 2024, the Officers and Board Members voted him as *Board Member Emeritus*.

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## Winner of a Free Park Pass

Every year as part of our Membership renewal drive we hold a raffle at the January Friends' meeting for a free 2025 Vehicle Park Pass, for all the new members and renewing members that pay their memberships by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

(Continued on next page)

## Winner... (Cont.)

This year our Jr. Board member, Clara Larsen reached in a hat containing the names of all those eligible and picked Margret Goldsmith as the winner. Congratulations Margret!

## Christmas Mice Invade the Farmhouse

By Mike Lowman Historical Society Member

The Holiday season is a special time at the Kinder Farmhouse Museum. The house is decorated throughout to celebrate the Christmas season; however, one of our visitors' favorite things to see are what the Christmas Mice are up to.

This year the mice took over the room they love the most, the kitchen. Apparently Grandma mouse had baked a whole lot of cookies for the holidays, five trays of them were stolen and our visitors were supposed to find the mice who took the trays.

Here are a few photos of the Christmas mice for your enjoyment; see if you see a thief among them.



I cannot look at these pictures of just a few of the mice without smiling. The Christmas mice are the creations of Nancy Percival and Bev Frye. They have graciously shared their creative talents through the holiday adventures of the Christmas mice in the farmhouse.

On behalf of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park Historical Society I would like to Thank Nancy and Bev for all the Holiday Joy and Fun they have shared with our visitors to the Kinder Farmhouse Museum.

I would also like to add a special note of appreciation to Jill Breen and the Chartwell Garden Club for helping to decorate the Farmhouse for the Holidays since it opened in 2014.



## Kinder Farmhouse Needs Standard Sheets for Double Beds

If you have any standard white or pastel sheets that you could donate, please email Diane Rausch at [drausch730@gmail.com](mailto:drausch730@gmail.com).



## Friends to Host Forest Bathing Speaker

By Jim Rausch, FoKFP Board Member Emeritus



The Friends will continue their Speaker Program in 2025 with Laura Falvey, who will discuss Forest Bathing at Kinder Farm Park. Ms. Falvey will speak on Sunday, March 30th at 2 P.M. in the Harvest Hall of the Visitors Center. Tickets are required for both

members and non-members and can be ordered through Ticket Leap. Admission is free for Friends' members, \$3 for non-members, and will be limited to 90 people.

Laura Falvey, a certified guide with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy, will talk about the wonderful experiences associated with Forest Bathing in a natural environment. Forest Bathing is a slow walk along trails, like those at Kinder Farm



Park, which allows participants to tap into their senses and immerse themselves in the beautiful world around them. Slowing down and spending mindful time in nature has been proven to regulate blood pressure, increase immunity, and reduce the production of stress hormones. One can expect to feel relaxed, refreshed, and connected to the natural environment after a guided walk. She will offer guided walks later this spring for a nominal fee.

Registration for the event will begin on February 15, 2025, using the following link:

**<https://kinderfarmpark.org/forestbathingSpeaker2025.html>**

## Meet Stella and Her New Brood

By Jen Plant, FLEP Lead and FoKFP Board Member

The Farm Livestock and Education Program (FLEP) received a New Bred Gilt (first time birthing Pig) on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, from a breeder named Aubry Knott of KFF Showpigs in Mt. Airy MD. The Gilt is a registered Chester White swine and was bred with a Crossbred boar from Hamby Show Pigs.



Her formal name is Dame Stلالuna Purdy Piggletton of Kinder Farm Park Pigtown. But you can call her "Stella".

The Chester White swine breed is a solid white hog with drooped ears that originated in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The Chester White is the most durable of the white breeds; it can gain as much as 1.36lbs (0.62 kg) a day and gain 1lb (0.45 kg) for every 3lbs (1.4 kg) of grain it is fed. Their pale color leaves Chester Whites prone to sunburn; they must be given access to shade in the summer.

These white hogs with droopy, medium-sized ears are known for their mothering ability, durability and soundness. Chester hogs are a maternal breed, known for raising large litters, and heavy milk production.

Stella was bred on September 29 -so her expected delivery date was January 21, 2025 (Pig Gestation is 3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days -114 days total), but Stella surprised us all on Friday, January 17 by having her piglets early.

(Continued on next page)

## Meet Stella... (Cont.)

She gave birth to 8 piglets, unfortunately 3 were stillborn and another passed later; but, we now have four beautiful baby piglets. Now that Stella is a mother, she has earned the title, "Sow". Her two males and two females will stay in FLEP until weaning and then be sold to 4H families for raising and showing at the county fair as their 2025 Pig Projects.



Debbie Photo Credits: Aviva Krauson

## 4-H New Animals at the Farm

By Elsie Hoy, Aviva Krauson, and Charlotte Loane - Kinder Farm 4-H Reporters

There are four new 4-H large animals since our last update: three goats and one steer. Our club will be getting more new animals in the next few months, so we expect our next update to be even bigger.

The three new breeding goats are Debbie, Raven, and Praylene. When you own a breeding goat, you come to the farm every day to care for your goat. When she is old enough, you can breed her and raise or sell the babies.

Often, other 4-H youth are looking for new projects, so they will buy the baby goats from you. With this income, you can purchase the feed and supplies needed for your animals.

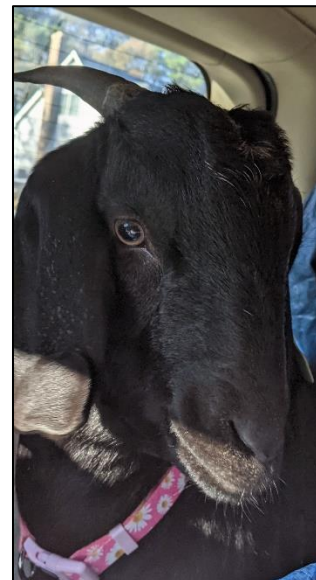
The following is some information about each of our new animals.

### Debbie, Boer Breeding Goat (owned by Aviva Krauson)

Debbie came to the farm at the end of November 2024. Aviva hopes to breed her to have babies in the future.

### Raven, Boer Breeding Goat (owned by Alice Collins)

Raven was born February 7th, 2024. Alice says, "I like Raven because she is so sweet and a little bit shy. She is like me but as a goat, which is awesome because she is the best companion ever!"



Raven Photo Credit: Alice Collins



## **Praylene, Breeding Goat (owned by Charlotte Loane) - Special Feature**

### **written by Charlotte**

Hi, my name is Charlotte, I'm a 10-year-old 4-H member. This is my third year in 4-H. I have raised 2 chickens, Bridgette and Jolene, a turkey named Malorie as well as a goat, Praylene. I will be writing about her today.

Praylene's birthday is April 17th, 2024, she is a Nigerian Dwarf goat, her mother, Princess Astrid Vega was bred with Farland Farms Wild Times. When we went to meet Praylene, Mrs. Ruth and Miss Dani introduced her to me and taught me about her breed and things to know about her care. They told me what the judges will look for at the fair and what makes Praylene a great goat. I loved her so much and I immediately knew she was the one.

Her original name is the same but spelled differently, it was Praline. I decided to change the spelling because I love God, so I added a 'Pray' into her name! I always knew I wanted to raise a goat since the summer of 2024, when I helped milk Bacardi and Astrid, Praylene's mom and aunt.

According to 4-H, I would actually be too young to own a goat. But the 4-H members took a vote and allowed me this opportunity. My family and I visited many goat owners in the area. I had two favorites which were Praylene and Forrest. I really enjoyed Praylene.

I found out I got her about 2 weeks before Christmas, when my mom got me a goat ornament, then a dancing goat stuffed animal. Then she showed me the paperwork that said I got her! I don't even know a word that would describe how happy and over-joyed I was!

My goals for this year are to work with Praylene so that she will be ready come fair time. Next year, I hope to breed her and to convince my grandfather to keep her at his house when she moves away from Kinder. I am developing a business plan and am hoping to sell goat milk products, such as goat

cheese, and soap. I will put the money earned towards care for Praylene and her kids.



*Praylene Photo Credits: Charlotte Loane*

## **Rudy, Hereford Steer (owned by Madison Cassidy)**

Rudy was born in March 2024 at Church View Farms, right here in Millersville, MD. Madison says she loves just hanging out with him. He's just so sweet!



*Rudy Photo Credit: Madison Cassidy*

## Parents and Children Learn Organic Gardening by Doing!

By Janet Clauson, Apprentice Garden Co-chair, and Master Gardener

Would you and your children like to grow your own organic vegetables? Then join us, Master Gardeners and other families, in the Apprentice Garden.

The Apprentice Garden at Kinder Farm Park is a program organized by the University of Maryland Extension Service Master Gardeners. It occupies two of the community garden spaces and is dedicated to teaching families with children to grow their own produce organically. The program can host eight families. Each family has a personal garden space and shares the care and harvest of the common garden areas. The Master Gardeners and families meet every Wednesday at 6:30 pm to plant, weed, water, de-bug, fret over, learn, and harvest their own garden-grown vegetables, fruits, and herbs.



In the personal plots, families plant their own unique choice of seeds and sets. The 2024 garden had a wide variety of vegetables: tomatoes and peppers; cucumbers, okra, yellow squash, and zucchini; lettuces, kale, beans, peas, radishes; broccoli; strawberries, potatoes, and herbs. Families shared the bounty of their garden spaces, and everyone shares the vegetables grown in the common areas, including potatoes, tomatoes, tomatillos, peppers, okra, strawberries, and herbs.

If you visit the Apprentice Garden now, you will find crimson cover crop growing in the planting areas and newspapers covered with straw on the pathways. The crimson clover will nourish the soil with nitrogen this winter and will also prevent weeds from choking the planting areas. In addition to the winter preparation for the family plots and common planting areas, the

perennials, strawberry plants, and herb garden have been bedded down for winter.

Planning is underway for the Apprentice Garden for 2025. If you are interested in more information or would like to join us this season, please contact Janet Clauson at janetclauson301@gmail.com.

The Apprentice Garden project meets from April through September, on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at the community gardens at Kinder Farm Park in Millersville.

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. The Apprentice Garden is co-chaired by Janet Clauson (janetclauson301@gmail.com) and Kristin Silva (ka\_silva@verizon.net).

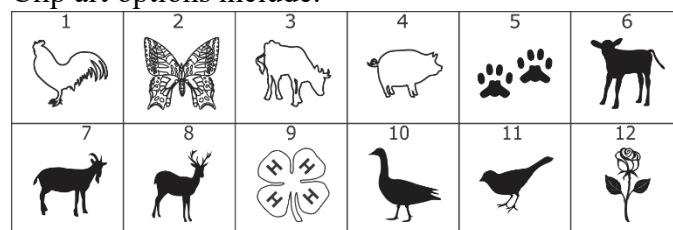
## Fantastic Gift Opportunity!

By Debby Hartten, FoKFP Brick Fundraiser Administrator

Our Commemorative Brick Program is a great way to become a part of Kinder Farm Park while commemorating a loved one and/or memories, including times spent with family or even your beloved pet!

We offer two types of bricks, our Admiral Red brick at a cost of \$75 dollars, or our Wheatfield brick at a cost of \$100 per brick (see below for full details on how to order). Each type of brick offers the ability to just have text, or to add from our selection of clip art (just added the 4H logo and paw prints), which does not affect your cost, but simply reduces the copy length.

Clip art options include:



Just think about how wonderful it would be to spend time with family at Kinder Farm Park and together view your own brick that commemorates

(Continued on next page)



## ...Gift Opportunity! (Cont.)

time spent or memories made here. Bricks are placed outside of the Visitor's Center around the flagpole or adjoining areas.



Brick orders are placed throughout the year, but special initiatives are often shared via this newsletter, so start thinking ahead about how a brick order might be an amazing Mother's or Father's Day gift! We have even created a certificate that we will email you upon brick purchase so that you can present it to a loved one by announcing your brick order while awaiting the physical brick to arrive and be placed.

Here are two ways to place your brick order online:

1. By entering the following URL in your web browser:  
<https://www.formstack.com/forms/FRB-kinderpark>  
 The *Friends of Kinder Farm Park Brick Fundraiser* page is displayed, just follow the instructions on the page to place your order.
2. By going to our website at [www.kinderfarmpark.org](http://www.kinderfarmpark.org), select the **Support** menu, then the **Lasting Gifts** option, and finally select the **Online Brick Purchase** button. The *Friends of Kinder Farm Park Brick Fundraiser* page is displayed, just follow the instructions on the page to place your order.

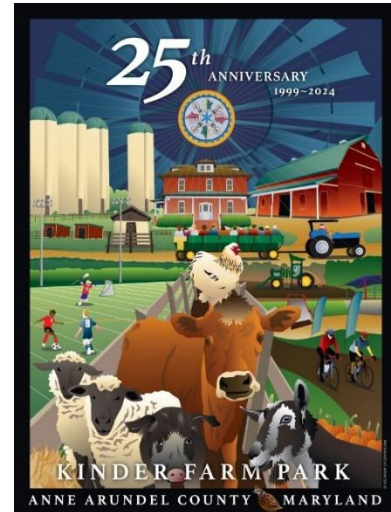
Note: While payment mentions Pay Pal, you can ignore that prompt and you can pay via Credit Card

If you have any questions, email:  
[brick@kinderfarmpark.org](mailto:brick@kinderfarmpark.org)

## Kinder Farm Park's 25th Anniversary Celebrated in Poster by Arnold Artist

By Ruth Heffner, FoKFP Board Member

Designed by local artist Joe Barsin, a resident of Arnold, the 18-by-24-inch poster features a one-of-a-kind illustration of all that the beloved park has to offer: farm animals, athletic facilities, a playground, barn, farmhouse and more, all tied together by the iconic windmill.



Barsin, who teaches gaming and simulation at Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Center of Applied Technology South, shared that he has designed commemorative posters for other county parks including Quiet Waters Park and Downs Park, but the opportunity to create artwork for Kinder Farm Park was uniquely special.

"I love Kinder Farm Park ... I've been to all of (the county parks) with my kids, but this one is specifically the closest to my heart," he said. Barsin explained that he spent many days at Kinder Farm Park with his two sons, who are now in their 20s, at the playground, meeting the farm animals, and playing sports.

"It's been a joy to be a part of the park system because it's been such a big part of our life," he added.

Signed (\$25) and unsigned (\$10) copies of the poster can be purchased at Kinder Farm Park or by emailing [contact@kinderfarmpark.org](mailto:contact@kinderfarmpark.org).



**Friends of Kinder Farm Park**

# **Easter Egg Hunt**



**Saturday  
April 12, 2025  
(Rain or Shine)**

**Location: River Birch Pavilion**

**Cost: \$8 plus an online service charge  
per child 8 and Under**

**Hunt Start Times: 1:00 PM, 1:30 PM,  
2:00 PM, 2:30 PM**

Come and enjoy our annual Easter Egg Hunt, meet the Easter Bunny, and enjoy a visit with some of your favorite Farm animals.

Bring your own basket for collecting eggs.

Hunt areas are provided in each time slot for ages 4 and under, and 5 to 8.

**Registration begins on Feb. 23, 2025, visit our website at  
[www.kinderfarmpark.org](http://www.kinderfarmpark.org) to register and pay.**

**Gate Fees Apply**



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# The Friends of Kinder Farm Park

## 2024 Life in the Park

### Photo Competition



**Categories:**

**Fauna, Flora, Landscapes and People**

**Prizes:**

**Grand Prize** to best overall entry \$100

**1<sup>st</sup> place in each category** a choice of \$50 or an engraved Celebration Wheatfield Brick (a \$100 value)

**2<sup>nd</sup> place in each category** a choice of \$25 or an engraved Celebration Admiral Red Brick (a \$75 value)

**Deadline:**

**February 28, 2025**

- Photos must be taken on/or after March 1, 2024, 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



(Over)

## 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, 2024, and February 28, 2025.
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 **"2024 Life in the Park Photo Contest."**
8. **All entries must be received by February 28, 2025.**
9. The Grand Prize-winning photo will be ineligible for additional prizes in the category in which it 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.



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for their continuing support.*



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Davidsonville, MD 21035

## 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 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.

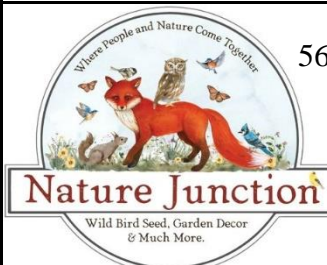
### A.A. Co. Farm, Lawn & Garden Center LLC



224 Mountain Road,  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
Phone: 410-766-8400

Website: [aalawnandgarden.com](http://aalawnandgarden.com)

**Must show your Friends Membership Card  
here and get a 10% discount**



568 Governor Ritchie Hwy.  
Severna Park Plaza  
Shopping Plaza  
Severna Park,  
MD 21146  
Phone: 410-647-2453

Website: [www.nature-junction.com](http://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](mailto: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
- 

## Spring 2025 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 Spring 2025 edition of *Down on the Farm*:

**1<sup>st</sup> Call for Articles: March 16, 2025**

**Article Deadline: April 20, 2025**

**Scheduled to be Published: May 3, 2025**

**Email Articles to: [mike\\_lowman@verizon.net](mailto:mike_lowman@verizon.net)**

Articles should be submitted in digital format (preferably Word or plain text) and photos in JPEG (jpg) format.

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

President: Barbara Buchlietner  
Vice President: Karen Haghighi  
Treasurer: Chris Mowry  
Secretary: Melissa Lowman  
Newsletter Editor: Mike Lowman  
Assistant Editor: Steve Hom

Contact us at  
[contact@kinderfarmpark.org](mailto:contact@kinderfarmpark.org)



For the latest information, visit our  
website at:  
[www.kinderfarmpark.org](http://www.kinderfarmpark.org)