

## Media Contacts:

**Martha Clark, Owner, Clark's Elioak Farm**

(410) 440-0295, [clarkselioakfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:clarkselioakfarm@hotmail.com)

**Amanda Hof, Executive Director, Visit Howard County**

(410) 313-1904, [Amanda@howardcountytourism.com](mailto:Amanda@howardcountytourism.com)

# Visit Howard County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Clark's Elioak Farm to receive Maryland Comptroller's Cornerstone Award

### Highlights:

- First Cornerstone Award for Local Business Excellence award recipient
- Comptroller Peter Franchot to present the award on Thursday, July 25th
- Award recognizes small and family-owned businesses
- Clark's Elioak Farm recently named #5 on KidsOutandAbout.com annual reader survey

[http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.gov/Public\\_Services/Agency\\_Information/Office\\_of\\_the\\_Comptroller/Comptroller\\_Initiatives/Cornerstone\\_award.shtml](http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.gov/Public_Services/Agency_Information/Office_of_the_Comptroller/Comptroller_Initiatives/Cornerstone_award.shtml)

*Ellicott City, MD (July 2019)*

On behalf of Clark's Elioak Farm, Visit Howard County is excited to share that Clark's Elioak Farm has been selected by the Office of the Maryland Comptroller as the recipient of the first-ever Cornerstone Award for Local Business Excellence in Howard County.

The prestigious new award as described by the Comptroller's office, "recognizes small and family-owned businesses that celebrate the guiding values of independence, innovation, and investment that define Maryland's local business community. The Cornerstone Award further celebrates businesses – in the retail, agriculture, manufacturing, industrial and entertainment sectors -- that are part of the fabric of their community. The recipients have adapted to economic challenges, overcome the changing marketplace and evolved to meet customer demands, while showing a commitment to the community through sponsorships, community service, charitable giving, and civic involvement/leadership."

Comptroller Peter Franchot will present the award to Martha Clark, owner of Clark's Elioak Farm, and her daughter, Nora Crist, on Thursday, July 25th at 3:15 P.M. at Clark's Elioak Farm (10500 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042).

Clark's Elioak Farm was also recently recognized by entertainment publication, KidsOutandAbout.com, Top 20 Places to Take Kids in and around the DC Metro Area. Clark's Elioak ranked five out of twenty DC Metro Area Attractions. KidsOutandAbout.com describes the popular tourist attraction as, "a petting farm in the heart of Howard County, Maryland' and "home of many attractions from The Enchanted Forest, Maryland's Storybook Park." <https://dmv.kidsoutandabout.com/content/top-20-places-take-kids-and-around-dc-metro-area>

"Congratulations to Clark's Elioak Farm for earning this honor! It is a small business that is a beloved spot for making great family memories, from a petting farm to the Enchanted Forest," said Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. "I want to thank Comptroller Franchot for this new award and I look forward to celebrating more of

our wonderful small and family-owned businesses in the years to come.”

Martha Clark, owner of Clark’s Elioak Farm adds, “Our family is honored to be recognized by the Comptroller’s Office with this award. We strive to carry on the work of previous generations to maintain and improve the farm for future generations. My father, Jim Clark, loved the farm and was always ready to change with the times. He has inspired us to continue to innovate. Nora and I love sharing our farm with the families and children who visit us throughout the year. We are also pleased to provide our produce and meat to our neighbors in Howard County and beyond.”

“Clark’s Elioak Farm is one of Howard County’s top attractions that draws tens of thousands of visitors each year and the only farm that can call itself home to the Enchanted Forest, a 1950’s Theme Park. The Clark family is more than deserving of these recent recognitions,” remarks Amanda Hof, Executive Director for Visit Howard County.

### **About Clark's Elioak Farm**

Clark’s Elioak Farm is part of the farming operation of the Clark family, which is proud to be entering its 222nd year of farming in Howard County. Over those years they have raised crops and a variety of animals and run a dairy operation, but the main link between the seven generations of farmers in this branch of the Clark family has been raising beef cattle. In addition to meats and produce, Clark’s Elioak Farm is a popular spot for day-trippers and school groups with a Fall season pumpkin patch, a petting farm, pony rides, a gift shop and more. The owners of the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center, Kimco Realty Corporation, began donating the Enchanted Forest buildings and figures to Clark’s Elioak Farm in 2004. The Clark family continues to receive and restore pieces of the Enchanted Forest adding to its one-of-a-kind collection.

<http://www.clarklandfarm.com>.

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