



County of Marin District 1 Newsletter

January, 2012

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Some things have come together this year, as a result of years of effort by many people. The single use bag ordinance goes into effect this month and I want to send out my appreciation to all of the retailers who were at the table sharing their perspectives throughout the development of the ordinance and who have voluntarily already implemented the bag ban. I also want to celebrate the opening of Marinwood Market, and thank Jeannie Fitzgerald and her family for the remarkable market they have brought to life on the Marinwood Village Plaza. And another "Hurrah!" to Andy Bachich for his investment of time, sweat equity and money to revitalize the Sun Valley Market. The vision and commitment of our local independent grocers brings life back into our communities and we can all show our appreciation by shopping locally and supporting them as they serve and support us...



Jeannie Fitzgerald, Susan Adams, Kara and Bill Atkinson in the Marinwood Market

Another planet friendly activity is the use of public and non-motorized transportation. If you haven't experienced a bike ride through the CalPark Tunnel linking San Rafael with Larkspur Landing, consider putting it on your New Years Resolutions list. 2012 will also herald changes in some of our bus routes...the 259 in Marinwood will now make its way to Central San Rafael and a new 257 route will serve the East side communities of Smith Ranch, Contempo and Dominican. If we don't use them, we lose them...so experience a public transportation day and leave the driving to us.

After a lengthy public process, the Local Coastal Plan Update will be coming to the Board in 2012. "Public" is the operative word in everything we do, transparency in the process that allows policymakers the valuable input of those most interested in the outcome. So whether it's watershed, housing, flood control, transportation issues, or whether you are interested in how the County is spending your tax dollars. There are so many ways to receive information...just check out our updated web site: www.marincounty.org. I know how busy everyone is with their careers, career changes, families, volunteer commitments, etc, but I ask you to please stay involved and continue to give us your thoughts. Working together will always yield the very best results.

Susan L. Adams

County Employees Thrive!

Supervisor Adams set out at the beginning of the year to institute a wellness program that would include a little friendly competition to get people moving. Joanne Peterson, the County's Human Resources Director, took the ball and ran with it. The County of Marin's employee wellness program kicked off in 2011 with Thrive Across America; some pretty enthusiastic team competition upped the energy level throughout Countyland! Kaiser Permanente was a generous partner in providing access to their web based tracking system, as well as providing incentives for the teams. Kaiser also produced this video highlighting the County's efforts.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ousXxYo_1bg



Some heavy lifting and balancing of priorities helped the Aides in District 4 (Liza Crosse), 3 (Leslie Alden and Maureen Parton), and our very own D1 (Susannah Clark) sharpen the skills we need to be at our peak performance on the job.

PG&E Supports Giving Customers the Choice of Analog, Mechanical Meters

PG&E reported that it has asked the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to give customers who have concerns over wireless technology a choice to use traditional analog, mechanical meters, in addition to the utility's proposal in March to turn off the radios in its opt-out customers' SmartMeters.

To date, PG&E has installed nearly nine million gas and electric SmartMeters. In response to comments from some customers, PG&E last March provided customers with the option to delay the installation of SmartMeters until the CPUC approves a way to opt-out of the program.

The CPUC is expected to issue its opt-out decision soon, which will likely ask customers who opt-out to pay an initial fee and some additional monthly charge to cover the costs of manual meter reading and associated operational and billing issues.

Visit website: www.pge.com/about/newsroom

Rebates Available for Solar Photovoltaic Systems

SAN RAFAEL—Local clean energy pioneer Marin Energy Authority announced the launch of a new solar rebate program for Marin Clean Energy customers. The program offers a \$500 rebate to customers who install a solar photovoltaic system in Marin County of at least ½ kilowatt in size on a first-come, first-serve basis.

“There are already some strong solar rebates available in Marin County but we wanted to create a tipping point,” said Dawn Weisz, Executive Officer. “So, in addition to the solar rebates available from the County of Marin and California Solar Initiative, now there is also a solar rebate for Marin Clean Energy customers to help encourage investment in solar power and a secure energy future.”

Marin Clean Energy is currently serving approximately 13,000 customers and more than 400 of those customers have already installed solar systems on their roofs. Marin Clean Energy expects the rebates to incentivize not only the installation of new solar projects but also the expansion of existing solar projects which would increase renewable power flow onto the electric grid.

Marin Clean Energy’s Net Energy Metering program encourages over-sizing of solar projects by paying premium rates for the excess electricity produced. Excess generation credits roll over month after month and are paid out on an annual basis if they are \$100 or more. The credits never zero out.

In order to receive the \$500 rebate from the Marin Energy Authority, customers are required to fill out a simple form verifying that the solar panels were purchased on or after December 1, 2011 as well as an energy efficiency checklist which encourages recipients to consider measures to reduce their energy consumption.

More information about the rebates is available at www.marincleanenergy.com.

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Board adopts Legislative Priorities for 2012

At its meeting on December 6, the Board adopted its Federal and State Legislative Priorities for the coming year. This is designed to give the Board policy direction on legislation regarding matters that are of singular and direct interest to Marin County. These priorities are also used to provide our lobbyists a better understanding of the Board’s policy preferences regarding a variety of intergovernmental issues that might arise during the course of the year.

State priorities are around several key pieces of legislation, pension reform (the Governor’s 12 point plan), watershed management, public safety realignment, infrastructure and flood protection funding, etc.

You can watch the hearing on line and review the documents in the packet at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/Archive/Meetings.cfm>. The priorities are described in the following document:

<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/EFiles/BS/AgMn/agdocs/111206/111206-9-AD-plan-REP.pdf>.

Residential Burglaries Result in a Neighborhood Watch

Police have been alerted to a series of burglaries and attempted burglaries in Terra Linda in the area of Esmeyer and Tamarack. While an arrest was made with respect to some of these occurrences, residents have been asked to be on the alert. San Rafael Police have mentioned 12 daytime residential burglaries in 6 weeks in the Terra Linda, Dominican and West End neighborhoods. The Terra Linda Marinwood neighborhoods have met to discuss organizing a "watch" group and a website has been set up for those interested: www.tlmw-watch.org.

The Marin Independent Journal article can be

found at: http://www.marini.com/sanrafael/ci_19499216?source=most_viewed

The watch group, organized with the assistance of the Las Gallinas Lions Club, will be meeting Wed, Feb 15th @ 7:30 at the Marinwood Community Center. On the agenda are:

Retired Police Officer Tom Boyd

Roll Out of Street Captain Program

Update from Sheriff & SRPD on burglaries

John Buckley is the committee chair on the watch program and the primary contact. His email is: picasabuckley@gmail.com

The Green Tip—Cabin Fever Setting In?

Are you feeling stuck inside for the winter? So is the air inside of your home.

Recent research has found that the air inside homes can be more polluted than the air in the largest, most industrialized cities. Indoor air pollution is caused by a lack of ventilation and can lead to more frequent colds, respiratory problem, and other ailments and diseases. Here are a few tips to keep your home and your family healthy.

Keep the house clean. House dust mites, pollens, animal dander, and other pollutants can be reduced through regular cleaning. Install and use fans vented to the outdoors in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms.

Ventilate the attic and crawl spaces to prevent moisture buildup. Keeping humidity levels in these areas below 50% can prevent water condensation on building materials, which can breed bacteria and mold. High levels of mold can be incredibly dangerous to your family's long-term health.

Clean humidifiers regularly and refill with fresh water daily. Humidifiers can become breeding grounds for biological contaminants that can cause illnesses. Evaporation trays in air conditions, dehumidifiers, and refrigerators should be cleaned frequently to prevent contaminants from building up. Who wants Legionnaire's Disease to kick off the New Year?

Marin Parks Volunteer Opportunities in January

Saturday, January 14, 9am - 1pm

Rick's Broom Patch

Over a decade ago, devoted volunteer Rick Thornton and friends removed a massive pioneer patch of invasive French broom on the Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Divide. Though Rick passed away, we've maintained the site with the help of community volunteers. The work involves moderately strenuous activity on uneven ground. Bring water; wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Lunch will be served. Rain may cancel: Call (415) 473-3778 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Meet at the end of Manual T. Freitas

Saturday, January 21, 10am - 4:30pm

BAEER Fair

Visit the Marin County Parks booth and others at the 35th annual Bay Area Environmental Education Resource (BAEER) Fair. There will be a variety of workshops about wildlife, ecology, adventure and environmental education. General admission: \$12; high school students/senior citizens: \$10; youth: \$8; and kids 6 and under: free. For more information: Call (510) 657-4847, e-mail kenpacx@yahoo.com or visit www.baeerfair.org. The BAEER Fair will be held at the Marin County Exhibit Hall (10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael).

Saturday, January 28, 9am - 1pm

Trail Maintenance Team Event

Become a member of our Trail Maintenance Team (TMT) volunteer program and join us in maintaining the Open Space District trail system on the second Wednesday and fourth Saturday each month. Our trails are heavily used and we need help with trail maintenance. Projects will take in different locations throughout the preserve system. This special team was instrumental in building the new 680 Trail this past summer. Members must be 18 years old, are required to attend a short orientation and are asked to commit to 6 trail events per year. No previous trail experience is necessary. To join: Contact Open Space Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at greza@marincounty.org or (415) 473-3778.

Sunday, January 29, 10am - 12pm

Mill Valley/Sausalito Path Cleanup

Join us to clean a litter hot spot and remove invasive weeds from the sensitive tidal wetlands surrounding this very popular multi-use path. The area is home to endangered species, which are threatened by accumulations of trash and weeds that crowd out native vegetation. The work involves easy to moderate activity on flat ground and is suitable for all ages. Bring water; wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Rain may cancel. Call (415) 473-2823 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Meet at the parking lot underneath Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, next to the offices at 100 Shoreline Hwy.

Ranger-led outing

Saturday, January 21, 9am - 1pm

San Pablo Paddle

Join Rangers on a scenic paddling journey along the shores of San Pablo Bay. This event is open to paddleboards and kayaks alike. We'll leave McNears Beach Park, wind up the coast along the shores of China Camp, into Las Gallinas Creek, stop at McInnis Park for a quick lunch and then return to McNears. This is a strenuous 10 mile paddle and not recommended for beginners. Bring water and lunch. Parking is \$5. Strong winds/rain will cancel. For more information: Call Supervising Ranger Dan Sauter at (415) 446-4424. Meet in front of the snack bar (McNears Beach Park, 201 Cantara Way, San Rafael).



Marshland near Santa Margarita Island Preserve

Marin Parks— Naturalists Walks

Thursday, January 5, 9am - 2pm

Trek to the Top of White Hill

We'll aim for lunch at the summit, but we'll make the 1,000 foot ascent at a pace that will allow us to find plenty of mushrooms, birds and other wildlife along the way. This walk is for adults. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. David Herlocker will lead. Questions: Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or dherlocker@marincounty.org. Heavy rain may cancel. Call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Directions: From Fairfax, head west on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, we'll meet at the big gravel parking area on the right side of the road, just below the top of the hill.

Tuesday, January 10, 10am - 2pm

Winter at Mount Burdell

Winter wildlife and the amazing greenness of this Novato preserve will remind us that the wet season is the growing season here in Marin. With luck, we may even see some early wildflowers. This walk is for adults. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. David Herlocker will lead. Questions: Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or dherlocker@marincounty.org. Heavy rain may cancel. Call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Meet at the San Andreas Trailhead. Directions: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the San Marin Drive exit west about 2.3 miles and turn right at San Andreas Drive. Trailhead is near the end on the right.

Saturday, January 14, 9am - 2pm

Mushrooms at Indian Tree Preserve

The mixed forests of this Novato preserve usually host an amazing array of mushrooms at this time of year. With luck we'll make it to the top where we'll enjoy spectacular views in every direction (Distance: 6.5 miles; elevation gain: 1,300 feet). This walk is for adults. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. David Herlocker will lead. Questions: Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or dherlocker@marincounty.org. Heavy rain may cancel. Call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Meet at the Vineyard Road gate, just past the end of the pavement. Directions: In Novato, follow Sutro Avenue and turn right at Vineyard Road.



Coastline near Alamere Falls Photo by Conor Boughey

Wednesday, January 18, 10am - 2pm

Devil's Gulch

There are a lot of possibilities for this day; there will certainly be a variety of mushrooms, and if we are lucky we may even see spawning salmon. Perhaps we'll go up the trail to Stairstep Falls, or we just might explore the less traveled parts of the main canyon (none of these options are strenuous). This walk is for adults. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. David Herlocker will lead. Questions: Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or dherlocker@marincounty.org. Heavy rain may cancel. Call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Meet at the parking area across from Devil's Gulch. Directions: Follow Sir Francis Drake Boulevard west 1 mile past the entrance to Samuel P. Taylor State Park.

Sunday, January 22, 10am - 3pm

Exploring the Point Reyes Coast with David Wimpfheimer

We'll head up the new Muddy Hollow trail and then cross over to another lush valley to follow the Coast Trail back to the beach. We can compare a number of different habitats: Groves of alder and willow, freshwater and saltwater marshes, the sandy beach and more. This walk is for adults. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. Questions: Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or dherlocker@marincounty.org. Heavy rain may cancel. Call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Meet at the Limantour parking area. Directions: From Olema, head north on Hwy 1, turn left at Bear Valley Road (first left), turn left at Limantour Road and follow to the end.

County Looks at Regulating Second-Hand Smoke Exposure

A Second Hearing will be held on January 10 at 10:30 when the Board of Supervisors will consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 7.70 of the Marin County Code "Regulating Second-Hand Smoke" to address smoking in multi-unit housing and to remove language pertaining to youth access to tobacco products. This action was prompted in part by the following facts:

- ◆ Deaths from smoking around the world will soon outnumber those from AIDS, tuberculosis, traffic accidents, murder and suicide combined:
- ◆ The US Environmental Protection Agency has found secondhand smoke to be a risk to public health and has classified it as a group A carcinogen, the most dangerous class of carcinogen.
- ◆ Exposure to secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in this country, killing over 52,000 non-smokers annually, and is responsible for as many as 300,000 children in the US to suffer from lower respiratory tract infections, etc.

The Board's intent in passing this ordinance will be to provide for the public health, safety and welfare by discouraging the inherently dangerous behavior of tobacco use near non-tobacco users; by protecting children from exposure to smoking and tobacco; by reducing the potential for children to associate smoking and tobacco with a healthy lifestyle; by protecting the public from smoking and tobacco-related litter and pollution; and by affirming and promoting the family-friendly atmosphere in the County's public places.

Prohibition of smoking shall include County-owned vehicles, enclosed facilities and places of employment, recreation areas as well as in at least 80 percent of guest rooms in every hotel, motel and inn and multi-unit residences. This will also cover public means of transportation as well as boarding and waiting areas of transit depots. Smoking will also be prohibited in all multi-use residence common areas except in designated areas. All new units of a multi-use residence will be designated non-smoking, including their patios and balcony, deck or patio areas.

For more detail and citations for the above stated facts, you may read the complete proposed ordinance at: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/EFiles/BS/AgMn/agdocs/111220/111220-11-HH-ord-ORD.pdf>. The packet will be available to view online the Thursday before the Tuesday hearing, or on January 5.

Protecting Neighborhoods From Wildland Fires

The Marin County Fire Department implemented a fuel reduction project on the Scettrini Fire Road below San Pedro Ridge. The project focus was to create a shaded fuel break along the access road to better protect the neighboring communities. Since 2005, there have been three wildland fires in the project area. The Marin County Fire Department's Tamalpais Fire Crew created the fuel break by thinning the forest understory, most of it consisted of dead vegetation, and by removing trees suffering from Sudden Oak Death.



Before



After

The Tamalpais Fire Crew spent 12 days on fuel reduction and three days burning 136 brush piles. This project was collaboration between the Marin County Fire Department and the City of San Rafael.

Funding provided by the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

[How did the Tamalpais Fire Crew get started?](#) The Marin County Board of Supervisors funded the Tamalpais Fire Crew as a pilot project in the spring of 2005 to better protect our communities from a wildland fire.

[Are the members full-time employees?](#) The crew is composed of two full-time positions and 11 seasonal firefighters. The goal of the program outside of protecting our communities is to produce outstanding firefighters through hard work, intense training, mentoring and a high physical fitness level. The Marin County Fire Department is proud of the number of crewmembers that have obtained full-time firefighter jobs in Marin and other fire departments throughout the state.

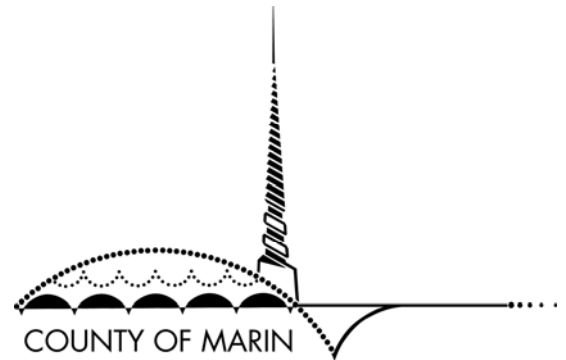
[More Questions?](#) Fire Crew Superintendent Tim Walsh (415) 717-1521



Susan L. Adams, Ph.D., R.N.

Supervisor, District 1

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Calendar—January, 2012

Board of Supervisors Meetings, January 10, 24 and 31; Board of Supervisors Chambers, go to website for starting time and agendas, www.marincounty.org/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm

Marin Transit District, January 30, 10 a.m., BOS Chambers www.marintransit.org for agenda

Transportation Authority of Marin, January 26, 7:00 p.m., BOS Chambers, www.tam.ca.gov for agenda

Public is always welcome. Check websites to confirm meeting date and time.

If you wish to subscribe to the Cyberagenda, there is a link on the Cyberagenda page to do so. This will include notices of **Marin Housing Authority** meetings, dates for which change each month.

<http://www..marincounty.org/g-channel/Default.aspx>

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<http://www.marincounty.org/bos1>

Check out the meetings you have missed; view meetings you attended and can't believe someone said what they

did...<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/g-channel/Default.aspx>. Find out about County programs and services:

CONNECT!

http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=88309BB12DC1D046



<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/g-channel/Default.aspx>



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