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Newly Elected State Senator to Speak Here



Art in the Park



10-11 David Gray BIRD OF THE MONTH: Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and

Snowy Plovers



CALENDAR: December 2018

Letter to the Editor

We are all here to care for each other and the planet, to serve as active environmentalists. Each day we can do one thing toward that goal.

That one step might be cleaning up our dog's poop. And to take it to a higher level — cleaning up raccoon and coyote poop and any other debris on our paths. We then become active environmentalists sharing in the actions of our community to keep the Park clean and healthy.

Lee Dunne



Love to Sing Carols?

Please join Carol-Joy Harris in singing Christmas carols in the Fireside Room on

Sunday, December 16 6 to 9 pm.

Refreshments will be served. It doesn't matter if you can't carry a tune – we'll help you carry it!

Directory Update

New Residents

Alisa Depalma

100 Sunrise Lane 415-794-1684

Denise Billings

54 Club View Drive 415-971-4394

HOL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS



MARIN VALLEY

BIGGER AND BETTER



Sunday, December 9

12 - 5 pm

FREE LUNCH TO ALL ATTENDEES

To be a vendor, contact Tara at taraplocher@gmail.com or 415-302-5992



Congratulations to resident Bill Davis who was elected to the Novato Fire District Board in the recent election.

Got Socks? Merino Wool Socks?

Terri Fuchs' dear friend (and ex-husband) recently died leaving her with an overwhelming number of merino wool socks. They are being offered well under store prices — up to 50% off with a wide variety of sizes, colors, and types. (\$5 a pair. Buy 3, get a 4th for free. Buy 3 3-packs, get a 4th 3-pack for free.) Contact Terri at 415-699-2699 or Ed Collins at 415-377-7696. Socks are at 135 Sunrise Lane. See *marinvalley.net/classifieds/*

Classifieds — To promote, sell, donate, or share something, contact Anila Manning (anilahere99@gmail.com) for the new Classifieds section of marinvalley.net listed under Resources in the top menu.

ECHO DECEMBER 2018

MARIN VALLEY

MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB

100 MARIN VALLEY DRIVE NOVATO, CA 94949 415-883-5911 /415-883-1971 FAX WWW.MARINVALLEY.NET

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DIRECTOR/RESERVATIONS CAROLY 370-6403

DEADLINE

Articles are due the 8th of the month or sooner for the following month's issue.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Email articles with "ECHO" as the first word of the subject line and a copy of the article in the body of the email to Erma Wheatley:

ermawheatley@gmail.com

Images should be as large as possible to enable a 300 ppi resolution (pixels/inch).

Management Update Letter to Residents

Happy Holidays, Marin Valley!

V-Ditch and Sump Pump Systems: V-ditches are clean of debris. These lead to the storm drains for water evacuation during rainstorms. Installed resident sump systems are maintained.

Fire-Prone Plant Removal has been very successful. Most residents have participated, providing authorization for Park-hired contractors to remove fire-prone plants from rental lots. There are still members of the community who have not wanted their juniper plants removed. You can call the front desk if you have changed your mind and want to join others in removing any fire-prone plants.

Open Space between MVMCC and Bay Vista apartments has been cleaned of all brush, poison oak, blackberry, and other fire-prone plants. This has been a monumental task. That area, with deferred maintenance from 30-plus years of overgrowth, is now clean and easier to maintain in coming years, all for your safety.

Retaining Wall Projects: Multiple repair and/or replacement of retaining walls, including drainage systems, installed in the last several months completes the budget line item for this year.

Pool and Spa Hours: Pool is closed for the season. Spa closes at 9 pm. Bright Star Security will close and lock pool gate at 9 pm, so please finish your time in the spa prior to 9 pm and remember to lock the changing room door when you leave.

Now that is gets dark earlier, please remember to wear reflective clothing while walking at night on MVMCC streets. HOL has been providing reflective vests at no cost for your safety.

Thank you.

Matt Greenberg
GENERAL MANAGER
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com

Watt Duen ly

415-883-5911 **■** 415-883-1971 Fax

Greetings from the PAC Board,

Finances: Our finances are in order. The debt service on the loan is 2.61 as of September 30, 2018, well above the required 2.00. Our cash, plus short-, medium-, and long-term reserves, totals nearly 5 million dollars.

Preparedness Fair: Kudos to MVEST, which continues to be active in focusing our attention on our safety issues around our community. The MVEST Preparedness Fair was well attended and fun. For further information, see John Hansen's report in this *Echo*.

ADA: The transformation of the clubhouse to an ADA-compliant facility continues, with the City's Public Works Department overseeing. For more details of present projects and future works, see Matt Greenberg's management update in the adjacent column.

Development: The PAC Project Committee will hold meetings later this year to gather input from all interested residents on the development of the acreage below the clubhouse and above Club View Drive. Some of the ideas put forth to date include a community garden, picnic seating area, senior residential group home, and an emergency water well. You may send input to either John Hansen or me. Your input is necessary before any plans are formulated. This will be a community-planned project.

Agreements: The PAC Board is looking into the existing management and delegation agreements we have both with our management company and with the City of Novato. We hope these agreements will be finalized soon. They are still actively being discussed among the parties as of this date.

The next PAC meeting will be December 5 at 6 pm.

The agenda will be posted in the clubhouse before the meeting.

In service.

Jay Shelfer
PAC PRESIDENT
jjshelfer@yahoo.com



HOLIDAY PARTY

December 15 • 5 PM Cocktails • 6 PM Dinner

MENU

Pork Loin with Apples or Fettuccine Alfredo Mixed Green Vegetables Roasted Potatoes

Cheesecake

One complimentary cocktail provided by HOL and Mar Val

Limit of two PEOPLE per residence \$15 per person

Reservation box will be on the counter December 1. Early reservations will not be accepted.

Reservation deadline is December 12 at 5 PM or when 140 reservations have been received.

Questions — call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403

Message from

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to report that due to the enthusiastic participation of the community, the annual Black Cat was once again a financial success. The net income, exclusive of the Bar and meal proceeds, was as follows — 2017: \$1,440; 2018: \$1,600.

Mar Val is truly grateful to all who donated items for sale as well as to those who volunteered as cashiers, salespeople, bakers, and setup crew.

As you will note from the announcements on this page, we have once again reached that most festive time of year that we mark with two very special social events.

The Holiday Party will take place on Saturday, December 15, 2018. Each guest will receive a complimentary drink courtesy of HOL and Mar Val, which cohost this event.

The New Year's Eve Party is on Monday, December 31, beginning at 6:30 pm. In addition to a bountiful buffet and a champagne toast at 9 pm, guests will once again be treated to the popular dance music provided by our own talented DJ, Charles Watson.

Finally, the board of Mar Val is grateful for all the support we have received from the community in 2018 and wish to extend our very best wishes to you and your family for Christmas and the New Year.

With warmest regards,

Kathleen Dargie
MAR VAL PRESIDENT
kfdargie@aol.com

	Nguai gic wuoi.com		
	2018 HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATION FORM Please circle entrée choice Resident Pork Loin Fettuccine		
	Resident or Guest Pork Loin Fettuccine		
	Checks only (payable to Mar Val—NO CASH, please) Number of attendees at (\$15/person) TOTAL \$		
U	TWO ATTENDEES PER RESIDENCE Reservation deadline — December 12 at 5 PM or when 140 reservations have been received.		
V			
	Reservation box will be on the lobby counter December 1 (early reservations not accepted).		
D	For questions, please call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403		





New Year's Eve Party

December 31, 2018 • 6:30 – 9 PM

Buffet

Champagne Toast

Dancing

Charles Watson will again be the DJ!

\$15/person for residents \$20/person for guests

Limit of two GUESTS per residence

Reservation deadline is December 28 at 5 PM or when 120 reservations have been received.

Questions — call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403

2018 New Year's Eve Party Reservation Form		
Resident	Resident	
Guest	Guest	
Number of residents attending at \$15 each: \$	Number of guests attending at \$20 each: \$	
Checks only (payab	ole to Mar Val — NO CASH, please) TOTAL \$	
Reservation Deadline—December 28 at 5 PM or when 120 reservations have been received.		

For questions please call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403



Overview of Good Advice

MVEST Fall '18 Preparedness Fair — Home-Hardening

by JOHN HANSEN

he MVEST Preparedness Fair on October 20 featured three informative speakers on this year's theme "Home-Hardening," — how to prepare your home to survive a wildfire.

Speakers

Renowned urban forester Ray Moritz

excellently described the "perfect storm" of environmental conditions that has generated the cascade of deadly mega fires seen in California in recent years: climate change, decades of overly aggressive fire prevention and habitat-preservation, and prolific urban sprawl into wildlands with non-defensible construction and landscaping practices.

For solutions Ray emphasized the removal of fire-prone vegetation from the landscape as a good first step. Next, removal of all ignitable materials from within about five feet of our homes, or render such materials as fences and decks "non-ignitable." Then, clean up all the "fuel pockets" of wind-blown leaves and pine needles around the yard, rain gutters, and roof valleys.

Ray added some novel, and practical "grab-n-go bag" recommendations: natural-fiber clothing such as a cotton "bee suit" or painter's coveralls, wool underwear, Nomex hood, N95 particle mask, goggles, leather work-gloves, flashlight, hard hat, and hiking boots — protection from flying embers, heat, and smoke while evacuating.

Novato Fire Chief Bill Tyler acknowledged MVEST for the ground breaking work and high standards we have established in Marin County. He presented "lessons learned," from the major fires in the last few years, and how the fire agencies have responded. In 2014 the five-year average of 5,000 major fires burned an average of 230,000 acres by October 14 of each year.

By 2018 that five-year average grew to 5,400 fires but scorched an astounding average of 620,000 acres. To make matters worse, the average yearly fire season has grown by 78 days! These data indicate that we are in a whole new era of fire risk and management in California. The risk continues to grow, despite substantial statewide efforts to modernize and quickly amend suppression efforts, and other substantial improvements to the day-to-day operation of fire agencies.

As a result of the West Marin Vision Fire in 1995, Marin fire agencies established robust mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire agencies, which make assistance virtually automatic for all particularly threatening fires. These agreements were enhanced in 2005 by establishing "Mutual Threat Zones" or MTZs, where adjoining agencies automatically respond to fire threats within a predesignated MTZ.

Following the devastating 2003 San Diego County Cedar Fire, land-use changes, building-code modifications, and fuel-load modifications were enacted statewide. Marin County was the first to enact new-home provisions and defensible space requirements, particularly in WUI (Wildland-Urban Interface) zones.

In 2009 Southern Marin produced the first of now hundreds of Firewise Communities in California. In 2016 Marin Valley and Pacheco Valle became the first Firewise Communities in Novato. Now there are four and that figure is likely to double again by next year.

Chief Tyler listed over two dozen other areas where the Fire District is working to help reduce fire risk and improve suppression efforts to get ahead of the ever-increasing fire risk.

Adam Oszakiewski of Champion Homes

in Lindsay, CA a wholesale mobile home manufacturer and supplier of many of the new retail mobile homes for WUI areas works closely with many fire and safety agencies as well as with building codes, and legislative personnel. According to the new WUI building standards, all new homes and older home modifications must meet stringent fire-resistance standards: Roof and rain gutters must be ignition resistant (asphalt, metal); attic and crawl-space vents must be covered with 1/8-inch (max) screen to prevent ember intrusion; siding must be ignition resistant (Hardie cement/fiber panels); windows must be double-pane tempered glass; exterior doors must be ignition resistant (steel-clad); exterior lumber (decks, fences) must be "fire-rated."

Q/A - What Should We Do Now?

Of the several pertinent questions asked, one in particular was about WUI-compliance priorities for us now as homeowners. Chief Tyler replied that the first priority is removing fire-prone vegetation and creating a defensible space. Then address other factors as issues arise. Old materials will gradually be replaced with fire-resistant materials, just as old homes will eventually be replaced with new fire-resistant ones.

In addition to these three provocative presentations, the ballroom held an assortment of pertinent representatives and vendors of some of the materials that were discussed in the presentations.

And, of course, it wouldn't be an MVEST event without fun and food. Lunch was served to all and featured dozens of delightful homemade (thank you, Pam Berkon!) cakes and cookies. The fun was raffling off over two dozen carefully selected, free, beautiful, firewise landscape plants.

Home Owners League Message



Please support **Ray Schneider** in his effort to coordinate "Just One Hour," a service offered here in which people who volunteer to help are matched with those with needs. Please give Ray a call. All requests are confidential. He asks that you contact him to volunteer and for questions: 415-883-4182, ray@delannaray.com.

Hopefully you have filled out your **Buddy Contact List** and turned that in to Matt. Identify a neighbor or friend in the Park and check on them periodically, especially if you notice any changes in activity.

UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY HOL



Effects of Recent Election Results with State Senator Mike McGuire

Please welcome our enator Mike

newly elected **State Senator Mike McGuire** to the ballroom **Thursday, December 6, 10 – 11 am.** All are invited. Senator McGuire will talk about the recent election and what it means for North Bay residents.

This event is sponsored by the Marin County Commission on Aging.



HOL Holiday Fair!!! Sunday, December 9 12 noon – 5 pm Ballroom

This is an expansion of the previous Craft Fair. HOL wants

you to come celebrate the holiday season with us. There will be free food including sandwiches, cookies, and drinks. We are planning a bake sale where you can purchase your holiday goodies just in time for parties. There will be tables of crafts and holiday gifts. Do you have crafts, collectibles, cards, jewelry, jellies, jams, candles, soaps, lotions, or items suitable for Christmas presents that you would like to sell? Maybe you would like to sell your own baked goods. You can set up on the big bake sale table. Contact Tara Plocher or Jeannine Freedom to reserve a free display table. Only 10% of vendor sales will go back to HOL. One resident suggested an ornament exchange, in which you bring one and take one from the ornament table. Bring us any of your good ideas.



Reflective Safety Vests

Well, this service has met with an enormous response. At press time, fifty vests have been distributed. If you go

to the library and find none there, rest assured, more have been ordered. Just

check back in a few days, or check the website home page (marinvalley.net) "News and Events," where it will be announced when the additional vests arrive. We did not anticipate this demand! **AND WEAR THEM!** Take just ONE per resident. There is no sign-in sheet, so please be responsible and honest. For more information, call Janie Crocker 281-414-3984 or Mark Crocker 281-757-4456.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Several suggestions have been received for future events. Right now, all the HOL Board members are at their volunteer limit! Can you help? If you sign up to coordinate an event, you will receive a nice gift certificate. Any of us on the Board can tell you how and will help as much as possible.

Suggestions for future events are:

Safe Driving classes

Information on advanced directives, trusts, life-alert discounts

Removing some of the cubbyholes and making room for another bulletin board.

NOTE: No HOL meeting in December.

See you January 16, 2019, at 6 pm in the Fireside Room.

Janie Klimes-Crocker HOL PRESIDENT jkklimes@swbell.net 281-414-3984 cell

COMMUNITY



DANCING

First Saturday of the Month • Saturday • December 1 • 7-9 pm

Steve Plocher will be DJ with more Michael Franti, Kotaja, Spencer Davis Group, Royksopp, Tina Turner, Sha Na Na, +++.



HOL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

FILM NIGHT 1st and 3rd Thursdays • Clubhouse • 7 pm • Please, no food or drink • Feel free to bring a chair



The Day of the Jackal

Thursday • Dec 6 • 7 pm

Crime/Drama/Thriller

(1973) 2 hr 23 min

Director Fred Zinnemann **Writer** Frederick Forsyth

Starring Edward Fox, Terence Alexander **Oscar nomination** 1974 Best Film Editing

In this political thriller, a secret French paramilitary organization plans to assassinate French President Charles De Gaulle because of its disagreement with his policies during the Algerian War. They hire a professional killer, known only as "The Jackal." The police learn of the plot from an informer, and a police investigator cleverly pieces together the clues to the Jackal's identity. The complicated plot uses parallel editing to crosscut between the details of the Jackal's preparations for the assassination and efforts by police to find him before it's too late.



Dersu Uzala

Adventure/Drama

Thursday • Dec 20 • 7 pm (1975) 2 hr 22 min

Director Akira Kurosawa

Oscar 1976 Best Foreign Language Film

In 1902, Captain Arseniev, commanding a Russian army expedition exploring Siberia, befriends a local hunter, Dersu Uzala, and invites him to guide the explorers through the wilderness to Khanka Lake. Along their journey, Arseniev discovers that Dersu Uzala is a man with a beautiful soul, and they become close friends. When his assignment ends, Dersu Uzala says goodbye to Arseniev. In 1907, Captain Arseniev is assigned to another expedition in the same region. When he meets Dersu Uzala in the forest, the hunter again joins the team; however, he is older and has problems with his vision, so Captain Arseniev invites Dersu Uzala to live with his family in the city. The old man must decide either to adapt to the foreign urban lifestyle or return to the forest.

Newly Elected State Senator to Speak Here

by MICHAEL HAGERTY

State Senator Mike McGuire
Thursday • December 6 • 10 – 11 am
Ballroom

ur newly elected State Senator
Mike McGuire will speak here in our
ballroom at 10 – 11 am on December 6
at a meeting sponsored by the Marin
County Commission on Aging. He will talk about:

"The recent election and what it means for North Bay residents."

He will focus on residents over age 55.

Mike is an inspiring speaker. Come and hear him and ask questions of your senator in Sacramento.





by SUZIE LAHR

eauty is in the eye of the beholder, and what one person finds beautiful might not appeal or seem the same to another! That is what is exciting and vibrant in the diversity of this community and in the artists and artwork created here. When we look at art throughout eras and cultures, the styles, mediums, design, and creativity are varied and diverse. When the Marin Valley Gallery artists' works come into the clubhouse with each new exhibit, this is what we

experience. We always endeavor to exhibit all that is submitted, within our space limitations, without jurying or judging. With that thought in mind and with your openness, we hope you all enjoy what we present.

In early spring of 2019, all Marin Valley resident artists are invited to submit a piece of their creative endeavors to grace our clubhouse walls.

The January *Echo* will list the date of the next Marin Valley Gallery resident artist exhibit installation as well as an artists' reception, which will follow the installation, for all residents to meet and greet the artists in person.

The holiday season is a busy one, and we do hope you take time to breathe and create something that brings you pleasure and beauty for yourself and others. Happy Holidays!



de Young Museum

Golden Gate Park – SF Gauguin: A Spiritual Journey Nov. 17 – April 7, 2019

Marin MOCA

Palm Drive – 500 Palm Dr. Hamilton Winter National Juried Exhibition Nov. 11 – Dec. 23

Memory and Perception – 49 nat'l. artists Small Treasures – Small works for gifts Nov. 17 – Dec. 23

Marin Civic Center

10 Avenue of the Flags, Redwood Foyer Inspired Images: Marin Photography Club Oct. 29 – Dec. 20

Marin Community Foundation

5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200 Marin Open Studio – 25th Anniversary Group Exhibition Oct. 4 – Feb. 1; 9–5 weekdays only

Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and Snowy Plovers

Article and Photography by DAVID GRAY

The Point Reyes National Seashore is one of my favorite places to visit. Abbotts Lagoon is an easy, mostly flat 2.5-mile walk to the Pacific Ocean. On a foggy day in the last week of October we went for a hike there. The fog kept the crowds down and allowed us to get pretty close to some relatively common shorebirds that we also see out on the Hamilton levee: sandpipers and sanderlings.



At Abbots Lagoon, we were also treated to the uncommon shorebird that is trending toward being a threatened species: the snowy plover, just coming out of their nesting season.



The sandpipers were nesting near the beach, sitting in little scooped-out craters in the sand. In this photo, they are joined by a lone sanderling, which weighs about three times as much as a sandpiper.

DECEMBER



Periodically a flock of sandpipers would take off or land, swooping around the area flashing either their white bellies or dark tops. There are about 160 birds in the flock that I photographed, and their flight arc put most of them in sharp focus.

I find shorebirds to be difficult to identify; there are a lot of species. When it comes to species of note, I put in an extra effort, which sometimes bears fruit, as with the snowy plover. One female and a banded male represent the handful of these birds that I saw. The adults weigh about 40 grams, between the sanderling at 60 grams and the sandpipers at 20 grams. They, too, nest on the shore in the same kind of scooped-out pits that they make for their nests. This is one very good reason why dogs are never allowed on the Abbotts Lagoon Trail or on the beach, and human traffic is off limits except in specific areas during breeding season. As of 2012, their population on the West Coast had dropped to under 3,000, and the conservation

program at Abbotts Lagoon is critical to halting their slide.

It is fun to watch these tiny birds play tag with the surf, their tiny legs a blur of motion as they hunt for invertebrates buried in the sand at the water's edge. Out at the Hamilton levee, one can catch sight of flocks flying about over the shallow water, flashing white and dark and white again.



Lastly, we were treated to a nonavian sighting on our way back to the parking lot: a pair of young otters playing on the banks of the lagoon. So this month we get a bonus photo of a pair of the most fun wild animals known; may they bring you joy during the holiday season!



1PM

Mahjong

DINNER & DANCE

DECEMBER 2018