

T H E
ECHO

JULY 2016

C O N T E N T S

2

SMART Train Path
Mosquito Problems

Letter from the Editor


Community Dancing

3

Jim Olson
Letter to the
Residents

PAC

4

Kathleen Dargie
Mar Val Message
To Remember Me

Mar Val

5

Kathleen Dargie
Luau

Mar Val
Luau


6

Carolyn Corry
HOL Message

HOL

7

Matt Greenberg
Joan Nelson CC

MVMCC
Caring Community

8

Serena D'Arcy
Fisher GRM



9

Mike Holland
Take a Hike



10

Marianne York
Suzie Lahr Interview



11

Suzie Lahr
Art in the Park



12

Calendar

July 2016

JULY
2016

SMART Train Walking Path

by Anila Manning

Many of us have seen the train sliding quietly along on its test runs and are wondering; when is the walking pathway next to it going to be constructed? Here's the finished proposal for Phase 1 of a non-motorized pathway (NMP) that would extend from McInnis Parkway in San Rafael north to Guerneville Road in Santa Rosa. This includes construction of approximately 23 miles of paved pathway (with two 4-foot-wide bicycle/pedestrian lanes and two associated 2-foot-wide gravel shoulders). Twelve prefabricated bridges and numerous culverts, safety fences, retaining walls, and other minor project elements such as signage and pavement stripping are also part of the project. We're on Map Sheet 75. **SMART-2015-08-28-COMplete.**

The path had been planned for the west side of the tracks in 2004 and was shifted to the east side for three reasons: less wetland impact, since north of Miller Creek there are substantially more wetlands on the west side; St. Vincent's School asked that the path be on the east side to diminish possible access by the school's resident students; and there is no viable connection to Main Gate Road on the west side of the railroad nor for a connection to that SMART station, which is on the east side. So it looks like we will go up to that SMART station to access the path. Stay tuned!

Letter

from the Editor

Erma's a hard act to follow. All submissions for the next issue (August ECHO) should now again be sent to her. ermawheatley@gmail.com

Many thanks,

John Hansen

Interim Editor/Designer



Community Dancing

Saturday, July 2

1st Saturday of the Month

7-9 PM Free Event!

NOTE:

No Community Dance in AUGUST!

Mosquito Trouble?

by Miriam and Rex Spross

MSMVCD (Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District) can help.

Mike Cole, Control Technician, came out to help. First he set traps to identify the type of mosquito causing the problem, as there are several types around here. Once the type of mosquito was identified, he took care of them with a benign substance we were told does no harm to vegetables, pets, or people. No mosquitoes have been seen since. These and other services offered by MSMVCD are absolutely free.

For more information about mosquitoes and other pests, call MSMVCD Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, at 1(800) 231-3236 or (707) 285-2200 <http://www.msamosquito.com/>

THE ECHO
JULY 2016

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Please email all articles to the editor with the word "ECHO" as the first word of the subject line and a copy of the article in the body of the email to:

ermawheatley@gmail.com

Images and photographs should have a resolution of 300 ppi (pixels per inch).

Everything is due the
8th of the month or sooner

PAC *Letter to Residents*

Letter from your NOT President, Jim Olson

This month I'm writing in place of our PAC Board President, Jay Shelfer, who has undergone serious surgery and is recovering well. By the time you read this, we expect that he will be back working for the Park again. I have been substituting on the PAC Board for a recent vacancy and, while my brief term is now concluded, Jay has asked me to write this month's letter.

First, MVMCC is currently in good shape, financially and physically. We are staying within our budget and fulfilling all the financial obligations of our loan. You will soon be seeing ADA work between the street and the clubhouse entrance, including under the covered area (see the plan in the clubhouse and in last month's Echo). All this work is the first of several large and (for us) expensive projects that involve the City of Novato much more than the smaller ones we have done in the past. We are working to keep our management team and our residents involved in the development of these projects as much and as early as possible. Our contract with the City does not require this, but after some teething hiccups on this first project, we seem to be evolving some processes that are working.

We have just had a PAC Board election, which was white-ballot, and we welcome John Hansen and David King to the PAC Board.

The new officers are: President, Jay Shelfer; Vice President, John Hansen; Treasurer, Larry Cohen; Secretary, Peggy Hill; and At Large, David King.

Two of our major resources on the City Staff, Julian Skinner and Tony Williams, have just left for positions with other cities. We wish them well and have appreciated and benefited from their competence as well as having developed a cordial working relationship. The City's process for selecting new personnel to take those positions could take the better part of a year. Fortunately, all the ADA planning for the front of the clubhouse work is done, and the bidding and construction are relatively standard for the City. The infrastructure work is far enough down the road that it can be looked at when a new engineer is in place. Actually, we are in a better position than the City because we have a time window here, and the City always has projects. Between this and the search process for a new City Manager, it may be a while before we know who we will be working with in the future.

As you read this, the City Council will have met here on June 13 and approved the 2016/17 final budget that we have not seen yet as I write this. This may or may not have included a rent increase, which probably would not exceed 1.5%. You can find the budget on our website, www.mvmcc.com, on the PAC page.

City staff reports on rent-equalization and long-term ownership have been promised for a long time, and we are now hoping that they will be forthcoming by the end of this calendar year.

One thing that is coming up in our communications with the City is our awareness and understanding of the two-hats metaphor. It is our reality that the City of Novato owns this Park. It is also true that we live in the City of Novato. The City of Novato has responsibilities and liabilities both as the owner and as the governing municipality, thus the two hats. Now every time there is any issue that even remotely concerns MVMCC, the City has to become involved at a staff and legal level. Since we are responsible for all of our expenses, the bills for these services then come to us. While we do have access to these very professional services, probably at better rates than if we were to retain our own, they are not free. We need to always consider what questions we want answered, what issues we really want to raise, and what the costs might be.

BTW: It has been an honor to again serve our community these past several months.

Thank you, Jim Olson

Message from Mar Val

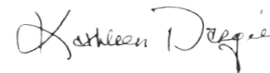
Dear Friends,

Hopefully you were among the guests present at our first two outdoor events of 2016. Memorial Day and the Jazz Brunch served to illustrate how very fortunate we are to have the option of “dining on the deck” during the beautiful summer months. You are cordially invited to join us in a birthday celebration for our country at a barbecue on Monday, July 4, 2016.

Mar Val held its annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 8, at which time the existing Board of Directors (listed by name and office on Page 2 of this magazine) was re-elected for the term 2016-2017. Our group continues to focus on providing quality social events for all residents of Marin Valley. Paramount to our achieving this goal are the many

volunteers whose time and talent form the foundation of our success.

With warmest regards,



Kathleen Dargie
MAR VAL PRESIDENT

To Remember Me

Robert Noel Test, 1926 - 1994

To Remember Me

AT A CERTAIN MOMENT a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my “deathbed.” Call it my “bed of life,” and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to a man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

Give my blood to the teenager who has been pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her windows.

Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow.

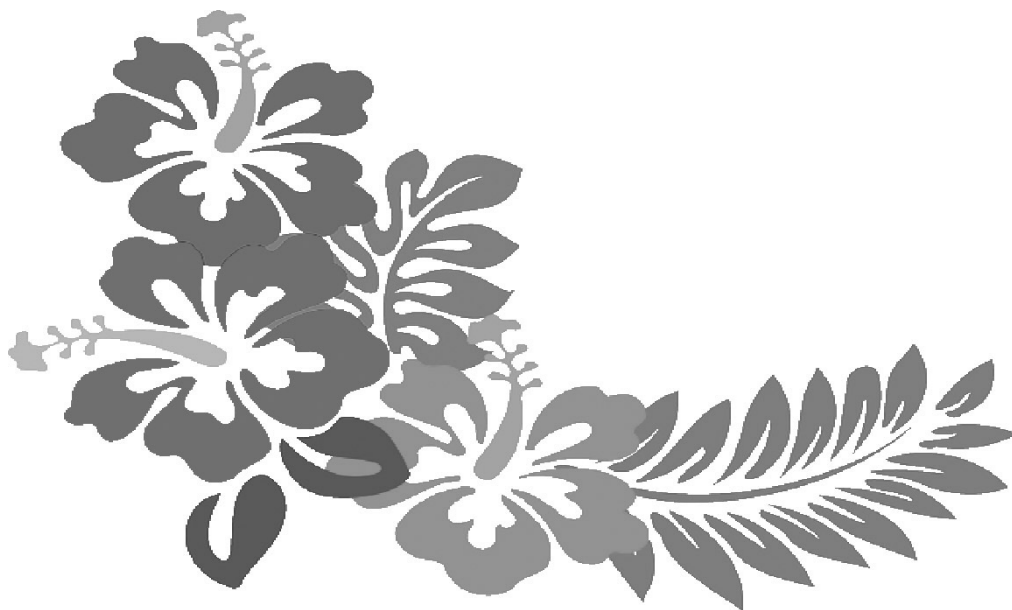
If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all my prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil. Give my soul to God. If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

Contributed by Juanita Reynolds

MAR VAL LUAU

August 13, 2016



5:00 cocktails

6:00 dinner

**Hawaiian Cole Slaw
Teriyaki Pork Skewers
Teriyaki Vegetarian Skewers
Hawaiian Rolls
Vegetarian Fried Rice
Tropical Dessert**

**Reservation Deadline is August 10 @ 5:00 pm or when
120 reservations have been received.**

\$12 per person. Two guests per residence.

Please make checks payable to MarVal.

HOL Home Owners League Message

Dear Fellow Residents,

This is a bittersweet time – my last submission to the *Echo* for HOL. As you all know by now, HOL has elected new Board members: **President - Miriam Spross**, **First Vice President - Marianne York**, **Second Vice President - Helen MacLam**, **Secretary - Joanne Woodward** and **Treasurer - Gwendolyn Morgan**.

New HOL Bylaws

The past year has been filled with opportunities as well as a few sink-holes, far more good than the not-so-good. HOL was able to write and have approved by residents new bylaws that hopefully will serve the organization well for many years to come. Insurance for HOL is now in place.

New HOL Acquisitions

HOL was able, through resident donations, to make several major purchases this year. These acquisitions include a piano for the clubhouse, an art-hanging system for the Fireside

Room and the lobby, outdoor furniture for the pool area along with noodles and kickboards, and a new computer for the library for resident use. The annual Fun (Fund) Raiser campaign will begin shortly. Please be as generous as you can: resident donations are the only source of income for HOL.

HOL-Supported Programs

HOL has been privileged to continue to support or initiate many programs that serve residents for their health, enjoyment, knowledge, and pleasure. These programs include: a new book club; water aerobics classes; the reactivation and revitalization of Just One Hour; provision of an opportunity to shred private documents; continuation of protection for our wildlife; CPR training; continued support of Art in the Park and the Community Dance group; arranging for a “Meet the Candidates” night for those seeking election to City Council of Novato; and, cosponsored with Mar Val, the Holiday Dinner and

Volunteer Appreciation Night.

Thank You, HOL Volunteers!

HOL has had a very eventful and, I believe, fruitful year. It has been my pleasure to work alongside so many friends/residents. Someone was always there to answer the call of “HOL needs help with” or, “Who will volunteer to?” I send a heartfelt and most genuine thank you to all who answered the call and who joined in making this a banner year for residents. My warmest congratulations and best wishes to the new Board as HOL continues in its long tradition of being the voice of Park residents.

Everyone is welcome to attend the next HOL meeting on **July 20 at 7 p.m.** in the Fireside Room.



Carolyn K. Corry
H O L PRESIDENT EMERITUS
ckcorry@comcast.net
415-370-6403

• Luau Reservation Form •

August 13, 2016 • 5:00 PM

RESIDENT _____	Please <u>circle</u> entrée choice	
	Pork	Vegetarian
RESIDENT _____	Pork	Vegetarian
GUEST _____	Pork	Vegetarian
GUEST _____	Pork	Vegetarian

Residents attending _____ @ \$12 each **Check for \$ _____ is enclosed. (NO CASH please)**

Guests attending _____ @ \$12 each Make checks payable to Mar Val.

Reservation deadline is **August 10 at 5:00 p.m.** or when 120 reservations have been received.

Management Update

Water Is Precious

We are still experiencing drought conditions. Please, try to water your garden in the early hours. Watering incrementally at night or very early in the morning will prevent evaporation. If you need help with setting your timer for your sprinkler system, please contact the front desk. We will set your timer and check your sprinkler heads for proper operation.

Resident Dumpster

Resident dumpster for all your unwanted household items will be here **Saturday, July 16.**

NO construction debris, please!

Free Residential Weatherization From "Community Action Marin"

Energy conservation services are available, free of cost, for the installation of energy-efficient measures. Your gross household income will determine your qualification.

Please pick up a flyer with all info at the front desk.

Your assets are not a consideration. Improve your comfort and make your property more desirable. Installed measures may include:

Gas safety check; weather stripping; caulking; low-flow water devices; fluorescent fixtures and/or bulbs; glass replacement; window and door repair or replacement; water heater repair or

replacement; carbon monoxide and smoke alarm installation; cooking appliance repair or replacement; refrigerator replacement; microwave ovens; water heater blankets.

For more information, please call 415-526-7519.

Guest Parking

Special thanks to all who participated in freeing up guest parking. There seems to be ample room for your guests and friends to park while visiting.

Thank you,



Matt Greenberg
GENERAL MANAGER
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com

Caring Community

by Joan Nelson

MVMCC's own *Caring Community* provides volunteer support for our residents in need of neighborly deeds requiring *Just-1-Hour*. Participants who want to go beyond the one-hour agreement are free to do so on their own. But please don't expect more than one hour of your "one-hour" volunteer's time.

The City of Novato has lots of programs for seniors, INCLUDING a free telephone check-in service three times per week to make sure seniors are okay. It's called a **Telephone Reassurance Program**, on the

internet at:

<http://novato.org/government/parks-recreation-community-services/margaret-todd-senior-center/novato-independent-elders-program>

Who's Your Buddy?

Your MVEST team has done a great job building a major community-wide disaster-communication process. But what about your individual, personal crisis? Do you have your updated Just-1-Hour Volunteer List? You can find one in the Just-1-Hour box on the wall near the top of the clubhouse stairs.

Perhaps most valuable of all, be sure to arrange with a close neighbor to be "buddies."

Your "buddy" is someone who knows your comings and goings and who might help to prevent a small problem from becoming a major one. Of course, you might do the same for your buddy.

Once you have firmed up your buddy-to-buddy connection, be sure Matt has both of your names.

Joan Nelson
415-506-4166
415-595-6221 cell ■



by **Serena D'Arcy Fisher**

On Monday, May 23, Terry Fischer gave an informative and lively presentation on **GET READY MARIN: Household Disaster Preparedness.**

Following are some key highlights from the presentation, which we hope you will incorporate into your disaster planning.

1. Secure Moveable Items

Secure moveable and breakable items to tabletops and display shelves with museum putty. You may save a treasured vase or ornament this way in an earthquake. Securing moveable items with putty also minimizes broken glass all over your home. Strap large furniture (bookcases, dressers) to the studs in the walls, and make sure you have nothing large or heavy above your bed.

2. Emergency Instructions

In the phone book there are several pages on emergency preparedness. Pull this out, study it, and keep it with your emergency kit. See "First Aid and Survival Guide," Pages B1-B6, in the Marin County Yellow Pages (AT&T) issued June 2016.

3. To-Go List

Create a list of items that you would want to take with you in an evacuation, including details about where they are located in your home. When you are in a panic, it is hard to think, so quick access to a list will save time and your valued items.

Remember important items like passports. Also consider scanning important documents and having them on a password-protected thumb drive.

4. Portable Radio

Have a radio so that you can monitor the situation. This will give you an idea of how long you may have to be on your own before any emergency services can provide assistance. Be prepared to shelter in place for five days with food, water, and medicines, for both you and your pets.

5. Water Supply

After an earthquake, turn off your water supply right away to prevent contamination if there is an underground break. It is easy to turn back on when you know it is safe to do so.

6. Don't Flush

Do not flush your toilet unless you know it is safe and there are no broken pipes. Broken pipes are a huge hazard. They recommend you place large, sturdy garbage bags in your toilet, under your toilet seat, until piping is verified usable.

7. Check for a Gas Leak

Turn off your gas only if you smell gas. Once the gas is off, you will need PG&E or Park Management staff to turn it back on.

8. Emergency Contact

A cell phone App called ICE allows

you to insert your emergency contact details and your important health or medication info, and can be accessed without a password by anyone trying to help.

9. Know Your Block Captain

If you have any questions about being prepared for an emergency, please reach out to your MVEST Block Captain. If you don't know who your Block Captain is, please contact a member of the MVEST steering committee (see Page 2 of this magazine).

10. Support Your Safety Team

Please support MVEST efforts to help make our community safer and more resilient in the event of a disaster.

Thank you!

Serena D'Arcy-Fisher
MVEST Team Lead
serenafisher@comcast.net

Upcoming MVEST Trainings:

MVEST Incident Command
June 25 and July 9. Call John Hansen ASAP if interested
415-847-7155

MVEST Radio August 13 or 17
Call 415-847-7155 to register

Upcoming CERT classes:

Novato: Thursday/Friday,
July 28/29. To register, call Maggie Lang, Marin County CERT Coordinator at 415-485-3409



Take a Hike

with Mike Holland

MARIN COUNTY teems with mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, creeks, beaches, and wetlands. And ALL of them offer trails and fire roads that suggest endless hiking options. But sometimes you just have to do an urban walk/hike. It can be just as pretty, and replete with fabulous views and multiple points of interest. This month's hike—Corte Madera Creek—grants us plenty of both.

A four-mile, round-trip stroll along both sides of Corte Madera Creek takes us through four cities, one Open Space District, and two parks and passes by five schools and two hospitals. Keep your senses sharp, and see if you can note each of them.

Our starting point is Ross Common. This small but beautiful city green houses the Ross School. You probably remember it from *The Godfather* scene where Michael and Kay reunite after his exile to Sicily. Our precise hike point is behind the historic Ross Post Office on the bike path. The Ross P.O. is where all Ross residents retrieve their mail. Why? Because the Postal Service doesn't provide mail delivery to individual homes in Ross. Everybody has a P.O. box.

As we walk west along the path, the creek is to our left. We'll bisect Kentfield Rehab Hospital and the College of Marin. You shouldn't be hungry yet, but the tasty Half Day Cafe and Ambrosia Pizza are nearby on College Avenue. After we pass Kent Middle School, we cross a small footbridge; now the creek is on our right. You cannot become too lost because majestic Mt. Tam dominates the sky to the west.



PHOTO: JOHN FELD

At the two-mile turnaround point, Marin General Hospital sits across the street from the So. Elisio Bridge. We'll want to turn right onto the bridge, cross over, and start our walk back on the other side of the creek. You'll notice signs of construction here. This bridge is going to be completely replaced. Let's hope it doesn't take as long, or cost as much, as the Bay Bridge. I haven't quite figured out where the new bridge is to be. Maybe you can.

The walk back affords lots of opportunity for waterfowl watching and sometimes the occasional sculler from the Marin Rowing Club. These rowers are serious folks, and they have the national trophies to prove it.

When we re-enter the college, we go right by Woodlands Market. Lots of

fancy foods and good Equator coffee, but it's Woodlands, so remember to bring extra money. My post-walk preference is the Ross Cafe near our starting point. They make great pastries, have just-as-good coffee, and offer a serene patio in their backyard. If picnicking is more to your liking, I suggest you pop into the tiny Ross corner market. I doubt you will see Huey Lewis, Sean Penn, or Bob Weir, but all three used to shop here. They make good deli sandwiches that you can transport across the street to the Ross Art and Garden Center. You've probably been there, so you know how wonderful a spot it is.

The cities await! It ain't Manhattan, but it's still a darn nice urban hike.

Resident Extraordinaire

by Marianne York

Suzie Lahr came to our Marin Valley community in the fall of 2012 after living in Woodacre for 40 years. It didn't take her long to discover the plethora of artists living here. "I was taking walks and meeting people and discovering that there were many resident artists living here—enough to do something together." Suzie began to organize artists' meetings, and before long Art in the Park was birthed. With the sponsorship support of HOL, Art in the Park just had its fourth successful annual showing.

Suzie, who has two daughters and two granddaughters, was raised in Pittsburgh, PA by her parents, who were artists. Her dad was a civil engineer and furniture builder, and her mom a seamstress and watercolorist. Suzie attended Carnegie Mellon's Fine Arts School until her own family life caused her to shift gears. She has always been creative, doing photography and working in pastels, but never focused on art herself as she raised her family and developed her career—until now (more on that later).

Suzie has always been into planning events and creating – dinner parties, large seasonal parties, home gardens and interiors. She has a colorful work history but most recently worked as marketing manager and show manager for the Harvest Festival, which produced 16 arts and crafts shows in convention centers in the northern and southwestern regions of the U.S.

each year. The shows featured 200-400 artists, and their work was seen by up to 40,000 attendees. The shows ran from September to December.

Prior to coming to Marin Valley and most recently, in her retirement from the corporate life, Suzie was the Art and Event Coordinator for the San Geronimo Community Center for five years. In this role, Suzie was responsible for the annual Spring San Geronimo Valley Artists Show and the restoration of a 1934 WPA mural in the building lobby, as well as many other events throughout the year. She likens our community to the San Geronimo Valley in that both are hidden jewels surrounded by wildlife, forests, and beautiful hills, with a high percentage of artists living within.

Because of Suzie's hard work and creative commitment, Art in the Park is now an annual HOL standing committee. Additionally, Marin Valley HOL has invested in a professional gallery system ordered and designed by Suzie so that we have rotating community art on



PHOTO: MARIANNE YORK

our clubhouse walls all year long. These are huge projects, and Suzie is grateful for all the volunteers, artists, and arts supporters who help make it all possible. If you have been to Art in the Park, you know that great effort goes into Suzie's presentation of the art as well as the floor plan design, food presentation, and flower arrangements.

Suzie is bound to leave a permanent mark on Marin Valley, much as her sister Nancy Lahr did. Nancy was once a Mar Val Volunteer of the Year.

But for now, Suzie is getting serious about focusing on her own artistic talents and is enjoying studying with the watercolorist Cara Brown. Last fall Suzie went to Paris with a group of artists to study the Impressionists and their paintings with Cara. Wait until next year, and just maybe you will see Suzie's own work displayed at Art in the Park.



ART IN THE PARK

by **Suzie Lahr**

Our 4th annual Art In The Park was a smashing success. A delightful

Sunday afternoon was enjoyed by both the artists and our guests. The refreshment tables featured huge Van Gogh flower arrangements of yellow sunflowers, purple lisianthus, and silver dollar eucalyptus. Artfully arranged tasty treats of Pt. Reyes bleu cheese, Marin Cheese Company Supreme Brie, organic grapes and strawberries from the Marin Farmers Market, and gourmet chocolates and cookies were relished by all. The background jazz created by Charles Watson completed the day.

As you entered the clubhouse, it was a hubbub of activity with Edgar Furlong spinning wool beside his beautiful display of hand-spun, hand-woven, and hand-dyed creation, all the while engaging visitors in delightful conversation. Dorallen Davis had an array of panels with a special selection of her beautiful oil paintings on display. Cecil Sherrod was demonstrating her techniques in making a queen-size Hawaiian quilt.

On entering the ballroom, you were graced by artists Gwendolyn Morgan with her stunning jewelry display, Julia Mathews with oil painting of serene landscapes, Janet Bogardus



and her stunning modern acrylic paintings, and Cheryl Dougherty with gorgeous photography taken on trips around the world and printed on canvas, along with a large selection of gift cards. Jae Tillinghaus, our Petaluma High School art teacher, displayed a six-foot mural and a variety of acrylics and oils ranging from landscapes to nudes. Laura Kradjan Cronin had her super-sized stunning oils and whimsical toys on display. David Gray, a nature photographer, had stunning images artfully arranged; Susan McMudie's oils of wild animals and birds were so lifelike; and Tara Plocher's whimsy of Waldorf Dolls, fairy cards, tiny baskets, and treasured gifts were wonderful.

Around the inside of the room were Brynda Foster's photographic slideshow and many of her beautiful photographs; Ursula Pedersen's creative fabric art, fun and bright and delightful to the touch; and Joan Nelson's array of painted glass, small oils, and cards with her art images. Betty Follansbee had an abundant display of beautiful one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, Renee LaFarge had a creative

collection of altered books and other whimsy, and Gail Camhi displayed her new venture of stunning portraits in colored pencil on paper.

A big thank you to everyone who made this happen: Richard Wilson for the graphics and signage, the pub crew; Larry Cohen, Jessa Gabriel, Mike Holland, Gary McClendon, Juliette and David MacLam, David Krasnor, and Todd for setup; the kitchen crew, Tom Nadolski, Marianne York and Serena Fisher; and all the artists who not only spent the day setting up and creating the magic for our guests, but also helped put everything back together afterwards. If I missed anyone, you know who you are and thank you!

And of course, to all the residents and guests for your support and appreciation for Art In The Park.



