

T H E
ECHO

SEPTEMBER 2017

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Letter from the Editor

New Website

We are in the early stages of developing a new website for the Park. One of the features will be up-to-date information that is more usable on a variety of devices. We will gain fuller access to it to keep it current ourselves.

Software is also now available to make a color version of the *Echo* and the monthly calendar available on the website. As soon as the existing website is accessible again (one of the many reasons for an updated website), be sure to explore a color version of each future publication on the website, starting with this issue at www.mvmcc.com/calendar.htm



COME TO THE
FIRST-SATURDAY-OF-
SEPTEMBER DANCE

September 2
Clubhouse • 7 - 9 pm

Dance Away the Summer

- Guest DJ playing:
 - Oldies but Goodies
 - Dancing Favorites
 - Brand New Release from a Classic Band Performer — prize to the first one to guess who it is
- PLUS
- Special Hula Performance and a Hukilau to join in

Letters

Electrical Outage

I would like to mention **Mark and Greg** for their exemplary handling of a very trying and upsetting occurrence when we lost our power here for days last month. There was no Matt. There was no Al. Mark and Greg were here to professionally and tirelessly handle the concerns and inconveniences of the outage. I watched them. They stood in the middle of the chaos and fielded questions and remained right there giving a sense of comfort to us in a very uncomfortable situation.

I think they are a fixture here that is often taken for granted. I just want them and everyone here to know how much I appreciate them.

Shareen Akroosh
183 Marin Valley Drive

Editor's Note—in addition to acknowledging Mark and Greg, many people also extend their thanks to **Carolyn Corry** for her patience and perseverance staffing the lobby desk, patiently responding to a stream of concerned residents asking if there was any new information and why everything wasn't fixed yet. The unending ringing telephones and the seeming urgency of each individual's issues required a steady balance of compassion and care, which Carolyn provided throughout the day.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Jeanne Skybrook
415-302-3010 (only)

New Residents

Thomas Moylan
13 Fallen Leaf

THE ECHO

SEPTEMBER 2017

MARIN VALLEY MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB

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

EDITOR/DESIGNER Erma Wheatley
COPY EDITOR Mary Barbosa

PROOFREADING
Mary Barbosa, Carol-Joy Harris, Anila Manning
A PUBLICATION OF MHB Group Region 8
www.mobilehomeboard.com/

MARIN VALLEY

GENERAL MANAGER Matt Greenberg
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com

PAC BOARD

PRESIDENT Jay Shelfer 415-883-6945
VICE PRESIDENT John Hansen 415-847-7155
SECRETARY Peggy Hill 415-382-0185
TREASURER Larry Cohen 415-883-7786
AT LARGE Stephen Plocher 415-302-9043

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MVEST John Hansen, Bill Davis, John Feld,
Larry Cohen, Peter Dyke, David Gray,
Carol-Joy Harris, Susan Meyer, Lee Pochapin
MV PROJECT PLANNING J. Hansen, J. Shelfer

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT Jeannine Freedom 810-543-32655
SECRETARY Joanne Woodward 415-506-4568
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SECRETARY Carole Gathman 415-884-2720
TREASURER Sandee Duncan 415-883-3034
DIRECTOR Dee Schneider 415-883-4182
DIRECTOR/BAR MANAGER Fred Dargie 884-2969
DIRECTOR/HOSPITALITY Larry Moore 883-0486
DIRECTOR/RESERVATIONS Carolyn Corry 370-6403

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*).

DEADLINE

Everything is due the 8th of the month or sooner for the following month's edition.

Letter to Residents

Greetings from the PAC,
Our finances are in order.

Transformer Replacement

We had quite a shock in July with the failure of two transformers on Club View Drive. Matt, Greg, Mark, and the City of Novato's public works department analyzed the problem and found solutions. PAC and MVEST were on the job and helped the process along, keeping residents informed as well as could be expected given the speed of how events unfolded during this near crisis. No one was injured, and our Staff and the City worked together to gather the resources to resolve the problems.

By now, the new transformers will have been installed, replacing the noisy but essential temporary generator. We have ordered one backup transformer should a similar problem occur in the future, as no doubt it will. MVEST will be providing an after-event review, and that should provide the basis for yet more improvement in communication and support for and by our Staff and residents. The City Council supported these efforts with a resolution (No. 2017-049) allocating funds to cover the expenses out of our long-term reserves, so that will not impact our current budget.

R&R Committee

A committee within the PAC is doing terrific work in compiling useful information to adjust the existing MVMCC rules and regulations that will be forwarded on to the City's staff for development.

MVEST

MVEST is continuing to clarify emergency procedures, as you will see in John Hansen's report elsewhere in the *Echo*. Susan Meyer is working on a potential plan to reinstitute the Dumpster program for residents. Your input is welcome.

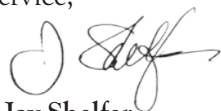
2x2 Meeting

Our bi-monthly, informal meeting with two members of the PAC Board and two members of the City staff is coming up. If you have topics you'd like information about, please give your questions to the PAC Board.

Matt's Return

The PAC's efforts must be coordinated with both Management and the City; thus we are all looking forward to Matt Greenberg's return in September.

In service,



Jay Shelfer
PAC PRESIDENT
jjshelfer@yahoo.com

Home Owners League Message

Many thanks to residents who donated \$20 (and sometimes more) to HOL so that HOL can continue to act on your behalf here in our luscious little valley. If you haven't yet donated, please bring or mail your check to the clubhouse. (Remember: You can always leave messages in the HOL slot on the clubhouse wall.)

Thanks also for filling out the Activities & Interests sheet. The results are being tabulated so we can provide more opportunities for pursuits that keep us vital. (Check your October issue of the *Echo* for the results.)

Upcoming HOL events:

Speaking of vitality, check out the current HOL-sponsored offerings on the calendar. Particularly ...

A new **Ukulele Class** will meet in the clubhouse the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at 10:30 starting September 12 and 26. (Suggested donation \$15).

Thursday at 7 pm, **Film Night** will be showing *The Third Man* on the 7th and *The Thomas Crown Affair* on the 21st.

The Book Club will meet Wednesday the 27th at 4:30 pm in the Fireside Room. This month's selection is Senator Al Franken's *Giant of the Senate*.

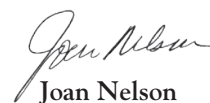
Readers' Theatre will read at 2 pm on the 20th at the home of Maria Schulz, 61 Marin Valley Drive.

Before the weather gets cold, jump in the pool for **Water Aerobics** on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 10 am.

The current photography exhibit in the clubhouse will end in mid-October. Be sure to visit the newly named Marin Valley Gallery to see it before it's gone.

The September HOL meeting will be in the Fireside Room. **Wednesday, September 20 at 6 pm.**

Regards,



Joan Nelson
HOL PRESIDENT
figleafjoan@comcast.net
415-506-4166, 415-595-6221 cell

Community Connections

by **JOAN NELSON**

The Marin Valley community gathered together in various patios and gardens to “ooooh” and “aaaah” at the anticipated August “meteor shower of the century.”

Buddies

Please note: Although we heard of no tragic outcomes during July’s electrical outage, several people who depend on electricity for medical support (for oxygen, lift chairs, operational cell phone, computerized devices, etc.) were in some degree of danger. If you have neighbors with such issues, *please* be sure to sign up at the office as their “Buddy” and talk to them about getting a key to their home.

Ever Wish You Could Play the Ukulele?

by **JEANNE SKYBROOK**

The little instrument is currently enjoying a revival. Do you play but want more instruction and a social environment? Come and join the fun on the **second and fourth Tuesday mornings at 10:30 at the clubhouse**. First two sessions: September 12 and 26. Suggested donation \$15. Contact Jeanne Skybrook to sign up: 415-302-3010 or just show up.



Basic Computer Orientation Get-Together

by **MIRIAM DVORIN SPROSS**



Sooooo ... you wanna be a computer whiz! “As I promised waaaay back last year, I am available to talk iMac” with anyone who wants some user tips. Finally, summer vacation! (I teach at Santa Rosa Junior College), so let’s get together! We can do this in small groups or one-on-one. Just let me know what times and days are best for you. Our cool clubhouse awaits!

ART IN THE PARK



by **SUZIE LAHR**

Calling All Resident Artists!

Our next artists meeting will be at **4 pm, Sunday, September 10** in the Fireside Room. A new exhibit will be hung in mid-October, so please join us at the **September 10 planning meeting**.

I will bring cookies and lemonade for you to enjoy while we visit for a short time before we begin the meeting at 4:15. We are not all long-time, experienced artists; thus, even if you enjoy creating merely as a hobby, feel free to join us.

We need everyone’s art to create another beautiful exhibit in October. We will be displaying all mediums and all sizes, so come to the meeting to find out what the specifics are to participate in the exhibit.

I would also like to have an opening holiday reception for the community to visit the exhibit and meet the artists. Art is a wonderful gift for holiday gift giving! I know we have some new artists among us in the community, so come and join us. The current Marin Valley Gallery photography

exhibit is stunning, and our audience is so appreciative of the beauty expressed that three pieces have sold! Kudos to all of you who made this happen with your hard work and support and of course creative talents!

Thank you for all your support in creating our very own Marin Valley art community!



You might also like to visit the following local exhibits at two of my favorite places.

Gallery Route One

Point Reyes Station
The Box Show
August 11–September 24
11am–5 pm every day

Marin MOCA

Palm Drive in Hamilton
Emerging Artists of Northern California
September 2–October 8
Wednesday–Sunday,
11am–4 pm



Don’t miss resident **Janet Bogardus** — *New Work* — through October 16
Olson Realty
920 1st Street #101
Benicia, CA 94510
Reception:
Friday, September 8, 6–8 pm

Message from Mar Val



Dear Friends,

As mentioned in last month's *Echo*, the **Labor Day dinner on Monday, September 4**, will mark the conclusion of this year's schedule of events on the deck. **The reservation deadline is Wednesday, August 30**. If you have not already submitted your reservation form and check, please do so in advance of August 30.

Black Cat

Many of you are already familiar with Mar Val's annual Black Cat event which takes place concurrent with our Halloween costume party. The Black Cat is our major fundraiser of the year, and

its success is based on residents donating various decorative items, small appliances, tools, jewelry, and objects d'art that are then sold at much-reduced prices. Next month's *Echo* will include complete information for both the

Black Cat and Halloween Party scheduled for Saturday, **October 28**. At this time we are requesting that you begin identifying items for sale at the Black Cat. We will begin accepting donations at the clubhouse on Monday, October 2.

With warmest regards,

Kathleen Dargie

Kathleen Dargie
MAR VAL PRESIDENT
kfdargie@aol.com



MAR VAL LABOR DAY DINNER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2017 • 5 PM Cocktails • 6 PM Dinner

M E N U

BBQ PORK RIBS OR GRILLED VEGETARIAN PASTA
TUSCAN POTATO SALAD • ICE CREAM BARS

\$12 per person. **Reservation deadline is August 30 at 5 pm** or when 120 reservations have been received.

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

MAR VAL SEPTEMBER 4, 2017 LABOR DAY DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Please circle entrée choice

RESIDENT _____	BBQ Pork Ribs	Grilled Vegetarian Pasta
RESIDENT _____	BBQ Pork Ribs	Grilled Vegetarian Pasta
GUEST _____	BBQ Pork Ribs	Grilled Vegetarian Pasta
GUEST _____	BBQ Pork Ribs	Grilled Vegetarian Pasta

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 30 at 5 pm or when 120 reservations have been received.

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





What Happens When You

What kind of telephone service do you have, and how will it perform

by JOHN HANSEN and DAVID GRAY

Both cellular and internet-phone services use a similar system called Enhanced 911 or E 911. With Comcast's Xfinity Voice, for example, you must submit an "E 911 Form" before they will activate your voice modem. With this information in the system, your emergency call can be routed to the right center as directly as a landline.

Well, it depends. A few weeks ago a nearby neighbor passed away. Another neighbor stood in his driveway with his cell phone trying to call 911. He finally got through about 15 minutes later, but to a CHP emergency operator in the East Bay. Last September, I called 911 on my cell phone to report the fire that threatened the Park—I got the local emergency operator on the first ring. Why the difference? Here's what a bit of enlightening research has revealed.

The days of the simple plug-it-in-the-jack "landline" telephone have been gradually fading since the advent of the cellular system. And now there are phone services such as Xfinity Voice and Vonage among many others, which work entirely over the internet. Most of the time it makes no difference which system we use as it will usually suffice. But "most of the time" isn't good enough for emergencies.

911 calls access a complex, nationwide emergency network, and there are thousands of 911 emergency dispatch centers throughout the country with specially trained operators working around the clock to send the right emergency responders to each call. So how does this network know to which one of all those centers to route your emergency call?



Landline Phones

With landline phones, 911 service is very straightforward. The address for the phone number from which the emergency call is made immediately dictates to which dispatch center the call is to be routed—simple, automatic, and all you have to do is answer the 911 operator's questions. More on that in a future *Echo* article.



Internet Phones and Cell Phones

Internet-phone and cell phone emergency calls don't always work quite so well, depending on a number of circumstances. Both cellular and internet-phone services use a similar system called Enhanced 911 or E 911. With Comcast's Xfinity Voice, for example, you must submit an "E 911 Form" before they will activate your voice modem. With this information in the system, your emergency call can be routed to the right center as directly as a landline. If you relocate and transfer your Xfinity voice equipment yourself, be sure to update your E 911 Form, too, or your emergency call could be routed

Call 911?

in emergencies?

to the wrong center. Some other internet phone service providers work similarly, but some do not. You're well advised to check with your provider, as E 911 registry may be separate from your basic subscription.

With cell phones, E 911 is a congressionally mandated addition to all cellular networks, but there can be some serious limitations.

We love our handy little cell phones—in pocket or purse, they're with us no matter where we go. But mobility is a challenge for E 911. How is the system supposed to locate a moving target and route your call to the best dispatch center?

In high cell phone-traffic areas such as a city, your chances of being within range of three distinct cell towers are very good: The precise origin of the 911 call can be quickly triangulated and the appropriate dispatch center accessed. Two cell towers work nearly as well, providing at least a close approximation for the call origin. But with only one tower—commonly the case for rural areas and marginal cellular locations like Marin Valley—

the location of the cellular caller can often only be estimated to be somewhere within the total range of the local tower, an area of several square miles. That area might overlap several 911 jurisdictions—as does ours—so 911 call routing must be prioritized. As our local cell tower is near a busy state highway, cellular 911 calls detected by only that single tower are priority-routed to the nearest CHP 911 dispatch center, which happens to be in the East Bay. This is why cell phone 911 calls from the Park can be both delayed and apparently somewhat misdirected!

A Handy Work-Around

Indoors we normally get 0–1 bar cell reception unless we stand ear stuck to a window, where we may get 2 bars on a good day. Outdoors we can usually enjoy a robust 2-3 bars and some assurance that our call won't get dropped. To make a routine cell call, many of us do the “cell phone shuffle”—pace back and forth on the street, hand on cheek, talking to our device. One (somewhat complex) solution is a cell phone signal booster, a small device you can install in your

home. Various cellular providers call them different names, even though they do the same thing. For Verizon Wireless customers it is called the “Verizon Network Extender.”

Network Extenders



A network extender costs about \$150 from Verizon, but there are many deals to be made on eBay for as little as \$40. The unit plugs into AC power and your internet router. In addition, a GPS signal is necessary to make it work. Your indoor cell call is then routed over the internet, but with GPS positioning to precisely locate you and thus route your 911 call appropriately...and your cell phone will usually show 5 bars! It's the best of both worlds—the versatility of cellular with the benefits of a landline.

So that's why my cellular 911 call connected immediately whereas my neighbor's did not. What kind of telephone service do you have, and how will it perform in emergencies?

This is the first in a series of Echo articles intended to demystify emergency communication and to empower you to both provide and receive timely emergency information here in Marin Valley. ■



The Quail Coyote Connection

by JOHN FELD

At a party the other day I was telling a guest about the wonderful quail we have in Marin Valley, and he said, “Oh, you must have a lot of coyotes, too.” I thought this sounded strange, but he went on to ask if we ever saw possums in the area. And I said not that I am aware of.

So I started reading...

Have you seen possums in the Park? If so, it is very unusual. What other fauna or wildlife do you see? We have had rare reports of mountain lions and more often bobcats. Raccoons seem to be more common, and like deer and coyotes, are even more prolific. Although we have plenty of varieties of birds, quail seem to be the mascots of the community.

Let's start with the California quail, the state bird. We will get to the fauna later.

This year people were complaining of the lack of quail in early spring. Well, it turns out that quail like to nest in shallow indentations on dry ground. These nests are lined with grasses, leaves, and feathers, and are usually five to seven inches in diameter and one-and-a-half to three inches deep. When we have heavy spring rains, the quail delay mating until their young can stay dry and warm. A fair proportion of each brood of baby quail dies from hypothermia caused by becoming wet. An adult quail's body can only protect so many babies from the weather, and a typical brood contains an average of 10 to 16 baby quail. Top that with the fact that several quail broods may lay their eggs in the same nest and share hatching and upbringing responsibilities. Adults that raise young this way tend to live longer than adults that do not. So it is not uncommon to find nests with 30 eggs in them.

Of course, these eggs are sometimes eaten by animals or other birds. So if it is raining late in the season, the mating and subsequent laying of eggs can get delayed. Typically the laying season occurs in April, May, and June. If the nests get flooded or destroyed, the pair will start over, sometimes as late as the end of July. The eggs hatch in 21 to 23 days. So when the quail don't appear as soon as they did last year, it is probably not because the junipers have been cut, but for other reasons. Quail usually nest under broad-leaved plants, as this offers the most protection from the eyes of predators and from the rain. In Marin, blackberry and ivy plants seem to be favored for this reason. The quail feed in the morning and evening and usually shelter under foliage during the middle of the day. When danger appears, they will run to the nearest cover, which in Marin Valley used to be the prolific juniper.



So what about all the fauna that we have in and around our community, and what does it have to do with quail? One would assume that having so many coyotes in our area would result in having fewer quail, right? After all, coyotes are predators who would never pass up the opportunity to raid a nest—although, for a coyote, eating a baby quail is akin to having one or two peanuts at a Mar Val dinner, tasty but certainly not the main course.

But the exact opposite is true. A healthy population of coyotes is actually beneficial to quail populations. Why? Because coyotes prey on smaller mammals like raccoons, skunks, and possums far more than they do on quail. And guess which mammalian predators are the worst when it comes to nest predation on ground-nesting birds? Yep, raccoons, skunks, and possums.

It is tough being a quail. From egg to adult they are constantly a feature on the dinner menu. It has been estimated that approximately 5% to 30% of quail will survive their first year. But what do we really know about the predators of quail? Based on covert photography at nest sites, we tend to assume that raccoons, coyotes, bobcats, skunks, and a host of other small predators intently conduct search-and-destroy missions against hapless quail. Yet predator-removal programs consistently fail to create an abundance of quail. Something is amiss in our perception of the effect of predation on quail populations.

At Marin Valley, we have an abundance of coyotes, a modest population of raccoons, but skunks

are uncommon—and no one ever seems to observe an possum or their tracks. It seems that the coyotes suppress smaller carnivores, either directly (by preying on them) or indirectly (by restricting them to certain areas).

Three other major predators of young and old quail abound in our midst. These are owls, hawks (not turkey vultures), and cats, both feral and tame. We love our hawks and owls, and most love indoor cats.

And what about wild turkeys? Wild turkeys have a varied diet that includes almost anything they can get down their throat. While they primarily eat acorns, nuts, seeds, buds, fruits from trees and shrubs, herbaceous flowering plants, and apparently insects on rare occasions, they may also eat a small mammal, bird, snake, frog, or lizard. Wildlife researchers have investigated food habits of wild turkeys for decades in virtually every area where turkeys exist during all seasons of the year. Never has a quail chick been reported in a turkey's crop, nor has a wild turkey been sighted intentionally disturbing a quail nest. Does that mean it has never happened? Probably not.

A healthy coyote population means a healthier quail population. So enjoy the yelp of coyotes; it means that every spring or summer we will get to see the little quail chicks resembling walnuts with toothpick legs running across our roads.

But drive carefully, as each year cars kill many of the young quail; and keep those cats inside at all times. ■

Carved Angels

*We searched the sky
for solid ground*

*worshiped words
we thought profound*

*and carved angels
out of stone*

*or gave the stars
flesh and bone*

*rather than face
the great unknown*

*and embrace
the only time we own.*

Jim Gronvold

*from Oak Bones
Poems by Jim Gronvold*

Residents' Awards



Columnar Cactus
FIRST PLACE
Kathryn McMudie



Medusa's Head
SECOND PLACE
Maria Schultz



Scratch Board
FIRST PLACE
Susan McMudie



Best Musical Group
FIRST PLACE
Brynda Foster/The Tempos



Assortment of +3 Succulents
FIRST PLACE
Kathryn McMudie



Gasteria "Green Ice"
FIRST PLACE
Maria Schultz



Scratch Board
HONORABLE MENTION
Susan McMudie



Clothing Revisited
SECOND PLACE
Laura Kradjan-Cronin



Leuchtenbergia
SECOND PLACE
Kathryn McMudie



Floral Headband
SPECIAL FAIR THEME AWARD
Kathryn McMudie



Scratch Board
FIRST PLACE
Susan McMudie



Clothing Revisited
FOURTH PLACE
Laura Kradjan-Cronin



Any Other Succulent
SECOND PLACE
Maria Schultz



Adult Coloring Book
HONORABLE MENTION
Kathryn McMudie



Scratch Board
SHOW SALE
Susan McMudie



Creative Writing "Memoir"
THIRD PLACE
Laura Kradjan-Cronin



Film Night

First and Third Thursdays
Clubhouse • 7 pm

PLEASE, NO FOOD OR DRINK—
but feel free to bring your comfortable chair
Contact: johnmfeld@gmail.com

The Third Man

Thursday • September 3 • 7 pm

(1949) Film Noir 104 minutes

Director Carol Reed

Starring Joseph Cotten, Orson Welles,
Trevor Howard, Alida Valli

An out-of-work pulp fiction novelist, Holly Martins, arrives in a postwar Vienna divided into sectors by the victorious Allies, and where a shortage of supplies has led to a flourishing black market. He arrives at the invitation of an ex-school friend, Harry Lime, who has offered him a job, only to discover that Lime has recently died in a peculiar traffic accident. From talking to Lime's friends and associates, Martins soon notices that some of the stories are inconsistent and determines to discover what really happened to Harry Lime.

Won Oscar for Best Cinematography—*Black-and-White*. Nominated for Best Director and Best Film Editing



The Thomas Crown Affair

Thursday • September 21 • 7 pm

(1968) Crime/Drama/Romance 102 minutes

Director Norman Jewison

Starring Steve McQueen, Faye Dunaway

A self-made Boston millionaire masterminds a bank heist in hopes of leaving it all behind. Tired of being part of the Establishment, he has hopes of pulling off the caper and flying to Rio. After the robbery, Crown is pursued by a detective and an insurance investigator. *The Thomas Crown Affair* became one of the first films to employ many split-screen images throughout its running time.

Oscar and Golden Globe for Best Original Song: "The Windmills of Your Mind" ■

Take a Hike

by MIKE HOLLAND



PACHECO VALLE

Has any subject been covered more—in books, poems, songs, movies, even obituaries—than beauty?

It has been lauded as an everlasting quality; John Keats wrote,

A thing of beauty is a joy forever.

Arthur Stringer wrote differently, contending that

*Beauty is not immortal. In a day
Blossom and June and rapture pass away.*

Perhaps beauty is overstated. Aren't we told that

Beauty is only skin deep?

Sometimes we even describe beauty with nonbeautiful words. The harsh sounding word *pulchritude* means great physical beauty. Tell your personal favorite person that he/she has pulchritude and see what kind of reaction you receive.

To what end is this discussion of beauty, especially as it relates to hiking? It may seem obvious that we always identify hikes with reference to the beautiful surroundings and views. Hills and mountains, creeks and rivers, waterfalls, magnificent trees; these are what we expect.

But there is a different kind of hiking beauty. Allow me one more maxim:

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

And thus I invite you to sample the kind of beauty that comes not from wild lands, but from manicured landscapes of trees, flowers, bushes, and meticulously maintained lawns of well-kept houses. We find all this by visiting the across-the-highway neighborhood of Pacheco Valle.

Start this walk by parking at the Park and Ride lot at Alameda del Prado and Nave Drive. Walk west across the street along the pathway that parallels Alameda del Prado, and you'll quickly enter a section of the valley mostly populated by townhouses and broad greenbelts. Pacheco Creek flows on the left side of the road. The creek is a mild-mannered rivulet today, but it was an unruly torrent during the winter rains. When you come to the T-intersection with Pacheco Creek Drive, turn right. Now you're surrounded by houses with the flora that we are expecting. Notice as you walk up the street the houses become larger, the gardens more ornate, the lawns more expansive. There is one mansion near the end of the street up a short spur that you can make out through the trees; several of our houses could easily fit inside it.

The return trip takes us back to the T. Turn right to follow Alameda del Prado by going down the opposite side of Pacheco Creek. The round trip distance back to the parking lot is two miles.

We are always interested in what birds we might see. In Pacheco Valley we have Hummingbird, Teal, Tern, Condor, Kingfisher, Quail, Eagle, Curlew, Falcon, Sandpiper, Red Hawk, Dove, Flicker, Owl, Puffin, and Oriole. Actually, those are just the names of the streets. I don't know if any of those birds reside there.

And later? Perhaps a hamburger at Burger King or something more substantial at the Wild Fox with a tasty libation.

Either can be beautiful as you behold it in your eye. ■



Wilson's Warbler

Article and Photography by DAVID GRAY

Wilson's warblers (*Cardellina pusilla*) are small American birds, measuring almost 4 inches to 4^{3/4} inches from the tip of their beak to the end of their tail. We see them in the Park on occasion, with a brilliant flash of yellow under a greenish-yellow back. Weighing anywhere from five to ten grams, or a few tenths of an ounce, these are very small birds. Perhaps their most distinguishing characteristic is the male's jet-black cap, which reminds me of Moe's haircut from *The Three Stooges*.

They seem to prefer thick, deciduous woodlands around creeks. I've seen quite a few of these cuties along the Estero and Muddy Hollow trails in Point Reyes, and also along the low Tennessee Valley Trail in the Golden Gate National Recreational Area near



Mill Valley. In the current show at the Marin Valley Art Gallery at the clubhouse, the adult Wilson's warbler was photographed on the Muddy Hollow trail, and the baby was photographed along the Estero Trail. Their bright coloring may lead them to be particularly shy; they really love to hide in dense foliage.

First described by ornithologist Alexander Wilson in 1811, the bird has been reclassified a few times, finally landing at a Latin designation that means "European goldfinch" (*Cardella*) and "very small" (*pusilla*).

The Wilson's warbler is primarily an insectivore, occasionally augmenting its diet with berries. The nest is constructed primarily by the female and is lined with grasses and animal fur. Our Park is squarely in their summer range. Their full range extends from Alaska to Central America, and all the way to the East Coast, excluding most of Florida.

One interesting notable observation: their beaks are translucent. This can be observed when they are singing; one can clearly see the yellow feathers of the head through the upper bill in the photograph of the bird singing. ■



SEPTEMBER 2017

	SUNDAY 3	MONDAY 4	TUESDAY 5	WEDNESDAY 6	THURSDAY 7	FRIDAY 1	SATURDAY 2
1-4 PM	Mahjong	6-8 AM 9:30 AM 10 AM	Trash Pickup Low-Impact Exercise Water Aerobics	10 AM 11 AM-1 PM 11:15 AM-2 PM 6 PM	9:15 AM QiGong (Dove) 6:15 PM Silent Meditation 7 PM Film Night THE THIRD MAN	10 AM 4 PM 4-5 PM 5-7 PM	7-9 PM • Guest DJ • Oldies but Goodies • Dance Favorites • Prizes
			MAR VAL LABOR DAY DINNER 5 PM Bar Opens • 6 PM Dinner		7:20 PM Poor Man's Poker	Pub Night	
10	1-4 PM ART IN THE PARK Art in the Park Meeting	6-8 AM 9:30 AM 10 AM 6 PM 7:20 PM	Trash Pickup Low-Impact Exercise Water Aerobics MVEST Meeting Poor Man's Poker	10 AM 11 AM-1 PM 11:15 AM-2 PM 6 PM	9:15 AM QiGong (Dove) 6:15 PM Silent Meditation 7:20 PM Poor Man's Poker	10 AM 4 PM 4-5 PM 5-7 PM	16 FULL MOON 9:35 PM
			MAR VAL MEETING		7:20 PM Poor Man's Poker	ECHO DEADLINE	
17	1-4 PM Mahjong	6-8 AM 9:30 AM 10 AM 6 PM 7:20 PM	Trash Pickup Low-Impact Exercise Water Aerobics MVEST Meeting Poor Man's Poker	10 AM 11 AM 11 AM-1 PM 11:15 AM-2 PM 2 PM 6 PM	9:15 AM QiGong (Dove) 6:15 PM Silent Meditation 7 PM Film Night THE THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR	10 AM 4 PM 4-5 PM 5-7 PM	23
			MAR VAL MEETING		7:20 PM Poor Man's Poker	Pub Night	
24	1-4 PM Mahjong	6-8 AM 9:30 AM 10 AM 6 PM 7-8 PM 7:20 PM	Trash Pickup Low-Impact Exercise Water Aerobics MVEST Meeting Want BackSupport? (Bamboo Room) Poor Man's Poker	10 AM 11 AM-1 PM 11:15 AM-2 PM 4:30 PM	9:15 AM QiGong (Dove) 6:15 PM Silent Meditation 7:20 PM Poor Man's Poker	10 AM 4 PM 4-5 PM 5-7 PM	30
			HOL MEETING		7:20 PM Poor Man's Poker	Pub Night	