

T H E
ECHO

FEBRUARY 2020

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From the Editor

The PAC Board is pleased to announce that over \$400 has been donated to the PAC Humanitarian Fund as described in last month's *Echo*. At his discretion, Matt distributes these anonymous funds for needed one-time causes, which some residents would otherwise not be able to take care of. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated and can benefit the community as a whole.

While still waiting to receive printing bids for the new directory, we are offering space for residents to advertise their services. If you would like to let the community know about your services or recommend other companies you think the community could benefit from, by seeing their advertisements, please contact me at ermawheatley@gmail.com.

While the *Echo* does not take a stand on political issues, this month we are breaking down the details of Measure C on the upcoming ballot, which could affect our community significantly.



Resident Artists' Work Showing Locally

Laura Kradjan-Cronin's art is currently represented in three overlapping art shows for the next few months:

"Where We Call Home," an exhibit of 50 local artists associated with the San Geronimo Valley Community Center Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Redwood Foyer Gallery
10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael
Through May 31



"Food Farms and Art," a fundraiser exhibit for the Farmers Markets Bartolini Gallery at the Marin Center
Through January

"Senior Lunch Art Show"
San Geronimo Valley Community Center
Through January



Janet Bogardus work is showing currently at the Marin Foundation Center through February 14. Above is "Blue Highway". See other listings on p. 9 in Art in the Park.

THE ECHO

FEBRUARY 2020

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ECHO 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

February 2020

Standing Water Recently we have experienced heavy rain, and you may have standing water or areas where water drains poorly and may be flooding under your home. Please call the front desk so we can come out and examine the problem and plan for a repair.

Gutters With all the wind, leaves and pine needles can clog your rain gutters and/or down spouts. Backup of rainwater, especially over your carport can be a contributing factor to the collapse or failure of the supports. Several residents have experienced this avoidable problem and have had to endure the expense of replacement. When you or your maintenance person checks the rain gutters, take a few minutes to check the connection of your carport supports where they connect to the driveway so you can verify that they are stable.

Access Please be advised of an important and often overlooked item: Park maintenance needs a clear path to access and read your utility meters. Professionals, who may be called for repairs, also need this access to provide service to the gas and electric utilities and pedestal. Below is Title 25 Chapter 2 page 46 description of this mandatory access.

Title 25 1183. Access to Electrical Equipment.

All park or lot service equipment shall be accessible by an unobstructed entrance or passageway not less than twenty four (24) inches in width and seventy eight (78) inches high and shall have a working space not less than thirty (30) inches wide and thirty six (36) inches deep in front of any panel opening on the service equipment used for examination, servicing, adjustment, or maintenance. The lot service equipment shall be located and maintained not less than twelve (12) inches nor more than seventy eight (78) inches above the stabilizing pad. *EXCEPTION: parks constructed prior to July 1, 1979, shall have a working space not less than thirty (30) inches wide and thirty (30) inches deep in front of and centered on the service equipment.*

Safe Driving The speed limit in the Marin Valley residential area is now 15 mph. Nine "15 mph" signs have been installed and several more are planned. All residents will soon receive a notice with information from myself or the City of Novato regarding the change. Patrols will also be out, so be aware and drive safely especially at night within your Park and community. If you are out at dusk, please wear some reflective clothing so others who are driving can see you and your dog :)

Thank you,



Matt Greenberg

Matt Greenberg
GENERAL MANAGER
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com

415-883-5911 ■ 415-883-1971 Fax

Greetings from the Park Acquisition Corp. Board,

Finances Our finances are in order. The debt service coverage, year to date, on the bank loan that refinances the original bond issuance for the purchase of MVMCC is 2.73, well above the required 2.0. This was at end of November 2019. Our cash, plus medium- and long-term reserves, hovers at nearly five-and-a-half million dollars.

Budget The PAC Board is beginning to anticipate the preparation of next year's budget for the Park. Should you have any input to this procedure there will be public meetings and an ad hoc committee working on the budget. You may contact myself or Steve Plocher.

Speeding Residents are still challenged by speeders, by drivers who do not respect stop signs, and by noisy accelerations leaving the Park; please be more attentive to these basic rules and neighborly considerations. With the re-signing of the speed limit within the Park, now 15 mph, the police will soon begin enforcing the traffic rules.

Fire With the recent rains, the fire danger for the immediate future is obviated. MVEST continues to anticipate our safety needs and works with county, city, and management personnel to ensure your safety.

City Council The PAC board representatives met with the City's staff on December 9th. The discussion items are available in the PAC board's January minutes and on the PAC's bulletin board in the clubhouse.

The PAC board meetings are enriched by resident participation. Your observations and suggestions on how MVMCC can better serve you and our community's interests are always welcomed.

The agendas for the coming PAC meetings are posted 72 hours before the meetings in the clubhouse. The next board meeting will be **Tuesday, February 4.**

In service,



J Shelfer

Jay Shelfer
PAC PRESIDENT
jjshelfer@yahoo.com



Wildfire Knows No Boundaries

An Overview of Measure C—Marin Wildfire Prevention

by JOHN FELD

In March of this year, Marin will be asked to vote on **Measure C: Marin Wildfire Prevention**—to create the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA). The measure arose from the Marin Civil Grand Jury recommendations* to deal with preignition and presuppression of wildfires in our county.

Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA)

The MWPA will enable the 19 local fire agencies serving Marin County to work together as a single Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to ensure a cohesive and coordinated wildfire prevention and preparedness plan.

Its intention is to improve emergency alert and warning systems in order to enhance early alert for organized evacuations. To do this, the measure proposes a levy of up to 10 cents per building square foot to provide a countywide budget of approximately \$20 million annually for 10 years in dedicated, locally controlled funding to be used only for wildfire preparedness, prevention, and mitigation projects.

What this means for a 1,000-square-foot home would be an additional tax of \$100 per year.

The money will go toward:

1. Expanding coordinated efforts to reduce combustible plants and vegetation
2. Improving evacuation routes and infrastructure to enhance traffic flow and promote safe evacuations

3. Expanding and enhancing defensible space and home evaluations, and educating homeowners about how to reduce the vulnerability of their home and neighborhood to wildfire

4. Providing grants and support to seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income homeowners who need assistance to maintain a defensible space, make their homes fire resistant, reduce combustible vegetation, and prepare for emergencies

5. Creating and sustaining a coordinated local wildfire-public-safety and disaster-preparedness program.

Revenue Distribution

The revenue generated by this measure would be distributed as follows:

- 60% would be dedicated to four core program areas:
 - Vegetation management
 - Wildfire detection and evacuation program improvements
 - Grants to seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income homeowners
 - Public education.
- 20% would focus on defensible space evaluations.
- 20% would be allocated to local agencies to use for specific local wildfire mitigation programs in their service area. Examples of this would include addressing homeless encampments or road widening of evacuation routes.

Need for Coordination

In Marin there is currently no single coordinating agency for wildfire prevention among the 19 local fire agencies that provide fire protection and emergency response services to our communities. The MWPA would allow local fire agencies and emergency service providers, city and town governments, and the county of Marin to work together as a single coordinated JPA to develop and implement a comprehensive wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness program.

Wildfire knows no boundaries, and homes, neighborhoods, and communities are only as safe as those surrounding and adjacent areas where wildfires can ignite and grow. Wildfires are occurring more frequently, and recent fire seasons have been among the deadliest and most destructive on record. The growing incidence of fires in Australia, California, and elsewhere tell us that proactive steps are necessary to reduce the risk of wildfires and to be prepared in the event that Marin County is threatened by wildfire.

Although there have been no large-scale fire events in the Marin Valley community, the same could have been said for Santa Rosa, Paradise, Napa, and Redding up to a couple of years ago. Let's not sit by and see our community further endangered.

Please give Measure C your full consideration.

Thank you. ■

MVEST Over the Decade



Education



Prevention



Perimeter Fuel Reduction



Training

* **Editor's Note:** *If you haven't seen or read the Marin County Civil Grand Jury 2018-2019 Final Report, "Wildfire Preparedness: A New Approach," it is worth taking a look. The jury, made up of individuals who have worked in diverse professions, including public defender, school superintendent, deputy sheriff, engineer, scientist, healthcare administrator, mayor and city councilman, writer, accountant, and attorney, warn that the conditions for fires have changed and that we are "living in a powder keg." The full report, (excerpts below) with its overview, analyses, methodology, interviews, photographs, charts, and alerts shows how not paying attention to fire prevention on a coordinated basis can affect us all with catastrophic consequences.*

SUMMARY

"Marin faces unprecedented danger to life and property from wildfire. The Grand Jury reviewed the conditions that make us vulnerable to wildfire, assessed the plans currently in place to correct them, and recommends a new approach to meeting these challenges. Four areas of vulnerability stand out:

1. Vegetation Management
2. Educating the Public
- 3 Alerts
4. Evacuations

CONCLUSION

Proposed Umbrella Entity

In response to its pre-ignition and pre-suppression planning concerns, the Grand Jury proposes the creation of a countywide entity whose purpose would be to coordinate fire preparedness throughout the county regardless of the political jurisdiction. This proposed umbrella entity (the "Entity") would not propose to interfere with actual fire-fighting issues nor would it attempt a countywide consolidation of fire departments or districts. Its mission would be to focus on preignition and pre-suppression issues only.

The Grand Jury Proposes

The creation of a joint powers authority to coordinate a comprehensive, consistent approach to pre-ignition planning funded by a ¼ cent sales tax. This new approach will remedy the gaps in our preparedness and demonstrate our political will to improve wildfire safety in Marin.

The report is available on the County of Marin Civil Grand Jury Final Reports www.marincounty.org/depts/gj/reports-and-responses. See the FY2018-19 Final Report, "Wildfire Preparedness: A New Approach."

Message from Mar Val

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to confirm Mar Val will be presenting its fifth annual Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday, February 22. As you will note from the attached reservation form, we will once again have the pleasure of hearing the Dixieland-inspired music of the talented Virginia

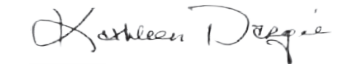
Tichenor, Marty Eggers, and Carl Lunsford. For those of us who have experienced this terrific trio in the past, we can guarantee you an evening of memorable music. In order to further enhance the New Orleans vibe you are encouraged to wear your masks and all your colored beads. (Don't worry if your jewelry inventory

does not include beads, as we will be happy to loan you a few strands from our limitless supply.)

Three short weeks following Mardi Gras we will have an early celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 14. Although details of the party will be included in next month's issue of the

Echo, this is an opportunity for all the corned beef and cabbage lovers to mark the date on your calendar.

With warmest regards,



Kathleen Dargie
MAR VAL PRESIDENT
kfdargie@aol.com


Laissez le bon temps rouler

MAR VAL PRESENTS

MARDI GRAS

February 22, 2020 ■ 5PM Cocktails/Music ■ 6PM Dinner

FEATURING JAZZ MUSIC BY



CARL LUNS福德, VIRGINIA TICHENOR, AND MARTY EGGERS

M e n u

**Red Beans/Rice with Sausage or Vegetarian Red Beans/Rice
Corn Casserole • Salad • Dessert**

Mar Val is once again happy to welcome to Mardi Gras the dynamic trio of Carl Lunsford, Virginia Tichenor, and Marty Eggers. Virginia, daughter of renowned ragtime pianist Trevor Tichenor, studied as a classical pianist and now plays ragtime piano and drums. Virginia's husband Marty plays the string bass, tuba, and piano. The infamous Carl Lunsford, who played with Turk Murphy for many years, plays the banjo and guitar. This terrific trio can be seen on the second Wednesday of every month at The Belrose in San Rafael.

Don your Mardi Gras beads and mask and come enjoy the fabulous, toe-tapping sounds of this musical trio.

\$15 • Reservation deadline is **February 19 at 5 pm** or when 140 reservations have been received. For questions, please call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403.

Laissez le bon temps rouler

Home Owners League Message



Activities and Interest Survey

Have you returned your Activities and Interest Survey? Just bring it to the clubhouse and put in one of the cubbyholes next to the HOL bulletin board. We will hopefully have a list of potential events in the March or April *Echo*. The sooner the surveys are in, the sooner we can start planning.

Tax Assistance

HOL is sponsoring free tax preparation for basic income tax forms, donated by **Anita Flantz** and AARP, February 26 from 10 am–2 pm in the Fireside Room. Most returns take about an hour to do then, are checked. Anita is bringing others to help. See pgs. 10–11.

Workshop

HOL is also sponsoring **Ed Collin's "Vision Board Creation"** workshop scheduled February 1, 12–4 pm in the Fireside Room. This should be a fun, creative, and motivating project. I've never done one but am curious about the process—how it will help me attain my 2020 goals, and the chance for community interaction. (One of my goals is to be able to squat again. Another is building more community and sense of togetherness here in our village.) See pg. 9.

Gutter Plates

Is anyone interested in getting a driveway gutter plate to avoid the dip in the drain ditch when backing out? The metal ones are quite expensive; rubber ones cost less. I would love to have one,

and if enough of us get together and order at the same time, we could reduce the cost. Please email me (janieklimes1948@gmail.com) if you have any information on who to call, who to install, what is involved. I am willing to organize this if enough of us are interested. See Matt before installing.

Over 90? Let me know of anyone who has turned 90 since March last year.

NOTE: The next HOL meeting is Wednesday, February 19 at 6 pm in the Fireside Room. Please join us.

Janie Klimes-Crocker
Janie Klimes-Crocker
 HOL PRESIDENT
janieklimes1948@gmail.com
 281-414-3984 cell



Library Notes

Have you found a favorite book or author in our library that you would recommend to others? If so, why not share? I did. That resident has thanked me twice for the good reads she had. Those were the Ali Reynolds mysteries by J. A. Jance. One of our residents loves Amish and Mennonite romances and has given many titles to the library. Unfortunately, we have no indication that others take

these books out. You know our space issues. Unless you tell us you want to read these books, we'll have to take them off the shelf. Just leave a note in the suggestion box on the return table.

We recently received two books of current interest: Jon Meacham's *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*—interesting and thought provoking because President Trump has been compared to Jackson and because

Meacham is a former editor of *Time* and a regular on MSNBC. The second is *The Spiral Staircase* by Karen Armstrong, a former Catholic nun, an Oxford graduate, a sufferer of epilepsy, and a renowned scholar of world religions who recently appeared on C-SPAN 3.

We are collecting full-size paper grocery bags in good condition to store and transport books. You may leave them under the table to the left of the outside exit door, or call or text **Mark Crocker** at 281-757-4456 and I will pick them up.

Happy reading. Your Librarians.

MARDI GRAS RESERVATION FORM

Please circle entrée choice

RESIDENT _____	Red Beans/Rice/Sausage	Red Beans/Rice
RESIDENT _____	Red Beans/Rice/Sausage	Red Beans/Rice
GUEST _____	Red Beans/Rice/Sausage	Red Beans/Rice
GUEST _____	Red Beans/Rice/Sausage	Red Beans/Rice

Residents attending ___ at \$15/each. Check for \$ _____ is enclosed. (NO CASH, please)

Guests attending ___ at \$15/each. Checks payable to Mar Val. Questions, call Carolyn Corry at 415-370-6403.

Reservation deadline is **February 19 at 5 pm** or when 140 reservations have been received.





FILM
NIGHT

HOL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

1st and 3rd Thursdays • Clubhouse • 6 pm • Please, no food or drink • Feel free to bring a chair

Never Look Away

Drama, History, Romance (2018) 3 hrs 9 min

Thursday • February 6 • 6 pm

Director and Writer Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

Starring Tom Schilling, Sebastian Koch, Paula Beer

Oscar Nominations Best—Foreign Language Film; Cinematography

Another 5 Wins and 17 Nominations

German director, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (*The Lives of Others*—showing here at Film Night next month) follows thirty years in the life of a great artist—loosely based on Gerhard Richter, one of the 20th century's most admired visual artists in a sweeping romantic historical drama. At its first screening at the 75th Venice Int'l Film Festival it received a 13-minute standing ovation and came in first place. It has been compared to David Lean's *Doctor Zhivago* as “the rare movie you actually wish were longer because it is so involving, heart-wrenching and beautiful.” In the *S.F. Chronicle*, *The Exorcist* director

William Friedkin pronounced, “One of the finest films I have ever seen is *Never Look Away*—a masterpiece.” Producer/director Miranda Bailey interviewed at the 44th L.A. Film Critics Assoc. Awards called it “the best movie I've ever seen, in my entire life—ever—in my whole life.” Certainly artists here in the Park will recognize in this film the artists' quest for finding and refining one's own style. Notice the beginning scenes depicting the 1937 Nazi exhibit of degenerate art (nonrepresentational modern art that was considered a threat, subversive, and a sign of mental illness, not matching the Nazi ideals to show beautiful, realistic landscapes and people). After over two million people saw the show the Nazis sold what they could in Switzerland, and destroyed the rest. Some of these artworks were recreated just for this one scene and eventually also will be destroyed.



Tommy

Drama, Musical (1975) 1 hr 51 min

Thursday • February 20 • 6 pm

Director Ken Russell **Writers** The Who, Ken Russell

Starring Roger Daltrey, Ann-Margret, Oliver Reed, Elton John, Eric Clapton, John Entwistle, Keith Moon, Jack Nicholson, Pete Townshend, Tina Turner, The Who

Oscar Nominations Best—Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy; Actress, Ann-Margret; Original Score

Golden Globe Best Actress, Ann-Margret.

Other Awards 1975 Rock Movie of the Year

Tommy is a British rock musical fantasy drama film based upon The Who's 1969 rock opera album *Tommy* about a boy born and raised in post-WWII England who grows up seemingly deaf and mute due to a traumatic experience in his youth. He eventually gains fame as a pinball champion, is billed as a messiah, and attempts to lead a religious sect. ■



COMMUNITY DANCING • First Saturday of the Month • 7–9 pm

Steve Plocher will be the DJ for the February 1st community dance, playing hits from the 60s, 70s, etc. This is a free form dance: you don't need to know how to dance; you don't even need a partner. Just come join us and move to the music. Or sit and watch and socialize with your friends. ■

ART IN THE PARK



by **SUZIE LAHR**



Here we go 2020!
A new year has begun and springtime will soon be here creating the emergence of rolling green hills, brilliant yellow daffodils, and an aliveness

of vibrant color and bloom and artistic creativity!

During this time, a colorful new Spring exhibit will be installed in our Marin Valley Gallery. There is still time for you to begin the creation of an original piece to display or to uncover one that you have tucked away that none of us have yet seen!

Let's begin with a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 5 at 3 pm. It has been a long time since we have all gathered, so let's enjoy a short time together—first to munch some afternoon treats and then to talk about what you have been doing artistically and what our plans are for the new exhibit and possible artist reception to follow.

Here is the complete Art in the Park Spring schedule:

Catch-up meeting—**Wednesday, February 5 at 3 pm**

Preparation meeting—**Wednesday, March 11 at 3 pm**

Spring exhibit—**Saturday, April 11, 9–11 am**
new art in and old art out

Artist reception—**Sunday, May 17 from 1 to 4 pm**

I will be sending an email reminder to all the artists on the email list; to join us please email me with the subject line New Marin Valley Artists at suzielahr@aol.com.

Happening Near the Park

MOCA—Hamilton

“Beneath the Surface”—MOCA Artists: Through Feb. 23
“Elmer Bischoff—Bay Area Legend”: Feb. 29–April 19

Marin Community Foundation

Hangar 5/Hamilton: “Ensemble”—Closes February 14

Petaluma Art Center

“Richard Merchan—Paintings and Sculpture”
February 8–March 29 ■

Vision Board Creation

W O R K S H O P

Ed Collins and HOL are hosting a Vision Board Creation workshop on **February 1 from 12 noon until 4 pm.**

A vision board (also called a treasure map) is a collage that uses the law of attraction to draw more of what you want into your life. Vision boards can focus on something specific, such as career, love life, or the upcoming year, or they can encompass your general life intentions. Use the creation of your collage as a way to achieve 2020 vision!

To make a vision board that will help you achieve your goals, cut pictures and phrases out of magazines that represent your desires and goals. You can also print images from websites or include your own photos in the collage. Next, glue the images and words onto a piece of poster board. You can be as creative as you want and draw or write on your board also. Then place it where you can see it on a regular basis and sit back and wait for the magic to happen! (Action and creative expression on your part probably required.)

Included are some gentle stretching, guided meditation, and sharing of your 2020 vision. **Magazines, some scissors and glue, and poster board will be provided** as well as some snacks and drinks.

Please bring the following: markers, stickers, more scissors and glue, and additional snacks or a potluck dish. ■

Biography Night



Michael Holland

Meg Jordan

Thursday, February 27 • 6:30 pm

On Thursday, February 27 join Meg Jordan and Michael Holland in the Fireside Room from 6:30 to 8 pm. *To speak about YOUR life for 20 minutes to an appreciative audience or to recommend someone else, contact Kim Holscher, kimholscher51@gmail.com* ■

2020 AARP Tax-Aide Services

Free Income Tax Assistance for Low & Middle Income Taxpayers

by ANITA FLANTZ

Special AARP Tax Aide for Marin Valley

Wednesday, February 26 • 10 am–2 pm

Appointments 10 am–1 pm

As mentioned in the January *Echo*, AARP Tax-Aide will offer its services to Marin Valley residents on **Wednesday, February 26**. This is a HOL-sponsored function and a free service for low- and middle-income taxpayers.

Volunteer certified preparers will be available February 26 in the Fireside Room from 10 am to 2 pm. To ask questions and for on-the-hour appointments from 10 am to 1 pm, email or call Anita Flantz, aflantz50@comcast.net or 415-497-8669. Please leave a message if no one answers the phone.

If you are unable to come on February 26, other locations and times are listed below and on the AARP Tax-Aide Services sheet.

What is Tax-Aide?

Free, one-on-one, confidential income tax counseling and tax return preparation service by volunteers for low- and middle-income taxpayers who file basic income tax forms.

When?

Volunteer tax counselors are available from February 1 until April 15 at our listed locations.

Other Locations:

MILL VALLEY 415-383-1370

Mill Valley Community Center
180 Camino Alto
Tuesdays 8:30 am–12:30 pm
Thursdays 8:30 am–12:30 pm
Last day, Tuesday, April 14

What to Bring?

- A copy of your 2018 tax return
- Picture ID, plus Social Security cards or ITINs for self, spouse, and dependents
- Social Security numbers for child care providers and alimony recipients
- Any and all W-2 Forms
- All forms 1099, Social Security, pension, interest, dividends, stock/bond sales, IRA distributions, unemployment, etc.

- All forms 1095 and 1098, e.g. mortgage interest, tuition, health insurance coverage information for taxpayer, spouse, and dependents
- Checkbook or bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit
- Tax-exempt interest or dividend statements
- Cost basis of stock, bond, and other investments that you sold during the year

- To itemize: your list of paid property taxes, medical bills, charitable contributions, and mortgage interest.

Questions?

Email: marintaxaide@gmail.com. Your tax return will be electronically filed the same day at no cost. We can quickly and easily determine your eligibility for Earned Income Credit.

Visit our website at: www.aarp.org/taxaide

NOVATO 415-897-4147

North Marin Community Services
1907 Novato Blvd.
Mondays 10 am–2 pm
Thursdays 10 am–2 pm
Closed President's Day, Feb. 18
Last day, Monday, April 13

NORTHGATE 94903 (no phone)

First Congregational Church
8 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael
Tuesdays 10 am–3 pm
Wednesdays 3 pm–7 pm
Saturdays 10 am–3 pm
Last day, Wednesday, April 15

RESILIENT
NEIGHBORHOODS



LESS CARBON
MORE COMMUNITY

Resilient Neighborhoods

Come to a Presentation Wednesday, January 29 • 6:30 pm

by JOHN FELD

Resilient Neighborhoods is a Marin-based nonprofit that is teaching people to reduce their carbon footprint in significant ways.

Most people don't realize the far-reaching impacts on our community and our planet of our thousands of small daily decisions. But we all honestly want to do the right thing. Resilient Neighborhoods gives us the information to make positive choices and will support us in learning new habits and responsible stewardship.

But it's not all about carbon; their five evening trainings will show us how to build resilience by decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, conserving resources, and promoting our local economies and agriculture. Resilient

Neighborhoods will train us to work together, showing us how we can take the action needed to avert runaway climate change and to prepare ourselves for the changes already taking place.

In the free five-session workshop, you will learn how to reduce your carbon footprint and get prepared for emergencies. Taking simple actions like trimming energy and waste, conserving water, and making smarter transportation choices can save money, too. You'll see the positive results of your actions and help build a stronger and safer community. All you need to participate is a computer, your utility bills, and a desire to join with other community members to create a better future.

By October last year in Marin, Resilient Neighborhoods had trained over 1,300 people from over 577 homes. These people reduced their CO² by more than 7½ million pounds. The City of Novato has trained over 107 people who have reduced their carbon footprint by over 600,000 pounds.

Wouldn't you like to be doing your best to make the world a safer and more humane place to live? If so, please come to our introductory meeting and see if this is something you would like to participate in.

This first meeting will take place in our clubhouse on **January 29 at 6:30 pm**. If enough people sign up to do the course there will be five additional meetings to get us all trained.

SAN RAFAEL 415-485-3348

Sponsored by San Rafael Goldenaires
San Rafael Community Center, 618 B Street
Tuesdays 9:30 am–2 pm
Fridays 9:30 am–2 pm
Closed Tuesday, March 31
Last day, Tuesday, April 14

FAIRFAX 415-453-8151

Fairfax Library
2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
Mondays 10 am–2 pm
Wednesdays 10 am–2 pm
Closed President's Day, February 18
Last day, Wednesday, April 15

Special Sessions:

PT. REYES 415-663-8361

Dance Palace
Community Center
503 B Street (1 session)
Call for appointment
Saturday, February 22
10 am–2 pm
Spanish-speaking counselors available.

NOVATO 415-899-8290

Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Road
All sessions by appointment only
Call after February 21.
Wednesdays:
March 4, 11, 18, 25;
April 1, 10 am–2 pm

by LORNA SASS

James Carraway has lived parallel lives since early childhood. Born in 1941 on his grandparents' rural farm in Farmington, Kentucky, he was shuttled back and forth to metropolitan Detroit where his parents lived and worked. This juxtaposition of rural and city set him up to experience a wide range of life experience.

"I really lucked out with my parents," he told me. "They always encouraged me to do what I wanted and go toward whatever called me in the moment."

Once in college at Wayne State, he majored in Fine Arts and had the good fortune to find a mentor in Bob Weil, an African American sculptor from New Orleans. "He taught me to observe life in a new way and always see things as if for the first time," Carraway told me, pointing to a framed line drawing leaning up against his living room wall. "That is one of his drawings," he said with obvious admiration, "so simple and yet so potent."

Weil was also a jazz guitarist and inspired Carraway to take up the bass clarinet, which quickly awakened latent musical talent. "We would jam together for hours in the bathroom at Wayne State because the acoustics were so good in there. Not only did Weil teach me to trust my own vision, he taught me to improvise my way through life."

Like so many of his era, Carraway felt called to California in the late sixties. Without any prior knowledge of building, he used his creative and improvisational skills to construct a cabin on a friend's land in Novato and from that gutsy beginning grew his own design and general contracting firm. JC Construction remained a mainstay of his livelihood while he raised two sons, Devin and Nathan, both of whom now live in San Francisco.

"I loved building and renovating homes, but somehow I began feeling a calling to become an actor," he told me. So, as if to create another parallel life, he began taking voice-over lessons from Samantha Paris in Sausalito. Soon he found an agent and began landing roles in

James Carraway



PHOTOGRAPH: LORNA SASS

movies and television. "I am probably best known for playing Floyd the barber in the popular TV series, *Sons of Anarchy*," he recalled, but if you google "James Carraway, Actor," you will pull up a long list of appearances in films including *Parker*, *Patch Adams*, *Rent*, and *Zodiac*. You can see a short video of Carraway giving a testimonial for the First-Take Acting School, at this link: <https://firsttake.org/project/james-carraway>.




















































Carraway moved into Marin Valley in 2006. "I couldn't believe this place existed when I first saw it," he recalled. "So beautiful and so many wonderful people who have become my friends. I feel so lucky to have all this around me and two wonderful sons I can rely on as I get older."

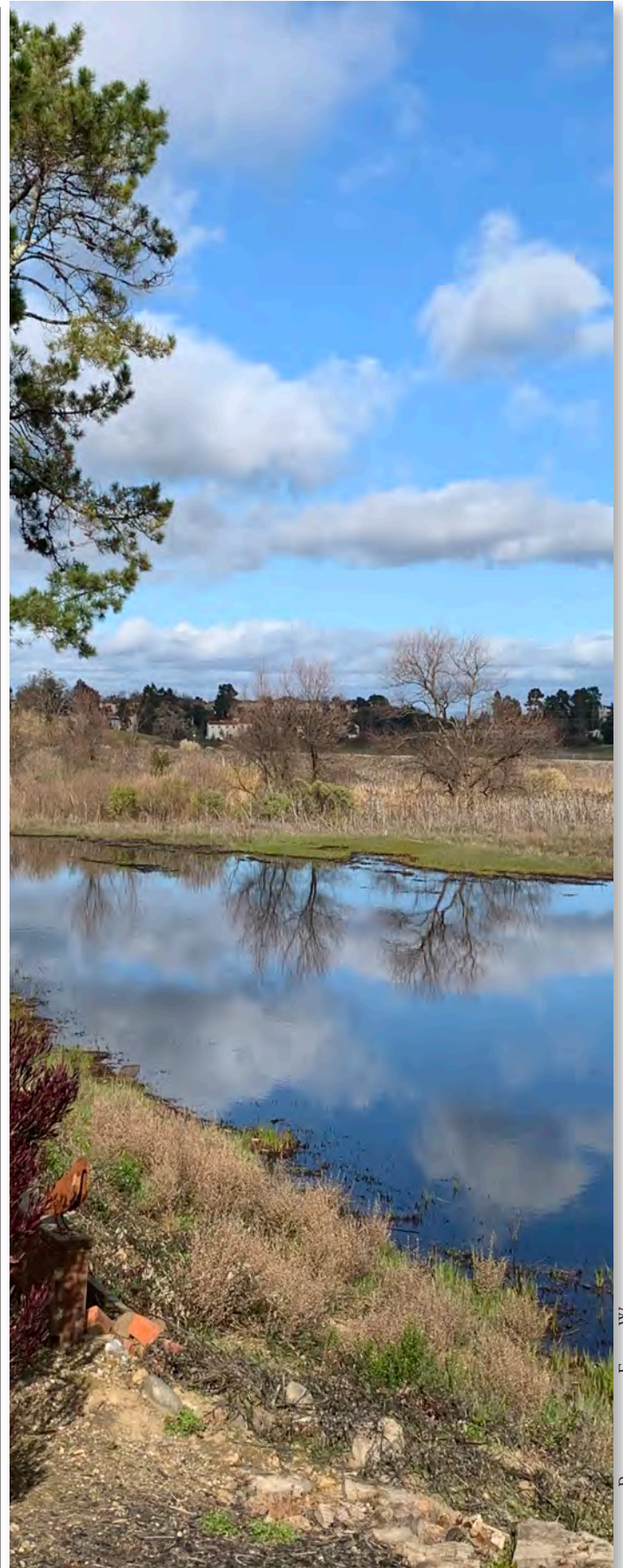
A kind and old-fashioned gentleman, Carraway helped me on with my coat and walked me to my car, despite the fact that he is now using a cane ... ■

Filmography of Motion Picture and TV Shows

Below is an alphabetical listing of James Carraway's movie and television work. Google his name for more information.

Title & Date

	1. Chance (2016–2017) Episode: A Still Point in the Turning World		27. Nash Bridges (1996–2001)
	2. Alias (2001–2006)		28. Flashforward (2009–2010) Episode: No More Good Days (2009)
	3. Invasion (2005–2006) Episode: All God's Creatures (2006)		29. Not of This World (2008–)
	4. Trauma (2009–2010) Episode: All's Fair (2009)		30. Sons of Anarchy (2008–2014) Episode: Old Bones (2008)
	5. Bartleby (2001)		31. Sons of Anarchy (2008–2014) Episode: Out (2011)
	6. Big Love (2006–2011)		32. Parker (2013)
	7. Bottle Shock (2008)		33. Patch Adams (1998)
	8. Sons of Anarchy (2008–2014) Episode: Caregiver (2010)		34. Cold Case (2003–2010) Episode: Pin Up Girl (2008)
	9. Carnivàle (2003–2005)		35. Playing Mona Lisa (2000)
	10. Chance (2016–2017)		36. Nash Bridges (1996–2001) Episode: Rampage (1997)
	11. Cold Case (2003–2010)		37. Rent (2005)
	12. Big Love (2006–2011) Episode: Come, Ye Saints (2009)		38. Scrubs (2001–2010)
	13. Convention (2008)		39. Sons of Anarchy (2008–2014) Episode: Seeds (2008)
	14. Alias (2001–2006) Episode: Countdown (2003)		40. Sons of Anarchy (2008–2014) Episode: Smite (2009)
	15. Dream with the Fishes (1997)		41. Sons of Anarchy (2008–2014)
	16. ER (1994–2009)		42. Sons of Anarchy Season 1: (2009 Casting 'Sons of Anarchy'
	17. ER (1994–2009) Episode: Fear (2004)		43. The Assassination of Richard Nixon (2004)
	18. First in Flight (2012)		44. Invasion (2005–2006) Episode: The Dredge (2005)
	19. Flashforward (2009–2010)		45. Invasion (2005–2006) Episode: The Hunt (2005)
	20. Sons of Anarchy (2008–2014) Episode: Fun Town (2008)		46. Not of This World (2008–) Episode: The Thing in the Basement (2009)
	21. Guitar Man (2018)		47. Touching Home (2008)
	22. Nash Bridges (1996–2001) Episode: Heist (2000)		48. Trauma (2009–2010)
	23. Here I Am (2016)		49. Invasion (2005–2006) Episode: Unnatural Selection (2005)
	24. Carnivàle (2003–2005) Episode: Ingram, TX (2005)		50. Up the Man (2005)
	25. Invasion (2005–2006)		51. Invasion (2005–2006) Episode: Us or Them (2006)
	26. Scrubs (2001–2010) Episode: My Intern's Eyes (2006)		52. Valley of the Heart's Delight (2006)
			53. Zodiac (2007)



Winter Pond—Marin Valley

PHOTOGRAPH: ERMA WHEATLEY

Hooded Oriole

Article and Photography by DAVID GRAY

The hooded oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) is a vibrant bird that spends its summers here in our Park. We have at least two pairs of these beauties living high in the palm trees on both Meadow View and the 57–63 range of addresses on Marin Valley Drive.

The male starts its early life with a bright yellow body that turns to a light orange after its first summer. Its wings are black with white coverts (wing bars). The black on the male's face extends around his eyes and down his throat and onto his chest, looking a bit like a masked bib. The male's tail is black.

The female is mostly yellow on her underside with an olive-gray back and tail and dark gray

wings with pale white coverts. They are about the same size as a robin and less than half the size and weight of a red-winged blackbird. Both the male and the female are long and slender.

I was lucky enough to get a photo of a young male hooded oriole on Meadow View Drive back in March of 2016; you can see (thanks to the



Echo for going with color printing!) the intense yellow of this youngster. Compare that with the clearly more orange coloring of an older adult—photographed in early January 2020 in Todos Santos, Baja—and its mate.

The range of the hooded oriole covers most of Mexico and a bit of the Southwestern US, with five differing subspecies that are somewhat localized. It can be found only in the summer in California, southern Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. It can be found year-round in Baja and far-western



and eastern Mexico, migrating through central Mexico.

Hooded orioles weave their somewhat elaborate nests from grasses and other plant fibers. In January I spotted one nest hanging in a tree in the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve in the central mountains of Baja California Sur and spotted another one

lying on the ground nearby. Photos of both show the delicate nature of the construction, and the small hands of my spouse's geologist friend demonstrate its size. The fibers in the one we could examine closely looked like fibers from palm fronds, with leaves and grasses woven in. The female incubates the clutch of three to five eggs for 12 to 14 days. The mated pair is monogamous. They eat mostly insects but also fruit and nectar from blossoms.



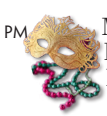




I always keep an eye out for these amazing birds near the tops of the palm trees, hoping to get a glimpse of their amazing color and form. ■





Copied 2020 David G. Gray

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY January 29		THURSDAY 30		FRIDAY 31		SATURDAY	
2 1PM Mahjong <i>Fireside Room</i>		3 5:30AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise <i>Fireside Room</i> 10-11AM Caribbean Zumba <i>Ballroom</i> 6PM MVEST Meeting <i>Fireside Room</i> 7:15 PM Poor Man's Poker <i>Fireside Room</i>		4 7-9:30AM Taiji/MacLam <i>Clubhouse Deck</i> 10-11:30AM Chair Yoga <i>John Marino Fireside Room</i> 4-5:30PM Nonviolent Communication Study <i>Fireside Room</i> 6PM PAC Meeting		5 11AM Whistlestop 12PM Craft and Chat 3PM Art in the Park Meeting ART IN THE PARK 		6 7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM-3PM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On! 6PM Film Night 		7 4PM Canasta 5PM Pub 7PM Game Night <i>Fireside Room</i>		8 Vision Board Creation Workshop 12-4PM • <i>Ballroom</i> COMMUNITY DANCE 7-9PM • <i>Ballroom</i> ECHO DEADLINE FULL MOON 11:33PM	
9 1PM Mahjong		10 5:30AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise 10AM Caribbean Zumba 6PM MVEST Meeting 7:15 PM Poor Man's Poker		11 7AM Taiji 10AM Chair Yoga		12 11AM Whistlestop 12PM Craft and Chat 6PM MarVal Meeting		13 7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On!		14 9-11:30AM FIRESafe Marin <i>Ballroom</i> 4PM Canasta 5PM Pub 7:15PM Bingo VALENTINE'S DAY		15	
16 1PM Mahjong 4PM Salon in the Park "Resilience" 41 Marin Valley Drive		17 5:30AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise 10AM Caribbean Zumba 6PM MVEST Meeting 7:15 PM Poor Man's Poker PRESIDENTS' DAY		18 7AM Taiji 10AM Chair Yoga		19 11AM Whistlestop 11AM Bridge/ <i>Fireside Rm</i> 12PM Craft and Chat 5PM MARDI GRAS RESERVATION DEADLINE or after 140 reservations 6PM HOL Meeting 		20 7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On!		21 4PM Canasta 5PM Pub 		22 MAR VAL presents MARDI GRAS 5 pm Cocktails 6 pm Dinner 	
23 1PM Mahjong		24 5:30AM Trash Pickup 9:30AM Low-Impact Exercise 10AM Caribbean Zumba 6PM MVEST Meeting 7:15 PM Poor Man's Poker		25 7AM Taiji 10AM Chair Yoga		26 10AM-2PM AARP Tax-Aide <i>Fireside Room</i>  11AM Whistlestop 12PM Craft and Chat		27 7AM Taiji 9:15AM QiGong 11AM The Rollin' Root 3PM Draw On! 6:30PM Biography Night Meg Jordan Michael Holland <i>Fireside</i>		28 4PM Canasta 5PM Pub 		29	