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ECHO

March 2021

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Letter from the Editor

Goodbye

Many thanks to **John Feld** for assisting in the completion of this issue while my mouse-directing arm became inoperable. Hopefully it's temporary, but it is clear that I can no longer tempt it with overuse and will have to say goodbye as editor. Thank you to all the contributors and all those who have given so much assistance over the past seven years. Please send your articles to **Carolyn Corry** who will collect them for the new editor, who could be you.



Letter to the Editor

February Echo

February 2021 is likely the best issue of the *Echo* ever, in my experienced opinion! I rarely read the e-edition, as I prefer the printed version, but I stumbled onto **Henry Frummer's** brilliant Bronx tale, **John Feld's** informative and interesting review of kitchen safety practices, **Kevin Mulvany's** witty reminder about safety in walking and driving in the Park, and **Meg Jordan's** fascinating view of a day in the life of a volunteer nurse injecting precious first doses of COVID-19 vaccine in to an overburdened SNF staff. Altogether, beyond marvelous reading, and I truly thank and appreciate the exceptional editor/designer who puts this remarkably professional publication together – this month and every month.

Gratefully, **KC Casey**

Giving Bench

I very much appreciate the "Giving Bench" in the clubhouse breezeway. It has enabled me to give away, or recycle, many things from our home and "go shopping" to get some real gems as additions to our family. I have often found donations of things I wanted to purchase. I would like to thank all those who facilitate this service, keeping it organized and tidy each day and disposing of items that have not been taken to thrift stores and elsewhere. This is a wonderful service.

Sincerely, **John Feld**

Fire at Novato RV Park



On Monday, February 8, a mobile home in Novato RV Park burned down, causing the death of a resident; a fellow resident who tried to rescue her was transported to the hospital with moderate burns.

The fire started just before 7 am at the park on Armstrong Avenue, close to the Atherton freeway exit. The fire destroyed one home and caused serious damage to the adjacent home.

The residents were awoken by the fire and dialed 911. The Novato Fire District arrived in minutes. The fire was brought under control in about 45 minutes. San Rafael and Marinwood firefighters as well as Marin County Sheriff's deputies assisted in the incident. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Crozier

May 10, 1922 - February 9, 2021

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MARCH 2021

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Email articles with "ECHO" as the subject line to **Carolyn Corry: ckcorry@comcast.net** with a copy of the article in the body of the email. Images should be as large as possible.

ECHO DEADLINE

The 8th of the month or sooner for the following month's issue

MVMCC *Management Update*

Park Management is aware of multiple unauthorized solicitations from outside organizations trying to convince residents to buy insurance for your utility lines. This is false and should not be purchased.

Management has recently contracted for the repair of several damaged underground electric utility sites. All damage was caused by digging to set fence and deck posts. Prior to any digging, please alert Management so we may do a thorough utility location inspection. This inspection can prevent costly repairs to underground wire and pipe. It will also prevent residents from losing power or gas during any investigation and repair.

Residents have alerted Management that a coyote may have been responsible for the disappearance of a cat that

wandered out of their home. Please keep your cats safe and indoors per Park rules. The quail population is a Park concern due to cats hunting baby quail.

Per Park Rule #12, carports are not to be used for storage. People who can't park in their respective carports impact others by parking in guest spaces.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.



Matt Greenberg
Matt Greenberg
GENERAL MANAGER
gm.mvmcc@gmail.com
415-883-5911 ■ 415-883-1971 Fax

PAC *Letter to Residents*

Greetings from the Park Acquisition Corporation Board.

Our finances are in order. Our cash, plus medium- and long-term reserves, is more than \$6 million.

Work has begun on the '21/'22 budget, which will culminate in April/May with the oversight of the City of Novato's City Council. Bring your suggestions to have them considered. Please advise Management and your PAC Board members.

The recently installed security cameras are being upgraded to improve their effectiveness.

We are working with the City Council to enhance residents' ability to defer some of their rent/lease obligations through the Hello Housing Lot Rent

Deferral Program. This should lower the bar a bit to allow more low-income residents to join the program. I have learned that Hello Housing is passing this program on to a new administrator. I will update you as information becomes available.

The application to have the California Public Utilities Commission/PG&E program upgrade the infrastructure of the gas and electric distribution here at MVMCC is with the City Staff for review and submittal to the City Council for their approval. I will advise you of any progress. The notice of intent must be filed before March 31.

The PAC's Board meetings are enriched by resident participation. Your observations and suggestions on

how MVMCC can better serve your and the community's interests are always welcomed. Come to the video presentations or email us.

The agendas for future PAC meetings are posted 72 hours prior to the meetings and are also available to those on the mailing list. To be added to this list and for links to the meetings, contact **Anila Manning** at anilahere99@gmail.com. These meetings are usually also broadcast on Comcast Channel 26. See <https://marinvalley.net/3444-2/pac-minutes-2020/> for meeting recordings.

In service,

J. Shelfer



Jay Shelfer
PAC PRESIDENT
jjshelfer@yahoo.com



Your Service Pedestal

by JOHN FELD

This presentation is brought to you by the Marin Valley Emergency Safety Team. Here you will learn about your electrical, gas, and water services and how to deal with them **in case of an emergency**. It is fairly long, so take your time and learn about your pedestal. The information is important.

What Is a Pedestal?

Here we are calling several items “the pedestal.”

In essence it is a place where all the utilities — electrical, gas, and water — come up from the ground and enter your home. This is where your electricity and gas meters and the water shutoff are located.

The Pedestal

Although all our homes are somewhat similar, they are certainly not all alike; the same is true of our pedestals. Usually the pedestal is located close to your back door and/or within your carport. Some arise from a concrete slab, others arise directly from the earth.

It is important that you know where your pedestal is located. After reading this presentation take some time to locate yours, and become familiar with all of the various parts of it.

In an emergency, you should be able to get to it in just a few moments.

WARNING!

NEVER spray water on any gas or electrical parts of your pedestal.

It could easily make the situation worse, and you could electrocute yourself.

WARNING!

If you see smoke, sparks, or flames, or if you hear loud hissing noises, coming from or around your pedestal, **DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING**. Immediately call 911 and stay clear of the area.

If you see sprays of water, however, call Park Management.

The age of your home usually determines how new or modern your utility connections are. The pedestals on older homes work just as well as newer ones.

Over time some become overgrown, others are enclosed in a structure or made inaccessible behind a screen or small fence. Make sure that your pedestal is readily available.

There are two main pieces of equipment associated with your pedestal:



Electricity



Gas

Park Rules

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 24 inches in width and 78 inches high and shall have a working space not less than 30 inches wide and 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 12 inches nor more than 78 inches above the stabilizing pad.”

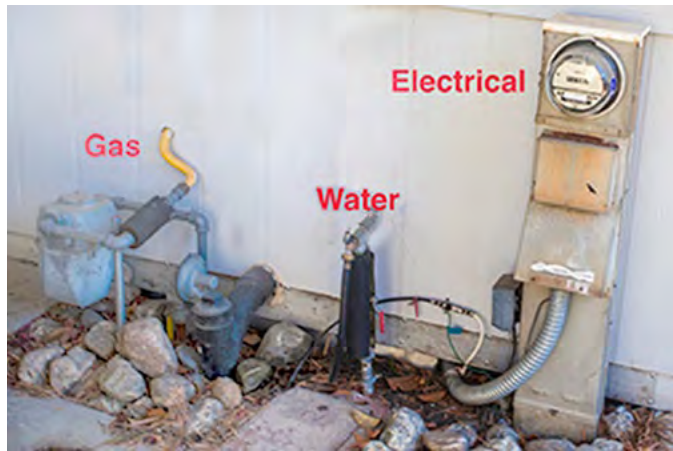
There is also a water valve, usually close to the ground, that usually looks like a circular tap. On newer manufactured homes there may be a lever valve on the water pipe, either instead of or in addition to the regular tap.

In normal circumstances there is nothing you need to do with your pedestal.

But in a real emergency, knowing about these can be very important. The pedestal is where you quickly turn off your utilities — water, gas, and electricity.

We are talking about **REAL EMERGENCIES**, such as a burst water pipe, your or a nearby home is on fire, a nearby fire, audibly leaking gas, or when you have to evacuate because of a nearby fire.

If the emergency is fire-related, **ALWAYS** turn off the gas first, as this poses the greatest risk.



The Pedestal

The Electricity Pedestal

Near the top of the electricity pedestal you will find a round, clear, plastic-covered meter that makes it possible to read how much electricity you are consuming.



In most instances, below the actual meter, you will see a cover. Lifting this cover will reveal a couple of switches. These switches turn off the electricity to your entire house. Only use these switches if you think your house is on fire or is likely to be. Be sure the switch cover is left closed.



If you lift this switch cover (always with dry hands), you can safely turn the enclosed switches off. Remember, these switches will turn off **EVERYTHING** in your home and you should do this **ONLY** in an emergency.

Occasionally, an electricity pedestal is obstructed, making it difficult or impossible to lift the switch cover. Never force it; it is better to leave it alone.

If you discover this is the case with your pedestal, contact Park Management to get the issue fixed.

In normal circumstances these switches are used only by licensed electricians or Marin Valley maintenance. But knowing where they are can save your home in the case of a fire or short circuit.

If your electricity pedestal does not have an exposed electricity meter, then there may be no accessible switches. **NEVER** unscrew any part of the metal pedestal box to access switches inside. The pedestal contains **VERY HIGH VOLTAGES** within the pedestal that can be very dangerous.



If you are told to evacuate your home and you think it may be in danger of catching on fire, it is wise to turn off these switches. Once you turn them off, do not turn them back on. Please get a trained MVEST team member, Marin Valley maintenance person, or a qualified electrician to do this for you.

The Breaker Box

If you need to get wiring done to your house, use the breaker panel **inside** your home to turn off any or all the electrical circuits; do not use the pedestal switches. The panel is often located near your back door but may be elsewhere in the house.

You should know where it is.



Breaker box closed



Breaker box open

The Gas Pedestal

The gas pedestal is more than just a meter.



Just below the gas meter you will see a bright yellow lever or tap on your gas pipe.

This lever is for turning your gas supply on and off. Turn it a quarter-turn to turn it off.



Gas lever



Gas tap

WARNING!

By turning this yellow tap/lever, you will turn off all your pilot lights. You **MUST** have a qualified person turn them back on. If the gas is turned off even for a second, all pilot lights will go out, and when the gas is turned back on without relighting the pilot lights, gas will gush into your home and can, and probably will, start a fire in your house.

Sometimes the utilities are overgrown with plants. These should be trimmed back to allow for easy access.



The Water Valve

The water shutoff is a handle that looks something like this.



It may be painted a color or may be bare metal.

Typically it is located close to the ground in the vicinity of the other utilities.

Sometimes the tap can be buried or partially buried. The area around the tap should be cleared to make it easily and quickly accessible.



Turning this valve off will turn off all the water to your house. Do this only if you are experienced; otherwise, get a professional to turn it both off and back on.

In the event of a fire, do **NOT** turn off your water supply. Firefighters might need quick access to water to help save your or a neighbor's house.

The Pedestal – Other Things

Other things you may see around your pedestal are wires and smaller gray boxes. They connect your phone or cable TV/internet and are often installed near your other utility services.

Leave them alone.

The Pedestal – For Emergencies Only

Normally there is never a good reason to do anything with the switches and valves around your pedestal. This presentation concerns emergencies only.

If you have any questions, or cannot locate the elements of your pedestal, contact Park Management, who can assist you.

The Pedestal – Identify for Yourself

Please go out to your pedestal and see if you can locate and identify all the items mentioned in this presentation. If this is new information for you, please run through it again until you feel familiar with the pedestal functions.

Thank you. ■

Online Pedestal Presentation

Wednesday, March 24 • 6:30 pm

MVEST will provide a special Zoom presentation of this information for the whole community, providing an opportunity for residents to ask questions, as so many pedestals are different in some respects to those shown.

We recommend that you read the information and then go visit your pedestal to become familiar with your set-up before the Zoom presentation.

The presentation will be shown on Zoom **March 24 at 6:30 pm**. The link will be on our website, www.marinvalley.net or you can email johnmfeld@gmail.com for a reminder with the link.

MAR VAL Message from Mar Val

Dear Friends,

This month marks one year since Mar Val's last Pub night, which took place on Friday, March 6, 2020. A review of the *Echo* published that month indicates we were planning our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner, which was to highlight the 90th birthday celebration for our benefactor and dear friend, Patrick

Wheatley. Needless to say, restrictions resulting from the onset of Covid-19 caused the party to be canceled. On the brighter side, I have it on excellent authority from the Bar Manager that an exceptionally large wine and liquor order had arrived in anticipation of the St. Patrick's gala, and that order remains available to be enjoyed once we can safely resume our social gatherings.

If over the next few weeks you happen to see Patrick Wheatley, please join the Mar Val Board in wishing him a very happy 91st birthday on March 17, 2021.

With warmest regards,



Kathleen Dargie

Kathleen Dargie
MAR VAL PRESIDENT
kfdargie@aol.com

HOL Home Owners League Message

Greetings from HOL.

Well, some rain arrived at last, although much less than is usual for this time of year. It looks like we may be heading toward a dramatic drought and a more extensive fire season. As I write this (February 8) we have received 4.5" of rain since October 2020. The total for the previous rainy season at this time of year was 11.1"; the year before it was 29". Hopefully, more is on the way, as our reservoirs are dramatically low.

Like other organizations and residents, HOL is biding its time with happenings in the Park, awaiting the time when we can all get together and mingle freely with neighbors and friends. But events go on.

Neighborhood Walkabout —

There will be another Walkabout Freebie Day on March 20, when we can all put out our slightly used treasures. This is another opportunity to rid your home of unwanted clutter and a wonderful opportunity to pick up some new trinkets or even furniture. Everything, as usual, is free. You can find more details later in this issue with the notice from our Activities and Events coordinator, **Janie Klimes Crocker**.

Contractors Database —

As I mentioned last month, the new version of the Handyman's Binder (reincarnated as the Contractors Database) is slowly coming online. If you have good or not-so-good opinions of any person who worked on your home, we would love to hear about it. Please pick up a printed version of the Resident Input Form

from the breezeway at the clubhouse. Also, there will soon be an online option for reporting.

Zoom — Just a reminder, HOL always welcomes all residents to attend and contribute to our meetings, which now take place on Zoom. Our gatherings are not formal or lengthy, and are sometimes fun. Please consider joining us online. If you need to have the Zoom address, just drop me a line, and I will send you an agenda and the Zoom link before the meeting. Also, if you would like to receive an email with the minutes of our meetings, please send me your email address (johnmfeld@gmail.com).

Best wishes,

John Feld

John Feld
HOL PRESIDENT
johnmfeld@gmail.com
510-495-4138 cell

Another Walkabout Freebie Day

by Janie Klimes Crocker

Join Us Saturday, March 20 • 9 to 4 (Rain Date March 27)

Everyone still has things they want to get rid of. Put your stuff at the front of your carport at **9 am Saturday, March 20**. It can be in boxes or on tables, just not in the street. You don't have to stay there; you can wander and look at others' free stuff. No money changes hands because it is all giveaway. By 4 pm you must take everything back to your house. This is a wonderful time to get rid of all that you have accumulated over the winter.

Rules of Participation:

1. Email your **name and street address** to either Janie (janieklimes1948@gmail.com) or Tara (taraplocher@gmail.com) by the afternoon of Thursday, March 18 to be added to a list of participants. The list will be available in the clubhouse breezeway and on our website (www.marinvalley.net) the day before and the morning of the event.
2. Don't leave a mess when you go through things.
3. Wear a mask and maintain social distancing.
4. You might want to provide hand cleaner at the site, and/or take some with you when you go looking.

Pizza and Cold Drinks

Then, at **3-4 pm**, come to the clubhouse breezeway and get a **free slice of pizza**.

First come, first served till gone.



HOL is providing free pizza and cold drinks for the **entire community**, not just the participants of the giveaway.

Please maintain social distancing and wear a mask. Food is for pickup only; no sitting and eating in the breezeway.

Rain Date

Rain date is the following **Saturday, March 27**.

If the event is called off, you will receive a robocall on Friday, March 19.

If it rains March 27, the event is postponed and you will also be notified by robocall.

ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

HOL is looking for anyone who has good ideas and wants to participate in and plan events. If you are interested, email Janie at janieklimes1948@gmail.com.

And email John Feld johnmfeld@gmail.com to add your name to the Zoom monthly meeting list.



Biography Night

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 23 • 6:30 pm
with **Lorna Sass Part 3**



MARCH

Wednesday, March 10 • 6:30 pm
with **Martina Koeckritz**



Tuesday, March 23 • 6:30 pm
with **Inga Grace**

Contact **Kim Holscher** at kimholscher51@gmail.com for the link and to be notified of future Biography Nights. You can also check our website just before most Park events to get the links at www.marinvalley.net ■

Walkabout Freebie Day

Saturday, March 20
9 to 4



Home Funerals, Green Burials, and Vigils

After-Death Care Talk on Zoom
with

Aneesha Dillon

Conscious Dying Educator and Doula

Reminder

Wednesday, February 24

6:30 – 8 pm

An information talk, with videos and slides

For more information and to sign up, contact Aneesha at aneesha@oshopulsation.com or 415-827-7137 to receive the Zoom link on the day before the talk.

Amazing Bloom

Hellebore, commonly known as Lenten rose



PHOTOGRAPH: LORNA SASS

One Person's Trash Is Another Person's Treasure

by KEVIN MULVANY

The “Giving Bench” at the clubhouse breezeway has been a big hit right from the get-go. Books, movies, housewares, children’s & pet toys, artworks, puzzles & games, dishware, lamps, appliances, kitchenware, tools, hats, clothes & shoes, and yes even food items have been dropped off and promptly found new homes.

Several Park volunteers straighten up and organize dropped-off items daily to keep the display neat and clean. Residents can be a big help by keeping a few things in mind when visiting the displayed goods:

1. Please do not drop off poisonous or hazardous chemicals, as they can be time-consuming to recycle if unclaimed by residents.
2. Be sure appliances are in good working order, as no one wants to take home broken mixers or radios.
3. Broken or chipped dishware and glassware are not likely to find a new home.
4. Medical devices in good condition are welcome. (If unclaimed, some items may wind up in Mr. Bill’s Shed of medical equipment for lending to Park residents, located in the breezeway.)

5. Food items should not be left overnight, as they attract clever little critters that Mother Nature has wisely chosen to provide with furry black masks about their eyes. Do not leave items needing refrigeration.
6. If you bring items to the breezeway in boxes, please flatten the boxes and put them in the nearby paper recycle bins.

To avoid too much clutter in the breezeway, selected items are taken to the Novato Goodwill store each **Wednesday morning**, where they can find a new home in the greater Marin County community. (Goodwill does not accept medical items & devices or furniture at this time.)

It can be hard to let go of our possessions sometimes, but keep in mind that the old book or dress you drop off might be just what the doctor ordered to make a neighbor’s day.

I am pleased as punch whenever I put on the warm, colorful sweatshirt a neighbor was thoughtful enough to part with. ■



Dementia in the Park: How to Stay Safe

by MICHAEL HAGERTY

Dementia is a cruel disease of the brain that can stem from Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, and other causes. It usually degrades our memory first, then our ability to think clearly, and in the end we can't even dress ourselves. If we don't catch it early, it steals our memories and our personality. There are things we can do to reduce our risk and to slow it down if we catch it early, reducing the stress on partners and family.

What Are the Early Symptoms?

Dementia usually starts with more pronounced forgetfulness, trouble understanding spoken and written communication, difficulty finding words, disorientation, and not knowing common facts such as the name of the current US President.

Once memory starts to go, we naturally become more "paranoid" when we forget appointments we don't remember ever making, and when partners embarrass us by saying, "I already told you that twice. Pay attention!" After trying and failing to pay better attention, patients become suspicious, withdrawn, or more anxious and have more trouble sleeping. The affected person gets frustrated and explodes more often than before.

Then further changes happen that alert partners and neighbors, such as wandering outside, agitation, noisiness, being out of bed at night, setting the stove on fire, and even hallucinations.

In the final stage, day-to-day functioning will break down, with difficulty driving, getting lost, trouble with shopping, difficulty handling money, and neglecting household chores as well as hygiene and appearance.

Don't Freak Out, But ...

After reading these symptoms, it's easy to overreact and "see dementia everywhere." Every time we forget our keys, we fear dementia is coming! Don't freak out: more forgetfulness is normal in older age, but if we forget

what the keys are for, or find ourselves wandering when our partner asked us to get the keys from the bedroom, then dementia might be the culprit. If you think you might be affected, there is a paper-and-pencil test for dementia that you can take at home and show your doctor on your next visit. It is called the SAGE test from Ohio State University, and you can download it at <https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/brain-spine-neuro/memory-disorders/sage>. It tests simple things like how to draw a clockface that shows 3:10 pm, as well as memory tests. Your doctor can score it next time you see him/her.

The sad fact is that most people try to ignore any loss in cognitive ability, so that the average dementia sufferer sees a doctor six years after symptoms begin, when treatments are less effective. And friends and family are often embarrassed to bring it up to their loved one, allowing brain damage to advance.

So I ask people in the Park to keep a friendly watch on your buddies and your family to help protect them from dementia. Some clear signs that you can watch for are when a partner or neighbor:

- sets the stove on fire
- forgets to take their medications
- can't handle the shopping or the checkbook, when they used to easily
- makes a date with you and inexplicably doesn't show up
- wanders around the neighborhood
- has "fender benders"
- neglects their appearance or home upkeep.

If you see any of these signs, the person may be a danger to themselves and perhaps others. If you prefer not to speak directly to the resident, you can ask their partner

COVID-19 Vaccine

Pain Medications and the Vaccine

The CDC recommends avoiding taking any painkillers before you receive your first and second doses of any vaccine. It's best to avoid them, unless you routinely take them for a medical condition. Although the evidence is limited, some painkillers might interfere with the very thing the vaccine is trying to do: generate a strong immune system response.

Vaccines work by tricking the body into thinking it has a virus and mounting a defense against it. That may or may not cause arm soreness, fever, headache, muscle aches, or other temporary symptoms of inflammation that can be part of that reaction.

Certain painkillers that target inflammation, including ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin and other brands) might curb the immune response. A study found that these drugs might lower production of antibodies — substances that block the virus from infecting cells.

If you're already taking one of those medications for a health condition, you should not stop before you get the vaccine — at least not without asking your doctor. People should not take a painkiller as a preventive measure before getting a vaccine unless a doctor has told them to. The same goes for after a shot: If you don't need to take it, you shouldn't. If you do need one, acetaminophen (Tylenol) is safer because it doesn't alter your immune response.

The CDC offers other tips, such as holding a cool, wet washcloth over the area of the shot and exercising that arm. For fever, drink lots of fluids and dress lightly. Call your doctor if redness or tenderness in the arm increases after a day or if side effects don't go away after a few days.

Beware of Vaccine-Related Scams

Please be aware that COVID-19 vaccinations are always free. If you are being asked for payment, remember there is no reason to have to pay, including the following situations:

SCAM: You're asked to pay for your vaccine

SCAM: You're offered early access for a fee

SCAM: You're told to pay to put your name on a waiting list

SCAM: You're asked to schedule appointments through unverified platforms

SCAM: You're told to pay to have the vaccine shipped to you

SCAM: You're made to take additional tests before you get a vaccine.

or another neighbor if they have noticed anything. It is not gossip to compare notes on potential dangers in the Park. Or you can call a professional at Marin County Adult Protective Services (415-473-2774), who will offer confidential advice. They will ask the same questions addressed in the bulleted items above.

Treatments for Dementia

Two drugs have been approved to treat dementia: an acetylcholine agonist and an NMDA antagonist. But they are most effective in the EARLY stages of dementia, so catching symptoms when they arise can bring help. There is also a local support group for dementia sufferers, and they have lots more information.

Here's the Bottom Line

In the Park, we can expect three or four new cases of dementia every year, primarily in people over 70. Let's not overblow the risk: many more of us will get heart disease and cancer each year. But with dementia, friends and family can act as an "early warning system," and you might say, "Hey, I've noticed you are more forgetful lately. Have you noticed that? There is a paper-and-pencil test you can take at home if you are concerned." And consider giving your partner and your neighbors permission to raise their concerns with you — dementia doesn't have to be more embarrassing than getting cancer or heart disease, and we can help keep each other safe from it! ■

Bobcat

**Article and Photography
by DAVID GRAY**

S harp-eyed readers will notice that the subject in today's article is ... not a bird! Meet Roberto Gato, a bobcat so named by the National Park Service rangers at the Bear Valley Visitors Center in Point Reyes National Seashore. I spotted him from very far away in late January 2021, where we were practicing COVID-19 extreme social distancing in our camper van.

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) is a medium-sized wildcat; they have been spotted several times in our Park. Much smaller than the mountain lion, the bobcat has a short (bobbed) tail with a white underside, an easily distinguishable feature. They also have white marks on the backs of their ears and pointed dark tufts at the tips of their ears.

This bobcat was minding his own business sitting behind a wooden fence in a field when I saw him from over 100 yards' distance. I could tell that it was an animal, but it took looking through my 80–400 mm zoom lens to identify it for certain (*photo 1*).

Four hundred mm is about eight times normal human vision, so imagine how he looked at 1/8 the size. My experience with wild animals is that they do not see vehicles as a threat, so I drove the camper van to within 25 yards of the fence. I then carefully exited the van and approached the fence, moving only when the bobcat was not



1. Point Reyes' Roberto Gato in the field

looking in my direction. I moved only my feet, keeping the camera up near my face.

I positioned one of the fence posts between me and the bobcat and used that cover to move up to the fence

without scaring the bobcat. I had put the camera shutter on its "quiet" setting and was resting the front of the lens on the top rail. The bobcat spotted a vole nearer to the fence, and the hunt was on. He stalked the vole (*photo 2*),



2. Point Reyes bobcat on the prowl

3. Point Reyes bobcat and prey



which can be seen in the foreground (photo 3). The bobcat's focus was awesome, but the vole eluded him.

He looked down at the vole's hole (photo 4), showing off his white ear patches, and then looked up with a dejected look on his face (photo 5).



4. Point Reyes bobcat only finds vanishing vole



5. Point Reyes bobcat — better luck next time

A car drove past on the road behind me, its stereo blaring, and Roberto Gato ran up the hill, tail twitching angrily at the interruption of the peace and quiet. ■

| SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 | MONDAY 1 | TUESDAY 2 | WEDNESDAY 3 | THURSDAY 4 | FRIDAY 5 | SATURDAY 6 |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | 6 AM Trash Pickup 5-6 PM MVEST Meeting Zoom / Contact John Hansen for link  | 6 PM PAC Board Meeting Zoom / Contact Anila Manning for link | 6 PM HOL Board Meeting Zoom / Contact John Feld for link | 11 AM-12 PM The Rollin' Root Clubhouse Parking Lot  | 1-1:30 PM The Rollin' Root Clubhouse Parking Lot  | |
| 7 | 6 AM Trash Pickup 5 PM MVEST Meeting  ECHO DEADLINE | 9 | 6:30 PM Biography Night Martina Koeckritz Zoom / Contact Kim Holscher for link  | 11 AM The Rollin' Root  | 11 AM Firewise meeting Zoom / Contact John Hansen for link 1 PM The Rollin' Root  | 13 |
| 14 2 AM  TURN CLOCKS AHEAD | 6 AM Trash Pickup 5 PM MVEST Meeting  | 16 | 17 | 11 AM The Rollin' Root  | 1 PM The Rollin' Root  | 20 9-4 HOL Walkabout Freebie Day 3-4 Pizza/Drinks  |
| 21 | 6 AM Trash Pickup 5 PM MVEST Meeting  | 6:30 PM Biography Night Inga Grace Zoom / Contact Kim Holscher for link  | 6:30 PM The Pedestal: What to Do in an Emergency — MVEST Zoom Presentation Zoom / Contact John Feld for link | 11 AM The Rollin' Root  | 1 PM The Rollin' Root  | 27 |
| 28 FULL MOON 7:42 PM  | 29 | 30 | 31 | <h1>MARCH</h1> <h1>2021</h1> | | |