

T H E  
**ECHO**

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**June 2021**

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# PAC Elections

by **JAY SHELFER and JOHN HANSEN**

The seats currently held by Steve Plocher and Serena Fisher are up for election. If you are interested in joining the PAC Election Committee, please contact Jay Shelfer (415-250-0375) or John Hansen (415-847-7155).

**Sunday, May 16**

Nominations open: contact John or Jay.

**Saturday, May 22 (6 pm)**

Nominations close. Nominations placed after that time/date will not be reviewed and accepted by the election committee.

**Only if there are more than two nominations:**

- **Monday, May 24**

*Election committee prepares and mails ballots*

- **Friday, May 28 (10 am to noon)**

*Zoom meeting – Meet the Candidates*

- **Friday May 28 (2 pm) –**

- **Friday, June 4 (3 pm)**

*Ballots accepted at the PAC voting box in the breezeway*

- **Friday, June 4 (4 pm)**

*Votes counted by the committee.*

**Saturday, June 5 (11 am)**

PAC annual meeting; new PAC board members introduced.

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## Directory Update

Phyllis Toomire is at  
*32 Marin Valley Drive*

...not 42. Lenny and Narda Gaskell are still happily living there. My goof. Thank you, Dan Sebastian, for catching that. We are a village...

## THE ECHO 2021

### MARIN VALLEY MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB

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VICE PRESIDENT **John Hansen 415-847-7155**  
SECRETARY **Carol-Joy Harris 415-883-2824**  
TREASURER **Stephen Plocher 415-302-9043**  
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### STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE **Stephen Plocher**  
MV PROJECT PLANNING **John Hansen, Jay Shelfer**  
MVEST **John Hansen, Bill Davis, John Feld,  
Stephen Plocher, Carol-Joy Harris, David Gray,  
Kevin Mulvany, Erma Wheatley, Pam Berkon**

### HOL BOARD

PRESIDENT **John Feld 510-495-4138**  
1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Ed Collins 415-377-7696**  
2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Timo Navsky 415-279-5935**  
SECRETARY **Kamala Allen 415-306-6865**  
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PRESIDENT **Kathleen Dargie 415-884-2969**  
1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Dan Sebastian 415-382-7738**  
2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT **Pat Thurston 415-884-0740**  
SECRETARY **Ducki Mathias 415-842-7185**  
TREASURER **Sandee Duncan 415-883-3034**  
DIRECTOR/BAR MANAGER **Fred Dargie 884-2969**  
DIRECTOR/HOSPITALITY **Larry Moore 883-0486**  
DIRECTOR/RESERVATIONS **Carolyn Corry 370-6403**  
DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS **Larry Cohen 883-7786**  
DIRECTOR EMERITUS **Dee Schneider**

### SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Email articles with "ECHO" as the subject to  
**Anila Manning: [anilahere99@gmail.com](mailto:anilahere99@gmail.com)**  
with a copy of the article in the body of the  
email. Images should be as large as possible.

### ECHO DEADLINE

The 8<sup>th</sup> of the month or sooner  
for the following month's issue

# Management Update

Residents, please come and enjoy the heated pool, 84°, and spa, 104°. Pool: 12 people at a time. Spa can have 3 people at a time.

Any new contact information you may have such as phone number or email is needed for our robo-phone system so we can reach out to you with any important messages.

Parking any vehicle that is not in use due to an inoperable condition is prohibited here at Marin Valley.

Residents, time to start your spring cleaning, including carports. Please remove any stored items in your carport, creating a better condition for all to view. Thanks for your effort.

Requests for juniper or fire-prone plant removal on residents' lots? Call the front desk or email Matt.

Prepare for a dry season by keeping your grass and weeds trimmed low. Prevent a fire by preparing your home garden and removing any and all dry material.

For any after-hours emergency or maintenance issue, please call the answering service and they will page either Mark or Greg to help with your concern.

Thank you for your continued cooperation,



*Matt Greenberg*

**Matt Greenberg**  
GENERAL MANAGER  
[gm.mvmcc@gmail.com](mailto:gm.mvmcc@gmail.com)

415-883-5911 ■ 415-883-1971 Fax



## Awesome Blooms!

Photographs & plants by Lorna Sass

From Matt, courtesy of the



## North Marin Water District *Water Use Prohibitions for 2021* (Novato Service Area)

All current water-waste prohibitions in effect are summarized below:

- The washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots and other hard surfaced areas by direct hosing when runoff water directly flows to a gutter or storm drain.
  - The escape of water through breaks or leaks within the customers' plumbing or private distribution system for any substantial period of time within which such break or leak should reasonably have been discovered and corrected within 72 hours
  - Irrigation in a manner or to an extent which allows excessive run-off of water or unreasonable over-spray of the areas being watered.
  - Washing cars, boats, trailers or other vehicles and machinery directly with a hose not equipped with a shutoff nozzle
  - Water for non-recycling decorative water fountains
  - Potable water for outdoor landscaping during or within 48 hours of measurable rainfall or water on ornamental turf in public street medians
  - Drinking water other than on request in eating or dining establishments
  - Water for the daily laundering of towels and linens in hotels and motels without offering guests the option of choosing not to have daily laundering.
- Non-Essential Water Use Prohibitions Effective July 1, 2021:**
- Overhead sprinkler irrigation is prohibited unless the customer can maintain a 20% reduction from 2020 water use, irrigate between 7:00 PM and 9:00 AM, and water only three days per week assigned by Monday, Wednesday and Friday for odd and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for even addresses. Drip irrigation, container and hand watering is exempt. Customers using less than 300 gallons per day are exempt from the 20% reduction but must adhere to the 3 days per week assignment.
  - Any use of potable water from a fire hydrant except for fighting fire, human consumption, essential construction needs, or use in connection with animals
  - Refilling a completely drained swimming pool and/or initial filling of any swimming pool for which application for a building permit was made after July 1, 2021
  - Non-commercial washing of privately owned motor vehicles, trailers, and boats except from a bucket and except that a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle may be used for a quick rinse
  - Use of potable water for dust control at construction sites or other locations
  - Watering any portion of a golf course with potable or raw water except the tees and greens unless the customer can maintain a 25% reduction in water use as compared to 2020.

### Reporting/Questions/Comments

For all customer questions and comments regarding the 2021 drought water-use prohibitions, or to report a violation, please contact the District's Water Conservation Hotline at (415) 761-8944 or email at [waterconserve@nmwd.com](mailto:waterconserve@nmwd.com).

# Letter to Residents

Greetings from the Park Acquisition Corporation Board.

**Finances** Our finances are in order. Our cash, plus medium- and long-term reserves, is at more than \$6.5 million. We will be spending more than \$1.3 million on the new lift station in progress at the end of Club View Drive, which will reportedly be operational in late June.

The '21/'22 MVMCC budget has been reviewed by PAC and residents. The City's staff and management have increased the amount of funds available to manage hillsides behind three residents' homes.

**Gas & Electric** The City of Novato has requested inclusion in the PUC program to have PG&E revamp MVMCC's infra-structure for gas and electric distribution. We shall keep the residents updated.

**Yards** Our thanks to Peggy Hill for her continued development and support of PAC's ad hoc committee on yard maintenance. This program joins with Management to aid low-income and other residents to manage their lots for fire safety and improve their lots' appearance. MVEST has donated additional funds to this program. Recently some wonderful kids from Catholic Charities came to help weed. See Matt Greenberg for details.

**Rules & Regs** The Rules and Regulations concerning living in this community are going through the lengthy procedures to assure resident input and obtain review of the legal requirements from management and the City.

**Participating** I urge you to investigate and participate in ongoing activities concerning PAC's MVEST, your HOL, and MAR VAL reported on elsewhere in the *Echo*, while being mindful of the contagious viruses that are around. See MVEST and HOL's letters in this *Echo*.

**Election** We are having an election to fill two chairs on the PAC board; you will have seen the fliers already. The five members of the board each have a two-year term. Every year either two or three seats are elected or re-elected. Serena Fisher is retiring with our gratitude for her service and Steve Plocher is volunteering to serve another two-year term if elected. If you or someone you know is capable and willing to serve without pay on the board, and you are reading this before May 22, please contact the election committee. See page 2.

**Meetings** The PAC 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 the coming PAC meetings are posted 72 hours prior to the meetings and are also available to those on the mailing list. Contact Carol-Joy Harris at [caroljoyharris@comcast.net](mailto:caroljoyharris@comcast.net) to be added to this list. To be included in the videoconferences, see the links provided on the agendas and our website. These meetings will also be broadcast on Comcast channel 26. A recording of the May board meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/CIRZxejTbRE>.

In service,

  
  
Jay Sheller  
PAC PRESIDENT  
[jjsheller@yahoo.com](mailto:jjsheller@yahoo.com)





# Breathe Easy in the Fire Season

by **BILL DAVIS** and **JOHN FELD**



The wonderful fresh air we are enjoying these days is going to change with the oncoming fire season, which is already under way and will last for the next six months. We all suffered from the smoke hovering over our beautiful Park last year, and it is expected to happen again this year. We are coming into the 2021 fire season, and the chances are that this year will be a record breaker.

The North Marin Water District reported 7.85 inches of rain from July 1, 2020, through mid-March, 2021. Last year, the district logged 13.86 inches of rain

through the same period. The district’s average annual rainfall is 27.28 inches. By the time you read this, we will almost certainly be in an official drought.

This means we probably will experience smoke levels at least as bad as last year, and potentially much worse. At one time in 2020, there were 28 simultaneous fires in California and many others in Oregon, all of which severely impacted the Bay Area and gave us those sickening orange skies, which kept most people inside. As of May 8, 2021, there have been over 27 major fires reported this year in California. The spread of fires from the Oregon border down to San Diego is sure to

increase, and Red Flag warnings have already started statewide.

## How Smoke Affects You

Smoke from multiple wildfires tends to include a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees and other plant materials. This smoke probably will hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases.

It is often the cause of coughing, scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, stinging eyes, and runny noses. If you have heart or lung disease, smoke might make your symptoms worse, and people who have heart disease

might experience chest pain, rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath, and fatigue.

Additionally, the smoke may worsen symptoms for people who have preexisting respiratory conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and respiratory allergies, in the following ways:

- Inability to breathe normally
- Cough with or without mucus
- Chest discomfort
- Wheezing and shortness of breath.

When smoke levels are high enough, healthy people may also experience some of these symptoms.

Without air moving in and out of our bodies, we can survive no longer than six to eight minutes. The lungs move about two gallons of air in and out every minute. That is roughly 2,800 gallons of air a day. If you took all of the alveoli (tiny air sacs in the lungs that expel the exhaust carbon dioxide and take in oxygen) of your lungs and laid them flat, they would cover the area of a tennis court. To successfully keep our bodies running, we need clean air inhaled – with 20% oxygen – and carbon dioxide exhaled. With smoke in the air, with any preexisting health conditions, and also factoring in age, one can expect a difficult time breathing in the upcoming smoky fire season.

## Limit Your Exposure

**The best thing you can do is to limit your exposure to smoke.** This means staying indoors whenever possible, using air conditioners, keeping windows and doors shut, using mechanical

or non-ozone-emitting electronic air cleaners, keeping windows closed while traveling in a vehicle, and reducing physical activity. This means don't smoke, burn wood in stoves, or use candles – and no vacuuming! The exhaust of the vacuum cleaner blows dust into the air as the other end sucks it in. Although more effort, it's best to wipe down dusty surfaces with a damp cloth.

## Wear a Mask

**One of the simplest measures we can take is to wear an appropriate face mask (again).** Masks protecting us from smoke pollution are different from those we might have been using during the pandemic.



At the onset of heavy smoke pollution, MVEST will issue each resident one KN95 mask. These masks do not last indefinitely. The FDA suggests maybe three to five hours of use, although most testing is done for two hours. It is important to note that the N95 masks are graded by the USA and the KN95 ones are designed to a Chinese standard. Their efficacy is almost identical. The N95 standard addresses the mask's fit, while this is not a criterion used for the KN95, and the KN95 is marginally easier to breathe through.

**One mask is NOT enough** for a continued smoke pollution

event. We recommend purchasing more and to do this soon. If you wait for the smoke to be an issue, you may find prices increasing and supplies dwindling to disappearing. So far, the prices are coming down. We suggest using one mask for a combined 16 hours, then discarding. There is no way of telling how effective a DIY cleaning might be. N95 and KN95 masks are not realistically cleanable.

For a mask to provide protection during a smoke event, it must be able to filter very small particles. An effective face mask to prevent smoke from entering your lungs should filter anything over 0.3 to 0.1 microns (for comparison, a human hair is about 70 microns). It must also fit your face snugly and provide an airtight seal around the wearer's face.

**Homemade cloth masks, regular dust masks, bandanas, and even disposable surgical masks are not adequate.** Those that we typically wore to shield us from COVID are not nearly effective enough. Cloth and paper masks used for “comfort” or “COVID” commonly found at hardware stores are designed to trap large particles, such as sawdust. These masks will not protect your lungs from smoke, even if you wet them. They are not going to help with your breathing or improve the quality of air entering your lungs. If you don't have a suitable mask available, it's best to stay indoors and limit your exposure to the smoke.

Reusable respirator masks are generally not suitable for smoke exposure, due to sealing/fitting issues. While effective if fitted well, most users won't use the respirator masks correctly nor

understand the importance of having an airtight seal. For instance, it is impossible to get a good seal on individuals with beards or mustaches. Reusable respirator masks also tend to be uncomfortable and are not always easy to breathe with. As a result, these often provide little if any protection.

**It is vitally important to note that no mask is effective unless worn properly. Don't even think about using a bandana or any other homemade or COVID-related mask.**

If you find you must travel in a car during smoke events, make sure the windows are closed and the ventilation is set to recirculate the inside air, which will somewhat help to keep the particulate levels lower.

## Clean Your Indoor Air

Air cleaners can be effective at reducing indoor particulate levels, provided the specific cleaner is adequately matched to the indoor environment in which it is placed. However, they tend to be expensive.

A whole-house air filter system requires an installation into existing ductwork, and will set you back about 850 bucks. A good freestanding model can be had for about \$400 but will be effective only in one room at a time.

Finally, a simple solution is to install a filter that can remove pollen, smoke, and most pollutants in your existing

heating and air-conditioning system. However, they are almost impossible to buy when the smoke arrives – even more difficult to buy than toilet paper was at the peak of the COVID pandemic. You will do best to buy them now. These filters come in a graded designation from minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) 4 to what we recommend, MERV 13 and above. The MERV 13 are difficult to find in local hardware and box stores, so best find them online. You will need to measure the exact size of your existing filter and be sure to change them out frequently – every two to three months when no smoke or heavy pollution is present and, if it's like last year, every month. You can extend these filters' lives if you take the time and effort to vacuum them during their stay in the intake portal of your a/c heating system.

Amazon and other retailers sell portable, high-efficiency air purifiers with HEPA air cleaners. These can supplement the work of your HVAC system by removing fine particulates.

HEPA filters with activated charcoal or alumina, especially those impregnated with potassium permanganate or

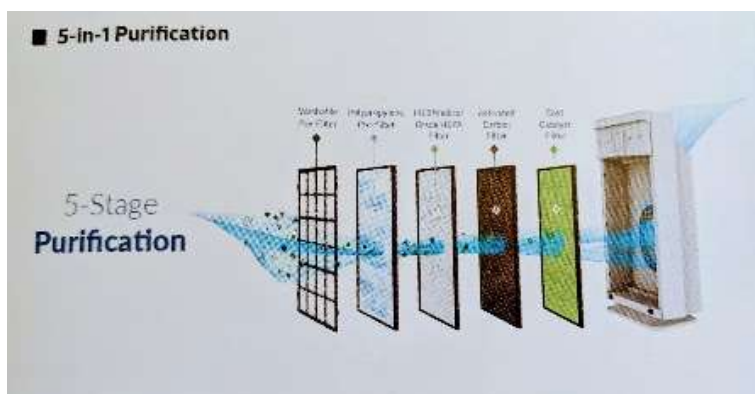
zeolite, will absorb most gases in the smoke. These filters are more expensive and the filters need washing or replacing regularly.

When shopping for air cleaners, look for a filter that is rated for an area at least two times your room volume per hour. The package should indicate the unit's airflow rate, the room size it is suitable for, and its particle-removal efficiency. These units should be placed away from doors, windows, foot traffic, walls, and corners so the air can easily reach the unit. Humidifiers are not air cleaners and will not significantly reduce the amount of particulate in the air during a smoke event.

So, you have a couple of ways to go. First, get a supply of N-95 masks for yourself for going outside or even inside in an acute situation. Second, if you're able to, buy a couple of top-end air filters for your HVAC system with the rating of MERV 13 or better.

Breathe, drink, eat, and be healthy. And get ready for the smoke.

MVEST wishes everyone good health and good luck with this fire season.





# Message from Mar Val

Dear Friends,

As I write this article on May 7, 2021, Marin County remains in the orange tier; however, expectations are that by the time you receive this month's *Echo* we will have entered the much-anticipated yellow tier. Certainly we can all hope there will continue to be positive

indications that a resumption of Mar Val's activities cannot be far away.

Please be assured that while the health and safety of the community remains paramount in our decisions, we do believe the 14 months of interruption in our social activities will soon be over.

With warmest regards,



*Kathleen Dargie*  
**Kathleen Dargie**  
MAR VAL PRESIDENT  
[kfdargie@aol.com](mailto:kfdargie@aol.com)

## Home Owners League Message

Welcome.

At the last HOL board meeting, we held the election for the new board. Yvonne Devine has stepped down after a magnificent stint of volunteering. Her place was taken by Timo Navsky. There were no extra applicants, thus the board was re-elected with no additional polling.

The board now consists of John Feld, President; Ed Collins, 1st Vice President; Timo Navsky, 2nd Vice President; Kamala Allen, Secretary; Tara Plocher, Treasurer; Janie Klimes-Crocker, Activities and Events Director.

The standing committees are Art in the Park, Suzie Lahr; Contractor/Handyman, David Tetta/John Feld; Just-1-Hour/Buddy System, Marlene Montalvo; Park Directory, Erma Wheatley; Pets, Timo Navsky.

The next Parkwide trash pickup will occur on June 11 and June 12. Contact Ed Collins [mretc@hotmail.com](mailto:mretc@hotmail.com) to schedule. Once again, we are asking for donations to defray the expenses of dump fees and a trailer.

Marshall Krause and Erma Wheatley are starting an over-75 support group to discuss issues ranging from family to home and community that can benefit from

an open and frank debate. Please contact Marshall or Erma if you are interested ([mrkruze@comcast.net](mailto:mrkruze@comcast.net) or [ermawheatley@gmail.com](mailto:ermawheatley@gmail.com)).

Kamala Allen is organizing a course called Accessing Your Inner Oracle to begin when the clubhouse reopens. The course will run for four consecutive weeks, probably in the Fireside Room.

Rollin' Root's regular Friday presence is now scheduled from 1 to 1:30 pm.

And, last but by no means least, the Summer Sale-a-Thon will take place on June 19. This will be an opportunity for people to sell or give away items in their driveways. We are expecting lots of crafts and art creations, as well as furniture. Let Janie know if you'll participate ([janieklimes1948@gmail.com](mailto:janieklimes1948@gmail.com)).

If you would like to be emailed copies of the agenda before the meetings, receive the Zoom address for the meeting, or request copies of the minutes, please drop me a line at [johnmfeld@gmail.com](mailto:johnmfeld@gmail.com).



## SUPER-DUPER

# Community Sale-a-Thon

by **JANIE KLIMES-CROCKER**

It is time to get your items ready for **Saturday, June 19 from 10AM-1PM**

On that date, put all items you wish to offer for sale in your carport and plan to stay there with them for the three hours.

Please try to keep the prices in even amounts to make transactions easier and faster.

You can sell anything you want: furniture, kitchen items, sheets, towels, notecards, dishes,

paintings, anything you might have donated to Black Cat or the Breezeway Boutique.

You can sell baked goods (this is always a winner), cold drinks, candles, plants, pots, pans, collections, things you have made, things you market elsewhere, basically whatever you want. You can also have a separate table of giveaway items.

Masks and social distancing mandatory.

If you email [janieklimes1948@gmail.com](mailto:janieklimes1948@gmail.com)  
**BY JUNE 17**

with your address and what you are selling, you will be included on a spreadsheet that everyone can pick up in the Clubhouse Breezeway the Friday before and the morning of the event.

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## Show and Tell

by **KIM HOLSCHER**

As you know from *Echo* articles and the Biography Night presentations, the residents of our Park are a talented, experienced, wise, and fascinating lot. To showcase a different aspect of the skills represented among us, the Show and Tell program is just getting started.

Do you have expertise you can share in 10-15 minutes? Is there something interesting you know about? Please share! You have these options for participating:

- 1) a video made in your home or yard, like this one of Lorna Sass and her succulent garden <https://youtu.be/Qdl5E4aK9vs>
- 2) a Zoom meeting in which you showcase your talent to a rapt audience
- 3) an in-person presentation in front of an audience, outdoors or in the clubhouse.

Please contact [kimholscher51@gmail.com](mailto:kimholscher51@gmail.com) to participate or to be in the audience.

Look for presentations about baking, dancing, and mind reading on Nextdoor and in future *Echos*.

# Over-75 Elder Support Group

by **MARSHALL KRAUSE**

Those of us 75 and older could benefit from participation in a group where we can express our concerns to understanding people. We need to know that we are not the only ones who now have to push against the chair arms to get up.



We would like to organize such a group for regular meetings in our Park. Will you help us plan and carry out such a development? Right now we are thinking of a group of vaccinated participants in someone's backyard or home every two weeks. Please contact us to express your interest.

What items or devices around our houses and community can be modified so that we are more able in our environment? What family issues might benefit from a discussion with other elders who have faced similar problems?

Marshall Krause [mrkruze@comcast.net](mailto:mrkruze@comcast.net),  
415-246-9716  
Erma Wheatley [ermawheatley@gmail.com](mailto:ermawheatley@gmail.com),  
510-495-4137

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## Dump Run

by **ED COLLINS**

HOL is sponsoring another dump run on Friday, June 11. We will try to get to everyone on that day and will do another run on Saturday, June 12, if necessary. So far, we have been able to do two runs on Friday without needing a Saturday run. This is spearheaded by Ed Collins, so contact him by email at [mretc@hotmail.com](mailto:mretc@hotmail.com) with the

subject: Dump Run, and/or text him at 415-377-7696. You will be put on a list. Have your junk neatly set aside by your driveway/carport by 9 AM on June 11. If you have a large item, please let Ed know.

Erstwhile volunteers Peter Dyke, David Tetta, and David MacLam

have volunteered again. However, more volunteers are welcome.

This is a free service offered to the community by HOL.

DONATIONS WILL BE GLADLY ACCEPTED TO HELP WITH THE COST!

# Love to Read?

by **CAROL-JOY HARRIS**

Marin Valley's book club would like to invite you to join us. We meet at 4 pm on the last Wednesday of each month, though we could change that time if the members want to. We've been meeting via Zoom for the past year but now can again meet in each other's homes (observing health protocols, of course) or in the clubhouse when it opens.

We alternate fiction and nonfiction. Last month we read *The Queen's Gambit*, and the month before that *All Creatures Great and Small*. For June 30 we're reading *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

If you have questions, please contact Carol-Joy Harris at 415-883-2824 or [caroljoyharris@comcast.net](mailto:caroljoyharris@comcast.net).

It's great to hear our different viewpoints, so please come share yours!

## **Improv ~ Fun ~ Laughter**

**Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Come join a 4-week class exploring Improv. Learn basic games and stage skills, and interact with others in a friendly, safe environment.

No experience necessary. The only prerequisite is a desire to have fun!

### **If you or a friend:**

- Like to make stuff up - together...
- Are curiously drawn to smart, funny people... **Come play!**

We are improvisers - **Laughter and Connection** are our sanctuary and our medicine.

Contact Sandy [zeich@comcast.net](mailto:zeich@comcast.net) for dates, to register, and for more details.

# A Safe Rodent-Bait Station that Does the Job

by **A NEIGHBOR**

Eliminate rats without harmful poisons by making a nonpoisonous bait. Mix one part dry Plaster of Paris with three parts raw, rolled oats, such as Quaker Old-Fashioned. (Do not use instant or quick-cooking oats.) Next, place about a cup at a time in a bait station such as the one pictured.

The mixture attracts rats, which eat it and leave in search of water. It constipates and kills the rodent but has no harmful effect on predators that may eat the dead rodent.

Make your bait station from four-inch PVC similar to the one pictured – an upside-down T with open sides and a cap on the top to protect the bait from rain. This design features a 30-degree-angle fitting. Bury the bottom in the ground with only the side openings exposed. These traps have been used for years by wildlife biologists in California and other areas.

A similar bait station can also be obtained at Pini Hardware in Novato for about \$12. Ask for Dana, who works in the garden department. She's an expert on rodents and will construct your bait station on the spot. Call ahead to Pini to find out when she's in. (415) 892-1577

Another safe product is Rat-X, also available at Pini.



# Starlink: String of Pearls?

by **FRANK SIMPSON**

I was outside at 4:35AM May 6th, hoping to see the meteor shower from the residual debris trail of Haley's Comet, that Park resident Cherrie Dougherty had told me about. I saw but one meteor (falling star), straight up, from the wide views near the Marin Valley Clubhouse. A few minutes later, far overhead, I saw an unusual string of lights migrating from near the handle of the Big Dipper in the west, and disappearing just south of Saturn toward the east.

They occurred in two bunches. The first string had exactly 10 "pearls." A short time later a longer string, of maybe 50 pearls, sailed above me, again travelling steadily from west to east, along the same path as the first. I ran into the house and woke Maggie, but the long train of pearls was just disappearing from view as she arrived outside.

Is this the Second Coming? Are they Russian missiles? What is going on? I rushed to the internet to find out if others had seen it. And they had!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgysWWwESfU>

Only two days before, Elon Musk's SpaceX had released 60 satellites into space from their reusable Falcon 9 rocket. I was watching this chain of orbiting satellites as they passed over Marin Valley!

The purpose? Musk has received permission from the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to deploy as many as 42,000 satellites during these next few years into a low altitude orbit above the earth. He envisions a network of intercommunicating satellites called Starlink that will provide affordable internet access to people living in even the most remote areas of our planet. He thinks this will be a very lucrative business venture, generating perhaps \$30 billion per year, thereby funding his venture to Mars.

The US military already is testing Starlink on jet airplanes as a communications tool, with positive results. Though the network is barely functional, prospective civilian customers already have placed 500,000 advance orders with Musk, at \$90 apiece.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, just after sunset, David Gray, Maggie, and I snapped this photograph with an iPhone



while standing along Marin Valley Drive. This group of Starlink satellites appeared in the northwestern sky, traveling northward.

Many people, particularly from the astronomy community, are concerned about SpaceX's launches of "debris" into space. Others laud the cutting-edge technology and the possibility of providing internet service to the world.

There have been about 25 launches of Starlink satellites by Elon Musk so far. NBC has more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd3suMNNIVs>

This website provides times for seeing the "Strings of Pearls" from your location. <https://findstarlink.com>

Maggie compared it to covered wagon trains crossing the continent 150 years ago...



This photo is from the *South China Morning Post*.



# Take a Hike!

## Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Ridge

by **MIKE HOLLAND**

(updated: originally published here in 2015)



How long does it take you to drive to Sleepy Hollow or Fairfax? Depends, right? How's the traffic on 101, then Sir Francis Drake, and then Butterfield Road? Well, if county planners had exerted their will in the 1970s it would have taken only minutes. That sounds great until you realize what would be lost, and that loss is our featured hike this month—the **Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Ridge**.

The aforementioned plan was a scheme to connect Manuel T. Freitas Parkway in Terra Linda with Fawn Drive in Sleepy Hollow. This road would rival the other huge passes we traverse on Highway 101. Saner heads prevailed, and the “pass” remained a simple bike path linking two

lightly traveled residential streets. The hill “saddle” of this bike path is the jumping off point for a few scenic hikes.

To reach the start point, drive to the end (top) of Freitas Parkway. You can park right at the entrance to the open space gate. It's a 100-yard walk up the bike path to the saddle and the beginning of the hiking options.

**Option 1** takes you to the left on a single-track trail through the woods. You quickly enter a residential street (Fox Lane) that snakes along the ridge toward San Anselmo. This is more of an “urban walk” but still quite enjoyable because of the views. You can walk as far as the Sun Valley

neighborhood of San Rafael, or turn around when you've had enough.

**Option 2** is to turn right at the saddle, go up a short hill, and connect to a fire road on the ridge. You'll be hiking north toward Lucas Valley. After a few hundred yards the road forks. As Yogi Berra said: When you come to a fork in the road, take it. In this case, Yogi was right because the two forks will rejoin in half a mile. Again, you can hike along this ridge until you're ready to turn around. No matter how far you go, you will be viewing Mt. Tam, Big Rock Ridge, and the bay the entire time. It's impressive.

**Option 3** is a third hike that springs from option 2. It's the 680 Trail (look for the sign on the fire road), and it is a workout. You might recall that the 680 Trail was built a few years ago at a cost of

several hundred thousand dollars. If you hike it, you'll see why it was so costly. Lots of bridges and gradings to make it happen, but this trail really delivers. I invite the readers to do a little research on it before deciding if it is right for you.








And what awaits you after the hike? I have a few tasty suggestions at the shopping center that houses Scotty's Market. A beautiful new brew pub called Monk's Kettle took over a karate studio and just opened up for outdoor dining 3-8 pm.

Lo Coco's Pizzeria, open 4-8 pm, has been around forever, very comforting.

If your thirst requires a stronger medicine, I recommend an agave wine margarita at Panchitos Restaurant, an institution in the T.L. neighborhood.



*Wear a hat, enjoy the spectacular views, and be grateful that the planners got one right.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>JUNE 2021</h1>						
		1	2	3	4	5
	<b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b> <i>Zoom/contact John Hansen</i>	<b>6PM PAC Board Meeting</b> <i>Zoom/contact Carol-Joy Harris</i>	<b>6PM HOL Board Meeting</b> <i>Zoom/contact John Feld</i>	<b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b> Clubhouse parking lot 	<b>1-1:30PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>10-10:30 Meditation</b> <i>Zoom/contact Michael Hagerty</i>	<b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>	<b>ECHO DEADLINE</b>		<b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	<b>Dump Run 11AM FIREWISE</b> <i>contact J. Hansen</i> <b>1-1:30 The Rollin' Root</b>	<b>Dump Run</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>10-10:30 Meditation</b>	<b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>			<b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	<b>1-1:30PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	<b>10AM-1PM Summer Sale-a-Thon</b> <i>contact Janie Crocker</i>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>10-10:30 Meditation</b>  <b>Father's Day</b>	<b>6AM Trash Pickup</b>  <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>			<b>11AM-12PM The Rollin' Root</b>   <b>Full Moon</b>	<b>1-1:30PM The Rollin' Root</b> 	
27	28	29	30			
<b>10-10:30 Meditation</b>	<b>6AM Trash Pickup</b> <b>5-6PM MVEST Meeting</b>	<b>6-7:30PM FIRESafe MARIN Webinar</b>	<b>4PM Book Club</b> <i>contact Carol-Joy Harris</i>			