

## August 2022

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CALENDAR: August 2022

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## In Memoriam

### Eric Beneken

Jan. 9, 1962 - June 22, 2022

We remember his sense of humor, his booming voice, and the delicious fresh fish he caught and shared so generously.



## **Joan Checkley**

April 4, 1927 - April 26, 2022

Born in New Zealand, Joan came to the US in the 1950s. Married to well-known painter John Checkley and an artist herself, she was a firecracker! She drove her car and



Skyped with her daughter in England until she died shortly after celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Always young in spirit and nonjudgmental, we remember her laughter and love of life.

#### **Bob Tanem**

July 1, 1930 - July 10, 2022

Bob was "America's Happy Gardener," hosting "Bob Tanem in the Garden" live on KSFO every Sunday till last Father's Day. In the Park he was known for his love of cracking jokes and his practical gardening advice. His wife Bev was our librarian for years.



## ECHO

### MARIN VALLEY

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### SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Email articles with "ECHO" as the subject to Anila Manning: anilahere99@gmail.com with a copy of the article in the body of the email. Images should be high resolution.

### ECHO DEADLINE

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

## Management Update

Water is precious. Please do not water your gardens between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. Only water incrementally at night or very early in the morning. If you need help with setting your timer for your sprinkler system, please contact the front desk. We will set your timer.

MVMCC water use is down over 7,000 gallons per day from last year! Well done with all your conservation efforts!

Continue to remove stored items from your carports. Still many residents have items not permitted in a carport. Your neighbors will appreciate this.

Our **retaining wall** budget line item didn't get the increase we wanted, but we are in the process of replacing damaged or deteriorating walls in the Park.

Does your **driveway** have trip hazards, or does it look gravelly with broken asphalt? If so, please email Matt so he can inspect and repair or overlay. This is also a limited item in our budget.

Are any of your trash, recycling, or yard waste cans broken? We can order you a new one from Marin Sanitary; just email or call 415-883-5911 / gm.mvmcc@gmail.com

**Defensible space cutback** surrounding the Park is complete. Common areas in the Park are complete. Tree pruning and removal is under way. Each year we get deeper defensible space to protect resident homes from grass fires.

Be careful not to BBQ near bushes or dry, overgrown grass. We are in fire season.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.







Photographed by Lorna Sass

## Letter to Residents

Greetings from the Park Acquisition Corporation Board.

**Our finances** are in order. Our cash plus medium and long-term reserves continues to be in excess of \$5.5 million. The City Council has approved the budget for the coming year with **no raise in rents**. Inclusive in the budget are the Federal grant funds, which will defray the cost to MVMCC of replacing the sewage lift stations. Construction of the replacement/renewal of the sewage pump station near the clubhouse is slated to begin in July.

The City of Novato is preparing a report on the amount of reserves needed to provide a safety margin for the upkeep of the Park. This study should be available later this year. Once it has been reviewed, the City and MVMCC can decide whether to pay down the existing bank loan that has funded the purchase of MVMCC from its previous owner.

Omicron variants continue to be a concern, and caution is still advised. The FDA has authorized the emergency use of PAXLOVID, an investigational medicine, for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and children (12 years of age and older weighing at least 88 pounds who test positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19). Your pharmacist or doctor can prescribe PAXLOVID.

Further maintenance of our **electrical distribution system** is warranted.

Management will keep you informed. Please read and attend to the suggestions put forth in MVEST's letter in this month's *Echo*.

The **water reservoirs** in Marin are full but are being drawn down due to the hot weather and lack of rain. The drought currently ongoing in California is likely to continue, and the North Marin Water District is warning us to be mindful of our water usage. Use of overhead outdoor sprinklers is now permanently limited to two days a week, and outdoor drip irrigation is limited to three days a week from 7 pm to 9 am. Washing down concrete and other hard surfaces with a hose is prohibited.

## **Meetings**

Management, MVEST, HOL, and Mar Val are all very active on your behalf, and their activities are reported on in articles in each month's *Echo*. I urge you to investigate and participate.

The PAC Board's Zoom meetings are enriched by resident participation. Your suggestions on how we can better serve your and the community's interests are always welcomed. Come to the Board meetings or email us to put an item on the agenda.

Agendas for future PAC meetings, which include the Zoom link, are posted 72 hours prior and are available to those on the mailing list. Contact Carol-Joy Harris at caroljoyharris@comcast.net to be added to the list.

These meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 26. Here's the link to the video of the July meeting: <a href="https://youtu.be/4KbHTlC3Kqc">https://youtu.be/4KbHTlC3Kqc</a>. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 2, at 6 pm.

In service,



## by JOHN HANSEN

As one who has lived most of my life dealing with the scourge of overhead powerlines, I feel we are truly blessed here in Marin Valley to have our electrical power delivered to our homes underground.

## That's the Good News.

## The not-so-good news

is that our underground power lines have a life expectancy of about 50 years: and guess what? The system is now 50 years old and starting to show its age.

While Park Management and the PAC Project Planning Committee are working with the City, PG&E, and the California Public Utilities Commission to try to fast-track our infrastructure replacement projects, the system is becoming more vulnerable to potentially catastrophic failure in the interim.

## The worst-case scenario

might be during a heat wave when there is insufficient grid power to service the demands of our region, and a "brownout" or "blackout" results. The power then drops for a time, then returns. Sounds good so far, but the real problem is when all the electrical appliances that we had running try to restart at the same time. The bad part is that electrical motors — washers, dryers, AC, all electrical motors — require a large surge of power to start working again. This could just possibly be the final straw that would cause our underground wires to instantly melt into a molten puddle, or worse.

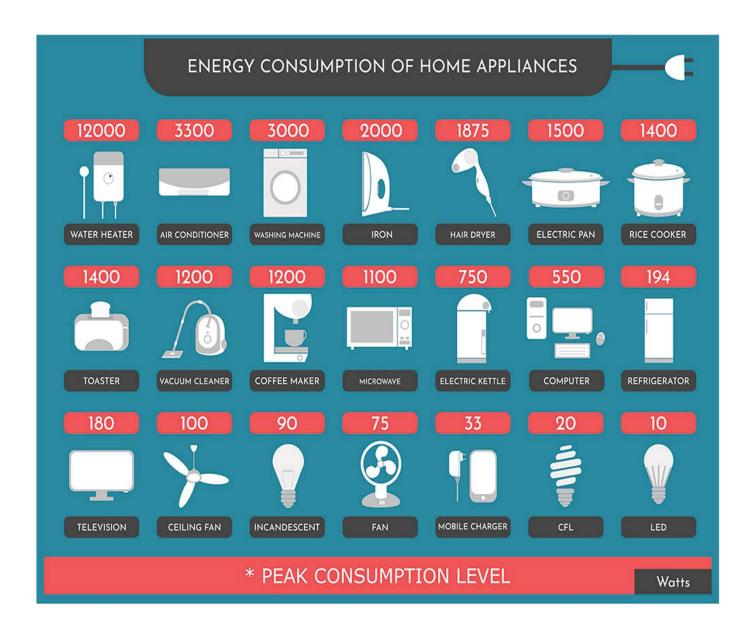
### **HERE's the Solution ...**

## WHEN THE POWER FAILS, TURN OFF ANYTHING YOU HAVE RUNNING THAT HAS AN ELECTIRIC MOTOR.

Leave a light turned on so you will know when the power returns; then wait a few minutes before **SEQUENTIALLY** turning on your high-wattage appliances, like the AC.

If we all work together, we can make do with the old system until we are able to replace it.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



## What's Your Favorite Thing to Do in a Power Failure?

### by ANILA MANNING

We've all been around this block a time or two. Reading, sleeping, walking, meditating, visiting friends ... write in with your time-tested solutions. One of my happy memories is when the power went out a few years ago, many of us brought our food that might spoil up to the Clubhouse and had a tasty communal dinner! At <a href="mailto:anilahere99@gmail.com">anilahere99@gmail.com</a> write me, and we'll publish your suggestions in the September issue, just in time for the rest of the wildfire season.



## Message from Mar Val

Dear Friends,

Please join us for a Picnic in the Park on August 20; reservation deadline is August 17 ... and I know it is hard to believe, but Mar Val will be having its last outdoor event of the season on Labor Day, September 5. Details can be found in this *Echo* as well as on the counter in the clubhouse. Please be kind to our new reservationist and include a check as well as your entrée choice when you sign up.

The Board is pleased to welcome two new members, Susan Hoff and Connie Marelich

— and the Board is immensely gratified that Kathleen Dargie, per Mar Val bylaws, will be a consultant to the Board for one year ... it is such a valuable asset to continue to have her experience, knowledge, and expertise.

Looking forward to seeing you at Pub and at the Picnic in the Park.



# Summertime Succulents ≈ A new bloom every day









Grown and photographed by Lorna Sass



## Mar Val Picnic

Saturday, August 20

5 pm Cocktails 6 pm Dinner

Fried Chicken (Specify Light or Dark Meat)

or

Egg Salad Sandwiches Cole Slaw Baked Beans Chef's Choice of Dessert

\$15 per person.

Reservation deadline is August 17 @ 5 pm or when 120 reservations have been received. No cash ... Make checks payable to Mar Val.

Questions - call Susan Hoff @ 707-365-9426

All attendees must show proof of full COVID vaccination and booster.

## Mar Val LABOR DAY DINNER



Monday, September 5
5 pm Cocktails 6 pm Dinner

Hamburgers or Hot Dogs (Chili available)
Impossible Burgers
Morning Star Veggie Burgers

Macaroni Salad Green Salad Frozen Dessert

\$15 per person

Reservation deadline is September 1 @ 5 pm or when
120 reservations have been received

No cash ... Make checks payable to Mar Val

Questions - call Susan Hoff @ 707-365-9426

All attendees must show proof of full COVID vaccination and booster.

## Home Owners League Message

Friends and neighbors,

## Volunteer(s) of the Year(s)

What with all the upsets and reorganizing almost everything with the two-plus years of pandemic, you might not have noticed that HOL did not have a Volunteer of the Year in 2021. So, this year we are celebrating two volunteers who have made extraordinary contributions to the life of the Marin Valley community. We are delighted to announce they are

## **Kevin Mulvany and Tara Plocher**

**Kevin** tends to work quietly behind the scenes. He monitors the contents of the Breezeway Boutique, keeping the shelves orderly, and makes weekly runs to thrift shops to unload things that are not taken from the boutique. Once each month he walks around our hills and dales making sure there are no homeless people or partiers who



may light fires in our highly flammable surroundings. He aids people who need things moved and instructs people in using their utility pedestals. He also volunteers for many activities around the community, for HOL, Mar Val, and PAC events. Another thing you may not know about Kevin: a lifelong love of rocks and insects.



**Tara** is instrumental in almost everything HOL does, including being the HOL treasurer keeping our books in perfect balance. She also monitors the Breezeway Boutique, keeping the shelves organized several times a day, unlocking it each morning, and pointing out interesting items to members of the community. She organizes the weekly Craft and

Chat group in the library, makes an amazing array of handmade dolls and other crafts, and is a weekly volunteer/greeter for The Rollin' Root. Also, she runs the monthly Breezeway Craft Market and is in charge of the HOL and Breezeway Bulletin Boards.

## **Dump Runs**

Ed Collins organizes our semi-regular Dump Run, along with volunteers Peter Dyke, David MacLam, and Kevin Mulvany. They go around the Park collecting and disposing of large throwaway items that don't fit in our trash cans. The next run will be on Saturday, July 30. If you have items that need disposing of, text him at 415-377-7696 or email him at mretc@hotmail.com. Please don't call the day of the run, but give him time to organize his route, timing, and assistance.

#### **Humanitarian Fund/Yard Maintenance**

HOL is now managing the Yard Maintenance service. This uses money donated by our fellow residents to assist those who cannot manage their own gardens and are unable to afford hiring help.

We are always on the verge of running out of money for this service, so if you can help us, please give donations to Tara or me, or in an envelope in the HOL box at Matt's desk in the clubhouse lobby. Thank you.

### **Insurance for Renting Clubhouse Rooms**

If you rent a room at the clubhouse for an event that is not organized by HOL, PAC, or Mar Val, you will need to purchase insurance for the occasion. Events organized by these clubs are for the community as a whole. If it is your wedding anniversary, memorial, or other private party, Matt will give you details.

## **Monthly Meetings**

You are always welcome to attend our meetings in the Fireside Room on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm.

Stay safe, and don't overheat,



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

John Feld

## Breezeway Craft Market

by ANILA MANNING

Michael Karasik will join some of our other Marin Valley artists to sell his ceramic art in the Breezeway Crafts Market Saturday, August 6 from 1–4 pm!

"My inspiration comes from the work of Japanese and Arts and Crafts-era ceramists. Many of my pieces are functional, from soup bowls to serving dishes to cooking pots. For me, working with clay is both a creative and meditative endeavor."



## Biography Night Returns in September

by KIM HOLSCHER



After a summer hiatus, Biography Night returns on **September 15 at 6:30 pm** in the Fireside Room and on Zoom.

Kamala Allen will speak and show photos of her life.

If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer for Biography Night, please contact Kim Holscher at <a href="kimholscher51@gmail.com">kimholscher51@gmail.com</a>

## Bet You Didn't Know This About ... Dianne Romaine

by ANILA MANNING

"You ... got a *tattoo*?" Images of bikers shoved across my memory as Dianne smiled quietly.

You've seen her gorgeous abstract art in our gallery, and probably noticed the playful ceramic shapes fluttering across her home ... but whatever possessed this gentle, artistic lady to get a tattoo?

"My daughter got a tattoo earlier this year, and I started thinking, 'That looks like fun. *I want one*!" Diane recounts.

"Every spring for the past four years two sets of doves have nested on my porch ... so lovely. I decided a dove would be good for a tattoo.



Searching the internet, one image was hands above the others — of course, it was Picasso. My family laughed; they thought I would chicken out or at least cry. I did not.

"For Mother's Day, my daughter, son, and two grandchildren bought me the dove drawing. They came to the

tattoo parlor with me, and watched while the sweet woman (who looked like she was about 12 years old) inked me.

"Now every time I see it, I smile!"

## Free Emergency Training

by MEG JORDAN

You are invited to attend **Hands-Only CPR**, **Narcan Spray**, and **Stop the Bleed** on Saturday, April 13 from 10 am to 2 pm where I will be one of many local demonstrating nurses and professionals at one of these soon-to-be-announced locations.



# FREE Training Hands-Only CPR, Narcan Spray & "Stop the Bleed"







Take a few minutes and learn to save a life at these locations:

Vintage Oaks Shopping Center
Corte Madera Town Center
Bon Air Shopping Center
Stinson Beach Fire Dept
Tiburon Ferry Terminal
The Depot, Mill Valley
Marin Country Mart
Target, Marin City
Toby's Feed Barn
Montecito Plaza
Muir Beach
Vista Point

Demonstrations and instructions from local doctors, nurses, paramedics, EMTs, and firefighters

Saturday, August 13, 2022 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

> Open to anyone age 8 and up www.MarinEMS.org

## A Poem from My Mother

Just a little line to say,

I'm living, that I'm not among the dead. I'm getting more forgetful and I'm mixed up in the head.

It's my turn to write you, or did I write you before?

I think I owe a letter; I hate to be a bore. I'm used to my bifocals and my dentures fit me fine.

My hearing aid is perfect, but Lord how I miss my Mind.

I stand before the fridge at times, my poor head filled with doubt.

Have I come to put some food away or come to take some out?

Sometimes I can't remember at the bottom of the stairs if I must go up for something or if I'd just come down from there.

There are times when it is dark out and with a nightcap on my head, I ask, Am I retiring or am I just getting up from bed?

I do know that I miss you and wish that you were near.

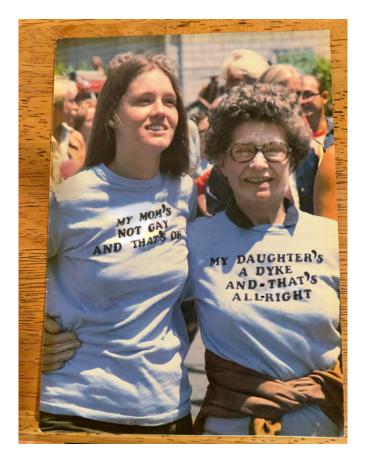
And now it's almost mail time so I must say goodbye here.

I'm standing at the mailbox with a face so very red.

I didn't mail your letter ... I opened it instead.

Grace Lawrence (10.02.1916 – 12.25.2006)

Susan McMudie's Mother



Susan McMudie and her mom at the Gay Day Parade in the early 1980s. Someone took a picture of them, and it ended up on book covers and countless gay venues.

## Yellow Warbler

Text and Photography Copyright by DAVID GRAY

The yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) is a small, brilliant yellow songbird whose summer range includes our Park. We saw a lot of them in June during our travels through Montana, where mating season was at its peak. It seemed like we saw a few on every hike we took, their melodious calls ringing out. A group of yellow warblers is called a "sweetness." How very apt!



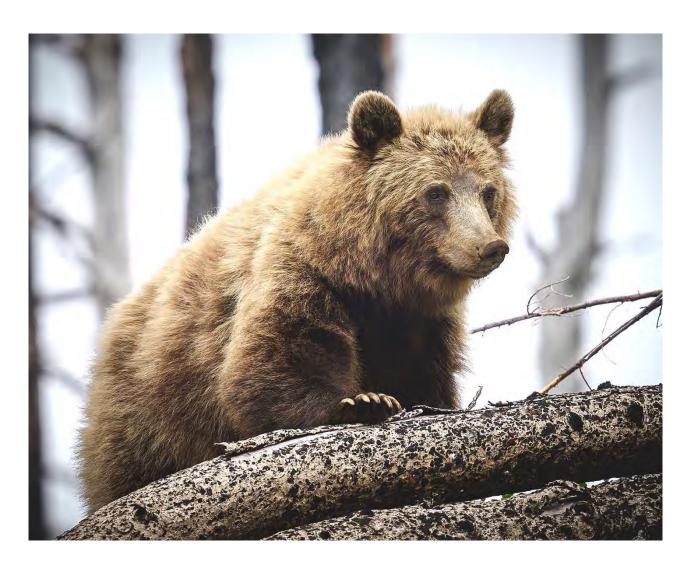
Yellow warblers have a vast range, from the North American Arctic in the summer down through northern South America in the winter. Like most warblers, they are small birds. Adults average 9

grams in weight, less than half as much as a sparrow (average adult weight of 20 grams). The males have pronounced rust-colored stripes on their breast, sometimes having a similarly colored crown; there is a fair amount of diversity of presentation among the subspecies. Their black beak is narrow and long so it can pick up the small insects that it hunts for food.





And, of course, no trip to Montana is complete without seeing a grizzly bear. :-)



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please check our website marinvalley .net to see if events have changed or to find a Zoom link	6AM Trash 10-11AM Water Aerobics 5PM MVEST Zoom/contact John Hansen	4-5 PM Tai Chi Deck  6PM PAC Board Meeting Zoom/contact Carol-Joy Harris	10-11 <sub>AM</sub> Water Aerobics  2-3 <sub>PM</sub> Craft&Chat  6 <sub>PM</sub> HOL Board Meeting Fireside Room  7 <sub>PM</sub> Dancing Deck	4 11AM -12PM Rollin' Root	10-11AM Water Aerobics 12PM Mahjong 1-1:30PM Rollin' Root 4-5PM Tai Chi 5-7PM Pub 7PM Dancing Meadow	7 <sub>PM</sub> Dancing Meadow
7 10-10:30AM Meditation Zoom/ contact Michael Hagerty	6AM Trash 10-11AM Water Aerobics  Echo deadline	9 4-5 рм Таі Chi	10 10-11AM Water Aerobics 2-3PM Craft&Chat 7PM Mar Val Board Meeting 7PM Dancing Deck	11 11AM -12PM Rollin' Root	10-1AM Water Aerobics 12PM Mahjong 1-1:30PM Rollin' Root 4-5PM Tai Chi 5-7PM Pub 7PM Dancing Meadow	7 <sub>PM</sub> Dancing Meadow
14 10-10:30 <sub>AM</sub> Meditation	6AM Trash 10-11AM Water Aerobics	16 4-5 PM Tai Chi	17 10-11AM Water Aerobics 2-3PM Craft&Chat 7PM Dancing Deck 5PM Picnic deadline	18 11AM -12PM Rollin' Root	19 10-1AM Water Aerobics 12PM Mahjong 1-1:30PM Rollin' Root 4-5PM Tai Chi 5-7PM Pub 7PM Dancing	5PM Mar Val Picnic Dinner 7PM Dancing Meadow
21 10-10:30 <sub>AM</sub> Meditation	6AM Trash 10-11AM Water Aerobics	23 4-5 PM Tai Chi	10-11AM Water Aerobics  2-3PM Craft&Chat  7PM Dancing Deck	25 11AM -12PM Rollin' Root	10-1AM Water Aerobics 12PM Mahjong 1-1:30PM Rollin' Root 4-5PM Tai Chi 5-7PM Pub 7PM Dancing Meadow	7 <sub>PM</sub> Dancing Meadow
28 10-10:30 <sub>AM</sub> Meditation	6AM Trash 10-11AM Water Aerobics	4-5 PM Tai Chi 4-5:30 PM Circle of Friends Fireside Room	10-11 <sub>AM</sub> Water Aerobics  2-3 <sub>PM</sub> Craft&Chat  4 <sub>PM</sub> Book Club Carol-Joy Harris  7 <sub>PM</sub> Dancing Deck	A	<b>UGUS</b> 2022	ST