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ECHO

January 2023

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Recycling Our Newspaper Bags

by **INGA GRACE**

Newspaper bag recycling has been discontinued because the central distributor for our four daily newspapers – *Marin IJ*, *SF Chronicle*, *NY Times*, and *Wall Street Journal* – no longer allows the reuse of wrappers.

Local papers have no influence or say in the matter. If you feel moved to contact individual newspapers to let them know we are unhappy about this decision, please do so.

Dog owners can certainly use the bags for picking up poop; I will leave some of the folded bags in the Breezeway Boutique for this purpose. If you would like bags for your dogs or anything else, please let me know, as I have an abundant supply.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed bags for recycling and made this endeavor hugely successful.

I am truly sorry that it will now be discontinued.

Socks & Mittens for the Homeless

by **ELIZABETH LEV**



Hello, Friends in the Park,

Many thanks to all of you who donated so generously socks, gloves and mittens for the homeless. I delivered them on 12/12, and I am sure they will be greatly appreciated.

Again, thanks for the rousing response and all the donations.

Elizabeth



**THE
ECHO
2023**

MARIN VALLEY

MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB
100 MARIN VALLEY DRIVE • NOVATO, CA 94949
415-883-5911 / 415-883-1971 FAX
www.marinvalley.net

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www.mobilehomeboard.com/

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

MVMCC Management Update

Matt shares some of the official information about our Park's own system for bringing gas to our homes.



Western
Manufactured Housing Communities
Association

MASTER METER SYSTEM PUBLIC AWARENESS MESSAGE

MARIN VALLEY MOBILE COUNTRY CLUB
(Community Name)

Description of the purpose and reliability of the pipeline:

The natural gas pipeline system in the community is owned, operated and maintained by the owner of the community. The pipeline system is designed to distribute gas to the residents, which is commonly used for heating and cooking. In addition, the system is used for the following common area facilities: CLUBHOUSE / LAUNDRY ROOM. The gas pipeline system is operated and maintained by qualified individuals in accordance with the community's Operations and Maintenance Plan, which contains procedures for safely operating, maintaining, and monitoring the system. The California Public Utilities Commission inspects the gas pipeline system for compliance with the Federal rules and regulations.

Overview of hazards of, and preventative measures used, for the pipeline:

Gas can leak from pipeline facilities damaged due to corrosion, outside force, natural events, or equipment failure, etc. Because natural gas is a flammable commodity, gas leaks, under certain circumstances, have the potential to cause harm. The gas system is leak surveyed annually. All hazardous leaks are repaired. All main valves are inspected to ensure that they are operable. The gas system is patrolled on a routine basis to ensure that hazardous conditions such as atmospheric corrosion, improper care of discontinued services and customer lines, inadequate support of meters and pipeline components, etc., are noted and corrected.

If applicable, the gas pipeline system is cathodically protected in the following way: BURIED ZINK SACRIFICIAL ANODES PROTECT THE BARE GAS PIPE FROM CORROSION

Information about damage prevention:

The gas pipeline system is susceptible to damage due to outside forces such as those caused by excavation, vehicular traffic, or excessive loads placed on meter set assemblies. In addition, restricted access to main valves and meter set assemblies could result in severe consequences in the event of emergency.

The greatest risk to underground gas pipelines is damage caused during excavation. Even a minor impact with the pipeline could cause a dent or damage to its coating, resulting in a leak. **Notify the community owner/manager before you dig.** Do not park vehicles near gas meters or pipelines that are not protected by barriers. Do not remove meter supports or place heavy items on top of meter set assemblies. Do not restrict access to main valves or meter set assemblies. Inform the community owner/manager immediately of gas meters that are vulnerable to vehicular damage or need supports or of other potential hazards that are noticed.

How to recognize, and respond to, a leak:

Odor: Natural gas is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-toxic. An additive (Mercaptan) in the gas gives it a distinctive odor (similar to rotting eggs or sulfur). **Vegetation:** Natural gas leaking from an underground pipeline can destroy vegetation by starving the roots of air and water. An unusual dry patch of vegetation, within an otherwise green area, could indicate a below ground gas leak. **Sound:** a blowing or hissing sound could indicate the presence of a gas leak. **Bubbling water:** Gas leaks on underground pipelines in flooded areas may cause bubbles in the water as the gas rises to the surface. **Fungus-like growth:** Gas leaks in valve boxes, manholes, etc., may develop a fungus-like growth that is generally white in color. Do not light items such as matches or cigarettes, or use any device that may generate a spark such as electrical switches, telephones (cell and land line phones), doorbells, automobiles or other engines., etc. Extinguish all flames, evacuate the building to a safe distance, and turn off gas, if feasible. To report a gas leak, call 415-883-5911 and inform community personnel of the situation and the location of the leak. Do not make the phone call from the area where the gas leak is present.

For additional information, contact the community owner/manager. Also, visit the websites of the US Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov>) or the California Public Utilities Commission (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/>).



Letter to Residents

Greetings from the Park Acquisition Corporation Board.

Finances Our finances are in order. Our cash plus medium- and long-term reserves continues to be more than \$5.5 million.

Sewage Pumping Station Construction of the replacement/renewal of the sewage pump station no. 1 near the clubhouse has been delayed. The auxiliary temporary pump has been installed to provide backup in case of need.

Vaccine A new vaccine is available that addresses the old and new mutations of COVID. Ask your doctor if it is advisable for you to get it. When we let our guard down, we can end up with COVID. It's still around and by all appearances will be with us for a long time.

Water The recent rains have reduced the fears of fires and lack of water here in Marin. While Marin's water reservoirs are nearly full for now, we always need to be mindful of our water usage.

Projects There are several infrastructure projects in process for the Park. We are told that with the City's engineering group understaffed and overworked, these projects will be delayed.

Infrastructure The expected overview of the infrastructure conditions of MVMCC has been completed by outside agencies. After input from the City of Novato's engineering group, it will be passed along to the Helsing Group and the PAC Board.

Activities 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.

Participation 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 board meetings or email us.

Agendas Agendas for future PAC meetings, including the Zoom link, are posted 72 hours prior to the meetings and are available to those on the mailing list. To be added to this list, contact PAC secretary CarolJoy Harris at caroljoyharris@comcast.net. You can also find the Zoom info on our marinvalley.net homepage.

Meetings Board meetings are also broadcast on Comcast channel 26. A recording of the December meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/B6XaqXheN4A>. The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3, at 6 pm.

Happy, healthy New Year,



How do you get creative when it's raining?

This is Cherrie Dougherty's way ...



Home Safety

by **JOHN FELD and DAVID GRAY**

People most often get hurt in and around their homes. Although we have written about this topic frequently, we are now in the months of shorter days and we are likely to spend more time inside, so it is well worth doing an annual safety check of our homes. Perhaps most importantly we need to de-clutter to remove tripping hazards.

What Causes an Accident?

Indoors

Extension cords

Extension cords are designed for TEMPORARY use, not for permanent installation. They pose a tripping hazard when draped across the floor or stretched across the room or even into the next room. They will become frayed as they get walked upon, and if they are hidden under a rug, any sign of fraying is hidden, resulting in a shock or fire hazard.

Frayed power cables are a hazard. NEVER use frayed electric cables; they are DANGEROUS. Replace them and throw away the damaged cable. DON'T run extension cords under rugs or carpets. A Marin Valley resident recently had an extremely serious fall when she tripped over a wire. Tripping over a power cord that is connected to holiday lights can not only cause a bad fall but possibly devastate your decorations. Use gaffer's tape to temporarily tape down extension cords to reduce tripping hazards.

NEVER plug a space heater or other high-amperage electrical appliance into an extension cord or a power distribution strip. If you are an electrician or engineering nerd and can verify that the conductor size and derating for length is safe for the total load, cool. Otherwise, just don't: it's a common cause of home fires.

Overloaded electrical outlet symptoms

- **Heat.** If the outlet plate or power cord gets hot, then it is almost certain that you are using too much electricity for that circuit. This is most likely to be related to heaters, irons, or other high-amperage appliances. If you feel a hot outlet or power cord, try unplugging everything else in that room, or try plugging the cable into another outlet. Again, keep checking on the wire getting warm. Our plugs are

place to plug it in without it heating up, maybe it uses too much electricity for your home. Hot wires can and often do cause home fires, especially if the home has aluminum wiring.

- **Flickering lights or buzzing noises** when an appliance turns on. This is another sign of a potentially serious issue.

Mobile phone charging cable

If your charging cable for your mobile phone is frayed, this is not a fire hazard but can potentially cause damage to your phone. Phone chargers usually run on five volts which is not enough voltage to cause a fire.

Heavy furniture

Bookcases, large TVs, and furniture that are against a wall should be secured to a stud in the wall using special earthquake braces/straps. This will stop these heavy objects from falling on you, your family, or your pet in the event of even a slight earthquake tremor. If you are unable to secure these items to a wall yourself, get a handyperson with a stud finder to help you. You may even call the Just One Hour people in the Park to assist you. Remember, you will have to buy the straps, brackets, or clamps for them to install. We all know earthquakes don't happen often, but they certainly will occur sometime, and securing your cabinets may save your precious china. For vases, sculptures, paintings, and other free-standing objects, you can get special putty such as Quake Hold, Sticky Putty, or Museum Putty. You can find many kinds on Amazon or Pini's.

Throw rugs

These are nearly always a tripping hazard. Don't expect to avoid them because you know where they are. If you are like us, you'll quickly forget and trip. Better to get some sort of rug holder. You can find many inexpensive ones on Amazon for use on carpets and on wood or tile. They cost about \$12 and can save you hours in the emergency room.

Other tripping hazards

Cords from drapes and blinds are a potential hazard if they are too long. Electronic-device cables, especially new ones in a new location, can trip you up easily; but even if they have been there for years, they can still cause you to stumble. Tall lamps, plants, and vases often cause problems if they fall. Do you have a cat or a playful dog?

Specific Rooms

Bedroom and living room

Potentially dangerous objects include art on the walls, electric blankets, heaters, medical equipment with tubes connected to them, and multiple items plugged into wall plugs. It is best not to have any pictures or wall hangings over your bed, as these could fall and injure you while you are sleeping.

Kitchen

Kitchens have a seemingly endless list of issues that can harm us: spilled water or grease can bring us down very quickly, as can pan fires, broken glass, and long apron strings. You are more likely to fall on linoleum floors when wearing socks instead of shoes. Lifting heavy objects can easily throw your back out or cause a twisted knee. Using blunt knives is not safe: when a knife blade is blunt or dull, it requires more pressure to cut, making it more likely to slip with the increased force behind it and cause an injury.

Laundry room

Lint in your dryer exhaust. Maybe you don't know if you have a dryer exhaust. Well, if you have a dryer in your house, you also have an exhaust. Over time, lint from your dryer gets clogged in these exhausts and the heat from the dryer easily ignites the lint, which is extremely flammable. Get your dryer vents cleaned once a year.

Many people buy detergent and other cleaning supplies in supersized containers, often to save money. If these are on a shelf they can sometimes fall and hurt you. You might consider switching to liquidless laundry detergent sheets, which are lightweight, effective, and convenient to use. They also reduce the massive amount of plastic going into the trash from spent laundry detergent containers.

Bathroom

Be on the lookout for any dampness; a slight dribble can rot your subfloor (VERY expensive to repair) and may become severe before it is detected. Leaking bottles of cleaning fluid can also be a hazard if inhaled.

Outdoors

Plant materials such as leaves and twigs in our gutters and in corners of our roofs can be extremely dangerous because they easily ignite from embers from a fire elsewhere. Most houses that burn down because of wildfire do so from flying embers. Embers can travel several miles. But they cause much less of a problem if our gutters and roofs are clear of any flammable material. Slippery decks and paths around our houses are often responsible for injuries, especially after rain or frost. So don't leave your hoses out to trip over, and always unplug your outside electric devices when you are done with them.

Be prepared!

Keep your first aid kit in a place where you can easily get to it. We all have cut ourselves in our homes, and when those bad things happen, it is not a good time to find you have run out of band-aids or gauze. Know where your fire extinguishers are and make sure they have a full charge of fire suppressant.

This long list of potentially harmful issues around our homes is not meant to make you fearful, but to ask you to be on the lookout for the possible issues before they can become dangerous to you and your neighbors and visitors. Please stay safe in our beautiful community, by being proactive, aware, and watchful.

Message from Mar Val

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! I'm not sure what happened to 2022, but Mar Val is eagerly looking forward to 2023. Here is the calendar for upcoming events.

Our first dinner, Winter Warmup, will be on January 21; carnivore/vegetarian chili, corn bread, salad and dessert ... a casual evening for us all to start the new year with warmth and the happiness of shared time. We invite you to join us.

We are very hopeful that a new lighting system for the front of the clubhouse will be in place by the time you read this, and if not, in the very near future – in the meantime, please be very careful and bring your flashlights.

Let us all be healthy and happy in 2023.

Mar Val Events – 2023

January 21	Winter Warmup
February 18	Mardi Gras
March 11	St. Patrick's Day
April 15	Spring Fling
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 29	Memorial Day
June 17	Jazz Brunch
July 4	Independence Day
July 21	Pasta Night
August 12	Summer Festival
September 4	Labor Day
September 22	Oktoberfest
October 28	Black Cat
November 18	Thanksgiving
December 16	Holiday Event
December 31	New Year's Eve

Carolyn Corry
Carolyn Corry
 MAR VAL PRESIDENT
 ckcorry@comcast.net
 415-370-6403 cell



The Ugly/Beautiful Sweater Contest!

And the winners are:

Ugly Sweater – Janine Bradley, left
Beautiful Sweater – Kina Rocksberg, center
 Men, Dick Park, right



Thank you, Brynda Foster, for the photos of the Ugly Sweater Party!



Winter Warmup

Saturday, January 21

5 pm – Cocktails

6 pm – Dinner

Menu

Carnivore Chile
or
Vegetarian Chile

Cornbread
Salad
Dessert

Reservations: \$15 per meal

Reservation deadline, January 18, 5 pm

Questions? – Call Susan @ 707-365-9426

*All attendees must show proof of
COVID vaccination and boosters*

Home Owners League Message



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Fundraising Drive

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Just One Hour

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a`U]b]U]f`c`Z]h]g`dfc]f]a`"If you would like to
volunteer to help our fellow residents, please
contact Lisa at ljaccounting@outlook.com."

Flyers

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New Marin Valley Play

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Chair Yoga Returns

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Holiday Fair

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Events

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Thank You, Volunteers

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g]Y]b]b]`m]i`U`_`U]c]i`f`b]Y]h`a`Y]h]b]b]`c`b]`U]b]i`U]m]i`_`"

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Ed Collins,

Acting HOL President while John Feld was traveling

Village Holiday Fair Was Wonderful!

by **JANIE KLIMES**



First Friday Game Night Returns

by **ED COLLINS**

First Fridays Beginning January 6 • 6–10 pm

Starting January 6 and every first Friday night after that from 6 pm to 10 pm in the Fireside Room. A variety of games will be provided, or bring your own favorites. Card games, social/party games, strategy board games, and more! Remember, game playing is one of the best ways to maintain and improve your mental abilities. AND IT IS SOOOO MUCH FUN!

Contact Ed Collins for questions: 415-377-7696 or mretc@hotmail.com.

Chair Yoga

Beginning Thursday, January 12 • 10–11 am

Chair Yoga will meet on Thursdays for an hour in the morning from 10 to 11 am in the Ballroom. The first class will begin the second week on January 12 and will continue weekly afterward.

Circle of Friends

Tuesday, January 17 • 4 pm



The Circle of Friends will begin 2023's meeting on Tuesday, January 17 in the Fireside Room at 4 pm. Contact Aneesha Dillon devaaneesha@hotmail.com or Timo Navsky at pgemsky@comcast.net to be put on the email list for any changes or notifications.

Biography Night

Thursday, January 26 • 7 pm



Biography Night is pleased to present **Michaele Dancer** on Thursday, January 26 in the Fireside Room at 7 pm. Contact Kim Holscher at kimholscher51@gmail.com to invite others to hear stories of our lived experience and to present yours.

Meadow Dancing around the Fire

by **VICKI WADDELL**

For those of us who were concerned about the fire that was lit at the end of Sunrise on Friday evening, December 2nd, I did a little investigation and here's what I found out.

Small recreational fires are allowed in Marin! A couple of Novato ordinances address this matter:

“Outdoor wood stoves and fire pits that are 3 feet in diameter or less are legal to use for warming any day of the year, as long as it isn't a wintertime Spare the Air Day.”

According to Novato Fire District, which came to inspect the fire pit, there were safety measures in place, such as a fire extinguisher and garden hose at hand, and a lid for the pit to control any sparks. Lastly, the meadow was wet from recent rains.

When I put all these elements together (the ordinances, the safety measures, and the weather), I feel much more comfortable about the use of fire pits in the winter months. I hope this information allays the concerns of fellow residents as well.

HOL and PAC members are often on hand to join in the fun and wish to remind the dancers that they are always welcome to come in out of the cold at the clubhouse anytime they feel so inclined.

Happy New Year, everyone!



Marbled Godwit and Long-Billed Curlew

Text and Photography by **DAVID GRAY**

Gatherings of marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) and the long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*) were out at Stinson Beach on a blustery and cold day late in November. The wind was gusting up to 20 mph —enough to create a sandstorm on the beach.




We saw a flock of godwits first; they were napping fitfully, everybody balanced on one leg in the gusting wind as they kept their beaks warm under their wings by pointing their heads backward over their bodies. It seemed like there was one designated lookout among the 18 or so birds in the flock. Periodically, one would decide that it was time to go hunt for food and would take off, revealing its gorgeous plumage illuminated by the late-afternoon sun.



The long-billed curlews were out as well, mostly hunting for arthropods in the upper reaches of the surf. Bigger than the marbled godwits, the improbably long bills of these curlews help them dig quite deep into the sand for their food. The last photo was taken as we were chased off the beach by the rising wind and blowing sand.



Happy New Year to all! Keep your beaks warm!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10-10:30AM Meditation <i>Zoom/ Michael Hagerty</i> 4-5PM Taiji <i>Deck David MacLam</i>	2 5AM Trash	3 4-5PM Taiji <i>Deck</i> 6PM PAC Board Meeting <i>Zoom/contact Carol-Joy Harris</i>	4 2-3PM Craft&Chat 4PM Dancing <i>Deck</i> 6PM HOL Board Meeting <i>Fireside Room</i>	5 11AM-12PM Rollin' Root 	6 12PM Mahjong 4PM Dancing <i>Meadow</i> 4-5PM Taiji 5-7PM Pub 6-10PM Game Night <i>contact Ed Collins</i>	7 4PM Dancing <i>Meadow</i>
8 10-10:30AM Meditation 4-5PM Taiji Echo deadline	9 5AM Trash 5PM MVEST <i>Zoom/contact John Hansen</i>	10 4-5PM Taiji	11 2-3PM Craft&Chat 4PM Dancing 6PM Mar Val Board Meeting	12 10AM-11PM Chair Yoga <i>Ballroom</i> 11AM-12PM Rollin' Root 	13 12PM Mahjong 4PM Dancing 4-5PM Taiji 5-7PM Pub	14 4PM Dancing
15 10-10:30AM Meditation 4-5PM Taiji	16 5AM Trash	17 4-5PM Taiji 4PM Circle of Friends <i>contact Aneasha Dillon</i>	18 1PM Ladies Bridge <i>Private, Fireside Room</i> 2-3PM Craft&Chat 4PM Dancing 5PM Mar Val Winter Warmup deadline	19 10AM-11PM Chair Yoga 11AM-12PM Rollin' Root 	20 12PM Mahjong 4PM Dancing 4-5PM Taiji 5-7PM Pub	21 4PM Dancing 5-7PM Mar Val Winter Warmup
22 10-10:30AM Meditation 4-5PM Taiji	23 5AM Trash	24 4-5PM Taiji	25 2-3PM Craft&Chat 4PM Book Club <i>contact Carol-Joy Harris</i> 4PM Dancing	26 10AM-11PM Chair Yoga 11AM-12PM Rollin' Root 7PM Bio Night: Michael Dancer <i>Fireside Room</i>	27 12PM Mahjong 4-5PM Taiji 4PM Dancing 5-7PM Pub	28 4PM Dancing
29 10-10:30AM Meditation 4-5PM Taiji	30 5AM Trash	31 4-5PM Taiji	<h1>JANUARY 2023</h1> <p>Please check our website marinvalley.net for any changes or for Zoom links.</p>			