

**In this issue:**

- From the desk of...
- Valuable resource fro Marin’s busi-  
ness owners
- The Grady  
Ranch, Part II
- Marin Transit-  
new fare policies
- Pueblo Park gets  
a facelift
- Green Tip (s)
- Marin County  
Fair
- IPM Ordinance  
and Policy
- Civic Center  
Farmers’ Market  
moves out of the  
way of the Fair
- Watershed roads  
and trails assessed  
for erosion
- Calendar
- Budget outlook

*From the desk of...*

*Susan L. Adams*

I had hoped that last year’s Summer Solstice would be the last time we had to raise money for Children’s Health Initiative (CHI) as there was positive movement on the state and federal level that appeared to be going in the direction of fully committing to provide access to healthcare for our children. But we were disappointed yet again to see the dramatic slashing in the state budget cutting support for CHI as well as other services to the poor and needy at the very time more people are falling into poverty. The goal of the Marin Children’s Health Initiative is to improve health access for all of Marin’s children and youth by finding the uninsured, enrolling them, linking them to services, increasing retention, and providing funding to ensure our children have healthcare.

Proceeds from Summer Solstice benefit CaliforniaKids Healthcare Foundation, a provider for the Marin Children’s Health Initiative, funding services at Marin Community Clinics and Coastal Health Alliance. About 100 attended the June 20 event at Autodesk, and with the generous support of our sponsors, \$35,000 was raised.

We were also able to honor three extraordinary people as CHI Champions, for their service to Marin’s children who would otherwise not have access to medical or dental care.

Dr. Louis Geissberger has committed his considerable skills and energy to improve the health of children for five decades with dental practices in San Rafael and later in Larkspur; and is responsible for funding and guiding Marin Community Clinics’ Geissberger Dental Clinic which provides oral hygiene education, preventive care and restorative treatment

to children from low-income families and their parents.

Amy Reisch, Executive Director of First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission, qualities of leadership, respect, and individual and community empowerment with vision and enthusiasm. She has ensured that Marin protects and promotes the health and well-being of all children by leading community initiatives such as the Children’s Health Initiative by funding the county-wide outreach, enrollment and utilization effort; the Children’s Oral Health Project serving children in child care and family day care settings; Special Needs Mental Health Initiative in coordination with School Readiness sites; and Health Advocacy/Health Literacy Initiative to emphasize preventive care.

Dr. Nelson Branco has contributed his considerable talent and energy to improve the health of children in diverse settings - ranging from a rural site of the Indian Health Service of the Navajo Nation in northwestern New Mexico to Marin Community Clinics, Pediatric After-Hours Clinic and Pediatric Hospitalist at Marin General Hospital to Tamalpais Pediatrics offices in Novato and Greenbrae in Marin County.

Also, deserving our deep gratitude are the organizations that make this public private partnership possible: Marin General Hospital, Novato Community Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission, County of Marin and Marin Community Foundation.

A big thanks to Marin Community Clinics for their tremendous effort. The need is great and their commitment to serve boundless.

Contributions can be made to CHI through CaliforniaKids Healthcare Foundation, 5200 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 360, North Hollywood, CA 91601.

## *Valuable resource for Marin's business owners*

The Small Business Development Center at Santa Rosa Junior College (SBDC) provides a valuable resource to Marin's current and future business owners and partners with various entities throughout the county that address economic and workforce development issues. The mission of this publicly funded organization, with satellite offices through out Marin County, is to help people who want to start a business or have a small business that they would like to grow. If you have fewer than 500 employees, you are a small business!

SBDC's business advisors are knowledgeable in a broad spectrum of industries and aspects of business management. Many advisors have had their own business. This first hand experience is helpful in addressing your business issues with practical advice and solutions. Every meeting with the advisor is free, confidential, results oriented, and designed for your specific needs.

There are satellite offices at the Chambers of Commerce of Novato, San Rafael, San Anselmo and the Marin Employment Connection.

Free and low cost workshops are available to people with no or little business experience to seasoned business owners. Have an idea for a new product? Their Sawyer Center can advise how to turn your idea into a marketable product. Need a guest speaker? Their advisors can talk on various business related topics.

The SBDC also offers free career related workshops to schools, organizations and agencies that work with or support youth. These programs teach young people, ages 14-27, valuable employment related skills that will help youth as they enter the work world and the basic of starting a business.

Whether you work from home, an office, a store or restaurant, there are a number of ways the SBDC can help your business. To learn more visit their website, [www.santarosa.edu/sbdc](http://www.santarosa.edu/sbdc) or call (707) 524-1770.

Information provided by SBDC

## *VACANCY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION*

There is a vacancy on the Human Rights Commission representing the 1<sup>st</sup> District (Terra Linda, Lucas Valley, Marinwood, Santa Venetia, downtown San Rafael, Peacock Gap). The Commission, in its role as advisory to the Board of Supervisors, hears complaints, problems and requests for assistance involving violations of human or civil rights from individuals and groups and will investigate, study and initiate action to resolve problems. The Commission also has responsibility for working to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and for fostering attitudes which will lead to civic peace and inter-group relations.

Additional information about this Commission is available on the internet at: [www.co.marin.ca.us](http://www.co.marin.ca.us) (type "Commissions" in the search box).

Persons interested in applying for this position should contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Room 329, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, California 94903, telephone number 499-7331, to obtain an application form. Applications can also be downloaded from the internet at the above website.

Applications must be received in the Board office by 5:00 p.m. July 28.

## *The Grady Ranch* **By**

**Tom Forster, Director of Community Relations, Skywalker Properties Ltd.**

### Part II

In the last issue we gave a “big picture” overview of the history of the Grady/Big Rock Ranch Master Plan. This article will take a closer look at what portions of the Master Plan have been completed to date, and how we use those facilities for our businesses. In the next issue we’ll cover more details about the Grady Ranch plans and process.

The unanimous approval of the Master Plan by the Marin County Board of Supervisors on October 29, 1996 acknowledged that the Grady Ranch/Big Rock Ranch Master Plan “...would be built in given phases.” Big Rock Ranch was the first major phase, and Grady represents the second and final location of the original plan.

There are 84 conditions of approval in the approved Master Plan. Some were required to be completed “prior to the issuance of the first building permit,” while others are fulfilled as the facilities are precisely planned and go through the permitting process. To date all of Big Rock’s conditions have been met. Prior to issuance, we met conditions including the implementation of the 11-miles of public hiking trails and the dedication of 800 acres of open space lands on Grady, as well as the implementation of conservation easements on the remaining lands to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust.

Following a detailed Precise Develop-

ment Planning approval process, similar to the one we are now going through on Grady, we broke ground in 2000 on the Big Rock facility. The Big Rock campus opened in late 2002, and serves as a multi-media office complex including a main office building, screening room, employee dining area, fitness center, archival storage building, and a security entry kiosk. It was designed in Frank Lloyd Wright prairie style similar to the Willits house built in Highland Park, Illinois in 1901. The total square footage is 184,700 sq. ft., on a total development area of 56 acres, and it has an approved population of 300 regular employees -- but it’s important to note that our head count varies regularly due to the project nature of our business. Right now we have about 150 employees based at Big Rock and that number will rise and fall according to production cycles. This variation is the same at Skywalker Ranch, and will be the same at Grady Ranch.

Today Big Rock serves as the home of Lucasfilm Animation ([www.lucasfilm.com/divisions/animation/](http://www.lucasfilm.com/divisions/animation/)), where work produced includes the production of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, the top-rated TV show for boys 6-11. *The Clone Wars* has a total U.S. audience of over 100 million, and airs in more than 150 countries around the world.

The non-profit George Lucas Educational Foundation ([www.edutopia.org](http://www.edutopia.org)) is also based at Big Rock. GLEF spreads the word about ideal, interactive learning environments and provides leading-edge interactive tools and resources to help make new forms of learning a reality. They are also the

proud recipients of a 2009 “Webby” award – presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences for the 2009 People’s Voice Award for Best Education Web Site, beating out more than 10,000 entries.

We are very proud to be recognized within the County’s “Green Business” program since 2002. Big Rock was designed to achieve “LEED” standards for green buildings in many ways, including features such as Marin’s largest geo-exchange field installation for energy efficiency ([www.geoexchange.org](http://www.geoexchange.org)), and extensive restoration of wetland areas.

In the next issue we’ll provide a more detailed look at the Grady development, and what work will be conducted there. We are happy to visit community groups to present and discuss our plans, and the detailed plan submittals can be accessed at the County Planning Department, or online at [www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/Main/comdev/CURRENT/major\\_projects.cfm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/Main/comdev/CURRENT/major_projects.cfm). Please contact me at 415-662-1772 to request a presentation, or at [tom.forster@lucasfilm.com](mailto:tom.forster@lucasfilm.com) or the County Planner, Inge Lundegaard at 499-7023.



Big Rock Lake and Waterfall



## *Marin Transit*—New fare policies

Starting July 1, 2009 Marin Transit will be introducing new 1 day, 7-day and 31-day discount passes. The passes are a credit card-sized fare card with a magnetic stripe and can be used for an unlimited number of trips within the designated timeframe. Day passes will only be available for purchase on-board the buses and 7-day and 31-day passes will be available for purchase online, over the phone or at local vendors.

To use the new passes, swipe them through the fare box each time you board a bus. You will no longer need to get transfers from the drivers.

:



[www.marintransit.org](http://www.marintransit.org)

## *Pueblo Park awaiting facelift*

County Parks is planning a playground upgrade at Pueblo Park. The project would not entail an entire master plan, but would focus on the playground areas. The existing playground does not meet current standards. Parks staff will work with both the Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association and the CSA advisory board to determine an appropriate play structure, develop a budget and have the playground built. Currently underway are projects at McInnis, Creekside, Black Point and Miller, so staff anticipates being able to start up with Pueblo on an “as time permits” basis. They hope to have a plan in place by May 2010 with construction to follow later that year.

Tennis courts at Pueblo are being repaved now and ADA work (pathway paving) is scheduled by Public Works to be completed this summer/fall. With the addition of the play equipment, it will be like a new park! If you would like to share your ideas regarding

the playground, Steve Petterle is the go-to guy at Parks and Open Space. He can be reached at 499-6394, or by email: [spetterle@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:spetterle@co.marin.ca.us)



Plans underway to provide improved play structure and grounds to neighborhood park

## *Green Tip (s)*—**Water, the greatest natural resource of them all**

Now that the summer may be finally showing its sunny face, the wise use of water is priority number one. Below, we have listed some of the more obscure water saving tips that you may not have thought of, but are nevertheless important tools to reduce your consumption of water.

Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetables food waste instead and save gallons of water every time.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.

Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you will save up to 150 gallons of water per month.

The ever popular tip; shower with a friend.

Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region. Better yet, remove the entire lawn. Remember, we live in a Mediterranean climate, not jolly old England where expanses of lawn were a natural and much beloved extension of one's home.

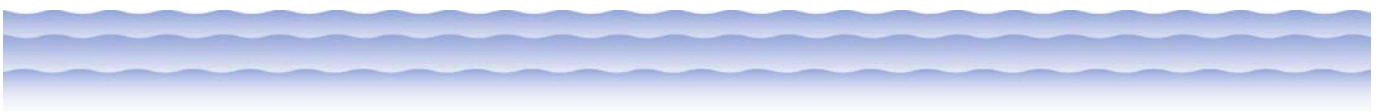
Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid over watering some while under watering others.

Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.

Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those spraying water into the air.

Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering that from under-watering.

Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.





## *IPM Ordinance and Policy*



The first reading of the revised Integrated Pest Management Ordinance will be on July 14 at the Board of Supervisors Meeting. A status report on the review of possible violations under the existing IPM Ordinance will be shared with the Board during that meeting. The merit hearing on the Ordinance and the new Policy will be scheduled for July 21. The old Ordinance, proposed Ordinance and Policy can be found on our District 1 website in the "News" section. [www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr1/index.cfm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr1/index.cfm)

Please check the cyberagenda the Thursday before the Tuesday meeting to confirm that it is on the agenda and to see the time it will likely be heard. [www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm)



Bountiful basket of artichokes

### *Civic Center Farmers' Market moves out of the way of the County Fair*

On Thursday, July 2nd and Sunday, July 5th the Civic Center markets will move to the front parking lot of Marin Commons at 1600 Los Gamos Road, next to the YMCA in San Rafael. Pick up ingredients for your locally-grown summer BBQ! The markets will operate 8am - 1pm and will be held in their usual locations the following week.

---

### *Watershed roads and trails assessed for erosion impacts*

Marinwood Community Services District and Open Space District are beginning a study of erosion problems along 37 miles of fire protection roads and trails within open space lands in the Miller Creek watershed. This project will cover Marinwood CSD open space lands and the Lucas Valley, Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow, Loma Verde, Ignacio Valley, Indian Valley and Pacheco Valle Open Space Preserves.

The primary product of this assessment will be a report and database that will prescribe appropriate and cost effective treatment recommendations, pri-

oritize road treatment based on erosion potential, degree of road damage and cost effectiveness, and assess long-term stability and maintenance requirements associated with the road network.

The cost of this assessment is \$60,000 of which Marinwood CSD is contributing \$3,000. In 2005, the Open Space District Board approved a \$40,000 assessment of roads and trails in the San Geronimo Creek watershed. Since then, that assessment has been used by the District to attract more than \$350,000 in grant funding from the Department of Fish and Game for treatment of roads and trails.





**Supervisor Susan L. Adams**  
 Board of Supervisors, District 1  
 Marin County Civic Center  
 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329  
 San Rafael, CA 94903

Direct Line: (415) 499-7331  
 sadams@co.marin.ca.us

Administrative Aides:

**Rick Fraites**

Direct Line: (415) 499-7354

rfraites@co.marin.ca.us

**Susannah Clark**

Direct Line: (415) 499-7342

sclark@co.marin.ca.us

[www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr1/](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr1/)

## *Calendar for July* —

Email newsletter

**Board of Supervisors Meetings, July 14 and 21**, Board of Supervisors Chambers, go to website for starting time and agendas, [www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm)

Our chance to share with you

**Marin Transit District, July 13**, 10:00 a.m., BOS Chambers, [www.marintransit.org](http://www.marintransit.org)

Good news of the month

**Transit Authority of Marin, July 23**, 7:00 p.m., BOS Chambers, [tam.marin.org/](http://tam.marin.org/)

**LAFCO, July 9**, 7:30 p.m., San Rafael City Chambers, [lafco.marin.org](http://lafco.marin.org)

**BUDGET HEARINGS: July 20 and 22, BOS Chambers**

**Public is always welcome. Check websites to confirm meeting date and time**

## *Budget outlook*

On June 16, the Board adopted an interim spending plan in preparation for the budget hearings on July 20 and 22. The 2009-2010 budget is \$435 million, of which \$374.5 is General Fund. There is a reduced assumption of property tax growth of 2% based on current market conditions. Forty vacant positions have been eliminated. The Major Crimes Task Force, a Joint Powers Authority with cities and towns, has been restructured decreasing the County's contribution by eliminating four sheriff deputy positions and a secretary.

The state budget situation is unsettled and requires the County to continually assess its priorities and levels of services that are mandated. Based on the latest information available as of the June 16 interim spending plan, the County is looking at an impact of \$20 million.

The budget includes a \$4.8 million safety net package including maintaining In Home Supportive Service wages for six months, given the uncertainty of the level of support from the state budget for these workers. Also, this budget has \$400,000 set aside to support homeless services through a combination of federal stimulus funds and general funds. These are one time allocations, not a continuing commitment, due to the cataclysmic combination of increased need in the community and decreased level of funding from the state.

A video featuring the County Administrator's report to the Board on June 16 has been posted on the G-Channel: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/G-Channel/Default.aspx>, and on YouTube site <http://www.youtube.com/maringchannel>. The purpose of the video is to inform the public about what is in the Proposed Budget and highlight opportunities for the public to get involved, including the July budget hearings.

Comments? Suggestions? We enjoy getting feedback from you, gentle reader. Please let us know what you like, what you care about, what you find tedious, boring. We did hear from several people about our haikus..... Email Susannah at [sclark@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:sclark@co.marin.ca.us).