

County of Marin Board of Supervisors, District 1

Newsletter

January, 2013

From the desk of....

Susan L. Adams

As we say goodbye to 2012 and welcome in the new year, I am reflecting on what makes Marin a special place. We can include our beautiful park lands and natural places, a health care system where 99.5% of our children have access to insurance, a busy public transit system, a county financial situation which still maintains a AAA bond rating, and an engaged community on our list. My hope is that in 2013 we continue to work on our important and challenging issues in collaboration and with respect for a variety of viewpoints, that we treat each other with kindness and that we operate in our daily encounters with each other with the best 4 letter word of all.... LOVE. Happy New Year! Help us make it a great year!

In this issue:

From the desk of...

Marinwoodvillage.com

Housing Planning

Gun Buy-Back Invitation

Marin County's Investment Policy

Pension Reform Update

Center For Domestic Peace Launches Program for Marin Youth

Focus on Our Kids, Our Future!

Calendar

MarinwoodVillage.com

FAQ's, Updates, Answers to your Questions

Dear Friends and Neighbors, from BRIDGE Housing:

We invite you to visit the website, which has been updated. We have included new information on the applicable taxes, found in the FAQs in the response to question 16, as well as project pages for our Marin properties, as well as posting the power point from the December 4th community meeting which can be found on the community input page.

Please feel free to forward the link to the website to your friends and neighbors. You can view the proposed plan, see renderings and other details. Learn more.

We look forward to working with you in coming year toward the redevelopment of Marinwood Plaza and wish you a very warm and wonderful holiday season.

If you have an interest in a guided tour of BRIDGE's Marin properties, please email us at marinwoodvillage@bridgehousing.com. If there is enough interest we will work to pull together a tour as quickly as possible. If you have other questions, please feel free to email us at marinwoodvillage@bridgehousing.com

Sign up now at marinwoodvillage.com to receive periodic email updates.



Artist's rendering of Marinwood Village



Existing condition of corner

Housing Planning

A number of projects are underway at the County related to planning for housing in a coordinated effort. This is a summary of projects and websites where information can be accessed. Planning staff uses the gov-delivery email subscription service as the primary method of informing the public of Housing Element and Multi-family Design Guidelines activity and those who are interested in subscribe online.

The **Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report** for the **Draft Housing Element** was released to the public for a 45-day review period on December 20, 2012. The comment period closes on Monday, February 4, 2013. The Planning Commission will hold a hearing on the DSEIR on **Monday January 14, 2013**. The staff report will be available after January 4th. The DSEIR can be accessed at

<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/comdev/eir.cfm>

You may view the notice at the following website: http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/housing/docs/HEUNOA_DSEIRNOT.pdf

The **Draft Housing Element** will be heard by the Planning Commission on **February 11, 2013**. The staff report will be available around February 1st. www.marincounty.org/housingelement

Planning Commission hearings on the Housing Element, related Development Code amendments and the DSEIR will be conducted through Spring 2013. Those documents will likely come to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in Summer 2013.

The **Draft Multi-family Residential Design Guidelines for Residential and Mixed-use Development** were made available to the public on December 21, 2012. A first Planning Commission hearing for recommendation to your Board is scheduled for **February 25, 2013**.

http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/Main/comdev/current/multi-family_guidelines.cfm

CDA staff recently added a Marinwood Village Planning Initiatives page the County's web. <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/housing/MarinwoodPlanningProcess.cfm>

We are working on a similar information site for Tamalpais Valley specific to Housing Element information for that area.

Stacey Laumann

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District 1 Newsletter

Gun Buy-Back Invitation

At a recent Marin County Office of Education and Law Enforcement Partnership briefing on the Sandy Hook tragedy, questions were raised about how prepared we are in Marin for such an event if it should happen here.

The issue of gun violence is complicated and intersects with many factors, such as the easy access to guns, violence in games and media, poverty, education, connectedness with community and perhaps even connection to spirit.

However, interventions such as improved mental health services, early identification and treatment of at risk individuals, will be a necessary part of the solution, and investment we must, as a community, be willing to make.

I personally believe we are a society with too many guns sitting in garages, closets, drawers and who knows where else. We have seen what happens when these weapons appear in places where people gather, in our neighborhoods and streets. As a community we can take a step to reduce the total number of these weapons.

On January 15, 2013, in coordination with the District Attorney's Office and law enforcement, the County will mark our commitment to curb the violence that are plaguing our communities and invaded our schools, by having a gun buy-back day. It is a day our nation honors Dr. Martin Luther King for his tradition of non-violence. Dr. King died in an act of senseless gun violence. While one gun buy-back day may be symbolic, this small act would be consistent with Dr. King's teachings and could be a galvanizing force for greater action.

On January 15, 2013, there will be at least five locations in Marin County for individuals to come and turn in firearms. The tentative locations are the San Rafael Police Department, the Central Marin Police

Authority, formerly the Twin Cities Police Department, in San Anselmo, the Sheriff's Marin City Sub-Station, and the Sheriff's Pt. Reyes Sub-Station and the Novato Police Department. It is also tentatively planned to have two firearm turn in locations made available on Monday, January 21, 2013. These two locations are the Sheriff's Marin City Sub-Station and the San Rafael Police Department.

A payment of \$200 will be made for the turn in of any semi-automatic handgun or semi-automatic long gun (rifle). A payment of \$100 will be made for the turn in of any other firearm.

In addition to the Gun Buy-Back Program is an opportunity for anyone to have the ability to turn in the violent video games that are being marketed to our kids, e.g. "Grand Theft Auto, Black Ops, Halo4 and others of that violent vein" that are drawing our kids into mindless shooting and execution scenarios that numb the player to the taking of a life. These video games desensitize its participants to what it means to take a life. If money is available we will pay \$5 or \$10 dollars for the surrender of these items.

This website will be updated with information on the final turn-in locations and hours of operation, as well as information on the operational procedures. There is a limitation on the money available for the buy back of these firearms and violent videos, however, funding is already coming in from private donors.

<http://www.marincounty.org/Home/Depts/DA/Gun%20Buy%20Back>

Thank you for helping to spread the word.

Marin County's Investment Policy

The County manages many different funds including for the County, school, college and other special districts and each year the Treasurer creates a Statement of Investment Policy. As of July 31, 2012 the investment pool had approximately \$775 million in assets under management. The pool's primary investment objective is to preserve capital and sec-

ondarily to maintain sufficient liquidity to enable participants to meet their operating requirements. The Treasurer's investment pool is reviewed and monitored monthly by Fitch Ratings and the County continues to enjoy a rating of AAA/V1. This AAA rating has been maintained since 1994.

If you would like more information, you may contact the Department of Finance at 473-6143. Karen Shaw is the Investment Officer.

Pension Reform Update

At its December 18, 2012 meeting, the Board of Supervisors accepted a report and approved next steps to explore an employee option hybrid plan and adopt a 5-year policy to dedicate new tier normal cost savings towards paying down the County's existing unfunded liability.

The California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) was approved by the Legislature in September, authorized with the passage of AG 340, and will change public employee retirement plans starting January 2013. The legislature also passed AB 197 which clarified what is considered "compensation earnable" for current members.

There are three general categories of cost savings that should be realized in the County as a result of PEPRA including, lower normal costs as a result of lower tiers, greater employee cost sharing of normal costs and limiting pensionable earnings to prevent "spiking". Many of these programs had already been implemented by the County long ago.

New employees will be required by PEPRA to contribute at least 50% of the normal cost of their retirement benefit, and employers will not be permitted to pay those contributions for employees. Currently the County contributes 2% of salary for miscellaneous employees and 4% for sworn employees. PEPRA states that for new employees the County's contribution will go away upon renewal or extension of current bargaining agreements.

Annually the County spends about \$4million toward employee pension contributions. Once the current labor agreements have expired estimates are that there will be a savings of about \$120,000-200,000 annually. While there is an opportunity under PEPRA to negotiate a 50/50 sharing of normal costs with current employees, that sharing could not be imposed until January 2018. PEPRA also contains percentage limits of employee sharing above the otherwise applicable normal cost rate.

To view the staff report to the Board that contains more information on the impacts o PEPRA on County pension plans and recommended next steps on exploring a hybrid plan, go to:

<http://www.marincounty.org/Main/~media/Files/MarinGov/Pensions/Pensions-PEPRA.pdf>

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE LAUNCHES MARIN YOUTH SERVICES FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS, AGES 13-24

National studies show that one in three adolescent girls is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. “Young people are at risk of dating violence, and Marin County is not immune to this epidemic. Our new youth services program offers 13-24 year olds services tailored to their needs,” says Donna Garske, Executive Director at Center for Domestic Peace.

In Marin, there are nearly 37,000 youth and young adults ages 13-24. Applying the 1 in 3 rate to young people in Marin would mean there could be as many as 12,350 youth experiencing dating abuse.

Relationships exist on a spectrum, from healthy to unhealthy to abusive -- and everywhere in between. It can be hard to determine where a relationship falls, especially if you haven't dated a lot.

We can help:

- ◆ Figure out if what's going on in a relationship (whether talking, hanging out, or hooking up) is healthy or not.
- ◆ Connect with others who are dealing with similar issues.
- ◆ Make a safety plan and talk about options.
- ◆ Get emergency shelter and/or legal protection.

How?

Call our new youth services phone line 415-526-2557.

<http://www.c4dp.org/teens>

Focus on Our Kids, Our Future!

Did you know that 25% of the children in this country live in poverty? It also may surprise you to know that an estimated 28% of children in Marin County are covered by health insurance through public and low-cost local programs available to lower income families. Having health insurance means that children have greater access to health care and that children who are covered by health insurance are more likely to receive regular preventive care.

MarinKids is the single unifying voice and resource advocating for the general welfare of all children and youth in Marin from birth to 18 years of age. Its mission is to build a community — through advocacy, education, research, mobilization and leadership — that believes caring for all of Marin's children is our collective responsibility, and that acts to realize this belief.

MarinKids will inform and energize action of individuals, organizations, voters and policymakers and highlight progress, acting as a gathering place for the community stimulating fresh ideas, new policies and collective action. MarinKids is putting children at the top of the agenda in Marin and has as its goal to eliminate the educational achievement gap, provide all children access to comprehensive quality healthcare and eliminate childhood obesity.

Our children's long-term well-being and Marin's civic and economic future hinge on ensuring every child has access to high-quality preschool opportunities, a rigorous K-12 education set to high standards, regular and responsive healthcare, physical activity and nutritional food, and a community that cares for all the children.

Convened in 2008 by First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission, MarinKids Leadership Committee worked together to develop a shared vision, goals, core principles and an advocacy campaign. The Leadership Committee is made up of community leaders from various sectors throughout the county (philanthropy, health, education, government, faith, media, business and community advocacy), committed to a shared vision for all Marin's children, and guides MarinKids.

In December 2009, the Leadership Committee developed a plan to influence change through a broad-based advocacy campaign. The campaign is designed to build community commitment to address significant opportunity gaps among Marin's children and galvanize strategic actions throughout the county to improve their lives.

For inquiries, or if you would like to be more involved, call (415) 526-5720

Email: info@marinkids.org

For more information on MarinKids and indicators, goals, priorities and factsheets, go to www.marinkids.org

District 1 Newsletter

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Calendar:

Board of Supervisors Meetings, BOS Chambers, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330, San Rafael: January 8, 15 and 29. See cyberagenda for starting time and agenda the Thursday before meeting date: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm>. The cyberagenda will also advise dates, times and agenda for **Marin Housing Authority** meetings.

Marin Transit District, BOS Chambers, January meeting cancelled. See website for Marin Transit District agenda and to confirm meeting times: <http://www.marintransit.org>

Transportation Authority of Marin, BOS Chambers: January 24, 7:00 p.m., BOS Chambers. See website for TAM agenda and to confirm meeting times: <http://www.tam.ca.gov>

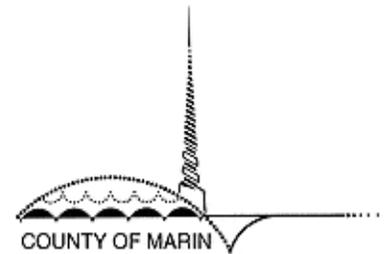
CHECK OUT THE GCHANNEL FOR NEW CONTENT---It's for real!

<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/g-channel/Default.aspx>

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All County publications are available in alternative formats (Braille, Large Print, or CD), upon request. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381 (Voice) 473-3232 (TDD/TTY) or by e-mail at disabilityaccess@marincounty.org at least four work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.