

DAMON CONNOLLY

June, 2015

SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 1

Dear Friends,

After 5 months on the job, we remain hard at work on the issues facing District 1, the goals laid out during last year's campaign, and some exciting new initiatives for the County to strengthen our communities.

We also remain busy meeting with community groups and constituents every day, holding a serious commitment to open lines of communication.

For regular updates on how we are working for you, please like my official County Facebook page by clicking here: www.facebook.com/SupConnolly

Damon



Topics Addressed Below:

- Local Office Hours
- Supporting Our Local Schools
- Medical Marijuana in Marin
- Upcoming Meetings, Events and Points of Interest

Future Updates on Marinwood Plaza

We've established a dedicated newsflash system where those interested can receive future updates on Marinwood Plaza.

[Click here to receive future newsflashes!](#)

"Local Office Hours" Coming to a Café Near You!

In order to accommodate people who are unable to get to the Civic Center during normal business hours, we are scheduling some "local office hours" in communities around the district. We have met with constituents so far at Marinwood Market, Aroma Café and Scotty's Market. **Our next scheduled "local office hours" will be at the Thursday night Farmers Market in San Rafael, June 18 from 6-7:30p.m.**

These opportunities are intended to provide for informal conversation on issues of interest to you. Come on by and say hello!

What Can We Do to Support Our Schools?

Supporting Our High-Quality Local Schools

Since taking office in January, I have worked to identify opportunities for the County to play a greater role in supporting our local schools and ensuring an excellent education for the students of District 1. Protecting excellent public education is one of the most deeply held values in Marin County, and I'm eager to take advantage of my strong working relationships with both district leadership and our local school communities in San Rafael City Schools and the Dixie School District. Here are a few issues that we are engaged in currently, as well as some we are looking towards in the future.

Supporting Technology Based Learning in Our High Schools

I have been lucky to witness firsthand some amazing, cutting edge programs at Terra Linda and San Rafael High Schools since taking office. In February I sat in on the Terra Linda Coding Lab, where a classroom full of students used their lunch breaks to learn and hone their computer coding skills. These students spend one day a week learning coding languages and the basics of computer science.

At San Rafael High I was blown away by Steve Temple's Computer Programming class, along with the Applied Physics and Technologies Academy and the Media Academy. Similar to the goals of the TLHS Coding Lab, the Computer Programming class offers students the opportunity to advance coding skills in a classroom setting throughout the year, culminating in a final project of designing a full-fledged computer program. In the Applied Physics and Technologies Academy, students learn applied robotics by studying the principles of physics and applying them to their own independent and creative hands-on projects over a three year course. In the Media Academy students spend two years blending the curriculum of English, Social Studies, and Media Production using a project-based, interdisciplinary approach to education.



These programs realize the mantra of "preparing students for future success," whether that's in regard to job readiness or being prepared to compete among the best and brightest in higher education. Furthermore, these programs provide students with access to real-world experience in careers that they may not have ever imagined were open to them. I support leveraging the programmatic strengths at each of our two public high schools through collaboration and shared wisdom to expand opportunities for students across the District.

Check out these great programs' websites!

- TLHS Coding Lab: <http://www.tlae.org/blog/2015/4/29/coding-and-community>
- SRHS Applied Physics and Technologies Academy: <http://physicsfab.org/>
- SRHS Media Academy: http://srhs.srca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1223960852090

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What Can We Do to Support Our Schools?

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Safe Routes to School

One way that the County can support local schools is by helping to facilitate safe routes to school for students, which can also relieve neighborhood traffic. We've been working with the Safe Routes to School organization on several fronts, first by picking up on the past work of several interested parties by coordinating with the County, the Courts, Venetia Valley and San Rafael City Schools (SRCS) to facilitate the use of the under-utilized Jury Parking Lot across from the Civic Center as a drop-off/pickup location for parents. Another issue where we are working alongside Safe Routes to School is in addressing intersections of concern in the Terra Linda neighborhood. We are convening a comprehensive group of stakeholders to come up with creative solutions based in engineering, education and enforcement.

Facilities Planning and Venetia Valley

As SRCS conducts its facilities planning process in anticipation of potential bond measures, we are engaged and fully supporting the proactive approach to community outreach being led by the District. SRCS has hosted three community meetings to review plans for Venetia Valley –one more than initially planned—to solicit feedback, and in turn present new amended plans based on this feedback. We've also helped to facilitate special meetings between homeowners associations and District leadership to address specific concerns for Santa Venetia neighbors. If you have questions or concerns about facilities plans or the facility planning process, please contact **Christina Perrino** at cperrino@srcs.org.

Venetia Valley is also in need of afterschool programs to serve 5th-8th grade students. We are working to secure County funding that would extend the programs currently offered by the Boys and Girls Club at Davidson Middle School to serve Venetia Valley as well, providing for suitable transportation and staffing to accommodate more students. This would be a cost-effective solution offering Venetia Valley students important after-school support services that are currently unavailable to them, but are already enjoyed by Davidson students.

Supporting Our Schools as Best We Can

With great relationships with our school communities and experience serving on the Dixie School Board, I am thoughtfully examining any and all opportunities to support our excellent local schools. In the future I look forward to exploring how County services can best support our schools in serving homeless or precariously housed students, and ways to provide increased internet access in key areas that would allow for essential student learning and homework outside the classroom for students without home internet access.

If you have education-related feedback, ideas, or thoughts, please reach out to my Aide Chris Callaway at ccallaway@marincounty.org.

Notice of Public Workshop for Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

The County is working on an ordinance to govern the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in unincorporated Marin, specifically up to 1 in each of 3 geographic zones. As you may have seen on our facebook page, in notices from the Community Development Agency, or read in the IJ, we are hosting a public Board of Supervisors workshop on June 9 at 1:30PM in the Board Chambers to review and discuss the policy, hear from the public and consider any changes needed. I encourage anyone with interest to attend! For more information, visit the County page dedicated to this issue: <http://www.marincounty.org/m.../marijuana-dispensary-ordinance>.

See the below notice from the Community Development Agency in regard to the upcoming medical marijuana Board of Supervisors Workshop, sent to potentially affected neighbors on May 18, 2015.

You are invited to attend a workshop with the Marin County Board of Supervisors to discuss the prospect of regulating medical marijuana businesses/dispensaries within the unincorporated areas of Marin County.

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2015
Time: 1:30 pm
Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers
Marin County Civic Center, Administration Building
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330, San Rafael

An appointed subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors comprised of Supervisors Damon Connolly (1st District) and Judy Arnold (5th District) has researched different regulatory models on the sale and distribution of medical marijuana from a storefront and have prepared a draft ordinance that would establish a licensing program to regulate dispensaries in the unincorporated areas of the county. Under the draft proposal, up to three licenses may be granted within the unincorporated areas of the county, with a maximum of one license in each of three geographic zones (North Highway 101 Corridor, South Highway 101 Corridor, and Central/West Marin). Dispensaries would be restricted to commercially-zoned properties that are more than 600 feet from a school or park and would be required to meet operational standards including, but not limited to, business hours, visibility, odor, and security.

The workshop is scheduled to provide residents and members of the public the opportunity to provide input on the issue of regulating medical marijuana businesses/dispensaries and to comment on the draft ordinance. You are receiving this notice because you either live on or near property that would be eligible for a dispensary or own property that may be affected by the proposed ordinance. A copy of the draft ordinance along with maps showing areas that would be eligible for a storefront dispensary is available at:

<http://www.marincounty.org/main/marijuana-dispensary-ordinance>



All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the County of Marin are held in accessible sites. 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.

Community Workshop on Our Transportation Future, June 20th



SHARE YOUR VISION FOR MOVING MARIN



Help shape our transportation future.

Marin County needs your help in forming a strategic path forward for transportation, including prioritizing transportation investments for local, regional, state and federal funding over the next three decades. The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) wants your input as it is preparing to both submit projects and programs for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and complete a Strategic Vision Plan.

JOIN US!

Please come to our workshop to learn about the process and let us know what types of transportation projects are most important to you. You can also provide input via our online questionnaire (link at right).

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 20th, 11 am-3 pm
San Rafael High School cafeteria
185 Mission Avenue, San Rafael
Lunch will be provided!

ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

You can also provide input via our online questionnaire: www.tam.ca.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.tam.ca.gov

Contact:

Derek McGill (415) 226-0825,
dmcgill@tam.ca.gov

Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan—Written Comments Due July 8

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) has released a draft Tiered Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft TPEIR) for the Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan (VBMP) for a 60-day comment period.

Click [HERE](#) to review the draft: [Draft Tiered Program Environmental Impact Report](#)

The MCOSD must receive written comments on the Draft TPEIR, no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday July 8, 2015, submit written comments to:

James Raives
Marin County Open Space District
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, CA 94903-4157
(415) 473-3745
JRaives@marincounty.org

Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act



Thursday, July 23rd, 2015

10 am - 1 pm

*Board of Supervisors Chamber
Marin County Civic Center*

**The ADA: Past, Present and Future
1990 - 2015**

This event will include history, testimonials, a panel of speakers, refreshments, information about accessible programs and services, and more!

Please Join Us!

*The County of Marin Disability Access Program
and
The Marin Center for Independent Living*

*As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary
of the signing of the
Americans with Disabilities Act!*



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Board-Related Meetings

The following websites relate to positions Supervisor Connolly holds. You can find meetings schedules, starting times, agendas and board packets for upcoming meetings on these sites:

Board of Supervisors Meetings

- ◆ The cyberagenda is available online the Thursday before Tuesday meeting date at: www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/meeting-archive. The cyberagenda will also advise dates, times and agenda for **Marin Housing Authority** meetings.

Marin Transit District Meetings

- ◆ See website for Marin Transit District agenda and to confirm meeting times: www.marintransit.org

Transportation Authority of Marin Meetings

- ◆ See website for TAM agenda and to confirm meeting times: www.tam.ca.gov

Marin LAFCO (Marin Local Annexation Formation Commission)

- ◆ See website for LAFCO agenda and to confirm meeting times: lafco.marin.org/index.php/commission-meetings

ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments)

- ◆ See website for ABAG agenda and to confirm meeting times: abag.ca.gov/meetings/

Check out the Master Calendar on the County website:

<http://www.marincounty.org/main/calendar>

Also, check out our press releases and library of videos about County programs, services and initiatives:

<http://www.marincounty.org/main/newsroom>

District 1 Newsletter

Damon Connolly

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Online Addresses:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SupConnolly>

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/damon_connolly

Newsletter:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAMARIN/subscriber/new?topic_id=CAMARIN_535



Damon with Brownie the Kidd, one of the Integrated Pest Management tools employed by Marin County Open Space District on their preserves



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