



DISTRICT 5 COUNTY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2014

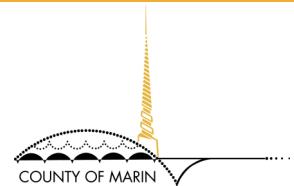
Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! 2013 was a busy year and it is hard to believe we have launched into a new year already. I am thankful to live in a community with such an engaged constituency, and I am also incredibly appreciative of our hardworking County staff that is always ready to serve. Looking back, I am proud of what we accomplished together this past year.

To highlight some of our accomplishments:

- Thanks to strong County fiscal management, the independent rating agency, Moody's, upgraded the County of Marin to a AAA rating in March — making Marin County one of only two California counties with the rating, and both Fitch and Standard & Poors (the two other major credit rating agencies) reaffirmed our AAA ratings.
- Transit options and services were improved with the addition of 5,000 hours of Marin Transit service that either fully or partially serves Novato. In addition to enhanced service all around, these changes also responded to the requests of many parents to expand connectivity to local schools.
- Began offering Express and e-Permitting to customers filing for certain building permit applications, which will result in same-day plan review for some types of small projects, and greater latitude in choosing third-party or overtime plan review as well as mail-in permit applications.
- Opened our first optometry clinic at the Marin Community Clinic.
- At my request, the Board of Supervisors added Education as a fourth E to our sustainability goals (Environment, Economy and Equity). While there isn't a major role our Board can play since education has its own governmental structure, I look forward to continuing to find ways the County can partner in education. In addition, I recommended allocation of thousands of Community Services Fund dollars to be directed towards educational programs in Novato and Marin.

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Increased Influenza Activity in Marin

Cases of influenza are on the rise in Marin. The predominant influenza virus nationally and in Marin this season is influenza A H1N1, the same virus that caused the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic.

Marin Public Health urges residents to get a flu vaccination if they haven't already. This year's vaccine protects against H1N1 and other influenza strains. Our Health and Human Services Department recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a flu vaccine. Vaccination protects your health, the health of your family, and our community.

Flu vaccinations are available at pharmacies, retailers, and grocery stores. For example, check with your local CVS, Walgreen's, Target, Rite Aid, and Safeway stores.

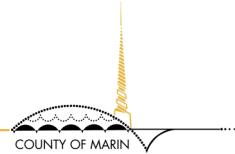
If you are a Kaiser member, Kaiser is offering free, drop-in flu clinics. For dates and times, visit: http://mydoctor.kaiserpermanente.org/ncal/facilities/region/sanrafael/area_master_news_events/flu_clinics/



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Happy New Year (continued from page 1)

- Added details about the County's unfunded pension liability and post-employment healthcare liability in Marin County property tax bills (constituents can also obtain this information on the County website). At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Finance Director Roy Given did a great job working with Citizens for Sustainable Pension Plans on the details.
- As an Advisor to the Novato Theater Board, I was pleased that we completed the soft demolition of the Novato Theater interior this summer, which included removal of all hazardous materials. In addition we submitted architectural plans to the City of Novato in December.
- SMART made great strides this past year: completed miles of track construction; received federal "Small Starts" funding to complete the federal environmental review process, as well as the final engineering and design for the San Rafael to Larkspur segment; purchased the 56-acre Mira Monte Marina to preserve, enhance and restore this property as part of its environmental mitigation program; and is on track to begin passenger service in 2016.
- The Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services launched a new and important update of the Telephone Emergency Notification System where Marin residents can register their cellphone to receive important emergency alerts sent by call, text or email from the County of Marin.
- Renewed the successful Vial of L.I.F.E. program, providing life-saving medical information to emergency responders.
- Launched a new webpage for "Current Planning" with features that make it easier and more transparent for residents to stay informed on planning issues in the unincorporated areas of Marin.
- Implemented changes to the Community Services Fund program to make the program more transparent, including: creating clear guidelines for potential applicants and the community, ending the "roll-over" of funds, and providing the guidelines and application for funds on the County website.
- Requested and created a Measure A Oversight Committee with independent community members (rather than making it a function of the current Parks & Open Space Commission as proposed by staff).
- Renovations were made at the Novato Library allowing library visitors to now enjoy: easier access to high demand materials, a single convenient information desk, more convenient and efficient check-out, improved lighting and carpet, as well as better accessibility to the library. These changes led to a surge in use at the Novato Library!
- Expanded the ever popular Deer Island Open Space Preserve in Novato by 19 acres.
- County Elections launched a new smartphone-friendly website to help Marin voters access information about political candidates and measures, including: candidate statements, background on ballot measures, polling place locations and links to the State of California Elections Office for those who have not registered to vote.
- Hosted a Marin County Gun Buy Back Event, which saw a total of 857 weapons surrendered. All surrendered fire arms were destroyed after the event.
- Began major renovations to improve the accessibility for persons with disabilities at the South Arch entrance of the Civic Center Administration Building.
- The Board of Supervisors approved paying down retiree health unfunded liability by approximately \$14 million to reduce the County's annual required contribution by an estimated \$0.6 million.

Looking ahead to 2014, I look forward to working with you and addressing issues that are important to the community. Please know that my door is open to you.

Here's to wishing you a healthy and happy 2014!





2013 Look Who's Getting It Done Award Goes to... Haley Pavone!



Each January, I announce my "Look Who's Getting It Done" Award to someone in the 5th District who has been instrumental in accomplishing something which benefits our community. I am delighted to announce that the 2013 Look Who's Getting it Done Award goes to Haley Pavone, a senior at Novato High School.

I first learned about the amazing work Haley is doing while reading an article about her in the Pacific Sun. One day Haley spotted an abundance of fruit laying on the ground in a neighbor's yard. She took notice and realized she discovered pounds of fresh, and often organic, produce all over residential yards in her neighborhood and throughout Novato. Haley discussed her findings with her mother and what she came up with next should be an inspiration to us all!

Haley was determined to collect excess produce and distribute it to those in need. She founded Project Abundance. This teen-run community service project's mission is: to harvest surplus garden and farm produce to be donated to the Marin Food Bank for distribution to local families in need. Project Abundance harvest services are free and offered to residents in Novato.

Haley and a group of volunteers glean produce and deliver it to the Marin Food Bank, a partner of Project Abundance, which distributes it to those in need. According to the Marin Food Bank, 9,000 people per week are served by the

food bank which helps the 51,000 Marin residents who are in need of food. It's often difficult for those of us in Marin to realize the great need we have right here, in Marin County. More than 20% of Marin's population is affected and in need of food assistance.

As of December 23, 2013 Project Abundance had gleaned 1,732 pounds of fresh produce and delivered it to the Marin Food Bank. I am honored to have Haley Pavone as the 2013 Look Who's Getting It Done Awardee. It is truly an inspiration to learn about the youth in our community who put their enthusiasm and energy to good work to help those who are less fortunate.

If you want to be a part of Project Abundance, it's easy to help. To schedule a free harvest in Novato, email: projectabundance@yahoo.com. In addition, Project Abundance collects donations of bins, clippers, gloves, ladders or cash. For more information, visit: <http://projectabundancemarin.com/>. To learn more about the Marin Food Bank, visit: <http://www.sfmfoodbank.org/>.

Thank you Haley Pavone for your hard work and dedication! You truly are "Getting it Done"!



LOOK WHO'S GETTING IT DONE AWARD

In 2007 I started the annual LOOK WHO'S GETTING IT DONE AWARD. I make this award every year in January.

The award recognizes someone in the 5th District who "got something done" for our community. The winner is featured in my County Connection article in the Novato Advance, in my newsletter, and on my County webpage.

Past awardees include: Mary Jane Burke, Kenneth Harth, Elizabeth DeRuvo, Patty Bennett, Ken & Charlene Casey, and Rob Hart.

If you would like to nominate someone for the 2014 Look Who's Getting it Done award, please contact my aide Tanya Albert at: TAlbert@marincounty.org.

District 5 County Connection Newsletter



Exciting Developments with SMART

In the past several months there have been a lot of exciting developments with the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) project. First, I am thrilled to report there is a real possibility that the San Rafael to Larkspur segment could be completed sooner than originally planned due to the recent developments below.

In September, the Federal Transit Administration accepted SMART's San Rafael to Larkspur segment into the Project Development phase of its "Small Starts" funding program. This designation grants SMART funding to complete the federal environmental review process, as well as the final engineering and design for this critical segment. This designation also puts SMART among a small group of projects nationwide that can be considered for federal construction dollars from this program.

Following that announcement, at its September Board meeting, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) voted to recommend that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission redirect \$11.4 million in Regional Measure 2 toll funds to the SMART Larkspur Extension, as part of TAM's revised recommendations for the Greenbrae Corridor Project. Up to \$3 million of that will be dedicated to a permanent crossing at Anderson Drive in San Rafael to repair and realign the tracks that were removed years ago not considering train service would be reestablished.

As a TAM Board member, I was happy to support this effort. For one, this approach truly provides a multi-modal method to congestion in the Greenbrae Corridor – helping integrate the SMART train and pathway with our overall transportation infrastructure connecting rail, roadways, bus transit, ferry service, and bike/pedestrian facilities. Additionally, this award of funds allows SMART further eligibility for federal construction funds based on its Small Starts status. Those federal funds can only come to SMART if there are matching funds locally for the extension. This vote will ensure that SMART remains eligible for future federal funds.

SMART expects to complete the federal environmental clearance and project engineering for the Larkspur extension in 2014. Both the Smarts Starts funding program and the actions of the TAM Board have jumpstarted the critical Larkspur extension phase of SMART. SMART will be working hard this year to identify construction funding for the project.

Phase 1 of the SMART project includes 38.5 miles of service, from downtown San Rafael to North Santa Rosa, and will include nine stations: two in Santa Rosa (Guerneville Road & Railroad Square), one in Rohnert Park (Rohnert Park Expressway), one in Cotati (East Cotati Avenue), one in Petaluma (downtown), two in Novato (San Marin/Atherton & Hamilton), and two in San Rafael (Marin Civic Center and downtown). Passenger rail service for Phase 1 will begin in 2016.

And finally, an achievement near and dear to me: in October SMART acquired more than 56 contiguous acres of property in Marin and Sonoma counties – known as the Mira Monte Marina with its property access in Novato. SMART will preserve, enhance and restore this property as part of its environmental mitigation program.

This is a win-win that I have been pursuing for quite some time. This acquisition will provide substantial savings for SMART's taxpayers compared to typical mitigation bank purchases; it protects and restores an incredibly important and sensitive environmental habitat to create a continuous wildlife corridor in a very critical area and connects to the largest and least disturbed remaining tidal marsh in the state; and it does it all locally – investing local dollars for environmental enhancement 100% within the project area.

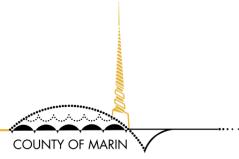
I am pleased to be able to share these exciting updates with you. As Chair of SMART, I will continue to make sure the SMART project moves forward in a measured manner in which costs are carefully monitored, savings are maximized, funding opportunities are closely pursued and the public has consistent access to all available information as we work on your behalf to make SMART a success.

For more information about SMART and/or to subscribe to receive project updates from SMART via email, visit the SMART website at:

<http://www.sonomamarintrain.org/>



District 5 County Connection Newsletter



Fun with Photos—Newsletter Photo Gallery

I had the privilege of participating in several great events since our last County Connection Newsletter published. I thought I would share a few photo highlights with you here...



Above: The swearing in of our newly appointed 2013/2014 Youth Commissioners



Above: Honoring recipients of the “Above Self” award, Kyle Beyer and Richard Shelton



Above: Senior Citizen’s Day at the Novato High School football game



Above: Celebrating Marin County’s agriculture and farming at the Farm Bureau lunch



Above: SMART purchases the 56-acre Mira Monte Marina as part of SMART’s environmental mitigation program



Above: Gavin & Ian, participants of the 2013 County Fair’s Junior Photo Department’s special Civic Center Exhibit

District 5 County Connection Newsletter



Parks Winter News and Events

MARIN COUNTY PARKS
PRESERVATION • RECREATION



The Winter newsletter from County Parks & Open Space is now available—and is chock full of FREE activities to take full advantage of Marin's natural wonders during the season. Learn about the projects we're working on as well as the free programs we offer including Community Volunteer Days, Naturalist Outings, and Ranger Events. You're sure to discover something for you and your family to enjoy. Visit: http://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/main/~media/Files/Departments/PK/Main/Newsletter/2013/MCP_NL_Winter1314_Final.pdf

- **News**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
- **Naturalist-led Walks**
- **Naturalist-led Family Walks**
- **Ranger Events**
- **Dog-friendly Hikes**

WATCH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS ON NOVATO PUBLIC ACCESS TV

Great news! Novato cable customers can now watch Marin County Board of Supervisor meetings live on the government channel. You can find information about upcoming Board of Supervisor meetings or watch the meetings online at:

<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/meeting-archive>



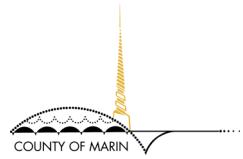
Participate on a County Board or Commission

If you are a resident of Marin County and would like to participate in local government, consider applying for a seat on a Marin County Board or Commission. The Board of Supervisors is always searching for innovative, creative thinkers who are enthusiastic about our community and their volunteer work.

Board and Commission members serve in an advisory role to help direct policy by making suggestions and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Appointed commissions exist within the County as a whole, as well as the cities and towns, special districts and joint exercise of power authorities. Some positions are created by local elected officials and others are mandated by state statute.

Each commission has an issue, policy and/or program focus representing its constituencies, and generally commission appointees represent defined communities of interest. County Boards and Commissions are public bodies and therefore all meetings are open to the public.

A list of current vacancies, additional details about a particular Board or Commission, and details about how to apply can all be found on the County website: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/boards-and-commissions/about-boards-and-commissions>



Judy Arnold, Marin County Supervisor

DISTRICT 5 COUNTY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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January 2014

SU	MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SA
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February 2014

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March 2014

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Board of Supervisors, Transit District, and TAM Meetings are held in the BOS Chambers in the Marin Civic Center: 3501 Civic Center Dr., Suite 329.

SMART Board meetings are held on the First Floor at the SMART office in Petaluma: 5401 Old Redwood Highway, Petaluma.

Start times for BOS meetings can vary. For start times and agenda packet materials for upcoming as well as minutes of prior meetings:

⇒ Go to the County of Marin website at www.marincounty.org. In the “Board of Supervisors” section, click “Agendas, Minutes & Webcasts”

BOS meetings are also webcast live. To watch a meeting live or to replay at a later date:

⇒ Go to the County of Marin website at www.marincounty.org. In the “Board of Supervisors” section, click “Agendas, Minutes & Webcasts”

Upcoming Meetings

- **Jan 7**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Jan 14**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Jan 20**—County Holiday (offices closed)
- **Jan 23**—7pm, TAM Meeting
- **Jan 27**—10am, Transit District Meeting
- **Jan 28**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Feb 4**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Feb 11**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Feb 17**—County Holiday (offices closed)
- **Feb 19**—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
- **Feb 25**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Feb 27**—7pm, TAM Meeting
- **Mar 11**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Mar 17**—10am, Transit District Meeting
- **Mar 18**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Mar 19**—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
- **Mar 25**—Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Mar 27**—7pm, TAM Meeting

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