



## Be Alert — SMART Quiet Zones Implemented in Marin!

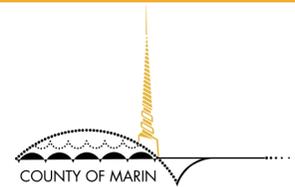
We are getting very close to the launch of SMART passenger service! Testing is going very well and as of May 12<sup>th</sup> SMART has been testing its service schedule. This means that SMART is running 30 train trips per day on weekdays and 10 on the weekends. Testing will continue for the next few weeks and then passenger service is right around the corner!

In preparation for passenger service, Quiet Zone implementation has begun. On May 10, the San Rafael and the Novato City Councils held a joint workshop to discuss SMART Quiet Zones and the timing of the establishment of the contiguous Quiet Zone for Novato, San Rafael and Marin County. A Quiet Zone is a defined area of track where the horn is not required to sound (except when leaving a station or in an emergency). This joint session followed the City of San Rafael's filing of a Notice of Establishment on April 20. The Quiet Zone can be established no earlier than 21 days after this filing.

Following the joint workshop, the San Rafael City Council voted to request approval for the start of the Quiet Zone for San Rafael, Novato, and Marin County as soon as possible. San Rafael staff contacted the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to request that approval, and Quiet Zones "went live" in Marin last week.

This is good news for our local residents who have been concerned about train noise and anxiously awaiting Quiet Zone implementation - but now marks the time that we need to be extra

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## Join a Resilient Neighborhood Team!

Six families from Bel Marin Keys in Novato responded to an ad on Nextdoor.com asking people to join a Resilient Neighborhoods EcoTeam to take action on climate change. Even though they live in the same community, they had never met, but were all concerned about the rising waters around their homes. They formed the "Keys Carbon Bailers" team and collectively reduced over 51,000 lbs. of CO2 pollution. Most of the households signed up for



100% renewable energy from Marin Clean Energy, one purchased an electric vehicle, and they all created household emergency plans and will look out for each other in emergencies. By the end of the program the strangers had become friends and are planning a BBQ this summer. A big thank you to these Bel Marin Keys neighbors! Additional teams are forming throughout Marin County—for more information and/or to sign-up, visit: <http://www.resilientneighborhoods.org/sign-up-for-a-team-or-register-for-a-class.html>



Find Me On Facebook!

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"Like" my page and start receiving updates from me in your news feed today.

## SMART Quiet Zones Implemented in Marin (continued from page 1)

cautious and diligent near all railroad crossings and tracks. Now that Quiet Zones are established, remember that you will not hear train horns at railroad crossings, but there may be a train coming!

A few very important safety reminders:

- Do not walk on the railroad tracks. Walking on the tracks is unsafe and illegal.
- Drivers should never stop on the railroad tracks, and never cross the tracks until you are sure you have enough room to make it safely through to the other side.
- Use designated railroad crossings only. Wait for the bells and flashing lights to stop and for the gate to rise completely before crossing railroad tracks.
- Be prepared to stop at railroad crossings. Slow down and always be alert and aware around all railroad tracks and crossings.

SMART staff has been hard at work developing safety materials, creating interactive safety games, distributing safety materials to school children, as well as making Rail Safety Presentations at our local schools. For more information on rail safety and to download these materials, visit the SMART safety web page at: [www.BeTrackSmart.org](http://www.BeTrackSmart.org).



## Medical Cannabis License Appeal Hearings Scheduled — Tuesday, May 23

In 2015 the Board of Supervisors adopted its first local ordinance to allow limited licensing of medical cannabis dispensaries in unincorporated Marin. The ordinance allowed for up to four licenses to be granted by the County Administrator. As part of the ordinance, the County Administrator appointed an advisory committee to hear public presentations from the applicants and receive public input from the community. In addition, staff from a variety of County departments reviewed the applications.

Ten applications were received for several of the eligible sites. After reviewing the applications and considering input from the advisory committee, the public, and staff, the County Administrator announced on Monday, April 10 that he is not approving any of the applications, noting that none of the proposed cannabis dispensary licenses met and exceeded all of the review criteria outlined in the ordinance - with the right combination of experienced applicant/operator, a location that adequately accommodates the use without neighborhood impacts, and an operating plan that fits with the type and scale of the proposed dispensary use.

Eight of the applicants have appealed the County Administrator's decision and the Board of Supervisors will consider those appeals on Tuesday, May 23 at 1:30pm in the Board of Supervisors Chambers. The appellants will be given ten minutes to make a presentation and then the public will have an opportunity to make public comments.

The Board of Supervisors sub-committee on medical cannabis, of which I am a member, will continue to meet and work to craft a revised approach to licensing medical cannabis dispensaries in unincorporated Marin. Possible modifications could include a selection process which would disconnect the selection of the operator from that of the location and a delivery only service that provides office consultation on site. I am hopeful that these possible revisions will address some of the concerns raised by the community and allow us to move forward with providing safe access to medical cannabis in Marin. If you are interested in this issue, you can subscribe to receive updates at: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/cannabis-programs>.



**This Weekend—Aging Action Initiative Event**

To register: <http://www.moneymattersmarin.org/events/home/>



**A PLACE CALLED HOME**

MAKING THE MOST OF THE ONE YOU HAVE; FINDING ONE YOU CAN AFFORD



**SATURDAY, MAY 20 | 9:30 AM–NOON**

Whistlestop | 930 Tamalpais Avenue | San Rafael | Breakfast Provided!

**Attend this FREE event to hear local experts discuss the latest developments in homeownership and affordable housing followed by small group discussions tailored for homeowners and renters:**

**SHARED HOUSING/ ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS**

Rachel Ginis, ED, Lilypad Homes

Leslie Klor, Director, HomeShare Marin

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING & SECTION 8**

Kimberly Carroll, Deputy Director, Marin Housing Authority

Cynthia Swan, Housing Locator, Marin Housing Authority

**REVERSE MORTGAGES, REHAB LOANS & BELOW MARKET RATE HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Bill Smith, Loan Specialist, Reverse Mortgage West

Carmen Soruco, Homeownership Programs Manager, MHA

**Seating is Limited.** To register or obtain more information, visit [moneymattersmarin.org/events](http://moneymattersmarin.org/events).

**Why is this free?** Money Matters is a community service brought to you by Marin Aging Action Initiative, funded by the County of Marin.

**A.A.I.**

Register for This Event at [MONEYMATTERSMARIN.ORG/EVENTS](http://MONEYMATTERSMARIN.ORG/EVENTS)

## 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: Meeting inspiring young women at this year's Marin Teen Girl Conference.



Above: Saying farewell to the wonderful Patrice Stancato as she retired from our County Clerks Team.



Above: Touring a truly valuable asset in our community, the Marin Community Clinic's Health Hub in Novato.



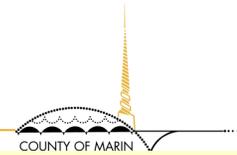
Above: It was a joy meeting the 2017 Fair Housing Advocates of Marin Poster Contest winners!



Above: Celebrating the expansion of the Downtown Streets Team to Novato with Mayor Denise Athas.



Above: Hosting this amazing young woman, Nicole, on Marin County's Office of Education School to Career Day.



## What Do You Think? Should HOV Lane Hours on Hwy 101 be Extended?

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is proposing revised HOV hours of 6:30am to 10:00am in the morning and 3:00pm to 7:00pm in the afternoon. (Current HOV hours are 6:30am-8:30am and 4:30pm-7:00pm). These changes would be implemented in two six-month pilots. The first pilot would change the hours in the southbound direction this summer. After evaluating the impacts of this change, the northbound direction hours are proposed to be changed in early 2018.

Longer HOV hours would reduce the capacity on the highway for residents. A reduction of the available capacity could be detrimental to our local commuters - greatly increasing traffic. On the flipside, for those who carpool or take a public bus, commute times will likely reduce.

The ultimate decision on whether or not to change the HOV hours on Highway 101 sits with MTC and Caltrans, not our local jurisdictions. The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) will consider sending a comment letter to MTC and Caltrans expressing our concerns about an increase of traffic congestion if longer hours are implemented at our June 1st public meeting. MTC and Caltrans are expected to make a final decision this June.

I want to hear from you! Please complete this survey (only one question!), <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RK7SWB5>, by May 29th so I can share the results at our TAM meeting, with MTC and Caltrans.

## Library Passes Available for Marin County Parks!

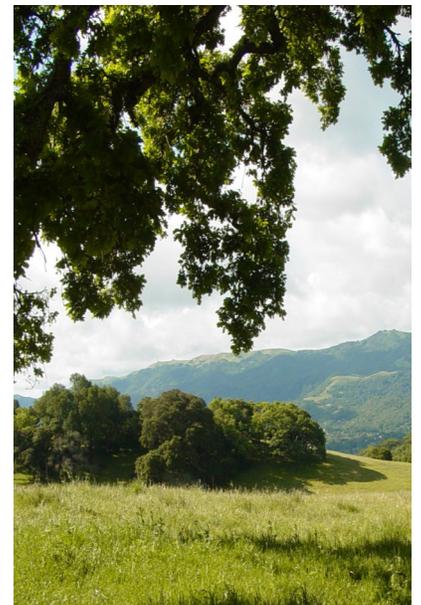
Spring has sprung - and it is a great time to visit our beautiful Marin County Parks! To help increase access to our parks, the County has expanded a program that gives library card holders free entry into some of our most popular parks in Marin.

A collaboration between Marin County Free Library (MCFL) and Marin County Parks helps library patrons visit parks that they might not normally visit because of entrance fees. One-week parks passes are available for checkout at all ten MCFL branches: Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael, Bolinas, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Inverness, Marin City, Novato, Point Reyes, South Novato, Stinson Beach, as well as the Bookmobile that travels around Marin.

Here is how it works: you check the pass out from the library as you would a book, hang it from the rear-view mirror of your vehicle, and enjoy free entrance to the parks listed below. If all passes are checked out, you can place one on hold.

The parks included in the program are: McNears Beach, Paradise Beach, Miller boat launch, Stafford Lake Park, and Black Point boat launch. In addition, pass holders can visit Marin Municipal Water District lands and Mount Tamalpais State Park through the partnership of the One Tam initiative of the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative.

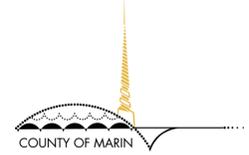
This is one of the exciting new equity programs the County is working on to remove economic well-being as a qualifier for enjoying County services. The program helps residents who consider park fees a barrier to visitation, but it is for anyone who wishes to enjoy the program.



## Marin Community Foundation Grant for the Novato Theater!

I am pleased to share that the Novato Theater will be the beneficiary of a \$250,000 grant from the Buck Family Fund of the Marin Community Foundation. My office worked with the Theater Board on this request to the Marin Community Foundation. This financial boost will go a long way toward the next phase of construction. The next phase includes: framing the interior of the structure; completing rough electrical and plumbing; framing the roof and installing roof trusses; installing roofing and mechanical equipment; and completing the exterior finishes on the frontage of the building.

The Novato Theater has received financial support from both the City of Novato and the County of Marin, along with numerous local businesses and individuals. Fundraising naming opportunities have been a success with the naming rights for the Main Lobby, Beer & Wine Bar, Concession Area, Box Office and the Vintage Ticket Booth already secured (with additional opportunities still available!). Fundraising efforts are ongoing and community members interested in getting involved can contact the Novato Theater at: [info@novatoteater.net](mailto:info@novatoteater.net) or [www.novatoteater.net](http://www.novatoteater.net).



Judy Arnold, Marin County Supervisor

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May 2017

Calendar grid for May 2017 with days of the week and dates 1-31.

June 2017

Calendar grid for June 2017 with days of the week and dates 1-30.

July 2017

Calendar grid for July 2017 with days of the week and dates 1-31.

Upcoming Meetings

- May 17—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
• May 23—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• May 29—County Holiday (offices closed)
• June 1—7pm, TAM Meeting
• June 6—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• June 7—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
• June 13—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• June 20—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• June 21—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
• June 22—7pm, TAM Meeting
• June 26—10am, Transit District Meeting
• July 4—County Holiday (offices closed)
• July 5—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
• July 11—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• July 18—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• July 19—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
• July 24—10am, Transit District Meeting
• July 25—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• July 27—7pm, TAM Meeting

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 "Minutes/Agendas/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 "Minutes/Agendas/Webcasts"

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