



## Season's Greetings

Dear Friends,

As we approach the Holiday season, we see that the national economic trauma has hit Marin. County and City coffers are sparse with more cuts coming from Sacramento.

If you ever watched the movie or read John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, you may identify with the determination of the Joad family as they leave their home during the dust storms and Depression in search of jobs and a better life in California. And today in California we are short on jobs.

But we do have something that I believe will get us through these difficult times. I see it in your faces and deeds every day: innovative minds and spirits focused on seeking solutions; generosity that translates into extra acts of kindness to strangers; a willingness on the part of our residents and businesses to reach out to neighbors and friends; and a determination that here in our county we will work together to strengthen our values of home, family and a steady job.

Meister Eckhart once said: "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, 'thank you,' that would suffice." This season, I want to say "thank you" to you for the work we are doing together.

I also invite you to contact me with any suggestions or concerns. All the best to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season!

## Report on the Long-Term Budget Restructuring Forum

As part of the County of Marin's long-term restructuring process, the County conducted a first ever community forum on the County budget on November 9 in Novato, held from 7-9pm at Homeward Bound's Next Key Room. This forum was hosted by myself and Supervisor Steve Kinsey, and provided an opportunity for the public to learn more about County government and share constructive ideas and solutions to help the County adapt to these challenging times. It was attended by 27 people, primarily from Novato. The overall purpose of the forum was to:

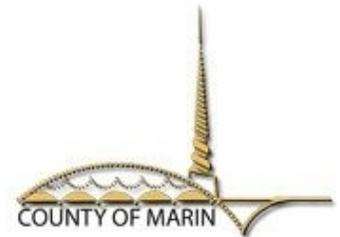
- Inform the community about the County budget and role of County government
- Gather the community's ideas about potential options to address the County budget shortfall
- Get creative ideas on how to save the County money

The format was an environment for attendees to make connections with one another, learn more about County services and key budget challenges, and work together to identify and share creative ideas.



Participants offer ideas at the County's first-ever community forum on the Long-Term Budget Restructuring

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Visit the **County Budget Information** web page for a summary, presentation materials and complete video of the Budget Forum. Go to: [www.co.marin.ca.us/budgetinfo](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/budgetinfo) then scroll down to see the Novato Community Forum items



I AM CALLING ON THE  
BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
TO BECOME FINANCIAL  
SPONSORS OF THIS  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE VENTURE.

## Marin Economic Forum—Phase II of Startup Begins

In the latest County Community Survey, one of the two top concerns was the economy and lack of jobs.

For those of us who saw the economy as a vital part of Marin’s sustainability, this provided added impetus for the Board of Supervisors to take the next step. The survey listed job retention and the economy as the second highest concern to our residents (traffic was first).

With this information, we hired an Economic Sustainability Coordinator, Dr. Robert Eyler, whose job for the year is to form a public-private partnership called the Marin Economic Forum (MEF). Early November marked the completion of Phase I of the startup activities, and at last we are poised to have the third E of Sustainability, Economy, join with Social Equity and Environment to maintain a sustainable Marin.

Over the past six months, under the leadership of Economic Sustainability Coordinator Dr. Rob Eyler, a volunteer steering committee composed of businesses, non profits, educators, chambers of commerce, county and city staff, members of the Marin Economic Commission and Supervisor McGlashan and myself, have drafted bylaws, a vision, mission, funding plan for this public-private partnership, created an administrative shell under the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership’s 501(c)(3), and are now poised to select a Board of Directors.

The vision of MEF is to be Marin’s leading business support organization where economic vitality drives social equity and environmental balance. MEF will focus on Marin’s desired targeted industries – businesses that are in line with Marin’s core values and “3 E’s” strategy.

The MEF will achieve its mission through: coordinating Marin’s economic stakeholders; educating Marin on economic trends; integrating opportunities to aggregate resources for local businesses to lower costs or increase revenues, such as small businesses joining together to provide health care for their employees at lower cost, or benefiting from a common disaster relief plan; engaging the community by hosting periodic roundtable meetings among economic stakeholders; and policy development for local governments that illustrate the benefits of local economic health as an integrated element of their overall civic goals. The MEF, being a 501(c)(3), cannot advocate for public policy options, but can provide information much as an EIR does in public decision making.

MEF will, for example, work to strengthen the availabil-

ity of local employment in a way that uses existing office space and zoning – a win/win approach that can lift up our current finance and commercial real estate sectors while attracting desirable employers that can provide well-paying local jobs so that more of our population can work closer to home. All while avoiding increased pressure on land use, a typical stereotype of economic development efforts that would clearly be out of step with Marin’s core values.

MEF can also provide specific reports on a fee-for-service basis. Early discussions include analysis to supplement Sausalito’s Waterfront Redevelopment Plan, examination of possibilities for Marin Farmer’s Market, and one that I think would be valuable for Novato, a “3 E’s” comparison of alternatives for Novato’s Redwood Corridor.

I am proud of what we have accomplished in just six months, and excited to move forward with this critical effort. Local economic sustainability is the key to achieving our region’s environmental and social goals.

I am also calling on the business community to become financial sponsors of this new venture. It has been a long time in coming, but is coming to fruition at a pivotal moment, and now is the time for the private sector to step up and participate in this collaborative effort. We need to add the third E to our Sustainability actions, and MEF will be a driver to accomplish that.

If you would like more information, please contact me at 499-7331 or my aide, Carolyn Glendening at 499-7395.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors and/or becoming a sponsor, please contact Rob Eyler at: [eyler@marineconomicforum.org](mailto:eyler@marineconomicforum.org).





## Visit **MARINFLU.ORG** for the Most Current H1N1 Info

The Marin County Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), in cooperation with Marin Community Clinics, has been providing FREE H1N1 flu vaccine clinics throughout Marin this flu season. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the first shipments of vaccine are being administered *only* to those with a higher risk of flu complications. These high risk groups include:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or provide care for infants younger than 6 months
- Health and emergency medical services personnel
- ALL people age 6 months through 24 years
- People 25 through 64 who have certain medical conditions that put them at higher risk

The CDC has determined that persons age 65 or older are not at high risk of H1N1 infections. Please visit [www.marinflu.org](http://www.marinflu.org) for the most current and complete information.

Public health staff will screen people waiting in line to determine high risk status; however, there will be no further prioritization within the high risk groups. Those who do not qualify as high risk will be served later in the flu season as vaccine shipments continue to arrive (HHS will provide ongoing supply and eligibility updates to the media, and they will be posted online at [marinflu.org](http://marinflu.org)).

No *seasonal* flu vaccine will be available at these H1N1 clinics. Flu Mist (the nasal vaccine) and preservative-free vaccine are not available at these clinics. Individuals may not hold places in line. Clinics will close when the allocated vaccine supply is exhausted.

**Free H1N1  
Vaccine Clinic**  
**Saturday, December 5**  
**Novato—9am-4pm**

Novato Community  
Hospital  
180 Rowland Way

In collaboration with  
Marin Community Clinics

**H1N1 High Risk Marin  
Residents ONLY**

People who want to be immunized and think they are at high risk should first contact their health-care provider to see if they have vaccine available.

**THIS YEAR, AIR  
OFFICIALS WILL  
ANNOUNCE A SPARE  
THE AIR DAY BY 2PM  
THE DAY BEFORE TO  
BETTER INFORM THE  
PUBLIC ABOUT THE  
WOOD SMOKE BAN**

## KEEP INFORMED ABOUT “SPARE THE AIR” ALERTS

From Nov. 1 through Feb. 28, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District bans the use of wood-burning devices, including fireplaces, pellet stoves, wood stoves and outdoor fire pits on “Spare the Air” days, when weather conditions make it likely that smoke will hang in the air and cause particulate pollution, making it hard for some people to breathe — and putting the Bay Area in danger of failing federal clean-air standards.

Marin residents can check before they burn:

- Visit [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) or [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org)
- Call 1-877-4-NO-BURN
- Sign up for email alerts at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org)
- Sign up for phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515

## Budget Forum (cont'd from Page 1)

We began by asking attendees what brought them to the forum, and what issues they wanted to hear more about. We then had small group discussions on what was valued most about Marin before hearing an overview presentation by County Administrator Matthew Hymel.

Following the presentation and equipped with what they had learned, attendees remained in small groups to brainstorm solutions to help County government adapt to the challenging times. Five groups (with approximately 5-6 people per group) worked together with County staff facilitators to brainstorm answers and rank their top suggestions. To begin this process,

they were asked: *“How can we adapt to the changing economic times while preserving Marin’s legacy?”*

I was impressed with the constructive spirit of those who attended. Participants were interested in the details of County services, budget elements and challenges, and engaged in a very productive process to join in creating solutions. If you couldn’t attend, please visit: [www.co.marin.ca.us/budgetinfo](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/budgetinfo) and look for “Novato Community Forum” links to watch complete video of the forum, download the County Administrator’s presentation, and read a full summary.



## Boca Steak & Seafood and Tony Elshout Awarded 2009 Golden Spire



Judy joins Supervisor Charles McGlashan in presenting Tony Elshout (above) of Galli Square Partners and Shah Bahreyni (right) of Boca Steak & Seafood Restaurant with the 2009 Golden Spire Award for Outstanding Business of the Year



The annual Marin Economic Commission *Awards of Excellence* luncheon was especially festive for Novato this year. The Board of Supervisors recognized the many contributions of our own Boca Steak & Seafood Restaurant and Tony Elshout with the Golden Spire Award for the Outstanding Business of the Year. The Golden Spire recognizes a business in Marin that makes a significant economic contribution to the county's vitality, and is exemplary in demonstrating corporate responsibility in terms of cultural vitality, sustainability, pro-

gressive work environment, and generosity in giving back to the community.

Boca is thriving in the current climate by combining uncompromising quality with opportunities for value, and challenges itself to give back to the community through a variety of charitable causes, including local schools, medical care for the elderly, and helping individuals with developmental disabilities.

Boca and Tony recognized the opportunity presented by an expiring lease to create something few restaurants anywhere have: a truly neighborhood restaurant with close ties to the community that also attracts loyal patrons from far and wide to its world class cuisine.

Photos by Perfect Circle Photography

## G-Channel Offers Another Way to Keep Up With Local Government

If you haven't yet made use of the G-Channel website, you may be missing out on the chance to keep up with local government happenings no matter your location or the demands of your schedule.

G-Channel contains a constantly updated online library of regular and special meetings of a variety of boards, agencies, and one-time workshops and events.

Recent additions include the Novato Community Forum on

the County Budget, the Health Forum on healthcare models throughout the Bay Area, TAM's Climate Change Fantasy Camp, and updates on the flu season and H1N1.

In addition, all public meetings of the Board of Supervisors, TAM, Marin Transit, Marin Housing Authority, and County Open Space District, Planning Commission, and Flood & Water Conservation District are posted regularly.

Visit [www.co.marin.ca.us/G-Channel](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/G-Channel) today!

## Novato Dial-A-Ride Receives Rave Reviews

Launched August 1, Novato Dial-a-Ride is a big success for Novatans of all ages. The service is designed to extend Novato's local transit service. You can use the dial-a-ride service to make a complete trip within Novato or connect to fixed route transit service for travel outside Novato.

Novato Dial-a-Ride provides passengers curb-to-curb pick-up and drop-off service. To use the service, you must schedule your trip by calling 415-892-7899. All trips must start and end within the Service Area. The bus will make stops at any safe location within the eligible service area.

For more information, please visit: <http://marintransit.org/novatodialaride.html>

WEEKDAYS (MONDAY—FRIDAY)	SATURDAY & SUNDAY	FARE
<b>7:30-11:00am and 3:00-6:00pm</b> Advance reservations accepted Starting 7 days prior to trip. Same day reservations if space allows.	<b>9:00am to 5:00pm</b> Same day reservations only Reservation service opens at 8:00am	Adults: \$2.00 Youth (6-18): \$1.00 Seniors (65+): \$1.00 People with disabilities: \$1.00 Accompanied children under 6 Free

## Novato Dial-A-Ride



Door-to-Door Service to:

- San Marin
- Black Pt./Green Pt.
- Bel Marin Keys
- Hamilton
- Central Novato



[www.marintransit.org](http://www.marintransit.org)  
**415-892-7899**



## Polystyrene Ban in Unincorporated County Areas

For additional information, please contact the County Environmental Health Department and ask to speak with one of our Consumer Protection staff members at 499-6907.

On October 27, 2009 the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance prohibiting retail establishments in the unincorporated county and county facilities from the continued use of polystyrene and plastic food packaging. The ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2010 and enforcement of the ordinance will be deferred to July 1, 2010 to allow affected businesses to acquire compliant packaging materials while making use of their existing stocks.

The basis for the ordinance is the growing scientific awareness that polystyrene and plastic packaging pose serious risks to human health, wildlife, the environment and economy. These materials do not bio-degrade and are difficult to recycle. The polystyrene manufacturing process is the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste, and ranks second in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions!

The County of Marin is proud to join the growing number of counties across the nation banning these materials. For answers to frequently asked questions and a list of where to purchase compliant packaging, visit: [www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr5/hottopic.cfm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr5/hottopic.cfm)

## Integrated Pest Management Website Launched

In my last newsletter I reported the good news that the Board of Supervisors adopted a revised Integrated Pest Management (IPM) ordinance on July 21, 2009. The revised ordinance included several improvements to the old 1998 ordinance.

I am pleased to report that in November the County launched the new IPM website, as required by the new ordinance. On the website you can find details about the IPM ordinance and policy, list of allowed pesticides to be used by the County, details on any exemptions granted, pesticide notifications, and other information related to pest management within the County. You can visit the website at:

[www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/AG/Main/IPM/ipmprogramhome.cfm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/AG/Main/IPM/ipmprogramhome.cfm)

After the new ordinance was adopted, Supervisor Hal Brown and I were assigned to an IPM subcommittee to look into additional ways the policy could be enhanced. On November 10, 2009 the Board of Supervisors adopted the following:

- Allocated \$100,000 in funding to the IPM program for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and \$50,000 annually for subsequent years.

The initial funding will be used to help implement the 2009-2010 IPM work plan. Activities in the work plan include development and approval of an IPM pesticide list, development of pest specific and site specific plans, and the hiring of one IPM support staff member.

- Designated Ed Hulme of the Parks and Open Space Department as the County's interim IPM Coordinator.

The IPM Coordinator will coordinate the implementation of the ordinance and policy and provide administrative support to the IPM Commission. To avoid potential conflicts-of-interest, the County's Environmental Health Department will review and approve any exemption requests from the Parks and Open Space Department.

With tremendous help from the community and our IPM Commission we now have an IPM ordinance we can truly be proud of. Thank you to all the community members who contributed to this effort!

The County will continue to monitor this program carefully. Remember to check the IPM website for updates and additional information.

## Improvements in the Revised IPM Ordinance

- Creates accountability and infrastructure for IPM reporting
- Formalizes public access to information about pesticide use
- Requires a website to allow greater access to information on pesticide usage as well as educational resources on IPM practices
- Spells out IPM reporting requirements, including content, schedule and format of the IPM Coordinator's reports to the IPM Commission and to the Board of Supervisors
- Details pesticides allowed for use and describes process for using Special Use Pesticides
- Requires that departments performing pest management designate an IPM Program Manager responsible for the management of the program within the department and reporting to the IPM Coordinator
- Defines "pesticide free zones" for turf grass areas, playgrounds and picnic areas



## Parks & Open Space Winter News and Events

The current newsletter from County Parks & Open Space has a new look — and is chock full of FREE activities to take full advantage of Marin’s natural wonders during the winter months.

Visit [www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/MCOSD/pdf/POS\\_Newsletter\\_Winter\\_2010.pdf](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/MCOSD/pdf/POS_Newsletter_Winter_2010.pdf) for :

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



COME HEAR LOCAL,  
STATE, AND REFORM  
INITIATIVE LEADERS OFFER  
THOUGHTS ON HOW TO  
REFORM AND MODERNIZE  
OUR GOVERNMENT  
PROCESSES

For more info call 499-7342

## MARIN COUNTY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**A Conversation on State and Local Government Structural Reform**

**December 10, 2009—6:30-8:45pm**

Board of Supervisors Chambers

3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330, San Rafael

Speakers include Senator Mark Leno, Assemblyman Jared Huffman, representatives from our School Districts, City and County government, California Forward and Bay Area Council.

Hosted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors, Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, Marin County School Board Association, and Marin Community United.

## Non-Profit “GetMoneySmart.info” Helps Get Your Financial Ducks in a Row

Local non-profit MarinLink has launched a new free online resource to help local residents and businesses become informed about making the most of their finances.

GetMoneySmart.info provides a comprehensive resource of providers of financial education, trainings and counseling in Marin County. It is designed to be used primarily by consumers, but should also be useful for businesses, organizations, and individuals. For most providers listed, the specific services offered by that provider are shown, often with links to further information.

Listings include banks and other financial institutions, non-profit and community-based organizations, government agencies, small businesses and online resources. It includes organizations that offer services to youth and adults, including older adults.

The offerings may be in one or more of many formats, including classes or other group sessions, individual consultations, financial coaching and financial psychology, and online courses. Also listed are sources of curricula in financial education and related fields.

Visit [www.GetMoneySmart.info](http://www.GetMoneySmart.info) for a full list of resources and upcoming local classes.

### Upcoming FREE Local Classes

#### Webinar — Investments: The Basics

**Friday, Dec. 4, 10-11am (online)**

Stocks, bonds and mutual funds: a NAPFA-registered financial advisor will help you understand the basics of investing and how to determine if an investment makes sense for you. Sign up at: [www.napfa.org/consumer/UpcomingSessions.asp](http://www.napfa.org/consumer/UpcomingSessions.asp)

#### COURSES AT MARINLINK:

5800 Northgate Mall, Suite 250,  
(Mezzanine Level), San Rafael

**To enroll call 415-472-0211 or email [mary@marinlink.org](mailto:mary@marinlink.org)**

Workshops facilitated by Mary O’Mara, Financial Recovery Counselor, and Stan Green, Certified Financial Planner

#### Get In Touch With Your Money

**Wednesday, Dec. 9, 5:30-7:00pm**

Finances in chaos? Feel out of control? Learn to track and manage your finances with 3 easy steps. One hour of tried and true facts and figures — leave with a plan!

#### Personal Spending Plan Made Easy

**Wednesday, Dec. 15, 5:30-7:00pm**

Plan ahead for 2010 and make this New Year’s resolution a living, breathing plan that will sustain you all year. The reason most resolutions fail is lack of planning. If you are serious about getting your financial ducks in a row, this is the workshop for you.



Judy Arnold, Marin County Supervisor

DISTRICT 5 COUNTY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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December 2009

Calendar grid for December 2009 with days of the week and dates 1-31.

January 2010

Calendar grid for January 2010 with days of the week and dates 1-31.

Schedule of Events

- December 1—Board of Supervisors Meeting
December 8—Board of Supervisors Meeting
December 15— Board of Supervisors Meeting
December 16—1:30pm, SMART Board Mtg
December 17—7pm, Transportation Authority of Marin Meeting
December 21—10am, Transit District Meeting
December 24—County Half-day Holiday
December 25—County Offices Closed
December 31—County Half-day Holiday
January 1—County Offices Closed
January 5— Board of Supervisors Meeting
January 12—Board of Supervisors Meeting
January 18— County Offices Closed
January 20—1:30pm, SMART Board Mtg
January 26—Board of Supervisors Meeting
January 28—7pm, Transportation Authority of Marin Meeting

All Board of Supervisors, Transit District, and TAM Meetings are open to the public and are held in the BOS Chambers in the Marin Civic Center at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329.

Meeting locations for SMART Board meetings vary; visit www.sonomamarintrain.org, then click on "Documents", then "Board Archive" for details.

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

Go to the County of Marin website at www.co.marin.ca.us
Click on "Board of Supervisors"
Click on "Meeting Archive" near the top of the page

BOS meetings are also webcast live. To watch:

Go to the County of Marin website at www.co.marin.ca.us
Click on "Board of Supervisors"
Click on "Live Video Broadcast" near the top of the page

Please consider the environment before printing this document

