



JUDY  
ARNOLD  
SUPERVISOR



## Spring Has Sprung!

I was sworn-in for my second term as Marin County Supervisor for District 5 in December. I work hard to do my job for you, but I am also blessed with highly engaged constituents who are actively involved in finding opportunities and solutions to make our district and our county even better. Together, we accomplished a lot over the last year:

- Helped lead the Marin Economic Forum in its first year of operation. MEF published the first-ever Marin Economic Bulletin that provides critical benchmarks for our local economy. See [www.marineconomicforum.org](http://www.marineconomicforum.org) for updates.
- Secured County support for a number of programs important to our community, including North Bay Children’s and Novato Youth Centers, Teen Alcohol Prevention, Novato Human Needs and Novato Independent Elders.
- Continued progress on the County’s long-term budget restructuring. In addition to closing each year’s gap, we have reduced the structural deficit with cuts, innovations and working successfully with employee representation on health benefit and pension reforms.

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## Let’s Re-Open the Downtown Novato Theater

You have probably heard that Bernice Beaza, the Executive Director of the Lark Theater in Larkspur, has been selected by the Novato City Council to bring the downtown Novato Theater back to life. This is a fabulous opportunity for our community.

The theater has been closed for 20 years. Bernice needs community support to rebuild the theater as a film, performing arts and cultural center so that live music, theater, and film events can have a year-round venue in downtown Novato. The theater will be open seven days a week, 365 days a year and available to rent for meetings, private events and educational outreach programming. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation has been created that will lead the project and operate it once it opens.

The City Council has set a benchmark for the theater to meet: raising \$750,000 by September in a combination of pledged and donated dollars.

Donations of any amount are important, and for those who want to invest, an LLC has been established in which investors purchase shares in the theater and receive a guaranteed return in a 10 year period. This is identical to the model that was used successfully to re-open the Lark.

There is even an option to pledge an amount that will only be collected if the \$750,000 target is met (see the [Donation Form](#) for details)

Because I believe the Theater is so important to our local community and economy, I have set aside \$150,000 for board approval from the County Community Partnership Fund, as a challenge grant to the community. To put it simply: You raise \$600,000, and the partnership fund will complete the balance of the donation target.

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FACEBOOK: "novato theater"



## Spring Has Sprung! (continued from page 1)

- Secured a commitment from my colleagues on the SMART Board to include the San Rafael Transit Center as the south terminus of the Initial Operating Segment, rather than the Civic Center, as well as working to increase transparency as the board addresses the agency's financial challenges.
- Jump-started fundraising efforts of the new non-profit "Novato Theater", to re-open the theater as part of an ongoing effort to revitalize Novato's downtown and local economy, with a request for \$150,000 in matching funds from the County's Community Partners Fund (see related article).
- Completed the Alameda del Prado project, closing a key gap in the North/South Bikeway.
- Provided support and participated in the installation of the new Afghanistan-Iraq Memorial at the Civic Center, to honor the brave Marin County service members who have lost their lives serving our country.
- Completed the feasibility study for the Stafford Lake Bike Park, and have begun the process for a master plan for the facility, with a process to ensure ample opportunity for public input.
- Successfully raised over \$10,000 through a challenge grant, to preserve Novato's Museum of the American Indian, the only museum on a native village site in the entire Bay Area.
- Added 16 acres of land, originally part of the Marin Country Club Estates Subdivision, to Ignacio Valley Open Space - with 20 additional acres preserved via conservation easement.
- Certified nine new Green Businesses in Novato.
- With the efforts of the Marin Community Clinics and Sutter Health's Access to Care Fund, launched the new Novato Dental Clinic to provide oral healthcare to under served children and adults.
- Celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Gness Field, our County-owned airport in Novato.
- Joined representatives throughout the county and region in the grand opening of the Cal Park Tunnel bike and pedestrian path, the result of many years of regional and inter-agency cooperation.

It is an honor to serve as your supervisor. Thank you for your involvement in meeting our challenges and creating a better future — I couldn't do it without you!

## In Remembrance

As most of you already know, Supervisor Charles McGlashan passed away suddenly and unexpectedly earlier this year. Charles represented District 3 in southern Marin, and in addition to being my colleague was a dear friend.

While he will no doubt be remembered most for launching the Marin Clean Energy program, his work on SMART and on behalf of his constituents, Charles' passion for environmental and social issues was matched by a belief that he and I shared — that a healthy economy and a healthy environment and community go hand in hand.

As an economic commissioner, and as a county supervisor once elected, Charles helped initiate the Targeted Industries Study that identified businesses that would do well in Marin, and for Marin. His support was instrumental in helping to launch the Marin Economic Forum.

Charles always had his eye on all three of the County "E"s of Sustainability — Environment, Economy, and Social Equity. He will be missed.



## Re-Open the Novato Theater (continued from page 1)

The community of Larkspur raised more than \$1.4 million in four months to get their theater open. They have a population of 11,000, and the average amount donated was \$750. Bernice has shared that most donations in Larkspur were made by those with more modest means and not just the wealthiest. I am challenging all of us to show Larkspur how we in Novato can raise the first \$750,000 in record time, so that the theater belongs to us.

An important element in Bernice's plan is that individual contributions for the theater are held in a separate account, and if the building purchase is not fulfilled, at least 90 percent of the monies will be refunded. This is a project that only wants to start something it can finish. It is up to all of us to make it a reality.

Once this benchmark is reached, the Novato Theater non-profit will purchase the building from the City at the already agreed-to price. From that point, funds will continue to be raised toward the \$3 million total, with the timeline to begin construction determined by how quickly funds are raised from the community.

Many local professional firms have offered pro bono services and equipment for the building construction. Catherine Bragg of flourChylde Bakery was an early and active supporter among our downtown businesses, and many others have joined this project with gusto to rally community involvement make the Downtown Theater a success.

I realize these are tough times, but that is exactly why we need to come together as a community and give ourselves this wonderful gift where we can watch our children perform, listen to local bands, and enjoy movies in a venue we helped create.

Please join me in making this dream a reality for our downtown and our community. Visit [www.novatotheater.net](http://www.novatotheater.net) today!

### THE VISION FOR THE NOVATO THEATER INCLUDES:

- Enlarging the main theater with a performance stage, large film screen, 235 seats and backstage dressing rooms
- A second theater on a new second floor with 65 seats for digital presentations
- A spacious lobby for concessions with room for receptions
- State-of-the-art sound and visual systems for film and live music
- Green and sustainable design & construction, as well as ADA-compliant

## More Ways to Keep Up to Date

### New Novato Patch Blog



I am excited to share that, at the invitation of the *Novato Patch* editor, I am participating as a blogger on [Novato.Patch.com](http://Novato.Patch.com). Earlier this month, Novato Patch launched "Local Voices", an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts and news tips on issues important to them in Novato.

#### Questions on Redistricting

Posted on May 13, 2011 at 5:14pm  
Recommend Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

I received some questions on redistricting. Here is the information:

You can check in on my blog postings by visiting: <http://novato.patch.com> and scrolling to "Local Voices", or go to: [http://novato.patch.com/users/judy-arnold/blog\\_posts](http://novato.patch.com/users/judy-arnold/blog_posts) to link directly to my blog.

I also continue my monthly column in the *Novato Advance*.

### Hot Topics

I maintain a Hot Topics area on my County web page, where you can keep up to date on a number of issue areas. 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).

### Marin Magazine

If you're not familiar with Marin Magazine, it is a great monthly magazine featuring all things Marin.

I was interviewed in the May edition by Executive Editor Jim Wood. You can check it out at:

<http://www.marinmagazine.com/Marin-Magazine/May-2011/Judy-Arnold/>





## MARIN ECONOMIC BULLETIN Spring 2011



On May 5, the Marin Economic Forum released the [Spring 2011 Economic Update](#), an overview of critical data, benchmarks and outlook for Marin's economy – which didn't exist before MEF was created.

The Update was presented at an event hosted by Autodesk, and I am especially pleased to note that attendees included representatives from all the many stakeholders in our local economy that the MEF was created to bring together:

- Businesses, and especially our targeted industries of Technology, Agri-Tourism, Green industries, Healthcare and Finance
- Local government from both the county and cities and towns
- Chambers, who are so important in their local areas and also see the benefit of a collaborative approach to the Marin economy
- Non-profits, who are a major source of both employment and public benefit in Marin
- Environmental organizations, who are a big part of Marin's leadership in green solutions
- And educational institutions, whose programs are so critical to meet our businesses future needs

MEF held its first, full board meeting 15 short months ago. I've said that in the past, Marin didn't worry about its economy – it didn't have to. But now there's a realization that our local economic health is critical to the way of life we so enjoy.

In addition to providing analysis on our own economy, MEF is already hard at work at a number of initiatives to focus on economic vitality in Marin:

- Working groups focused on encouraging growth and "clustering" of technology industries here in Marin – green technology, biotechnology, and digital arts and software, for instance.
- A partnership with the West Marin cheese industry to create a ["Cheese Trail" map](#) to draw attention to our wonderfully unique and high quality cheese producers.

This is part of a bigger focus on Agri-Tourism, which also boosts the profile of all that West Marin has to offer, with visitors staying at boutique accommodations, enjoying cheese and organic agriculture farms and our beautiful coast.

- Growing partnerships with College of Marin, Dominican University, and Sonoma State University to match educational program with Marin's future employment needs.
- And in the case of Dominican, working with them on the newly launched "Venture Greenhouse" accelerator, supporting entrepreneurs to launch businesses that offer environmental benefits.
- Working with cities and chambers to do economic analysis on projects of specific interest, where data and unbiased analysis can provide an important element in creating a common vision in the community.

For instance, MEF is about to complete a study for Sausalito on various options for the economic evolution of the City, with an analysis of the value of their excess commercial space, and outlining potential approaches to balance the economic possibilities with the community feedback provided during the study process.

The City of Novato has also requested a study of economic metrics related to their local real estate, goods and labor markets as well as demographics and economic context in the broader regional economy.

MEF is working to partner with all Marin towns and cities to provide this type of data, as our neighbors in Sonoma County have done.

The MEF Nominating Committee accepts applications for Associate membership on an ongoing basis. If you're interested in becoming an Associate, email: [info@marineconomicforum.org](mailto:info@marineconomicforum.org)

I look forward to continuing to work with MEF to bolster Marin's economic vitality, as the key to a thriving, beautiful Marin.

Visit [www.marineconomicforum.org](http://www.marineconomicforum.org) for more information.





## Working for Flexibility in Meeting Affordable Housing Requirements

I think everyone would agree that affordable housing is one of the biggest topics in Novato right now, as both the City and County work to update their housing elements. How we, as a community, move forward in addressing this issue is where opinions have differed.

Several community organizations have emerged during the City of Novato's Housing Element process, offering different perspectives for meeting this mandate. I have been contacted by, met with and heard the viewpoints of all of these organizations. Among them is Stand Up For Neighborly Novato (SUNN).

The principles I was asked by SUNN to endorse are:

- Novato should offer reasonable housing options for families making up to \$90,500 a year.
- Novato should build multi-family housing in a way that doesn't eat up open space, spur wide spread development or put a strain on the environment.
- Novato's housing should help accommodate seniors and people with disabilities.
- Novato should reduce traffic congestion by offering Novato workers, such as caregivers and school employees, housing options near their employment.
- Novato's efforts to offer moderately-priced housing options to workers, families and seniors are critical to our economic well-being.
- Novato's housing debate should be a fact-based, respectful community dialogue that includes all voices and is focused on making Novato a more neighborly community. Individual proposals to provide housing solutions should be judged on their own merit.

I support these principles - as do my Board colleagues, Supervisors Adams and Kinsey. Many of the principles are required by law, and I believe are areas where common ground has or should be found among the community groups interested in this issue.

I have not endorsed high density housing, incompatible housing or giving up local control.

Providing housing that is affordable to families, seniors and individuals with disabilities is vital in creating a community that is enriched by its diversity in age, income, talents and culture. It is important for our community to provide workforce housing and improve social equity.

That said, I agree with community members who believe that reaching these goals requires flexibility of current state mandates. I believe Novato and the County of Marin are inaccurately classified as metropolitan, requiring a default density of 30 units per acre. I have been actively working to support our ability to change this classification to suburban, as also advocated by several community organizations.

Further, I believe we must be careful to safeguard the small area that remains for commercial use in Novato. Novato has only 5% of its area zoned commercial, less than half the amount of nearby cities with similar populations. We must plan carefully for its use and protect the potential for revenues critical to providing city services.

The need for flexibility in meeting our housing goals is why I asked Assemblymember Huffman to introduce AB 1103 and worked to bring all community groups into the conversation as the bill took shape. I also asked SUNN to support the provision for lower density and to encourage affordable housing organizations around the state to do the same.

As introduced, AB 1103 called for:

- The opportunity for Novato (or any jurisdiction) to appeal for a re-designation from a metropolitan to suburban density requirement, thus allowing for a default density of 20 units per acre instead of 30;
- Allow more options for counting conversion units such as foreclosed homes, Habitat for Humanity homes and second units; and
- An incentive to comply with SB375 goals.

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Judy testifies before the Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee in support of AB 1103, with provisions to apply for lower densities and fully count converted units.



## Flexibility in Meeting Affordable Housing Requirements (cont'd from page 5)

AB 1103 was approved at its first Assembly Committee meeting, Housing and Community Development, with amendments. As Jared had cautioned, the ability for local governments to appeal for a designation change was removed from the bill. The incentives for SB375 were also removed. The ability to count more types of conversion units remains.

The bill has just been passed, without any additional amendments, by the full Assembly. The next step - the bill will head to the Senate. Go to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) to follow the bill as it progresses through the Senate, where Huffman has indicated he will continue to press for flexibility on density default designations as the bill continues through the process.

Huffman did a masterful job of lobbying the Housing and Community Development committee to keep this element of the bill. The Committee Chair said that although she would not pass the bill out of her committee with that inclusion, she would allow Huffman to make the case for re-designating the density at a committee hearing in the fall. I know that Huffman is committed to pursuing this issue.

While it may take more than one attempt to achieve all of our legislative goals, we should continue to work cooperatively with our state representatives on changes to allow flexibility in meeting our affordable housing needs.

I believe that positive action, such as supporting AB 1103 and working together to welcome diverse neighbors into our community, enriches all of us.



## SPRING & SUMMER NEWS AND EVENTS

The Spring 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. The Summer newsletter is scheduled to be posted on May 23. Visit:

[www.maringov.org/Depts/PK/Main/Newsletter.aspx](http://www.maringov.org/Depts/PK/Main/Newsletter.aspx)

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

view map  
of all lands



at: [www.maringov.org/Depts/PK.aspx](http://www.maringov.org/Depts/PK.aspx)

### New Parks & Open Space Website

Parks & Open Space have launched [www.marinparks.org](http://www.marinparks.org)!

We hope you find the navigation more intuitive, the site more useful, and the overall experience more enjoyable.

As the seasons change throughout the year, the website will change too, reflecting the colors and natural cycles of Marin County's parks and open space system.

Check out new features, including an interactive activities and amenities database, an enhanced interactive map (expanded to include parks and recreational facilities), and a new online calendar of naturalist walks, family walks, volunteer days, and ranger events. We'll continue to roll out more features and pages over the next few weeks and months. Thank you for visiting!



## Marin Families Share Trips with SchoolPool Marin

**SCHOOLPOOLMARIN.ORG** is an exciting on-line referral service that offers Marin County families trip-sharing matches. Introduced in 2010 by Marin County's Safe Routes to Schools program, SchoolPool offers parents the ability to connect with each other to organize carpool, walking, bicycling and bus trips for their children to and from school.

In its first year, SchoolPool Marin reduced the number of vehicle trips and increased the number of students walking, bicycling, and taking a carpool or bus to and from school. The program enabled a reduction of 635,000 vehicle-miles traveled in Marin and a decrease of more than 260 metric tons of greenhouse-gas emissions!

**REGISTERING IS EASY AND FREE.** Families are turning to [www.SchoolPoolMarin.org](http://www.SchoolPoolMarin.org) as a fast and convenient way to make a direct impact on their own carbon footprint while saving time and money and teaching their children healthy travel habits. Once a parent/guardian registers on-line, the site's trip-share function provides a match list of other interested families who travel a similar route to their school. Parents can then get in touch with each other to discuss carpooling, walking, biking or introducing their kids to be bus buddies.

**SCHOOLPOOL MARIN PROVIDES TIPS AND INCENTIVES** for getting started and maintaining SchoolPools and offers families Jamba Juice and Peet's gift cards for participating. Schools with the highest levels of "green travel" are eligible to win cash awards in the yearly Green Ways to School Challenge from Safe Routes to Schools. Parents and school employees can even join the effort by going to [www.SchoolPoolMarin.org](http://www.SchoolPoolMarin.org) to find commute partners to work on 511 Rideshare.

**COMING SOON – CARPOOL MATCHING TO PRACTICES AND GAMES!** By popular demand, SchoolPool trip-sharing will soon offer families the ability to form or find SchoolPools to other destinations besides home. This will help parents find SchoolPools for after school (or even on the weekends) to their many activities like sports, rehearsals, classes, after-care programs or to another family member's home. Watch the website for the launch of this expanded service.

**SCHOOLPOOLING BENEFITS FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY.** "Green ways" to school benefit families and the community by reducing vehicle trips, related greenhouse-gas emissions and other pollutants. The reduced traffic congestion improves safety on Marin's streets for kids walking and biking to school. Walking and biking provide much-needed exercise and establish healthy habits. Also, children who get exercise on their way to school arrive awake and ready to learn. Parents save time and money by driving less. And perhaps best of all, it's a great way to make new friends and build support groups for getting the kids to school every day!

**SchoolPoolMarin.org**



### Marin County Transportation Facts:

- Transportation accounts for 62% of Marin's greenhouse-gas emissions – compared to 40% statewide!
- As much as 30% of Marin's morning traffic consists of parents driving their children to school.
- Up to 28 pounds of carbon dioxide are emitted for every gallon of gasoline burned.

Go to [www.SchoolPoolMarin.org](http://www.SchoolPoolMarin.org) to visit the site and register to find travel companions to and from your child's school. For more information, please send an e-mail to [info@schoolpoolmarin.org](mailto:info@schoolpoolmarin.org).

*The Transportation Authority of Marin introduced SchoolPool through its award-winning Safe Routes to Schools program in 2010 with a grant from Marin Community Foundation's Climate Change Initiative and the support of the Marin County Office of Education.*



Judy Arnold, Marin County Supervisor

DISTRICT 5 COUNTY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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June 2011

Calendar grid for June 2011 with days of the week (SU-FRI-S) and dates 1-30.

July 2011

Calendar grid for July 2011 with days of the week (SU-SA) and dates 1-31.

Upcoming Meetings

- Jun 6—10am, Transit District Meeting
Jun 7—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Jun 15—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
Jun 20—BOS Special Budget Meeting
Jun 21—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Jun 22—BOS Special Budget Meeting
Jun 23—7pm, Transportation Authority of Marin Meeting
Jun 28—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Jul 4—4th of July (county offices closed)
Jul 18—10am, Transit District Meeting
Jul 19—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Jul 20—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
Jul 26—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Jul 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 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

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