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Summer Fun!

Congratulations to the Marin County Fair on the most successful fair held to date! The 75th fair drew more than 84,000 paid admissions, up more than 6,000 last year. The fair staff is always looking for ways to improve the overall experience for fairgoers and a few highlights this year included the new shuttle service helping attendees avoid traffic and parking challenges, water refill stations for easy access to water, and a large video screen that displayed concerts live so not all had to be on the island to enjoy the show. Kudos to the amazing music line-up, spectacular fireworks show and impressive exhibitions including art, photography agriculture, poetry and more - Marin is home to many talented community members and it was truly celebrated this year at the fair.

The fair was the perfect way to kick off summer, but there is still a lot of summertime left to enjoy and much more available to do right here in Marin!

The Marin County Free Library (MCFL) always has amazing summer programs for children, teens and adults. Our Board of Supervisors supports Education as one of its ongoing missions, and we support MCFL's efforts to become not just a place that supports reading but rather learning in general. In addition to the regular summer reading program offered to kids and teens where participants keep track of the minutes they have read and earn points for doing so, the library has an array of educational and fun opportunities for everyone. Here are a few of the many options available: children can participate in craft time, makers mornings and literacy opportunities; teens can choose from movie nights, dance parties and even fun-filled sleepovers; and for adults, there are book clubs, coloring clubs and interesting lectures on a variety of topics.

The library also offers a "Discover & Go" program. With a Marin County Free Library Card anyone 16 and older is able to make reservations on-line at many local museums and cultural institutions receiving free and reduced rate tickets. Museums such as the Bay Model Visitor Center, the Lawrence Hall of Science and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts make the list. In addition, the library has free passes available to the Bay Area Discovery Museum in Sausalito available to check out for up to one week. I encourage you to check out the newly revamped library website to learn more about these programs and see what the library has to offer you: <http://www.marinlibrary.org>

With a total of 83 parks, open space preserves and pathways, Marin County Parks provides many opportunities to fill your summer days! In Novato we are particularly lucky to have one of my favorite County parks, Stafford Lake, right in our backyard. This 139-acre regional park offers users a variety of activities including: shore fishing (catfish, bluegill, and bass), nature trails, picnic areas with barbecue facilities, volleyball, a [disc golf course](#), horseshoe courts, and last but not least our newest feature - Stafford Lake Bike Park. During summer, the park is open 7:00am to 8:00pm. There is a \$5 parking fee on weekdays and a \$10 parking fee on weekends. There is no entrance fee if you walk or bike into the park.

In addition to great places to visit, Marin County Parks offers a myriad of free activities for both adults and children including volunteer days, naturalist and family walks, and ranger activities. Volunteer days offer participants hands-on stewardship experience by helping care for our public parks and

preserves through habitat restoration, trail improvement, litter pick up, and landscape maintenance. Naturalist and family walks provide the opportunity to connect with nature, learn about Marin's diverse flora and fauna, and see and learn about animals in their own habitat. And finally, be sure to check out the calendar of family-friendly ranger activities, including: BBQs, bike rides, fishing, hiking, outdoor skill seminars, skateboard contests, star gazing and much more!

There are several great Parks events still to come this summer in Novato including: a Naturalist Hike through the Indian Valley Preserve on July 31, Perseids Meteor Shower Astronomy Viewing on August 13 on Mount Burdell; and Lake Fishing for Kids on August 28 at Stafford Lake Park – just to name a few! For a complete Marin County Parks calendar of events and more details about our parks and preserves, visit: www.marincountyparks.org/Depts/PK/.

Remember, my door is always open to you. You can reach me at: (415) 473-7331 or jarnold@marincounty.org.