

# FRANKLY SPEAKING

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY MARIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES

## Farewell to Marin's Longest-Serving Supervisor

By Lisa Canin—BOS

A crowd of 1,000 friends, family, coworkers, and community members gathered at the Marin Center on March

24 to pay tribute to the life, work, and friendship of Marin's longest-serving supervisor. First appointed in 1983 by then-Gov. Jerry Brown, **Hal Brown** was 66 when he died after a long battle with cancer. He had retired recently because of ill health. ■

Known to most simply as "Hal," Supervisor Brown was a champion of open space and fire safety, and was instrumental in major policies and initiatives to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of Marin residents. He led issues related to women and children, forming the first Childcare Commission and establishing the Marin Valentine's Ball Foundation to benefit children, families, and older adults in need throughout the North Bay. ■ Planning for the memorial celebration reflected what was most important to Hal—friendship and community engagement. A labor of love, in the truest sense of the words, was reflected in the generous contributions of time and attention from personnel across county departments: the County Administrator's Office; Marin County Parks; Fire; Sheriff; BOS District 2; Cultural Services; County Counsel; Health and Human Services; Public Works; and DPW's Print Shop Division. San Anselmo's Sunnyside Nursery loaned beautiful

plants to grace the stage. ■ Speakers at the tribute praised Hal's no-nonsense style, accessibility, loyalty, humor, and his unwavering dedication to family, friends, and the people of Marin. His personal connection with fellow Marin County employees was noted. County Administrator **Matthew Hymel** said, "We often refer to the 'county family.' I always thought of Hal as the dad of that family.... Over the course of the past year, so many employees have told me stories about how Hal recognized them and encouraged them and encouraged their career development. We will miss him and are very grateful for his nearly 30 years of service." ■ **Katie Rice**, Hal's long-term aide and the current District 2 supervisor, described how the larger community was an anchor for Hal's politics, popularity, and passion for public service. "Community meant so much to him. It was deeply and personally gratifying. Hal loved people, he paid attention, and he made people feel valued and appreciated, accomplished and capable. He did this in big public ways like the county employee recognition program, and, as importantly and profoundly, in the minutia of his daily life. Hal always said, 'Thank you'—big thank-yous, multiple thank-yous—to



Hal Brown in 2007 with then-Aide Cynthia Rose "Cyno" Connolly-Bryant, former Aide Sandy Blauvelt, and then-Aide Katie Rice

everyone and to anyone who helped or who crossed his path." ■ As reported by his eldest son Mike Brown, Hal frequently said, "'I've got the best job in the world.'" ■ Among the distinguished speakers were former Marin Supervisors **Peter Arrigoni** and **Gary Giacomini**, Hal's cousin Gov. Jerry Brown, and BOS President **Steve Kinsey**, who was master of ceremonies. ■ In missing Hal and his presence, we recognize how much he impacted us personally and collectively. Of many ways to honor his memory, there are few more fitting than modeling his example of expressing gratitude and humility, not taking oneself too seriously, showing up, connecting, and caring. ■

## Court Goes to Community

By Bryna Holland—Public Defender

"We work to untangle the knots that have snagged their lives," says Commissioner **Beverly Wood**, who presides over Community Court once each month at St. Vincent's Dining Hall in downtown San Rafael, where low-income people receive meals. The court resolves infraction tickets that

have caused license suspensions and other consequences. "We are crafting big-picture solutions that help the community and the individual," said Commissioner Wood. For instance, people ticketed for living in their cars because they are unemployed are sentenced to preparing their resumes and submitting job applications. ■

Continued on page 2

Photo by Joanne Peterson



BOS District 2 File Photo



Hal Brown

Top: Flag tribute at memorial event honored Hal Brown's enthusiastic support for fire safety.

*"Community meant so much to him. It was deeply and personally gratifying. Hal loved people, he paid attention, and he made people feel valued and appreciated..."*

## FRANKLY SPEAKING

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## Reporter Award: Susannah Clark

## Schedule

Articles Due	Publication Date
July 13	September 21, 2012
November 16	January 25, 2013



## Vacation Photos Wanted!

It's entry time for our 17th Annual Vacation Photo Contest. Employees may be either the photographer or in the photo taken any time since the fall of 2011. Previous participants are welcome! E-mail high-resolution digital photos (240 dpi minimum) to [jhughes@marincounty.org](mailto:jhughes@marincounty.org) or print and send interoffice to **Janice Hughes**, c/o DA's Office, Room 130, by 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 5. Winning photos will be published in the September 21 *Frankly Speaking* and displayed in the Civic Center Café in November. Thanks again to Marin Filmworks for donating \$25 gift certificates for the top three winners.

FRANKLY SPEAKING *Purpose and Priorities*  
COMMUNICATION · DIVERSITY · RECOGNITION · EDUCATION · NEWS · FUN · INTERACTION

The Marin County newsletter is intended for internal communication. The newsletter does not include partisan or non-partisan political activity, or issues related to labor disputes and grievances.

## Court cont'd

From front cover

The court is staffed by county employees and volunteers. Court clerk **Hoang Leclerc** assembles outstanding tickets and bakes goodies for participants. Retired public defender **George Shea** meets with clients before court to review their tickets and explore solutions. ■ Over the past year, more than 100 people have had their tickets resolved successfully. Community Court is held on the second Tuesday of the month. Potential participants need only fill out an application available at the Marin Civic Center in Room C-10, at New Beginnings in Novato, Ritter House in San Rafael, or at St. Vincent's Dining Hall. ■



Community Court cases are heard at the St. Vincent's Dining Hall in San Rafael. L to R: Cris Jones, former volunteer coordinator at St. Vincent's, Marin Superior Court Commissioner Beverly Wood, and Maura Prendeville of Legal Aid.

Photo by Debra Teeler

## County Website Updated

By Cathy Selmi and Gordon Haberfelde—IST

Photo by Cathy Selmi



IST Web Design Team members: L to R, Front: Shanea Thompson, Senti Kironde, Chris White, Michael Warden. L to R, Back: Chris Camilleri, Valentina Jones, Mikhail Posylkin, Cathy Clary, Peggi Rodgers. Not Pictured: Terry Corde, Maya Gladstern, Gordon Haberfelde, Nicole Plass, Irina Popova, and Brad Starks.

Led by **Dave Hill** (ret. IST) and **Gordon Haberfelde** (IST) and aided by a host of IST wizards, the county launched its new public website late last year, focusing on pages supporting the main page and important landing pages. Individual departments' updated pages will be added throughout 2012. ■ Grouped to make intuitive sense to the visitor, the site provides simpler, cleaner information about the county. At the same time, the site makes more efficient use of limited screen space and presents more information per page. It also highlights tasks and services by popularity, allowing visitors to jump directly to pages or services of greatest interest. ■ The site offers a new calendar that users can subscribe to, and which allows them to see events they are interested in. The site

also more prominently highlights the county's video channel, the G-Channel, as well as social-media sites used by the county and departments. It also adds a "newsroom" feature to integrate videos, announcements, and press releases. ■ The new site strongly supports the county's strategy of improving and facilitating its communication with residents and visitors. An important piece is the *Currently in Marin* section, dead center on the page. This section features news and announcements from throughout the county. Highlighted at the top of the page is a "carousel" of events and information. This animated feature rotates among entries where a simple mouse click sends visitors directly to the item of interest. ■ To check it out, go to [www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org). ■

## Passion for Teamwork Leads to Civic Center Volunteers Kudos

Photo by Janice Hughes



Outstanding Supervisor of Volunteers Marcie Lynch

By Susannah Clark—BOS

Civic Center Volunteers' annual honorees for supervision and volunteerism may have different missions, but they share a deep appreciation for teamwork. ■ **Marcie Lynch**, named 2011–12 Outstanding Supervisor of Volunteers, is a legal-process supervisor in the District Attorney's Office. For over 20 years, Marcie has supervised volunteers and college interns, as well as high school students from the Marin County Office of Education's School-to-Career Partnership. In addition to welcoming volunteers and interns, introducing them to staff, and planning their assignments, Marcie makes sure they experience the processing of a criminal case from the time it comes in the door, through court hearings, to post-judgment. ■ "People volunteer for different reasons but the common thread is that they each give selflessly," Marcie said. She admires that spirit. Students who serve with Marcie learn how to work both independently and as part of a

team, where what they do matters. ■ District Attorney Administrator **Peggy Toth** said Marcie is "very supportive. She answers questions, and provides further information so volunteers can do a job well and feel comfortable doing it. She makes them part of our team." ■ Teamwork is also important to **B.K. "Coop" Cooper**, 2011–12 Volunteer of

the Year. Coop is a 20-year member of the Mounted Sheriff's Posse, an on-call search-and-rescue unit. Sheriff **Robert Doyle** describes Coop as the heart and soul of the posse. He credits Coop for reviving the Sheriff's ceremonial color guard, a favorite in parades, and stepping up the quality of the Sheriff's ceremonial presence. ■ Coop is also a heavy-rigging consultant for the Urban Search and Rescue team, a joint program of the Fire Department and Department of Public Works. He teaches essential skills for emergency-response situations. Battalion Chief **Mark Brown** (Fire) said of Coop's 15 years with the program, "Coop's maturity and common-sense approach bring calmness to those around him. He is among the best in the heavy-rigging business." Over the years, **Farhad Mansourian** (ret. DPW) observed Coop's expertise in many disaster-response trainings and events and said, "With Coop, thinking outside the box means thinking outside the universe!" ■

Photo by Erika Beeble



Volunteer of the Year B.K. Cooper, left, and Sheriff Robert Doyle



### PETTERLE'S PERSPECTIVE

By Steve Petterle—P&OS

Detailed and exhaustive scientific analysis has shown that "the" is used in writings more frequently than any other English word, and certainly more often than can be easily justified by a reasonable person. As a result, certain scientists and some prominent authors have elected to refrain from its use in any of their works. While a bold and progressive statement, this movement has not yet gained significant momentum. In fact, in contradiction to those protesting this written word, other writers have doubled and redoubled again its employment, in several circumstances causing it to be used even beyond overuse. A case in point is a recent best-seller, in which one author devoted an entire chapter to this word, repeating it more than 2,300 times within 28 pages. ■ This issue has now become a topic of debate among those who profess to be eminent word scholars. In New York, professors have led discussion groups arguing this question with such intensity that further discourse related to this subject has been banned at several universities. For some, this is striking proof that learned institutions may be supporting a word that is now experiencing a crisis to define its most basic purpose. ■ From a literary standpoint, its use is neither necessary nor even desired. It is possible to create a document, whether a memo or a novel, which attains certain recognition without using a word immersed in such controversy. ■ Nonetheless, it's not likely that deliberation will disappear soon. Authors will continue to write what they will, and readers will read. Whether one word will continue to exhibit such dominion within a written English language is still to be seen. ■ This is Steve Petterle reporting from San Rafael. ■

Illustration by Phoenicia Thomas

Photo by Janice Hughes



The Marin County Department of Child Support Services celebrates the receipt of three state awards, including the high rank of No. 2 among California's 51 local child support agencies on overall performance. L to R: Theresa Mahoney, Jim Powers, Doreen McBirney, Martha Petrini, Tray-Yun Kuo, VaDonna Danesi, Keith Pepper, Jill Francis, Margaret Bandel, Gregorio De Luna, Michelle Moniz, Nancy Zaharin, Marcella Caramucci, and Nancy Smith. Not pictured: Dennis Bradley, Rosemarie Colorado Lara, Jeannie Hughes, Astrid Jansson, Maureen O'Connell, Raquel Pasion, Carolyn Perez, Nancy Powers, Stephanie Reed, Leon Tam.

**Yvonne Zupkow** (Parks) was honored by the Municipal Management Association of Northern California with its 2011 Service Award for her participation in and contributions to the association during the year. ■

**Laney Morgado**, DPW Disability Access Specialist II, has been elected to serve her second term as a member of the Board of Directors of the California Association of Disability Access Professionals. ■

Baby boom!

**Jessica Mills-Sutherland** (Co. Counsel) and husband Scott welcomed their first baby boy, Durham Scott, on March 27. **Bill Bretag** (Courts) and his wife Michelle welcomed Chase Jackson Bretag on April 28, 2011. **James Johnstone** (DPW) and his wife Stacy had their second baby boy in November. His name is Christopher and his older brother is Steven. **Beth Oliver** (HR) and husband Robert announced the March 15 arrival of Nicholas Hawn Oliver, who joins

big brother Luca. **Peggy Greenland** (ARCC) is a first-time grandmother. Her daughter, Cassidy, gave birth to Marlowe Grace Whitt on January 4. **Carla Wyatt** (ARCC) and **Bob Wyatt** (Parks) are grandparents again. John joins sister Carmella. Parks welcomes three new parkies to the fold: **Amy Zhuang** and husband Kevin had their third daughter, Michelle, on September 8, 2011; **Toy Wong** and husband Philip had their second daughter, Taylor, on November 17, 2011; **Mischon Beneda** and husband Kevin had their second daughter, Grace, on March 2. ■

The Golden Gate Bridge marks its 75th anniversary on May 27, and **Danielle Romo** (HR) will be among the many whose stories are part of the official celebration. Danielle is the only person to have given birth on the bridge itself. Son Eric Jr., now 20, has a birth certificate that reads *Place of Birth: Golden Gate Bridge, City & County of San Francisco*. Two other people's birth certificates show the bridge as

their birthplace, but they actually were born in the parking lot/tollbooth area, Danielle reported. For 75th details, visit [www.goldengatebridge75.org](http://www.goldengatebridge75.org). ■

A county Fire Department contingent was in the right place at the right time to find a lost Alzheimer's patient. An extremely worried husband whose wife had been missing at least 10 minutes was searching the fourth floor of the Civic Center on March 12 when a group of uniformed employees stepped out for a break during assessment testing for the department's next fire captain. Firefighters took a quick description, then fanned out through the administration wing. Within five minutes, **Tim Walsh** (Fire) found the missing woman on the second floor and escorted her to her grateful husband. Good deed accomplished! ■



Photo by Chris Knight

Newlyweds at Machu Picchu

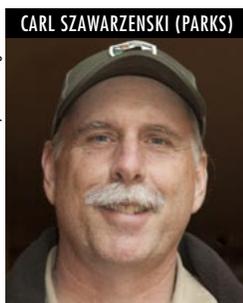
**Chris Knight** (DPW) and Luz "Lucy" Maria were married on July 2, 2011 and honeymooned in Lucy's native country of Peru. They vacationed for three weeks in Lima, Moyobamba, Tarapoto, Cusco, and Machu Picchu. ■

Please e-mail adventures, events, and department happenings to **Cathy Selmi**, [cselmi@marincounty.org](mailto:cselmi@marincounty.org)

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Photos by Janice Hughes



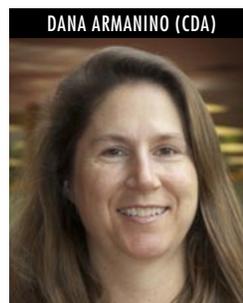
CARL SZAWARZENSKI (PARKS)

JANUARY



MICHAEL MAYORGA (DPW)

FEBRUARY



DANA ARMANINO (CDA)

MARCH



DONGFEN GAO (IST)

APRIL

## Mini-Museum Honors Wright's Local Impact



Photo by Janice Hughes

Carol Acquaviva (Library), Dave Vaughan (DPW), and Laurie Thompson (Library) at the Marin & the Realm of Frank Lloyd Wright exhibit in the Civic Center cafeteria

By Nancy Davis and Laurie Thompson—Library

County employees who work in or visit the Civic Center building may have noticed something new in the cafeteria space once occupied by the gift shop. The area now houses a mini-museum, *Marin & the Realm of Frank Lloyd Wright*. The museum curator is Librarian **Laurie Thompson**, who heads the Anne T. Kent California Room on the fourth floor, repository of local history materials. Facilities Planning and Development Manager **David Speer** (CAO), who works with the Civic Center Conservancy, originally approached Laurie with the idea and coordinated with the Library and the Department of Public Works. Associate Architect **Dave Vaughan** (DPW) assisted in the project. Librarian and digital archivist **Carol**

**Acquaviva** (Library) scanned many of the images for the display. ■ Materials displayed in the museum are from the Anne T. Kent California Room collection. Included are original ephemera (items designed to be used for only a short time), books, photographs, and artifacts. Laurie solicited some wonderful new materials for the exhibit, including a collection of ceramics incorporating Frank Lloyd Wright motifs donated by **Suki Sennet** (ret. BOS), who was an aide to former Supervisor **Al Arambaru**. Loans from several community members also enrich the exhibit, including images from the collection of William Schwarz, AIA, a Taliesin-trained architect and expert on the Marin County Civic Center. Former Supervisor **Annette Rose** loaned a Wright-designed "Skyscraper" vase given to her by the late County Counsel **Doug Maloney**, who won it in a raffle at the 1990 *In the Realm of Ideas* exhibit. ■ Laurie is currently working with **Damon Hill** (Library) on a film that will document this exhibit as well as other Frank Lloyd Wright resources in the California Room and the Library. ■ Funds to purchase supplies and to reconfigure the exhibit space, which includes locked glass cases to protect the artifacts, were donated by the late Supervisor **Charles McGlashan**. The museum is dedicated to his memory. ■ The grand opening was held on March 27. The space is open to the public during cafeteria hours, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Explanatory material incorporated in the exhibit allows visitors to guide themselves. A public service announcement about the museum is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QpY2v3MTu0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QpY2v3MTu0). ■

*Funds to purchase supplies and to reconfigure the exhibit space, which includes locked glass cases to protect the artifacts, were donated by the late Supervisor Charles McGlashan. The museum is dedicated to his memory.*

## Get Charged For Free

By Jeanne Miche—DPW

If you're one of a growing population of electric-vehicle owners, you and your vehicle are welcome at any of Marin's three new electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations. The Department of Public Works planned, developed, and installed the stations in an extensive collaborative effort. **Steve Soldavini** in DPW's Sign Shop fabricated and installed station signs; **Mike Norton** in Building Maintenance received

equipment and provided power and access for the installers; Assistant Director **Saaid Fakharzadeh** spearheaded grant funding from an outside vendor; Assistant Director **Eric Steger** steered the project toward funding from the Transportation Authority of Marin; Disability Access Manager **Bill Campagna**



Photo by Jeff Stewart

Cindy Brown (HR) charges her car at the Civic Center EV station.

ensured all stations were fully accessible; Capital Engineering Project Manager **Jeanne Miche** managed construction; and Administrative Services Associate **Jenny Choi** manages the stations' monthly usage. ■ EV stations are for public use and are accessible to people with disabilities. EVs may be charged for free throughout 2012. After December, the fee will be \$3 for each charging session. ■ The county's effort is part of a nationwide pilot program funded through the Department of Energy to provide a network for EV charging. The county was awarded a federal grant for the three stations through the Charge Point America program. ■ For more information contact Jenny at [jchoi@marincounty.org](mailto:jchoi@marincounty.org). ■

### It's as easy as 1-2-3 to get charged:

1. Visit <http://www.chargepoint.net/> to register and get a ChargePoint Pass (like a credit card) to swipe over the charging station's display panel.
2. Find a Marin County charging station near you:
 

Civic Center	<a href="http://g.co/maps/k2v8z">http://g.co/maps/k2v8z</a>
Exhibit Hall	<a href="http://g.co/maps/2avsa">http://g.co/maps/2avsa</a>
Health & Wellness Campus	<a href="http://g.co/maps/x8saj">http://g.co/maps/x8saj</a>
3. Swipe your ChargePoint Pass over the EV station's display to open the door to the electric plug, which you attach to your vehicle. Plug in for four hours total. When your vehicle is charged, you will be notified by cell phone, e-mail, or land line.

## Parks Innovators Earn Pest Management Awards

By Steve Petterle—Parks

Photo courtesy of CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation



L to R: IPM Team members Ed Hulme, Dave Hattem, Dani Hamilton, and Joe Gibbs (all Parks)

In the world of pests, it's a big deal. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a process that uses the most simple and harmless methods possible to curb common household, garden, and agricultural pests. Through IPM, use

of toxic pesticides can be substantially reduced. ■ This reduction has been amply demonstrated by county IPM Coordinator **Ed Hulme** with assistance from **Dave Hattem**, **Dani Hamilton**, and **Joe Gibbs** (all Parks). As a result of their efforts, pesticide use at county-owned facilities has been dramatically reduced. In fact, the Marin County program has been so successful that it recently received a state IPM Innovator Award for its leadership and creativity in advancing the use of reduced-risk programs for urban pest management. Examples of innovation used at the Marin County Civic Center include attracting owls to control rats, installing portable faux coyotes to frighten geese, releasing predator insects to reduce damage from leaf-munching pests, and hand-pulling weeds. "Eradication of pests generally isn't necessary," said Dave Hattem. "We're successful if we reduce pest populations to a tolerable level." ■ The IPM team also received a Merit Award from the 2012 California Trails & Greenway Conference for organically maintaining the Mill Valley/Sausalito Multi-Use Path. This award is given in recognition of an active trail or greenway program that provides significant benefit to the pathway users and the environment. Thousands of people enjoy the Multi-Use Path each year. ■ Congratulations to the IPM team for demonstrating the creativity of county employees! ■

### In Memoriam

Photo by Emily Tucker



**Bryan Reynolds** (H&HS) died March 24 at age 52. He joined the Social Services Division in 2010 as an investigator for In-Home Support Services, and later became a social services worker with Aging and Adult Services. A retired Contra Costa Sheriff's sergeant, Bryan was known for his trustworthiness, good humor, and an uncanny ability to defuse tense situations. Bryan was an accomplished bagpiper. He is survived by wife Patricia and children Kelly, Brian Jr., and Erin.

### Outstanding Employee Team of the Quarter January—March 2012

Photo by Janis West



The Sheriff's Office Re-Entry Team, which assists inmates with re-entry to the community, includes the Sheriff's Department, Health and Human Services Department, Probation Department, and community partners. L to R, Front: Damon Davis (Sheriff), Elizabeth Brett (U.S. Veteran's Administration), Peggy Harrell (Sheriff); Connie Borges (Ritter Center); Marsha Grant (HHS); Alisha Krupinsky (Probation); David Estes (Sheriff). L to R, Back: Sean Stephens (HHS); Rev. Paul Gaffney (Marin Interfaith Council/Ritter Center); Dominique McDowell (Ritter Center); Rob Reinhard (HHS); Shivika Dharamrup (HHS); James Sellers (Bay Area Community Resources).

## Roving Reporter

By Rick Fraites—BOS

National Volunteer Week was April 15 to 21. If you have ever done volunteer work, what was your best volunteer assignment?

**Kathleen Fitzhugh Remitz** (Children's Librarian, Library) "For three consecutive summers I was a volunteer for the Sacramento Recreation

Department working with children. I helped form a girls' baseball team, among other projects."



Photos by Rick Fraites

**Jenny Choi** (Administrative Services Associate, DPW) "I prepared and delivered meals for HIV/AIDS-positive patients in the San Diego area."



**Ron Miska** (Deputy Director, Parks) "I went door to door in my neighborhood selling potted geraniums from my wagon as a fundraiser when I was in the Boy Scouts."



**Julio Cifuentes** (Civic Center Custodian, DPW) "I volunteered to do office work as well as delivered prepared meals to clients of the AIDS Foundation of San Rafael. That work was very fulfilling for me. I also coached my daughter's soccer team for five years."



### Haiku

By Bob Beaumont—DPW

Time is nature's way  
Making sure that all of life  
Isn't all at once

## Safe Journey Home

By **Lori Holaday**—H&HS

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging has granted its prestigious Aging Innovations award to Project Independence (PI), a program in the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Health and Human Services. This is the highest honor presented by the national association.

■ PI volunteers help in all areas of Marin, including West Marin. Under the direction of Public Health Nurse Supervisor **Rita Widergren** (H&HS), the PI team provides companionship, transportation, shopping, and home-safety resources designed to support the goals of convalescence and

independence at home for people discharged from Marin's four hospitals. Student nurses and allied health-professions students provide health education, assist with medication management, and provide case support with patients' convalescent regimens. ■ The combined efforts of staff and generous and gifted volunteers have reduced recidivism (returning to the hospital within 30 days) to under 6% here in Marin, compared to the national rate of 23% and the state rate of 19.6%. ■ "Without the dedication and generosity of our family of staff and



Photo by Janice Hughes

*Dominican University student nurse Annalee Dodd (HR/Civic Center Volunteers) and Rita Widergren (H&HS) of Project Independence review a patient's medication regimen before a home visit, while Public Health Nurse Danielle Hiser (H&HS) works at desk (background).*

volunteers, this, together with the enhanced quality of life it represents, wouldn't be possible," said Rita. ■

## The Fair—1946 to Now

By **Charlie Barboni**—CS

This year's Marin County Fair, June 30 through July 4, will celebrate the rich and varied traditions embodied in fairs all across the United States. Originally begun in the early 1800s as a way for farmers to find out about new farming methods and equipment, agricultural fairs evolved into annual family get-togethers where communities could enjoy games, exhibits, and entertainment. ■ The Marin County Fair's 2012 theme, *Always Fresh, Fun & Local*, celebrates the legacy and future of Marin's vibrant agricultural community. The Fair will showcase local products and highlight Marin's commitment to a sustainable future. ■ The first Marin County Fair took place in 1946 at the Marin Art and Garden Center in Ross as a place where Marinites could share ideas and techniques in fine arts, gardens, fruits, vegetables, and floral arrangements. The Fair now features over 800 categories, over 13,500 exhibits, and over 6,000 annual entrants from Marin and the San Francisco Bay Area. ■ The signature exhibit this year will feature the photography of **M. B. Boissevain**, Marin County's first farm advisor. During the early 20th century he documented agricultural practices of farms and ranches throughout Marin. These

stunning photographs will be part of a new historical retrospective produced by photographers who return to the places where original images were taken to shoot new photos. The exhibit will also bring the legacy theme alive with memorabilia displays, information kiosks, food tastings, visual presentations of antique farm wagons and implements, and the opportunity for visitors to meet Marin farmers and ranchers. The exhibit will illustrate how the roots of sustainability—organic farming

and ranching—and responsible land use are largely found in the agricultural practices of an earlier era. ■ The Marin County Fair is all about participation. Creativity is encouraged and imagination is celebrated. Learn more about the Fair's new competitions and returning favorites by visiting [www.marinfair.org](http://www.marinfair.org). See you at the Fair! ■



## IST Poet Wins Contest Prize

Photo by Rick Frantes



*Poetry contest winner John Wilson (IST)*

We have a winner in the *Frankly Speaking* poetry contest! **John Wilson** (IST) was awarded the \$25 prize provided by newsletter staff. The Editorial Board-sponsored contest challenged readers to reflect in verse the county's mission statement of excellent service in no more than 50 words. The judges liked the community-wide perspective in John's poem. The decision was unanimous. ■

### Ode to the Community of Marin

By **John Wilson**—IST

Our air is fresh, the water clean  
The farmers market priceless  
Our schools perform, our woods inspire  
There's really no one like us  
To keep it going, to keep it up  
Our County staff is striving  
We're part of you, you're part of us  
Our future, a diamond shining

# WELCOME FAREWELL!

## Welcome to New Employees!

Listed in order of hire date from Nov. 16, 2011 to March 15, 2012

<b>Andrea Amador</b>	Registered Dental Asst., H&HS
<b>Gary Lara</b>	Sr. Secretary, H&HS
<b>Catherine McDonough</b>	Dep. Probation Officer, Probation
<b>Flory Chambers</b>	Office Asst. III Biling., H&HS
<b>Eithne Bullick</b>	Sr. Environmental Health Spec., CDA
<b>Alisa Stevenson</b>	Asst. Planner, CDA
<b>Suzanne Griffiths</b>	Retirement Member Svcs. Tech., Retirement
<b>Jaime Powell</b>	Sr. Secretary, HR
<b>Jennifer Saldana</b>	Dep. Probation Officer I, Probation
<b>Scott Dumont</b>	Dep. Probation Officer I, Probation
<b>Susan White</b>	Sr. Secretary, BOS
<b>Erin Farahi</b>	Health & Human Svcs. Planner/Eval., H&HS
<b>Kristen McClymer</b>	Health & Human Svcs. Project Coord., H&HS
<b>Sean Stephens</b>	Veterans Svc. Officer, H&HS
<b>Paymon Bahrami</b>	Dentist, H&HS
<b>Beth Oliver</b>	Personnel Analyst II, HR
<b>Fredrick Mosher</b>	Cook, Probation
<b>Vania Calderon</b>	Dep. Probation Officer I, Probation
<b>Laura Shaer</b>	Dep. Probation Officer I, Probation
<b>Justin Hettich</b>	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
<b>Douglas Schlief</b>	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
<b>Jarred Hailey</b>	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
<b>Brenden Berry</b>	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
<b>Lisa Canin</b>	Board Aide, BOS
<b>Christopher Reilly</b>	Emergency Svcs. Mgr., Sheriff
<b>Janet Doerge</b>	Sr. Librarian, Library
<b>Jennifer Robinson</b>	Librarian II, Library

<b>Thomas Jordan</b>	Emergency Svcs. Coordinator, Sheriff
<b>William Fahy</b>	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
<b>Micah Mendez</b>	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
<b>Elizabeth Lotz</b>	Resource Spec. GIS, DPW
<b>Laurie O'Hara</b>	Board Aide, BOS
<b>Heather Nemeth</b>	Comms. Dispatcher I, Sheriff
<b>Kristian Gallegos</b>	Dep. Sheriff Trainee, Sheriff
<b>Peri Ellison</b>	Comms. Dispatcher I, Sheriff
<b>Pezhman Nikpour Badr</b>	Sr. Systems Supp. Analyst, IST
<b>Robert Mahoney</b>	Principal Systems Analyst, IST
<b>Adam Schermerhorn</b>	Dep. Sheriff Trainee, Sheriff
<b>Suzanne Thorsen</b>	Planner, CDA

## Farewell to Retirees!

<b>Cynthia Connolly-Bryant</b>	Board Aide, BOS
<b>Mary Donovan</b>	Employee & Training Program Mgr. II, H&HS
<b>Kevin Shavers</b>	Cook, Sheriff
<b>Bruce Gurganus</b>	Asst. Dir. Mental Health Svcs., H&HS
<b>Betty Jackson</b>	Probation Supervisor, Safety, Probation
<b>Karen Wofford</b>	Dep. Sheriff, Sheriff
<b>Drusilla Davis-Miller</b>	Library Asst. I, Library
<b>Elaine Rooney</b>	Admin. Svcs. Tech., H&HS
<b>Michael Hawks</b>	Supervising Park Ranger, Parks
<b>Katherine Rael</b>	Accounting Mgr., DOF
<b>Ruben Martin</b>	Fire Capt., Fire
<b>Ronald Alves</b>	Fire Capt., Fire
<b>Timothy Little</b>	Undersheriff, Sheriff
<b>Anneliese Brandt</b>	Housekeeper, Probation

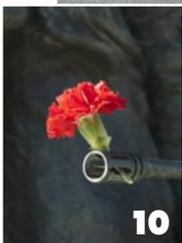
## Sights and Sites Photo Winner Announced

By Rick Fraites—BOS

The Winter 2012 edition of *Frankly Speaking* invited readers to participate in a contest to name the locations of 17 close-up photos of objects photographed throughout county properties. ■ We have a winner! **Jeff “Eagle Eye” Wong**, capital planning and project manager from the County Administrator’s Office, used his strong observational powers and good memory to correctly identify 16 out of 17 images. ■ “With a degree in architecture, I have been trained to notice and appreciate key features in buildings and landscapes,” Jeff said. “Part of my job requires that I visit all of the county facilities. That was helpful with the identification of the various objects and landmarks, and admittedly I did make a few inquiries for a few of the photos.” ■

Jeff won a coffee-shop gift card donated by *Frankly Speaking* staff members. ■ Congratulations also go to second-place finisher **David Vaughan** (DPW), an architect. Is there a pattern here? ■ *Frankly Speaking* staff photographers **Janice Hughes** (DA) and **Rick Fraites** (BOS) collaborated on the photo-contest project. ■

Photo by Janice Hughes



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DEDICATED WITH THANKS BY  
THE PEOPLE OF MARIN COUNTY  
NOVEMBER 11, 1955  
ALL WHO SERVED THIS COUNTRY  
IN VIETNAM

These are the identities of locations shown in the 17 photos in our Winter 2012 issue. To see original images, visit: [www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org), keywords: Frankly Speaking Winter 2012.

- 1 Courtyard leading to garden at south end of the Civic Center Administration building, outside fourth floor
- 2 Doors at base of Marin Civic Center spire
- 3 Bell in front of Woodacre Fire Department main building
- 4 Granite sculpture in front of Woodacre Fire Department
- 5 Bench inside main lobby, Health and Wellness Campus
- 6 Red Frank Lloyd Wright signature plaque, east wall near escalator, Civic Center Administration Building entrance
- 7 Metal sculpture in ground-floor atrium of Administration Building
- 8 Face of stone sculpture, The Sprite, Civic Center Café garden across from exterior fountain
- 9 Detail of entrance sign, General Service Building garage
- 10 Flash suppressor with carnation, statue of Vietnam soldier among memorial statues near Marin Center, Avenue of the Flags
- 11 Water feature, north-facing outside wall, Civic Center Café garden
- 12 Overhead lights, Hall of Justice archway, Judge Haley Drive, Civic Center
- 13 Alternative-energy windspire in front of Marin Center Auditorium
- 14 Outdoor mural detail, Health and Wellness Campus
- 15 Metal gate, archway of lobby #2, Hall of Justice, near elevator banks that connect to Courts floor
- 16 Plaque at Gness Field Airport in Novato
- 17 Photo of a photo, one of three panels on display outside Parks Department offices, Courts floor



Photo by Rick Fraites

Photo I.D. contest winner  
Jeff Wong (CAO)