



Marin County Board of Supervisors District 2 Newsletter: September 2012

Dear Friends and Marin County District 2 Residents,

Here's an update on a couple of important news items that emerged during the summer that you may have missed, and of which I'd like you to be aware—Measure A: Protect Marin County Parks, Open Space and Farmlands and a new state levied fire fee (SRA).

I've also included information regarding public meetings on two major community projects—The Marin General Hospital seismic reconstruction and the Greenbrae/101 – Twin Cities corridor improvement project. Both are still in planning phases, and will be vetted in the community by their sponsoring agencies in the coming months. I encourage you to learn more about them, and to attend the workshops and informational meetings being offered to the public.

Lastly, I've given you a list of a few County-sponsored events that are part of the ongoing celebration of Marin County Parks and Open Space 40th Anniversary. These events are great ways to experience Marin County's greatest pride and attraction – our incredible parks and open space lands.

As always, let me know if you have any suggestions or certain areas of interest that you would like me to address in the future. Feel free to call my office at 415-473-7331 or email me at krice@marincounty.org. Thank you!

NEWS AND CALENDAR ITEMS

Measure A: Protect Marin County's Parks, Open Space, and Farmlands

On August 7, 2012, after an extensive public process, the Marin County Board of Supervisors unanimously placed Measure A on the November 6, 2012 ballot for county voters to consider. Measure A is a ¼-cent, 9-year local sales tax measure to protect the open space, parks and farmland that are essential to keeping Marin County an extraordinary and healthy place to live, work and play.

I am 100% supportive of this measure and believe it is the appropriate method to ensure adequate stewardship, restoration, protection and management of our parks, open space, and farmlands.

Measure A expenditures will protect streams, baylands, natural areas and wildlife habitat; reduce wildfire risk and protect wildlife by providing for the careful management of natural lands; protect water quality by managing and protecting the land around lakes, streams, lagoons and baylands; protect and preserve Marin County farms and ranches; improve

public access and recreational opportunities by maintaining and enhancing walking, hiking, biking and equestrian trails.

Measure A includes fiscal accountability provisions including annual independent financial audits and reporting, and a citizen oversight committee.

For more information regarding this important measure, please visit <http://www.marincountyparks.org/Depts/PK/About-Us/Main/BallotMeasure>.

State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Benefit Fee

The SRA Fire Prevention Benefit Fee, created by Assembly Bill 29, was signed into law on July 7, 2011 and approves a new, annual Fire Prevention Fee to pay for fire prevention services within the State Responsibility Area. The SRA includes state and privately-owned forest, watershed, and rangeland where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfire. Many properties in unincorporated Marin County fall into the SRA, even if they also are within the boundaries of a special Fire Protection District. Properties located within the communities of Sleepy Hollow, Oak Manor, Kent Woodlands, and unincorporated areas of San Anselmo and Fairfax are good examples of impacted communities in District 2.

This new state law assesses property owners within designated SRA zones an annual fee of \$150 per habitable structure. The fee is reduced to \$115 for those properties within the SRA that are also within the boundaries of a local fire protection agency (e.g. Sleepy Hollow). The State Board of Equalization (BOE) will administer the fee and affected property owners will receive a notice followed by a bill in fall 2012.

Although Marin County, and many other jurisdictions, throughout the state, have opposed this legislation, it was ultimately adopted as part of the state budget.

For additional information including an interactive map of the SRA to determine if your property falls within the SRA, instructions for challenging the fee and frequently asked questions, visit www.firepreventionfee.org or call 888-310-6447.

September 17: Informational Open House for Proposed Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project

The public is invited to attend an informational open house for the proposed Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project on **Monday, September 17th, 6-8pm, Redwood High School Cafeteria, 395 Doherty Drive in Larkspur**. Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is hosting this open house to present updated information on the proposed project and explain the environmental review process prior to the release of the draft environmental document later this year. The purpose of the project is to improve traffic operations and relieve congestion for multiple travel modes along the US Highway 101 corridor between the Town of Corte Madera and City of Larkspur. For more information, visit <http://www.tam.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=164>. If you have any questions about this project or the public input process, please contact Bill Whitney, TAM Project Manager at 415-226-0823 or bwhitney@tam.ca.gov. You can also visit www.tam.ca.gov for more information.

October 11: Informational Meeting for Marin General Hospital Replacement Building Project

The Marin Healthcare District is hosting a public meeting to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Marin General Hospital Replacement Building Project on **October 11 at 7pm in the conference center at Marin General Hospital, 250 Bon Air Road, Greenbrae**. The report, which was released last week, along with additional information about the project can be viewed on the Marin Healthcare District website <http://www.marinhealthcare.org/marin-general-hospital/hospital-replacement-project/environmental-impact-report/>. Comments on the report should be sent to Ron Peluso, program manager, c/o Marin Healthcare District, 100B Drakes Landing Road, Suite 250, Greenbrae 94904, or by email to ron.peluso@navigantconsulting.com by October 19.

This project is being driven by state legislation that requires a seismic upgrade of the Hospital. Funding for the project will be put before the voters in the form of a Bond Measure, likely in 2013. It is anticipated that the facilities will be built in three phases over three years without interruption to current hospital operations.

I will continue to track this important community project, and work to ensure that it not only meets the County's acute care needs, but that it is also a project that we as a community can be proud of.

UPCOMING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE EVENTS

Sunday, September 23, 9am- 2pm, White Hill to Gary Giacomini Naturalist Walk

Walk one way from White Hill to the Gary Giacomini preserves along San Geronimo Ridge for total distance of 6.5 miles. Meet at entrance to White Hill Trail. This walk is for adults. Contact David Herlocker at 415-893-9508 or DHerlocker@marincounty.org.

Saturday, October 6, 9:30am-1:30pm, Vintage Bicycle Cruise/Tweed Ride

Take an easy ride from Fairfax to Larkspur and back via the Corte Madera Creek path and public roads. Meet at Sunshine Bicycle Center, 737 Center Blvd. Fairfax. Bring water and snacks and google "Tweed Ride" to figure out what to wear! Contact Ron Miska at 415-6391 or RMiska@marincounty.org.

Saturday, October 13, 10am-1pm, Nature for Kids: Family Walk at Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Divide

Walk along the ridge and look for and talk about the changes that take place between seasons while looking for birds and creatures. Contact David Herlocker at 415-893-9508 or DHerlocker@marincounty.org.

Thursday, October 25, 10am-1pm, Cascade Canyon Naturalist Walk

Head up the North facing slope of Cascade Canyon to see the fall colors. Meet at the gate at the end of Cascade Drive. This walk is for adults. Contact David Herlocker at 415-893-9508 or DHerlocker@marincounty.org.

Visit <http://www.marincountyparks.org/Depts/PK/Calendar> for a complete listing of events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Rice".

Contact Information

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Requests for meeting accommodations may be made by calling 473-4381 (Voice) 473-3232 (TDD/TTY) or by e-mail at disabilityaccess@marincounty.org at least four work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.

You can update or cancel your subscription at any time:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAMARIN/subscriber/edit?preferences=true#tab1>.

All you will need is your email address and password (if you have selected one). This service is provided by the County of Marin.