



## New Community Services Fund Process Implemented

I know there are those who disagree with the Community Services Fund program. I respect their views, but my views differ. I hear from constituents daily about needs in the community; I visit organizations and see programs first hand that need funding; and I hear the accounts of those who don't have loud voices or the ability to attend Board of Supervisor meetings.

I believe the County has been able to do a lot of good for Marin with Community Services Funds. These funds often allow small amounts of money to be leveraged in larger ways by community non-profits for local, targeted projects that may otherwise not be possible. The Grand Jury report that was released in early January 2013 attests to the good that they provide.

Since I took office, I have focused a great deal on transparency – and I think we have made great strides with making this process transparent. I have always had details about the funding on my County website and in 2009 I asked that these expenditures be placed on our agenda at regularly scheduled Board of Supervisor meetings to allow the opportunity for public comment prior to a vote by the Board.

Continued on Page 2

## FY 2013-14 Budget Approved

On June 19, 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved the County of Marin's FY 2013-14 Budget. I am happy to share that our budget is balanced and structurally sound.

The County has done well the past few years during difficult economic times. We haven't shirked from dealing with pension reform, and have done more than any county in California in meeting this problem with transparency and definitive actions as well as creating a retiree health trust to eliminate unfunded retiree health liability over the next 30 years. Because of our efforts, the independent rating agency Moody's upgraded the County of Marin to a AAA in March of 2013, making Marin County one of only two California Counties with a AAA rating, and both Fitch and Standard & Poors (the two other major credit rating agencies) reaffirmed our AAA ratings. The recent Moody's rating upgrade to AAA and the reaffirmation by Fitch and Standard & Poors indicates our fiscal house is in order.

We have also worked well with our many community partners to achieve excellent outcomes. Within California, for example, Marin County has the:

- Second lowest rate of those living in poverty
- Lowest level of violent crime
- Highest ranking in health outcomes
- Highest voter turnout
- Highest rate of waste diversion

We are well positioned to meet the needs of a growing and aging population, and we are becoming more involved in education issues in areas where we can make a real difference.

We are off to a great start this fiscal year, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to address the challenges and the needs of our community. For more information about the County Budget, visit: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ad/divisions/management-and-budget/budget-overview>



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## New Community Services Fund Implemented (continued from page 1)

And, on March 19, 2013, the Board of Supervisors voted to make additional changes to the Community Services Fund program. Changes included: expanding the transparency of the program, creating clear guidelines for potential applicants and the community, ending the “roll-over” of funds, and providing the guidelines and application for funds on the County website.

With the revised program, applicants now apply online directly with the County Administrators office. At least one Supervisor must sponsor the request for funding. The sponsored applications will be considered by the County Administrator’s Office for potential funding. The County Administrator will bring those recommendations, up to three times per year, to the Board of Supervisors for final approval at a public meeting.

In the County’s FY 13-14 budget, \$300,000 has been allocated for this program. These funds can be used for one-time funding allocations between \$1,000 and \$10,000 to nonprofit service providers or other governmental entities that provide a measurable benefit to Marin County residents. Funding is approved for the current fiscal year only and approval does not indicate support for future year funding.

### TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDS

Community Services Fund applications  
can be found at:

<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ad/csfpagreement>

The new Community Services Fund guidelines  
can be found at: [http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ad/~//media/Files/Departments/AD/Management%20and%20Budget/Community%20Services%20Program/CSC\\_Program\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ad/~//media/Files/Departments/AD/Management%20and%20Budget/Community%20Services%20Program/CSC_Program_Guidelines.pdf)

## Education— The 4th “E”

As President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I requested that our Board add Education as a fourth E to our sustainability goals (Environment, Economy and Equity). While there isn’t a major role our Board can play since education has its own governmental structure, I have already met with our new County Librarian to see what the County can do to enhance our summer reading programs and increase our partnerships with local school districts.

There is always a need for funding in our schools and providing access to quality education for all children. Therefore, I recommended the following expenditures to support education from the District 5 FY 2012-13 Community Services Fund account. These allocations were approved at the May 21, 2013 Board of Supervisors meeting. Helping our children, from preschool through college, is an investment I am proud to support.

- \$15,000 to Novato High for technology, counseling, instructional materials and Safe Grad Night
- \$15,000 to San Marin High for technology and Safe Grad Night
- \$30,000 to School Fuel for elementary and middle schools in Novato to support enrichment programs in the areas of music, visual arts, performing arts, literacy and technology.
- \$10,000 to Marin Kids to assist them in their community outreach efforts to secure a steady funding stream for underserved children in Marin to attend preschool. Studies have shown that children who enter kindergarten with specific academic and social readiness skills do significantly better on standardized tests than children who do not begin school with these skills.
- \$10,000 to Parent Services Project for their Raising a Reader Program in Novato, which rotates book bags filled with wonderful children’s books into homes on a regular basis.
- \$10,000 to 10,000 Degrees for supporting students from low-income households with college preparation and guidance.



## Welcome Sara Jones—New County Library Director



Welcome Sara Jones!

Sara Jones joined the County family on July 8 as the new Director of the Marin County Free Library. Sara has been a librarian since 1988 and is highly respected for her innovative ideas, fundraising skills, collaboration with community groups and ability to inspire staff. She joins us from Nevada, where she was most recently the director of the Carson City Library System.

Marin is delighted to have someone with the depth of experience and demonstrated ability to find ways to enhance library services in the community.

## Remodel Efforts Create Surge at Novato Library

After renovations last March, Novato Library visitors now enjoy: easier access to high demand materials, a single convenient information desk, more convenient and efficient check-out, improved lighting and carpet, as well as better accessibility to the library.

It looks like the renovations have paid off. Just four weeks after the Novato Library renovations were completed, the Novato Library saw circulation figures reaching near-record amounts. In May 2013, Patrons borrowed nearly 20 percent more materials than they did last year during the same period – 40,990 items in May 2012 vs. 48,887 items in May 2013. The monthly figure represents at least a 10-year high.

For those who favor quick do-it-yourself service, they can now utilize a new computerized checkout center. During May 2013, more than 75 percent of materials were checked out by the new machines. Patrons still have the option of being assisted by library staff.

As part of Measure A improvements approved by Marin voters in June 2010, Novato is the first Marin County Free Library regional branch to be remodeled and the first to offer patrons one-stop service at a single, combined checkout and information desk. Patrons with reference needs or questions about a library account can now be provided answers at the same location.

Check out the improvements for yourself! Visit the Novato Library at 1720 Novato Boulevard.





## Marin Transit Service Improvements

Many bus riders in Novato have long complained that bus service in Novato is spotty, transfers don't connect on time, and many areas in our spread-out City are neglected. I am happy to announce that after an exhaustive needs assessment in Novato, the first one done in Marin, we have an additional 5,000 hours of service that will either fully or partially serve Novato. Those service changes began on August 4.

The Novato Transit Needs Assessment began in October 2010, in partnership with the City of Novato to: evaluate existing services within Novato, identify new and emerging mobility needs that fall outside the current transit service options, and craft practical strategies for meeting these needs.

This grant funded study included an extensive public outreach program including: months of gathering community input, conducting surveys and interviews with over 1,100 participants, formation of stakeholder groups, hosting of public meetings, analyzing demand, and evaluating existing services. As a result of those efforts, Marin Transit developed a series of cost-effective approaches and recommendations for improving transit service in the community.

Recommendations were organized into two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2. Many Phase 1 improvements were implemented in March, 2012. Phase 2 strategies were updated based on the implementation of Phase 1, and approved for implementation on May 20, 2013 by the Marin Transit Board of Directors - which includes Novato Councilmember Madeline Kellner and the Board of Supervisors. I serve as Vice Chair of the Marin Transit District Board. A summary of Phase 2 changes in Novato that began on August 4, include:

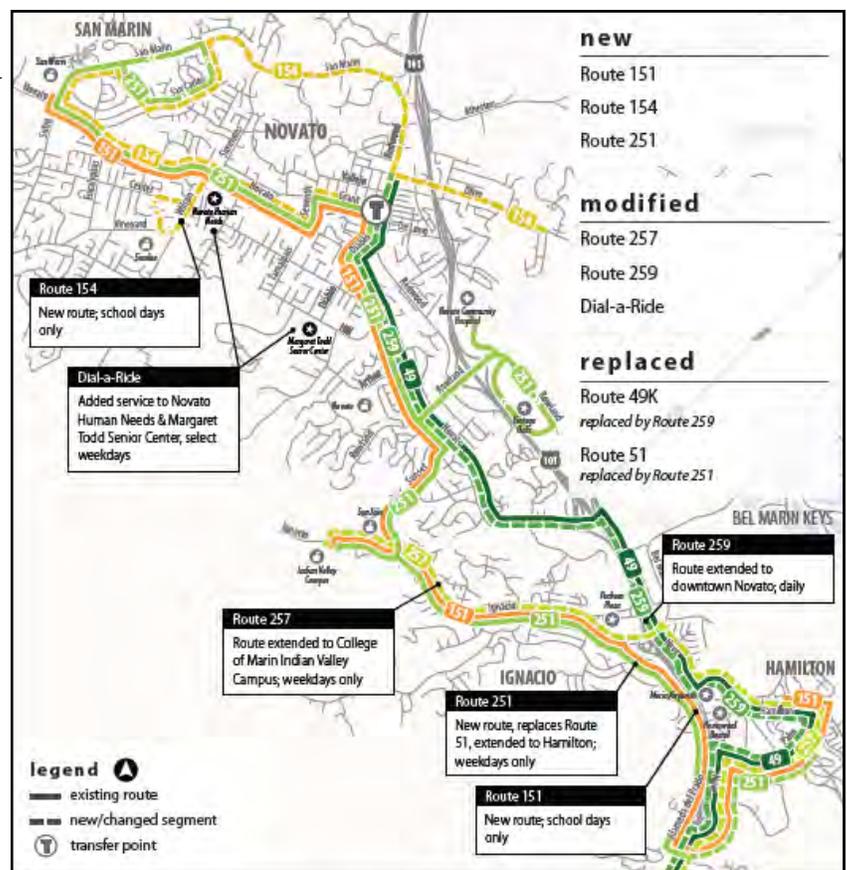
Route 51 was replaced with a new shuttle Route 251 and service has been extended into Hamilton daily. Supplemental school trips to San Marin High School, Novato High School and San Jose Middle School are served by new Route 151 and Olive Elementary School, Sinaloa Middle School and San Marin High School are served by new Route 154 (on school days only).

Route 257 and 259 have been extended from their northern terminuses in San Rafael to serve Novato. These extensions increase service frequencies in Novato and provide additional non-transfer connections in northern Marin County including Kaiser Hospital, Northgate Mall, Civic Center, and Dominican University. The span of service has been increased by four hours to provide night service between destinations in Novato, Northgate, and Downtown San Rafael. Route 49 will continue to operate weekdays but Route 49K (weekends only) has been replaced with weekend service on Route 259.

Novato Dial-A-Ride services have been extended to add midday service on select weekdays between the Margaret Todd Senior Center and Novato Human Needs Center. Service will be coordinated with regularly programmed weekly events that experience high demands to these locations. For those not familiar with Novato Dial-A-Ride, it is available to all Novato residents and provides passengers curb-to-curb pick-up and drop-off service within the service area of Novato. To use the service you must schedule your trip in advance by calling (415) 892-7899.

These changes will greatly improve transit options and services in Novato. In particular, they respond to the requests of many parents to expand connectivity to local schools.

For more information, contact Marin Transit: (415) 226-0871 or [www.marintransit.org/2013-service-changes.html](http://www.marintransit.org/2013-service-changes.html).





Support the Novato Theater—Join me on August 18!

**NOVATO THEATER**  
BRING THE DREAM TO LIFE

**3RD ANNUAL**  
**SUMMER CONCERT BENEFIT**

Featuring:

**Wonder Bread**

and Uphill Both Ways Band

**FREE CONCERT!**  
Where: Machin Street, in front of Trek Winery between Sweetser and Vallejo  
Food, beer & wine for sale. No outside food or drink allowed please. Bring blankets, low beach chairs only.

**More Information:** [www.novatotheater.net](http://www.novatotheater.net)  
[info@novatotheater.net](mailto:info@novatotheater.net) | 415-539-7155

100% of the event's proceeds will go towards the Downtown Novato Theater Project

Thank you to our event partners:

and to our event sponsors:



## Fun at the Marin County Fair!

The 2013 Marin County Fair was a huge success!

I hope you were able to come out and enjoy all the Fair had to offer. I want to share with you a few photos from this year's event...



Left: Opening day kicked off with a huge line at the gate and a lot of excitement as Jim Farley, the Director of Cultural Services, and I conducted the annual Marin County Fair ribbon cutting ceremony.

The 2013 Marin County Fair saw 114,200 visitors!

Right: Our friends from SMART had a booth at the Fair—sharing information about SMART, its construction schedule, and most importantly helping to educate both children and adults about train safety.



Left: This year's Western Fairs Association Blue Ribbon Award was given to Superintendent Mary Jane Burke and the Marin County Office of Education for her enthusiastic championing of all students in public and private schools. Joining Mary Jane to accept the award was David Hellman, President of the Marin County Board of Education.



## MCF Supports the Novato Theater!

Great news for the Novato Theater!

I am happy to share with you the following news from Dr. Thomas Peters, President and CEO of Marin Community Foundation:

“The Marin Community Foundation is pleased to offer this \$25,000 grant in support of the community’s grand effort to restore Novato’s theatre. Supervisor Arnold made a most persuasive case about the project’s many potential contributions, from supporting a vibrant arts community to stimulating the downtown economy. We are proud to add our dollars and our voice in concert with hers, and that of so many others throughout the region, in support of a project to reinvigorate and reimagine this vital community resource.”

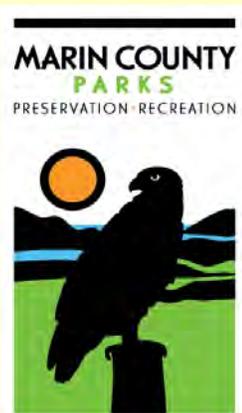
For more information about the Novato Theater restoration project or to make a donation, visit: <http://www.novatotheater.net/>.



## FOR THE RECORD

In the age of on-line media, I want to ensure my constituents that I have always been and will continue to be transparent, using my own name when commenting on-line in blogs or news websites. I have never, and will never, use an alias. Please do not hesitate to contact me about my positions or statements.

## Parks Summer News and Events



The Summer 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. Learn about the projects we’re working on as well as the free programs we offer including Community Volunteer Days, Naturalist Outings, and Ranger Events. You’re sure to discover something for you and your family to enjoy. Visit: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/pk/main/newsletter>

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

## Another Great 4th of July Parade in Novato!

Kudos to the Novato 4th of July Parade Committee for another successful year!

Every year I participate in the parade and invite an organization to ride and walk with me. This year I featured the Stafford Lake Bike Park project, which is currently in an aggressive fundraising campaign to raise the monies needed for construction of the facility. The project, led by Marin County Parks, is a 17-acre bike park located within Stafford Lake County Park in Novato. Once completed, this will be the largest bike skills park in California. It is designed to provide a safe bicycle riding area for the public for riders of all ages and skill levels beginner through expert.

For more information and to learn how you can help with a donation, visit: [www.staffordlakebikepark.com](http://www.staffordlakebikepark.com).





Judy Arnold, Marin County Supervisor

DISTRICT 5 COUNTY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Aug 2013

Calendar grid for August 2013 with days of the week and dates 1-31.

Sept 2013

Calendar grid for September 2013 with days of the week and dates 1-30.

Upcoming Meetings

- Aug 6—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Aug 19—10am, Transit District Meeting
Aug 20—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Aug 21—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
Sept 2—County Holiday (offices closed)
Sept 10—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Sept 16—10am, Transit District Meeting
Sept 17—Board of Supervisors Meeting
Sept 18—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
Sept 26—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.

SMART Board meetings are located on the First Floor at the SMART offices in Petaluma at 5401 Old Redwood Highway, Petaluma.

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.marincounty.org. In the "Board of Supervisors" section, click "Agendas, Minutes & Webcasts"

BOS meetings are also webcast live. To watch a meeting live or to replay at a later date:

=> Go to the County of Marin website at www.marincounty.org. In the "Board of Supervisors" section, click "Agendas, Minutes & Webcasts"

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