



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association

May/June 2011

MAY

21 – Multi Family Yard Sale, Saturday, 9am-2pm, 36 Meadow Drive. Proceeds to Santa Venetia Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

22 – Yoga in the Park, Sunday, 11am-1pm, McNear's Beach Park

31 – SVNA Community Meeting, Tuesday, 6:30pm Potluck, 7pm Meeting, Korean Presbyterian Church, Adrian & Rosal.

JUNE

3 – Friday, 7pm. El Mago, the Wonderful Wizard of OZ! Venetia Valley Gym, 177 N. San Pedro Road. Saturday, June 4, 1pm

5 – Friends of the Marin County Free Library Annual Meeting, Sunday, 2-4pm, 555 Northgate

9 – Public hearing on sewer service charge, 4:30pm, LGVSD office, 300 Smith Ranch Road

11 – 2nd Saturday Median Workday, 9am-noon. N. San Pedro at Schmidt Ln. Lunch provided.

18 – 9am-12pm, Friday, Road & Trails Management Plan meeting, MCOSD, Marin County Health and Wellness Center, San Rafael

JULY

9 – 2nd Saturday Median Workday, 9am-noon. N. San Pedro at Schmidt Ln. Lunch provided.

AUGUST

30 – SVNA Community Meeting, Tuesday, 7pm Meeting, Korean Presbyterian Church, Adrian & Rosal.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE SVNA TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS— Susan Adams, Judy Arnold, Steve Kinsey, and Hal Brown—for pursuing and moving forward with plans to house the Public Safety Building/EOF at the Marin Commons site. This is great news for Santa Venetia and Marin County.

Marin Civic Center Vision Committee: EOF Update

• Lesley McTaggart & Mary Lou King

On April 26, 2011, the Board of Supervisors voted to seriously evaluate the Marin Commons complex (located at 1600 Los Gamos Drive, San Rafael) for a new public safety center. The Marin Civic Center Vision Committee (MCCVC) is delighted with this new development. It seems as though our prayers have finally been heard, and our bucolic Civic Center campus will remain as Frank Lloyd Wright intended.

Although it will cost \$450K to determine if this new location is viable or not, that is money well spent and really just a short-term consideration. This is a very important decision. A new public safety building is going to be expensive, regardless of where it will sit. At the end of the day, "recycling and reusing an existing building" has got to be far less expensive than building from scratch in two phases with all the unknown costs of construction spread out over 10 years. The Marin Commons site is much larger, larger than any new building could be built at the Civic Center campus (current dog park, petanque court, and east jury parking lot), giving the county plenty of room for future expansion. The Marin Commons also comes with some income-producing tenants, and more county functions currently leased out could be consolidated into this site which would save the county (and taxpayers) more money.

Generating income was never part of the original plan to build at the Civic Center campus, but it is a huge bonus over the long term. The decision to purchase and revamp the Marin Commons should not only be a long term financial consideration, but also a community consideration with a view toward future generations.

We applaud the Board of Supervisors for moving forward with this green plan. ❖

May Community Meeting

Join Us May 31 for Potluck at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

• Bonnie Monte

At our next community meeting, we're looking forward to hosting another potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share and show up early to schmooze with your neighbors. After the potluck, we have two great presentations for you, as well as updates from various Committees regarding issues in our neighborhood.

Maureen Gaffney from the San Francisco Bay Trail Project will speak about the ongoing work to build a 500-mile shoreline trail. Did you know a portion of the Trail runs right down N. San Pedro Road? Learn how to get involved in this project.

Carolyn Lenert, with the North San Rafael Coalition of Residents, will be joining us, too. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet her, this will be an added treat for you. Carolyn is very involved in neighborhood politics and quite a motivational speaker. She has many ideas of how neighbors can work together to achieve great things.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 31! ❖

Reunión de la Comunidad este 31 de mayo

Convivió a las 6:30pm – Platicas y Conferencia a las 7:00pm

• Translated by Geronimo Diaz

En nuestra siguiente reunión esperamos convivir con los vecinos y compartir nuestras comidas favoritas. Traiga su plato favorito para compartir con los demás. Venga temprano para charlar con los vecinos y conocerles mejor. Después del convivio habrá dos presentaciones y luego le daremos a conocer las ultimas noticias de los comités del vecindario.

Maureen Gaffnet del San Francisco Bay Trail Project nos dará a conocer los últimos acontecimientos del proyecto para construir un sendero de 500 millas alrededor de la bahía. ¿Sabía usted que una porción de este sendero esta junto a N San Pedro Road? Aprenda como involucrarse en este proyecto.

Carolyn Lenert, quien representa la coalición de residentes del norte de San Rafael estará con nosotros también. Si no ha tenido la oportunidad de conocerla, esta será la ocasión perfecta. Carolyn esta muy involucrada en las políticas del vecindario y es una muy buena oradora motivacional. Ella tiene muchas ideas de cómo los vecinos deben trabajar juntos para adquirir cosas grandes.

¡Esperamos verles este martes 31 de mayo! ❖

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 Watershed – **RUSS GREENFIELD**
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MICHAEL PERANI

SMART - Civic Center Station
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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions and ads for the July/August issue is July 1, 2011. Email text to Linda Levey at linda@santavenetia.org, **499-3411**. Put **SVNA** in the subject line of the email.

Email or call about Advertising – Norma Novy at normanovy@comcast.net, 499-9409, fax 499-8441. Ad size is 3-5/8" x 2" vertical or horizontal. Ad cost for our big Jan/Feb issue is \$50. Ad cost for the other 5 issues is \$25 – or \$150 for one year and all 6 issues. Submit pdf, jpg, tiff or business card or we will design.

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association Mission Statement

To preserve and promote the quality of life of the Santa Venetia community. This is achieved through encouraging healthy social interaction; facilitating the flow of information; and protecting the natural beauty and economic well being of the community.

Photo credits: Linda Levey, Bonnie & Dan Monte, Norma Novy • Many thanks to Ann Thompson for designing the Communicator masthead and to Jok Church for the newly revised SV logo. • Articles in this newsletter represent the opinions and ideas of the authors, and may not reflect the views of SVNA or its board. While this newsletter aims to best represent information that is useful to the community, please note that SVNA reserves the right to edit submissions for both accuracy and clarity.

From the President



Dear Friends,

Once again, a good time was had by all at the Easter Egg Hunt. Castro Park was awash with children who were only outnumbered by the colorful eggs. The volunteers were too numerous to thank by name, although a hearty collective hearty shout out is in order. A special thank you to Past SVNA President **Jim Walsh** for his generous co-sponsorship of this annual Santa Venetia Tradition with the SVNA. Now I don't want to suggest anything, although between you and me, **Bonnie Monte's** face was conspicuously absent at the event, although the Easter Bunny sounded an awful lot like our VP. I take it back. I do want to suggest something for next year. Note to self. Let's find something that mixes with wet grass better than crepe paper for dividing egg hunting areas for each age group.

I've been taking long walks (OK, sometimes driving with the top down on the Roadster) and taking a few notes on each street. Here's my version of the Good, the Bad, and the Not so Hot. For this column, I'm doing the flats of Santa Venetia. I'll devote a future column to our neighborhoods in the hills above North San Pedro Road and west of Meadow. If I've left a street or two out, no slight is intended.

Birch Street, along with **Galerita Street**, is home to many of the best-kept homes in Santa Venetia. Perhaps it's infectious. There just seems to be just a little more house pride on these two streets. Both suffer, as does all of Santa Venetia from overhead utility wires that are just a necessary evil. Whenever I go to a neighborhood with underground wires, I'm so jealous. I'm howling at the moon because there likely isn't any appetite to assess ourselves to underground the wires, but a guy can dream, can't he?



SV Board VP Bonnie Monte with Russ Greenfield's grandson, Xander, hunt eggs in Castro Park.



Over on **Mabry** my favorite site is usually the two houses (pictured left) that appear to share one perfectly manicured lawn. No fence or even lawnmower lines divide the lawn. It's seamless between both houses and just screams of harmony and community.

And it is visually striking. And don't forget, Mabry was named for that other dreamer, **Mabry McMahon**, who originally wanted to make this the Venice of the West.

In my opinion, and of course this entire column is my opinion, **Meadow** has the best trees in the neighborhood. It's like a forest on either side. I only wish Meadow had sidewalks to make it easier to walk. For that matter, much of our neighborhood would benefit from more sidewalks and you probably can never have too many trees.

Supervisor's Corner



• Supervisor Susan L. Adams, RN, PhD,
1st District, County of Marin

Progress on Marin Commons

I am pleased to report that progress is being made on the potential development of Marin Commons as the site for the Emergency Operations Facility. Because of current favorable real estate and construction market conditions and to consider the most cost-effective long-term alternatives, County staff has been in discussions to consider the feasibility of acquiring an existing building and upgrading it to the essential services standard for a new Emergency Operations Facility.

On Tuesday, April 26, our Board directed County staff to pursue a study of the technical and economic feasibility of potentially purchasing all or part of the building and locating the County's proposed Emergency Operations Facility at 1600 Los Gamos Drive. In addition, the Board approved an option agreement to purchase either part of or all of the building at 1600 Los Gamos Drive, which is one of the buildings located at what is known as Marin Commons. The County has 100 days to study the issues, and is planning to return to the Board of Supervisors to present the findings in late June or July.

If the findings show that it is both economically and technically feasible to locate the Emergency Operations Facility at 1600 Los Gamos, the Board would then have to decide on whether to purchase 1600 Los Gamos Drive or to continue with the planning for a new building at the Civic Center Campus. The planning for the Emergency Operations Facility at the Civic Center Campus is on hold while the alternatives at 1600 Los Gamos are being studied.

For more information or the staff report, please go to website for the Board meeting archive and go to the April 26, 2011 agenda item #10. <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/Archive/Meetings.cfm>. You can also subscribe to the page on the County Administrator's site to receive updates: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/AD/main/EOC/eochoome.cfm>. I invite you to subscribe to my website as a way to stay informed on issues and provide us your thoughts and ideas. My aides, **Rick Fraites** and **Susannah Clark**, and I are here to serve you. Both Forum announcements are posted on my District 1 website. www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr1/index.cfm. ❖

Sidewalk or no sidewalk, every time I walk down **Adrian** I am delighted by the memory of the good times there on Halloween. Further down near the Korean Church where we have our meetings, I see the backs of the homes and backyard fences from **Adrian Terrace**. This kind of separates those homes from the neighborhood. Should our upcoming Community Plan favor homes facing into the neighborhood where possible?

I'm baffled as to why **Hawthorne** is so narrow compared to the rest of the streets in the neighborhood. It's a good idea to drive slowly in our neighborhood, and,, for that matter, in every neighborhood. But especially on Hawthorne—that curve at North end is positively diabolical.

La Brea is home to one of the two tallest trees in the Flats with the other being on **Estancia Way**. I looked it up and as near as I can tell, these are a variety of palms known as *Washingtonia robusta* which typically grow to 100 feet. **Rosal** boasts the most impressive cactus stand in the neighborhood giving that home a real Southwestern feel. Eastern Santa Venetia, along **Hacienda, Rincon, Rosal, Descanso** and **Little Vendola** is filled with charming "Eichleresque" homes. These mid-century marvels housed baby boomers and for me reflect the boundless



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| Non-Emergency (24-hour Communications) | 479-2311 |
| Crime Prevention..... | 499-7263 |
| Victim/Witness..... | 499-6450 |

City of San Rafael

| | |
|--|----------|
| Emergency..... | 911 |
| Emergency from a Cell Phone | 453-1515 |
| Non-Emergency Fire Dept..... | 485-3300 |
| Non-Emergency Police Dept..... | 485-3000 |
| San Rafael Emergency/Disaster Info Hotline | 485-5070 |

Flood Control/Clogged Drains

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Working Hours..... | 499-6549 |
| After 5pm/Weekends..... | 499-7237 |

Community Development Agency/Planning

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Front Information Counter..... | 499-6269 |
| If you see dumping (get license #)..... | 479-2311 |
| To request dumped stuff pick-up | 499-7388 |
| PG&E Underground Alert..... | 800-227-2600 |
| PG&E Electrical Outage..... | 800-743-5002 |

optimism of the late 1950s. Today many house the children of Boomers but the optimism remains.

Vendola is the longest street in the flats. So long it needs to be divided into two streets with the shorter one affectionately referred to as Little Vendola. Where "Big" Vendola wraps around Santa Margarita Island you can find an enormous red Adirondack Chair. I just love how the oversized Martini Glass (sometimes) rests on the arm, but I never see the giant. I also like how Vendola is a virtual timeline of home styles. From the cottages that date to the 1940s and early 1950s near the island to the Ranch Homes in the middle and the homes built in the late fifties near the Eastern end. Very much a reflection of home building styles in America at those times. I give the Not so Hot award to my own yard. One of these days I really am going to replace that unwatered lawn with a proper xeriscape (read: no water) garden.

These are just a few of my random reflections (ramblings?). Let's hear yours!

ROBERT



Poetry Blast, Star Testing, and Higher Ed

• **Cindy Jaconette, Principal**

Our **Poetry Blast** greeted the first week in April. Students in Grades 1st to 5th performed poetry on our stage. This wonderful evening event for families and community was organized by the art committee with leadership by **Ronda Dunn** and **Liz Stein**.

STAR Testing started the week of May 2 and continues for two weeks at Venetia Valley School. The teachers have prepared the students well to master state standards which are assessed on these state exams.

When you enter our school office you will see a bulletin board which shows the colleges and universities attend by our teachers and staff. Our school has 100% highly qualified teachers. We are teaming with the non-profit organization **10,000 Degrees** to be a University Bound School. Our goal is to provide excellence in education so all students are ready at the end of eighth grade to enter a high school program leading to higher education. Our 6th graders attend University of California Berkeley for a day and we will have two more college day field trips before June. ❖

Don't Miss the World Premiere of "El Mago, the Wonderful Wizard of Oz!"

• **Christine Gabbard, President, Venetia Valley School PTA**

Everyone's invited to attend the world premier of Venetia Valley School's original bilingual adaptation of the beloved family classic starring our very own K-8th grade students.

Opening night is Friday, June 3, 7pm, and a matinee performance will be held on Saturday, June 4, 1pm. Location is the Venetia Valley Gym, 177 N. San Pedro Road. Tickets are \$2 each, kids 4 and under are free.

A dessert auction will be held during each performance to help raise funds for the arts program at Venetia Valley! Bring home a delicious treat for your family! For more information, visit our parent and school programs on our school web site. ❖



13 Santa Venetians Graduate from Terra Linda High

• **Diana Connolly**

Recently, a handful of us Santa Venetians—**Debbie Warren, Diana Connolly, Denise Wolford, Kathi Collins, and Cathi Fuller**—had all just come from the Mountain Play fundraiser at The Rafael, a Hair-spray sing-along. We clinked our wine glasses, realizing it's been 13 years since we "met" in kindergarten at Gallinas Elementary, and now we have High School seniors, graduating from Terra Linda HS in June and making plans for their future.

Graduating this spring is our own Santa Venetia TLHS Class of 2011, **Justin Chizer, Yotom Cohen, Gina Collins, Jimmy Connolly, Rebecca "Becca" Knopf, Lily Jackson, Mike Pollack, Brook Wolford,** and **Nikolai Zykanov**, who have been through it all together, from kindergarten at Gallinas, through Venetia Valley middle school, and now graduating from TL.

Justin Chizer will be headed to UC Santa Cruz; he has not yet declared a major.

Gina Collins will intern as a Medical Assistant at Kaiser Permanente this summer. In the fall, she will major in Biological Sciences at College of Marin. She will complete her degree at UC Davis.

Jimmy Connolly will be attending UC Berkeley and will pursue a double major in Science and Business. Over the summer he will attend a UCB Summer program to get a head start on his coursework.

Becca Knopf will be pursuing a double major in Equine Science and Business at Otterbein University. This summer, Becca will intern in Therapeutic Riding, and will be aiming for a career working with horses and children.

Lily Jackson will be going to Occidental College in the fall. This summer, she has been asked to return as a Senior Assistant to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Seminar.

Mike Pollack will be attending Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, majoring in Business. He will also be completing his EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) class in May, taking the national certification in August.

Brook Wolford will be heading to Redlands University in Southern California. She will be taking pre-med coursework.

Nikolai Zykanov will enter the Fire Technology program at Santa Rosa JC this summer, and will complete his BS in Fire Technology and Administration at CSULA. Nikolai expects to achieve Eagle Scout Rank this May.

NOTE: We apologize for any other graduates we may have missed! Please send in your son's or daughter's plans to the next edition and we will publish them.



Santa Venetians go to Senior Prom - Class of 2011. Top Row: Nikolai Zykanov, Mike Pollack. Bottom Row, l to r: Becca Knopf, BrookWolford, Jimmy Connolly, Emma Pedlar (class of 2012) and Lily Jackson.

Venetia Valley K-8 School Fundraisers

Collecting Box-Tops

Yes, we are still collecting Box-Tops for Education from General Mills Product and Campbell Labels for Education. The Box-Tops are used to fund the 5th Grade Outdoor Education Program and every box-top is worth 10 cents. The Campbell Soup Labels are used to obtain PE and playground equipment.

Cash for Trash

Yes, there are other volunteers doing the Cash for Trash this year, but still collecting all aluminum cans and all California Recycle Value (CRV) containers every Friday morning before school starts at the Venetia Valley School gym parking lot. This recycling pays for many projects like art and music. Last year, over \$3,000 was collected.

The Martians are coming!

• Michael McCrea

Well...maybe, but at least with a bold move by the LGVSD you might have a chance to see them before they get here! YES! The **Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District** is clearing the way to the Milky Way, and beyond!

In a thoughtful and neighborly response to petitioning from our community the LGVSD has budgeted funds to eliminate glare and light pollution which has bedeviled Santa Venetia for decades! "On the 24 of March the LGVSD Board approved proceeding with Phase 1 of the plant lighting replacement, they also were amenable to budgeting \$30,000 for Phase 11 (outer plant lights) in the 2011/2012 budget..." wrote General Manager **Mark Williams**.

Let's give this a little perspective...Many of you reading this will remember the rolling brownouts and blackouts caused by the power shortages (and manipulations by the power companies) of the 1980s. The lights literally went out in large sections of the country for all night! Thousands of frantic calls were placed to the police, fire departments, and city officials because of "THAT THING" in the night sky!! "THAT THING" was the Milky Way!

The Milky Way Galaxy, commonly referred to as just the Milky Way, or sometimes simply as the Galaxy, is the home galaxy of the Solar System, and of Earth. It contains 100-400 billion stars and an estimated 50 billion planets. How sad a generation of children would grow up and not know their "home". Eighty percent of the children of the United States have never seen the Milky Way Galaxy, though it diamonds the velvet of night above their sleepy heads.

Light pollution not only destroys our ability to see into our home galaxy, but disrupts eco-systems and migration patterns. Our own biological clocks and circadian rhythms depend on periods of darkness.

The LGVSD Board studied the effects of the light pollution emanating from the LGVSD plant and have taken this commendable step to eliminate light pollution from the facility. Not only to save taxpayer dollars, but also to give our children greater opportunities for education, and for our community and nature to thrive.

This action in response to community concerns by the Board and General Manager Mark Williams is an indication of why our LGVSD recently won the California State award for operating the BEST small sewage collection system in the state!

If you know or come across Board members **Judy Shrieberman, Craig Murray, Russ Greenfield, Larry Loder, Megan Clark, or Manager Mark Williams**, please personally let them know your appreciation for making Santa Venetia an ever better community to live and raise children in. ❖

Raffle a Success— Community Plan Survey Is Happening!

• Bonnie Monte

Thanks to a tremendous effort by many, many people, and the generosity of our prize donors, our recent raffle raised \$2,450! Supervisor **Susan Adams** has agreed to match the money we raised two-to-one, and the SVNA is contributing additional funds. That means we can begin the first phase of a Community Plan: the survey! Watch for your survey to arrive in June.

Congratulations to the raffle's grand prize winner, **Ray Perkins**. And thanks to everyone who bought and sold tickets. We couldn't have done it without you.

A very big thank you to our prize donors: **Carolyn Lenert, Marin Sanitary Services, Osher Marin JCC, Marin YMCA, 7-11, Gaspare's Pizzeria, Chalet Basque, Marin Joe's, Round Table Pizza, Bogie's, Santa Venetia Market, Rocky's Meats, Santa Venetia Swim Club, Daphne Ahlenius, Mary's Futons, Judy Shreibman, Debbie Coletta, Lion Goodman, Norma Novy, Art Reichert, Giselle Block, Sue Mace and Scott McDaniel**. Special thanks to **Tad Inouye, Dennis Bortoli, Russ Greenfield, Helen Stichler, and Jason Tuttle** for their efforts above and beyond. And thank you to the Community Plan Committee who are working so hard to ensure that Santa Venetia finally gets its plan: **Giselle Block, Tami Hull, Gary Robards, Jackie Garcia, Russ Greenfield** [Editor's note: and **Bonnie Monte**] and past members **Jonathan Metcalf and Shelley Sweet**.

The success of the raffle exceeded our wildest expectations and confirms how uniting for a common cause can produce amazing results. ❖



Watch the mail for your SURVEY in early June.

This is the first step in creating a Santa Venetia Community Plan. Let your voice be heard. Send in your completed survey and you could win a gift card.



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Friends of Civic Center Library

Friends Annual Meeting with 'The Cheesemonger'

• Alison Fuller, Membership, The Friends of Civic Center Library, 492-3439 or alisoncfuller@gmail.com

If you are a Friend of the Civic Center Library, you are also a member of our "umbrella" organization, the Friends of the Marin County Free Library, and as such you should have received an invitation to its annual meeting to be held on Sunday, June 5 from 2 to 4 PM at 555 Northgate (across from south entrance to Sears parking lot). The speaker will be local author **Gordon Edgar**, manager of the cheese department at Rainbow Co-op in San Francisco, who will discuss his book, *The Cheesemonger*, complete with samples! The Civic Center Friends' annual meeting will also be held in early June, date to be mailed to members but, sorry, no cheese samples.

Thanks, again to those special Santa Venetians who worked the Friends' Super Sale the end of March. You received a thank-you letter, but you deserve another pat on the back in *The Communicator* for giving your valuable time to help our community. **Daphne Ahlenius** and **Dennis Bortoli** both worked three shifts over the four days of the sale; **Russ Greenfield** also did two stints of heavy-duty loading jobs. **Silva Carroll, Pat Currier, Sandy Fullerton, Tad Inouye, Bonnie Monte, Thad Shelton, Leslie Van Raalte** and **Nani Wurl** all pitched in to make the Super Sale a success. (If I omitted your name, please let me know.) Our volunteers earned Civic Center Friends around \$1,700 as our share of the net proceeds, based on number of volunteers provided. Thanks, too, to those of you who came and bought the books. Without you there would really be No Sale!

Help Wanted: Much as we appreciate all the help at sale time, the Friends of the Civic Center Library needs help all year round. We have several board vacancies and we can always use substitutes for our monthly day staffing the Book Place in Novato. Each of these jobs takes two or three hours a month, but if they all fall on one person, it becomes burdensome. Many hands make light work! Our president, **Cathy Lynch**, is moving on to be president of the County Friends, and I have offered to take on that job, but nominations from the floor are most welcome. We also need recording secretary, corresponding secretary, membership and at-large directors. If you care about our library and can volunteer a couple of hours a month, please give me a call and let me know how you would like to help. ❖



Chalet & Basque

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patrick@chaletbasquemarin.com

S-S Dinner
4-9pm
Tu-F Lunch
11:30am-2pm
Dinner 5-9pm
Closed Monday

"Don't Forget the eGroup"

Join the Santa Venetia eGroup for current neighborhood info plus discussions. Get emails with calendar info and updates.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SV-Community>

From the Library Stacks

Explore the World @ Your Library and Earn Prizes!

• Eva Patterson

Children, teens, and adults can share their pleasure of reading by joining the Marin County Free Library Summer Reading Programs. Children can enjoy "One World, Many Stories", teens know that "You Are Here", and adults can visit "Novel Destination" June 11 through August 13.

Children earn rewards through timed reading. Reading 20 minutes (or more) a day for 5 days earns 3 Silly Bandz. Reading 20 minutes a day for 10 days earns 3 more Silly Bandz. Reading for 20 minutes a day for 15 days earns a coupon for a free pizza. And reading for 20 minutes a day for 20 days earns a Summer Reading T-Shirt.

Teens can sign up online (or in the library). For every book they read, they submit an online review and earn an e-affle ticket to win a prize in the weekly drawing. All e-affle tickets will also be included in the branch's Grand Prize Raffle at the end of summer. So the more they read and review, the better their chances to win. Sign-ups begin as early as June 1.

Like the teens, adults can sign up online or in the library. After sign-up, adults will be eligible to receive a book bag from their local library (while supplies last). Writing online reviews is an excellent way for adults to share their favorite titles with others in the community and find new suggestions to add to their own reading lists. Submit a review online each week to enter that week's raffle of a gift bag full of goodies. Just one online review entitles adult participants to be entered in our grand prize raffle of ebook readers at program's end in August.

Call the Civic Center Library at 499-6058 for more information about our special programs for Summer Reading. ❖

Eat LOCAL Food



Celebrate the best of summer every Sunday and Thursday at the Marin Farmers Markets at the Civic Center. Meet the farmers who grow your food and taste what food aspires to be.



MARIN CIVIC CENTER (SUN & THURS, 8-1, ALL YEAR)
NOVATO (TUES, 4-8, MAY-SEPTEMBER)
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STONESTOWN — SAN FRANCISCO (SUN, 9-1, ALL YEAR)

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SVNA Membership

Your Ticket to a Better Community

• Linda Levey

If you haven't joined or renewed your 2011 membership, I hope you will soon. *More Members = More Communication = More Power as a Community.*

A warm Santa Venetia WELCOME to new SVNA members: **Rebecca Cowlin** and **Tom & Jami Ellermann.**

THANKS to those neighbors that have donated extra: **Margaret & Bernard Bastian, Robert & Jane Van Blaricom, Debra Howell & Chris Salak, Geoff Kolanowski, Barbara Lakisch, Christina Manansala & Jack West, Marty Parker, Teresita San Gabriel, Kent & Kathy Schaum, Nathalee Stirling, Margie Wehrer, Joel Yau, Jean Zerrudo & Steve Turgeon.**

And THANKS for even larger donations to **Beverly & Bruce Lange,** for donating a weed-whacker and lunch to the median crew, as well as **Sherry Julian** of the "Santa Venetia Neighbors Helping Neighbors" group, for donating \$100.

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD – SUPPORT THE SVNA!

Check your label – if it does not say "2011," send in your renewal now! If you have a **neighbor** who isn't a member, tell them of the benefits of membership. If you have a neighbor who would like to be a member and enjoy the newsletter, but hasn't yet joined, consider giving them a **gift** SVNA membership.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM!

Santa Venetia is a great place to live and we want to keep it that way! If you have an interest and/or talent – join your neighbors and volunteer on one of the many SVNA/Community projects (newsletter preparation, membership drive, meetings, neighborhood notifications, land use, school issues, etc.).

Members are good, "participating" members are even better! If there is any issue you have an interest in, any committee you would like to serve on, anything you have to say..... speak up! We are waiting to hear from YOU.

And speaking of great members/neighbors...don't forget that **Gaspare's** is the place to go for a wonderful meal AND to benefit the SVNA. And, most importantly, that's for "ANYTIME DINING – any day, any night, lunch, dinner, to go – Whatever!" So, the next time you are too tired to cook, need a special night out, are ready to celebrate, and/or have a yen for some excellent Italian food or pizza: order in or order out at Gaspare's Pizzeria. And remember—mention the "SVNA" and they'll donate 15% of your meal ticket to our neighborhood. A big THANK YOU to **Gaspare, Robin & Danny.** ❖

Notable Neighbors: Daniel Jones



Chris Vigars (left), Daniel Jones (center) and Art Reichert (right) take a rest from helping Dan build his latest project, a single-masted sailboat. Right: Guitars Daniel has built.



• Bonnie Monte

The first time **Daniel Jones** went sailing, it was to take a little jaunt to New Zealand and back—14,000 nautical miles. "My neighbor in Long Beach invited me to go with him," Daniel says. "Even though I had never sailed, he said that he had seen me changing the oil in my truck and keeping my lawn mowed. He knew he could teach me."

Following that trip, Daniel did a one-year apprenticeship learning woodworking and eventually became a shipwright at Arques Shipyard in Sausalito, where he worked for 25 years.

These days, he builds boats in his backyard on Vendola, as well as crafting fine guitars in his at-home workshop. His achievements are pretty remarkable, not just because of his outstanding craftsmanship, but also because he has Parkinson's disease. "Sometimes I fall twice a day, sometimes 20," Daniel says matter-of-factly. He wears kneepads and elbow pads daily to protect himself, and sometimes even a life jacket to cushion his bruised ribs.

Undaunted, he still scrambles on and off sawhorses to work on his latest project: a single-masted sailboat. "I absolutely couldn't do it without help," he says. That help is in the form of two neighbors, **Art Reichert** and **Chris Vigars**, who work with him nearly every day.

He directs and they assist with the work of cutting each plank to a precise angle, planing, fitting, gluing. Plank by plank, the hull takes shape, with the pungent scent of cedar filling the air. "We have about 500 to 600 hours into it, so far," Daniel says, "and the boat is about 30 percent done." The easy camaraderie between friends makes clear that this is a labor of love.

A religious man, Daniel's Christian faith helps him stay inspired. He met his wife, **Dian**, in church. She's a Santa Venetia local, and was part of the first class to attend McPhail's. The couple have three grown children. One daughter's former bedroom is now Daniel's guitar-building workshop. Although he can no longer play guitar because of his illness, he's begun studying hand drums. Never one to sit idle, he's also taken up writing. "I have a lot of passions," he says. ❖



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Land Use Update



Keep an eye on the Santa Venetia eGroup for up-to-the-minute information...

This is a list of current and ongoing projects that we are aware of in Santa Venetia. Now is the time to get involved, before the projects are built, not after. If you have an interest in the outcome of any of these building projects, *and you should*, please contact the SVNA Land Use Committee and/or the appropriate parties.

18 Washington Avenue. Tree removal. Marin County Contact: **Veronica Corella-Pearson**, Planner. Plans for tree removal were received in June. Site plan elevations were included but haven't seen a building permit request yet.

650 North San Pedro Road. 12 + 2 units proposed. Marin County Contact: **Jeremy Tejirian**, Planner. SVNA Contact: **Mary Hanley**, maryinmarin@comcast.net. The Planning Commission "Merits of the Project" meeting was held on 3/17/11. After much review and discussion, the Commissioners requested the developer to re-design the project with a reduced number of units, preferably 7 or 8. The scheduled meeting (4/11/11) was cancelled. If we hear anything new regarding this project, we will email to the list of interested parties and post on the eGroup. If you wish to be included in these emails, please advise.

900 Bayhills Drive, San Rafael. Marin County Contact: **Neal Osborne**, Planner.

Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project. Automatic Transfer Facility ("The Pit"). For information: www.hamiltonwetlands.org. DEIR was released. Public Meeting was held 11/08. The FEIR was to be finished in mid-2009 and, if approved, the ATF would be constructed in 2010, but we haven't heard further.

McPhail's School Site. SRCS Contact: **Chris Thomas**, CBO, cthomas@srcs.org. SVNA Contact: **Linda Levey**, linda@santavenetia.org. The San Rafael School District had indicated plans to reopen the school site. We had also heard plans were in the works for revitalizing and using the playing field. As far as we can tell, the property is in limbo; but if any new information is received, we will update the neighborhood ASAP. The McPhail's Working Group remains dedicated to keeping this site and field as a neighborhood park and resource, as well as protecting the seasonal wetlands.

Osher Marin JCC - Use Permit. Marin County Contact: **Curtis Havel**, Planner. Preliminary information indicated an application to update the Use Permit, but that requirement is being reviewed now. They are finishing up the required traffic study and parking requirements should be satisfied with the addition of the new lot.

Oxford Valley-WildCare Farm. Marin County Contact: **Neal Osborne**, Planner. SVNA Contact: **Mark Wallace**, mark.t.wallace@gmail.com. WildCare is in escrow to purchase the property from Montessori School and has presented a pre-application and plans for the "WildCare Farm." Information and plans were sent to the SVNA and have been posted on the eGroup for review.

Public Safety Building/Operations Facility at Marin Civic Center. Marin County Contact: **Susan Adams**, District 1 Supervisor, or **Susannah Clark**, Aide to the Supervisor. SVNA Contact: **Mary Lou King**, marylou@groupx.com, or **Lesley McTaggart**, LesleyMcT@comcast.net. On 4/26/11, the Board of Supervisors voted to evaluate the Marin Commons Complex for the new Public Safety Building.

Second Saturday Medians

• Nanni Wurl

Driving by the Medians always makes me smile. The Pride of Madiera plants with the purple spikes of flowers have never looked better.

The Median Team is elated for getting another weed-whacker. Thanks to **Beverly & Bruce Laing** we will be able to work faster. Bruce did deliver it to Dennis and donated, again, money for the special median-workers lunch fund. We send warm thoughts to this generous couple.

Sherry Julian of the "Santa Venetia Neighbors Helping Neighbors" group donated \$100 to the Neighborhood Beautification Fund. We thank them so much, it's highly appreciated by the Volunteers, the Board, and the Neighborhood. Another direct donor this month is **Barbara Lakisch**. This generosity is very much appreciated!

In March, working were **Dennis Bortoli, Wayne Lechner, Bonnie Monte, Winsor Orick, Helen Sitchler, and Mr. M**. We almost finished our longest median. Mr. M finished the task in April.

In April, we worked between Birch and La Pasada. This poor median had been hit and quite a few plants were hurt. From there we moved to the one in front of the three homes. Some work was done on the one below. Working were **Dennis Bortoli, Trina Fink, Kurt Huget, Wayne Lechner, Bonnie Monte, Winsor Orick, Tim Ribble, and Carl Sitchler**.

Working on the Medians is teamwork for safety reasons. Only when cones and vests are available, should a person work alone. We normally decide which median(s) to work on at the previous month's lunch. I confirm when I call the regulars. Working together enables us to clean up together. ❖



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Ongoing information and updates, as received, will be posted on the eGroup. (See articles on pages 1 and 3.)

San Rafael Airport/Soccer Complex/Recreational Facility. San Rafael City Contact: **Kraig Tambornini**, Planner. SVNA Contact: **Mary Hanley**, maryinmarin@comcast.net. The last status from Kraig remains the same: "FEIR has been reviewed by legal and we are working on finalizing response to comments. We are deciding whether or not to recirculate sections of the EIR for further review." For more information and site history, browse to www.gallinascreek.org.

SMART – Civic Center Station Advisory Committee. San Rafael Contact: **Rebecca Woodbury**, Planning Coordinator. SVNA Contact: **Rich McGrath**, rich_mcgrath@yahoo.com. Plans for the Committee are to: Prepare a station area plan for the area around the future Civic Center rail station that will address Station Access and Connectivity, Transit Oriented Development, Accessible Design, Parking, and Pedestrian Design. The SAC will represent the north San Rafael community in discussions about how best to integrate the SMART station into the fabric of the existing North San Rafael community. ❖

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District – Updates

• Tymber Cavasian

**LGVSD AWARDED
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The Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District was awarded best small sewer pipeline collection system in the State by the California Water Environment Association. The Collection System of the Year Award is in the category of sewer agencies with up to 249 miles of pipeline, with Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District competing against the best sewer systems in the state of that size.

The District achieves this level of excellence through an intensive focus on every aspect of collection system maintenance and management, including: a fully trained and competent linecrew; the use of modern technologies such as a computerized maintenance management system; both short and long range planning; detailed daily and monthly procedures; a modern fleet of specialized trucks and tools; and a fully prepared emergency response trailer. Having a dedicated staff that is committed to protecting public health and the environment makes all of this possible.

The District is also investing millions of dollars to upgrade aging parts of its system and in new equipment and training which has increased productivity, improved work quality and safety, enhanced emergency response procedures, and helped the District avoid expensive regulatory fines that many other sewer agencies have been forced to pay.

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District has set a goal that must be achieved every day and in fact every hour: a completely reliable and safe collection system for customers, the community and the environment. The District is committed to continually meeting that goal.

For more information or to schedule a tour of the treatment plant, contact the District Office at 472-1734.

PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 9 ON SEWER SERVICE CHARGE

A public hearing on the proposed sewer service charge is scheduled for June 9, 2011 at 4:30pm at the LGVSD District office, located at 300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael. An informational notice was recently sent to District property owners regarding sewer service charges for the upcoming fiscal year. A copy of the notice which includes detailed information about rates, service and public hearing details is available on our website at www.LGVSD.org.

TAKE-BACK/RECYCLING EVENT A SUCCESS!

On Saturday, April 30, 2011, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District participated in a county-wide take-back event at the Avenue of the Flags parking lot of the Marin County Civic Center. Along with paper-shredding, prescription drug take-back and e-waste Las Gallinas staff collected mercury thermometers and exchanged them for digital versions. The event lasted from 10am to 2pm and was very successful. People were streaming in all day. ❖



Above: LGVSD staff exchanges a digital thermometer.

Above Right: Take back items that are turned in for proper disposal prevent damage to the environment.

Watershed Works



• Russ Greenfield, Gallinas Watershed Council

The Gallinas Watershed Council (GWC) is currently writing a draft watershed management plan which should be completed soon. When done, GWC plans to bring it to different neighborhood groups, including the SVNA for input, discussion, and edits. In the meantime, here is an update on what the County is up to related to watersheds.

If you visit the County watershed web site, marinwatersheds.org, you will see that there are several watersheds in the County. My understanding is that they will promote a watershed management program for all of them at the same time. Although separate, the Gallinas Creek watershed and the Miller Creek watershed will be given consideration for joint projects. County staff has identified potential partners for watershed management. In our watershed they have made presentations for funding to the City of San Rafael, LGVSD, CSA 6, FZ-6 and FZ-7. It is hoped that all will help fund the County watershed program.

A watershed approach has worked well in many other areas. I think creating a team approach is the biggest reason for success. Watershed issues apply in some form or another to everyone. Grouping agencies together creates opportunities for success, including Federal and State funding. Stay tuned, you will soon be learning more about how the County watershed plan is progressing and how the plan will benefit our community. ❖



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Yoga in the Park—May 22

McNear's Beach Park, Sunday, 11am-1pm

• Kirk Schroeder, Marin County Parks Volunteer Coordinator

Join us for a one-of-a-kind experience that is fun and rewarding for the whole family! Participants will start with an hour of beach cleanup. At noon, professional yoga instructor **Daniel Rauck** will lead a free half-hour long yoga class at a grassy area by the water. The beach cleanup and yoga class will be suitable for all ages and ability levels. A potluck lunch will be enjoyed after yoga. Meet at the McNear's Beach Park fishing pier (201 Cantera Way, San Rafael). Parking fee waived for participants.

"Yoga in the Park" has been greatly enjoyed by a wide variety of volunteers over the past five years," said Marin County Parks Volunteer Coordinator, **Kirk Schroeder**. "It offers volunteers a chance to give back to themselves and connect with a beautiful place in a way that is very unique."

For additional information contact **Kirk Schroeder** at 507-2823, or email: kschroeder@co.marin.ca.us ❖

SVNA Community Meeting

March 29 Report

• Alison Fuller

At the March 29 Community Meeting, Supervisor **Susan Adams** began her "State of the County" report with some words of tribute for her late colleague, **Charles McGlashan**, whose untimely death came as a shock to all of us in Marin. Thanks to his leadership, she said, the Marin Energy Authority (MEA) will be entirely off fossil fuel-produced electricity by 2020. He also voted with Susan to keep the airport in the Baylands Corridor, a matter of local interest.

Budget: The County has a AAA bond rating, low debt service, and a deficit of only \$1.5 million, down from \$30 million. It has 200 fewer employees and a policy of not spending one-time windfalls on current expenses.

Planning: The Planning Commission decision on 650 North San Pedro Road is on hold.

Oxford Valley: Montessori has pulled out; **WildCare** is now interested.

McPhail's former school site: San Rafael School District has made no decision.

Santa Venetia Community Plan: Susan has offered up to \$20,000 of her Community Service Funds for our plan, but may need a community match. Only two community plans of the several underway (mostly revisions) can be funded by the County. Hearings in May.

Watershed Programs: Ross Valley assessed themselves to match Federal funds. San Rafael is not yet on board with the Las Gallinas Valley Watershed Council. The Army Corps of Engineers hasn't finished their part of the levee study to determine whether Las Gallinas Creek qualifies for Federal funds. If so, it can be eligible for 80% funding from the ACE; however, no Federal funds are available this year. **Russ Greenfield** later reported that **Rachael Kamman**, an expert hydrologist, is preparing the first draft of the LGV Watershed plan.

Housing: AB 375 aims to reduce greenhouse gases by balancing housing, transportation and jobs. Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is the implementing agency for regional housing allocations. Marin may have to take 10,000 additional housing units. Susan will become ABAG President next year and will work on changing how units are counted. At present, we can't count senior units nor conversions of houses from dilapidated to livable. Marin got one-quarter credit for 150 such units.

The following comments were in response to the few questions time permitted:

Emergency Operations Facility: Negotiations for Marin Commons are ongoing.

MEA has enrolled only 20% of potential participants and can now enroll the others, with four different chances to opt out. The original Shell contract used wind and hydro in Washington State; MEA wants to develop local projects and get off PGE's grid.

Supervisor **McGlashan's** replacement: Each supervisor must submit a "death list"; however, anyone may apply, and Governor Brown may appoint anyone at his discretion.

(Susan departed to join the McGlashan family in planning his community memorial service.)

Other business: **Giselle Block** gave an update on the Community Plan: The committee has met every month; its challenge is raising money to match the County funding Susan offered. They are looking for grants as well as local sources. The raffle (see page 5) raised over \$2,000 for the Community Plan.

Robert Dobrin talked about the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and asked

for volunteers. **Nanni Wurl** gave an update about the Medians and asked everyone to "slow down!", and **Russ Greenfield** gave an update about the GWC and the Watershed Plan Update.

We closed the meeting with the Raffle. Tickets were picked by different members of the audience – Nicolas and Kevin being some of the favorites – but many people got a turn. Those winners that attended were able to claim their prizes immediately. Those that were not able to make the meeting were contacted later to get their prizes. It was exciting for both the pickers and the winners.

Thanks were given to **Bonnie Monte** for heading up the Raffle, **Carolyn Lenert** for donating the Grand Prize, **Russ Greenfield** for soliciting the many other prizes, and **Tad Inouye**, **Jason Tuttle**, and **Helen Sitchler** for the amazing ticket sales.

And after all the thanks, the meeting was adjourned. ❖

Road & Trails Management Plan Meeting June 18

Do hiking trails and mountain bikers mix?

• Norma Novy

Come to the Road & Trails Management Plan meeting Friday, June 18, 9am-12pm at the Marin County Health and Wellness Center in San Rafael. The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is under pressure from mountain bikers seeking access to narrow trails on Marin Open Space Preserves. In writing the Roads & Trails Management Plan, it is important that planners have a realistic view of how allowing mountain bikes on narrow trails is likely to impact other users and the environment. Most people attending this are mountain bikers. We need other voices heard. ❖



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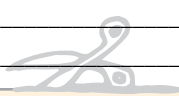
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Would you like to help? Check your areas of interest. Write in your suggestions after "Other."

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|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Medians, neighborhood beautification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Day Picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Committee | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land use and development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community/Vision Plan | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social activities | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Center Library | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood safety | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer distribution | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone banks | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh, creek or neighborhood clean-ups | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/traffic | |

Advertising: (See page 2.)

Paid SVNA members can introduce themselves to the community and support *The Communicator* by buying a 3-5/8" x 2" ad. (The big Jan/Feb issue is \$50; the other 5 issues \$25 each. Or pay \$150 for the whole year, 6 issues, in advance.) For ad specs, contact Norma Novy with your info: 499-9409, normanovy@comcast.net

Flood Zone 7 Update

• Russ Greenfield

The Flood Control Zone #7 (FCZ #7) Advisory Board held a convivial meeting on May 3, its first meeting since last October. It was announced that there is a vacancy on the board due to the resignation of Denise Blades.

Staff reviewed the ongoing maintenance plans. Special attention was given to last year's major cleaning of the intercepting drains. A visual of the inside of the La Pasada drain taken by a robot was shown. Monitoring of the pipe will continue. Pump #1 at Pump Station #5 is the only pump scheduled for major maintenance this year. Staff is investigating obtaining an easement to allow maintenance of the McPhail School berm. ❖

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Join us at the Community Meeting
Tuesday, May 31, 2011
6:30pm POTLUCK • 7pm Meeting
Korean Presbyterian Church

How to Greet a Dog

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

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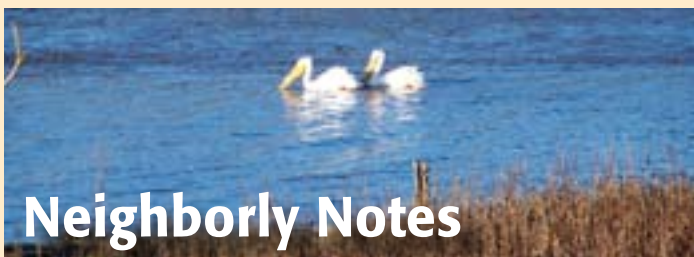
- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep either your SIDE or BACK towards the dog (non-threatening posture)
- * Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.



May/June 2011

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Neighborly Notes

• Compiled by Linda Levey

FROM LINDA LEVEY

Life is too short... Ed Hulme wrote to let me know we had lost Lynn, our old friend, on April 9. On April 20, there was a hugely-attended *Celebration of Life* for Lynn at McNear's Beach. Family and friends attended in droves to tell stories and exchange remembrances. Condolences to **Ed, Roxy, and Lynn's family** and friends.

Growing Food in SV Susan L. Miller is the Director of the Marin Garden Matchmaker, 897-3883. They create great matches between landowners and food growers! Visit www.maringardenmatchmaker.org for more information. Let's build a chain of delicious, sustainable, organic intensive gardens strung from yard to yard, and keep our food sources as local as possible!

Multi Family Yard Sale this Saturday, May 21st from 9am to 2pm, 36 Meadow Drive. Proceeds going to **Santa Venetia Neighbors Helping Neighbors!**

FROM NORMA NOVY

Qigong on the Island continues on, meeting every Thursday morning at 10 - 11am, just across the bridge under the big oak tree. Cost is \$10. Say hello to your SV neighbors while gently energizing your body, mind and spirit! Call Norma at 499-9409 for info.

Master Gardener Norma Novy from Soil Sisters will be teaching an hour lecture on growing fantastic tomatoes on June 4, 10am at Fairfax Lumber and Hardware. Her sister, Linda, will talk about attracting beneficial insects to your garden.

Local company, Integrity Electric, Inc., is a Diamond Certified company owned and operated by **Jerry & Kari Thompson**. They've been taking care of Marin homeowners for the past 18 years and are new advertisers. **Sally Cervetto**, born, raised and currently living in Santa Venetia with her family works for Integrity Electric as their scheduler and office assistant.

FROM NANNI WURL

Cut those weeds! I noticed walking my dog that people whose homes border on two streets ignore the back or side for they do not see it daily. This becomes very unsightly and can be dangerous when weeds are allowed to reach six feet. Please check if you are one of these owners. Also, please remember to clean up after your dog even if the amount of feces is small. Remember, rats can live off this stuff!

Watch the mail for your SURVEY in early June.

This is the first step in creating a Santa Venetia Community Plan. Let your voice be heard. Send in your completed survey and you could win a gift card.



FROM SANDY FULLERTON

Happy endings for escaped bird – A cockatiel that escaped through an open door on Jefferson found its way to Hacienda Way where it was spotted and rescued. After about a week in its temporary home, the bird's owners, responding to a notice in Pet Arcade, claimed their pet which they had had for more than 10 years.

WARNING: Dangerous Plastic Bottle Bombs – Kids are putting Drano, tin foil, and a little water in soda bottles and capping it up and leaving it on lawns. When you pick it up to throw it in the trash, and the bottle is shaken just a little, in about 30 seconds or less it builds up a gas and explodes with enough force to remove some of your extremities. The liquid that comes out is boiling hot as well. People are finding these "bombs" in mailboxes and in their yards, just waiting for people to pick them up intending to put them in the trash. It takes about 30 seconds or less to blow after you move the thing. If you see a suspicious bottle with milky liquid and tin foil inside, contact your local law enforcement agency. For more info: www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp

FROM RON FORD

Stacy Marie Ford was married to Tushar Yadava, on April 9, at Marin Arts & Garden Center. The garden ceremony, on a beautiful spring day, was followed by a reception in the Larkspur Room at the MAG Center. This ceremony followed a formal Hindi wedding on April 2 in London.

SWIMMING IN SANTA VENETIA

Our local Santa Venetia Swim Club has memberships available. For more information, call **Sue Wilkinson** at 454-8568.

The Northbridge Swim Club is offering summer memberships from May to October. Please contact **Barbara Perkins** at 479 2544.

FROM HANK LEVIN

Wanted: Someone to input sales record information into Microsoft Excel. Looking for someone in Santa Venetia with a knowledge of Excel (Mac or Windows) to input sales information. Occasional work. Use my Mac, or bring your own Windows laptop with Microsoft Excel. Location: 33 Vendola Dr. Contact **Hank Levin** at 492-0728, or email hank@clearingtech.net.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: thesvna.org
Get the latest info on what's up in Santa Venetia!