



The Communicator

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association

January/February 2012

JANUARY 2012

27-29 – After Holiday Book Clearance, Friday 10-7; Sat. 10-4; Sun. 12-4. The Book Place, 1608 Grant Ave., Novato. 209-0212

31 – SVNA Community Meeting, Tues, 7pm, Korean Presbyterian Church, Adrian & Rosal. Supervisor Adams "State of the County Address"

FEBRUARY

2 – World Wetlands Day 2012: Wetlands and Tourism

11 – Winterfest, Celebrating 150 Years of San Rafael City Schools! 6 -11pm, Marin JCC

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

29 – SVNA Community Meeting, Watershed presentation, Wed., 7pm. Korean Presbyterian Church, Adrian & Rosal.

MARCH

10 – 2nd Sat. Median Workday, 9am-noon. N. San Pedro at Schmidt Ln. Lunch provided.

20 – CSA #18 Meeting 5:30pm, Civic Center.

27 – SVNA Community Meeting, Disaster Preparedness 7pm. Korean Presbyterian Church, Adrian & Rosal.

31 – 15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt (rain date 4/7)

APRIL

7 – Rain date for Easter Egg Hunt

Flood Zone #7 Meeting tentatively 5/3/12

TBA 8pm Overtime Workshop to discuss protecting our pets, coyotes.

Best of Santa Venetia—2011 Holiday Lights Contest Winners

• Bonnie Monte

Kudos to everyone who put on a show this season! There were so many beautiful displays that it was hard to single out three winners. This year, we're instituting a Holiday Lights Hall of Fame to honor the perennial show-stoppers while making room for new winners.

Hall of Fame inductees: 30 Jefferson, 56 Cushing and 5 Carmel. A heartfelt thank you to these residents for delighting neighbors with a spectacular show year after year.

This year's winners: FIRST PLACE goes to the lovely, artistic lighting at **54 Vendola**. SECOND PLACE goes to **15 Meriam**, a bright and joyous display. THIRD PLACE goes to **9 Crestview** for its lavish good cheer. Each winner will receive a one-year membership to the SVNA and 6 issues of "The Communicator."

A few special mentions are in order. These blocks really got into the spirit, with a plethora of holiday lights: Jefferson Ave., Adrian Terrace, the 800 block of Estancia Way, the 600 block of Gallerita, and the 100 block of Birch. And HONORABLE MENTIONS to the peace signs at **33 Jefferson** (yes, it's my house, but the credit goes to Dan Monte), **27 Adrian**, **22 Vendola Drive** (a past



Above: First Place 54 Vendola. Right: Delightful Xmas pig and rocking horse at 802 Rosal.



winner), and **323 North San Pedro**.

Thanks to my fellow judges **Robert Dobrin, Norma Novy, Alison Fuller, Mark Wallace and Flo de Losada**, who roamed the streets to find nominees. And warm wishes to everyone for a wonderful 2012. ❖

Santa Venetia's very own hardware store

• Robert Dobrin

We now have our own hardware store in the neighborhood at the site of the old Sizzler on Merrydale, across the street from Gaspare's. Co-owner **Michelle Leopold** gave me a behind the scenes tour just after opening day in December. I confess to loving everything hardware, and often wander into such establishments just to look around. And **Marin Ace** is a good one. You'll find a fabulous selection of just about anything you need to repair or improve your house or the things in your house. You'll probably find a couple things you didn't even know you needed. The neatly stocked rows are chock-a-block with tools, hardware, shovels, cleaning supplies. There's also a cheerful outdoor garden center. I went home with a nifty keychain-size, solar-powered L.E.D. flashlight. My criteria for evaluating a hardware store is the quality and selection of the nuts, bolts and little bits you find in the small compartmented boxes at the back of the store. Think left-hand thread metric



Co-owner Michelle Leopold stands in front of her new store, Marin Ace, located at the old Sizzler location.

nuts. And Marin Ace's selection rivals Jackson's on Andersen or Pini in Novato.

Michelle explained this made the old Sizzler location ideal since there were no hardware stores in the 12 miles between those two competitors. Michelle and her husband **Jeff** have

Continued on page 9



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SMART - Civic Center Station
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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions and ads for the March/April issue is March 1, 2012. Email text to Linda Levey at linda@santavenetia.org, **499-3411**. Put **SVNA** in the subject line of the email.

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 save and pay only \$150 for the whole year, 6 issues, in advance, and receive FREE 4-color on the SVNA website and in the display case. For ad specs, contact Norma Novy with your info: 499-9409, normanovy@comcast.net

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 Monte, Norma Novy, Robert Dobrin • Thanks to Ann Thompson for the Communicator masthead design, to Jok Church for original SV logo design, and to Joel Lau for revising it. • 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 Neighbors,

Happy New Year Santa Venetia! 2012 promises to be a critical year with an election and an economy steadily righting itself. Your Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association strives to keep watch, and advocate for the neighborhood wherever possible. And for 2011, as in years past, we have a long list of accomplishments under our belt thanks to the dedication and hard work from volunteer members. Even if you don't have time to devote to specific efforts, if you are reading this, you are an important member of our community. So, if you haven't yet done so, please join (or renew your membership) in the SVNA.

The **Santa Venetia Community Plan**, jointly sponsored by the SVNA and the County of Marin steadily gained steam during the past year, and it's likely that 2012 will see the fruits of many years of labor. The **Gallinas Watershed Council** is also getting traction with their outreach approach for sustainable flood control projects and creek restoration. Our community should also point to revitalized **Pueblo Park**, spearheaded by our citizen volunteers on CSA #18 (see article page 9). Our County Supervisors agreed with the **Marin Civic Center Vision Committee** that the much needed Emergency Operations Facility would be better located at the existing Marin Commons site. So for the foreseeable future, the Petanque Courts and the Field of Dogs will remain where they are.

In 2011, the communities on **Point San Pedro Road** voted to assess themselves in order to maintain their medians. Here in Santa Venetia, our volunteers work every **Second Saturday** on neighborhood beautification. And we can always use additional help.

The animal rescue group, **WildCare** tried thrice to locate in Santa Venetia. Most recently, the old Tanem Nursery site was deemed unsuitable because of uncertainty whether an animal hospital would be permitted by the County. Maybe now is the time to try and persuade the School District that the old McPhails' school site is an ideal site. Other land use issues will be sorting themselves out in 2012 including the proposed sports facility at the **San Rafael Airport, 650 North San Pedro Road**, and **Civic Center SMART Station** planning. (Please see Land Use notes page 9). In sum, there is no shortage of things to get involved with.

Just one more thing, please support our advertisers!

ROBERT

Join us at the Community Meetings
 Tuesday, Jan. 31 & Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012
 7pm Meeting • Korean Presbyterian Church

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Supervisor's Corner



Santa Venetia vibrations

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

Some things have come together this year as a result of years of effort by many people. The single-use bag ordinance is now in effect and I want to send out my appreciation to all of the retailers who were at the table sharing their perspectives throughout the development of the ordinance and who have voluntarily already implemented the bag ban. The vision and commitment of our local independent grocers brings life back into our communities and we can all show our appreciation by shopping locally and supporting them as they serve and support us.

2012 also brings changes in some of our bus routes...the 259 in Marinwood will now make its way to Central San Rafael and a new 257 route will serve the East side communities of Smith Ranch, Contempo and Dominican. If we don't use them, we lose them...so experience a public transportation day and leave the driving to us.

After a lengthy public process, the Local Coastal Plan Update will be coming to the Board in 2012. "Public" is the operative word in everything we do, transparency in the process that allows policymakers the valuable input of those most interested in the outcome. You can find out about watershed planning, housing, flood control, transportation issues, or how the County is spending your tax dollars. There are so many ways to receive information...just check out our updated web site: www.marincounty.org. I know how busy everyone is with their careers, career changes, families, volunteer commitments, etc, but I ask you to please stay involved and continue to give us your thoughts. Working together will always yield the very best results.

Rick, Susannah and I wish you a healthy, enjoyable and prosperous 2012! 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. ❖

Emergency Operation Facility finds a new home

• Mary Lou King, Marin Civic Center Vision Committee

The Board of Supervisors, especially **Susan Adams** and **Judy Arnold**, are deserving of enormous thanks for the thoughtful and wise decision they made to renovate the existing Marin Commons building for use as the Emergency Office Facility. Thanks also must go to the County Supervisor (**Matthew Hymel**) and Project Manager (**David Speer**) for their thorough knowledge of the long-term fiscal aspect of renovation versus new construction.

The MCCVC is grateful that these people worked so hard to make this conclusion possible. The MCCVC is happy that the Lagoon Park will remain as a tranquil ("green") area in the Santa Venetia neighborhood and will continue to be enjoyed by all, as Frank Lloyd Wright intended. We look forward to having a wonderful Marin County Safety Complex in the near future.

{Editor's Note: Thank you also to **Mary Lou King**, **Lesley McTaggart**, and the other members of the MCCVC (Marin Civic Center Vision Committee) for the hard work and many hours they have put into this project. We couldn't be happier with this success.} ❖

Upcoming Community Meetings – be there or be square

(Last minute changes on the eGroup or in the next newsletter)

Tuesday, January 31: Supervisor Susan Adams – An annual treat – Join us as we welcome our very own Supervisor Susan Adams for her "State of the County Address." Always open and informative, Susan updates us on the culmination of the past year and the expectations for the coming one. Bring your questions and concerns and come learn about everything that is going on in our neighborhood.

Wednesday, February 29: Watershed Presentation – *Mark your calendars!* Please join the Gallinas Watershed Council and Liz Lewis, County of Marin's DPW Watershed Coordinator, for a presentation on taking a Watershed Approach to planning. Marin County is the lead agency in developing a Watershed approach for Novato, Ross Valley and now Miller/Gallinas Creeks. We'll cover the natural and built history of the Gallinas Creek valley and be discussing levees, flooding, dredging, stormwater issues, trash in the creek and other neighborhood concerns. You've heard about the watershed approach—now's your chance to find out how Watershed Planning can enhance our community. Come, ask questions, and find out what is being proposed. The Gallinas Watershed Council is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the people and natural environment of the Gallinas Creek Valley. (Approx 1½ hours—meeting will run until 9pm.)

Tuesday, March 27: Get Ready – Members of Santa Venetia's emergency response team, **Jean Zerrudo** and **Sandy Fullerton**, will deliver a City of San Rafael-inspired "Get Ready Marin" training. We face a multitude of hazards including earthquakes, wildfires, flooding and landslides. To address these public safety risks, a simple and free emergency preparedness program has been offered to all Marin households through the "Get Ready" household disaster preparedness program for the past several years. If you missed the sessions repeated here in the neighborhood or if you'd like a refresher, come on down! The program offers info and simple tools that can be used by various ages and agility levels before a disaster. Come learn tips on how to survive within a disaster event. (Approx 1-½ hour presentation—will run until 9pm)

TBA: Coyotes Are Among Us – **Monique Pflager** and **Adrienne Rappaport** are setting up an informative meeting with WildCare's Wildlife Solutions Team, where we can learn about the coyotes in our region and how to protect domestic AND wild animals in our neighborhoods. Timing has been tight, but watch for this at a future meeting. ❖



A big smile from Supervisor Susan Adams as she puts the final signature on the paperwork to purchase the Marin Commons site.



MCCVC Members Kecia Talbot, Alice Watkins, Mary Lou King, and Lesley McTaggart celebrate the vote to move forward with purchase of the new Marin County Emergency Operations Facility.

Venetia Valley School News



• Judith B. Colton, Interim Principal
492-3150

It is hard to believe we have said good-bye to another calendar year! At Venetia Valley School we have been busy reflecting on our challenges and accomplishments, as we set our goals for the coming year. Just this week, with the support of the Marin Community Foundation, Venetia Valley K-8 was one of three San Rafael City Schools that was especially selected to host visiting educators from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in Maryland. Accompanied by Superintendent, Dr. Watenpaugh, Principal, Mrs. Colton, and Assistant Principal, Ms. Thompson, these visiting educators spent time in our classrooms talking with students and staff. As "neutral" observers, their visit to San Rafael City Schools was to affirm some of our best instructional practices observed across three of our district schools.

The Marin Community Foundation (MCF) is funding this exciting consultation and collaboration with the recently retired MCPS Superintendent, Dr. Jerry Weast.* Dr. Weast's engagement is intended to accelerate the implementation of the District's long range strategic plan, Roadmap to the Future. San Rafael City Schools is the only district selected and funded by MCF to work with Dr. Weast, and other professional colleagues. We were proud to have them at Venetia Valley to observe firsthand the work of our talented staff and students.

As always, if you would like more information about our programs at Venetia Valley, please feel free to give the school a call.

*Dr. Weast is a nationally known educational leader. During his tenure in MCPS, student achievement results for ALL students significantly increased. Presently MCPS is among school districts nationwide with the highest high school graduation rate. MCPS has the highest college acceptance rate, as well as highest college completion rate in the nation. Dr. Weast's stated purpose was "Raise the Bar and Close the Gap" – this goal was achieved in a collaborative community based process.

Sincerely, **Judy Colton** ❖

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. Contact **Tess Robards**, 507-0375



Cash for trash

Yes, Cash for Trash is continuing. **Tad Inouye** will collect all your aluminum cans and all California Recycle Value (CRV) bottles every Thursday morning in front of your home. You need to let **Tad Inouye**, 847-0215, know that you will be participating in this good cause and leave your address. Please empty out all liquids in the containers. Your support pays for Art and Physical Education at Venetia Valley School.

Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity

• **Maggi Garloff**

Electromagnetic hypersensitivity [EHS] as defined by the World Health Organization is "...a phenomenon where individuals experience adverse health effects while in the vicinity of devices emanating electric, magnetic or electromagnetic fields [EMFs]."

In 1868, an American physician first used the term "Neurasthenia" to describe a new type of illness that appeared following the building of the railroad and telegraph systems in the United States. Through the turn of the century, the disease was particularly prevalent in telegraph and telephone operators. In the 1920s, the cluster of symptoms associated with neurasthenia began to be called "anxiety." As there was no apparent cause, it was deemed of psychological origin.

About mid-century in Russia, doctors first started using the term "radio wave sickness" to describe an occupational illness observed in workers exposed to microwave and radio frequency radiation. Studies noted increased incidences of cancer, depression, cardiac anomalies and other health problems.

In this century, worldwide studies have established links between EMFs and decreased cognitive function, dementia, depression and Alzheimer's disease, as well as cancer, diabetes, reproductive and DNA damage and mortality.

The 21st century term to describe illness caused by EMFs is "Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity." Researchers have established that EMFs depress melatonin secretion (which is responsible for antioxidant, immunological and anti-tumor functions). The suppression of melatonin results in a higher incidence of cancer in cells, and predisposes one to neurodegenerative disorders and dementia.

EHS is avoidable by minimizing one's exposure to or steering clear of electromagnetic fields [EMFs].

If you are interested in the source material for this article or have other questions, please send email inquiries to maggigarloff@yahoo.com. ❖

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Maggi Garloff

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Join us at the Community Meetings

Tues., Jan. 31 Supervisor Adams
State of the County

Wed., Feb. 29, Watershed Presentation
7pm Meeting • Korean Presbyterian Church

Santa Venetia Community Plan

• **Jacqueline Garcia**

It was quite a year for the Santa Venetia Community Plan Committee. The goal last year was to create and execute a community survey, and we did it! Thanks to everyone that participated. It was a tremendous success with more than 30% response rate (much higher than most mail-in surveys). It could not have been accomplished without the team's dedication and support from SVNA, Supervisor **Susan Adams**, County Planning Department's **Tom Lai** and Godbe Research.

The Survey Raffle winner was **Linda Adams**, right, who has lived in Santa Venetia for 20 years, and is a trusted neighbor and admired by many. A retired VA nurse, avid gardener, and accomplished baker, Linda enjoys long walks in the neighborhood with her beloved Min Pin Sophia.



With the survey behind us, the 2012 goal is to begin the process with the County and engage the greater community. We expect this to take up to two-years and include lots of neighborhood input. In late spring, the Board of Supervisors will vote on which two community plans to create/update. Based on feedback, we expect Santa Venetia to be at the top of the list.

At this point, there are two ways to get involved. First, write Supervisor Adams and express your interest in getting SV's Community Plan created. Then, contact the Community Plan Team to participate in a Working Group.

I'm grateful for the community's support and excited to work with such an amazing team. Thank you **Giselle Block**, **Russ Greenfield**, **Bonnie Monte**, **Gary Robards** and **Tamara Hull**. ❖

"Goodbye, Tad"

• **Linda Levey**

In late 2003, I had resigned after 10 years on the SVNA Board and was enjoying the extra free time, when, all of a sudden, I got a call from the new SVNA President, **Tad Inouye** asking me to rejoin the Board and resume my duties as Treasurer. I am happy I did, because it gave me the chance to work with Tad, the chance to get to know him and his family.

Tad has the qualities that make him the perfect leader—he is laid back, complimentary, happy to give and share credit, a great listener, patient and caring, and most important, easy to work with.

Tad did a great job running the meetings, keeping us in line when we needed it. He could see both sides of an issue and made us stop to look at things from another perspective. His open lines of communication with the County worked well for the SVNA and under his guidance, we built a great relationship with our representatives.

With his volunteer work at the school and in the neighborhood, he bridged the gap between the two. He started and participates in many school programs (Safe Routes to School, Cash for Trash) and will continue on as Chair of the SVNA Social Activities Committee assisting with the annual Labor Day Picnic and other functions.

He rekindled my (and many other's) community spirit and made me want to get involved again. He inspired me and reminded me that community is important. Tackling community issues seemed a little easier with Tad leading us.

So it was a sad day when Tad resigned as President of the SVNA Board of Directors and even worse when he resigned from the Board completely. Although I will miss his input and level-headed attitude at our meetings, I am happy for his family – they will have the benefit of that extra time.

He was my President and now I'm proud to call him my friend. He's one of the reasons I do what I do. "Thanks, Tad, thanks a whole lot. I owe you one." ❖



Civic Center SMART station could trigger big development

• **Mary Feller**

At the December meeting of the Civic Center (SMART) Station Advisory Committee, the City of San Rafael seemed to suggest that big development is in the cards for the half mile radius around the planned SMART station. The City appears to be saying that there is "enough capacity" in the road system in the Civic Center area to handle some fairly extraordinary numbers: an additional 620 units of housing, 200,000 sq. ft of commercial and 80,000 sq. ft of retail.

On behalf of the SVNA I sought clarification from the City of San Rafael. City staff has declined to answer written questions, but has instead offered to meet with SVNA reps to review neighborhood concerns.

Maps distributed by the City indicate that up to 200 of the housing units could be located in the Autodesk area. And all of the 200,000 sq. ft of commercial would be located on the east side of the freeway as well, again in and around the Autodesk area.

Many neighbors and SVNA members are worried about a variety of impacts - water, flooding and impervious surface runoff, stream impacts, stresses on open space etc. Especially troubling is the City's assertion that there is enough road capacity to manage the level of development under discussion. City staffers have stated that "planned road improvements" are slated. But there are no details as to the nature of these improvements or the source of funding.

The City of San Rafael traffic model has also been called into question. The City controls the critical stoplight at the intersection of North San Pedro Road and Civic Center Drive. Several years ago, the City revealed they had vastly undercounted the number of cars backing up at the stoplight during the peak morning commute hour. The stoplight capacity is already stretched thin and cannot handle current levels of traffic at certain times of day—as shown by a traffic study of the Civic Center stoplight intersection sponsored by neighbors and the SVNA.

As I had been the point person for this study, I was asked by a Committee member to attend the December Advisory Meeting to present a summation of the traffic study, since the Committee was scheduled to discuss traffic models and land use. However, the Chair—a San Rafael lawyer who represents Transit Oriented Developers—did not allow me to speak.

The Civic Center (SMART) Station Advisory Committee will soon be making their recommendations to the City of San Rafael regarding the preferred vision for the area around the SMART train station. The problem: only 37 people attended the public workshop last November. The opinions of 37 people voiced at this workshop could be used to shape the Advisory Committee recommendations that will affect all of North San Rafael for years to come.

It's very important the Santa Venetia residents attend these meetings and insist on being heard. There are only a few more meetings remaining before the Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the City. And then it will be too late.

The SVNA rep on the Advisory Committee is **Rich McGrath**. If you can't attend, please let him know your concerns, so he can convey them to the Advisory Committee. ❖

Hold the Date:

15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Once again, the SVNA and **James A. Walsh Real Estate** will sponsor this year's Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Castro Field on Saturday, March 31 (or Rain Date: Saturday, April 7). Anyone who wants to help—and volunteers would be appreciated—please call **Jim Walsh** at 492-0100. Look for more information on this event in our next newsletter and on the eGroup. ❖

From the Library Stacks



Lucky days at your library

• Eva Patterson, Branch Manager, Civic Center Library

John Grisham's latest book, *The Litigators*, has a waiting list of 84 people who have reserved one of the library's copies. But if I said you might be able to walk into the Civic Center library and find it on the shelf, would you come in and check?

How lucky do you feel? Marin County Free Library is rolling out a new collection, called "Lucky Day" books. Special copies of best-sellers are being purchased that are available on a first see, first grab basis. If it's on the shelf, you can have it right now. Instant gratification, no fees, no waiting, these books check out for 7 days (lucky 7). So if you walk into the Civic Center Library and see that new John Grisham title, it's your lucky day. Hence the name of this collection.

You also might be lucky enough to be in the library when a Nook is available to borrow. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a Nook is the eReader developed by Barnes & Noble, similar to Amazon's Kindle. The library's color Nooks feature a small touch-sensitive computer screen about the size of a paperback, wireless capability, and 40 books. You can adjust the print size, which means every book becomes large type, and of course you can carry 40 books (or hundreds) in your pocket.

Civic Center library now has 6 Nooks which circulate for free to Santa Venetia residents. Nooks check out for one week with no renewals, and are pre-loaded with a variety of titles, including a few children's books which the Nook will read aloud to you if you choose. This is a pilot program, designed to give our patrons a chance to "test-drive" one of these devices before deciding whether to make the investment.

If you were lucky like I was this holiday season, you received an eReader as a gift. But as my friend pointed out, once you have an eReader, "you have to feed it." Here's where your library card becomes better than a credit card, because you can download eBooks and audiobooks for free from any Marin county library. Go to marinet.lib.ca.us and click on "eBooks" to start shopping. Besides numerous best-sellers, there is a huge collection of classic titles which are always available.

If you need help downloading library eBooks or eAudios, Civic Center Library offers one-on-one tutoring. Call 473-6058 for an appointment, then bring in your device (iPad, Kindle, Nook, iPhone, etc.) and we will walk you through the download process. ❖

AFTER HOLIDAY CLEARANCE AT THE BOOK PLACE!

January 27-29: Friday 10-7; Sat. 10-4; Sun. 12-4

Already low prices slashed in half! All sales benefit the Marin County Free Library. The Book Place is at 1608 Grant Ave., Novato. Phone: 209-0212. For further info, call Alison Fuller, 492-3439.



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Closed Monday

Recreation/Soccer Facility: San Rafael Airport

• Mary Hanley

After 7 years in the planning process, the City of San Rafael is close to making a decision on whether or not to approve the proposed San Rafael Airport's Recreation/Soccer Facility. Here are some highlights: 1,700 users per day, Hours of operation until 12-12:30am under stadium lights, parking for 300 cars, 38' tall, 86,000 sq-ft building, pile-driving (100), 9.1 acres below sea-level, requiring 2' of fill trucked in from roadwork projects in the area, devastating for our wildlife, and pumping run-off into Gallinas Creek. If that isn't enough, the project is dangerously close (162') to the Airport's increasingly active runway.

Ironically, the Airport property is currently zoned for a community park and/or playing fields. Something Santa Venetians worked hard on to ensure was an allowable future use in the San Rafael General Plan 2020.

Rather than allow kids to play on pre-approved fields, the Airport is requesting a rezoning, and removal of their wetland-overlay land use designation, to allow for the real cash-cow, 86,000 sq ft, indoor facility.

On January 24, we'll find out if the San Rafael Planning Commission certifies the Final Environmental Impact Report. If so, there will be a "Merits of the Project" meeting, then onto San Rafael City Council for the final stamp of approval.

If you think you won't be affected by the lights and noise from spectators, players, traffic, referee whistles, or amplified music, think again. You will, and by then, it'll be too late to do anything about it.

If you are interested in helping us stop this ill-conceived project, we sure could use it. Contact me at maryinmarin@comcast.net for more information. Thank you. ❖

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Join us at the Community Meeting

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Supervisor Susan Adams "State of the County"
7pm Meeting • Korean Presbyterian Church



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LGVSD in the neighborhood—annual pipe-bursting project

• Janice Mandler

The Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (LGVSD) will be conducting rehabilitation of some of the sewer lines in the Santa Venetia area. This work should be performed from January through August 2012.



The District's camera crew televises mainlines in the Las Gallinas area and a list of lines in need of repair is developed from that data. Each year the District spends \$1,000,000 to repair and replace lines that could cause a sewer overflow and could result in damage to a homeowner's property and the environment.

We hope that this project will not cause any hardship to our homeowners, but we ask that you bear with us as we attempt to make your collection system a system that will stand up to the requirements of the State Water Board, and protect our citizens and the environment.

To maintain our outstanding record of some of the lowest sewer spill rates in Marin County, we will be performing wastewater line rehabilitation using the pipe bursting method at the follow locations in SV:

- » Roosevelt easement
- » Jefferson Avenue
- » North San Pedro Rd easement (Linda Ave)
- » Descanso Way
- » Estancia easement (Adrian Way)
- » Garden Avenue easement

Pipe bursting is a trenchless method of replacing buried pipelines without the need for a traditional construction trench which can be slow, expensive and have a negative impact on traffic and the environment. In pipe bursting, a new pipe is pushed through the existing pipe, breaking the existing pipe into pieces.

LGVSD Recycled Water Plant under construction

• Tymber Cavasian, Tcavasian@lgsd.org

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's state of the art recycled water treatment plant is now under construction with an expected operational date of Fall 2012. The new plant will produce 204 acre feet (66.5 million gallons) of recycled water annually for irrigation uses. In addition to reducing the demand on potable water, the recycled water plant may play a vital role in helping us meet future regulations. The District applied for and successfully received \$1,600,000 in federal and state grants resulting in significant cost savings to our rate payers. Construction and heavy equipment has added congestion and some challenge to recreational visitors of the reclamation area, however, public access remains open from 4am to 10pm.

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

LGVSD events and programs

Poison Awareness month is during March and Earth Day occurs in April, so this is a great time to remind our neighbors that LGVSD supports year-round programs to protect and encourage all citizens to learn how to make their homes and workplaces safe from the threat of poisons. District residents can:

- » exchange their mercury thermometers year-round for free,
- » turn in spent CFLs, fluorescent tubes, and batteries and
- » get help with pharmaceutical take-back programs in effect throughout the county for safe disposal of old medicines and sharps.

The LGVSD website has a section devoted to Recycling information at www.lgsd.org, as well as a convenient link to the County of Marin drop-off locations website. ❖

North San Pedro Road medians taking a beating

• Dennis Bortoli

I belong to a fantastic group of dedicated neighbors that give of themselves, volunteering their time, regularly maintaining your road medians. We care about our neighborhood and wish to give back. We want Santa Venetia to be an appealing, pleasant place to visit. The medians are a gateway to your neighborhood. They say a lot, not only to those that live here but also to those that visit. Personally, I think Santa Venetia's character would diminish if the medians were solid concrete.

Most seem to appreciate our efforts, a few do not care, and a fraction destroy. Vandalism seems to be increasing. Walking on vegetation or stealing plants might occur, but vehicle destruction is far worse. Personally, if I drove over a five inch curb at any speed I would somehow stop safely. I see road signs and sprinklers sheared off, evidence of cars still continuing a hundred plus feet or weaving in and out over the median curb. I cannot help but feel it is probably intentional. I grant you a few times, like one heart attack victim, obviously were not. Naturally we like to take pride in our accomplishments and steps backward are extremely disheartening. On New Years Day, I left my family to rebuild a wooden hose storage box that was pulverized. I left the sheared road sign for your tax dollar repair.

Hearing any witness or acknowledgment after the fact, even anonymous, would be appreciated. Even if the offender is not penalized, it would mean a lot knowing when these occurrences were not intentional. We could feel our efforts were less in vain and more appreciated. ❖

"Don't Forget the eGroup"

Join our Neighborhood eGroup to share info and to join in group discussions. ALSO...post and hear about: Coyote Sightings, Missing Dogs or Cats, Stolen Bikes, Repair Referrals, Bird Identifications, Break-ins, Garage Sales, Special Sales to the Neighborhood, and much more.

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

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Land Use Update



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

Here's a list of current and ongoing projects that we are aware of in SV. 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 appropriate parties. *Don't wait until it's built to regret it!*

650 North San Pedro Road. 12 + 2 units proposed. Marin County Contact: **Jeremy Tejirian**, Planner. SVNA Contact: **Mary Hanley**, maryinmarin@comcast.net. The next meeting is scheduled for late February or sometime in March. Updated information is emailed as received. If you wish to be included on the email list for this project, please contact Mary Hanley. For detailed information, please see the article on page 10.

900 Bayhills Dr, San Rafael. Marin County Contact: **Neal Osborne**, Planner. SVNA Contact: **Mark Wallace**, mark.t.wallace@gmail.com

Emergency Operations Facility/Marin Public Safety Building. 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. It's been a long, hard process, but on 11/15/11, the Board of Supervisors voted to purchase the Marin Commons site for the new Emergency Operation Facility and the papers have been signed! Thank you to **Mary Lou King**, **Lesley McTaggart**, and the other hard-working members of the MCCVC. Thank you also to **Susan Adams** for advocating for our neighborhood and getting this project built at a much better location. As we move forward, ongoing information and updates, as received, will be posted on the eGroup. (See article page 3.)

Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project. Aquatic 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@sracs.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 Site. Marin County Contact: **Neal Osborne**, Planner. SVNA Contact: **Mark Wallace**, mark.t.wallace@gmail.com. Marin Montessori School has put the property back on the market. We will continue to post any new information as received on the eGroup.

San Rafael Airport/Soccer Complex/Recreational Facility. San Rafael City Contact: **Kraig Tambornini**, Planner. SVNA Contact: **Mary Hanley**, maryinmarin@comcast.net. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2/28. Updated information is emailed as received. If you

Second Saturday Medians

• Nanni Wurl

In November, we worked on the Birch/La Pasada median. Then we moved to our problem median, the long one. Dennis single-handedly weed-whacked while the rest of us pruned. Working were **Dennis Bortoli**, **Carolyn Byrne**, **Kurt Huget**, **David Knopf**, **Wayne Lechner**, **Bonnie Monte**, and **Joel Yau**. **Carl Sitchler** was dearly missed.

On November 26, Carolyn, Dennis, and I planted 3 oleanders and one fortnight-lily on the Birch/La Pasada median. We planted 7 oleanders on the long median plus other plants. The oleanders were donated by my generous neighbor, **Lynne Steinsieck**, who is a Design Landscaper and donates plants yearly. Helen and I hand-watered the plants. In the first week in December, somebody hit this median destroying a few more sprinkler-heads and eradicating some plants. Needless to say, no more planting on this poor, doomed median.

In December, we cleaned up the mess. Working were **Dennis Bortoli**, **Carolyn Byrne**, **Wayne Lechner**, **Bonnie Monte**, **Tim Ribble**, and **Carl & Helen Sitchler**. Tim built great berms around all the plants. The crew then moved to Helen's median, in front of The Rafael, for some planting and watering. We all were proud of our work.

Thanks to **Diana Symonds** for donating more fortnight lilies, and to Carl for taking my spot watering. Helen had offered to help me and she took over when I had to stop. And **Beverly Busher** donated again for our lunch. Many thanks. We appreciate a tangible recognition! ❖

Route 233 - SANTA VENETIA Weekend Service										
SOUTHBOUND						NORTHBOUND				
D	C	C	B	A		A	B	C	C	D
SANTA VENETIA (Venetia & Esplanade)	Arrive MARIN CIVIC CENTER (Acety, Justice)	Depart MARIN CIVIC CENTER (Acety, Justice)	DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY (Central & Acety)	SAN RAFAEL TRANSIT CENTER (Bird & Hefferton)		SAN RAFAEL TRANSIT CENTER (Bird & Hefferton)	DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY (Central & Acety)	Arrive MARIN CIVIC CENTER (Acety, Justice)	Depart MARIN CIVIC CENTER (Acety, Justice)	SANTA VENETIA (Venetia & Esplanade)
8:28	8:36	8:38	8:48	8:55		8:00	8:06	8:15	8:17	8:24
9:28	9:36	9:38	9:48	9:55		9:00	9:06	9:15	9:17	9:24
10:28	10:36	10:38	10:48	10:55		10:00	10:06	10:15	10:17	10:24
11:28	11:36	11:38	11:48	11:55		11:00	11:06	11:15	11:17	11:24
1:28	1:36	1:38	1:48	1:55		1:00	1:06	1:15	1:17	1:24
2:28	2:36	2:38	2:48	2:55		2:00	2:06	2:15	2:17	2:24
3:28	3:36	3:38	3:48	3:55		3:00	3:06	3:15	3:17	3:24
4:28	4:36	4:38	4:48	4:55		4:00	4:06	4:15	4:17	4:24
5:28	5:36	5:38	5:48	5:55		5:00	5:06	5:15	5:17	5:24

Shuttle stops at all marked bus stops. Only major time points are listed in the schedule.

Holidays—No service on New Year's Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day.

Dias Festivos—No hay servicio en estos días: Año Nuevo, Día Presidencial, Día Comemorativo, Cuatro de Julio, día del Trabajo, Día de Acción de Gracias, y Navidad (diciembre 25).

wish to be included on the email list for this project, please contact Mary Hanley. For detailed information, please see the article on page 6.

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." See related article on page 5.

WildCare at Tanem's WildCare Contact: **Karen Wilson**, karenwilson@wildcarebayarea.org. We heard from WildCare that the deal at 279 N. San Pedro has fallen apart and they have, once again, started their search for a new home. Their plans include reaching out to the San Rafael School Board to discuss the McPhail's site again, so we are hoping we may still become neighbors in the future! ❖

Watershed Works



SVNA and GWC members Russ Greenfield and Art Reichert give *Marin IJ* reporters an "up close and personal" tour of the Gallinas Watershed.

• Judy Schriebman, GWC Council

GWC REPORT: Success in 2011! Our efforts over the past years to promote watershed planning for the 94903 area finally paid off as Marin County launched a serious effort to begin this process. Other watersheds in Marin have had their cities such as Ross, Fairfax, Corte Madera, Larkspur and Novato stepping up as major partners. We hope San Rafael will do the same. Upstream impervious development and creek channelization leads to downstream flooding; a whole watershed approach will create systemic improvements so that those at the end of the line are not shouldering the burden alone.

Other GWC highlights from last year:

Jan: Participated at the Bay Area Environmental Education Resource Fair

Feb: Held our 1st community watershed workshop at Northgate Mall
Gave tours of the creek with local politicians and journalists to draw attention to the significant value of the wetlands

Attended a LOT of meetings around the bay dealing with Sea Level Rise, Climate Change and Watershed planning

May: Began developing our watershed plan vision
Became an official creek group within North Bay Watershed Association
Promoted Marin County's Watershed plan to local agencies

Made watershed presentations with Liz Lewis to Santa Margarita, Contempo Marin and Mont Marin Homeowners' Associations

Sept: Held our first Watershed Education Bike Tour and BBQ
Presented Gallinas Creek info at the Santa Venetia Labor Day Picnic

Nov: Presented watershed appropriate planning information at the SMART Civic Station Area Design Committee community meeting

With Diana Connolly developed the Gallinas Creek Watershed Survey
www.surveymonkey.com/s/gallinascreekwatershed

Submitted a letter and spoke out to SR Planning Commission addressing the serious flaws in the FEIR for the airport soccer development

For 2012 we will continue to monitor the proposed developments at the Airport and around the SMART station and speak out against inappropriate development. We will be watching as the Phase 2 Stormwater Pollution regulations come into effect and help support city and county efforts to keep our waterways free of trash and toxic chemicals. We will also keep reminding everyone of the effects of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on our area and promote ways that work with, not against, nature.

As always we can use your help, personally and financially, as we work to protect our local natural environment. Join our email list at www.gallinaswatershed.org to stay in touch with important issues or join us for a kayak tour, bike ride or headlands hike that celebrate this beautiful landscape we are so fortunate to live in. We meet on the third Monday of the month and would love to have you join us! ❖

CSA #18 – Parks and Open Space Advisory Board (AB)

• Linda Levey

Our last AB meeting was in September. I, along with other Board member Nanni Wurl (John Manchip was absent), welcomed new members Gina Hagen and Barbara Tannenbaum. It was great to have new members – especially ones with such great input. They both came with many new ideas that we hope to review and implement in the near future.

In case you don't know, 2010 was a banner year for the CSA #18 Advisory Board. It had been many years that the AB worked on the Pueblo Park project and at the end of that year we finally ushered it through the process and got it done. It was a huge accomplishment for the neighborhood and the feedback has been positive – so many people are visiting the park and taking advantage of the upgrades. So we had been resting on our laurels through 2011 and waiting for money to accrue before discussing our next projects.

Which brings me to the great news: While reviewing the updated CSA #18 budget, I was surprised to see we had approximately \$200k. Since that is approximately what we started with last year, and I knew we updated Pueblo Park, I asked County Staff Ed Hulme, Superintendent of Parks & Landscape, how that could be? And the answer reminded me of the many people we need to thank, once again.

Much of the savings to the CSA was from a partnership with the County, led by Steve Petterle, Principal Park Planner. He worked to get us funds allocated from the countywide American with Disabilities Act program, funded by the Administrator's Office, to help pay for the equipment and the pathway repair. Tennis courts were also recently redone with County Parks' capital funds. It is like a brand new park; if you haven't seen it yet, come on down.

On top of that, the project came way under budget because of John Manchip and community volunteers. John contributed his time and his workers to supervise the installation and the neighbors showed up in droves to donate their time. (For more information and pictures, you can see the Nov/Dec 2010 newsletter.)

So, from the Santa Venetia Neighborhood, I once again want to say Thank You to fellow SVNA member and CSA #18 Board Member, John Manchip for his great contribution to our neighborhood; to Steve Petterle for his work on this project; to Kirk Schroeder who helped with the volunteer coordination; to Dave Hattem, Landscape Services Supervisor, for having his crew take such good care of it; and to Ed Hulme who guided us through and was involved throughout the whole process, joined us on volunteer day, and coordinated getting help from County Staff. Many hands make light work.

And one final good news note – We got a picnic table at the Adrian/Rosal Park and we finally got a bench. Good news for all walkers who need to take a break and rest their feet and especially for Nanni, who worked to get this done. ❖

Santa Venetia's Very Own Hardware Store

Continued from page 1

hardware in their blood. Jeff's father got his start in 1949 at Standard Hardware in Laurel Height's Village in San Francisco and eventually bought it from the founders. The store is still in the Leopold family's hands. Since the couple makes Greenbrae home, San Rafael was a natural choice. Michelle recounted: "We had been looking for a location in San Rafael since the Home Depot took over the old Yardbird's and Pacific Lumber closed its doors. We plan to compete with the big box stores with superior service, selection and a price match guarantee." When asked about her most memorable sale, Michelle tells me, "Large bolts are big sellers around Halloween for Frankenstein neck bolts."

The store employs 11 people, and you may recognize **Wilson and Steve** from the old Pacific Lumber site. Stop by. You'll be impressed. ❖

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650 N. San Pedro Road Update

• Bob Sos

As reported in an earlier newsletter, **West Bay Builders** has decided to go ahead and make a formal request to the Planning Commission for the project that includes 12 homes and 2 second units. West Bay made this decision in the face of the Planning Commission's clear and succinct direction at the March 17, 2011 meeting to reduce the density to seven to eight homes and especially to reduce the density along North San Pedro Road.

On November 28, 2011, the Planning Commission met to review the Bay Creek Project. West Bay stated that it was not financially feasible to reduce the density to seven or eight homes. **Don Dickerson, Susan Adam's** appointee to the Planning Commission, successfully led the charge for the Planning Commission to approve the resolution to NOT recommend the project to the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting's agenda, minutes, video, and the approved resolution itself are all available on-line on Marin County's Planning Commission website: www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/pingcom_video.cfm

Select the year 2011 and click on 11/28/11 under view event. Once in, scroll down and click on 5. Bay Creek as the project review was at the end of the meeting. The link to view the approved final resolution is within the meeting's minutes.

Thanks to the many letters and public comments by many community members at the meetings, workshops, and hearings over the years, the approved resolution contains the following important and incontrovertible clause in black and white for the Board of Supervisors to see when they meet to review this project:

"7. WHEREAS, the Marin County Planning Commission finds that there is substantial community opposition to the number of residences allowed by the proposed rezoning of the subject property."

We expect the Board of Supervisor's meeting to be in February and need everyone who can to turn out and speak against the project and in support of the resolution; and prior to the meeting to write letters to each of the supervisors against the project and in support of the resolution. Watch the eGroup for upcoming emails containing dates, names, and addresses for letters and meetings. Email **Mary Hanley** (maryinmarin@comcast.net) to get on the group email distribution list. ❖

"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>

GASPARE'S PIZZERIA

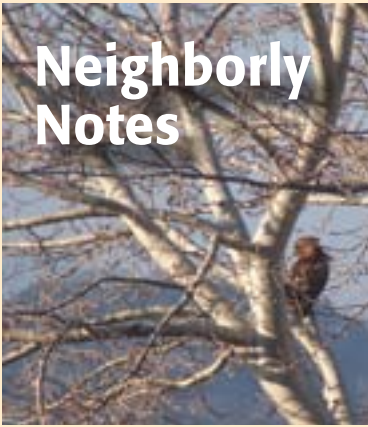


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Neighborly Notes

*SINCERE
CONDOLENCES
to Vi Swanson
on the loss of
her beloved
husband Ron.
He will be missed by
all who knew him.*

Compiled by Linda Levey

From Linda Levey

Congratulations are due... We just heard that our UPS guy, who's also our neighbor on Estancia, **Mike** and his wife **Angela** welcomed baby boy **Mason** in November. May you enjoy every minute!

Eat, Drink, and make the SVNA Merry 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, 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 delicious 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 **Danny, Gaspare, and Robin!**

From Tad Inouye

A great big THANKS to all SVNA neighbors who contribute to the Venetia Valley Recycling Program. If you would like to participate, please call Tad Inouye at 847-0215.

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! We will continue outside while weather is nice. Call Norma at 499-9409 for info and rain/cold location.

Santa Venetia Worship Community Christian worship and communion services are held here in Santa Venetia, 6 pm Saturday evenings. Please call the Rev **John Surinchak** at 246-1114 for more information.

From San Rafael City Schools

Winterfest Celebrating 150 Years of San Rafael City Schools! - Save the Date: February 11, 6 - 11pm, at the Marin JCC. This year is the sesquicentennial of our district's founding, our chance to celebrate 150 years of educational excellence. Join us as we bring together the best of San Rafael—food, music, and community—and honor local leaders who work to ensure that San Rafael's children receive the best education possible. For more information: www.headsupsr.org.

From Nanni Wurl

Kudos to Kurt Huget for playing his guitar and singing at the **St. Vincent's Christmas Lunch**. You might have read about it in the IJ. Thanks to ALL the people who volunteered somewhere. The Humane Society Laundry was my destination. It would be wonderful if in 2012, more would volunteer. It is true; giving is more rewarding than taking.

When walking at night, please either wear light clothes or use a flashlight.

A True Christmas Gift Miracle A gentleman living on Schmidt lost his female cat about a month ago. He put up flyers all over the neighborhood, rode his bike daily looking for his cat, and checked weekly, in person, with the Humane Society. (The cat had been on my deck but I didn't know she was lost. Besides, her behavior was fitting her name: "Princess".) The owner had another partial feral cat that only came by to eat. On Christmas morning, the feral ate and then walked away looking back at the owner. He repeated this behavior. The man finally

followed him and found his "Princess" on the hill, scrawny looking, but okay. The owner said it was a "Lassie" moment. All of us who watched the search are very happy for him.

Marin Sanitary Service A while ago, a little flyer was left in one of the cans, under the cover, telling us how to put out the cans. Since I walk my dog daily, I noticed that a lot of people did not respond to this request. I talked to the green-can guy who told me it made it harder for him and when the handle of the cans is towards the street, the cover comes up too soon and stuff flies out of the can and all over our streets. The handle of the can is supposed to be towards the sidewalk, not the street.

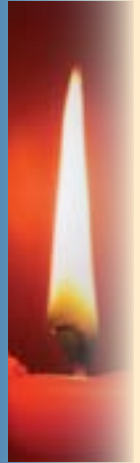
Winter is here. Please remember to pick up your leaves or pine needles. You own the tree, you own what comes down. Thanks. ❖

HU..... A Sacred Sound

We would like to invite you to our home for a sacred sound experience. HU is a word we sing to open our heart to more love, and to bring peace and spiritual awareness. You are warmly invited to come and join us for this enjoyable and spiritually uplifting chant. You don't have to be a good singer to participate.

Helaine and Francis

February 6 • 7:30 – 8:00 pm • 1049 Adrian Way
For more information call – 785-7096



Community Compass



The Marin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency number	911
Emergency from a cell phone	472-0911
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

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association (www.thesvna.org)
 P.O. Box 4047, San Rafael, CA 94913-4047



• **Linda Levey and Norma Novy**

It's a new year and—don't forget—time to renew your SVNA membership. It's money well-spent!

We have heard from some neighbors that they don't join because they don't want someone telling them what color they can paint their house. We are *NOT* a Home Owners Association (HOA) or a regulating agency. **We are a Neighborhood Association— neighbors banding together to keep things good and make things better.**

The SVNA works hard to protect your interests. We have had some disappointments, but we have had many, many successes.

I know—times are tight and we all have to decide what is important. I want to tell you – joining the SVNA should be high up on that list! Why, you may ask? Here are some things that are funded by your membership fees:

- » Producing and mailing our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Communicator*
- » Bi-monthly (and sometimes monthly) Community Meetings
- » Plants and supplies for the Medians and lunch for the volunteers
- » Our Web page: www.thesvna.org
- » Food and fun for the annual Labor Day Picnic
- » Supplies, hay bales, and more for the annual Halloween Block Party
- » Chocolate and eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt
- » Donations to local School Events

You want a sense of community? *Join the SVNA*

You want to feel like you belong? *Join the SVNA*

You want to know what is going on in your neighborhood?
Join the SVNA

How can you resist? Your \$30 goes a long way. So pull out the envelope and form that comes with this newsletter, write your check now, stamp it, and put it in the mail. I promise, you won't regret it.

Santa Venetia is a community rich with blended cultures—from England, France, the Basque country, Spain, Italy, India, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru and many more. Our neighbors have an international flavor, spicing up our community. We need all cultures to join.

And when you are completing the membership form, think hard—if you have some time, and the inclination, check one of the volunteer boxes. We are waiting to hear from YOU.

Calidad de miembro de SVNA

Es un nuevo año, pero no olvides, que es tiempo de renovar tu membresía con SVNA. ¡Es dinero bien gastado!

Yo se que estos tiempos son difíciles y que debemos decidir lo que es mas importante. ¡Renovar o crear tu afiliación a SVNA debe estar entre las primeras cosas para hacer! ¿Te preguntaras el porque? La siguiente es una lista de algunas de las cosas que tu membresía ayuda a financiar.

- » **Producir y enviar bimestralmente nuestro boletín de noticias, El Comunicador.**
- » **Reuniones de la comunidad cada dos meses (a veces mensualmente)**
- » **Plantas y suministros para los mediadores, y almuerzo para los voluntarios**
- » **Mantenimiento de nuestra pagina Web www.thesvna.org**
- » **Comida y diversión para nuestra celebración anual del Día del Trabajo**
- » **Suministros, pacas de heno, y aun más para la celebración anual de Halloween**
- » **Chocolates y huevos de pascua para la celebración anual de Pascua**
- » **Donaciones para los eventos de nuestras escuelas locales**

¿Quieres una atmósfera de comunidad? Afíliate a SVNA

¿Quiere sentir que perteneces? Afíliate a SVNA

¿Quieres estar al tanto de las cosas que suceden en el vecindario? Afíliate a SVNA

¿Cómo puedes resistir? Tus \$30 nos ayudan bastante. Entonces, recoge el sobre y el formulario que vienen en este boletín, escribe tu cheque ahora, y ponlo en el correo. Te prometemos que no te arrepentirás.

Santa Venetia es una comunidad enriquecida con la mezcla de muchas culturas, de Inglaterra, Francia, El País Vasco, España, Italia, India, México, Guatemala, Perú y muchas más. Nuestros vecinos tienen un sabor internacional que sazona muy bien a nuestra comunidad. Necesitamos que todas las culturas se unan.

(Many thanks to Geronimó Diaz for the translation in each issue.)