

The Lookout

muir woods park improvement association

40 RIDGE AVENUE OFF PANORAMIC HIGHWAY • MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94941

Community Spirit Growing Along with the Scotch Broom

May 1992 Issue

Candidates Night Lively

There was plenty of action during the recent evening of debate amongst our 3 candidates for County Supervisor for the Fourth District. Incumbent Gary Giacomini was joined by Mike Kittle and Dotty Le Mieux in an issues format that involved audience prioritization of the questions to be addressed. Responses to questions was moderated by President Richard Popson with assistance from Lila Daniels. Julie Ley once again managed to coordinate a fine spread. Martha Metzger's lasagna was the highlight for many of the 40 attendees.

It was encouraging to spend the evening getting better acquainted with 3 such capable candidates for public office. Their sense of dedication and enthusiasm was evident. Now all we have to do is make our decisions!!

Chipper Day: Saturday, May 30

Sharpen your clippers and roll up your sleeves. The Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station, in collaboration with the County Department of Public Works, is sponsoring a free afternoon of brush chipping from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the MWPIA Clubhouse. Get together with your neighbors now and keep those limbs and branches coming in.

Mountain Dwellers Network: Thursday, June 4 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Peter Spear invites those who live and work on the mountain to join him at a reception to meet each other. This is an effort to create a "network" to share common interests and problems of people who work out of their homes. For more information contact Peter at 383-2820 or 383-1941.

Highlights: April 24 General Meeting on Disaster Avoidance

Information and ideas flowed freely among the 30 people who attended the meeting. Featured speakers were local fireman Lt. David Carr and landscape designer Penny Raikes. The evening included a spirited discussion of neighborhood safety needs.

Richard Popson outlined MWPIA progress in fund raising, including a promise by Supervisor Giacomini to seek \$12,000 in County funds for emergency communications.

Lt. Carr recommended viewing the videotape "Firesafe Inside and Out" and reviewing literature on defensible space--both available at the firehouse. He encouraged residents to contact firemen for advice on improving conditions and assured neighbors that Throckmorton Ridge is well prepared to fight wild land fires.

Ms. Raikes used literature, photographs, and plant specimens to prove that your landscaping need not be boring to be fire safe. She recommended visiting Tam Valley Fire Stations' display garden, cautioned gardeners to try specimen plants to get a feel for their habits, and stressed the importance of regular care in maintaining a fire safe landscape.

Brainstorming produced a variety of suggestions, from installing fire sirens to burning broom. If you have ideas about public safety, please share them with the firehouse, Richard Popson, or Virginia Soper.

**Remember to vote on Election Day June 2
at the Alpine Club--730 Panoramic Hwy!!**

MWPIA Welcomes New Members:

- Joy & John Barnes
55 Ridge Avenue, MV
- Don West
5 Muir Avenue, MV
- Anita & Tom Murphy
47 Washington Park Avenue, MV
- Elizabeth MacFarlane
4 St. Jude Road, MV
- Brenda Cizmadia & Michael Pin
16 St. Jude Road, MV
- Meredith Nordschow
140 Marin View Avenue, MV
- Candace & Curtis Bruchler
12 Kings Way, MV
- Pamela & Robert MacDonald
125 Bayview Drive, MV
- Jane Brown
26 Marin View Avenue, MV

Issues: Discussed in a Meeting with Deputy Director of Public Works Farhad Mansurian and MWPIA Officers Dick Popson and Del Goetz:

Removal of "Exotic" Trees & Plants along Panoramic Right of Way Possible. MWPIA members may seek permits by following this procedure: make a request to Public Works specifying the exact area and vegetation to be removed.

Save Mt. Tam/Fire Safety Sign at 4 Corners: There is an ordinance against putting up a sign, but if we can get the state to give us permission to put it on their property, we can get a sign permit from the County Planning Department.

Bike/Hike Path on Right of Way Below Panoramic & Bike ID Plates: MWPIA requested that Public Works and the Board of Supervisors study its feasibility along on the Panoramic right of way below the existing road. Cyclists would be required to purchase a \$10 annual operating license plate to help pay for the path. Plates would help identify bikers who consistently violate the law.

Repaving of Panoramic: priority will be given to the Stinson Beach "Esses" from the tree-line to Highway 1, but Mansourian assured us there is plenty of money to cover repairs between 4 Corners and Mt. Home

Board Meeting Highlights May 6, 1992

The Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Jim Campbell as Chairman of the Health & Safety Committee. It was remarked that he did such a great job it takes 3 people to replace him.

The Board voted to create two standing committees: Public Safety Committee will be co-chaired by Bob Scheibach and Dick Popson; the new Environmental Health Committee will have Del Goetz as its interim chairwoman.

Our insurance policies were reviewed. We will have a more favorable rate when we receive our IRS tax exemption. In the meantime Schmidt & Schmidt brokers are offering us a lower cost/greater coverage program.

Items for discussion: the present status of the Countywide Plan as well as the County's approval of a plan to replace an existing house on Lone Tree Trail; the safety aspect of connecting both ends of Edgewood with a dirt fire road that would be closed to vehicle traffic except for emergency evacuations;

Reports on meetings with fire officials, County Public Works Deputy Director Farhad Mansurian and Supervisor Gary Giacomini about brush removal, bicycle trails & licensing to raise funds, AM band communications network and repaving of Panoramic between the ranger station and Highway 1.

Ridge Avenue resident John Barnes outlined the neighbors' plans for brush removal. The Board voted to allocate \$200 to be used for brush removal on the MWPIA property in a joint effort to reduce local fuel loads.

Final plans were made for the Disaster Council program on May 14 in which Fire Capt. Frank Neer was seeking input for his report concerning the Throckmorton Ridge Planning Area Disaster Planning Zone Emergency/Disaster Contingency Plan.

The Save Mt. Tam Monte Carlo Fund-raiser event will be postponed until August.

-- Del Goetz, Corresponding Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Wed., June 3, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

1992 Officers and Board Members

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| President | Dick Popson | 388-1135 |
| Vice Pres. | Peter Hindley | 388-7252 |
| Treasurer | Cliff Davenport | 383-3892 |
| Record. Sec. | Virginia Soper | 383-1941 |
| Corresp. Sec. | Del Goetz | 388-8493 |
| Directors | Jim Campbell | 381-9320 |
| | Lila Daniels | 383-8422 |
| | Kathleen Delehanty | 388-4516 |
| | Kathi Heimann | 389-0223 |
| | Julie Ley | 388-2077 |
| Past Pres. | David Schonbrunn | 383-9321 |

Standing Committees

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| By-Laws | Del Goetz |
| Clubhouse Maintenance | Peter Hindley |
| Community Relations | David Schonbrunn |
| Public Safety (Co-Chairs) | Bob Scheibach |
| | Dick Popson |
| Environmental Health (Interim) | Del Goetz |
| Membership | Kathleen Delehanty |
| Newsletter | Lila Daniels |
| Social | Julie Ley |
| Tot Lot | Kathi Heimann |

The Mother of All Dinners...

...was served to the liberated yet lovely ladies of our elevated paradise on the recent appropriate week end. As brilliant in their concepts as they were flawless in their execution, the mountain men astonished the skeptics. The largest group in recent memory gathered to provide comments like: "they don't have to be very good to look better than me"; "where is this the other 364 days?"; "this is great!"; and "who knows any dirty jokes?"

The beautiful evening provided places inside and out for conversation. The dinner was well appreciated. Special thanks go to Bob Schiebach, executive chef Barney Lengham, and all the sous-chefs and other helpers.

MWPIA 1992 Social Calendar

| | | |
|--------------|------|--|
| <u>June</u> | 19 | Monte Carlo Fund Raiser for Health & Safety Issues (details to come) |
| | 21 | Father's Day Pancake Breakfast |
| <u>July</u> | 4 | Club available for barbecue |
| <u>Sept.</u> | 7 | Labor Day Barbecue |
| | 19 | Nostalgia Party |
| <u>Oct.</u> | 17 | Octoberfest Potluck |
| | 31 | Halloween Party |
| <u>Nov.</u> | 14 | Election Potluck/General Meeting |
| <u>Dec.</u> | 6/13 | Adult Christmas Party |
| | 19 | Children's Christmas Party |
| | 31 | New Year's Eve Party |

-- Julie Ley, Social Chair

Community Calendar

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| <u>July</u> | 4 | MV Centennial Day Parade & Picnic in Old Mill Park - 11:00 |
|-------------|---|--|

MWPIA Clubhouse Calendar

| | | |
|--------------|----|--|
| <u>April</u> | 24 | MWPIA General Meeting: Fire Safety |
| | 25 | Ruth Bramell |
| | 26 | Carol Davis |
| <u>May</u> | 6 | MWPIA Board Meeting |
| | 19 | Environmental Health Committee |
| | 19 | Christine Landes |
| | 20 | Special Board Meeting: By-Laws and Reincorporating |
| | 23 | Sue Linder |
| | 30 | Sheryl Boucher |
| | 30 | MWPIA Work Day (with chipper) |
| | 31 | Carola Dixon |
| <u>June</u> | 3 | MWPIA Board Meeting |
| | 4 | Mountain Dwellers Network |
| | 9 | Environmental Health Committee |
| | 27 | Lila Daniels |
| | 28 | Jeremiah Mock (wedding) |

It's Never Too Late to Pay Your Dues!!

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Current Real Estate Listings

Thanks to Kathleen Delehanty at TRI Realtors (388-4516) for current listings on the mountain:

Just sold by Kathleen (congratulations):

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|-------|-----------|
| 5 Muir Ave | 1br | 1ba | \$218,000 |
| 760 Panoramic | 2br | 1.5ba | 299,000 |
| 547 Panoramic | 2br | 2ba | 339,000 |

Pending

| | | | |
|----------------|------|-------|---------|
| 51 Castle Rock | 3br | 2ba | 420,000 |
| 25 Castle Rock | 3br | 2ba | 430,000 |
| 446 Panoramic | 3br | 3.5ba | 399,000 |
| 284 Panoramic | 4br | 2.5ba | 845,000 |
| 214 Panoramic | 3 br | 3.5ba | 895,000 |

Active Listings

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-------|---------|
| 162 Bayview | 2br | 1.5ba | 349,000 |
| 490 Edgewood | 3br | 3ba | 385,000 |
| 762 Sequoia Valley | 3br | 1ba | 399,000 |
| 222 Mountain View | 4br | 3ba | 429,000 |
| 569 Edgewood | 3br | 2.5ba | 499,000 |
| 24 Madera | 4br | 3ba | 559,000 |
| 663 Sequoia Valley | 3br | 2.5ba | 649,000 |
| 4 Muir Woods Trail | 3br | 2.5ba | 710,000 |
| (under construction) | | | |
| 84 Monte Cimas | 5br | 4ba | 779,000 |
| 332 Panoramic | 4br | 2.5ba | 995,000 |

Clubhouse Rental Rates

| | Weekday | Weekend |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Member | \$ 50 | \$ 75 |
| Non-Members | 100 | 300 |
| Non-Profit | 75 | 175 |

The new contract form stresses fire/smoking, parking, noise and maintenance regulations. All paid contracts honored at the old rates.

Advertising Rates for The Lookout

- Classified Ads: \$1.00 per line per issue
- Display Ad Rates: \$50 per year for 10 issues (business card size ad)

Next Ad Deadline: Friday, June 5, 1992

Special thanks to Bernard Haag for the donation of forks for the MWPIA Clubhouse kitchen, and to Lucile Withington for assorted silverware.



Save Mt. Tam Committee to Host Information Booth at the Mill Valley Weekend Picnic in Bay Front Park on Monday, May 25 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in helping sell buttons and bumper stickers to help raise funds for the Public Safety Committee should contact Dick Popson at 388-1135.

Funds will be used to acquire an AM band public safety radio broadcast transmitter that will enable residents to get local emergency information. Funds will also be used to acquire supplies necessary for an emergency shelter being created at the MWPIA Clubhouse.

THE SAVE MT. TAM COMMITTEE WILL ALSO HOST A FUND-RAISER BAKE SALE AT THE FOURTH OF JULY CENTENNIAL DAY PICNIC IN OLD MILL PARK. Contact Dick Popson at 388-1135.

By-Laws Committee Report

The final draft of the Muir Woods Park Community Association Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws will be reviewed at a special Board Meeting Wednesday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

Upon approval, copies will be mailed to each member in good standing along with a ballot form accepting or rejecting the new Articles and Bylaws. One-third of the membership must approve them for the new non-profit corporation to become a reality.

--Del Goetz, By-Laws Committee Chair

May 14 Disaster Council Meeting Report

Dick Popson hosted a group of about 40 MWPIA members who responded to Throckmorton Ridge Fire Capt. Frank Neer's request for input about our priorities in the event of a disaster.

Old-timers and new-timers alike were encouraged by Lila Daniels to list suggestions on the wall for priority clustering of ideas. Main concerns in priority order:

- **Evacuation** with more than twice as many concerns (especially warning systems like sirens and an am radio station, and improved roads and fire lanes)
- **Know Your Neighbors** for mutual aid
- **Shelter**--develop a "safe house" or series of shelters in case we get trapped
- **Supplies** (100 gallon water container a high priority)

Capt. Neer was grateful for the group's input and will incorporate our ideas into his report to the County authorities. He's campaigning on our behalf for more goods and services.

Capt. Neer says he and his crew are eager to provide feedback to interested residents concerning the current level of fire safety inside and outside their homes. Just contact the fire station at 388-5414 to arrange for a visit.

Environmental Health Committee Report

The recently established committee will begin its work by trying to determine:

- The prevalence of cancer in humans, pets and plants in our area
- If there are "cancer clusters" in our area, we will try to examine what environmental factors might be contributing to its occurrence
- If we can identify environmental contributors to cancer, we will propose an abatement plan.

WE ASK THAT ALL RESIDENTS REPORT AN INCIDENCE OF CANCER TO THE COMMITTEE.

Contact Del Goetz at 388-8493 for more information. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

Editorial: Reflections from a Fire

3:00 a.m., June 18, 1984. That's when local dopers torched the building next to mine. 3:15 a.m.: the flames began to consume my building as I drive up to watch. 5:00 a.m.: my 8200 square foot retail store is now 1800 square feet of smoking ashes.

2:30 p.m., June 21: Firemen are finally able to pull out the file cabinet that sat on a pile of burning tires for almost 3 days. In that cabinet were: family heirloom jewelry; \$1,500 in cash; all my corporate records; all my accounts receivable records; inventories on all the goods in storage in my two other warehouses; all my checks and disbursements records; keys to all my vehicles.

Not one thing in that cabinet was destroyed or rendered unusable! The worst damage was some singeing on the edges of the checks, melted plastic key fobs and a melted cash box insert for separating coins.

It was no ordinary file. It was a fireproof file. I now have two of them: one at work and one at home. --Del Goetz, Recording Secretary

Note: Fireproof files are available from *Office Depot* at 869 W. Francisco Blvd. in San Rafael, 721-0507.

Schwab Series 1000 File Cabinet

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- Includes 4 Movable Dividers
- Covered by Schwab's Free After-the-Fire Replacement Guarantee and \$100,000 Covered Contents Warranty
- Record Protection Equipment Classified By Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. As To Fire and Impact Resistance Rating: Class 350-1 Hr.

\$685⁹⁹

WEED WRENCHES available in 3 sizes (\$90 - \$140) from Tom Ness, 5517 Riverbanks Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527. State Parks employees, Friends of the Coyote Bush and several MWPIA members swear by them. This could be a great neighborhood investment.

Community Relations Report

Much concern has focused lately on the fire danger facing MMWD's watershed lands and nearby homes. Their stuffy sounding Vegetation Management Study is a systematic approach to studying the fire danger. It will evaluate alternative approaches to protecting both wild lands and human life and property. While one of the approaches is prescribed burning, the consultant for the study informed a recent meeting that widespread controlled burning appears to be impractical.

One of the results that has already come out of the study is an evaluation of the relative fire danger for each area bordering on the watershed. Because of wind patterns, slope direction and historic data, our neighborhood is considered to be in the very highest category for risk of a major fire. Keep an eye on this process--the stakes are very high!

In cooperation with Capt. Frank Neer of the County Fire Station, I included a program in the new Tam Area Community Plan mandating the Fire Department to evaluate the adequacy of hydrants and water mains in our neighborhood. MMWD's program to replace old mains is only able to take on a few miles a year of such pipeline work. This means that local residents will probably have to directly pay to upgrade these necessary fire protection facilities. We will have to look into forming local assessment districts to tax ourselves to put up the necessary funds. This is how new development often pays for required hydrants and water mains.

--David Schonbrunn, Chair

Board of Directors Divides the Health & Safety Committee: Creates New Environmental Health Committee

Jim Campbell resigns as Chairman of Public Safety but will continue working on the Committee and on the Board of Directors (See his article below.) Bob Scheibach and Dick Popson take over as Co-Chairmen of Public Safety Committee. Del Goetz will act as interim Chairperson of the Environmental Health Committee.

Health & Safety Committee Report

As announced during the most recent Board of Directors Meeting, I am taking a brief leave of absence from my position as chairman of the committee. The major cause is personal economics, although creeping cynicism is another. I'd rather step back and fine tune some priorities before moving back into the leadership role.

The greatest source of frustration for me, even though it is probably one of the most essential ingredients for a safer community is the development of the neighborhood program. It has been delayed too long. Hopefully there will be some progress in the immediate future with the assistance of other directors and members.

Minimal effort on everyone's part should be some effort to clean up your own yard, getting rid of dead vegetation and breaking the vegetative fire ladder. I know all too well the difficulty of getting rid of yard debris.

Arrangements have been made for a "chipper" to be available at the Clubhouse on May 30--courtesy of the County of Marin. (A donation of \$5 per load would go a long way in supporting MWPIA's efforts to protect our community. Besides, what a deal!)

For all those who can't find the time to become involved as a volunteer in community programs, the least you should do is to "clean up your own act". The lives of your family and neighbors will depend on how well you accept this responsibility.

In the meantime, I urge anyone with an interest in sustaining this community's welfare and spirit to get involved.

--Jim Campbell
Health & Safety Committee Chair (on leave)



MWPIA Community Questionnaire

We want to stay in touch with community attitudes. Your responses to the questions below will help us to achieve that goal. Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

1. Public Safety

MWPIA, in conjunction with various state and local agencies, is exploring the installation of strategically positioned sirens to alert our neighborhood in the event of a disaster. The system would be controlled by fire/sheriff personnel and representatives of our community.

We Support
 Do not support

2. Safety Road Signs

To ensure safety vehicle access, local fire and sheriff personnel have indicated that they will enforce the 12 foot minimum road clearance established by county ordinance.

We Support
 Do not support

3. Environmental Health

We are trying to determine if there is a greater than normal incidence of cancer on the mountain and if there are "cancer clusters" in our area. If anyone in your household (including pets) has or has had cancer we would like to know about it.

We Have no incidence of cancer
 Have had some incidence of cancer
 Would like to know more about the incidence of cancer in our area

IF THERE ARE THINGS YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF OR SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT, PLEASE LIST IN THE BOX BELOW:

Please return to: MWPIA Survey, 40 Ridge Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941



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Address Correction Requested

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