Community Spirit Growing Along with the Scotch Broom

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 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-raise 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  
Kathie 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  
Environmental Health (Interim)  Del Goetz  
Membership  Kathleen Delehanty  
Newsletter  Lila Daniels  
Social  Julie Ley  
Tot Lot  Kathie Heimann

The Mother of All Dinners...

...was served to the liberated yet lovely ladies of our elevated paradise on the recent appropriate weekend. 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

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

        -- Julie Ley, Social Chair

Community Calendar

July  4  MV Centennial Day Parade & Picnic in Old Mill Park - 11:00

MWPIA Clubhouse Calendar

April  24  MWPIA General Meeting: Fire Safety
       25  Ruth Bramell
       26  Carol Davis
May   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
June  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!!
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 3br 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**

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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.

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**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

- 53 9/16"H x 19 5/8"W x 32"D
- Color: Sand
- 4 Drawers, Can Store Legal or Letter Size Documents
- Key Operated Lock on All Drawers
- Fully Extensible Suspension Allows 26" of Filing Per Drawer
- Unique Insulation is Asbestos Free and Lightweight
- Inner Steel Drawer Liners Keep Insulation Out of Documents
- Durable Baked Enamel Paint Finish
- 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.

$685

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
The Lookout

muir woods park improvement association
40 Ridge Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941