

# The Lookout



muir woods park community association

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

## Issue of Fire Safety on the Mountain Heats Up

August/September 1992 Issue

### Fire Flash!!

#### First, the good news:

A siren will be installed shortly at the Throckmorton Ridge Station! Supervisor Gary Giacomini has acted on his pledge of financial support by committing \$3,000 out of his personal budget to help install the siren. Our special thanks for following through.

#### Now for the bad news....

**Throckmorton Ridge Station might be closed due to budget cuts.** (5 of the 7 county stations are being considered for closure, and our station is one of them.)

Now is the time to act! We cannot be left in such a vulnerable position without a fight.

We urge you to send letters to your county and state officials immediately urging them to change the plans and come to our rescue:


Gary Giacomini, Supervisor, Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, CA 94903

Milton Marks, State Senator, 30 N San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

Quentin Kopp, State Senator, 363 El Camino Real, S. San Francisco, CA 94080

This possible closure poses a great threat to our neighborhood's safety. All those concerned should come to the **September 2 Board Meeting** where we will discuss this issue as the first item on the agenda.

For more details see "RED ALERT" article.  
--R. Popson, Safety Committee



**Nostalgia Night  
POTLUCK  
Sat. Sept. 19th**  
6 PM No-Host Bar -- 7 PM Dinner

Come as you were. Learn the history of our part of the Mountain -- "Nut Hill". (Do you know why it's called Nut Hill?)

To coordinate recipes and get details:  
388-8493 Del Goetz

### Looking Forward to Looking Back: Nostalgia Night! : Saturday, September 19

*Nostalgia: 1. A longing for familiar or beloved circumstances that are now remote or irrecoverable. 2. Any longing for something far away or long ago.*

Between now and Saturday, September 19 check for old photos, menus, yearbooks and other momentos to share. It's a potluck dinner, so check your old recipes for those old favorites you've been longing to share with others. Dress accordingly--perhaps some styles from when you or your parents grew up. We may show a videotape: **Steaming Up Mount Tamalpais.**

Contact Del Goetz at 388-8493 for details and to coordinate recipes.

*Volunteer*

*Jim*

## Report from the Environmental Health Committee/Cancer Study Group

To date the committee has been studying households where there has been an occurrence of cancer. Using both modern electronic devices to check the fields of magnetic energy and divining rods to determine water courses, the Committee has found that in a high proportion of the houses there were areas of above normal magnetic fields. On some streets magnetic fields were found below the TV cables. These fields were also detected in the houses. We are not drawing any conclusions about potential hazards, but we have definitely found magnetic fields emanating from power lines, cable lines, and some magnetic fields coming from the ground.

What now needs to be determined is what if any danger occupants of these households face. We do believe at this point that with the information that we now have, there seems to be a possible danger.

We are now considering purchasing a meter for the association so that members wishing to check their houses can rent it for a \$10 fee.

### Suggested Reading:

**WARNING: THE ELECTRICITY AROUND YOU MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH;** How to Protect Yourself from Electromagnetic Fields, by Ellen Sugarman (a former resident in our neighborhood). Simon & Schuster Fireside Books, 1992. Available from The Depot Bookstore in Mill Valley for \$11.00.

If you have any questions call:

Del Goetz	388-8493
Jim Bramell	388-6176
Stella Winn	388-3394

--Jim Bramell, Cancer Study Coordinator

## President's Column: A Mountain Mystery

Recently, a group of friends met for lunch and were describing our Mt. Tam scenic beauty to a visiting guest. After having various landmarks pointed out, the guest asked, "But what are those two white balls on the mountain top?"

The responses were interesting. . .

"They have something to do with radar and airplane guidance," said one.

"There are microwave dishes on the location, and once there were missile sites in place," said another.

Finally, someone noted, "No one really knows what goes on at the station, but if they crank up all that energy, all the Eggo's in Marin County would be cooked - even the Eggo's in freezers." We smiled, and the subject changed to politics or something.

I continued to think about our infamous "golf balls" only five minutes from our community. what really happens there? And how often? What do we really know about those Teflon shrouded geodesic domes surrounded by antennae, communication disks, barbed wire and frequented by unmarked white vans? Should we worry or not? ?? Finally, what are the future plans of the site?

We'll report our findings in subsequent issues.

The enormity and macabre nature of this phenomenon was best described by a Marin County Fireman, who was stationed at the Mt. Tam Lookout for years. He stared at the white spheres, shook his head and said, "Honest to God, I haven't the foggiest about that facility, but I've got four grown kids and they all have the right number of heads, toes and fingers - so maybe it's O.K." --Richard Popson, President

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## Red Alert

We've all just received a letter from the Marin County Fire Department outlining their plans for evacuation this fire season. The letter was sent to all residents of the county. While we applaud this effort, several factors apply (or don't apply) to us homeowners on the mountain--

1) We need a more specific program for our community--one that directly impacts our small neighborhood. Since we're in probably the highest danger area, we need greater help and attention. As you are aware, we've been planning our own communications /alert system that we hope to implement soon.

2) We currently have a partial alert system available. The siren that was once at the Throckmorton Ridge Station is back, and it was successfully tested at the station about a month ago. Jack Rosevear assures us it will be in place and operational before the Labor Day Week End, one of our most dangerous fire hazard periods.

So, again we ask you to write--to either Chief Rowan or Jack Rosevear--immediately c/o Marin County Fire Department, 33 Castle Rock, P.O. Box 518, Woodacre, CA 94973. Telephone: 499-6717. Tell them this is what we want:

- Our fire station
- The siren up and working no later than September 4
- A fire lookout on Mt. Tam
- An increase--not a decrease--in staffing at the station
- A dedicated safety network to alert our residents

--R. Popson, Safety Committee

It's never too late to pay your dues--after all, our association operates on your behalf. What better way to hear about what's happening here on the mountain than via **The Lookout**. Remember, our association is "looking out" for all of us.

## Public Safety Update: Let's Communicate

Recent fire disasters, including the Oakland Hills fire of 1991, has called to our attention the need for every community interfacing with wildland areas to establish a means of evacuation. The primary concern is to allow for prompt, safe and orderly evacuation of fire-threatened citizens and insure that emergency response units are able to gain access to the emergency scene. The coordination of any evacuation requires the ability to deliver information to the public in a prompt, coherent manner to avoid confusion and panic.

The Muir Woods Park Community Association proposes that a Travelers Information Station (TIS) be established at the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station. This system could be immediately activated in time of disaster to assist in the evacuation of the community, including the thousands of potential visitors who use our community as a gateway to State and Federal Park lands.

The TIS would be operated in conjunction with an outdoor emergency siren system and controlled by the Marin County Fire Department both by remote and local access.

Possible consequences of our failure to establish an effective means of direct communication like the proposed dedicated radio system would be extremely hazardous.

Let's not repeat what happened during the Oakland Hills Fire. Let's prepare. Gary Giacomini has pledged to match funds to help get our system in place. Let's take him seriously and take action--before it's too late!

Please give us your comments.

--Bob Scheibach, Co-Chair



## Board Meeting Highlights: July 1, 1992

Board member Kathi Heimann is resigning her seat due to a move to the San Ramon area.

John Hokansen has given estimate of \$500 in materials to replace the Clubhouse shed and repair the fence. the project will be completed with volunteer labor if the Board approves the expenditure.

Neighbors Norm Johnson and John Barnes, who have been clearing broom around the lower parking lot, approached the Board about sharing the costs of removal and replanting. The Board expressed its appreciation, but could not commit money.

James Campbell is creating a proposal for an AM band emergency transmitter to be placed on Mt. Tam as a fire warning/evacuation safety measure. Supervisor Gary Giacomini has agreed to get matching funds from the County. Estimated at \$7000 - \$15,000 this projected expenditure has kept the Board cautious about other financial commitments.

Stella Winn proposed revamping the Social Committee into a series of sub-committees responsible for single events. The new structure is needed to compensate for the loss of Julie Ley, who is retiring to Nevada.

The new Environmental Health Committee is taking a cancer census. Members will also plot the location of power line transformers and get information on the microwave installations on Mt. Tam.

Two-thirds of the MWPCA's voting members returned ballots on the proposed by-laws. Only two negative votes were cast.

The Board will alter its meeting procedures, giving community visitors priority on the agenda and limiting committee reports and discussion to ten minutes each.

## Board Meeting Highlights: August 5, 1992

Kings Way resident Keith Papulias volunteered to assume the seat on the Board that was vacated when Kathi Heimann resigned.

The Board approved the issuing of a check for \$200 to John Barnes as the MWPCA's share of the expense of brush removal along Ridge Avenue.

James Campbell announced completion of the final draft of the EBS proposal. He estimates the cost of the communications system at \$12,542 plus \$200 for the broadcast license.

The Board agreed that a new storage shed is needed. The Finance Committee will determine the feasibility of the project.

Kathleen Delehanty is developing a "Welcome Wagon" kit for area newcomers. The packet includes the newsletter, a membership application, and a phone list.

Within 4-6 months, the MWPCA hopes to acquire Molino Park's surplus playground equipment for the Tot Lot.

David Schonbrunn reported that the Tam Valley Community Plan has been approved, that the DPW has called for bids on repaving portions of Panoramic with one inch overlay.

The Board voted to endorse David's efforts to break the Mill Valley Planning Commission's chain of thinking about legal lots of record, which permits government to grant too many privileges to builders.

The Nominating Committee was assigned the task of recommending replacements for the 1992 Board as well as coming up with a slate of candidates for the 1993 Board.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2 at 8 PM.



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BREAKFAST SAT. & SUN. 8:00 - 11:30

Lynn Barry

## 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
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	Stella Winn & Keith Papulias
Tot Lot	(open)



**LABOR DAY BBQ  
BYOB\* & Dessert  
3 to 7 PM  
MWPCA Clubhouse**

\* Bring your own food to barbeque  
and a dessert to share.

**No Host Bar**

## Clubhouse Rental Rates

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

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

## MWPCA 1992 Calendar

<u>Sept.</u>	6	Lisa Pinsker - private party
	7	Labor Day Barbecue
	9	Environmental Health Committee Meeting
	12	Irwin Friman - private party
	17	Mt. Dwellers Network 5-7 pm
	19	Nostalgia Party Potluck
	20	Nature Friends Octoberfest-- Tourist Club
	25	General Membership Meeting: Environmental Health Program on Electromagnetic Pollution
<u>Oct.</u>	7	MWPCA Board Meeting
	14	Environmental Health Committee Meeting
	15	Mt. Dwellers Network 5-7 pm
	17	MWPCA Octoberfest--Clubhouse
	18	Nature Friends Oldtimers Dinner-- Tourist Club
	23	General Membership Meeting
	24	MWPCA work day
	25	Ellen Jackson - private party
	31	Halloween Party
<u>Nov.</u>	4	MWPCA Board Meeting
	11	Environmental Health Committee Meeting
	13	Annual MWPCA Election Night/ Potluck Dinner
<u>Dec.</u>	6/13	Adult Christmas Party
	19	Children's Christmas Party
	31	New Year's Eve Party

**Mountain Dwellers Network: Thursday, September 17 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Here is another opportunity to get together to share the "thrills and chills" of living and working on the mountain. Those previously attending have found them to be beneficial--we have some impressive neighbors involved in such enterprising activities as financial management, management and organizational development, writers of advertising copy and novels, marine biologists turned general contractors--and more. If you're curious (and you should be...) come join the group.

**Lookout Deadline:** Friday, September 11 is the deadline for the October issue.

## Current Real Estate Listings

Thanks to Kathleen Delehanty at TRI Realtors (388-4516) for this update of listings on the mountain. She says it's a great time to buy (See previous Lookout for current active listings):

### Sold and Closed:

222 Mountain View	4br	3ba	\$429,000
24 Madera	5br	3ba	559,000
284 Panoramic	4br	2.5ba	845,000
214 Panoramic	3br	3.5ba	895,000
332 Panoramic	4br	2.5ba	995,000

### Pending

646 Amaranth	4br	2ba	629,000
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### Active Listings

484 Panoramic (Lot)			200,000
628 Amaranth	3br	3ba	428,000
130 Marin View	3br	2.5ba	465,000
569 Edgewood	3br	2.5ba	499,000
663 Sequoia Valley	3br	2.5ba	609,000
430 Panoramic	4br	3ba	649,000
530 Panoramic	2br	2.5ba	895,000

**This is a great time to buy!** Values have depreciated and loans are better than ever (the lowest in 20 years).

Jumbo Loans 7 7/8% at 2 points

Conforming Loans 7 3/4% at 1 7/8 points

(These figures are quoted from Keith Papulias, our resident mortgage broker here on the mountain. If you have questions, contact him at his home office: 383-0269.)

If you would like an analysis of listing prices compared to sales prices in the area, please contact Kathleen Delehanty at: 383-6350.

## Tick Testing Available at Sonoma County Lab

Bits from ticks carrying the Lyme disease are on the **increase**, especially in Southern Marin County west of Highway 101.

If you wish to have a tick tested, place it in a water moistened piece of cotton swab or paper towel, then enclose in a small plastic bag. Mail to: Sonoma County Public Health Lab, 3313 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Include location where tick came from, date of bite, a return address with telephone number, and a check for \$17 to cover the cost of the test.

## Nominations Committee Seeks Candidates

Anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact Lila Daniels right away at 383-8422. Her committee will submit its nominees for three "at-large" Board Members at the upcoming Board Meeting on September 2.

## Neighborhood Announcements

### Julie Ley's Send-off Party a Success:

Stella Winn thanks everyone for all their help in producing a very successful going away party for Julie Ley. About 60 people attended.

Special gratitude for contributing of time and energy by Barney and Sue Lenheim (decorations and kitchen), Ellen Olson (kitchen), Bob Scheibach (bartender), Michael Reese (decorations and cleanup), Bernie Haag, Howard Winn and Kathleen Delehanty (decorations), and Bob and Emily Clemons (cleanup).

### Here is Julie's thank you letter:

Dear Mountain Folks,

What a great party! Such delicious food. Barney: the "Rouladen" was perfect, also your sauerbraten, Del. Stella and crew: you did great. How nice it was to just relax. Thank you for the "gift" and I'll be sure to let you know what it ends up being.

Hope to see you all at the Nostalgia Party on September 19.

Once I get settled, you'll have to come see me when you're in Reno.

Drop me a note or phone to be sure I'm not off traveling: 2400 Trentham Way, Reno, NV 89509, 702/786-0308.

Thank you, thank you. --Julie Ley

It's never too late to pay your dues--after all, our association operates on your behalf. What better way to hear about what's happening here on the mountain than via **The Lookout**. Remember, our association is "looking out" for all of us.

## Community Relations Report

The Countywide Plan is a complex document that sets forth the direction for future growth in the county. Many interrelated needs must be balanced: protecting the incredible beauty of Marin, providing affordable housing, more jobs and a transportation system that works. The Plan is proceeding through hearings this summer and fall, but probably won't be adopted until next spring. This means that the critical votes in determining the future of our county will come from the 2 winners of the November runoff elections for County Supervisor. Our votes will make a difference!!

The Tam Area Community Plan has completed its hearings before the County Planning Commission and will probably be voted on by the Board of Supervisors in August. The document has passed through a 6 year long trial by endurance, emerging as a good plan, but not one that responds to the perceived crisis. Muir Woods Park has a buildout potential of a 68% increase in homes. The traffic impact on the substandard roads up here and the increase in fire danger is frightening, but, as of yet, we have been unable to get any interest from politicians. Please contact me if you'd like to help with lobbying.

One of the biggest problems with development is that local governments are willing to grant building permits for lots with substandard access: the 10 foot wide pedestrian trails mapped in the original 1911 subdivision. To bring this point into sharp focus, I have joined the residents of Sunnycrest Avenue in appealing a five home development to the Mill Valley City Council, which is based on just such a 10 foot wide street.

--David Schonbrunn, 383-9321

### ***Mail Theft Increases on the Mountain***

Community residents are reporting an increase in mail thefts this summer, so be careful!! One resident even reported that someone stole a new credit card and used it with abandon for several days before the discovery was made. So, alert a friendly neighbor or the Post Office if you plan to be away for a few days.

#### ***Report Mail Thefts***

<b>Marin County Sheriff</b>	<b>479-2311</b>
<b>Mill Valley Post Master</b>	<b>388-8656</b>



## **SAVE MT. TAM BENEFIT DANCE**

**Sat., Oct. 17, 1992  
MWPCA Clubhouse**

**WE NEED TO RAISE \$5000 TO PUT OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY ALERT  
SYSTEM IN PLACE**

**6 PM - NO HOST BAR**

**7 PM - POTLUCK**

**A - M Entrees**

**N - R Salads**

**S - Z Dessert**

**8:30 PM - DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF  
SMOKEHOUSE ANNIE AND  
THE RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS**

**For more information contact:  
Del Goetz -- 388-8493**

## ***Save Mt. Tam Benefit Dance***

Vocalist Annie Whitehurst and her band: "Smokehouse Annie and the Riverboat Gamblers" have donated their talents for a Save Mt. Tam Benefit Dance to be held Saturday, October 17. That is our Octoberfest Potluck night, so plan to dance the night away. Bring your favorite dish and a donation (\$10 minimum per person--you may contribute more you like). Our safety depends on our generosity with each other.

The proceeds of this event will go toward establishing our fire safety communications network which includes the siren and public TIS station at Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station. They will be used for evacuation instructions in the event of a disaster. We need to raise \$5,000 from this event, so plan to invite all your rich friends and neighbors to contribute.

Tickets to the dance will be available in advance from Dick Popson, Del Goetz, and all Board Members.



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# The Lookout

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

**Address Correction Requested**



FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

page 2

PERMISSION TO PICK UP CHILDREN: If we cannot get home by the end of the school day, we have given the school permission to release our children to the following people:

1. NAME	ADDR.	PHONE
2. NAME	ADDR.	PHONE
3. NAME	ADDR.	PHONE

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES: Please mark the equipment, skills, water, and food supplies that you are willing to share in an emergency.

EQUIPMENT: (Note quantity.)

axe  
chainsaw  
hose  
generator  
propane/camp stove  
propane/camp light  
porta-potty  
shovel  
sleeping bag  
tent  
water purifier  
bicycle  
camping trailer  
horse  
motorcycle/trail bike  
RV  
station wagon  
truck  
4-wheel drive  
CB radio  
ham radio  
scanner  
walkie-talkie  
*cellular phone*  
WATER SUPPLIES: (fire, washing)  
hand/gas powered pump  
swimming pool  
hot tub  
water bed

FOOD & DRINKING WATER:

water heater holds \_\_\_ gallons.  
We have \_\_\_ gallons bottled water.  
We have a vegetable garden.  
freezer, \_\_\_ cubic feet

SKILLS: (Name person with skill.)

CPR  
first aid  
nursing  
paramedic  
physician  
child care  
cooking  
counseling  
recreation  
teaching  
CB radio operator  
driver/4-wheel drive  
driver/motorcycle  
ham radio operator  
auto mechanic  
carpenter  
electrician  
plumber  
telephone repair  
tree cutting  
general contractor  
clerical  
clergy  
legal  
Red Cross trained  
runner  
other

EMERGENCY HOUSING: (for those unable to reach a Red Cross/ neighborhood shelter.)

Our home can accommodate \_\_\_ people.

OTHER COMMENTS. For more space, use an additional sheet. or call Virginia Soper at



# Muir woods park community association

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

## NEIGHBORHOOD DISASTER REGISTRY

page 1

The material on page 1 will be shared with the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station. Material on page 2 will be kept by your neighborhood Disaster Liason. Please return the form to Virginia Soper at 696 Panoramic Hwy, Mill Valley, CA. 94941

<u>FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD NAME</u>	<u>Date / /</u>
<u>ADDRESS (street)</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>(mail)</u>	

HOUSEHOLD LISTINGS: Please list likely daytime locations & phone #s for everyone living at this address. Include children's ages, schools, pets' names, and brief descriptions. List special circumstance beside each name. (diabetes, allergies, medications.)

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACTS: One contact should be outside the Bay Area.

1. NAME _____	Addr. _____	Phone _____
2. NAME _____	Addr. _____	Phone _____

UTILITIES: If no-one is at home, I hereby give permission for water, gas, and electricity to be shut off if necessary for the safety of our house and/or the neighborhood.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

UTILITY SHUT-OFFS: Please describe or sketch your house, showing the gas meter, water valve, and circuit box.