

The Lookout

muir woods park community association

40 RIDGE AVENUE OFF PANORAMIC HIGHWAY • MILL VALLEY CALIFORNIA 94541

Fire Station to Remain Open Until March--at Least!!

August 1993 Issue

Fourth of July Brunch on Panoramic a Big Success

Many thanks to Randy Barrow and Ron James for a superb job putting on the Fourth of July Celebration. Over 75 people turned out to have brunch and carry signs expressing our concern about the possible closure of Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station.

The eats were great! Highlights: Ron James, a chef, made croissants; Howard Winn brought his mountain-made wild blackberry jam.

The Parade was a success. Even though we didn't get a parade permit, we drove decorated vehicles along Panoramic, which was itself decorated to the hilt with red, white and blue streamers and flags.

Parade entries: Dr. Arlene Hoffman's 27 Studebaker, Jim Brammel's VW motorcycle, vans: Pat & Erika Teahan and Del Goetz, Les Draper's vintage Ford Mustang, Barney Lenheim's truck and Clif Davenport's auto.

Many people helped with the event:

Del Goetz	Coordinator
Peter Spear	Media
Yvonne Jaffe	Neighborhood Contact
Randy Barrow	Staging
Bernie Moss	"
Alison Shapiro	4 Corners Picnic
Ron James	"
Stella & Howard Winn	"
Dick Popson	Sign Dedication at 4
Barney Lenheim	Corners
Dan Gonzales	Picketing at 4 Corners

Community members helping decorate Panoramic: Keith Papulias, Peter Cunningham, Martha Metzger, Ann Nisson-Hokanson, Virginia Soper, Jim Brammel, Erika & Pat Teahan, Randy Barrow, Ron James, Del Goetz, and Jack Vogensen.

Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station Closing Deferred - For Awhile

MWPCA was out in force for the July 19th Budget Hearings before the County Board of Supervisors. Gary Giacomini was successful in preventing closure--at least until March, but at a potential future cost to taxpayers.

The supervisors want us to pay another \$75/year parcel tax. The MWPCA Board position has been we are already paying taxes to receive these services and we expect the County to cut out the fat in other parts of the budget -- perhaps in the \$4.5 million building maintenance budget.

The parcel tax issue will be discussed at the next MWPCA Board Meeting and will likely be the subject of a General Meeting in the not-too-distant future. The text of our letter to the Board of Supervisors appears inside.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sun., August 29th

9 AM to Noon



MWPCA Clubhouse
40 Ridge Ave.

SAVE. MT. TAM FUNDRAISER

For more information:

Kieth Papulias -- 388-9219

Stella Winn -- 388-3394

**New Community Sign at 4 Corners
Welcomes Visitors Beginning July 4**

Special thanks go to the people for their help in creating and installing our beautiful new sign. It is another reminder for the visitors and our community of the importance of protecting and preserving our beautiful public lands--and our homes:

Design	Dick Popson
Layout & Painting	Del Goetz Sue Lenheim
Construction	Barney Lenheim
Installation	
Randy Barrow	Howard Winn
Sue Lenheim	Keith Papulias
Ron James	Jim Brammel
Peter Hindley	

Jackson's Hardware and Rental in San Rafael deserves special thanks for a *very reduced rate* on the hole auger.

The sign dedication ceremony was part of our Fourth of July Celebration and Brunch on Panoramic.



Open Letter

About six months ago our association took up the fight to keep our Throckmorton Fire Station open and keep service unaffected through the fire season.

This goal was fraught with all kinds of obstacles - state and county bickering; county politics, and the usual ingredient of red tape.

However, our neighborhood closed ranks and took a stand. After countless hours and days of meetings, parades, letter writing campaigns, phone networking, PR contact, we achieved our goal.

We would be happy with our achievement and offer a special "Mountain" thanks to the MWPCA Board and various group/event organizers, parade planners and participants, and the great number of neighbors and members that spoke and wrote from our noble cause.

There is no question that our association and its cause was heard. We again demonstrated that we on the Mountain have a voice that gets attention. Congratulations to us all.

However, some feel less than happy, citing the proposed property tax assessment issue and/or the sales tax continuation as reasons for concern. We should be concerned. Our safety situation is not solved by a long shot.

We are going to continue to have battles with our supervisors, the county and the state for the next several years. And, we will take on these battles as an organization, as we always have.

But, I also think it is important to enjoy our results. Our Fire Station is intact and our objective of six months ago has been met. A nice pat on the back is due us all.

Thanks for your help.

--Richard Popson, President

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Current Real Estate Listings

Thanks to Kathleen Delehanty of Prudential California Realty for this update of listings on the mountain. For more details just call Kathleen at 388-4516. For current interest rates, call Keith Papulias at 388-9219.

New Listings

10 Ridge Avenue	Lot	235,000
120 Marin View	1br 2ba	379,000
40 Marin View	2br 2ba	419,000
130 Sunnycrest	3br 2ba	499,000

Pending

120 Redwood	Lot	99,800
600 Edgewood	2br 2ba	275,000
766 Panoramic	2br 1ba	295,000
16 St. Jude	2br 2ba	359,000
98 Washington Park	3br 2ba	420,000
569 Edgewood	3br 2.5ba	449,000
572 Panoramic	4br 3ba	569,000
2 Sunnycrest	4br 3.5ba	799,000
4 Walsh Drive	4br 3ba	1,295,000

Active Listings

1 Brighton Blvd	3br 2ba	394,500
130 Marin View	4br 2.5ba	439,000
280 Edgewood	3br 2ba	589,000
157 Bay View	4br 3.5ba	950,000
8 Walsh Drive	3br 2ba	1,175,000
6 Walsh Drive	5br 4.5ba	1,495,000

Lots

30 Redwood Ave	50,000
140 Redwood Ave	85,000
9999 Edgewood	200,000
0000 Edgewood	350,000
1 Sunnycrest	375,000
720 Edgewood	450,000

Panoramic All Patched Up

At last, Ghilotti Construction made good on their promise to repair the problem spots after their job repaving job on Panoramic last year.

Special thanks to Gary Giacomini and his office for making sure it happened.



Neighborhood News

Mabel Rae Wharton of 680 Panoramic Highway is currently at the Fifth Avenue Convalescent Hospital, 1601 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael 94909, 456-7170. She is now able to receive visitors and would appreciate hearing from her neighbors. She is recovering from emergency surgery. Our best wishes go for her speedy recovery.

Long-time resident **Greig Gowdy** of One Marin View Avenue died suddenly on Tuesday, July 20th at his home. Gowdy was 55 and a senior partner in the law firm of Landels, Ripley & Diamond in San Francisco. Gowdy is survived by his children Peter of Mission Viejo and James R of Santa Cruz, and his former wife, Catherine Lutes Gowdy of Novato. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Calling All Newspaper Subscribers at Panoramic & Washington Park: Isn't it great to have all your mail and newspapers when you want them? Only trouble is... when costs went over budget, Randy Barrow and Lila Daniels covered the difference out of their own pockets. They're each short about \$100, so if you could contribute a bit more, just make out a check to MWPCA and send it to Lila at 604 Panoramic Highway. Anything extra will be donated to MWPCA. Call Lila at 383-8422.

Environmental Health Committee Report

PG&E, acting on a request from MWPCA to study EMFs in our area submitted a 69-page report and survey of the MWPCA area. A copy of the cover letter is included in this issue.

There are several areas that have very high EMF levels at the poles. We are notifying people living in these areas about the details of the PG&E pole survey report.

There are also areas of AM radio static interference from unknown sources. PG&E is investigating the source and will keep us posted. Two of the three areas with high static interference have cellular phone booster boxes and it is possible they might be a source.

The report is too lengthy to make copies for all who want them. If you would like more information or want to review the report contact any of the following committee members:

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

06/29/93



Richard Popson
Muir Woods Park Community Association
40 Ridge Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Results of action items from 3/18/93 meeting

Dear Richard,

After our March 18 meeting, PG&E left with several items that required our investigation and action. Those items are listed below along with our findings:

- 1) Your new Emergency Broadcast System radio signal is not being clearly received at all the homes within the Muir Woods Park Community Association (MWPCA). Bad reception may in part be due to PG&E electrical facilities in the area.

Resolution: An interference survey of the entire MWPCA area was completed on April 23, 1993 by Don Asay. I've attached Don's written report covering the actions he took and the other interference he discovered (see Attachment #1). I would like to highlight that Don discovered at least three sources of interference that were not related to PG&E's electrical system and appear to be emanating from homes. Please let me know if you would like to speak to or meet with Don to help identify the homes that he has identified as causing the interference.

- 2) You expressed concern about the physical safety of our facilities especially in regards to the connectors and jumpers that we use to connect and splice our conductors.

Resolution: An infra-red scan of the MWPCA area was completed on April 23, 1993. Three problems were found and corrected. Two of the corrections were at connectors on the primary (12,000 volt) conductor and one correction was made at a secondary (120/240v) splice. All of the PG&E employees that were sent out to the MWPCA area were asked to examine our facilities for safety. See Attachment #2 for detailed facility conditions for each transformer and its associated pole.

- 3) You requested that PG&E conduct an EMF survey under each transformer that is serving the MWPCA area.

Resolution: An EMF survey under each transformer in the MWPCA area was completed on June 18, 1993. Also shown on Attachment #2 is a section called "Electric Magnetic Field Measurement". The first entry in this area is called "Reading". This is the Magnetic Field reading directly under the transformer and is measured in milligauss.

- 4) You expressed concerns with our transformers and the possibility that they might contain PCB's. As explained to you in the meeting, if you choose to have a transformer tested and it's found to contain less than 50 parts-per-million (PPM) of PCB contaminated oil, then you will have to pay for the time it took PG&E to obtain the oil and the cost of the test itself. This cost usually runs around \$300 per transformer. If the test shows more than 50 PPM then PG&E will pay all costs related to the testing of the oil and will replace the transformer with one that has non-PCB contaminated oil.

Resolution: We agreed during our March 18th meeting that PG&E would supply you with the best information we have regarding as to when the transformer was manufactured and installed. Attachment #2 shows these two dates in the Electric Magnetic Field Measurement section under the Transformer Information heading. Please note, transformers manufactured or installed after 1978 were filled with non-PCB oil per government regulations.

Please contact me at 415-257-3380 if you have any questions or comments regarding this letter or the attached information. If you choose to have any transformers tested for PCB's, please contact Jerry Morgan at 415-485-6101.

Sincerely,


Brad W. Crotteau, P.E.
Division EMF Coordinator

BWC:mf

cc: DeAnna Hanson
Jerry Morgan
John Newman

MWPCA Board Highlights

President Dick Popson expressed thanks for the many contributions our members made to the success of the July 4 Panoramic event, especially those related to the new sign located at 4 Corners.

Peter Cunningham was introduced as the new resident security person who will essentially serve a role similar to Michael Reiss. Look for Peter's green camper parked outside.

Special plans were discussed for the Board of Supervisors budget approval meetings beginning July 19. MWPCA wants to make sure we keep the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station open with no reduction in service. A special flyer was approved to announce the meeting and to request that attendees wear their red "Save Mt. Tam" T-shirts.

Responses to the letter campaign to our elected officials about the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station were received. Special thanks to Del Goetz for spear-heading that effort.

The Mt. Tam lookout is open and staffed at least part of the time by volunteers.

The Mill Valley City Manager wrote a letter to the County stating there would be no more "mutual benefit" fire assistance from Mill Valley if Throckmorton Ridge were closed.

PG&E finally sent us a fairly lengthy response to our questions/requests concerning EMF levels in our neighborhood. (Refer to the enclosed copy of the letter and the Environmental Health Committee report.)

Barney Lenheim has fixed the broken shutter hanger. Del Goetz offered to donate a file cabinet and get another locking cabinet for storage.

Kathleen Delehanty agreed to chair the Clubhouse Improvement Committee.

The Board approved Keith Papulias' proposal for an MWPCA fund raising event on Saturday, September 25. It will be a jazz dinner show and should net about \$500 for the association.

The Board approved holding a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, August 29.

The Janoff Memorial Plaque has been installed.

It is still planned that Ken Bovero of Marin Arborists will help clear up the debris pile in the MWPCA lower lot.

--Peter Hindley, Recording Secretary

Jazz Dinner Dance Planned: September 25

Featuring the Steven T. Winn Jazz Band (no relation to Howard & Stella Win--that we know of). Keith Papulias will coordinate this major fall event. For more information call him at 388-9219. Details will appear in the next Lookout. For now, just mark your calendar for SEPTEMBER 25th!



T-Shirt Available to Help Keep Our Fire Station Open

There are still bold, red "Save Mt. Tam" T-Shirts available for \$15 each. Be sure to get yours "before it's too late"!

They are a great reminder to our neighbors and friends in other communities in Marin about the importance of protecting our mountain and our homes. Besides, they're *very attractive*--and the money goes directly to Board activities related to protecting our mountain from fire and other emergencies.

For the moment, our Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station is open at its current level of service only through the end of March.

Unless MWPCA visibly continues our efforts by keeping our concerns visible, we may be forgotten in the tangle of competing priorities.

Then, we might be paying a special parcel tax of \$70/year just to keep the station open at our current level of service.

Why buy a T-shirt now to help raise funds. Or, if you prefer, you can make a contribution of \$5 - \$10 now.

Del Goetz, owner of Dowd's Barn at 156 Throckmorton in Mill Valley has graciously agreed to sell shirts at Dowd's.

If you prefer to have one mailed to you, just call Lila Daniels at 383-8422 for details.



muir woods park community association

40 Ridge Avenue, off Panoramic Highway • Mill Valley, California 94941

July 18, 1993

Marin County Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center. San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin County's proposed \$183.5 million budget reflects life in Marin. It points out how much we have taken for granted our life-saving services and how much we've become concerned with amenities.

But, when money gets tight, it's back to basics. We need to re-establish priorities. We need to remember that the reason we chose to tax ourselves was to protect our lives and property.

So, we expect our County Supervisors to maintain the services that we have agreed to tax ourselves to provide.

We expect our County Supervisors to say "NO" to Gov. Wilson's property tax grab. We don't want our property tax money used to bail out an overspending bureaucracy in Sacramento, any more than we want it used to bail out an overspending bureaucracy in Marin.

We expect our County Supervisors to realize that we are not going to be taxed twice for the same services. We will not support any additional parcel taxes. If you need more money for Fire and Emergency Services, you should get it from the Feds. Charge them property taxes or in-lieu fees on all the tax-free land they've taken off our tax rolls while expanding the GGNRA. We're paying our fair share; the State has contributed; but the Federal Park Service must kick in. Either that or charge a "tourist tax" for those who visit the GGNRA. The only way we'll keep our forests is if we have quick-response wildfire protection. The only way visitors to the area will survive an accident is if we have quick-response paramedic service.

These visitors are vital to our economy -- Tourism dollars are a mighty large part of Marin's Economy.

Now, if our parklands burn, just how much tourism money will we lose? Remember, we haven't had a major fire on Mt. Tam in 70 years; we have an immense fuel buildup and you're going to cut wildland fire personnel? Not a wise move for our economy.

Do you have any idea how much a firestorm would cost our county? Do you know how many lawsuits have been brought against the cities of Berkeley and Oakland? Do you know how much it's costing them in staff time to fight that litigation? Do you know the total dollar amount of all those claims? ** Do you think we can afford that kind of liability?

The \$500,000 it will cost to maintain our existing fire and paramedic service is a whole lot less costly and reflects greater fiscal responsibility. How much is a life worth? We have a budget that allows \$4.5 million in building maintenance; \$2.5 million for planning. These functions are simply not as important as one human life.

We ask you to remember that we tax ourselves to protect our lives and property. We want our taxes spend on fire protection and paramedic service. Building maintenance can wait.

Sincerely,

Del Goetz, Vice President

** Contact: Berkeley City Attorney's Office, Bruce Soublet, (510) 644-6380
Oakland City Attorney's Office, Bob Graham, (510) 238-3601

1993 Officers and Board Members

President Dick Popson 388-1135
 Vice Pres. Del Goetz 388-8493
 Treasurer Clif Davenport 383-3892
 Record. Sec. Peter Hindley 388-7252
 Corresp. Sec. Lila Daniels 383-8422

Directors Jim Campbell 381-9320
 Kathleen Delehanty 388-4516
 Les Draper 383-6594
 Keith Papulias 388-9219
 Bob Rydjord 388-3621
 Erika Teahan 388-1122

Standing Committees

Clubhouse Maintenance Peter Hindley
 Public Safety Bob Scheibach/Dick Popson
 Environmental Health Del Goetz
 Newsletter Lila Daniels
 Social Keith Papulias/Stella Winn
 Parents Network Beth Popson/Erika Teahan
 Cancer Cluster Study Jim Bramell
 Mountain Workers Network Peter Spear
 Membership Kathleen Delehanty
 Community Affairs Bob Rydjord
 Sergeant-at-Arms Barney Lenheim
 Disaster Registry Virginia Soper

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.

For Rent from the Association:

Weed wrenches: Rates: \$5 first day; \$2.50 each additional day; \$15/week; maximum rental period: 2 weeks. Call Virginia Soper at 383-1941.

Field meter to measure EMF's: \$10/day. Contact Jim Bramell at 388-6176. Not a bad price when you consider the 2-week plus wait list to go through PG&E.

MWPCA 1993 Calendar

Aug 4 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00
 MWPCA Board Meeting 8:00 PM
 7 Gene Groves
 11 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00
 Environmental Health Committee
 8:00 PM
 18 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00
 21 Roger Lotz/Eva Del Campo
 (wedding)
 25 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00
 29 MWPCA Pancake Breakfast

Sept 1 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00
 MWPCA Board Meeting 8:00 PM
 8 Environmental Health Committee
 8:00 PM
 15 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00
 18 or 24 General Meeting
 19 Oktoberfest at Tourist Club
 22 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00
 25 Papulias Fund Raiser
 29 Kids Play Group 10:00 - 1:00

Classified Ads

One bedroom furnished cottage for rent while owner is in Europe (3-6 months). \$750/month to caring, non-smoking tenant. Call June Heaslip at 388-2782.

Au Pair: Austrian girl (18-19) would like to stay with a family for 1 year starting in September in exchange for looking after small kids. Eva speaks some English. Contact Sue Lenheim at 383-1447. **Deadline** for next Lookout: September 4.

"Save Mt. Tam" T-shirts are available for sale through Del Goetz at Dowd's Barn at 157 Throckmorton in Mill Valley. Price is \$15 each and all the proceeds go toward MWPCA's fire safety activities. If you prefer to order by telephone, call Lila Daniels at 383-8422 for details.



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Address Correction Requested