

**Stronger Together: Neighbors Helping Neighbors to Build
Connected, Prepared, and Resilient Communities**

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Matt Cramer, Resident & Advocate, Sycamore Village



Matt worked in the gourmet food industry before spending nearly 20 years at Marin Municipal Water District, retiring in 2017 as a Customer Service Field Inspector. While serving on MMWD's Safety Advisory Committee, he developed the Employee Emergency Backpack Program, which became a model for Mill Valley and other Marin County cities and towns.

**Leah Curtis, Preparedness and Education Coordinator
Southern Marin Fire Protection District**



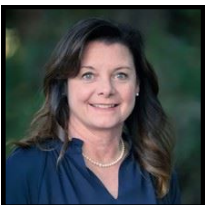
Leah, a certified Fire and Life Safety Educator, manages the Southern Marin Neighborhood Response Group program, promoting neighbors helping neighbors for disaster resilience. She also oversees SMFD's public education, training, outreach events, and its involvement in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. smfd.org

**Dr. Meg Foley McCabe, Executive Director of Programming
Fire Safe Marin**



Meg enhances community engagement for Fire Safe Marin through video production, graphic design, and education. A founding member of the Ecologically Sound Practices Partnership, she pioneered online education, authored Essentials of Online Teaching (2018), and has taught at Columbia, Maryland, and Reading University. firesafemarin.org

Caroline Joachim, Councilmember, City of Mill Valley



Caroline represents the Council on key Marin County committees and has launched initiatives like Neighborhood Chats, the Beautification Brigade, and Live Well Mill Valley. A practicing attorney, she serves on multiple boards and remains active in local volunteer and civic organizations. cityofmillvalley.gov

John Power, Executive Director, Marin Villages



John became Marin Villages' executive director in May 2021 after decades in community-building, nonprofit development, and volunteer engagement. He led The Volunteer Center in San Francisco for 20 years, launching the national Board Match, and previously served as Deputy District Director for Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. marinvillages.org

Moderated by Dick Spotswood, Marin IJ columnist



Dick is the politics and government columnist for the Marin IJ and a retired attorney. A former Mill Valley City Council member and three-term mayor, he also served as a Golden Gate Bridge District director. He has led numerous civic organizations, including Rotary Club of Mill Valley and College of Marin Foundation, and is chair emeritus of The Sacramento Seminar. marinij.com

LEARN CONNECT GROW

Stronger Together: The Power of Knowing Your Neighbors

In times of crisis, the people who can help first are often the ones living next door. But strong neighborhoods aren't just about emergencies—they're about everyday connections that make our communities safer, more resilient, and more engaged.

When we take the time to know our neighbors, we create a network of support that benefits everyone. We look out for one another, share resources, and step up when help is needed.

Whether it's preparing for disasters, discussing local issues, or simply lending a helping hand, these connections strengthen the fabric of our community. The more we engage, the more we thrive—**because when neighbors unite, amazing things happen!**

Ready Marin

readymarin.org/neighborhood-response-groups

Easily connect with neighbors during times of disaster or stress by creating a Neighborhood Response Group.

readymarin.org/5-simple-steps-to-get-ready

Five simple steps to create a disaster plan for your family and neighborhood.

Alert Marin

emergency.marincounty.gov/pages/alertmarin

Receive critical information and potentially life-saving instruction via phone calls, texts, or emails from the AlertMarin Emergency Notification System.

Fire Safe Marin

firesafemarin.org/articles/wildfire-retrofitting-guide/

Information on retrofitting strategies to reduce the risks of ignition during a wildfire, potentially saving your home from burning.

Save the Date! | April 27 | 3:00-5:00 pm

Aging in Marin: Tips & Insights to Help You and Your Loved Ones Thrive

Westminster Events provides respectful forums of diverse and informed points of view for those seeking to better understand important issues of interest to Marin County, thereby helping people to learn, connect and grow.



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