

Welcome to the Inaugural Electronic DBCNA Newsletter

For this Spring newsletter, we thought we would try sending it via email to those addresses in our membership database as well as those who have subscribed to receive our emails. In addition, we will notify the neighborhood with signage at Grand & Linden and Grand & Jewell when the newsletter is available to read on the DBCNA Website.

As you will read from your Treasurer's report noting where your membership dues go, we needed to find an alternate way to deliver the semi-annual newsletter to the neighborhood. It costs a tremendous amount for printer fees and copying, as well as our volunteer base for hand delivery is dwindling.

As with all changes we make, we ask the Association membership to offer your opinion on the change. So, please take a moment to respond to DBCNA.Info@gmail.com if you like reading your newsletter on the website; sent to you personally via your email; or receiving a hard copy hand delivered to your home?

Thank you for taking the time to let us know your thoughts.

DBCNA Board of Directors

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Announcements:

New Dominican Neighbors Chat Group. One of our talented neighbors has set up a new communication tool on to share neighborhood-related information. Neighbors of Dominican – chat.whatsapp.com

Farewell to our Association Board President, Kathy Burwell

Our neighborhood was the benefactor of clear and dogged leadership during the challenges of the pandemic lockdown. Kathy rose to the times, looking at traditional operations and expanding such ideas to our future support of all neighbors in DBCNA. Unfortunately for all of us, she is has moved outside of Marin County. It is with great appreciation and gratitude for all her much to short, from our perspective, time of insightful and productive leadership. Thank you to Kathy. She is missed.

Financial Operations and Funding of DBCNA

An Update from DBCNA Treasurer

I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts on the current state of the financial operations of DBCNA and underscore the critical need for funding, especially among our esteemed association members.

As we embark on this journey to fortify our financial stability, I've crafted a tailored approach that squarely focuses on our association's core value proposition. It's all about leveraging our strengths and tapping into key principles to not only bolster membership but also to secure the vital funds we require.

First and foremost, let's hone in on what sets us apart—the essence of community and the promise of enjoyable experiences for our members. Our primary value lies in fostering a sense of camaraderie and fun within our neighborhood. By making “fun & valuable” a central theme across all our endeavors, we not only make membership more appealing but also forge stronger bonds within our community.

Moreover, I wanted to highlight that Association Membership dues are in essence donations to DBCNA which is a non-profit organization. This is a compelling tax benefit for the vast majority of community members who are affluent and mass affluent which may help lower their tax bill. (This is not a tax advice, please seek counsel of your tax professional)

I eagerly anticipate delving deeper into these strategies with all of you and exploring additional avenues to fortify the financial foundation of our association. Together, we can ensure a thriving future for DBCNA.

Sam Timilsina

Value Proposition	Focus Areas
Fun	- Regular community events like block parties, movie nights, and BBQs - Organized sports leagues and tournaments for all ages
Safety	- Neighborhood watch program with regular patrols and updates - Collaboration with local law enforcement for crime prevention
Giving Back	- Volunteer opportunities with local charities and initiatives - Fundraising events for community projects and causes
Community	- Online forums and social platforms for neighbor interaction - Monthly meetings to discuss concerns and initiatives
News	- Weekly newsletters with updates on local events and news - Dedicated website or app for accessing community information
Initiative	- Encouragement and support for resident-led projects and ideas - Recognition programs for individuals making positive contributions

DBCNA Mission & Values

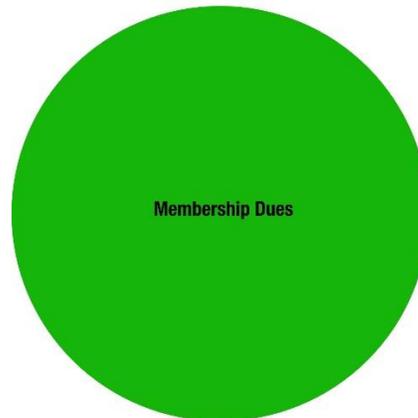


DBCNA Annual Operational Expenses



*Minimum required amount for operation (\$7900)

DBCNA Funding Source



* Current Funding Shortfall (\$4869.96)

DBCNA - Firewise Committee Plans Evacuation Drill, September 21, 2024

One of the major aims of the DBCNA Firewise Committee is to encourage Dominican Black Canyon residents to be prepared to evacuate immediately if ordered by public safety agencies.

Residents should be as familiar as possible with important topics such as alert and warning systems, checklists and go bags, handling pets and animals, power failures during emergencies, family wildfire action plans, and knowing evacuation routes. Our neighborhood's location in a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and its limited ingress and egress routes for our 950 properties make these topics particularly critical.

To help all of us focus on readiness, the DBCNA Firewise Committee is planning a full-scale evacuation drill on **Saturday, September 21, 2024**. Neighbors will prepare their belongings, then gather and meet at 10:00am – 10:30am at Dominican University Conlan Athletic Facility parking lot at 1475 Grand Avenue. Fire department specialists, Firesafe Marin ambassadors, and San Rafael elected officials will be in attendance. Kids are welcome and fun things are planned. A San Rafael Fire Department truck will be on site.

We welcome any neighbors who would like to be involved in event preparation for September 21. We also would like to encourage residents to consider serving as "Neighborhood Representatives" - volunteers responsible for advising and helping a manageable number of immediate neighbors, conveying information about preparedness, prevention, and emergency mitigation measures.

We encourage all residents to take full advantage of the many resources available online through the Firesafe Marin website, or by phone. Examples:

Evacuation check list: <https://firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself/evacuation-guide/evacuation-checklist/>

Prepare yourself: <https://firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself/>

Alerts and Warmings: <https://firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself/get-alerts-safety-updates/>

Living with Fire: https://firesafemarin.org/content/uploads/2013/03/FSM_2019_living_with_fire_FINAL_V2_WEB.pd.



In preparations for September 21, we encourage residents to attend a major event on September 7 at the Marin Civic Center -**Ember Stomp**- where they can learn about being part of a fire-adapted community and can prepare for wildfire. At our DBCNA Firewise Committee table we can gather and share information. All will enjoy the music, entertainment, exhibits, vendors and models of native gardens and fire safe homes.

Over the next five months, the DBCNA Firewise Committee will be communicating with you through the website and emails. Please get back to us with your interest in helping, learning more, or for any further resources and assistance.

Belle Cole, Chair, DBCNA Firewise Committee

DBCNA.FireWise2@gmail.com

415-847-8479

Recruiting for Firewise Neighborhood Reps

The Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association (DBCNA) Firewise Committee is carrying out a full-blown Evacuation drill on Saturday September 21, 2024. In anticipation, we are now recruiting Neighborhood Representatives (Reps) to become part of our preparation for this event and in any future event.

Neighborhood reps are part of a rapid-response network essential in the event of a wildfire in the DBCNA area. They have responsibilities in advance of an event and during an emergency.

The first step for Rep volunteers is conferring with the Firewise Committee to select a manageable number of immediate neighbors (8-15). The Rep then puts together contact information on how to reach each of these neighboring homes by phone, text, and email.

Reps will:

1. Facilitate communicating messages and follow-up about personal preparedness, prevention, and emergency mitigation measures.
2. Identify those neighbors with medical vulnerabilities, those living in hard-to-reach housing, and those who lack telephone or email access.
3. Assist first responders whose job it is to mobilize residents quickly to evacuate and find a safe meeting spot.
4. Serve as an integral part of the DBCNA Firewise Committee where they will have access to valuable materials they can share with their neighborhood, including in-print-resources, and Fire Safe Marin videos.

Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a neighborhood representative or know someone else who might be. It's not a time-consuming job but is essential to our effectiveness. You might like this opportunity to engage with your immediate neighbors and others in our Firewise community.

Thanks in Advance!

Belle Cole, Chair of DBCNA Firewise Committee

DBCNA.FireWise2@gmail.com

Ralph Daniel, Neighborhood Rep lead

DBCNA.FireWise2@gmail.com



An Update from Save Dominican Valley

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our efforts. *If you have not yet, please consider a donation.* We will need significant funds in order to work through the application process and ensure that we are able to respond to the City and developer in a timely and informed manner. Checks can be made out to "Save Dominican Valley" and sent to:

P.O. Box 4135, San Rafael, CA 94913

Please continue to send letters to the City Council and Planning Department voicing your concerns – the more constituents they hear from, the better.

Many thanks for your continued help and support! For additional information, please visit our website: savedominicanvalley.com



A Mystery to be solved in the Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood

Where, oh where do our little orange flags go?
 Oh where, oh where can they be?
 With their bright orange waving cloth
 And their alert signal to all
 Oh where, oh where can they be?

We thought they went south for the winter
 To keep their color bright
 And when we expected them to return
 We didn't see a single one

Where, oh where have our little orange flags gone?
 Oh where, oh where can they be?
 With their bright orange waving cloth
 And their alert signal to all
 Oh where, oh where can they be?

We last saw them waving in their buckets at Jewell, Locust, and Belle
 Waving at the cars driving by
 But we can't see them anymore
 They just can't seem to be found

Perhaps the warmer climates may know
 They may have been seen by them
 Who knows when they might come back to their home
 But we know not where to look

Where, oh where have our little orange flags gone?
 Oh where, oh where can they be?
 With their bright orange waving cloth
 And their alert signal to all
 Oh where, oh where can they be?

Check Out Link to Public Art Works in Marin!

From the famous seal sculpture in Sausalito to the Buddha Barn in Point Reyes Station, the map includes murals, sculptures, art installations, painted utility boxes, mosaics, and fountains. It's all free for the community to discover, engage, enjoy and celebrate Marin's rich art profile. The map- now a featured link on the [Marin County Department of Cultural Services webpage](#)- is searchable by city or town, or by art type, and includes over 150 listings!

Viewers are encouraged to add to the database as they discover public artworks around Marin by filling out an online form.

For Marin's residents of all ages, exposure to the arts fosters young imaginations and facilitates children's success in school. It provides critical thinking, communications, and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century work force. Participation in arts programs and events boosts confidence and improves academic outcomes. In addition, older adults who engage in the arts report better physical and mental health, fewer doctor visits, and higher rates of social engagement.

So, check out this link to Marin Public Art: <https://experience.arcgis.com>



A Message from Dominican: Get to know us!

The connections between the University and the neighborhood are longstanding and vast. Beyond inviting neighbors to enjoy our beautiful campus, each year we welcome hundreds in the community to our summer camps, our recreation center, our public lectures, and our dining facilities. Our students babysit in neighbors' homes, tutor and coach in neighborhood schools, and work for local businesses.

That being said, we recognize that many neighbors may know little about the University and our students. Founded in 1890, the University was established to provide a meaningful and robust educational experience to students, then as the all-women's Dominican College. In the 134 years since our founding, we have grown into a coeducational University awarding bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in more than 40 programs. Recently designated a federal Minority Serving Institution (MSI), Dominican educates an increasingly diverse population; 68% of our students are students of color More than 25% of our students are the first in their families to attend college More than 95% of our students receive financial support from the institution Over 30% of our students are Pell grant eligible (highest financial need)

In recent years we have developed a nationally recognized educational model that is effective for all students, particularly those who are first-generation, from diverse backgrounds, or are low-income students. Our work has resulted in strong retention and graduation rates. Since Fall 2011, the percentage of undergraduate students of color attending Dominican has increased by about 30%. During this time, the University's graduation rates have steadily increased across the student population. Dominican's four-year graduation rate is 27 points ahead of the national average and more than double that of the California State University system.

In recent years, Dominican has strategically cultivated and/or expanded partnerships with schools and education-affiliated nonprofits with the goal of making a Dominican education accessible to all, and especially for underrepresented students from Marin County. Currently, about 10% of our undergraduates and 14% of the university's master/doctoral students are from Marin - with a few of those being our neighbors! We are extremely proud of these accomplishments and hope that you are too.

If you would like to know more about your local neighborhood University, be sure to check out the news and events section of our website at www.dominican.edu/news and see what is happening with Penguin Athletics at www.dominicanathletics.com.

You can also follow us on your preferred social media platform:

- Instagram [@dominicanuniversityca/www.instagram.com/dominicanuniversityca/](https://www.instagram.com/dominicanuniversityca/)
- Facebook at www.facebook.com/DominicanUniversityofCalifornia
- Youtube at www.youtube.com/user/dominicanpenguins

ALERT – Neighborhood Resource is at Risk

There was a time not too long ago when neighbors and visitors to the area could walk through the Dominican University campus and enjoy the peaceful grounds nestled within our community. The University is first and foremost a campus that serves its students and staff and has always been very gracious to welcome visitors. This could also be said for people walking their dogs – but access to campus grounds may be in jeopardy if behavior and actions do not change.

Although, the majority of campus visitors are respectful of University’s policies, it has been brought to the attention of DBNCA the actions by and inconsiderate behavior of a few dog owners is placing the neighborhood at serious risk of losing access to these privately held grounds unless changes are made immediately. The issues at cause are namely those owners who turn their head away from the signage and ignore the request that dogs must be on a leash at all times (with a person holding that leash). These signs are posted visibly on campus, yet on the weekend as well as during the week, any hour of any day, dogs can be found off leash roaming the lawn and surrounding areas while their owners are nearby socializing with other owners or otherwise distracted and seemingly unaware of their dog’s behavior or actions. Campus Security staff routinely request owners to put their dog on leash, but it has been observed, as soon as Campus Security leaves, the leash comes off.

There have been aggressive encounters with loose dogs, as well as last month the University reported a student was bitten by a dog off leash. Additionally, the dog waste is not being picked up. Just the other day, it was witnessed as an owner (while chatting on her phone) watched her big dog defecate next to the pathway and then when the dog was done, she simply walked away. This waste causes a tremendous hazard to the landscaping crew as well as those walking the lawn and surrounding areas. Nothing is worse than catching a whiff of something on the bottom of your shoe and the endless time it takes to clean off the stench. Please also be sure to not leave your full “poop” bag on the sidewalk or along the path home.

We need to do a better job of respecting the University’s property. We need to do a better job of respecting the University’s request that dogs be on a leash at all times. We need to do a better job of being responsible dog owners. It is first and foremost private property and the University has every right to say – we are done asking – before our privilege of accessing the University is taken away.

Let’s be proactive now before we no longer have a choice.



NEIGHBORHOOD WALKERS Needed!

As you all know because you are reading this, our DBCNA newsletter has been emailed to our membership and is now available on our website. For decades, they were hand-delivered by a dedicated corps of walkers, some of whom have been doing it for years, or even decades. The fact that our newsletters are now primarily web based, doesn't mean we don't occasionally have things which need to be distributed by hand, as we did in January of this year, with an invitation to the Annual Cocktail Party (a good time was had by all!), a letter and discount card from Dominican University, and an envelope for residents to snail-mail in their dues.

As someone who volunteered to coordinate the walkers over a year ago, but doing it for the first time in January, I learned a lot. I want to again thank those who helped and make yet another pitch for this win-win activity.

The neighborhood wins because you are providing a service, something few other neighborhood associations still do. This is a valued service to residents knowing that fellow neighbors occasionally come down their street to drop off important information from our neighborhood association. And each walker wins; they get to know their neighborhood better, get floral and landscaping ideas from neighbors' homes and get exercise (with or without a dog!). And most importantly, you feel connected by providing this service to your neighbors.

The DBCNA does need more volunteers to help collate, organize, and walk our neighborhood when special events such as the noted Annual Cocktail Party needs to be publicized. We may ask for the walkers for their services before next January.

In the future, I will have lined up:

1. collation parties arranged on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon
2. have walkers arranged who will deliver designated stacks of packets on specific routes of several dozen homes.

So, please let me know if you are interested in helping to assemble or distribute important neighborhood information that is not learned elsewhere and do a neighborhood service of careful folding and stapling, instead of or in addition to:

Call me, Greg Brockbank, or text me at 415-717-7056, or email me at greg@marinlawcenter.com if you have any questions.



The Marin Chipper Program is Back!

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority is happy to announce that the Chipper Program has returned for 2024. The program provides for the curbside pickup, chipping, and disposal of vegetation materials from residential properties. This service is funded by Measure C for wildfire prevention and is available to all residents within Marin Wildfires’ joint powers service area.

During the 2023 season, the program completed over 4,400 pickups and removed over 14,200 cubic yards of vegetation from residential properties. 90% of the participant rated their experience a 5 out of 5.

The 2024 program is returning with a similar schedule as last year, along with a few new features that will improve the participant experience. Below is a list of programs:

What to know for 2024:

- In 2024, the program will start in early April and run through mid-November, resulting in six pickup opportunities for all residents within Marin Wildfire’s service area.
- This year the pickup window will be tighter. Resident must take note of whether their pickup event states if they have a Monday-Wednesday pickup OR a Wednesday-Friday pickup.
- Like last year, reservations are always required to receive service.
- Participants must abide by ALL [program rules and regulations.

To learn more about the program and make a pickup reservation, please visit: chipperday.com/marin

Neighborhood Update:

Speed Humps: In the last newsletter, the residents were asked to voice their opinion on adding speed humps to Mountain View, Locust, and Villa Avenues. Thank you to all who took the time to share your thoughts. As we did not a majority, we are working with the City for alternative measures to help bring awareness to vehicle speed as well as obeying traffic laws. We will update you as more information comes available.

Restricted Parking: Based on recommendations from the SRFD, restricted parking areas are continuing to be identified and implemented on our narrow street. If you have questions or a particular concern, please feel free to write to DBCNA.info@gmail.com. We will do our best to answer any questions or put you in touch with the SRFD officer overseeing the project. Thank you for your patience.

Association Membership:

Please consider becoming a member of the Association. You may either complete this form or you may go online to our website dominicanareanews.com and pay with PayPal. This form can also be used to bring your membership current. Directions for both avenues of payment are noted below.

If you are interested in becoming a committee or Board Member, please reach out to us at DBCNA.Info@gmail.com. We will reply promptly. Your participation would bring great value to our neighborhood.

Date: _____

Please complete this registration form. (One form per household)

If renewing, kindly indicate any changes – otherwise provide only **mobile and landline telephone numbers**.

NEW MEMBERSHIP **RENEWAL** **Check if any changes to email/phone**

SECTION 1: MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME			
Additional Name			
ADDRESS		LANDLINE PHONE	
TOWN/CITY	San Rafael	MOBILE PHONE	
ZIP CODE	94901	PRIMARY EMAIL	
		Additional EMAIL	

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENT DETAILS

	DESCRIPTION	MEMBERSHIP DUES (Annual)
Membership	Household Membership	\$40
Optional Donation	Optional Donation	
	Total	
PAYMENT METHOD	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Online Payment	

To pay online with PayPal: Go to <https://dominicanareanews.com/> or scan the QR Code

To pay by check: Send this form with a check made payable to:

DBCNA, P.O. Box 151702, San Rafael, CA 94915-1702



SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition, to stay up to date on our latest news and events, please join our **Mail-Chimp** mailing list here:

<https://dominicanareanews.com/>

Please indicate if you would be willing to help with any of the activities listed below:

- Social Events Deliver Newsletters Write newsletter or web articles Firewise Preparedness
 Safety Committee Web Postings Membership Committee Serve on the Board
 Other _____

Thank you for being a member!