



See Something...Say Something 415-479-2311

The Communicator

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association

March/April 2017

March 2017

25 – FZ7 Meeting – 9-11 am Pump Station Open House; call Jon Liang 415-473-6215 for details.

28- **SVNA Community Meeting.** Energy Upgrade California 7pm Korean Presbyterian Church, 635 Adrian Way.

31 – Good Friday

April

1 – April Fools Day

2 – JCC Bhangra Dancing 11am

8 – Easter Egg Hunt at Castro Field 10am

8 – **Second Saturday Medians Workday.** 9am-noon. Call Nanni for meeting location, 472-3269.

15 – Rain Date **Easter Egg Hunt** at Castro Field 10am

16 – Easter

22 – JCC Paula Poundstone 8pm

25 – Tentative **BOS Meeting**, re Parking Restrictions in SV

29 – **Northbridge Pool Opens**

May

TBD May or June **Pueblo Park celebrates new tennis courts!**

6 – **Yoga in the Park** at McNear's Beach 10am-2pm

11 – Deadline for submitting **entry forms for Marin County Fair.**

13 – **Second Saturday Medians Workday.** 9am-noon. Call Nanni for meeting location, 472-3269.

13 – **JCC Blame Sally.** 8pm

14 – **Mother's Day**

20 – **JCC Hapa** 8pm

29 – **Memorial Day**

June

6/8 to 9/8 **Frank Lloyd Wright Doghouse** on display at Civic Center

6/17 – **SVNHN Yard Sale**

6/30 – 7/4 – **Marin County Fair!**



22nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Once again, James A. Walsh Real Estate and the SVNA will sponsor this year's eggciting Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Castro Field. There will be divisions for toddlers to 11 year olds – AND a special adults division. Please use the entrance between 62 and 64 Vendola. And don't forget, volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

Date: Sat., April 8, 10am. Expect a hopping-good visit from America's First Bunny to our green and lush park — perfect for hiding tons of eggs (more eggs every year!). Let's hope for sunshine for our egghilarating bunny event—even hard-boiled participants can get rained out.

Rain Date: Sat., April 15, 10am if it should happen to rain on April 8.



Parking Ordinance/ Restrictions Coming to Santa Venetia

• Mary Hanley, SVNA Land Use

For the past few years, the SVNA has been addressing issues and complaints regarding the south shoulder of North San Pedro Road between La Pasada and (east) Vendola Drive. The number of vehicles and commercial trucks has increased immensely. It only worsened when the City of San Rafael enacted their own Parking Ordinance restricting oversized vehicles within the city limits (July 2016). We saw those trucks move to a new location – on North San Pedro Road. This situation has now become a safety hazard.

Last August, the shoulder was closed for clean-up, repair, and mowing for the month. The majority of trucks left the neighborhood while the work was ongoing. We know the majority of these trucks are from outside the neighborhood, simply using our streets as storage.

There has been a lot of outreach on this subject: The SVNA Board has discussed this issue frequently with Supervisor Damon Connolly. The Santa Venetia Parking Committee met on several occasions to problem-solve. The SVNA, with our Supervisor and County Staff, has held two public meetings on this issue. The SVNA Communicator has had several articles on this subject. And as well, DPW just recently flyered vehicles parked along

Upcoming Meetings – Hold the Dates!

• **Saturday, March 25 at 9am**

FCZ #7 Community Open House

Learn how stormwater pumps and levees work together to protect our neighborhood from major flooding. Join your Flood Control Zone #7 Advisory Board and County Staff at our Pump Station Open House. We'll provide the coffee! Saturday, March 25, 9am – 11am, at Santa Venetia Pump Station #5. For directions and more information: <http://tinyurl.com/zjojmz> or call Jon Liang, 415-473-6215.

• **Tuesday, March 28 at 7pm**

SVNA Community Meeting – Energy Upgrade California

Soaring Electric Bills Stun Residents –was the headline in the Marin IJ in March and as well, the topic of many conversations in Santa Venetia online and on the street.

So we've asked Kellen Dammann, with the Marin County Community Development Agency's Sustainability Team, to join us to talk about sustainability programs and energy efficiency programs that are available to Marin County residents. They work to support healthy, safe and sustainable communities while preserving Marin's unique environmental heritage. The team has developed programs to promote renewable energy, address climate change, encourage green building, recognize green businesses and implement energy efficiency projects to ensure the County of Marin is healthy, vibrant and sustainable for many generations into the future.

Have you been looking for ways to make your home more comfortable and have better air quality, all while saving money on monthly utility bills? He's got some information and suggestions on how to make that happen!

Santa Venetia Community Plan Is a Reality!

• Linda Levey

For many years, and many times, Santa Venetia approached the County for our own Community Plan. We've documented attempts as far back as 1986! In 2002, we tried again and a Committee was formed. Santa Venetia neighbors discussed, met, cajoled, and pleaded with the County, but it never panned out... until 2007. As a neighborhood working on the County Wide Plan with the County and meeting with our then Supervisor Susan

Continued on page 8

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Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association
PO Box 4047, San Rafael, CA 94913-4047 www.thesvna.org

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Could this be you?



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SVNA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

- Bella Santa Venetia: **COULD THIS BE YOU?**
- Land Use: MARK WALLACE, LINDA LEVEY
- Median Crew: NANNI WURL
- Membership: LINDA LEVEY
- Neighborhood Watch: **COULD THIS BE YOU?**
- Newsletter: LINDA LEVEY
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- Social Activities: NICOLE CIBELLIS-ANDREWS
- Traffic & Roads: GARY ROBARDS, gary.robards@gmail.com
- Watershed: RUSS GREENFIELD

ADVISORY BOARDS

- Dredging (CSA #6): ELLEN STEIN sfskyway@hotmail.com
- Emergency Services (CSA #19): MARK WALLACE, NANNI WURL
- Flood Control Zone (FCZ #7): JACKIE GARCIA, jacqueline.garcia@gmail.com, 415-492-1898, RUSS GREENFIELD
- Parks (CSA #18): LINDA LEVEY, GINA HAGEN, NANNI WURL

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for articles and ads for the May/June issue is May 1, 2017. Email text to editor Linda Levey, linda@santavenetia.org, 415-499-3411. Put **SVNA** in the subject line of email.

Advertising Rates Paid-up SVNA residents can advertise and support *The Communicator*. Buy a 3-1/2x2" ad. Ads in the big Jan/Feb issue are \$60 and the issue is mailed to all 1800 homes; ads in the other 5 issues are \$30 each. Pay one issue at a time or get one free issue by paying a year in advance—only \$180 for the whole year, 6 issues, and receive FREE 4-color on the SVNA website and in the display case.

For ad specs, contact Norma Novy, normanovy@comcast.net, 415-499-9409.

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association Mission Statement

To preserve and promote the quality of life of the Santa Venetia community. This is achieved through encouraging healthy social interaction; facilitating the flow of information; and protecting the natural beauty and economic well being of the community.

Photo credits: Alex Kahl, Linda Levey, Jon Curtis, Joyce Clements, Norma Novy, Gina Hagen
• Thanks to Ann Thompson for the Communicator masthead design and artwork for Mt. Tam/Miwok Indian tribute, to Jok Church for the original SV logo design, and to Joel Lau for revising it. **Articles in this newsletter represent the opinions and ideas of the authors, and may not reflect the views of SVNA or its Board. While this newsletter aims to best represent information that is useful to the community, please note that SVNA reserves the right to edit submissions for both accuracy and clarity.**

From the President



March is my favorite month for lots of reasons. First of all, it is my wife's birthday and our wedding anniversary. March also happens to be my mom's birthday month, so it gives me plenty of reasons to celebrate.

But I love it for other reasons as well. March is the month people like me who have been hibernating all winter slowly wake up

and open our eyes to see what is new in the world. The rains are subsiding and the full effect of Spring awaits us.

Santa Venetia has plenty of things taking place that are popping open just like the flowers coming into bloom all around. If you have not seen our approved Community Plan, I believe you will be pleasantly surprised with it. It really says a lot about our history and identifies the things we treasure. The Plan allows us to have more control and will preserve Santa Venetia years ahead.

In January we had the biggest turnout of a SVNA meeting I have ever seen. The sanctuary of the **Korean Presbyterian Church** was entirely filled up. Of course the crowd was there to hear **Supervisor Connolly** give his "State of the County/District" address, but most stayed for the parking on North San Pedro Road discussion. As a result, soon we will be seeing improvements along North San Pedro Road. The parking there was not an easy issue to resolve. Many thanks to everyone who gave input and voiced their ideas during the process. I believe we will see a safer Santa Venetia as a result.

The County Flood Zone 7 staff will be hosting an open house Saturday, March 25 at pump station #5 from 9am to 11am. For more information call **Jon Liang** 415-473-6215. Come out and tour one of our pump stations and see what goes on to protect Santa Venetia from flooding. Speaking of flooding, other than some minor ponding of surface run-off in a few isolated areas, I never once noted any flooding. Hats off to the efforts of County Staff who did a marvelous job protecting us during some nasty storms. How nice NOT to see Santa Venetia flooding in the media.

Many of you took the time to participate in a short survey regarding FCZ #7. Thank you for doing that. I know the survey is helping FCZ #7 staff determine better ways to serve us.

Right now we have lots going on. Many things I did not mention, but they are happening just the same. I encourage you all to get involved with the community. The reward is the enjoyment of making Santa Venetia a better place and making friends with your neighbors.

Russ



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Supervisor's Corner • Summer 2016



Supervisor's Corner - Parking, Traffic & Safety

• Supervisor Damon Connolly

Santa Venetia has a Community Plan! First I'd like to thank **Christine Gimmler** for her excellent work with the community representatives in creating a great product – the Plan is very readable, interesting and substantive. The committee put in many hours of time in meetings, but really they lived this project over the last several years. People who step up to this kind of commitment on behalf of their community take on a great responsibility, and these volunteers took that responsibility very seriously.

Santa Venetia is unique, which is one of the reasons a community plan is important here. We are surrounded by beauty, from the San Pedro Ridge to the historic baylands and tidal marshlands of San Pablo Bay, with a significant creek running through it. There are a few sites in the community that remain of particular interest due to being subject to some level of possible development, and this plan provides helpful policy guidance.

The Community Plan fully embraces the watershed approach to planning, recognizing that some parts of the community are more vulnerable to tidal water but all parts of the community are part of a watershed system. And the plan recognizes the importance and opportunities inherent in many of the initiatives we have underway to further enhance this region, such as the County's purchase of **Buck's Landing** and efforts to restore McInnis Marsh.

Approved by the Board of Supervisors, the Santa Venetia Community Plan is now a blueprint that we and the community can utilize and be proud of for many years to come.

I also want to thank everyone who participated in the two community meetings to discuss parking issues, one in September, 2016, and the other in January of this year. Our office has fielded calls for years complaining of parked cars, trucks and other commercial vehicles along N. San Pedro Road, contributing to the degradation of the roadway, safety issues and blight.

The City of San Rafael was the last city in the county to ban parking of oversized vehicles and RVs and the fall-out is that many of those oversized vehicles have found their way to unincorporated roads and streets, which are in effect being used for long-term storage for commercial vehicles not in daily service.

This problem is not confined to Santa Venetia, but has affected some particular areas of the unincorporated parts of the county, and has negatively impacted the very character of the communities. Our Board approved an "umbrella" ordinance, creating a menu of options to restrict parking ranging from "no parking zones," to "no overnight parking" of certain kinds of vehicles. We now have the ability to create parking restrictions by street or by neighborhood, responding to the specific problems that exist and at the same time, keeping to a minimum, any unintended consequences.

We had a good turn-out at these community meetings and the consensus was to 1) establish a "no parking" zone along N. San Pedro Road between La Pasada and Vendola, and to 2) ban overnight parking of oversized commercial vehicles throughout the Santa Venetia neighborhood (vehicles that fall under this category are a combination of vehicles, trailer and/or auxiliary equipment with a commercial license plate and overall length from bumper to bumper of more than 22 feet between the hours of 11pm and 5am). This request should be coming to the Board at its April 25 meeting and if approved, will go into effect once the signs are erected throughout the community.

Don't Forget the "eGroup"

Join the Santa Venetia eGroup for current neighborhood info plus discussions. Get emails with calendar info and updates.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SV-Community>

From the Stacks

A Frank Lloyd Wright Doghouse: Coming to the Civic Center Library

• Laurie Thompson, Librarian Anne T. Kent California Room

On June 8, in honor of the 150th anniversary of **Frank Lloyd Wright's** birth, the Civic Center Library, in partnership with the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Conservancy, will be displaying the only doghouse ever designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The doghouse – known as **Eddie's House** – after the Berger family's Labrador retriever, was donated to the County of Marin by **Jim Berger** last May.

Berger grew up in San Anselmo in a Wright-designed home that today is widely known as the Berger House. His parents, **Robert and Gloria Berger**, commissioned Wright to design the house in the early 1950s, and it was built to specifications by **Bob Berger** over the course of 20 years. Wright also designed a triangular doghouse on the back of an envelope – at no charge – when Jim Berger, then 12 years old, wrote to Wright and requested plans.

Bob Berger built the first doghouse in the late 1950s, but it was disposed of by the family a few decades later. In 2011, Jim Berger, by then a retired cabinet maker living outside of Sacramento, received permission to build an exact replica of the doghouse, per the original plans, for a documentary about Wright and his legacy.

The Civic Center Library invites you to view Wright's unique – and only! – doghouse from June 8 through September 8.

Jim Berger stands with the doghouse he built from Frank Lloyd Wright's design on display at the Civic Center Library June 8.



Good Food– Good Neighbors

Don't forget, **Gaspare's Pizzeria** is the place to go for a wonderful meal AND to benefit the SVNA. So, the next time you are too tired to cook, need a special night out, are ready to celebrate, and/or have a yen for some delicious Italian food or pizza: order in or order out at Gaspare's. And remember – mention the "SVNA" and they'll donate 15% of your meal ticket to our neighborhood. A big THANK YOU to **Danny, Gaspare, and Robin!**

Join/Renew Membership to Friends of Civic Center Library. Critical funding needed!

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Check enclosed for \$

(Usual donation \$15/\$25 but any amount will help!)

Make checks payable to and mail to:

**The Friends
of the
Civic Center
Library**



3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 427
San Rafael, CA 94903

The Friends of the Civic Center Library is a chapter of the Friends of the Marin County Free Library. Contributions are tax deductible under IRS 501(c)(3)

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Osher Marin JCC Offerings

• Iris Lax, Osher Marin JCC

Did you know the Osher Marin JCC has something for all ages and is located in your own backyard?

11-acre campus with an award-winning 30,000 sq. foot Fitness & Aquatics Center with indoor and outdoor pools (coupon for special offer and free day pass at top of the page.)

Performing Arts Center...use code SVNA on these upcoming events and save!

Kanbar Kids Presents: Bhangra Dancing - 4/2 @11am

Paula Poundstone - 4/22 @8pm
Blame Sally - 5/13 @8pm

Hapa - 5/20 @8pm

Adult classes, lectures, and excursions

Preschool Registration for 2017-18 school year now open. Programs for ages 18 months - 5 years old

Parent & Toddler classes for ages birth - 3 years old

Swim lessons for all ages in our indoor pool

Your child can be a Happy Camper year-round...

Spring Break Camp - April 10, 12-14, K-6th grade

Summer Camp - June 19 - Aug 11, K-10th grade

Clubhouse J Afterschool program - M-F, K-6th grade

Stop by our Plaza J Café for...Peet's Coffee, Mighty Leaf Tea, Smoothies, Three Twins Ice Cream, Sandwiches, Salads, Soups, Pastries, and Snacks (coupon for free coffee above this text.)

Go to marinjcc.org for more info on all of our programs

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January Community Meeting -

Supervisor Connolly Delivers Annual "State of the County" Address and Moderates the Parking Discussion

• Alison Fuller

On January 31, **Supervisor Damon Connolly** spoke to the SVNA in what is always the best-attended meeting of the year - in this case, a double-header.

The first meeting was called to order by Vice President **Gina Hagen**, who welcomed attendees and invited all to join the SVNA (by paying their 2017 dues) and volunteer for various committees or the board. She introduced our speaker, formerly a member of the San Rafael City Council, and now our County Supervisor appearing for the third time at the SVNA general meeting, who in turn introduced his aide, **Susannah Clark**.

Supervisor Connolly stated that the county is the level of government where it is possible to get things done, for example, the County's recent purchase of Buck's Landing, long desired by the community as access to the Bay. He also referred to Gallinas Watershed as a "jewel" that needed to be managed on a watershed-wide basis, an approach also being followed by state and federal agencies. Related issues are flood control (including who owns Gallinas Creek?) and dredging: CSA #6 is considering a "geomorphic" dredge. Spoils may go to the McInnis Marsh project, in which case we may get full funding. He thanked the new and retiring members of FCZ #7, our Flood Control Advisory Board. The Soccer Complex development at the San Rafael Airport has a permit for a new bridge and a building to be completed in 2018. The Santa Venetia Community Plan was due to go to the Marin County Board of Supervisors on February 14 (and has now passed).

Other County Issues:

Medical Marijuana: Outlets to be adopted include two in the 101 corridor and two in West Marin. Recreational marijuana is banned for the time being. Residents may legally cultivate six plants for personal use.

Housing: Marin residents do not want high density as a solution. County is working with landlords to curb rents and accept vouchers.

Traffic: Connolly represents Marin on the Bay Area Transportation Commission. He will keep us posted on proposals.

Another topic is the Transit Center in San Rafael vis a vis SMART plus other congestion issues.

Gina suggested people go to the County website to sign up for updates on the issues of their interest.

Parking Issues: At 8pm the Supervisor's Annual Report meeting adjourned to reconvene as a special meeting on parking issues in Santa Venetia, specifically on N. San Pedro Road opposite the two apartment buildings. The issue concerns the wide shoulder having been turned into a long-term parking lot often by large trucks and by people living/sleeping in their vehicles. **Supervisor Connolly** introduced **Bob Goralka**, County Traffic Engineer, and **Lieutenant Jeff Edwards** of the Sheriff's Department. Neighbor (and Rocky's Meats employee) **Christina Williams** served as our translator.

Lt. Edwards said that parking was banned at that place during road work for a month and the usual trucks did not show up on nearby residential streets as had been feared. Connolly reported that the BOS had adopted an ordinance allowing for neighborhood options as to parking rules - e.g. ban vehicles over 22 feet in length, or overnight parking, etc.

Supervisor Connolly said it would be up to the community to decide what kind of ordinance we should adopt. Some residents of the apartments objected to an overnight ban because they need to park there. Some in the community would like to have a bike lane where trucks now park. Someone suggested people send Damon info on safe places to park. The conversation was long and everyone had their say and as you can imagine, this included many different suggestions and opinions. The final decision, made after a straw vote, was to move forward with closing North San Pedro Road to parking between La Pasada and Vendola and banning overnight parking of large commercial vehicles throughout a portion of Santa Venetia. This motion will go before the Board of Supervisors in the coming months.

Concerned about development? Here's where you can find the scoop about what's happening in your 'hood.

Keep an eye on the online forums for up-to-the-minute information.

This is a list of current and ongoing projects that we are aware of in Santa Venetia. Now is the time to get involved, before the projects are built, not after. If you have an interest in the outcome of any of these building projects, and you should, please contact the SVNA Land Use Committee and/or the appropriate parties. Speak now or forever hold your peace!

"North San Rafael" Projects – Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ln8rvfn> and to review open projects in North San Rafael (or other areas). You can subscribe to this page and get updates whenever there is a new project in our area (or in all of Marin!)

Buck's Landing / Launching – In December, the BOS authorized the purchase agreement for the acquisition of Buck's Landing (including the lands across NSPR, abutting Heron Hill) from Gallinas Landing LLC, who purchased the property in 2015. The purchase is contingent upon securing funding and other requirements. The project will provide public access to Gallinas Creek and includes plans for restoring habitat. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/gp4qez8>. >>> County Contact: Supervisor Damon Connolly, dconnolly@marincounty.org.

Gallinas Creek Dredging – CSA #6 continues to plan for a geomorphic dredge of lower Gallinas Creek in 2018 or 2019 to provide conveyance for boating and other recreational purposes. For an update, see the December 2016 staff report: <http://tinyurl.com/zt63tld>. >>> SVNA Contact: Ellen Stein, sfskyway@hotmail.com. County Contact: Jon Liang, 415-473-6215, jliang@marincounty.org.

Gallinas Watershed Program – They have released the draft Gallinas Watershed Program Final Report. This report includes watershed descriptions as well as summaries of each of the products developed by the Program. Direct link to the Final Report: <http://tinyurl.com/htuw8dm> and Appendices are in the Gallinas Watershed library: <http://tinyurl.com/heauvwvh>. Also, to see a plethora of information – including agendas, minutes, and their newsletter archives – visit: <http://tinyurl.com/p4z-setg>. >>> SVNA Contact: Russ Greenfield, rgmxman@gmail.com. County Contact: Laurie L. Williams, Senior Planner/Watershed GIS, lwilliams@marincounty.org.

Medical Cannabis Dispensaries – After much discussion and many meetings, the BOS adopted an ordinance regulating Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in unincorporated Marin. There will be up to two dispensaries along the 101 Corridor, possibly one in Santa Venetia. Public Meetings have been held and it is in the hands of the County Advisory Committee to make a decision as to the acceptable applicants and sites. For more information from the County, click here: www.marincounty.org/main/medicalcannabis and at the bottom of the page is a link to submit your comments. The SVNA submitted comment letters early and later in the process, these can be viewed here: <http://tinyurl.com/hp2l3pz> and <http://tinyurl.com/zybzb5y>. >>> County Contact: Supervisor Damon Connolly, dconnolly@marincounty.org.

McInnis Marsh Restoration Project – No new news but still on the "To Do" list. Funding opportunities are being explored as we speak. More information can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/o4n7wcj> and here: <http://tinyurl.com/jpyqgvd>. >>> SVNA Contact: Russ Greenfield, rgmxman@gmail.com. >>> County Contact: James Raives, Senior Open Space Planner, jraives@marincounty.org.

McPhail's/MacPhail's School Site – The McPhail Working Group remains dedicated to keeping this site and field as a neighborhood park and resource, as well as protecting the seasonal wetlands. If you are interested in being involved, appraised, and/or updated as to the status of this property, contact McPhail@santavenetia.org to be added to our email distribution list. >>> SVNA Contact: Linda Levey, linda@santavenetia.org.



org. SRCS Contact: Christina Perrino Zecchini, cperrino@srcs.org, 415-492-3576.

Oxford Valley Site – The owners of the Oxford Valley Parcel, Jim and Jill Higgins, completed fire safety brush clearance and were alerted to illegal dumping of trash in the stream, they were able to clean up before the rains. They plan on submitting plans to the county for a single family home some time next year. Jim has provided the following contact information for those interested in his future plans for the valley: oxfordvalleyfarm@gmail.com or 415-949-8005.

As well, you can view their previously prepared concept here: <http://tinyurl.com/hqop9yd>. >>> SVNA Contact: Mark Wallace, mark.t.wallace@gmail.com.

Parking Restrictions in Santa Venetia – We have worked with the County to implement new rules on parking in Santa Venetia – no parking on a stretch of NSPR and banning oversized, commercial trucks from parking on the streets of our residential neighborhood

will be discussed and hopefully implemented at an upcoming BOS meeting, tentatively scheduled as 4/25/17. Changing the 72-hour rule so that cars must be moved a certain distance after being tagged is still on our wish list! >>> Contact: SVNA@santavenetia.org. (See articles pages 1.)

San Rafael Airport Soccer Complex/Recreational Facility – No new news but we understand the project will be moving forward. Let your neighbors and SVNA Land Use know if you see any activity on the site. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/jgx7doc>. >>> SVNA Contact: SVNA@santavenetia.org

Sunny Oaks/NSPR Development Project – A new application has been submitted (Busse Land Division P1612) to subdivide and develop a vacant lot on Sunny Oaks Drive (approximate number 71) bordering North San Pedro Road into four buildable lots, with seven (7) proposed units in total. Two lots will be accessed from below, on NRPR and two will be accessed from above, on Sunny Oaks. Current status is "Under Review" so if you have an interest, please comment. As well, if you are interested in being included in any SVNA updates on this project, please let us know. Click here for more information and to sign up for updates on this project from the County: <http://tinyurl.com/jk746cb>. >>> SVNA Contact: Mark Wallace, SVNA@santavenetia.org. County Contact: Project Planner Jocelyn Drake, JDrake@marincounty.org, 415-473-6245.

We're out of room this issue but if you are interested in the following Land Use issues, please consult our previous and future newsletters for more info or contact our SVNA Land Use Committee with questions:

Hacienda Way, 800 – Look for new 2nd story to be added to property.

Marin Osher JCC – No new news...

North San Pedro Road, 294/296 – No new news...

Sidewalks – Responsibility and liability information can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/8se52>.

SMART – Updates and information can be found here: www.cityofsanrafael.org/stationareaplans or www.sonomamarintrain.org/construction-updates.

Traffic in Santa Venetia – >>>> SVNA Contact: Gary Robards, gary.robards@gmail.com.

Venetia Valley-SRCS Visioning – Visit www.srcs.org for more info. >>> SRCS Contact: Christina Perrino Zecchini, cperrino@srcs.org, 415-492-3576.

Washington, 22 – Ongoing application to "raise the roof" was just approved. For more info, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/hjg27o6>



Getting to Know Levee Inspector Bene da Silva

• Laurie Williams, Senior Watershed Planner, LWilliams@marincounty.org

Bene da Silva has been managing Flood Zone #7's work to inspect and improve the levees in Santa Venetia since 2005. High tides and creek levels have lapped at the timber floodwalls several times since then, and without Bene's hard work to repair timber floodwalls, implement gopher control, and maintain vegetation, Santa Venetians may have had wet feet, or worse.

Bene values the relationships he's built with property owners in Santa Venetia to obtain Rights-To-Enter to inspect and repair the levees. The levees are the first line of defense against flooding, and with most of them on private property, these permissions are crucial. He gives a shout out to SVNA and long-time Santa Venetians for assisting in reaching out to residents.

Aside from flood control duties, Bene serves on the County's Urban Search and Rescue Team and is ready to deploy within 45 minutes. He would jump at the chance to employ his climbing and technical rope skills in a "high-angle" rescue.

Bene loves music and plays guitar, mandolin, and banjo. He jams with the County's house band every Friday, playing songs from the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, and other American classics. In fact, Bene came up with band's name: the **County Crows**. Bene would be thrilled if you came to hear the Crows play this summer at the County Fair.

Meanwhile, if you have questions or concerns with levee maintenance in Zone 7, please contact Bene via phone 415-473-6538 or by email at BDaSilva@marincounty.org.



Northbridge Pool Opens April 29th!

• Nicole Cibellis-Andrews

It's that time of year – Pool Time! The Northbridge Pool will be opening April 29th! The Northbridge Pool is a fantastic private pool in our neighborhood to join. Enjoy sitting by the pool with less crowds and restrictions than the local public pools in the area. The Northbridge Pool will be open April 29th until late October (depending on the weather).

Join the local community, hang out with friends and meet new ones at the pool this summer. They even have a private deck for large parties, which can be reserved in advance and don't forget about their **Annual Splash Day Party** co-sponsored by the SVNA!

Get signed up for this season and have your Key Fob turned on right away by attending their pre-registration days: April 27, 5-7pm or April 29, 9am-12pm. Dues for the 2017 season: \$525 before May 1, \$575 after May 1. Pre-registration days are only days that Credit Cards will be accepted (\$10 additional processing fee). If you can't attend one of the pre-registration days, call **Barbara Perkins** at 415-479-2544 to be set up as a new or returning member.

See you at the Pool!

Join the SVNA Get current neighborhood info, join interest groups and forums, activities, personalities, calendar

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Watershed Works!



Island Getaway - Volunteers Wanted!

• Alex Kahl, Gallinas Watershed Council (GWC)



Do you see yourself as the ruler of an island? Ruler of two islands? Read on...

These are not your ordinary islands! They are floating in the Marin Civic Center lagoon. They demonstrate bioremediation, i.e. cleaning up lagoon waters. All those ducks and Canadian geese contribute a lot of... um... nitrogen to the lagoon.

The "Floating Islands of Marin" are a project of the Gallinas Watershed Council launched in 2015 at the annual Bioneers conference by Environmental Forum of Marin Master Class graduates **Aurora Mahassine, Dan Monte and Alex Kahl**.

The CCWR (Civic Center Watershed Restoration) project is looking for volunteers from Santa Venetia. Come and help with the next phase of this project, where we

intend to research and test similar biofilter technologies and scale up for actual remediation.

Calling Santa Venetia... are you up to the challenge? Learn more: <http://www.gallinas-watershed.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/marinccwr>.

LAGOON CLEANUP

Bio-filtering islands launched into Civic Center waters to remove dirty material



By Stephanie Weller

stephanie.weller@marinccwr.org

www.marinccwr.org

www.gallinas-watershed.org

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Marin County Fair Exhibits Open!

• Libby Garrison, Marin County Department of Cultural Services

Calling all talented, artistic, technologically savvy, green-thumbed, and creative people: The exhibit categories are now open to the public for the 2017 Marin County Fair, **Let the Funshine In!** (June 30 through July 4, 2017).

Let the Funshine In! celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love emphasizing Marin's dedication to the things we value most in our community, Family, Art, Agriculture and the Environment. This summer's Fair will celebrate that 1967 spirit with music, art, fashion and more featuring tie-dye and macramé competitions, Flower Power floriculture, Groovy/Psychedelic and Abstract art and photography, and daily '60s fashion parades.

The deadline for submitting entry forms for most categories in this year's fair is Thursday, May 11. Last year's fair featured more than 800 categories, 13,500 exhibits and some 7,000 entrants in exhibits that covered everything from performing arts to baked foods and from fine wine to fine art.

The Marin County Fair is award-winning for its innovative, creative, and inspired competitive exhibits program. Fair Manager **Charlie Barboni** says, "We hope to inspire the entire community, both young and old, to harness their 60s spirit and enter imaginative, artistic, and perhaps groovy exhibits and celebrate our true creative spirit."

Are you feeling Groovy? Buy your Marin County Fair tickets NOW for the best prices. The first 5000 tickets have extra discounted pricing and NO service fees. Online only! Tickets go on sale March 13, 2017. www.marinfair.org



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Regular \$30 and Senior Resident 65+ \$15.

Includes subscription to the Communicator Newsletter!

Collect "General Mills Box Tops for Education" and "Campbell Labels for Education" to support programs at Venetia Valley School

The Venetia Valley School is still participating in both programs. The box tops are worth 10 cents each and are used to fund field trips for all grade levels. Campbell product label points are used to obtain PE and playground equipment, recess equipment, and music and art supplies for our school. Contact **Tes Robards**, 507-0375 for more info. Labels and box tops can be dropped off at the school's main office.

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Parking Restrictions Coming to Santa Venetia

Continued from first page

NSPR as a heads-up.

Marinwood, Lucas Valley, and areas in unincorporated San Rafael have already enacted their Parking Ordinances. Santa Venetia is next. The Parking Ordinance in Santa Venetia will (tentatively) be coming before the Board of Supervisors on April 25. The Ordinance will include:

- » No parking at any time on North San Pedro Road between La Pasada and (east) Vendola Drive.
- » No overnight parking of oversized commercial vehicles (22' in length) between the hours of 11pm to 5am.

Public comments should be submitted by March 31. You can email your concerns to jneville@marincounty.org. You can also view, in its entirety, at these links provided by Dept. of Public Works: in English: <http://tinyurl.com/1sqel8p>, in Spanish: <http://tinyurl.com/13p515v>.

Santa Venetia Neighbors Helping Neighbors Garage Sale June 17

• Sue Ann Anderson

On June 17th, we will be having our next Fundraising Yard Sale! As so many of you already know, when you shop at a SVNHN's Yard Sale you are helping give back to our neighborhood!

Your shopping in the past has helped us:

- » Give an annual scholarship to a graduating TLHS student!
- » Give Christmas Gift Baskets and gift cards to families at Venetia Valley School!
- » Give rides and help with other needs to those in the neighborhood suffering car accidents and other misfortunes.

These are just a few of the things you have helped with! Please come shop again, and help us do even more in the future! Look for our BIG bright colored signs advertising our June 17th Yard Sale – come help us help with needs in Santa Venetia!!

Fun Stuff To Do

• Linda Levey

There are many wonderful things to do in Santa Venetia and neighboring areas. Here are just a few highlights...

Marin County Parks. Rangers host a variety of family-friendly events for all ages and interests – barbecues, bike rides, campfires, fishing derbies, horseback rides, interpretive hikes, outdoor safety and skills seminars, skateboard contests, stargazing, and more! Wear appropriate clothes and bring snacks, water, and sun block. Browse to their site to get all the details and to view the entire calendar: www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/calendar.

Yoga in the Park is back on Saturday, May 6, 10am – 2pm at McNears

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Santa Venetia Community Plan Is a Reality!

Continued from first page

Adams, we again started discussing this possibility. In 2009 a Committee was set up and the call went out for members of our neighborhood to serve. Members of this Committee held ongoing meetings (including our Supervisor and County Staff) and got to work reviewing the needs for our community, with hopes of creating a viable first draft for our Community Plan.

With then-Supervisor Susan Adams contributing a large amount from her Discretionary Fund, the neighborhood pitched in with a raffle, spear-headed by Bonnie Monte, to raise the remaining amount needed to hire Godbe to put together a survey for our residents. The survey was done in 2011 and we were told the interest and rate of return was incredibly high – a point of pride.

In early 2013, the County made their decision and announced that Santa Venetia would be one of the two communities in Marin to get a Community Plan and our Committee started working with County Staff.

This long-overdue document will establish what we value about our neighborhood and provides direction on what we want to preserve or improve, and what we would like to change. These guidelines will be invaluable when future issues arise affecting traffic, development, transportation, flooding, and more

Our hard-working Committee has changed a few members throughout this time but the early group and the later group, and some that stayed the whole time, put in many hours of work to get this project done for the community, meeting monthly from the beginning through completion. Thank you to the hard-working Santa Venetians who served on the Community Plan Committee at one time or another: Giselle Block, Jane Brand, Jackie Garcia, Russ Greenfield, Mary Hanley, Tamara Hull, Jonathan Metcalf, Roger Heller, Bonnie Monte, Gary Robards, Oscar Segura, Shelley Sweet, and Mark Wallace.

Thank you to County Staff Christine Gimmler, Jack Liebster, and Lauren Armstrong; to the Planning Commission; and to Supervisor Damon Connolly and Past-Supervisor Susan Adams for their assistance, direction, and guidance.

And thank you to all the Santa Venetians who completed the survey, attended the public meetings, and commented throughout the process – as usual, we showed the County that we are interested and engaged when it comes to our Community. Click here to see the write-up in the News Pointer: <http://tinyurl.com/z5qb3lr>.

Beach Park, 201 Cantera Way, San Rafael. This fun-filled, dynamic event offers a great way to get active while giving to a wonderful park, and giving to yourself! More information can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/gvgprj5>. For questions, contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at 415-763-2977.

Or if you're in the mood, check out the many events right in our neighborhood at Marin Center: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cu/calendar>. Their wide variety of offerings includes Vince Gill and Lyle Lovett, Yanni and his Piano, Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, Marin Symphony, Mayflower Chorus, The Best of the IJ Lobby Lounge, and more. They often have outdoor events and the hotline number for residents with concerns during events is 415-473-6848.

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CSA#18-Parks & Open Space

• Linda Levey

Our February meeting was chock-full of information and continued late into the evening. We discussed playground facilities, lighting, maintenance needs, water fountains, graffiti, sprinklers, slides, wasps, and more. Much discussion was had about the upcoming work at Pueblo Park (tennis courts and landscaping) as well as a presentation about the new signs that will be installed in all Marin County Parks. A big *thank you* to my fellow neighbors who serve on this AB as well as County Staff for their ongoing help with all these varied issues as we try to keep our parks up-to-date, attractive, and well-used.

Christopher Bramham, County Staff leader for our CSA #18 AB, has retired! February was his last meeting with us. He was perfect for our group, helping us to stay on track and if he didn't have the answer to the question, he always knew who did. We are sad to see him go but so excited for him as he takes time to enjoy his life in retirement! Best wishes to you, Chris.

• Joyce Clements

This spring the tennis court in Pueblo Park in Santa Venetia will be professionally resurfaced and lined for playing both tennis and pickleball. (<http://www.usapa.org/what-is-pickleball>) There will be a festive opening day celebration that will include demonstrations games of both court sports, and basketball shooting competitions for all ages in the basketball court. There will be raffles of sporting equipment throughout the event. Details will come when the rain gives way to enough sunshine for us to pinpoint this special community day.

How can you help? Do you have a spare tennis racket or pickleball paddle that you can donate to spread the possibility of playing these sports to children and youth in our community? (Don't worry if the strings are missing or limp...) Do you have a talent in either or both of these sports that you are willing to share with kids who want to learn to play? There will be a need for volunteers during the opening event — would you like to lend a hand? For more information or donations of equipment or volunteer help, please email joycemclements@gmail.com.

JOIN THE SVNA TODAY! Power in Numbers

Regular \$30 and Seniors \$15 Includes subscription to the Communicator Newsletter!

Don't Forget the eGroup

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SV-Community>

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Happy, Happy, Happy Parties!

• Sue Ann Anderson

Are you HAPPY? Do you like sharing your HAPPY?

For quite a while now several of us from Santa Venetia, and beyond, have been sharing our HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY at **Rafael Convalescent** and **Alma Via** (Dementia Care Unit)! Each month we take handheld musical instruments, big Happy Face stickers, Hawaiian leis and upbeat fun music for everyone to sing and dance to! Most of the folks "dance" in their wheel chairs — but whether dancing in the middle of the room with us, or rockin' out in their chairs, we all have fun and everyone is happy, happy, happy! I started this in memory of my mom, **Jean Snyder**, who had Alzheimer's. There wasn't much activity for her like this where she lived back then. And wonderful friends have joined me for the fun and have found it as rewarding as I have!

I share this because we all know there are many more convalescent homes and memory care units that could use some HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY and I'm hoping this will spark an interest in you to do the same!!

If you would like to talk about this, and/or share your experiences, just email me at happyx3@live.com. And look for my car in the neighborhood — license plate: 3xHappy!



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SVNA Membership—Stronger Together

What are you waiting for? Join the SVNA!

• Linda Levey

It's a new year and the memberships are coming in and we hope to get them processed before month-end. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, remember – you have to do it annually. Send in your check or renew on BigTent, *but just do it*. So many SVNA volunteers work to make our neighborhood a great place to live.

More Members = More Communication = More Power as a Community.
Join the SVNA!!!!!!!!!!!!

Your memberships and donations help to fund our volunteer efforts including:

- » *The Communicator*: You're reading it now!
- » Community and Land Use meetings: Don't you want to know?
- » Neighborhood Beatification: Don't you love our medians?
- » And various Social Activities: Did you enjoy the Labor Day Picnic? Did you come to the Halloween Block Party? What about the Easter Egg Hunt? And there's so much more....

If you don't join or renew, who will fund the wonderful things we do for our community?

When you think of the (meager) \$30/year membership cost, keep in mind the money it saves you! I just read that the annual tax on residents for medians in Greenbrae is \$150 per improved parcel, and they are currently asking for more.

It's easy to complain, but let's do something about it! Join together with your neighbors and the SVNA to make/keep our neighborhood the best it can be. Consider joining the SVNA Board, Neighborhood Watch, or Bella Santa Venetia. Bring your skills – we could really use your help!

COMMUNITY MEETINGS: SAVE THE DATES

• **Saturday, March 25 at 9am, FCZ #7 Community Open House** Learn how stormwater pumps and levees work together to protect our neighborhood from major flooding.

• **Tuesday, March 28 at 7pm, SVNA Community Meeting – Energy Upgrade California**

Soaring Electric Bills Stun Residents !

Korean Church, 635 Adrian Way at Rosal Way



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Tu-F Lunch
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Dinner 5-9pm
Closed Monday

Women's March, January 21, 2017

Santa Venetia Women (& Men) put on their marching shoes, picked up their signs, and stood up to be counted.



Joyce Clements and Susan
Robinson in Santa Rosa



Gina Hagen in
Oakland

Heather Muirhead,
Deb Reid, Sev Gallegos,
Gina Hagen,
and Helen Reid in
Oakland



Mary Carol Winkler and
Jon Curtis in Santa Rosa

Mary Hanley & Linda
Levey in San Francisco



Norma Novy in Ashland

Laurie Steese in San Francisco

SVNA MEMBERSHIP FORM Resident \$30 / Senior Resident 65+ \$15

Renew or start your SVNA membership and newsletter subscription today!

YES! Sign me up to today at the following yearly rate (check one):

☐ \$30 Resident household ☐ \$15 Resident 65+ household

Additional contribution:

\$_____ General Donation

\$_____ Neighborhood Median & Beautification Fund

\$_____ Disaster Preparedness Team (CERT)

\$_____ Social Activities (such as Labor Day Picnic, Halloween Block Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Northridge Pool Party.)

Name(s) _____

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Would you like to volunteer? Check the issues where you can help.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SVNA Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed—flooding and dredging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter and proofing | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Median crew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone banks | <input type="checkbox"/> Social activities |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Bella Santa Venetia-marsh, creek neighborhood clean-ups |

Advertising: Paid-up SVNA members can introduce themselves to the community by buying a 3-5/8" x 2" ad in *The Communicator*. Ads in the Jan/Feb issue mail to all 1750 households are \$60; ads in the other 5 issues going to members only are \$30 each. Or pay in advance and save! \$180 for an ad in all 6 issues plus free color on web newsletter and SV Market Window. For ad specs and info, contact Norma Novy, 415-499-9409, normanovy@comcast.net. We accept camera-ready ads, text, pdfs, tiff, jpg, eps, reflective artwork, photos, etc.

Or, start/renew your membership online with BigTent: sign-up at www.bigtent.com/groups/svna

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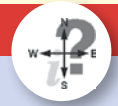
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Emergency from a Cell Phone 415-453-1515

Non-Emergency Fire Dept.415-485-3300

Non-Emergency Police Dept.415-485-3000

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Website for water waste info and to report water waste:

<http://marinwater.org/171/Water-Waste-Prevention>

Community Development Agency/Planning

Front Information Counter.....415-473-6269

If you see dumping (get license #)415-479-2311

To request dumped stuff pick-up415-473-7388

PG&E Underground Alert.....800-227-2600

PG&E Electrical Outage.....800-743-5002

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Bus Stop Trash Can..... <http://marintransit.org/contact.html>

..... or email: info@marintransit.org 415-226-0855

To Report Graffiti, do so with location & description 415-479-2311

How to Report an Issue in our Parks and/or Open Space

Emergency number from landline or cell.....911

Safety Related, non-emergency

(24-hour Communications)415-479-2311

Routine for Parks 415-446-4419

Routine for Open Space 415-473-2816

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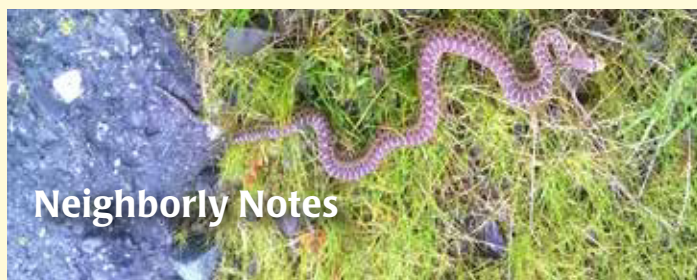
The Communicator

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association

March/April 2017

SVNA@santavenetia.org • www.thesvna.org

Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 4047, San Rafael, CA 94913-4047



Neighborly Notes

Compiled by Linda Levey

From Linda Levey

Ann Rhodes Fromer Spake – It was with great sadness that I read the obituary of Ann Spake. No, she didn't live in Santa Venetia, but she was a proud dues-paying member of the SVNA. Ann often attended the same land use meetings at the County as we did. We were often in solidarity as she represented her neighborhood in Mill Valley—she attended all the CWP meetings and many more. I think the last time I saw her was at the Planning meeting when they were discussing our SV Community Plan. And in fact she had a lot of advice for us on that! As it said in the *II* Obituary, "Ann lived life fully engaged and with so much love." Losing Ann was a sad day for Marin. <http://tinyurl.com/h8llm8e>

April 22 is Earth Day this year. Volunteer to protect our greatest resource. Click here for more information: <http://www.myeearthdaymarin.org>. Or if you would rather just stay in the neighborhood, walk the streets, our parks, or get on the creek and pick up some garbage.

Gallinas Creek Ideas – The San Francisco Bay National Estuary Research monitors the water quality in Gallinas Creek. For access to the real-time data stream, click here: <http://nerrsdata.org/get/realTime.cfm?stationCode=SBFGCWQ>

Otter Spotter Citizen Science Project – when you see otters in our creek, log on here: <http://www.riverotterecology.org/otter-spotter-citizen-science-project.html> to submit data and/or view their online map of otter sightings in the bay area.

Staying Informed/Alerts – Nixle keeps you up-to-date with relevant information from your local public safety departments and schools. Visit <http://www.nixle.com> for text and/or email alerts.

And the Marin County Sheriff's Department keeps you up-to-date too. You can now register your email, cell, or VOIP phone numbers (landlines are already registered) on AlertMarin. Click here for more information and to register: <http://tinyurl.com/j7636kz>.

Jenny Fulle was on our softball team, The Animals, sponsored by various businesses including **Mary's Futons** and **Rocky's Meats** many years ago. She was just honored by Mill Valley Little League and thought it important to let all girls know about one of the people that made it possible for them to play ball. Click here for the story on the Marin *II*: <http://tinyurl.com/n9y3ext>.



From Bill Hale

The ACLU's membership has swelled from 400,000 to 1,200,000 of recent. The People Power meetings Saturday, March 11, were across the nation. It can be streamed (1:18) from: <http://tinyurl.com/hpvul5e>. Or for more information, visit First Amendment Coalition: www.firstamendmentcoalition.org or CaliforniansAware: www.calaware.org.

From Bob Sos

Got bees? If you have bees in your dwelling, structures, or yard, the preferred approach is to save the hive. As you may have heard, bee populations are weakening worldwide and we need bees to pollinate our crops and flowers. We recently had bees in our house and traveled the path of "can we save the hive", if not, "can we save the bees", and if not, how to exterminate them without or with a pesticide. Fortunately we had "**Arthur the Bee Guy**", a local resource in our own Santa Venetia community to help us along this journey. Arthur was helpful beyond our expectations, flexible, and took the time to explain bee activity and the pros and cons of our options both bee-wise and cost-wise. His save-the-bees and chemical free approach was refreshing. (www.arthurthebeeguy.com)



From Scott Day at Santa Venetia Markets

We are looking for help. I need someone to work approximately 4-6 hours per week scanning in products so we can update our inventory. We are revamping our product selection to carry more of the products Santa Venetians desire. If you are interested and available, please call **Scott Day** at 415-720-0563.

Santa Venetia Market

Second Saturday Medians

• Nanni Wurl

After losing three workdays (months) on the medians because of bad weather, we finally were able, but only after changing the date, to return to the medians. In February, we worked in front of the three homes and The Rafael. Working were **Carolyn Byrne**, **Wayne Lechner**, **Amanda Mitchell** (who did her third Saturday earning her a t-shirt and we need to order some more), and **Carl & Helen Stichler**. Helen used some clippings from her existing ground cover for planting. Thanks to the rain, the weeds are having a "hay day". We were not able to finish these medians but we will do it on our next workday. One kind but unnamed, not-known person took a sheet of weeds. I had to call on some neighbors to take some of the weeds too. The crew and the SVNA Board would like to thank **Beverly Busher** for again donating money towards the medians. The March workday was a dream come true – nine people! We have not had such a great turnout since June 2011. Working were **Carolyn Byrne**, **Dennis Bortoli**, **Barbora Jurigova** (3rd time, t-shirt due), **Wayne Lechner**, **Amanda Mitchell**, **Carl & Helen Stichler**, and newcomer **Aliseo Garcia** who pulled up to the side of the road and told Wayne he wanted to help, which he did. Great worker – we all hope he will join us again. We worked on the medians from Schmidt Lane to the Rafael. We are all happy with the results.

The Median Crew is very proud of our new weed whacker – thank you to ALL the SVNA members who donate towards our medians.