



The Center View

A Publication of the Marin City Community Services District Board

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Credits:

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Rebuilding Communities A Multi-Disciplinary Approach



Photo from Marin Housing Authority
Lewis Jordan, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Marin County, comes to the organization as a successful housing authority director. Starting his career in the corporate world, Lewis says it was always his involvement in community service that appealed to him most. After being approached by an associate running for office, Jordan chose to change his career and focus his efforts in public agencies. As NAACP president for the Rockford Branch, Jordan heard many complaints about the local public housing which sparked his interest and lead him to start his career in public housing. Jordan worked his way up through housing agencies and most recently ended his 3 1/2 year assignment as the lead of the Chicago Housing Authority.

Jordan's vision for Marin County encompasses rebuilding communities through a multi-disciplinary approach. He states "I am big on teams, collaborations, and getting people to work well together." Jordan has a special interest in developing these collaborations within Marin City. He explained that all the different agencies providing services in Marin City including the residents they serve need to be a part of the collaboration. Jordan believes that a data driven approach is needed

to first understand the situation. The next step is effective communication, "straight talk" as he called it, so that community members and leaders understand what needs to be done to help empower Marin City residents. He also stressed how important it is that this is a Marin County discussion as well as a Marin City discussion.

Jordan believes it is important for communities to understand that they share the same issues with communities all over the country and there is a possibility of change. Johnathan Logan of the Marin City Community Services District stated that, "Jordan is a breath of fresh air and we look forward to collaborating with the Marin Housing Authority in the new year."

Through good communication, consistency, structure, and organizations always being there when needed will empower the Marin City community to stay involved. Jordan believes that holding people accountable, putting the youth first and celebrating diversity will lead to an even more successful community. Most importantly, at the end of the day, we need to remember to "celebrate the small victories" and focus on the good.

The Housing Authority of the County of Marin aka "Marin Housing" is a public corporation, separate from county government, who provides decent, safe and sanitary housing for low and moderate income people. They currently manage several properties in Marin County including Golden Gate Village in Marin City.

Community Calendar

Every first Thursday of the month - MCCSD Board Meeting @ The Marguerita C. Johnson Senior Center

March 9-April 30th : “The Rhythm of My People: Blackness in Three Moods” artwork by James Noel on exhibition @ the Hannah Project Gallery

March 18, 6:00pm-7:00 pm: SparkPoint Orientation, Monday at MCCDC

March 23, 9:00am-4:00pm: VITA Super Saturday – Free Tax Preparation at MCCDC

March 30, 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm: “Save a Life Saturday” FREE emergency preparedness training with the American Red Cross @ the Manzanita Recreation Center.

April 21: FREE TICKETS for Marin Theatre Company’s show, “The Whipping Man.” Please contact MCCSD for tickets

*Please see the end of this newsletter for agency contact info



From the Desk of the General Manager **Johnathan Logan Jr.**

The Community Services District Board and I are excited about the re-launch of “The Center View” community newsletter. This publication will be mailed to each home and business in Marin City every other month. It is important to us that you are aware of major community activities and we hope that you will find ways to get involved in the positive things happening in your community by contributing your time, talent, and treasure. Feel free to reach out to me via email jlogan.mccsd@gmail.com or phone 415.332.1441, for more information or to get involved.

What’s New?

In February, the Community Services District Board reaffirmed its commitment to its vision of Marin City being an Inclusive, Safe, Healthy and Thriving community. To this end, the Community Services District is and has been engaged in planning efforts alongside residents, non-profit partners, and funding agencies, to create state-of-the-art public facilities in the center of our town. These public projects will allow us to house and implement dynamic community-based programs that support youth development, senior services, and overall community health, wellness, and connection. Over the next two to five years, the Community Services District will lead an effort to rebuild and restore the George “Rocky” Graham Park and Marin City Community Center. These completed projects will be a source of pride for the community and will serve as a central gathering place for youth, adults and seniors.

Marin City has a rich history and legacy to build upon, which dates back to 1942, when people from across the country migrated to this area during World War II, to work at “Marinship”—a ship yard built and owned by Bechtel Corporation. These new, local heroes and heroines collectively contributed to our nation by constructing some 93 Liberty Ships between 1942 and 1945—establishing victories for our country and for the community of Marin City. Since its formation 70 years ago, Marin City has celebrated many more triumphs. This is

Marin City’s time to do something big again and the Board and I look forward to doing it with you.

George “Rocky” Graham Park

Rocky Graham Park, dedicated in honor of community activist and leader George “Rocky” Graham, will be located directly behind the Marin City Public Safety Building on Drake Avenue. The Community Services District is proud to have been awarded a \$4.93M grant from the California Parks and Recreation Department to redevelop the park which has been an eyesore for years. The park will be developed by the District in partnership with the Trust for Public Land. Park features will include picnic areas, children and youth playgrounds, outdoor adult fitness equipment, public art, a walking track, and synthetic turf lawn perfect for community gatherings, such as “movies in the park.” We are eager to start this project and will be soliciting your input in the upcoming weeks.

Marin City Community Center

The Community Center, which we all know as “The Rec” is more than 50 years old and has been the hub of youth activity for decades. The Rec has seen its fair share of mid-night basketball games, indoor soccer leagues, birthday parties, and cultural events, creating countless fond memories for its residents. It is now time to rebuild The Rec to ensure 50 more years of services to the community. The Community Services District Board and staff are preparing to launch a capital fundraising effort to raise more than \$5M to build a new gym and teen center. So far, donors have pledged \$1.25M towards this goal. It will take a couple of years to fundraise and construct the new facility. In the meantime, we will be renovating the east wing of the building and creating a local aerobic facility with weights, exercise machines, boxing equipment, and a multi-purpose zone for Zumba, yoga, dance classes, CrossFit style training, and martial arts. This renovation will take place in the spring and early summer and will be ready for use during the summer. A private benefactor is underwriting the cost of the renovation.

The CSD Chair's Corner Nancy Johnson

Public Safety is a topic of upmost importance to the Marin City Community Services District. Marin City is a unique small community rich in history and supported by many people and great organizations. We have been and aspire to remain a close knit and cohesive community. Like every community in Marin County we see crime. The great news is the Sheriff's department reports it has seen a decrease in crime over the last five years partly because of community members efforts, which speaks to the power of a small community staying involved. Below are a few tips for keeping our youth and families safe.

Public Safety Tips

- Keep your children safe. Encourage your children to travel with a buddy especially in the evenings and be sure to always know where they are. If you ever feel your child is in an unsafe situation at school be sure to report it to either their teacher or the school's district office.
- Keep an emergency kit at your house which includes a small first aid kit, flashlights, water, nonperishable food, a battery operated radio, batteries, multi-purpose tools, all necessary medications & equipment, personal hygiene items, copies of important documents, emergency contact list, blankets, extra cash, maps of the area, and an extra cell phone charger (<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit>)
- Report street light outages to the Marin City Community Services District to ensure roads are properly lit at night.
- Beauty and safety add to the value of Marin City and the well-being of our residents and visitors. Contact your property manager to notify them of damages and/or unsafe conditions on your property. A call or visit will make them aware of the situation

and give them the opportunity to avoid potential hazards to residents.

- If you witness a crime taking place report it to the authorities by calling 911. While you can remain anonymous, be sure to give enough information about the event for the authorities to follow through properly.

Lastly, keeping the community safe requires ongoing communication between residents and the local law enforcement agencies. There are several ways to be involved in the dialogue including attending the monthly Marin City Community Services District Board meetings, attending the Sheriff's Community meetings, and being involved in the local Restorative Justice Movement (to learn more about Restorative Justice contact Juanita Edwards with the Marin YMCA or by visiting <http://www.restorativejustice.org/> for general info).



Deputy Jesus Contreras & a Levester Hall resident enjoying the Black History Month event

Sheriff's Community Meetings

The Sheriff's office held two community meetings in the month of February to provide an open forum for Marin City residents to ask questions, voice their concerns, and to openly discuss issues. Many residents, organizational leaders, and business leaders in the community gathered at the 1st Ministry Church and at Beyond the Gap to be involved in the talks. Several officers participated in the two meetings including Sheriff Robert Doyle, Lieutenant Bruce Baker, Sergeant Jim Hickey, Sergeant Jerry Niess, Deputy Adam Brown, and Deputy Jesus Contreras. Lieutenant Bruce Baker started both discussions by announcing that crime rates and arrest rates in Marin City have been steadily declining, however, there has been an increase in violent crime. The main concerns raised by residents included:

- The school consolidation
- A curfew for minors and truancy
- Families leaving the area because of discrimination
- How to make sure that community members in need are aware of the many resources that exist
- The need for teen programs for youth who currently have little to do in Marin City.
- Overall wellness and the role mental and physical well being can play into the safety of our community.

Along with concerns the community discussed possible solutions including increased parent involvement, community dinners for youth, truancy patrols during school hours, and public housing being cleaned up. The community members present are interested in finding ways to encouraged Marin City residents to have pride in their community to make it better.

The Sheriff urged community members to always report a crime when it is taking place in order to keep Marin City safe. **Lieutenant Baker will continue to hold community discussions on a regular basis. Please contact the Sheriff's dept or MCCSD for future meeting dates.**

Say it Loud

MCCSD and the Manzanita Recreation center hosted a night of fashion, music, and fun for Marin City residents February 2, 2013. The name of the fashion show was Say it Loud-I'm Black and I'm Proud in honor of Black History Month. The show brought 70s fashion with modern twists to Marin City. The main theme of the show was Spring Bling in the 70s. Along with the fashion, there were several 70s themed performances. This was the second time the Manzanita Recreation Center sponsored a fashion show in collaboration with Mario B. The show cost was \$10 for adults and free for children.



Photo taken by Paul Austin

Designer Mario B has a love for fashion as well as a commitment to giving back to communities. He was introduced to the Marin City community through a parent which inspired him to hold one of his empowering fashion shows in Marin City. Marin City youth including Lea Mixon, Tori Shavers, and Kari Haynes (pictured above) lit up the stage with the help of Mario B's team of hair and make-up designers. Mario B hopes to be a role model to young people. One of the event organizers pointed out that "the show itself results in a transformation of its participants to appreciate their beauty and builds self confidence." The next show expected to be held at the Manzanita Recreation Center in Spring.

A Celebration of Black History Month

For the 15th year in a row the Marin City MLK Coalition hosted the Annual Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday celebration. The celebration started on Thursday Jan 17th with a children's event which included musical performances from children ages 5-15 and recognition of outstanding students from each of the schools. All of the local schools were represented which includes MLK academy, Bayside Elementary, and Willow Creek. Parents, children, and Marin City neighbors filled the Manzanita Recreation Center to enjoy the event. Children also got the opportunity to leave their mark on a large mural that included the faces of Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Barack Obama designed by the MCCSD rec urban art instructor Keith Williams. The Mural was then put on display at the Community Event January 21st. After the event, dinner was provided.

The main MLK celebration took place on January 21st at the Manzanita Recreation Center. Over 150 participants got to enjoy breakfast and local entertainment from the Voices of Praise and Carol



Restorative Justice Project: Brenda Rodriguez, David Haines, Nancy Hoang, Mikayla Williams

Thomas and the Zydeco Boys. On a large projection screen, the inaugural celebration of President Barack Obama was viewed by participants. Roaring applause filled the Recreation Center upon swearing in of the president.

Following the Inauguration attendees participated in emergency preparedness training. As a part of the Ready Neighborhoods Initiative, the American Red Cross provided training for both children and adults. The training emphasized how to respond to an emergency such as a fire, earthquake, or other natural disaster. Children got to enjoy a live puppet show presented by three local students who volunteered their time to become puppeteers and experts on basic emergency preparedness. Rokiav Cutkelvin a senior attending Tamalpais, Rodwell Cutkelvin a freshman at Tamalpais, and Alijah Andrews a third grader at Highland Elementary engaged anxious youngsters in the sing a long presentation.

The unity, public service, and peace MLK promoted was achieved during this successful day long community event. It would not have been possible without the generous contributions of the member of the Marin City MLK Coalition, the Marin City Community Services District, the Marin Community Foundation, Community Action Marin, Marin City Development Corporation, the Marin City Health and Wellness Clinic, Sausalito Mayor Herb Weiner, the Sausalito Police Chief, Jennifer Tejada, and many others! A special thanks to all of the contributors and volunteers!

Community Events Showcase



Summer Maunder, Niah Jones, and Octavian Green

The Manzanita Recreation Center hosted a Black History Month Celebration February 22, 2013. Many families attended the event to enjoy entertainment provided by members of the community. The night started out with an African inspired percussion performance by the Youth Music Ensemble. On the flute was Niah Jones, on bongos was Kahlid Davis and Octavian Green, and on the tambourine was Summer Maunder. Oshalla Diana Marcus, the mistress of ceremonies, gracefully uplifted the crowd to celebrate Black History. Following an introduction of why Black History month is celebrated, the Village Baptist Church Junior Praise Dancers led by Michele Carpenter lit up the stage. Performers included Markela Jones, Kaleb and Kyndall Carpenter, and Yamaecha Davis. The night also included an original poem by Oshalla Diana Marcus, a beautiful performance of song by Carol Thomas, and an open mic which featured Melvin Atkins and others from the community.

To wrap up the first half of the program, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition presented its

Community Leadership Awards. The awards were given to leaders in the community who through their time in Marin City have ignited change. At the end of this article there is a list of the awards and those who received the awards this year. Dinner was generously provided by Marin City CSD. During/after dinner there were performances by D'George Hines, a Praise Dance by Brian Finley, and a spiritual medley sung by Florence Williams. Many hugs and excitement was shared by community members and community leaders closed out the night.



A special thanks to all the organizations who generously donated funds to help the event come to life including the Marin Community Foundation, The Marin City CSD, Community Action Marin, Marin City CLC, Mayor Herb Weiner, CVS, Starbucks, and Jennifer Tejada the Sausalito Police Chief. Thank you again to all the organizations who participated in the event. The biggest thanks should be given to Debra Hall for her dedicated effort to make this event happen.

Marin City Youth Attend Drumline

Drumline Live is an exciting show that brings the nation's Historically Black Universities marching band tradition to the stage. The show featured a wide array of music types including hip hop, Motown, and the marching band classics. The 40-member cast carried out an intricately choreographed show that kept viewers of all ages fully engaged and in awe. The Marin City Community Services District was given over 100 free tickets for Marin City through the efforts of Felicia Gaston and the Performing Stars of Marin. The students were taken together on the MCCSD bus over to the Marin County Civic Center for the big show. We would like to thank the Marin Performing Stars program for the opportunity to immerse the Marin City Youth in this riveting American marching band experience.

Photo:

- Community Service Award – Reverend Rondall Leggett
- Next Generation Leadership Award – Paul Austin, Jr.
- Community Service Award – Mrs. Georgia Wade
- Community Education Service Award – Ruth Nenabor
- Community Education Service Award – Ciara Jewel Barrow
- Outstanding Organization Community Service Award – WHAP Scholastic Academy
- Civic Engagement Award – Ericka Omena Erickson
- Community Legacy Award – Mr. Ben Randolph

Update on School Move

Moving Forward with Hope

By Valerie Pitts - Superintendent

The SMCS D Board of Trustees voted on January 24 to close Bayside Elementary School and consolidate its K-4 school program with the 5-8 program at Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. The Pre K-8 school program will open in the fall of 2013. There will be approximately 120 students located on the campus. A rich and vital Pre K-8 school is coming!

Times of change and advance are conspicuous in tiny communities. They are fraught with fear and grieving. It is difficult for most of us to look past the implementation of change and see our way to a clear and better future. We must count on vision, on hope and integrity. We must do what we say we will do – build a strong 21st century educational program and community school for our students and families. These are the priorities in the Sausalito Marin City School District.

SMCS D educators have skill, experience, stamina, resilience and dedication. Our path is before us – to create and sustain an extraordinary Pre K-8 school option for children and families at the Martin Luther King Jr. Academy in partnership with the community. We are fortunate that our community is filled with inspired and resolute people who can help our schools be successful.

A community school includes a culturally responsive curriculum, field and service oriented activities and

sustainable partnerships with organizations that also serve our students and families. The elements of a successful Pre K-8 school include the following steps:

1. We need to develop effective communication with parents and strategize to engage them in the new school process.
2. Our curriculum is standards-based, culturally relevant and “glocally” focused – both a local and global orientation.
3. Teachers and support staff are 100% focused on the school environment and student learning.
4. Some of our processes/operations will need to be redesigned for greater efficiency as MLK becomes a Pre K-8. This will help streamline bureaucracy and focus us more on student programs.
5. We have multiple measures of student achievement and the data collected through these measures can help guide our success.
6. Our school and community leaders can continue to work on developing a strong team-oriented approach to the schools in the Sausalito Marin City School District.

We can have an outstanding, high quality educational Pre K-8 program at MLK, and we will do so by working together as a strong network of staff, service providers and advocates focused on creating successful children and families. We have much to be thankful for in our community. Moving forward with hope and goodwill is our commitment.

Mardi Gras In Marin

The Performing Stars of Marin and Brazilian Alliance provided a grand showing of the traditional Creole flavor of Louisiana fused with the Brazilian Carnival celebration at a huge Mardi Gras Event on February 19, 2013 at the Sweetwater Music Hall in Mill Valley. This amazing fusion was brought to Marin County on Fat Tuesday to celebrate the amazing cultural diversity seen in and around the Bay Area. The event was created to serve both as a fundraising event and a huge party for the Marin County area. Participants came dressed in appropriate Mardi Gras garb and enjoyed a night of celebration. The evening highlighted musical performances from famous artists including Grammy® nominated Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic and SaravaZamba. Andre Thierry is known for being one of the best Zydeco musicians today and lit up the stage with his effortless performances alongside the Zydeco Magic. SarvaZamba led by Leo Lobo provides a unique musical experience including original songs that are a fusion of African, Brazilian, and Central American Music. Needless to say, happy attendees were kept moving all night. Along with the amazing music attendees got to enjoy traditional Creole Cuisine provided the Sweetwater Chef. The night was a great success for attendees and organizers. Proceeds from the event went towards the Performing Stars of Marin Music Programs.



Photo taken by Brazilian Alliance: Felicia Gaston, Ericka Omena Ericksen, and SaravaZamba

The MCCSD Board 2013

The Marin City Community Services Board acts as Marin City's local government making important decisions that effect the community. The board is made up of a diverse set of professionals who are elected into the position by Marin City residents every two years. A short bio for all the current board members is listed below.



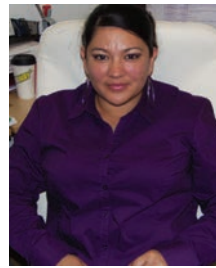
Everett Brandon: was sworn into office on December 3, 2009, and soon accepted his nomination as Vice Chair. Brandon holds a Juris Doctorate degree and works as a consultant and writer. Brandon has been involved in governmental policy development and education outreach for five decades, as the first President and co-founding Board member of PACT, inc.—a San Francisco based non-profit, which grooms underserved youth and adults for higher education. Brandon aspires to improve Marin City's overall community development, help expand recreation programs, and strengthen support for senior programs.



Nancy Johnson: was sworn into office in 2010. Nancy attended Jackson State University and received a Real Estate designation issued by the National Association of Real Estate. As a Marin County native, Nancy returned home to serve her community. Nancy worked in social services, and in low income housing for over 20 years in Marin County. She decided to join the MCCSD board because there was a need for someone with contract and real estate experience. She worked with the CLC on developing the shopping center. Nancy has served on several boards including chair of The Grassroots Leadership Network, The Marin City Health and Wellness center, and the Marin Interfaith Council.



La Tanya Wiggins: was sworn into office in 2009. She is a business owner, providing quality childcare for numerous children within the District. Wiggins is especially passionate about creating opportunities for Marin City youth to thrive. She serves on the Recreation committee and remains dedicated to ensuring that all children and teens have positive outlets and safe spaces to be productive. Wiggins also has served as a Board trustee for Community Action Marin (CAM) for several years.



Belinda Perez Ingraham: was sworn into office in 2011. Belinda works at the Marin City Community Health Center as a front office administrator where she started as a volunteer years ago. Belinda has a diverse education from College of Marin preparing her to work in the health, wellness, and education fields with great levels of cultural competence. Belinda has an extensive non-profit/public agency background with experience working with Homeward Bound Marin, Marin Headstart, and First Five of Marin. She continues to stay involved in the community volunteering for many different organizations.



Gerald Norman: is the newest member of the board and was sworn into office in January of 2013. Norman is an attorney licensed to practice in California. Norman has had a long career in law including working for 32 years as the assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco. Norman has had several affiliations including being a board member of the Creative Difference Program in Oakland. Gerald comes to the board to provide his many legal skills and experiences.

Do you want your voice heard? Be sure to attend the MCCSD Board Meetings every first Thursday of the month at the Marguerita C. Johnson Senior Center @ 6:30pm

Emergency Preparedness Committee: The Marin City Emergency Preparedness Council is looking for community members to be involved with the effort to keep Marin City safe. The American Red Cross will be leading several FREE classes to help community members be prepared for emergencies.

Meetings are the 1st Friday of every month

Register to be a Member of the Rec Today!

Be sure to register your child today to attend the Manzanita Recreation center. Through the end of the school year registration is free! Activities include cooking classes, music classes, structured athletics, and the newly opened game room! Come by the MCCSD admin office today to sign up! 630 Drake Ave, Marin City.

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Everett Brandon, Vice-Chairperson
LaTanya Wiggins, Director
Belinda Ingraham, Director
Gerald Norman, Director

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Agencies Mentioned in This Edition

Marin City CDC: (415) 339-2837
Marin Theater Company (MTC): (415) 322-6026
Emergency Preparedness Committee: (415) 332-1441
MLK Coalition: (415) 491-4366
The Hannah Project: (415) 332-4295

Marin Housing Authority: (415) 491-2525
Marin Performing Stars: (415) 332-8316
Brazilian Alliance: (415) 472-2950
Marin YMCA: (415) 459-9622



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