



MARIN COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR  
KATE SEARS

## Kate's Corner...

*Dear Friends & Neighbors,*

*One morning in early August, as I was heading to the Mill Valley dog park with my very old dog Josie, I came across a group of children having a snack at the new roundabout on the multi-use pathway. The kids were about to spend a couple of hours with a County park ranger, taking care of our open space, picking up litter, learning to be good stewards of the environment and of our community. They were excited to tell me that the previous day they had visited Mill Valley City Hall, learning about local government. They enveloped my dog with gentle pats and love. And they answered what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described as life's most persistent and urgent question, "What are you doing for others?"*

*At the beginning of this year, I urged my colleagues to make 2015 a year of positive, proactive and collaborative efforts. In short, to put community and the common good first.*

*There are divergent views about priorities and needs that divide our residents, and conflicting notions of what is beneficial or harmful to our county. There sometimes is a rush to distrust and to accuse, rather than a pause to share thoughts and explore options together.*

*We can only make progress in addressing important issues in our county – including meeting the needs of our aging population, alleviating health and education disparities, combating prescription drug misuse by our young people and seniors, addressing climate change, and easing barriers of race and equity – if we work together to understand our options and constraints, to brainstorm solutions, and find common ground.*

*There is much that we still need to do, as individuals and as communities, to deepen our focus on the common good and to expand our sense of community. I'm looking forward to the work ahead of us and I welcome your involvement as we find solutions together.*

*I hope you had a wonderful summer and will stay connected!*

*Sincerely,*



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## NORTH KNOLL TRAFFIC LIGHT STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS

Caltrans surprised all of us when it announced its intention to install a new traffic light at Highway 131 (Tiburon Boulevard) and North Knoll Road in Strawberry.



According to Caltrans, the signal is needed to address existing accident patterns at the intersection, facilitate pedestrian crossing, and bring the intersection into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements with new or upgraded curb ramps.

While appreciating Caltrans desire to improve safety conditions, many of us believed a new traffic signal was not the right approach and would worsen traffic condi-

tions. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of the County of Marin, Mill Valley, Tiburon, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans and local and regional transit agencies has been evaluating pedestrian and bicycle improvements for the Tiburon Blvd/US 101/East Blithedale interchange.

Working together, the TAC identified potential alternatives, such as pedestrian crossing treatments, restricting U-turns, eliminating the crosswalk across Highway 131, moving curbs, and enhancing signs and pavement markings, and urged Caltrans to consider them.

On July 24, Senator Mike McGuire, at my request, convened a meeting of Caltrans, the County, Mill Valley, Tiburon, Strawberry, Tam CSD, Marin City CSD, and other stakeholders to discuss the proposed North Knoll Road traffic light and potential alternatives.

In a significant shift, Caltrans agreed to implement interim measures prior to installation of a traffic signal and evaluate their effectiveness. Caltrans and members of the TAC are working out the details and we will update you once final plans are in place.

## THE FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SERVE 100% ORGANIC AND NON-GMO LUNCHES!

When the Sausalito-Marín City School District opened its doors this fall, it will be the first ever 100% organic and non-GMO school district in the country. More than 500 students at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy and Willow Creek Academy will eat delicious, sustainably sourced meals prepared on-site, through a program called “The Conscious Kitchen”. There are flowers on the lunch tables and the food is great!

Sausalito-based nonprofit Turning Green launched a pilot program in August 2013 in partnership with Cavallo Point Lodge, the Sausalito-Marín City School District, Whole Foods Market, and Good Earth Natural Foods. Meals are accompanied by an interdisciplinary garden and nutrition curriculum that promotes food literacy and allows students to follow their meals from soil to plate.



## Community Spotlight: Marin City

### CHECK OUT THE NEW COMMUNITY PARK:

On July 11, the ribbon was cut, officially opening the new Rocky Graham Park in Marin City. Once a central gathering place but dormant and abandoned since the ‘90’s, this park has been re-born. Six years ago, residents, many of them Marin City youth, gathered input from all community members about what they would like to have in a neighborhood park, and they then initiated a petition to get the project started.

The result is a state-of-the art community park with something for all ages: places to play, to exercise, to read quietly, with a stage to perform on, a Wi-Fi hotspot for studying, space for family get-togethers and neighborhood barbecues.

The Trust for Public Land contributed funds and expertise and the work was done by local union community members. The park includes native plants, bioswales and public art that honors the history of this Marin community.

Located adjacent to the public safety building, the park is amazing and fun – be sure to check it out!





## FLOOD PROTECTION AND SEA LEVEL RISE: STUDYING BENEFICIAL REUSE OF SEDIMENT IN BOTHIN MARSH

BUILDING RESILIENCE,  
REDUCING GREENHOUSE  
GAS EMISSIONS AND PRE-  
PARING FOR CHANGES  
ALONG OUR SHORELINE:

The OWL Pilot Project is a virtual reality viewer that lets us “see” what the future with more water will look like.



On October 8th, please join me and our Project partners for a Community Conversation about what we value, and how we can work together to build sea level rise resilience:

**Mill Valley  
Community Center  
5:30– 8:30 PM**

Other steps we are taking to build resilience for a changing climate and rising sea levels include the C-SMART, or Collaboration: Sea-level Marin Adaptation Response Team, working with the community along our ocean coast. Soon we will be doing a Vulnerability Assessment along our bay shoreline, in collaboration with all 11 cities and towns.

**Sediment** is the vital connection between watersheds and tidal marshes all around the San Francisco Bay. This connection has been disrupted or lost entirely due to urban development.

“High marsh” and above-tide transitional areas of a marsh serve an important flood protection role by directly holding back tides and by attenuating wind and wave energy, lessening the impacts of storm-driven waves that flood and erode the shore. Loss of watershed-tidal marsh sediment worsens flooding impacts.

A local example is the Coyote Creek watershed and Bothin Marsh tidal wetlands. In the 1960s, an Army Corps flood control “channel and levee” project cut off Coyote Creek from the marsh, and the Almonte-Miller Avenue roadway effectively cut off the sediment supply from the steep hills immediately adjacent to the marsh.

The result is a marsh without an effective supply of sediment to maintain marsh elevations. This problem will become more acute as sea levels rise.

Marin County Flood Control District and Marin County Parks have secured a \$25,000 grant from the North Bay Watershed Association to evaluate the feasibility of reusing sediments dredged from Coyote Creek to enhance marsh elevations for both habitat and sea level rise resiliency. Dredged sediments from the watershed are currently disposed of at a local landfill.

The study will analyze and develop concept-level cost estimates of sediment reuse to maximize high marsh and transition zone habitat values and provide a long-term buffer for sea level rise impacts in Bothin Marsh.

This study will be an important first step towards a regionally significant demonstration project for reuse of sediments benefitting habitat and sea level rise adaptability, and reducing ongoing channel maintenance costs. The study fits with an increasing Bay-wide awareness of clean sediment as an important resource for habitats and flood protection.

## SLOW AND SAY “HELLO”: SHARING PATHS AND OPEN SPACE TRAILS

# Share the Path

  
be courteous. know the rules.  
be responsible.



Last fall, there was a serious collision on the Mill Valley-Sausalito Multi-Use Path that injured 2 children and a cyclist. The County has worked with Mill Valley staff, the Marin County Bicycle Coalition and law enforcement, among others, to improve safe enjoyment of this pathway for all.

Speed feedback signs were installed along the path in late July and the “Share the Path” public awareness campaign re-launched on August 17. Bold, temporary signs designed to capture attention have been installed along the path from August 17 through October 8, in coordination with Back to School on August 26 and International Walk & Roll to School Day on October 7.

The campaign includes continued outreach at the Sycamore roundabout, an “I Share” banner to sign, classroom education on safety provided by [Safe Routes to School](#), and continued enforcement of speed limits. “Share” graphics with arrows will be applied to the path pavement, helping delineate the different directional paths of travel.

The spirit of sharing also spurred the “Slow & Say Hello!” campaign developed by Trail Partners, a collaboration of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, the Marin Horse Council, and the Marin Conservation League. The [safetrailsmarin.org](#) website provides tips for sharing the trail, safe communication and resource protection for walkers, hikers, joggers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. I want to thank MCBC, the Marin Horse Council, and the Marin Conservation League for working together to create and maintain safe trails and a healthy ecosystem for all.

Visit the “Share the Path”  
table at the Sycamore  
Roundabout in Mill Valley

September 13, 8:30-11:00

October 3, 8:30-11:00 AM

October 7, 7:30—11:00 AM



## DRUG “TAKE-BACK” LOCATIONS:

**Mill Valley Police Department**  
One Hamilton Drive, Mill Valley  
(415) 389-4100

**City of Sausalito Police Department**  
29 Caledonia St., Sausalito  
(415) 289-4170

**Southern Marin Fire**  
333 Johnson Street, Sausalito  
(415) 388-8182

**Tiburon Police Department**  
1155 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon  
(415) 789-2801

**Marin County Environmental Health Services**  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 236  
San Rafael  
(415) 473-6907

**Central Marin Police Authority**  
250 Doherty Drive, Larkspur  
(415) 927-5150

**Golden Gate Pharmacy**  
1525 E. Francisco Blvd.,  
San Rafael  
(415) 455-9042

**Marin Medical Pharmacy**  
750 Las Gallinas, San Rafael  
(415) 479-1930

**Novato Police Department**  
909 Machin Avenue, Novato  
(415) 897-4361

**San Anselmo Police Department**  
525 San Anselmo Ave.  
San Anselmo

**San Rafael Police Department**  
1400 Fifth Ave., San Rafael  
(415) 485-3000

**Sheriff's & Coroner's Offices**  
1600 Los Gamos Drive, #205,  
San Rafael  
(415) 473-6043

## Leftovers?

National Prescription  
Take-Back Day  
September 26, 2015, 10am-2pm  
<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov>



Look for more information and additional locations  
Saturday, September 26, 2015  
Sponsored by the office of the  
Marin County District Attorney

## MARIN COUNTY'S NEW DRUG “TAKE-BACK” ORDINANCE ENHANCES SAFETY

As of September 11, 2015, pharmaceutical companies will be required to manage and fund a comprehensive countywide program to collect and safely dispose of unwanted, unused and/or expired over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

Nearly one in five Marin teens report having used prescription narcotics recreationally and 27 people in Marin County died from accidental drug overdose in 2013, the most recent year for which numbers are available. Nationwide, there is an epidemic of prescription drug misuse and abuse. According to recent studies, nearly half of the U.S. population takes at least one prescription drug and 40 percent of adults age 65 and older take five or more.

Without options for safe disposal, unwanted drugs are most often thrown into the trash or flushed down the toilet. This creates an environmental hazard. Toxins in medications flushed down drains or toilets are not removed in sewage treatment plants and can pollute local water supplies and endanger wildlife when released into the San Francisco Bay or local streams. Drugs that are thrown into the trash can be accidentally ingested by children and animals that may pull them out, but ultimately end up in landfills with the potential to contaminate ground water.

The new drug take-back ordinance will create a network of safe and convenient drop-off locations around the County. The ordinance applies countywide and also covers medications intended for animals. In adopting the ordinance, Marin joins the ranks of Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, all of which have similar ordinances.

This ordinance is part of a series of initiatives to curb prescription drug abuse in Marin. Last winter, Marin County's Departments of Health and Human Services and Environmental Health Services collaborated with [RxSafe Marin](#), a coalition of community stakeholders, to produce the informational guide, [A Prescription for Change](#). The guide was created as an education tool and community resource on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. I hope you will find it helpful.



## COUNTY ROAD RESURFACING IN SOUTHERN MARIN

The condition of our local streets and roads has a significant impact on all of us – drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Marin County's unincorporated area has 420 centerline miles of roads and 56 bridges, with an overall pavement condition index (CPI) of 60 on a scale of zero (failed) to one hundred (excellent) and a one-year backlog of \$81 million in deferred maintenance.

Marin County has made great strides to increase our annual roads investment from \$5 million to \$8 million annually, but we will need to increase that investment even more, to \$15 million per year, to maintain a PCI of 60. We are urging Governor Brown and the Legislature to approve current legislative proposals that would fund both state and local transportation infrastructure maintenance in perpetuity.

In the meantime, we've been paving as many roads as we can. In summer 2014, county roads crews paved Ash Street from Shoreline Highway to Marin Avenue; Laurel Way from Shoreline Highway to the end; Marin Avenue from Tennessee Valley Road to Northern Avenue; Northern Avenue from Shoreline Highway to the end; and Pine Street from Shoreline Highway to Marin Avenue.

This summer, road paving was done on Circle Way from Homestead Boulevard to the end; Homestead Boulevard from Stadium Way to Loring Avenue; and Morning Sun from Dolan Avenue to Homestead Boulevard.



The County's road crews work to serve the county's residents and visitors with the least inconvenience as possible. To that end, they often do their work during the late night/early morning hours so as to cause as little impediment to traffic flow as possible. Come rain or shine, our staff are out on the County roadways to ensure the right-of-ways remain open and safe for travel. To report a problem, please call 415-473-7388.



## OUR COMMUNITIES: HOPE FOR OUR CULTURE, OUR COUNTRY

On Sunday, June 21, I was privileged to speak at Cornerstone Community Church in Marin City during a vigil for the victims of the massacre at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. When hate fuels the murder of good and decent people studying scripture in church we know something is seriously wrong.

There certainly are conversations that must occur about racism in our country, about mental health and gun control. But we can and must act now to change our behavior—to change our impulse for intolerance, for hate and for violence—if we are to stop these horrifying incidents of mass shootings and to have no need to forgive after a tragedy occurs.

This was truly an opportunity to come together, as members of many faiths and communities joined hands, pledging to move beyond hate and bigotry, to find a way for the better natures of all our citizens in the US to rise to this occasion, to act, to make this necessary change in our country.

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## SEPTEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Sept 2**  
8:30 AM—10 AM  
Marin Clean Energy  
Technical Committee  
10:00 AM to 12 Noon  
Marin Clean Energy  
Executive Committee  
(SMART Meeting Cancelled)
- Sept 3**  
11:00 AM—12:30 PM  
Bay Conservation & Development  
Commission -  
Rising Sea Levels Working Group  
1:00 PM—4:00 PM  
BCDC Commission Meeting
- Sept 8**  
Board of Supervisors  
Meeting Cancelled
- Sept 10**  
10:00 AM —11:30 PM  
Golden Gate Bridge District  
Transportation&Rules Sub-Comm
- Sept 11**  
10:00 AM—12:30 PM  
Golden Gate Bridge District  
Board Meeting
- Sept 14**  
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM  
Transportation Authority of Marin  
(TAM) Executive Sub-Committee  
on Programming and Projects
- Sept 15**  
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM  
Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Sept 16**  
1:30 PM to 5:00 PM  
SMART Board Meeting
- Sept 17**  
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Marin Clean Energy Board  
Annual Retreat  
1:00 PM to 4:30 PM  
Bay Conservation & Development  
Commission
- Sept 21**  
10:00 AM—12 Noon  
Marin County Transit District
- Sept 22**  
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM  
Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Sept 23**  
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM  
Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center  
Conservancy
- Sept 24**  
7:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Transportation Authority of Marin  
(TAM) Board Meeting
- Sept 25**  
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM  
Golden Gate Bridge District  
Gov't Affairs and Public Infor-  
mation  
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
Golden Gate Bridge District  
Board

For more information  
on these and other meetings,  
and to review agendas and staff  
reports, please visit the website  
for the particular agency that you  
are interested in