

Marin County~District Two

Fairfax, Larkspur, Ross, San Anselmo, San Rafael
Greenbrae, Kentfield, Oak Manor, Sleepy Hollow
Bret Harte, Gerstle Park and Lomita Park

From Supervisor Hal Brown

Summer 2010

Dear Friends,

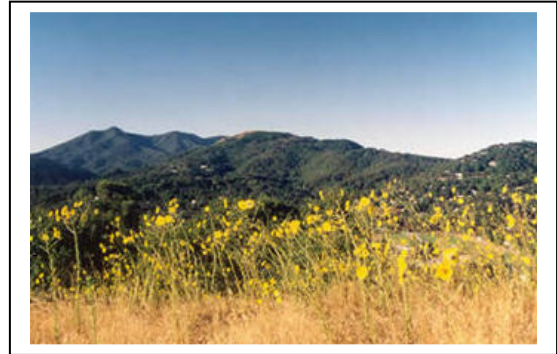
You'd never know it from the headlines, but the County of Marin's financial picture remains in excellent shape, and I intend to see that it stays that way.

Yes, the next several years will challenge us to find ways to operate efficiently and effectively in a very lean economy. But our County government is in an excellent position to weather the slow climb out of the recession, and we are well on our way to making the changes necessary to meet a leaner fiscal reality.

The challenge for any public agency under the current climate is to shrink the size of government to match revenues, yet continue to provide the core programs, services and functions we are obligated to by law, and expected to by our residents.

Please know that I will continue to work hard for all the residents of Marin County's 2nd district, to support a healthy economy, environment and community Marin. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concern, or comments. Phone 415-499-7331; or email: hbrown@co.marin.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Mt. Tam from Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Divide

County Budget Is Balanced

The County of Marin continues to be one of the most fiscally responsible local governments in the State of California.

Marin's operating debt is the lowest of all Bay Area counties. We have the highest bond rating of all 58 counties in California. We have a healthy reserve set aside. And we have been proactive and effective in responding to the 2008 economic downturn and new fiscal reality. We have brought spending in line with revenues, without compromising mandated programs and services, and the health and safety of our community and environment.

But the economic downturn will continue to impact the County. For the next several years we are expecting:

- flat to decreasing property tax revenues
- further state budget reductions
- continued impact from market losses in pension holdings
- greater demand for County "safety net" services.

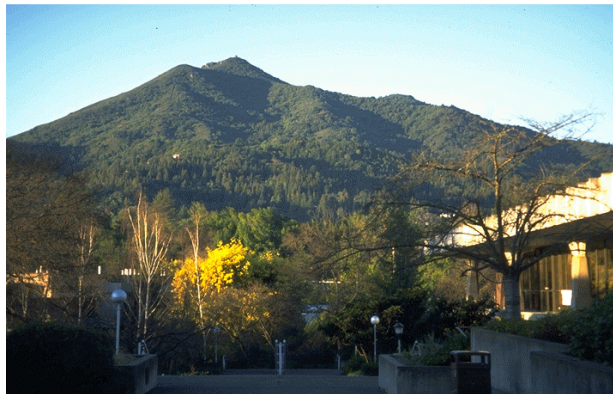
The Board of Supervisors has adopted a budget and is following a strategic planning process that require that expenditures stay in line with revenues, that the County maintain healthy reserves, and that reducing future liabilities remains an ongoing budget priority.

For detailed budget information please visit the county website at www.co.marin.ca.us. ♦

Where County Funds Come From

Taxes (property: 44%; sales;34%; other 22%)	164,253,959
Licenses, Permits & Franchise Fees	9,999,818
Fines & Penalties	5,136,228
Revenues from Use	7,016,079
Intergovernmental Revenues	156,147,038
Charges for Current Services	44,283,236
Miscellaneous Revenues	17,285,775
Use of Fund Balance	26,873,335
Total Sources	430,995,468

Kentfield Community Plan Update



Mt. Tam from Kentfield

The Kentfield/Greenbrae Community Plan was adopted over twenty years ago and lacks an up-to-date design plan for “downtown” Kentfield. To help address this issue, Supervisor Brown formed the Kentfield Vision Committee in March 2010 to allow community stakeholders the opportunity to develop a more cohesive ‘vision’ for upper College Avenue which would better support and integrate the needs of the local residential, commercial, and academic community.

Given the importance of the College Avenue corridor to the character of Kentfield, the committee draws from a broad base of community stakeholders including the Kentfield Planning Advisory Board (KPAB), Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association (KWPOA), Greenbrae Property Owners Association (GPOA), the Kentfield School District, College of Marin and business owners from Woodlands Market and Half Day Café, among others.

Facilitated by senior staff members of the Community Development Agency and a professional land use and design consultant, the Kentfield Vision Committee is engaged in a proactive planning process with the goal of developing consensus on the community's vision for their downtown commercial area, leading to a community-wide workshop in late August.

For more information, visit the County's website at: http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/Main/comdev/advance/kentfield_vision.cfm ♦

Marin County residents may have to wait for Solar Financing program

If Supervisor Hal Brown has his way, Marin County will soon join the CaliforniaFIRST energy efficiency program that will make it financially feasible for homeowners throughout Marin to install solar systems or make other energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

“Where there’s a will, there should be a way,” said Supervisor Brown, who has spearheaded the effort to provide a municipal solar financing program for Marin County residents. As participants in the CaliforniaFIRST program, Marin County property owners will have access to low interest loans to make energy improvements.

The California First Program is a property assessed clean energy (PACE) finance program. PACE programs allow property owners to finance the installation of energy improvements on their home or business and pay the loan back as a line item on their property tax bill.

The program has its genesis in AB 811, legislation adopted by the State Legislature in 2009, designed to encourage homeowners to install solar systems and make improvements to their homes to increase energy and water efficiency,

However, early this summer, action taken by mortgage giants Freddie Mae and Fannie Mac, and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) have put PACE programs on hold, which likely means a delay for Marin County joining CaliforniaFirst or another energy efficiency loan program.

Supervisor Hal Brown’s was dismayed, but not discouraged by the delay. “These programs are too important to the economy and to creating green energy and reducing our carbon emissions for the feds to derail,” said Brown. He expects Congress will eventually overrule the FHA and give the green light to PACE programs. ♦

Did you know that Marin Clean Energy will pay homeowners for any excess energy they produce on their solar or other clean energy system? Go to www.marincleanenergy.org for more information.

D2 News, Notes and Notables!

- *Many thanks to long time **Lomita Park** residents **Jack Fulton and Richard Berstein**. From organizing neighborhood clean up days, to taking the lead on protecting the Lomita Marsh, making sure the street lights stay lit, and being general good ambassadors for their community – these gentlemen do it all!*
- **Ross Valley Flood Fee Upheld** *The California Supreme Court has upheld the Ross Valley flood control ballot measure passed in June 2007. In a unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court affirmed that the County Flood Control District followed the literal language of Proposition 218 which sets forth requirements for such elections. Upon hearing the news, Supervisor Hal Brown said, "I am truly pleased that the court ruled in our favor and we can finally start making significant progress towards providing the flood protection so desperately needed by residents of the Ross Valley." for more information go to: www.rossvalleywatershed.org.*
- **Former Drake High Baseball coach, Rick LaFranchi**, and his wife **Debbie**, residents of San Anselmo, are returning to their dairy roots with the launch of **Nicasio Valley Cheese Company**. Go visit their on site cheese shop in Nicasio, or look for their delicious organic, farmstead cheeses in United, Good Earth, Molly Stones and Whole Foods markets.
- **680 Trail** *Access along a section of fire road connecting the Loma Alta and Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Divide Open Space areas was lost two years ago when the property owner closed access to the public. After negotiations to restore access failed, the Open Space District went to work to establish a new trail connecting the two Open Spaces, utilizing portions of existing social trails, fire roads, and a trail easement deeded by San Domenic School. The proposed new trail (dubbed "The 680") is currently in the environmental review process. Go to www.marinparks.org/680trail for more information. ♦*

The Valentine Ball-- Marin County's premier fundraising gala!

Fourteen years ago, from his seat as County Supervisor, Hal Brown recognized a growing gap between the haves and the have-nots in Marin County's non-profit world. Specifically, he saw that many organizations which provide critical services to some of the most needy in Marin, were having difficulty competing with the burgeoning universe of non-profits based in Marin for a finite pool of fundraising dollars.

There was another "gap" to fill as well: While there were plenty of gala type fundraisers throughout county, Marin did not have a premier, signature event.

So in 1997, Hal Brown founded Marin's premier, signature Black Tie event, the Valentine's Ball. Designed to attract sponsors and attendees from throughout Marin, and aimed at raising awareness and support for charitable organizations specifically benefitting children, families and elders in need--the Marin Valentine's Ball raises nearly \$200,000 each year.

This year's event, held February 6th, benefitted the North Bay Children's Center, Sunny Hills Services, The Godmothers of the Timothy Murphy School for Boys at St. Vincent's, and Whistlestop.

Go to www.marINVALentinesBall.org for information about next year's event and how to participate. ♦

Corte Madera Creek Path *A much loved community treasure and popular recreational path is in line for improvements. This spring, the County was awarded a federal grant to improve safety and accessibility along the Corte Madera Creek Multi-use Path between Ross and College of Marin.*

Improvements will include path resurfacing, creation of "pull-outs" and rest areas, and widening of the path where narrow access creates safety issues, .

A community meeting to discuss the project will be held later this year. The specific project area is between the Town of Ross and College of Marin. Look for improvements to be made in 2011. ♦

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INSIDE:

LETTER FROM HAL

BUDGET UPDATE

KENTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAN

SOLAR FINANCING

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTABLES



If you are a person with a disability and require this document in an alternate format (example: Braille, Large Print, Audiotape, CD-ROM), you may request an alternate format by calling Katie Rice @ 415-499-7331 or by e-mail at krice@co.marin.ca.us.