DOMINICAN AREA news

DOMINICAN/BLACK CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION | P.O. BOX 151702 | SAN RAFAEL, CA 94915-1702 | FALL 2010



Tired of Cooking?

Join your neighbors at the Dominican University Cafeteria for a wonderful smorgasbord dinner. This delicious meal will include a choice of soups, full salad bar, choice of entree, vegetable, dessert and beverage, all for \$8.50 (\$4.00 for children). We'll have tables reserved so please RSVP by October 18.

Dinner at Dominican

Friday October 22, 6 pm

Dominican University Cafeteria (corner of Magnolia and Palm Avenues)

RSVP to Sandy at 454-1077 by October 18 or e-mail: jonesie42@aol.com



Upcoming Events

California Governors' Debate at DU, October 12 at 6:30 p.m. This event is sold out. Expect heavy traffic and local road closures (especially Olive and Acacia Avenues). For more information, visit www.cagovdebate.com.

DU Spirit Day Saturday, October 16
Mass, dedication of the Dominican
Heritage & Alumni House (old Edgehill
mansion) and lunchtime barbecue.
All invited! Please RSVP at:
dominican.edu/events
[see page 2]

Book Fair at Coleman November 1 - 5. Proceeds benefit our elementary school. *[see page 6]*

65 and Up Exercise club up and running, so to speak. You can still join-2 slots left! [see page 5]

Wildfires Hit Close to Home

Fall is usually considered the peak of fire season in Marin. However, in spite of unusually late spring rains, our fire season started early near the Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood.

June 30 brought the largest of the fires to date, when a power saw being used at a home on Margarita Drive triggered a 15 acre fire on the southern slopes of Gold Hill and caused the evacuation of two homes. Twenty engine companies from around Marin responded with more than 150 personnel to fight the fire. In addition, seven hand crews, as well as air tankers and helicopters, and representatives from CAL FIRE and the Sheriff's Office were also at the incident. The impressive black scar is still visible from many streets in eastern San Rafael, including San Pedro Road and even northbound Highway 101 on Cal Park Hill.

Just one-quarter mile from the location of the June fire, on the evening of August 29, arcing wires near Margarita Drive and Highland Avenue started another fire, burning about an acre of land and causing the evacuation of two homes. About 50 firefighters from many Marin cities responded, along with three aircraft.

Three days later, a fire started on the northern edge of our neighborhood, in a homeless encampment on a knoll above Highway 101 and Hacienda Court, near the Scettrini Fire Road. In spite of the brushy Eucalyptus understory, the quick response by fire departments, aided by windless skies, stopped the blaze before it spread far.

[continued on page 5]

share it and be proud of it."

Marin's University at Our Doorsteps: Dominican U Offers Neighbors an Array of Possibilities



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THIS ARTICLE

Dominican Spirit Week
Leadership Lecture Series
Exhibits
Recreation, Exercise & Health
Student Hosting, Mentoring & Internships

Dominican University is a center of activity not only for the staff, faculty and students that comprise this collegiate enterprise, but also for the Dominican and Black Canyon neighborhoods, San Rafael and Marin County at large. This year, the tree-studded campus is hosting 2,200 students engaged in a variety of degree programs and studies.

At the same time, the University graciously opens many of its events, programs, exhibits and facilities to neighbors and friends of the University. Francoise LePage from the President's Office sums it up well, "Dominican is Marin's University, your neighbor, your partner and your resource! Be sure to use it,

Following is a sampling of events, activities, exhibits and programs that neighbors can take advantage of over the next few months at Dominican University. Remember to check the university web site for updates and other information throughout the year.

The events calendar can always be found at www.dominican.edu/events.

Dominican Spirit Week

This year, the university has planned a week of activities for Convocation 2010. Events include:

- The California Governors' Debate, October 12, between vying gubernatorial candidates Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman, will be moderated by Tom Brokaw and held before a live audience at Angelico Hall. NBC will telecast the sold-out event at 6:30 p.m.
- The Vote Smart Challenge '10, October 14, where Dominican students will discuss pressing California issues including energy, health care, immigration, water and education policies. The audience will vote using real-time polling technology on the merits of their cases. Angelico Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Dominican for a Day, October 15, welcomes visitors to the campus for a day of open classrooms, lectures and a tour. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Spirit Day, October 16, opens with a Mass of the Holy Spirit followed by the Shield Ceremony at Magnolia House. Finally, the dedication of the remodeled Edgehill mansion as the Dominican Heritage & Alumni House. A barbecue and the ADSU fall carnival will culminate Dominican Spirit Week on the lawn of Meadowlands, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Neighbors can glean further information including specific event starting times and RSVP links for Dominican Spirit Week at www.dominican.edu/events/spirit-week.

Leadership Lecture Series

Since 2003 the Institute for Leadership Studies has hosted speakers of interest to both students and the community at large. Al Gore, Madelaine Albright, Nancy Pelosi, Dave Eggers, Ralph Nader, Marian Wright Edelman, Bill McKibbon and Dr. Atul Gawande have all appeared at the university. ILS lectures are open to the public (often without charge or are ticketed through Book Passage.) This fall's lineup includes:

- Robert Reich, Aftershock
 October 1, 7 p.m., Angelico Hall, free.
- **Rick Steves**, *Travel as a Political Act*, November 10, 7 p.m., Angelico Hall, free.
- Michael Caine, The Elephant to Hollywood November 17, 7 p.m., Angelico Hall, ticketed by Book Passage @\$40.

Details on ILS lectures can be found at www.dominican.edu/academics/businesslead/leadership/publiceventssymp/fall-2010.html or e-mail the group at ILSevents@dominican.edu Book Passages can be contacted for ticketed events at 415-927-0960 or visit www.bookpassage.com.

Exhibits

Art, photography and other objects are displayed and available for public viewing throughout the year at the university. This fall's calendar of exhibits includes:

- William Arthur Smith: An American Soldier Draws Wartime China 1944-1945, June 7 to Dec 18, 2010, Science Building 1st Floor Wall Display.
- Donn Downing Art Exhibition, Sept 27 to Dec 17, 2010, Library Reading Room Case.
- Paintings from Life, Mary Reed Johnson, San Marco Art Gallery, Sept 9 to Oct 16, 2010, Library Art Gallery.
- **Sister Joanne Cullimore Art Exhibition**, Nov 1, 2010 to Jan 15, 2011, Library Art Gallery.

Recreation, Exercise & Health

Neighbors can take advantage of recreational and exercise opportunities at the university's **Conlan Center**. "All facilities" memberships (fitness, pool and tennis) are available to the public at \$995/year for families (of up to four children) and for individuals at \$445/year. Or, if you prefer to use selected facilities (i.e., pool, tennis or weight rooms) there is a reduced fee schedule. Brochures are available at the Conlan Center or visit the athletics' department web site at www.dominican.edu/athletics or call 415-482-3511.

Meanwhile, a new collaboration between Dominican University and the Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association (DBCNA) - The 65 & Up Club - was launched this fall as an all skill levels "get-together-and-get-someexercise meet-up" according to DBCNA board member Jim Harrison. Neighborhood residents aged 65 or older meet on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for exercise and social gathering at the Conlan Center gym. The University provides a trainer/adviser at all club meetings. The pool is also made available after workouts, or from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Club members pay \$15/month, payable quarterly (\$45) to Dominican University, and receive a membership card that allows access to the Conlan Center during the noted time period. Membership is limited to 20 individuals at least for now. For more information call Jim Harrison at 415-485-6804.

Finally, the Department of Occupational Therapy (OT) offers **Healthy Seniors**—a health and wellness program—to help 60+ year-olds stay healthy and active. The spring clinic will be signing up new members for the program that will make available OT graduate students—under the supervision of OT faculty—to work individually with seniors to improve range of motion and muscle strength; cumulative trauma recovery; coping with chronic physical conditions; physical and home safety; safe driving and community mobility; improving strength, flexibility, and endurance; nutrition, exercise and wellness; use of adaptive equipment; as well as leisure activities and community participation skills. Department Chair, Ruth Ramsey, comments on the web site

that "The program helps to fill a gap, as many older adults in our community have chronic health conditions, but they may not qualify for hospital-based rehabilitation services or home health care." For a press release on Healthy Seniors visit www.dominican.edu/academics/hns/ot/news.html or contact Julie Hunt at Julie.Hunt@dominican.edu or call 415-458-3731.

Student Hosting, Mentoring & Internships

Neighbors can host Dominican University students socially, mentor, or offer internships and work possibilities. Thus, neighbors can participate in the life and experiences of both international and national students. Social hosting can be as simple as offering a home cooked meal or acting as a mentor to students seeking information and perspective on various career options.

Neighbors who can host or mentor national students should contact John Kennedy, VP Student Life, at 415-485-3282 (e-mail: John.Kennedy@dominican.edu).

Those interested in hosting or mentoring international students should contact Radica Ostojic-Portello, Director of International Students at 415-257-1351 x563 (e-mail: radica.ostojic-portello@dominican.edu).

Finally, anyone able to offer work or internships to students should contact Susan Fyles, Director of Career and Internship Services, at 415-485-3283 (e-mail: Susan.Fyles@dominican.edu).

Osher at Dominican - Adult Learning

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a membership-based adult learning community for those over 50. Classes, lectures and clubs are offered. This fall's Osher class schedule includes:

- Tradition and Politics in South East Asia: Burma, Cambodia and Vietnam
- Intelligence in a Post 9/11 World, Part II
- The Modern Civil Rights Movement
- Modern Architecture: Master Builders of the Twentieth Century
- Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Help or Hindrance
- The Brain: Making Sense of Our World
- Eminent Europeans Who Shaped History
- WWII: Allied Prisoners in the Pacific Theatre
- Post Impressionist Art: Masterpieces from the Musee d'Orsay.

These 1.5 hour classes are held once a week over a six or eight week period. More information is available through the Osher Institute web link:

www.dominican.edu/academics/adult/osher or call Dana Pandey, OLLI Associate Director at 415-458-3763 (e-mail: olli@dominican.edu).

Meet the Pups!

GETTING TO KNOW THE DOMINICAN DOGS





If you are up very early, you have probably seen **Roxy** and **Chilli** heading up Gold Hill Grade for their morning 5-mile run with Amanda Ortiz. You might also see Jose taking them out late morning for another hike. These two pups love to get exercise!

Roxy was adopted by the Ortiz family over 3 years ago. A 5-year-old Korean Jindo, Roxy is a wonderful 40 lb. addition to the family, a great hunter, amazing with kids, and extremely patient with other dogs. Speaking of other dogs... Chilli, a 3-1/2-year-old Chihuahua has been the Queen of the Ortiz household since her adoption in December 2007. She dislikes other dogs... except Roxy. She follows Roxy around, sleeps next to her, chews on her feet, and loves to play. Her best trick is to play fetch with dog kibble! While Roxy loves to sleep with Chloe, 10, Chilli sleeps with Amanda and Jose, under the covers as only a chihuahua can do!

If you would like your dog(s) to be profiled, send an e-mail to: paula@pdoubleday.com.

Please be courteous and pick up after your dogs!



Marin Ballet

Marin's Leading Dance Training Center for 40 Years Cynthia Lucas, Artistic Director

- Ballet Program provides comprehensive year-round dance training with performance opportunities for ages 3-18.
- · Morning adult classes available.
- Studio rentals available.

100 Elm Street San Rafael, CA 94901 (415) 453-6705 www.marinballet.org



New DBCNA Website

We are building a new redesigned website for our neighborhood association, scheduled to launch by the end of the year. The site will feature upcoming events, updates on ongoing local issues, DBCNA meetings, local history, a newsletter archive, and more. If there is anything you would like to see on the site, please email Paula Doubleday at paula@pdoubleday.com.

Best of Marin: San Rafael

Two Grand Avenue businesses were honored in the Pacific Sun's annual Best of Marin issue:

 Best Saigon Sandwich was awarded to Fresh Coffee and Sandwiches (969 Grand Ave.) for their reasonably priced and delicious Vietnamese Banh Mi sandwiches.



 Best Nail Care went to Three Sisters (963 Grand Ave.) for their splendid work keeping nails healthy and shiny for over 20 years.

News Around Town

- You may remember the Rock and Roll History museum called Marin Rocks that we featured at our Annual Meeting in May. They originally hoped to be open before the holidays this year. However, during construction, they realized that the earthquake bracing on the building was not to their satisfaction and they wanted to upgrade. They will need to raise more money through their capital campaign and they hope to open next year.
- Next door on Fourth Street, Georges Nightclub should be celebrating its long awaited reopening very soon; perhaps by the time you are reading this.
- San Rafael will soon be the happening place as two other music venues may open—Bobo's BBQ with live entertainment on B Street and, possibly, a new nightclub where See's candy once operated on Fourth Street.
- The new CVS drugstore is now be open on 3rd and Grand. A Video Only retail outlet is opening on Du Bois across from Best Buy.
- The condos at 33 San Pablo should be offered for sale soon. A 9-lot subdivision is being planned on San Pedro Road across from San Pedro School. You may also notice a lot of dirt being piled at Loch Lomond to begin the process of "surcharging" the ground in preparation for the eventual development of that site.

Wildfires Hit Close to Home [continued from page 1]

The response of the San Rafael Fire Department, augmented by firefighters from the county and neighboring towns was clearly key in all these success stories. But their fire work actually began long before the fires started, with preventative clearing of brush around homes and in the open space. For example, a year ago, the SRFD hired a Delta Fire Crew (a joint project between the California Department of Corrections and the California Department of Forestry) to clear a 20 foot swath on either side of the fire road that follows the ridge high above Mountain View Avenue and Black Canyon. They worked from the radio towers north to the Bayhills Road entrance. The 15 acre June fire burned nearly all the way up the hill to this fire break that divides east San Pedro Ridge from its western Gold Hill terminus.

The most recent fire in the Eucalyptus grove brought other issues to the front. We were fortunate to have the services of the Tamalpais Fire Crew, a specially trained group of 13 firefighters that are hired by Marin County. Working from approximately June through February, they are wildland fire fighters, on call 24 hours a day, who are also specialists at brush clearing and removal. They were important in fighting this fire and remained on the job for several days afterward, clearing brush and lifting the tree canopy to reduce future fire danger. Last winter this crew spent over a week clearing a key fire break above the Glenwood neighborhood, at the end of upper McNear Drive. Whenever funding is available, there are many other areas still in desperate need of their services.

Recognizing the danger posed by cooking fires in homeless camps, the City of San Rafael will organize an effort to identify the location of homeless camps in open space, to notify occupants that they will need to vacate (it is illegal to sleep overnight in city parks and open space in Marin), and to coordinate the follow-through. For details on the procedures or to report areas of concern, contact the SR Police Department non-emergency information line at 485-3000.

There are, of course, things that we can to do for ourselves.

- Create Defensible Space: Starting this January 1, 2011
 City regulations will require us to remove all Juniper from
 within 100 feet of our homes. Keep our gardens well
 maintained.
- Participate in Chipper Day Spring 2011: We will be sending our members an email announcement notifying them of the date.
- Develop a Family Disaster Plan, and don't forget to include a Plan for your Pets.
- Designate an Emergency Meeting Location outside the fire hazard area.
- Donate to the MCL Invasive Species Removal Fund.
 Your tax deductible donation is used specifically for a
 Marin Conservation League program to remove broom
 from nearby open space (1632A 5th Avenue, San Rafael
 94901).

Please visit **www.readysetgomarin.org** for more information on protecting yourself and your home against wildfires.

Santa Sabina Offerings

Near the Dominican University campus, next door to the Edgehill mansion renovation project, sits the lovely Santa Sabina Center. Established in 1970, the center has many contemplative offerings as well as the occasional concert available to the neighborhood.

A few upcoming offerings:

The Way of Hand Papermaking is a contemplative day of hand papermaking from natural fibers with papermaker Harriet Hope. \$60 donation, includes lunch. Saturday, November 16, 10:30 – 2:30 pm

A concert features selections from the Niles-Merton Songs with Jacqueline Chew, piano and Chad Runyon, baritone. *Donation \$20. Sunday, December 5, 3 pm*

Advent Retreat Weekend features life coach and therapist Nan Brenzel focusing on body-spirit connections. *Fee \$375. December 17 – 19*

There are many other offerings year round. For more details call 457-7727 or swing by the Santa Sabina Center and pick up a brochure.

The Dominican 65-and-up Club

The DBCNA and Dominican University are cooperating on a "get-together-and-get-some-exercise meet-up" for people over 65 years old. Club members meet on Monday and Thursday from 10:00 to 11:30 am at Conlan Center gym on campus. There is a full gym with machines and free weights and a room with floor mats for stretching and chairs for just sitting around. The first meeting was Thursday September 9th.

Mr. Walter Shine from DU provides excellent training/advising to members on finding a great basic exercise and stretching routine. Members pay just \$15/month, payable quarterly, to DU for this activity. The maximum is 20 people and we still have two slots left. Contact Jharris9@pacbell.net.

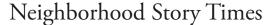
- Jim Harrison



What's Happening at Coleman Elementary

Book Fair Open to Neighbors

Coleman will be holding its annual book fair (sale) Monday, November 1 to Friday November 5 in the Coleman Library at 800 Belle Avenue. This year's theme is "Here's to Our Heroes - Reading Saves the Day!" Everyone is welcome to shop for books for yourself or for the upcoming holidays. All sales benefit the Coleman Library.



Coleman School cordially invites parents and children three to six years of age to join Ms. Jeri Situm, librarian emeritus, for story time in the Coleman library (800 Belle Ave) on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. After Ms. Situm reads a wonderful story, children will be able to choose a book to check out of the Coleman School library and take home to read.

Refreshments will be served, and young readers will be invited to participate in an art project.

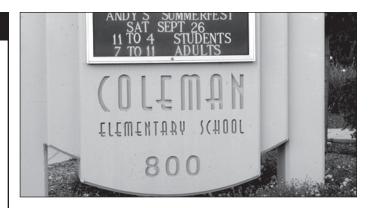
Bring your young book lover to Coleman School's Neighborhood Story Time at 9:30 a.m. on October 23, December 4, 2010, February 5, 2011 and March 5, 2011.

Coleman Needs Your Box Tops

Coleman Elementary School is collecting "Box Tops for Education". You have probably noticed these box tops on General Mills cereals (such as Cheerios, Wheaties and many others), Progresso Soups, Zip-Loc bags and Kleenex tissues. Please cut them out and drop them off during business hours at the Coleman School office at 800 Belle Ave.

To get a full list of products, with coupons, go to **www.boxtops4education.com** and click on Box Top Products on the home page.





Coleman Elementary School Tours

Neighbors and parents of prospective Coleman students are invited to join Ms. Reynolds, school principal, for an orientation and classroom observation. Tours are from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and are for adults only.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 Thursday, November 18, 2010 Thursday, December 2, 2010 Thursday, January 6, 2011 Friday, February 11, 2011 Tuesday, March 22, 2011 Wednesday, April 19, 2011 Monday, May 16, 2011

Tours are also available by appointment.

Please call 485-2420, ext. 201 to reserve a spot or for more information.



925 Belle Avenue

Is Your Neighborhood Venue for Tennis & Swimming and Much More!!

Please call Chris Ventris, General Manager for more information at 457-5160

www.marintennisclub.com

Dominican Neighborhood Tour a Big Success

Last July 24th you might have noticed roaming groups of tourists around the central core of the Dominican. If you did, it was likely that you saw the 52+ persons who took advantage of the Marin History Museum's tour of our historic neighborhood.

Three tours started at the Dominican Convent and wound their ways down Olive, Palm and Magnolia before cutting through the campus grounds near Guzman Hall to end their expedition on the lawn of Meadowlands. During the course of their travels, twenty-three buildings, homes and sites were described by the tour leaders under the guidance of the Museum staff. Tour goers were able to visit three houses along their walk including 122 Palm, 160 Palm and Meadowlands itself.

At the end of the tour, the groups were indulged in some hospitality with cookies and lemonade for all while Joan Nelson presented a history of the grand Hotel Rafael (with photos), formerly located west of Grand Avenue and bounded by today's Belle and Watt avenues. The 200-room facility developed by William T. Coleman and James M. Donahue burned down in 1928.

While those on tour were surely grateful for this historic stroll through the Dominican neighborhood, the Museum tells us that for now any future tours are yet to be scheduled. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers for their time and efforts.

DBCNA Business Coffee Weekly Meeting

There are a lot of people in our neighborhood that work from a home office – like me. While the commute is great, there is a certain lack of people contact.

We at the DBCNA are thinking of starting a weekly get-together over coffee for business type chat and to give us someone to bounce some ideas off of.

We are suggesting Cafe Trio in Montecito Plaza, every Tuesday at 1:30 in the afternoon. Let me know if you would prefer a morning time. If this is something you would be interested in, drop me an email at jharris9@pacbell.net.

- Jim Harrison

DBCNA Business Coffee

Club

Under Construction!





- The new 580/101 Connector should be finished by October 22.
- The bike path through the Cal Park Hill Tunnel should be finished by the end of November. This will allow us to bike from our neighborhood to Larkspur Landing without encountering a hill.

Grand Ave Tree Cutting

One morning in August there was a lot of racket coming from near the corner of Grand and Jewell St., I went out to see what was happening only to find a tree crew cutting down two very large trees by the sidewalk. I asked the crew why they were doing that and they just said the city contracted them to remove these trees. I called the city to inquire about this and Vern Doughty returned my call sometime later.

Vern said the trees had Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and had to be removed quickly before the disease spreads. It can spread through the root system. I was surprised to learn that the disease can kill a large tree in just a couple of weeks.

DED symptoms are the result of a fungus infecting the vascular (water conducting) system of the tree. Infection by the fungus results in clogging of vascular



tissues, preventing water movement to the crown and causing the tree to wilt and die.

So, we are fighting both Dutch Elm and Sudden Oak Death disease. The City will replant these two lost trees in December or January, perhaps a Crape Myrtle or a Pear tree.

- Jim Harrison

Yes...Dial 911 From Your Cell Phone

If you are calling 9-1-1 on your cellular phone in any of Marin County's city or county areas, your call will go directly to the Marin County Communications Center or directly to the local police department. When calling for emergency service on your cellular phone always call 9-1-1 because that provides the dispatcher with your telephone number and approximate location, if for some reason you are disconnected. Calling a seven digit telephone number on your cell phone will not provide the dispatcher with your location or telephone number if for some reason you get disconnected.

The only time your 9-1-1 cellular phone call will go directly to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is when you are on or near a highway where the CHP has policing responsibilities.

Source: San Rafael Snapshot and the Communications Manager of the Marin County Sheriff's Office

9	Le le
2009/2010 Membership Dues	
Dominican/Black Canyon Neighborhood Association	
Please support our annual meeting, fire safety program, adult social, chipper day, newsletter and other activities by sending in your annual dues of \$18 today. Use the enclosed envelope.	
☐ New Member	
Name:	
E-mail:	□CHECK BOX IF THIS IS A NEW E-MAIL
Address:	
Phone:	
YES! I would like to help).
□ Social Events	□ Deliver newsletter
□ Send e-mails	\square Write newsletter articles
	□ Website maintenance
Would you be interested CHECK BOX IF YOU ARE INTER	l in any of these types of events? ESTED
Monthly dinner at the	ne Dominican Cafeteria
□ Weekly coffee meeti when you can	ing, business and social, drop in

Dominican/Black Canyon Neighborhood Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Goepp, Secretary/Treasurer

Sandy Miller

Jim Harrison

Cheryl Douglas

Dan Sonnet

IN ADDITION TO BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Sonnet, Newsletter

Coordinator

Polly Elkin, Production Editor

Paula Doubleday, Layout

Tracy Solomon, Computer Guru

J.R. McCabe, History Committee

Please join us at our Monthly Board Meetings. All Residents Welcome!

To be notified of meeting dates, send an e-mail to DanSonnet@yahoo.com, if you are not on our e-mail list.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Held at 7 pm at the Ballet School Board Room.

- Wednesday, October 13
- Wednesday, November 10

Many thanks to Dominican University for allowing us to use their facilities for our annual meeting, and to Marin Ballet for the use of their board room for our monthly meetings.