



# DOMINICAN AREA NEWS

DOMINICAN BLACK CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION | P.O. BOX 151702 | SAN RAFAEL, CA 94915-1702 | FALL 2016



JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR

## **Dinner@Dominican Thursday, October 27 5 – 7:30 pm**

Join us for a wonderful dining experience that includes fresh, organic foods from local farms.

\$9.50 for adults and \$4.75 for children

Dominican University Dining Hall  
is at the corner of Magnolia  
and Palm Avenues

**BRING THE KIDS  
IN COSTUME!!**



## **Building Our Dominican Community**

Building community and neighborhood safety are two key missions of the Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association. Recently, several Board members met with San Rafael Police Chief Bishop and Community Liaison Antonette Bullock, who highlighted just how interconnected these two goals are. We can all contribute to the safety of our neighborhood by getting to know each other and staying informed.

Keep in mind the following four ways you can contribute to the safety of our community:

- 1. Get involved and work with your neighbors**
- 2. Design a safe environment for your home**
- 3. Drive 25 mph in our neighborhood**
- 4. Sign up for emergency alerts**

The Association represents our neighborhood by acting as a collective voice to the local authority. This newsletter, produced twice a year, is delivered to everyone's doorstep; we coordinate neighborhood disaster preparedness efforts and build community through neighborhood events. Please join us at a monthly Board meeting and join a committee to organize an event! We'd love your ideas and feedback.

### **MESSAGE FROM JACK NIXON, BOARD PRESIDENT**

I am happy to report that your new Board of Directors is working diligently to improve the quality of our neighborhood and to create new initiatives for the Association to undertake.

Corinne Bartshire, Board Secretary, is meticulously accomplishing her responsibilities as both recording and corresponding secretary. Bonnie Marks, Treasurer, has done a remarkable job of auditing accounts, redesigning the Treasury reports and implementing PayPal on our website to make it easy to submit your \$20 membership dues. Dennis DeMille is Vice-President, serves on the Safety Committee, and stands ready to sub for me in my absence. Paula Doubleday, our Communications Director, continues to do great work maintaining our website, publishing our newsletter, and sending out communiques to the neighborhood both through

Nextdoor and our membership email list, while also serving on the Events Committee. Arline Van Gessel, Events Director, planned and implemented our very successful Summer Scoop and is forming a committee to organize our Winter social event. (Please volunteer!) Tamara DeMille, Membership Director, has updated our list of paid members and organized a membership drive. Kay Cooke, chair of the Safety Committee, is focusing her efforts on traffic calming measures. John Matulich, Safety Committee, is working on a future security camera informational event for interested residents.

Your Board looks forward to a vibrant year of activity and accomplishment. We hope that you will join the Association, serve on one of our committees, brainstorm new ideas, and take part in bettering our community.

## Crime Trending Down in Dominican

How is the crime in our neighborhood? San Rafael Police Department ran a 6.5 year report on our crime statistics last May for our Annual Meeting. We've updated it to include the last 4.5 months. Clearly, we are experiencing the lowest property crime rate in over 6 years.

The chart to the right tracks Property Crime Calls for Service within our neighborhood for the period from January 1, 2010 through September 18, 2016. We peaked in 2013 and are showing a reduction this year. If this trend continues, we'll have about a 13% reduction in 2016 over last year.

If you are on Nextdoor, you may think that crime is increasing. This is a side-effect of social media. You are most likely hearing about car break-ins, burglaries or suspicious people that you wouldn't have heard about before. It doesn't mean crime is increasing, but our awareness is. Sharing of information via the Nextdoor channel is a critical element in managing our safety and assisting the police.

### Crime Prevention Advice from SRPD

The San Rafael Police Department offered some basic advice for us to follow:

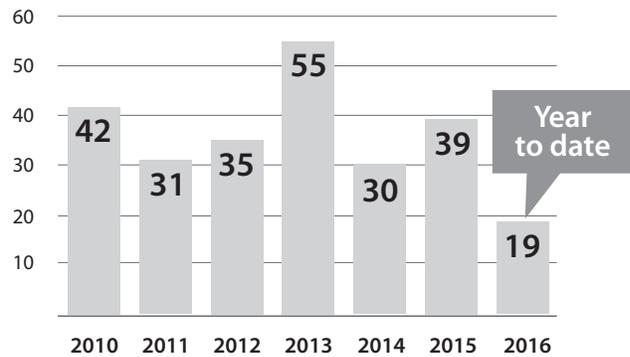
**Be the neighborhood eyes.** If you see something suspicious call SRPD immediately at 415-485-3000. Of course, in an emergency you should still call 911.

**Lock home and car doors to deter thieves.** Of the 13 vehicles broken into in the neighborhood, from August 2015 - August 2016, only 3 were reported as locked.

**Use lights to make your home look occupied.** Consider security lights and automatic timers for lamps if you are going away.

### Property Crime Calls for Service:

#### Dominican neighborhood Jan 1, 2010 - Sept 18, 2016



### Breakdown of Property Crimes

#### Since January 1, 2010 / 6 years 8.5 months

CRIME	TOTAL
Arson	14
Burglary	79
Theft	126 (Includes 18 stolen vehicles)
Vandalism	30

**Consider surveillance cameras.** They can be very useful and are easily installed. Since the choice of systems available can be overwhelming, stay tuned for news about an *Information Forum on Surveillance Cameras* we will host in the near future.

**Register your surveillance cameras with the SRPD.** Police will not have access to your camera system, but they'll know who to call when investigating a crime in our neighborhood.

To register your camera, visit [www.srpd.org](http://www.srpd.org), click on the *Online Services* tab, and then *Surveillance Camera Registration* in the left navigation.

### For More Information

Additionally, the SRPD has a great checklist of tips to prevent burglaries. On their website, click the *Be Informed* tab, and choose *Crime Prevention* in the left navigation. The *Burglary Prevention Checklist* is first download on the page.

You can also view recent statistics on the SRPD website, by clicking *Crime Activity Log* on their home page under *Quick Links*.



## 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](http://www.MarinBallet.org)



## Meet Michael Taylor, New Principal at Coleman Elementary

Coleman Elementary school, our neighborhood Kindergarten – 5th grade school on Belle Avenue, has a new Principal this year, Michael Taylor.

Mr. Taylor comes to San Rafael City Schools from the Petaluma City School District, where he recently served as a Principal Intern at McKinley Elementary School. There, he learned the benefits of family and staff engagement. An experienced teacher and educator, Mr. Taylor began his career in the Davis Unified School District in 2004. In 2008, he relocated to Marin County, where he became the Director of Steve and Kate's Camp and later continued his teaching career, teaching elementary grades in Tiburon and Kentfield.

His teaching years were marked by his leadership in infusing technology into the classroom, particularly around the tinkering and Maker movements. He has been recognized as a leader in educational technology

and is a regular presenter and trainer at technology conferences for educators.

Mr. Taylor received his B.A. from the University of California, Davis and his Master's in Educational Administration from San Francisco State University. Throughout his career, he has held to the belief that each child has an innate capacity to learn, create and inspire.

Mr. Taylor asked to share the following:

"I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire Coleman and San Rafael City Schools community for entrusting me with this incredible opportunity. I am honored. With the Coleman community moving forward as one, I am confident we will have many excellent years ahead together. I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future as we plan an amazing school year for our students."

## IN THE NEWS

**Dominican University** hosted students from every state in the country for the College Debate 16. Tasked by the Commission on Presidential Debates, Dominican brought students together to engage in civil discourse about the issues in the election, and vote on six questions to be given to the moderators of the Fall debates. Now the focus turns to encourage students to get out and vote.



**Downtown Streets Team** launched a panhandling reduction initiative, **Put Your Change to Work** in September, that asks that residents **NOT** give to panhandlers on the street, but rather put your change into one of the ten purple donation meters installed along the Fourth Street corridor. Proceeds benefit Downtown Streets Team, a program that works. This is a cooperative effort between the City and Downtown Streets Team. Learn more and donate online at [PutYourChangeToWork.org](http://PutYourChangeToWork.org).



**SMART Quiet Zone Update** You have probably noticed the SMART train blowing its horn as it travels down the Lincoln Avenue corridor. SMART will be testing the tracks and trains through the Fall. Once service starts, scheduled for December, the Quiet Zone will be in effect. At that time, trains will only sound their horns as they enter/leave a train station (Federal law) or in an emergency. Just a few months to go . . .

## Traffic Safety in Dominican

Thanks to all who drive safely. Our figures estimate that over 90% of the drivers are driving safely around our neighborhood. By setting the standard on a daily basis you are the key to helping ensure the improved safety of our streets.



### Put a sign in your yard

We have safety signs available, either to display in your yard or your car, to remind drivers to be conscious, watch out for kids, and drive the speed limit. Please email [info@dominicanareanews](mailto:info@dominicanareanews) if you want one.

### Thanks to the SRPD for their support.

We are grateful for the support of the Police Department to help us reach our goal of 100% safe driving. Look out for their mobile speed monitoring units in the neighborhood this fall.



### Concerned about a particular area?

If you have a street or intersection you are particularly concerned about, please let us know by sending an email to [info@dominicanareanews.com](mailto:info@dominicanareanews.com) so we can work together to address it.

## Critical Communication Channels

There are three connections we suggest you make to ensure, in the event of an emergency, critical information gets to you quickly.

### 1. Register your cell phone with Marin County Emergency Alert.

While your landline, if you have one, is automatically registered with the County, your cell phone isn't. You can register 2 cell phones (SMS devices), two email addresses, four phone numbers and a work phone at [www.alertmarin.org](http://www.alertmarin.org). It takes 5 minutes! If there is an evacuation, toxic spill or other emergency, you will get the alert on your phone no matter where you are.

### 2. Subscribe to our email list.

We don't send out a lot of emails, and often they are about upcoming events. However, if there is an emergency situation in the neighborhood (and even if you are on Nextdoor.com), the more communication channels available to you, the better chance of getting the message. Send us an email if you want to join the list at: [info@DominicanAreaNews.com](mailto:info@DominicanAreaNews.com).

### 3. Subscribe to Nextdoor.com

We have added 177 people to our Nextdoor site over the last year, increasing our coverage to 62% of households. If you're not on the site, please join! You can set your preferences to get Crime & Safety notifications on your email and phone.

To register, go to [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com) (watch the video tour too!) or send us an email at [info@DominicanAreaNews.com](mailto:info@DominicanAreaNews.com) and we'll send an invitation.

**834**  
members

**62%**  
of households



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](http://www.marintennisclub.com)

## Join the Neighborhood Association

Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association  
Current memberships are for June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017

Membership to the Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association is open to households and businesses in the Dominican neighborhood and completely voluntary.

By contributing your annual membership fee of \$20 per household, you are supporting our efforts to continue to grow support for our community. If you haven't joined yet, visit [DominicanAreaNews.com](http://DominicanAreaNews.com), click on the red **Join** box in the upper right corner of the page, and you can pay using PayPal.

Or mail a check for \$20, payable to Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association to: DBCNA, P.O. Box 151702, San Rafael, CA 94915-1702

### Monthly Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Watch for a notification on Nextdoor. October and November meetings have been relocated to 214 Angelico Hall on Dominican University campus. Or send an email to [info@dominicanareanews.com](mailto:info@dominicanareanews.com) and we'll notify you of the Board meeting!

#### Board of Directors June 2016 - May 2017

Jack Nixon, <i>President</i>	Arline van Gessel, <i>Events</i>
Dennis DeMille, <i>Vice President</i>	Paula Doubleday, <i>Communications</i>
Bonnie Marks, <i>Treasurer</i>	Kay Cooke
Corinne Bartshire, <i>Secretary</i>	John Matulich
Tamara DeMille, <i>Membership</i>	

## Neighbor Spotlight: Tell Us About Yourself

There are so many interesting people living in the Dominican. Our website is the perfect place to share your stories, past and present.

Do you have a neighbor you could interview or a story about yourself to share on our website? We would love to hear about you, the history of the neighborhood, buildings and development, so we can build our neighborhood history page.

Let us know if you'd like to submit an interview or have a suggestion of one of your neighbors who has great stories. We look forward to hearing from you at [info@DominicanAreaNews.com](mailto:info@DominicanAreaNews.com).