



# Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association



## DOMINICAN AREA FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

### THE SUMMER IN REVIEW AND UPCOMING PLANS

Since our publication of the Spring 2018 Dominican Area News Neighborhood, your Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association Board has organized and presented three timely events for our community and has posted five FireWise Bulletins plus a letter of information re the fire hazard of Park and Open Space encampments.

Of critical importance to the residents of Dominican Black Canyon were the two wildfire defense presentations. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, we asked four well-qualified experts to present their knowledge of what Dominican Black Canyon residents need to know and do to be ready for the next wildfire in Dominican. A standing-room-only audience of some 100 in the Creekside Room of DUC found the presentations useful and meaningful.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, we organized and presented the seminar of one of our earlier speakers, Katherine Randolph, who offered her highly acclaimed two-hour "Fire in Marin" class. High demand and the availability of Angelico Hall on the DUC campus resulted in over 300 folks

attending as Katherine, through video and pictures, explained in depth **what each resident must do to "harden" their home and why an entire community effort must take place.**

Our third event this summer, on August 19<sup>th</sup>, was our Summer Scoop, our free ice cream social held on the Meadowlands lawn at Dominican. With over 100 Dominican Black Canyon residents attending, ice cream (second helpings) and face painting were in demand as we delivered on our social goal of helping neighbors meet neighbors.

We continue to send FireWise Bulletins to our community with information about individual wildfire defense.

In addition, we met with Mayor Phillips and Assist City Manager Christine Alilovich to ascertain what the City Open Space Rangers are doing about the homeless encampments. That meeting resulted in Christine's report (which we forwarded with comments to the community) confirmed the hundreds of encampments removed. The City remains committed; however, because of constant recidivism,

the vexing problem remains unresolved and continues to be a source of concern throughout the fire season. Please continue to report to our Police and Fire "anything" that might lead to a wildfire in our hills.

This brings me to our own vexing problem. Out of over 900 homes in Dominican Black Canyon, fewer than 300 are dues-paying members.

We are a voluntary Neighborhood Association, not a mandatory HOA (Home Owners Association). Our dues are \$20 through the end of this year. Everyone in our 900+ homes has benefited directly or indirectly from our events and communications. This benefit is the result of the hours donated by your volunteer Board members and Committee members. Please help in making our community safe and vibrant by joining and paying the \$20 dues for 2018. If in doubt about your status, please email Monica McMillan ([mcmillanclan@earthlink.net](mailto:mcmillanclan@earthlink.net)) who keeps the Association's up-to-date paid membership list. We thank you.

*Jack Nixon, President*



### **DBCNA FireSafe Committee**

Devastating fires in Santa Rosa last October, smoke from numerous fires this summer, and a 150+ acre wildfire near Lagunitas in September remind us that a wildfire can destroy our entire neighborhood. A year ago, the Association established the FireSafe Committee to coordinate efforts to improve fire safety, reduce the risk of fire to our homes, and to achieve certification as a FireWise Defense Community. To educate neighbors about fire safety, the Committee organized two meetings on the Dominican University campus (May 5 - 100 neighbors; and August 26 - over 300 neighbors). These meetings together with a detailed assessment of fire risks and a long-term plan to reduce risks resulted in our neighborhood's formal recognition as a FireWise Defense Community by FireWise USA. Please continue to track labor and expense for vegetation removal. The FireSafe Committee will request your records next year as part of annual recertification. Recognition benefits include resistance to an insurance company's attempt to cancel your policy because of fire risk, discounts on fire insurance premiums from some companies, and funding for "chipper days" (low-cost brush disposal) through FireSafe Marin. See their great website for more tips: <http://www.firesafemarin.org>

### **Defensible Space**

The San Rafael Fire Department has begun robust enforcement of ordinances that require removal of juniper and bamboo. Vegetation management inspectors from SRFD have issued citations to several recalcitrant land owners. The largest case resulted in cleanup of an 18-acre parcel at the top of Villa Avenue. Many homeowners have voluntarily removed large amounts of flammable vegetation and have significantly increased defensible space around their homes. A greater effort is still needed. Walk through inspections can be scheduled by calling SRFD Fire Inspector Patrick Bignardi at (415) 485-3308.

### **Building Hardening**

Other fire prevention measures include replacing combustible roofing and installing tempered glass on windows. Homes can burn from the inside out if embers enter through unscreened chimneys or vents with openings larger than 1/8 inch. Except for new and remodeled buildings, these measures are voluntary, but highly recommended.

### **If All Else Fails, Evacuate**

The Marin County Fire Department issues Red Flag Warnings when humidity is low, and temperatures and wind velocity are high. Avoid mowing lawns, park cars off the street, and be aware of the potential for an evacuation order from law enforcement. In cooperation with San Rafael Police, there will be an evacuation exercise next spring when the weather is fair and before fire season starts. Be sure that your homeowner's insurance is adequate to replace your home and bring it up to current building codes. There are 904 homes in our neighborhood but only 430 are registered with Alert Marin. This is a 9% increase over last month, but we are less than half done. Sign up now at <https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/alert-marin>



**Becoming a Wildfire Defense Community is an important step towards making our community safe from wildfires. We now have resources that can help us identify and remove or reduce the fire dangers.**

**Of course, many of those corrective actions require money. Money for seminars, money for chippers, money for hired labor, money for the right tools, and so on. One recent example is the “Fire in Marin” seminar that incurred an unbudgeted expense for the A-V equipment rental along with the printing cost for all the handouts. Our Neighborhood Association annual dues do not cover these expenses.**

**So, as part of our efforts, we are seeking funds or grants that can help us towards that end. We are looking to local businesses, charitable groups, service clubs and civic-minded citizens who wish to assist with our efforts towards making this a safer neighborhood. This will be an ongoing search as we work towards making our community wildfire safe. If you would like to be part of this process, please email Bonnie Marks, our Treasurer, at [bmarks@felis.org](mailto:bmarks@felis.org)**

## ZERO WASTE MARIN

Why feature Zero Waste Marin? It's simple. More waste = more negative impact on our environment. From the air, land and sea our actions can help minimize pollution, keep our waters clean and our land healthy. What is zero waste? “Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.

Zero Waste is a big idea with one goal: to eliminate waste. In 2006, a group of Marin’s community members began to wonder: is it possible to eliminate waste in Marin and live a waste free life? We recycle, compost,

donate, drive hybrids, walk, bike, and participate in conservation daily. Many of us have done everything within reach to make our local environment a clean and beautiful place to live, but, each day, thousands of pounds of waste still enter our landfill.

We can eliminate waste in Marin County but not without the participation of all residents and businesses. We believe that, together, it’s possible to set an example that encourages the rest of the nation to live sustainable lives.”

Simple changes such as switching to reusable battery packs, reusable water and coffee containers, reusable grocery bags, use of metal utensils vs. plastic and cloth dish towels vs. paper are

ways we can make a difference.

Find out more at [zerowastemarin.org](http://zerowastemarin.org) and check out Marin Sanitary Service’s “what goes in your cart” to ensure proper disposal of your trash.



## Marin Master Gardeners

The UC Marin Master Gardeners partner with the Marin Municipal Water District to provide homeowners in the MMWD service area with information and advice on improving their irrigation practices to help conserve water. During a Garden Walk, two Marin Master Gardeners will visit your property and do a walk through your garden with you. The MMG garden walkers recently completed additional training focused on fire-wise planting, since home gardeners have been asking questions about landscaping that is both water and fire wise. To make an appointment for a Garden Walk, call the UC Marin Master Gardener Help Desk (415) 473-4204, or visit the UC Marin Master Gardener website at [marinmg.ucanr.edu](http://marinmg.ucanr.edu).

## Marin Shakespeare Company

Marin Shakespeare Company, which performs plays by Shakespeare and others each summer at Dominican University's Forest Meadows Amphitheater, is preparing to celebrate its 30th summer season in 2019. While the season's titles have yet to be announced, the company is excited to be nearing the start of construction on renovations to the 51-year old venue, just in time for a better-than-ever 30th anniversary season.

During the off-season, Marin Shakespeare Company provides personal and institutional transformation — with remarkable creative dramatics and success. The Dominican neighborhood is lucky to be home to one of the country's leading outdoor Shakespeare theatres. Enjoying a picnic under the summer stars, with the words of Shakespeare filling the air, is a special treat. Marin Shakespeare Company is a non-profit organization which is grateful for financial support. Find out more at [www.marinshakespeare.org](http://www.marinshakespeare.org)



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**DBCNA ANNUAL  
COCKTAIL PARTY**  
**Friday, February 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MARIN TENNIS CLUB**



IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD VENUE FOR  
TENNIS & SWIMMING AND MUCH MORE!  
Contact Chris Horne,  
General Manager  
(415) 457-5160  
[marintennisclub.com](http://marintennisclub.com)



GENEROUS HOSTS OF OUR  
QUARTERLY NEIGHBORHOOD  
MEETINGS

## DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY NEWS



We are so lucky to live by Dominican University, where there is a diverse choice of events to take part in. We can watch a high-level women's soccer game, or volleyball game, or the men's soccer team ... the men's basketball team's first home game is on November 14. These athletes are talented and fun to watch! Also, check out the Leadership Lecture Series – speakers like John Kerry and Sally Field are on the schedule this Fall. If you want to stimulate your mind and make new friends, look into the OLLI classes- there is a huge variety of topics, like "History of the Symphony" and "the Adams Family" (as in John Adams who became our second President).

The Dominican Chorale, led by a wonderful Dominican alum, Francisco Ortiz, is performing November 17 at Angelico Hall. They are singing a beautiful Bach Cantata among other pieces. Also, the Guest Concert series features musical artists on Sunday afternoons: a great opportunity to take friends, family or neighbors for a lovely musical experience.

## COLEMAN SCHOOL NEWS

Coleman is holding special events to encourage students to walk and bike to school. Being a neighborhood school, a number of students now walk or ride bikes every day. PLEASE drive carefully around our school entrances and watch for pedestrians at every stop sign and crosswalk! Thank you!



**International Walk and Roll to School Day!**

**OCTOBER 10TH**

Coleman Elementary School Tours give you an opportunity to see classes, teachers and students in action. Tour dates for the 2018-2019 school year are:

Tuesday, October 16, 2018; Tuesday, November 13, 2018;  
Monday, January 14, 2019; Thursday, February 7, 2019;  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019; Monday, April 22, 2019

These tours are for adults only. Please register by calling the school office (415) 485-2420, ext. 201.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

This year's very lean budget for the Neighborhood Association has been based on \$6,100, not counting the unbudgeted expenses of about \$1,600 for the Fire in Marin seminar. Thus far, 289 families have joined or renewed – and we are hoping an additional 100 will become dues paying members in response to this newsletter. It would be great to exceed this goal – especially since there are over 900 homes in our neighborhood.

Funds this year were budgeted to pay for our FireWise

focused annual meeting in May, two issues of the newsletter (one with a Fire Safety insert), as well as fun social events at no cost to attendees like the Ice Cream Social in August and the buffet dinner at the "Cocktail Party" in February. We officially became a FireWise USA neighborhood in July and decided to host an additional event in September – a free **Fire in Marin** seminar at Dominican University – for which we incurred costs that were beyond our budget. At the September meeting, the Board voted to allocate funds from our

reserves to help cover part of the cost of the seminar.

With additional activities focused on community safety and fire prevention in mind for the upcoming year, the Board voted in July to **increase association dues to \$30, beginning in January 2019.**

Dues (currently still \$20) can be paid using the envelope enclosed in this issue, as well as through PayPal on our website: <http://dominicanareanews.com>.

If you have questions regarding your membership, please email [DBCNA.info@gmail.com](mailto:DBCNA.info@gmail.com)

Bonnie Marks, Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP: EVERYONE BENEFITS

For \$20, the DBCNA holds all the social events mentioned above for both members and non-members; we ask non-members to join. We publish two newsletters a year, pay for event signs and print and distribute notices of events. A membership envelope is enclosed. **You may also access our website and use the PayPal feature. If you have any questions, feel free to call or text me at 415-654-1711. Marty Wickenheiser, Chair, Membership Committee.** You can also contact us at [DBCNA.info@gmail.com](mailto:DBCNA.info@gmail.com).

**PLEASE  
COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP  
FORM OR USE THE**



**FEATURE ON OUR WEBSITE AT:  
DOMINICANAREANEWS.COM**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a new email? Yes No

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help with events!

Enclose a check for \$20 payable to Dominican Black Canyon  
Neighborhood Association. Mail to:

DBCNA  
P.O. Box 151702  
San Rafael, CA 94915-1702

## YOUR DBCNA BOARD MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS:

Jack Nixon, President  
Jay Hubert, Vice President  
Edie Dagley, Secretary

Bonnie Marks, Treasurer  
Marty Wickenheiser, Membership  
Robert So, Communications  
Joan Cardneau, Editor

Bob Levine, Board Member  
Monica McMillan, Board Member  
John Contini, Board Member