



Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association

DOMINICAN AREA FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM OUR DBCNA PRESIDENT, JACK NIXON

The demographics of our Dominican Black Canyon neighborhood are changing. As older members of our community are starting to downsize, more and more families with small children are taking their places with new interests and ideas about our neighborhood. This revitalization of our neighborhood offers the opportunity for new leadership roles and new ideas and approaches for our Neighborhood Association and its standing and ad hoc committees. I think first of our FireSafe Committee and the bulletins on fire prevention, fire preparedness and safety measures; the meetings organized to inform members; the Chipper Day which will become an annual event; and evacuation drills. The more neighbors who help, the more we can get done.

Here's a great example: a "Traffic Committee" can be formed when more folks volunteer to help. Egregiously exceeding the speed limit or rolling through stop signs with no thought of slowing down are two examples of the driving culture prevalent in Dominican Black Canyon that must be changed if serious accidents are to be prevented. Would you like to help?

The DBCNA Board has done its job well this past year. Along

with fire safety activities, we hold what has always been a highly successful cocktail party each February, courtesy of the Marin Tennis Club (MTC). A light buffet is provided by the DBCNA, MTC provides a no-host bar. In addition, each summer we host the Summer Scoop, an ice cream social on the Dominican lawn.

The DBCNA Board is composed of a wonderful group of dedicated people, always graciously willing to go the extra mile. Our by-laws allow one more member on the Board and, of course, any number on various committees. So, I ask two questions of you: 1. Would you like to help in any way, and 2. What would you like for us to be doing that we aren't doing now? My email address is below.

We hope to see many new names on our membership roster this coming year. We are known for being a well-organized neighborhood association, both at City Hall and among other neighborhood groups. So, come join us in finding ways to continue making the neighborhood a great place to live. And have fun in the process.

Thank you, Jack
jnixon@sonic.net



**WEDNESDAY
OCT 30th**

**DINNER WITH
NEIGHBORS**

**at Dominican University
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.**

It's a pre-Halloween Party! Kids (and adults) encouraged to come in Halloween costumes. Show off your best (or worst!).

Please join your neighbors for a wonderful **Wednesday dinner** at **Caleruega Dining Hall** (corner of Magnolia and Palm).

It's a great way to visit with friends and enjoy a fine dinner with soup, salad, entrée, vegetables, desserts and beverages.

So, place your kitchen on "sabbatical" for one night and let Epicurean Caterers do the work. **And the price?** Are you ready for this? The price of dinner is \$10.25 for adults and \$5.25 for children under 11.

RSVP to Sandy at 415-454-1077 by **Thursday, October 24th!**

Or email: jonesie42@aol.com

EPICUREAN NEEDS A COUNT!



FireSafe Committee Report

How to prepare yourself and your home to survive a wildfire, see the Fire Safe Marin website:

website: firesafemarin.org

Wildfires are now the single biggest environmental cause of loss of life and property in California. The threat is particularly acute in a wildland-urban interface like our own Dominican neighborhood. Witness the devastating fires in Santa Rosa and Paradise. Managing the threat requires strong responses from government, our utility companies, and every homeowner—including you!

This year, the Association's Fire Safe Committee in collaboration with the San Rafael Fire Department organized the following events:

- A chipper day removed roughly 650 cubic yards of brush
- A wildfire evacuation drill educated participants about the need for evacuation preparation
- A neighborhood meeting at Trinity Church highlighted the City's response to wildfire threats

In addition, our committee participates in regular FIREsafe Marin meetings and meets with our County Supervisor, the County Fire Chief, members of the San Rafael Fire Department, and members of the San Rafael City Council.

Now is the most dangerous part of the fire season when we all need to be even more vigilant. The National Weather Service will issue Red Flag Warnings when winds are high, brush is dry, and humidity is low. This may result in a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) by PG&E. Residents would then be without power and possibly water for days. Protect your life by preparing for evacuation and signing up for notifications from Nixle (www.nixle.com) and Alert Marin (www.alertmarin.org). Protect your home by removing all vegetation within 5 feet,

keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and retrofitting your vents with 1/8" wire mesh. And be sure you have adequate insurance (full replacement coverage and a building code upgrade rider.)

Also, it is important to support more effective open space vegetation management. To create new funding for a countywide coordinated effort to improve open space management and strengthen emergency alert systems, Marin County Supervisors and fire districts throughout Marin are now considering a parcel tax proposal on the March 2020 ballot. The measure is based on numerous recent studies: Community Wildfire Protection Plan and updates (2015-2017), the County Supervisors Lessons Learned Report (2018), the Marin County Civil Grand Jury report on Wildfire Preparedness (2019), and the San Rafael Fire Protection and Action Plan (2019). To see details on the proposed wildfire prevention plan, go to www.marinwildfire.org

Committee members: Belle Cole, John Contini, Jay Hubert (chair), Paul Minault, and Jack Nixon

About Your Homeowners Insurance

The good news is that few insurance companies are cancelling policies at this time, even though many of them have stopped writing new policies in zip code 94901. The bad news is that the typical premium will cost about 6% more, and difficulties in finding insurance could make your home harder to sell.

All of the Dominican Black Canyon neighborhood is included in the Wildland-Urban Interface, (WUI) which is a zone of transition between wildland (unoccupied land) and human development. Communities in the WUI are at risk of catastrophic wildfire.

About 74% of homeowners who lost homes in North Bay fires were under insured. Don't let that happen to you. If the premium for full replacement coverage and a building code upgrade rider exceeds your budget, increase the deductible on the policy rather than settling for only partial coverage. For more details or for more information about what to do if your insurance is cancelled, go to the FireSafe Marin website for excellent information:

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/insurance>

Safety and Crime Report

The occurrence of crime in our neighborhood is extremely low compared to other areas in San Rafael. Crimes reported to the San Rafael Police Department for the last year in the Dominican/ Black Canyon neighborhood are as follows:

- Residential Burglary - 2
- Property Thief - 12
- Auto Burglary - 5
- Motor Vehicle Theft - 2

Four out of five of the auto burglaries took place within a few blocks of each other.

SRPD works continually with the homeless situation. Open Space encampments occur in our area from early spring to late fall. When an encampment is found, the SRPD posts an order at the encampment to vacate within three days (case law). The homeless generally comply and may take their property with them. At the conclusion of the three day warning, the SRPD and the SRPW dispose of trash and attempt to return the area to its natural state.

Should we experience an evacuation such as a fire or earthquake, the surrounding police agencies have mutual aid arrangement with SRPD to assist in securing neighborhoods. A resource available to citizens regarding home security can be found at srpd.com with some precautions you might not have considered.

Herb Ansell, Chairperson

Yellow Hallway Project

The Dominican Sisters are delighted to report that the Yellow Hallway Project located at 77 Locust Ave has provided two women and their children with a home during this time in which they are being supported by the Homeward Bound program. The sisters think that the opportunity for these two young families to stabilize their housing offers them time for working on the next steps in their lives. We are pleased with the success of the project.

Sister Carla Kovack, OP

An Update from the Marin Shakespeare Company

Marin Shakespeare Company's 30th Season at Dominican University's Forest Meadows Amphitheater ended September 29 with "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Shakespeare's most magical romantic comedy. The company presented its first full-scale musical this year with "Monty Python's Spamalot," as well as "Measure for Measure," Shakespeare's play about criminal justice and injustice.



Marin Shakespeare Company has obtained a building permit from the City of San Rafael to upgrade the Amphitheater under the terms of their 25-year contract with Dominican University. Planned upgrades include ADA improvements, a new entry building, backstage dressing rooms, and an improved sound system. Concurrently, the company is raising funds to renovate their future indoor, year-round theatre at 514 Fourth Street in San Rafael. This location will have a 165-seat indoor theatre, classrooms, and office space.

The company continues to provide a wide range of education programs in local schools, as well as summer camps, after school classes, intern programs, and the unique Teen Touring Company allowing teenagers an opportunity to tour a Shakespeare play to schools and senior centers. In addition, Marin Shakespeare Company has become the largest provider of Shakespeare in Prisons in the world, with programs at 11, soon to be 13, California State Prisons. Founding Managing Director Lesley Currier enjoys bringing groups of students, including Dominican University students, to San Quentin to participate in theatre workshops with inmate actors.

For more information, or to lend your support, visit www.marinshakespeare.org