

GREENBRAE

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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At the Annual Meeting of the GPOA, held Tuesday evening, April 7, 2009 in the Bacich Elementary Library, the following Officers/Directors were nominated and elected to serve to the Spring of 2010:

Brendan Fogarty, *President*
Scott Sherman, *Director*
David Sternberg, *Director*
Jack Valinoti, *Director*
Michael Hillman, *Director*
Adrian van Haften, *Director*

Various local leaders spoke to the assembled Greenbrae residents. A summary of the presentations follows:

Hal Brown, Marin County Supervisor, District 2, reported:

- 1) **Ross Valley Flood Fee:** A recent Court of Appeals decision invalidated the 2007 mail-in election that authorized a flood fee for Ross Valley residents. The election was triggered by the severe December 2005 flooding. The County will ask the CA Supreme Court to reverse the appellate decision that the election violated the Constitutional right to a secret ballot. The fee averages \$125 per Greenbrae parcel.
- 2) **Creekside Park:** The 19-acre park across from MGH will receive a \$1.5 million facelift. Some of the many improvements will be new children's play areas, path and restroom renovations, a Mt. Tam viewing area, a bigger picnic area, and habitat restoration. There will also be upgrades along the path from S. Eliseo to Stadium Way near Kent M.S., with sign and bench changes.
- 3) **Marin County Finances:** The County is in good fiscal health, with sufficient reserves and the highest county bond rating in CA. Despite budget cuts and an anticipated hiring freeze, Marin County is not one of the 49 of 58 CA counties in financial crisis.
- 4) **Speed Bump Update:** The controversy over the speed bumps on Manor Road continues. Hal Brown said that he would be meeting with several groups in the near future about speed bump issues. A lively back and forth regarding the pros and cons of the bumps occurred.

For more information on any County-related topic, contact Hal Brown's office at (415) 499-7331 or hbrown@co.marin.ca.us.



Larkspur's Mayor Daniel Hillmer, Councilmember Larry Chu, and City Manager Jean Bonander combined to report on a variety of issues. The highlights follow:

- 1) **Finances:** Larkspur has no debt, healthy reserves, and a balanced budget.
- 2) **New Police Station:** The town is grateful that Measure E passed in November 2008. It will provide funding for a new public safety building for the Twin Cities police department. The new building will replace cramped, antiquated trailers.
- 3) **Highway 101 Corridor:** The Transportation Authority of Marin (www.tam.ca.gov) continues to work on a plan to reduce congestion along the Twin Cities / Greenbrae Highway 101 corridor. Larkspur officials voiced concern about the potential elimination of 101 exits, which would seem likely to increase traffic on surface streets. Please contact TAM's Bill Whitney at (415) 226-0823 if you would like to give input.
- 4) **New Owner for Larkspur Landing Shopping Center:** JS Rosenfield & Co., the owners of Brentwood Country Mart near Santa Monica, have bought Larkspur Landing Shopping Center. We should expect to see a new retail mix. To check out the shops at the new owner's other shopping center, go to www.brentwoodcountrymart.com.
- 5) **Update on Corbet's Hardware:** The Larkspur Planning Commission is requiring an Environmental Impact Report before deciding whether Corbet's Hardware may move into 800 Magnolia Avenue, the site of the old bank building near Bon Air Road. Delivery truck traffic and noise are key issues.
- 6) **Trader Joe's on the Way:** A Trader Joe's will be opening in the Cost Plus Plaza on the east side of Highway 101. Larkspur will work to alleviate traffic flow problems in that area.
- 7) **Street Resurfacing:** \$300,000 be spent soon to resurface Paseo Way, Corte Barista, Via Cheparro, Cielo Drive, and Corte Amado.

The GPOA Board and CSA16 Advisory Committee reported:

GPOA Landscaping Chairman Scott Sherman summarized ongoing major projects in Greenbrae. You received his Spring 2009 Landscaping Report by mail and can find it at greenbrae.org. Landscaping and irrigation design continues for the middle island of Via La Cumbre. The new fence, plantings, and irrigation are in place between Manor Road and Corte Comoda, and they look great. The GPOA contributed \$10,000 to the latter project.

Greg Shaughnessy (former GPOA board member and current County Service Area #16 Advisory Committee Chairman) explained that the service area fee would remain \$150 per parcel and that CSA16 will continue to use The Gardeners' Guild. He also told us that the finger islands on Corte Balboa and Corte Cayuga would be improved as part of an ongoing renovation campaign.

Jack Valinoti and David Sternberg, the GPOA's Architectural Design Review Committee, informed us that they have reviewed and commented on about 10-12 projects in 2008, in either Marin County or the City of Larkspur.



Board President Brendan Fogarty reported that as of 12/31/08, the GPOA had a yearly loss of \$1,642.66, versus a 2007 gain of \$739.47. Membership dues were down approximately \$2,700. Expenses for 2008 were up about \$600, or by about 2%. Total Liabilities & Equity as of 12/31/08 were \$52,757.46 versus \$53,498.82 as of 12/31/07, a change of 1.4%. A copy of the profit & loss statements and balance sheets may be requested at (415) 461-7338 or info@greenbrae.org.

The floor was then opened for comments from Greenbrae residents on neighborhood issues, which included the following:

- 1) Susan Van Liere reported that she will again organize the Greenbrae BBQ, which will be on Sunday, August 30, 2009. A “save the date” announcement is below.
- 2) A resident requested that property owners eliminate as much French Broom as possible from their properties. It is an invasive weed that tends to take over open spaces, create fire hazards, shade tree seedlings, obstruct views, and weaken hillsides.
- 3) At the 2008 meeting, due to costs to the GPOA, residents overwhelmingly favored a reduction in the clean up coupon's valid days. The GPOA trimmed the valid days, and reduced costs by about 40%. So, this year, the coupon will be redeemable on eight weekend days as follows: August 22-23, 29-30; September 5-6, 12-13. The coupon is valid for a total of one load of 2.5 cubic yards [\$75.00 value] and during one trip.

THE 2009 GPOA NEIGHBORHOOD BARBECUE



**Come reconnect with your friends and neighbors
after your summer vacation and enjoy an afternoon of great
food, live music and activities for adults and children!**

Date: Sunday, August 30

Time: 3:30 - 6:30pm

For Questions or to volunteer, call Susan Van Liere 415.302.7173

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! (it's a great way for your older child to earn community service hours for school!)



NOTICES

- Please go to www.greenbrae.org and subscribe to our new list server. We will send meeting announcements and other important information but will not flood you with e-mails.
- Your Annual Clean-Up Coupon is included in this mailing. It is valid during the last two weekends in August and first two weekends in September, for a total of one load and during one trip. The specific, eight valid dates are on the coupon. Please read it carefully and abide by its terms. This is a value of about \$75.00.
- If you have not sent in your Annual Voluntary Dues remittance, please do so now. We have included another remittance card and envelope in this mailing in case you have misplaced the last one. We are not asking for a second payment; please disregard the request if you have already sent yours in. Thanks!
- We are always looking for Board volunteers. In particular, we need someone willing to do some light administrative work, such as mail pick up, distribution, and checking of our voicemail. We also need someone to help us on tree and view issues which arise under the CC&R's. Please contact us at info@greenbrae.org or call (415) 461-7338 to sign up.

Have a great summer!

Brendan Fogarty, GPOA President



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