



Winter 2016

Hearts are full this time of year as we appreciate all we have— family, friends, community. It is also a time that we remember with hearts full, but heavy, those we have lost. It is a time of heightened reflection on the importance of every moment, throughout the year, of the everyday and the extra special moments, moments when we connect with those we share life. Indeed, it is through these sharing of moments, from the most casual to the most intimate that we recognize our shared humanity, our responsibility to each other, the value of community.

My best to everyone this holiday season and every day. I am forever grateful to be part of this community and honored to represent you on the Board of Supervisors.

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On the subject of reflection, a few thoughts with regards to the recent major storm (December 15) and attendant close call per flooding in the Ross Valley. I want to acknowledge the warranted frustration of many, including myself, at the pace of progress in improving flood protection for the Ross Valley. Regardless of challenges posed by litigation, recession, community resistance—we have a public safety issue that must be addressed.

Unfortunately, the reality is that even without unforeseen delays, legally required environmental review, technical studies, public process and resource agency permitting take a long time. Bringing major public works projects from concept to construction takes years. I'm in agreement with the recent [IJ Editorial](#) reminding us that we can and will flood again and that flood protection must maintain a priority for both the County and the community. The good news is that we do finally have projects in the pipeline, including bridge replacements, detention, expanded creek cleaning and more. While there is still much work to do, progress is being made and we must all stay engaged. I have made flood protection a top priority and will continue to do so. I hope the broader community will as well.

As always, please never hesitate to contact me with your opinions, comments, questions, or concerns on these or any other issues. Email krice@marincounty.org or call 415-473-7825. You can also connect with me by “liking” my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/D2KatieRice and twitter at @SupervisorRice.



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Election Reflections

If one thing held true this past election cycle, it is just how deep blue our State of California is, and Marin County just that much more. Locally, Hillary Clinton took 77% of the vote to Trumps' 15%, compared to statewide where the vote split 61% Clinton, 32% Trump. And while we were in step with the state on most ballot initiatives, a couple stand-outs remind us of our liberal leaning here in Marin: [Prop 62](#)/Death penalty repeal was defeated statewide by 7% points, but voters in Marin voted resoundingly to repeal with 67% in favor, 32% against. California continues to press for stricter gun-control and ammunition regulation approving [Prop 63](#) statewide with a 7% margin, but garnered even greater support here in Marin passing with 70% of the vote. A disappointment was the failing of [Measure A](#)/Strong Start for All Marin Kids which missed the 2/3rds threshold by a very narrow margin. But the 64% in support shows that most recognize the importance of early childhood education and the challenge working families face meeting childcare needs.

All in all, Marin stands with the rest of state-- our votes and vision remain laser- focused on supporting strong, healthy, sustainable communities. Indeed, here in California we know education is the key to success and every child should be given the tools and opportunity to succeed. We know that economic strength is powered by people and innovation, and that environmental protections -- clean air, water, public lands and preservation of natural resources – are critical to our own wellbeing, as well as the planet's. And here in Marin, in California, we continue to challenge ourselves to model, and our laws to reflect, values of compassion, equity, and justice truly for all.

More so now than ever, it is critical that we (as individuals, communities, as a state) lead on the important social, economic and environmental fronts California has led on for years. I am hopeful that the recent election will serve to strengthen our resolve to further these values and priorities that define us, our communities, our County and our great state. It has certainly strengthened mine.

Goodbye and Thank You, Supervisor Gary Giacomini

Supervisor Gary Giacomini died unexpectedly Friday, December 2, 2016 at his home in San Geronimo. Up until his very last day, he was active, involved, informing and influencing the private sector, public sector, agriculture and institution in our community of Marin. Below I share my comments, informal eulogy to Gary, made at the December 6 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Marin County lost one of its finest with the recent passing of Gary Giacomini, a life long resident of Marin, County Supervisor representing the 4th district from 1972-96, father, family man, formidable lawyer, and friend to many.

Indeed, many words have been written, and there will be more to come, lauding Gary Giacomini's contributions to this County, his role in saving West Marin from development, preserving Marin's agriculture heritage and so much open space, public places, preserved forever, for generations to enjoy for decades to come. Words will be written about his larger than life personality and unique style which some appreciated more than others, but certainly all recognized and respected the force and the heart that Gary Giacomini was throughout his life, his career in both the public and private arenas up until his dying day.

I came to know Gary not as the former supervisor, powerful attorney, and/or general community force, but through his relationship with former Supervisor Hal Brown. Theirs was a complicated one (both personally and professionally), built and suffered over the many years these two proud men shared the public space as colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, and for two decades beyond, lived their personal and professional lives as members of the same community.

Throughout, these two strong personalities had just as many alignments of opinion and position, as divergence and disagreement. Over time, like two wary lions, the two developed a cautious, if begrudging respect for each other.

During Hal's last year, as he held on to life and battled a vicious cancer, I witnessed their relationship come to a deeper, more meaningful place, one of friendship and camaraderie. With no agenda to move forward, positioning or negotiation to be had, these two strong, proud men relaxed and honored each other and their friendship, their shared humanity and vulnerability in the face of cancer, in the humility of life.

I suspect that Hal asked his friend Gary to watch out for me, as I took on the role of Supervisor. Because from day one, Gary was supportive, unequivocally respectful, providing just the right combination of confidence in my own capabilities, along with not so subtle suggestions that would give me pause, expose a different angle to a situation, shed light where there was not enough before.

I will miss Gary. His advice. The respect and mentorship he offered me, and his deep, gravely voice, when he, THE Supervisor, called me "Supervisor." I will miss his embrace of me as a friend.

My words for Gary Giacomini: Supervisor. Friend. Good, good man.

Holiday Heeding: Avoiding Residential Crimes

Unfortunately, the holidays are prime time for petty theft. Across Marin and beyond, residential crimes increase during the holidays. That said, most crimes committed are ones of convenience and ease for the thief, where a little extra caution and common sense on the part of the homeowner would provide plenty of deterrent. Here are some preventative measures everyone should be taking during the holiday season and every day: always lock doors and windows; keep valuables (including gifts/packages) out of sight from windows; leave a light on inside when away; hold your mail at the post office and let neighbors know you're on vacation. You can also sign up for vacation watch with the Sheriff's office at 415-479-2311.

Online shopping and attendant home delivery of said prized packages, also provides opportunities for theft. Package thefts generally occur weekdays, during daytime hours, when no one is at home. If you think you might be a target, consider having your packages delivered to a neighbor who is usually at home, or have things delivered to your workplace. You may want to track your packages online and arrange a specific date and time for delivery when you'll be at home.

Lastly, don't forget to lock your car whether at work, shopping or in your driveway, and don't leave anything valuable inside or visible. As always, you should report any suspicious people or activity in your neighborhood to the Sheriff's dispatch number (415-479-2311) immediately and if you see a crime in progress, call 911.

Marin County Prevention Network

Despite high rankings in overall health, Marin County has persistently elevated rates of substance abuse among adults and youth. In response to this problem, grass roots efforts have been gaining strength in several Marin Communities. This network of community-based coalitions, the [Marin Prevention Network](#), is fostered by the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services.

In response to increased community concern, the Network has developed four shared focus areas for 2017 to address youth substance use county-wide: Adult substance use at youth athletic events; substance use communication plan for schools; strengthening the social host ordinance scope and enforcement; improved understanding of parent perceptions and behaviors around youth substance use.

I've asked that the Network continue to update the Board of Supervisors as these important strategies move forward. Addressing substance abuse, providing the tools, support and social environment conducive to reducing substance abuse, will continue to be a focus and priority for me and has the support of the Board as well.

Contact Info:

Supervisor Katie Rice

415-473-7825

krice@marincounty.org

www.facebook.com/D2KatieRice

District 2 Aides:

Nancy Vernon

415-473-7351

nvernon@marincounty.org

Max Perrey

415-473-6159

mperrey@marincounty.org