



Awareness Novato

Moderate-Progressive Community Newsletter

June-July-August 2008 (No. 31)

** Our "Awareness Novato" newsletter aims at fostering regular communication about local issues among all citizens interested in civic awareness, political reform and fairness, social equity, a green and prosperous business climate, a healthy and sustainable environment, peace and justice, and academically rich, welcoming schools.

** "Awareness" circulates news about coming Novato events, meeting dates, opportunities, links and programs. We hope that a more informed community will come together to make better decisions about matters of common concern. We include also a few events in neighboring communities that may be of interest, and even dare to offer a few guest editorials and opinions. We've managed to put out 30 issues so far packed with information about how we can make Novato a better place to live and work. We hope "Awareness" has been interesting and useful for you. If you know of friends, neighbors and relatives who might enjoy receiving "Awareness", we hope you'll forward them a copy and let them know about us.

** "Awareness" is usually available on-line through the Novato Democratic Club (NDC) website: www.novatodemocrats.org A printable PDF format is also available from that site. NDC co-sponsors "Awareness". Though not bound to a partisan Democratic Party agenda, "Awareness" does reflect the core values of the NDC. We appreciate the Club's giving us the opportunity to share it with the community on-line with active links to many of the newsletter's listings.

** Please also check out the Volunteer and Activism section that is linked below to learn more about local efforts that are making a positive difference in our community. Volunteer-activism commitment is a wonderful way you can make a difference -- and very progressive! Find a group or a cause that "speaks" to you and get involved!

** Listed organizations aren't officially affiliated and/or endorsed by the NDC or "Awareness Novato" Newsletter nor do they necessarily endorse or have a relationship with NDC or our newsletter.

** Your comments and additions are most welcome! Contribute news items or subscribe or unsubscribe to "Awareness Novato" to Lynne Wasley at ourhouse4@earthlink.net or emainland@comcast.net

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

School's out! Check out the new Novato Website to see what's happening in Novato for your kids/teens: www.ci.novato.ca.us – click the Parks and Rec link

Tuesday, June 17: Novato Farmers Market, Novato

Tuesday, June 17: PeaceNovato Info Table, Vigil + July 4th volunteer needs, Novato

Tuesday, June 17: Celebrate Marriage Equality, Marin Civic Center

Thursday, June 19: Marin County Registrar of Voters Election Advisory Committee annual community

meeting, Marin Civic Center

Thursday, June 19: Race and Class Education Equity Initiative Council, College of Marin

Thursday, June 19: Sustainable Novato's Monthly meeting, Novato

Thursday, June 19: "Take Back the White House", Marin Democratic Party Headquarters, San Rafael

Sunday, June 22 (and every Sunday): Nuestros Ninos and Childhood Matters, radio programs

Tuesday, June 24: Landfill Expansion Permit Workshop, Novato

Saturday, June 28: "Walk for Schools!", Novato

Wednesday, July 2: "Poetry Farm", Novato

Friday, July 4: Fourth of July parade (info below in bold/blue on different parade contingents looking for people to join them) , Novato

Thursday, July 10 and August 7: Democratic Central Committee of Marin, San Rafael

Saturday, July 12: Movies in the Park - "Happy Feet", Novato

Tuesday, July 15: Marin Clean Energy Study Session, Novato City Council

Friday, July 18: Marin County Election Advisory Committee meeting, Civic Center

Monday, July 21: Committee on Sustainability, Novato City Council, Novato

Wednesday, July 30: "Marin Clean Energy: Questions and Answers": Community Forum, Novato

Saturday, August 2: Novato Democratic Club meeting, Novato

Monday, August 4: Committee on Sustainability, Novato City Council

Saturday, August 3: Movies in the Park: "Hairspray", Novato

Saturday, August 23: Movies in the Park: "Pursuit of Happyness", Novato

Monday, September 8: Committee on Sustainability, Novato City Council

EVENTS CALENDAR (Novato Fourth of July events are highlighted in blue/bold)

SCHOOLS OUT! TEEN & FAMILY FRIENDLY - SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES Besides the Movies in the Park listed below, there are many free events for children, teens and families this summer. Included among free events are: "Celebrate Family!" a series of family friendly entertainment for parents and children of all ages. All "Celebrate Family!" events are being held at Margaret Todd Center, 1560 Hill Rd and are sponsored by the Novato Civic Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation Community Services. To learn about these and many other summer offerings including those for teens, go to: www.ci.novato.ca.us or 415-899-8200.

-- TUESDAY, JUNE 17 (and every Tuesday thru October, weather permitting), 4-8 pm -- Novato's Certified Farmers' Market, Grant Avenue between Machin and Reichert Avenues, the downtown Novato Farmers' Market is having another terrific season. Check out this year's wonderful variety of booths/vendors, fresh organic produce, diversity of product, all of which equal more reasons to come

down and shop every Tuesday evening! A wonderful family outing, the Market will also have more vendors selling cooked/prepared foods, an exciting musical schedule, an expanded sitting area and a wide middle aisle great for strolling or strollers and activities for the kids! Support our local farmers and our downtown Grant Avenue businesses. Cut back car emissions and save on gas, *keep it local!*

-- TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 5:30-7/7:30 pm -- PeaceNovato's Vigil and information table located at the Farmer's Market will be operating most Tuesday afternoons while the Market is open. Among other things, the group has postcards available to address congress, is selling PeaceNovato T-shirts and doing voter registration. PeaceNovato is continuing their crane folding and naming. Instructions in crane folding will be given to newcomers. The Peace Crane Remembrance Project involves folding a paper crane for every American soldier who has died in the Iraq War (the names of each soldier are also written on each crane). In remembrance of lives lost too soon, the cranes are displayed and carried by volunteers at various marches/events including this year's Novato's Fourth of July Parade. The Peace Crane Remembrance Project will continue until the war has ended.

-- SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1-5:00 pm -- PeaceNovato is having a work party to repair and repaint the crane poles and peace signs and build new ones for the additional cranes. Come and help. Contact info follows.

-- THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 7:30 pm -- A meeting to string cranes and misc. other work in preparation of PeaceNovato's fourth of July continent. Contact info follows.

-- **FRIDAY, JULY 4**, 10:00 am -- Volunteers are needed to set up and carry cranes in Fourth of July Parade through downtown Novato. Any and all help is welcome! This year the cranes will be accompanied by the Gandhi Puppet Float (8-10 ft) to further represent the importance/need for peace. To RSVP or for more info about PeaceNovato and/or any of the above volunteer needs: Julie, 415-883-8324 or Maija, 415-898-1623.

-- TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 8:45 -- Celebrate Marriage Equality! -- Marin Civic Center in front of room 247 (County Clerk's office). Join Spectrum LGTB Center and the Marin chapter of Marriage Equity USA to celebrate the first legal marriages issued to same-gender couples in Marin. County Treasurer Michael Smith oversees the issuance of marriage licenses. Last year, Smith was honored as a community partner by Spectrum for his unwavering support of marriage equality. In 2004, Spectrum extended a similar honor to the Marin County Board of Supervisors for passing a resolution which affirmed marriage equality for same-gender couples. For more information, call Paula at 415-457-1115, ext. 209. www.spectrummarin.org

STAY INVOLVED--THE FIGHT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS NOT OVER! Join the Marin Chapter of Marriage Equality USA on Tuesday, June 17th, 7:00 PM at Ping's Mandarin Restaurant, 817 W. Francisco Boulevard, San Rafael. This will be an organizing meeting on defeating the November ballot measure to approve a Constitutional Amendment that would define marriage in the State of California only as a union between one man and one woman. For more information, please call Dolores, co-Chair Marin Chapter Marriage Equality USA at 415-456-9010.

-- THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 7-9 pm -- Marin County Registrar of Voters Election Advisory Committee Annual Community Meeting -- Marin County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Marin Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, 3rd Floor. Featured presentation: "The Future of Voting" with David Dill, Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University, and founder of Verified Voting.org. Professor Dill will discuss the future of voting, current research on voting systems and voting practices, and what this means for the future of voting. Free and open to the public. For more info: www.marinvotes.org or call Elaine Ginnold, Registrar of Voters at (415) 499-6401.

-- THURSDAY, JULY 19, 7-9 pm -- Sustainable Novato's monthly meeting. 190 Cabro Court, Novato. Action towards green building, cleaner energy, reduced carbon emissions, community choice electricity, more water conservation, fewer poisons in schools and city operations, green schools, zero waste, composting of green waste instead of landfilling, local economic self-reliance, independent green businesses, green purchasing, organic eating and locally-grown food, community gardens, community inclusiveness and equity. Be a part of positive change. Learn more what you can do to

make a difference locally and globally. All Novatans welcome. To RSVP or for more info: Ed at 415-902-6365 or <mailto:info@sustainablenovato.org>. See www.sustainablenovato.org.

-- THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 7-9:00pm -- "Take Back the White House" - The Marin Democratic Party (The Democratic Central Committee of Marin) Meeting -- Marin Democratic Campaign '08 Headquarters, 1344 4th (at "D") Street, San Rafael. Be a part of helping to organize Marin County's efforts in Taking Back the White House! Now is the time to get involved! Light Refreshments will be served. RSVP to Evelyn: evelyn@addem.org

-- THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 6:30-8:30 -- Race and Class Education Equity Initiative Council -- College of Marin, Conference Room A&B, Student Services Building (downstairs in staff lounge). Parking Is enforced. Participate in working with others to look at ways to close the education gap in Marin. For more info: Leslie at 415-454-2152 or leslieconsult@comcast.net

-- SUNDAY, JUNE 22 (and every Sunday morning) 8 am, Nuestros Niños - weekly Spanish-language radio show on child development and parenting issues. Looking for information, direction, inspiration? Tune in every Sunday at 8 am on KLOK 1170 AM, La Kalle 100.7/105.7 FM, La Nuestra KBBF 89.1 FM, Tricolor 99.5 FM, Super Estrella 107.1 FM, and Radio José KMBX 700 AM, to talk as a family about the joys and challenges presented by childhood. Host Doctora Marisol is joined by other experts each week addressing important topics and responding to listeners' calls. For specific information on each week's topic, to suggest a topic or to learn more about the radio show: 1-866-99NINOS or www.nuestrosninos.com. And remember the English-language sister show, "Childhood Matters", with Rona Renner, RN, every Sunday at 9 am on 98.1 KISS FM. ¿¿Busca información, orientación, inspiración? Le invitamos a sintonizar nuestro programa todos los domingos a las 8:00 de la mañana, en KLOK 1170 AM, La Kalle 100.7/105.7 FM, La Nuestra KBBF 89.1 FM, Tricolor 99.5 FM, Super Estrella 107.1 FM, y Radio José KMBX 700 AM, para platicar en familia sobre las alegrías y los retos que nos presenta la niñez.

-- TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 6:30-8 pm -- Public Workshop on the Redwood Landfill's Solid Waste Facilities Permit, at Best Western-Novato Oaks Inn, "Oaks Room", 214 Alameda del Prado, Novato.

Marin County is forging ahead with allowing Waste Management Inc. to expand capacity of Redwood Landfill by over 33% to accept more local and regional waste at the growing dump just north of Novato on historic tidelands along the Petaluma River.

This workshop will be hosted by Supervisors Judy Arnold and Susan Adams. It will be an opportunity to ask our Supervisors and County staff hard questions such as: Where is the county's zero waste plan? Why hasn't the county adopted a zero waste fee on each ton dumped at Redwood on our wetlands so as to develop better composting, resource recovery, and waste reduction programs including public awareness and education? How will the county assure that mitigation features such as greenhouse gas reduction, phasing-out green and organic waste, and an independent monitor of safety and compliance are include in the final expansion permit? What is the best way to harvest methane gas for CCA energy without encouraging more dumping of greenhouse gas producing food and organic waste?

Public participation and scrutiny is the only way to change business as usual, so please attend and speak-out. For background information, go to www.noexpansion.org and www.greencoalitionmarin.org.

-- SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 9 am -- Walk for Schools! The walk will start and end at Marion Field near the intersection of Grant Avenue and 7th Street, Novato. Bring yourself, your friends, the kids, and even your dog, and come out to walk to show our support for the schools, have fun, and raise some money for the schools at the same time. The event will start at 9 am. You can choose a walking route of two, four or six miles. To register, stop by the Walk for Schools booth at the Novato Farmers' Market, or go to: www.novatoschoolfuel.org/events/WFS%20Registration%20Form.pdf or mail to: the

School Fuel office at 448 Ignacio Blvd., #410, Novato, CA 94949.

-- **FRIDAY, JULY 4** -- Celebrate Our Schools on the Fourth of July. There are two great ways to do so. Early in the morning, the Tamalpa Runner's club is organizing a race and fun run that will start on Grant Avenue. The group is working in cooperation with School Fuel to help support local schools. Go to: www.tamalparunners.org for more info and to register online for the race or walk. Also, the Novato Unified School District and School Fuel are working on a combined Novato Schools entry in the Novato Fourth of July Parade. We want to make sure that every school is represented and that our students have the opportunity to show their stuff for the whole community. Every student, staff, or family member is welcome to join the contingent. If you have questions or a particular idea about their entry, please call Susan at 209-9616.

-- WEDNESDAY, JULY 2 (and the first Wednesday of each month), 7-9 pm -- "Poetry Farm" -- poetry readings at Dr. Insomnia's, 800 Grant Avenue, Novato. Come and hear from some of our talented local poets plus support one of Novato's homegrown businesses, Dr. Insomnia's!

-- **WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH**, 10 am (sharp!) - noon -- Novato Fourth of July parade, Grant Avenue -- Reichert Ave to 7th Street. Novato's 16th annual July Fourth, now the second largest in the North Bay, is expected to draw up to 20,000 people this year. Come and watch and applaud, or join in one of the many contingents, including:

-- **WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH**, 10 am -- Novato Democratic Club (NDC) hopes to have a lot of Novato Democrats joining their parade contingent on this very important election year. The Club will be handing out Obama bumper stickers and buttons and voter registration forms, as well as registering voters (all parties). They'll have a Prius riding with them for those who are unable to walk very far -- come join us! Contact Suzanne 415-309-6170 or Lynne Wasley: 415-898-2447. Our Democrat nominee for State Senate, Mark Leno, will be in the front of the parade and is also looking for participants to join his contingent.

-- Peace Novato -- please see info listed under June 17 for more on how you can help.

-- School Fuel/NUSD - please see info listed under June 28th event.

For general info on the parade: www.novatoparade.com

-- THURSDAY, JULY 10 and AUGUST 7, 7-9 pm -- Democratic Central Committee of Marin (DCCM) meeting. 1344 4th Street, (at "D" St.) San Rafael -- This location is the Marin Democratic Party headquarters for the 2008 election campaign. The DCCM usually meets the first Thursday of each month, but is meeting a week later in July due to their work at the Marin County Fair. For more info on this meeting and other coming events: www.marindemocrats.org

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 8:15 pm -- Movies in the Park - Cine en el Parque Movies: "Happy Feet" (PG), Pioneer Park, Simmons Lane. The tale of a tone-deaf, tap dancing penguin -- thoughtful, touching and fun! Enjoy a movie under the stars. Bring the whole family, a blanket to sit on and some snacks to munch on. Free of charge. Movies in the Park are respect/diversity themed movies brought to you by the City of Novato Multicultural Commission/City of Novato,

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 6:30 pm -- Novato City Council's Study Session on Marin Clean Energy (MCE). NUSD Board Room, 1015 7th Street, Novato. To learn more about Marin Clean Energy, come to this important, community-wide study session. For more information and a calendar of Marin Clean Energy events, see www.marincleanenergy.info. For videos of earlier MCE study sessions and information about clean energy and efficiency at the local and state level, see www.womensenergymatters.org

What is MCE? *Marin Clean Energy (MCE) is a plan to create a new green power agency in Marin County. Under MCE, Marin County cities and towns would form a Joint Power Authority which would buy renewable power collectively and directly, while PG&E would continue to be responsible for the transmission lines, billing and other duties.*

What are the benefits of Marin Clean Energy? *Marin Clean Energy would reduce Marin's greenhouse gas emissions by initially providing twice as much renewable power as we receive now. MCE would also increase price stability over the long term by decreasing our reliance on imported fossil fuels to generate our power. MCE will also fuel small, locally based green businesses. In addition, MCE would enable local decision-making over what kinds of power Marin utilizes.*

How do I sign up? *Marin Clean Energy is currently being considered by each city and town in the county at public study sessions. You are welcome to attend these meetings and to participate in the public dialogue about the MCE choice. Following this public education period, each city and town council will vote on whether to participate. Any resident whose city or town joins the Marin Clean Energy JPA may opt out of green power and choose to stay with PG&E, but if their city or town does not join, they will not be able to join MCE.*

-- FRIDAY, JULY 18 (and the third Friday of each month except June, October, and November), 9:30 - 11:30 am -- Marin County Election Advisory Committee, Room 324A, Marin Civic Center. Learn more about our local election oversight and how you can get involved. Sub-committees include: Election Integrity & Voter Confidence Subcommittee and Voter Outreach and Education Subcommittee. All meetings are open to the public. For more info about local efforts to ensure honest elections: contact Linda at EPLinda@aol.com Also, see June 19, above, for info on the Committee's annual community meeting.

The primary purpose of Marin County Election Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Registrar of Voters about voter participation and election integrity issues as they affect elections held in Marin County. The Advisory Committee a) provides a link between the voting public and the Registrar of Voters and b) advises the Registrar of Voters to ensure that every voter has the opportunity to vote knowledgeably, safely and effectively.

-- MONDAY, JULY 21: Novato City Council's Committee on Sustainability, 6:30 pm, Margaret Todd Senior Center, Meeting Room 3, 1560 Hill Road, Novato. This new committee, headed by Mayor Pat Eklund and Councilman Jim Leland, is working on a city greenhouse gas reduction plan under the state's carbon reduction mandate AB 32. The July 21 session will focus on transportation and land use. This session, and subsequent ones August 4 and September 8, are of interest to all Novato residents concerned about impacts of climate change at the local and regional level and what we can do about mitigating them by reducing emissions and making our community more self-reliant and sustainable. The Committee was formed in spring 2008 to assist with the Novato City Council's Strategic Plan goal to "Enhance Environmental Sustainability". For more information, contact Jennifer Goldfinger, City of Novato staff, 415-899-8900 or City's website www.ci.novato.ca.us.

-- WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 6:30 pm -- Marin Clean Energy Community Forum, NUSD Board Room, 1015 7th Street, Novato. This is a forum co-sponsored by County of Marin and Sustainable Novato to provide answers to questions about Marin Clean Energy (community choice aggregation). Experts on clean energy will be on hand to provide information and conduct a conversation plans to provide Novato and other Marin jurisdictions with greatly increased green power while reducing carbon pollution. For more information, contact info@sustainablenovato.org or 415-902-6365. (See also, July 15 event, above.)

-- SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 9:30-11 am -- "Election 2008 – What You Can Do To Make a Difference" Novato Democratic Club (NDC) monthly meeting (first Saturday morning of each month), Chez Pierre, 7330 Redwood Blvd. (formerly Denny's Restaurant), Novato. The Club's August 2 meeting will focus on 2008 elections. This is a critical time -- learn about ways you can get involved. NDC's efforts include voter registration and GOTV precinct walking. As in 2004, NDC will be providing leadership in Novato by working in tandem with the Democratic Party of Marin and efforts to take back California's "red" counties and states. Beside our extremely critical presidential election there are many state propositions that will need local Democrats to weigh in on (some to support, some to defeat).

Participants are encouraged to purchase breakfast (“delish” and reasonably priced) and/or donate \$5 for coffee, etc. Best is to come early to order your food. Learn more about how you can get more involved in local, state and national Democratic activities and support Chez Pierre, one of our fine local businesses! For details, contact: Suzanne, NDC President, (415) 309-6170 or Lynne NDC Vice-Pres (415) 898-2557.

NDC is an official Club of the California Democratic Party. Members take part in city and county Democratic activities. NDC meetings are a good place for sharing information about events, lively discussions, informative speakers, and finding local, state and national volunteer opportunities to support the Democratic Party and its values. The Club is a friendly, informal group that welcomes all fellow Novato Democrats/Democrat-learning. Connecting with like-minded people is informative, inspiring and fun! Your Club involvement can be as much, or as little, as works for you. Check out www.novatoDemocrats.org for more info on the Club and updates on its activities.

-- SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 8:15 pm -- Movies in the Park - Cine en el Parque “Hairspray” (PG), Pioneer Park, Simmons Lane. Hairspray is the story of Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, who has only one passion - dancing. When her dream of becoming a regular personality on “The Corny Collins Show” comes true, she wins many fans and becomes an advocate for integration. Hairspray is based on the 1988 John Waters’ cult classic. Enjoy a movie under the stars. Bring the whole family, a blanket to sit on and some snacks. Admission free. Movies in the Park are respect/diversity themed movies brought to you by the City of Novato Multicultural Commission/City of Novato

-- SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 8:15 pm -- Movies in the Park - Cine en el Parque "Pursuit of Happyness" (PG13) -- Pioneer Park, Simmons Ln. Chris Gardner (Will Smith) is a bright and talented, but marginally employed salesman. Struggling to make ends meet, Gardner finds himself and his five-year-old son evicted from their San Francisco apartment with nowhere to go. When Gardner lands an internship at a prestigious stock brokerage firm, he and his son endure many hardships, including living in shelters, in pursuit of his dream of a better life for the two of them. Enjoy a movie under the stars. Come with friends/family and a blanket to sit on and some snacks. Free admission. Movies in the Park are respect/diversity-themed movies brought to you by the City of Novato's Multicultural Commission/City of Novato

Website news: City of Novato unveiled its new website May 15, 2008. Besides a new look and design, the website offers many new features: Better organization – the new pop down menus allow for easier navigation throughout the website, E-notification – allows you to sign up for email notification for meetings, events, and other Novato related information, Document Central - features a centralized library of city documents and forms and that you may access, Interactive calendar - allows you to see Novato events by category, department, and by month, News updates - allows you to select to receive notice of city press releases, newsletters, and other 'what's new' content, Job Postings - notifies potential applicants when job openings are available, Facilities Directory - allows you to quickly search the city's facilities for specific features you would like to use, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - allows you to search by the topic of your question or the city department and find information quickly and Improved Content Management - allows City staff throughout the organization to make timely updates to the site as needed. Check it out! www.ci.novato.ca.us

Please check out NOVATO VOLUNTEER AND ACTIVISM OPPORTUNITIES. Learn more about local groups and services, including: Novato Independent Elders, Novato Live Well Network, No Wetlands Landfill Expansion/Green Coalition, PeaceNovato, United for Safe Schools Novato, Sustainable Novato, School Fuel, Novato Human Needs Center, Novato Youth Center, Novato Spirit, Novato Wellness Center, Novato Housing Coalition and many others. Find out how you can support the efforts of some outstanding groups and be a part of making a positive change in our community!
