

## Bel Marin Keys Community Services District



4 Montego Key • Novato, CA 94949

Ph: (415) 883-4222 Fax: (415) 883-3683  
[www.bmksd.us](http://www.bmksd.us)

### Board of Directors

- Darrick Chase, President*
- Vince Lattanzio, Vice-President*
- Mark Montobbio, Director*
- Cheryl Furst, Director*
- Mercy Angelopulos, Director*

### Flushing Schedule

- September 5th-7th**
- September 18th—20th**
- October 4th –6th**
- October 17th –19th**
- November 1st-3rd**
- November 14th-16th**
- December 5th-7th**
- December 17th-19th**

VHF Channel 16 is monitored during flushing events. **FLUSHING DO NOT ENTER** signs are placed on both creek and lagoon docks during the event, if you have any questions please call the CSD office at 883-4222.

### South Lagoon Algae Update

Due to the excessive amount of rainfall received early this year, both lagoons have experienced a significant drop in the level of salinity (percentage of salt in a body of water). This reduction creates a fresh water lens that enables aquatic vegetation to flourish when the body of water typically reaches 70 degrees. In May we were above the 70-degree mark for lagoon water temperature and low in salinity. The process of raising the salinity level, which deters algae growth, has been a challenge as Novato Creek salinity levels are still below their average level for this time of year. Extended lowering of the South Lagoon during flushing events has proven to dry out a significant amount of Filamentous Green Algae along the shoreline. The CSD will continue to extend lagoon lowering during flushing events and decreasing the life span of the algae by deploying an oxidizer approved for use.

The CSD truly appreciates resident participation in removing the algae from their shoreline and disposing in the green can, we know this is an arduous effort. We also urge residents to restrict the use of lawn and garden fertilizer that has high concentrations of nitrogen and phosphates as they are building blocks for continuous algae blooms throughout the summer season. The CSD will continue to monitor the algae and will also begin testing for nitrogen and phosphate levels, as well as, looking at increasing aeration in certain areas with low circulation.

### N a t i o n a l N i g h t O u t

We want to thank our Emergency Response Team (ERT) committee members Mercy Angelopulos, Leda Thayer, Steve Pointer and Cheryl Furst for all their help and to ensure this was a successful event. We also want to thank the Marin County Sheriff's Department, Novato Fire Department and California Highway Patrol who came out to support our community. A big thank you also goes to Linda and Bob Panico who scooped ice-cream for all attendees. The goal of this event is to enhance the relationship between law enforcement and community members, as well as, an opportunity to get to know your neighbors and make the community we live in a better and safer place to call home.



## District Managers Report

1. The District is happy to announce the updated playground equipment for Bahama has been installed and ready for use.



2. The Grad Jury Website Transparency report has been published and we are happy to announce we received an A+ for our upgrade to our website. A copy of the report can be found on the District website ([www.bmkcsd.us](http://www.bmkcsd.us)).

3. We have encountered a number of trespassing issues at the locks where violators are putting themselves in an unsafe situation and creating a liability for the District. We have notified the Marin County Sheriff and any violator will be cited.

4. The District office has received a number of calls with regard to the excessive speeding and not coming to a complete stop at the stop signs. Residents asked that the Board approve the installation of speed radar sign to help deter the speeding. The Board moved to approve said request and will be working on the installation.

5. The District office received a number of complaints with regards infractions to the Waterways Regulations

set forth by Chapter 11.36, Marin County Code Harbors and Waterways. We would like to remind residents to the following code sections:

Section 11.36.06-Water Skiing: *“all water skiing shall follow a counter clockwise pattern, and shall be limited to the designated ski areas; as shown on the Water Safety Map*

Section 11.36.065-Wake Surfing Prohibited: *“no vessel operator shall intentionally engage in any water sport in which the sport participant is propelled entirely or substantially by the force of the vessels wake alone”*

I would also like to remind residents that you are responsible for your boats wake and must abide by the **“No Wake”** zone areas as outlined in the Waterways Map (see page 3). If you have guests please ensure that they follow the Waterway Regulations we can ensure a safe waterway for all to enjoy.

6. Please be advised that the Marin County Parking Enforcement is active in our community and enforcing the 72 hour rule on the streets.

7. Please ensure any water inflatable's are properly secured to your dock and within your docking easement. They are not to be anchored outside that easement where they can become a navigational issue. If they become a navigation issue they will be removed.

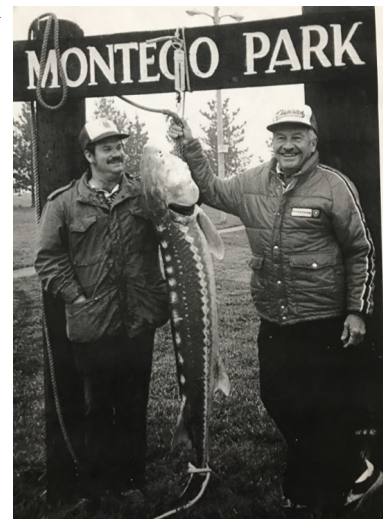
### **In Memory of...**

## **Joe Thomas 1919-2017**

Joe Thomas passed away peacefully on April 2, 2017 with his wife Madeline by his side. Joe was born and raised in Chicago, and worked at Marshall Field's Department Store until he was drafted into the Navy. He did his boot camp at the Great Lakes and then was transferred to Treasure Island in Oakland, where he worked on the motor pool-the start of his automobile career. After Joe left the Navy he decided to stay in Francisco.

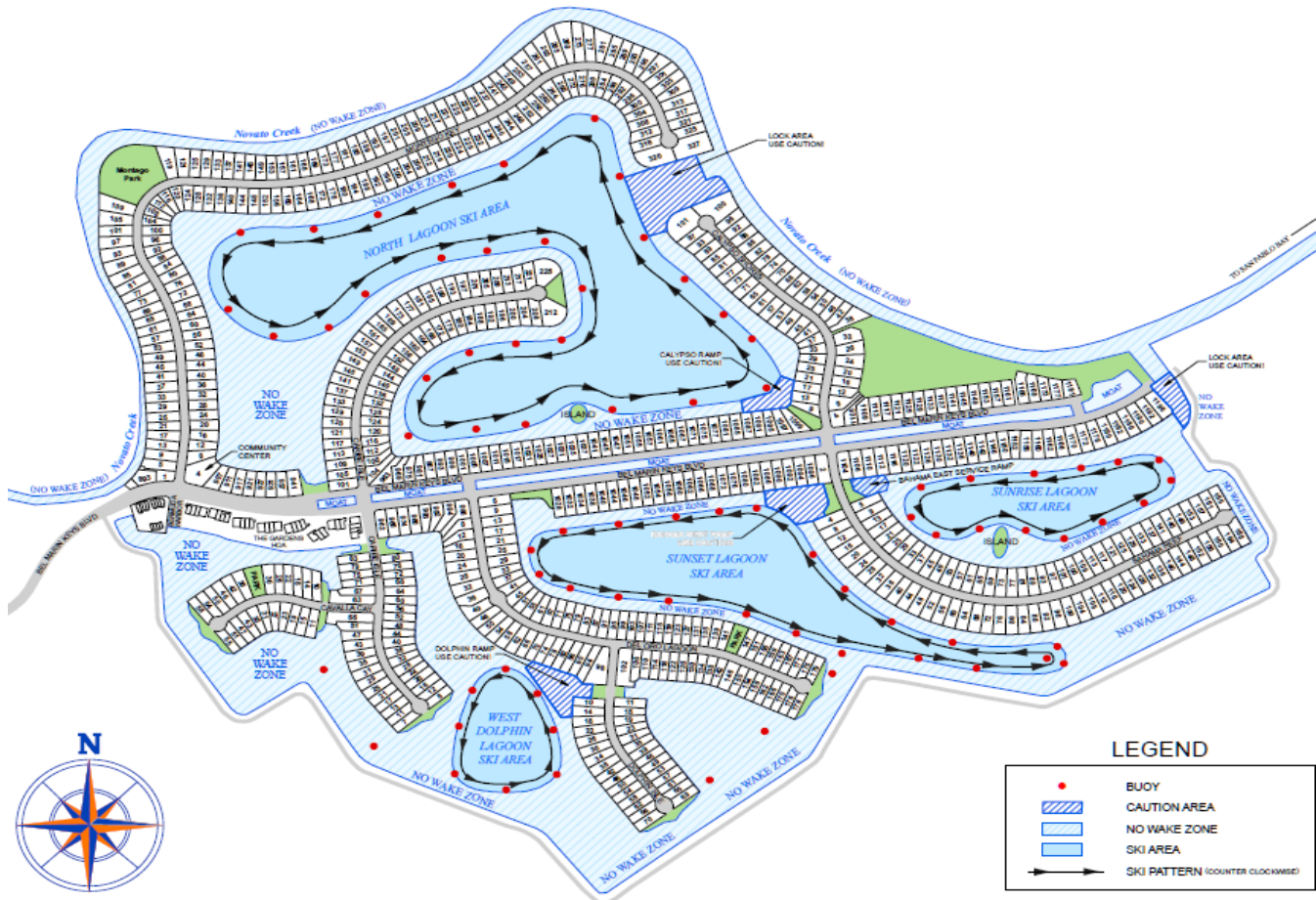
Joe and Madeline were among the original settlers of BMK, moving into their newly built house on Montego in June of 1964. Joe was a charter member of the BMK Yacht Club and served as their Commodore in 1974, as well as, their Fishing Chairman for many years-and taught kids to fish and made tackle boxes for each one of them. Joe was an avid fisherman and boater and he excelled in both. Joe could be seen regularly fishing off his dock. He was also an avid sports fan and a 49er ticket holder for 55 years and loved the SF Giants as well.

Joe Thomas loved Bel Marin Keys and was an active community member and among the small handful of people responsible for making Bel Marin Keys the special place we are all fortunate to know and enjoy. We will miss you Joe.



Full length maps are available at the District office.

# Bel Marin Keys Waterways Map



## Flood Control Parcel Tax on November Ballot

E. Ganas

On the November ballot Flood Control Zone #1 is placing a Parcel Tax measure to the voters which includes Bel Marin Keys. As you are probably aware there is a current Parcel Tax for the Flood Control District for Flood Control Maintenance, this new Parcel Tax of \$47 per year is for capital improvements to further reduce the water levels in a flood situation. Most of the water that is involved in the flooding in Novato and its surrounding areas is storm water runoff from the Novato Watershed. The County and Flood Control District undertook a multi-year Novato Watershed Study (<http://marinwatersheds.org/novato.html>) on the problems associated with the flooding in Novato and its surrounding areas.

From that study, which had significant input from our engineering firm, CLE Engineering, several solutions to reduce flooding levels were brought up, studied and evaluated for the best results. The projects that received the highest scores included many projects directly affecting the Novato Creek downstream of Highway 101. Over fifty percent of the funds generated by this Parcel Tax will be spent of the Lower Novato Creek from Hwy 101 out to the Bay. Planned projects, which are tentative until CEQA studies are completed, include increasing the Tidal Prism above Hwy 37 by over one hundred acres and sediment removal of the Lower Novato Creek plus pending studies concerning widening the Creek to increase the storm water throughput out to the Bay. There are other items not involving the creek included in the total Parcel Tax amount, such as, improving the storm water structure in Novato. This is about twenty percent of the funds expected and the remaining thirty percent goes to new pumps and repairs to critical flood control infrastructure that a susceptible to damage which would cause increased flooding.

(continued on page 4)



**Sunset Park All Fitness Equipment Installation**

My name is Cole Fehring, I live in Bel Marin Keys (BMK) with my parents, Chris and Katrina Fehring and my younger brother and sister. I am a current Life Scout in Boy Scout Troop 79 here in Novato and am working on earning my final rank of Eagle Scout. A major part of earning the rank of Eagle Scout is to build a community project. As a resident of BMK, I wanted my Eagle project to benefit our community.

After working with CLE Engineering on a design based on community feedback, presenting to the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District Board of Directors and getting approval from the Boy Scouts Marin Council I have begun work to create a fitness circuit around the Keys. The construction of this fitness circuit is being kicked off with my Eagle project which will be a pilot station for the circuit located in Sunset park along BMK Blvd. There are already plans to install more equipment at Montego Park and other community parks throughout the Keys in the coming years. The goal is to create a circuit throughout the Keys to give residents access to a balanced workout tailored to each person's fitness needs and pace.



For the pilot project at Sunset park I will be installing a three piece fitness equipment package. It will include a sit-up bench, captain's chair, push-up bar and instructional sign post. The equipment is being procured through Measure A funds which are earmarked for parks and open space projects throughout Marin County, of which Bel Marin Keys is a recipient of a certain percentage of funds each year.

Many thanks to family, friends and fellow residents for contributing to my GoFundMe account which has allowed me to get this pilot project started this summer. The project is slated to be completed by September 2017. Extra special thanks to Mr. Kyle MacDonald of CLE Engineering for mentoring me along the way.

**Flood Control Parcel Tax on November Ballot**

(continued from page 3)

Currently the Flood Control Zone #1 budget only gets about 15% of its budget (\$312,000) from the 1984 Parcel Tax, the rest (\$1,687,800) comes from the Flood Control Zone #1 share of property taxes. It is important to note that all of this money is collected into the Flood Control Zone #1 account and can only be spent in the Novato area. The County cannot use the funds for purposes other than flood control. The proposed Parcel Tax will bring in approximately \$1,100,000 annually and will leverage from two to three times that amount of Federal and State funds for the planned projects. As a result of the Novato Watershed Study we could potentially be getting the projects done for up to one third the cost with the new Parcel Tax in place. azSXC

**“Think Before You Spray”**

The Marin County Board of Supervisors approved funding in the amount of \$100,000 along with at \$90,040 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with community members to develop and implement a two-year campaign to raise awareness among Marin residents about alternatives to use of toxic landscape products and to reduce the overall use of pesticides. One herbicide in particular, RoundUp, has raised concerned due to the active ingredient, glyphosate, and declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as probable carcinogen back in 2015.

The District is joining the efforts set out by the County and looking for alternatives to our Integrated Pest Management (IPM). We want to bring awareness to resident and help reduce the amount of harmful herbicides, as well as, fertilizer whose byproducts end up directly in our lagoons. For more information please visit the [www.yardsmartmarin.org](http://www.yardsmartmarin.org).



**BMK Team Gets Great Results**

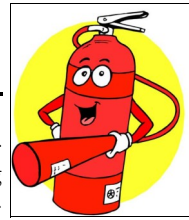
E. Mainland

In Resilient Neighborhoods “Low Carbon Footprint” Push Colleen Daly’s team of BMK neighbors, the “Keys Carbon Bailers”, got great results this spring in their Resilient Neighborhoods push for more climate protection through carbon emissions reductions in their own families and households. Resilient Neighborhoods helps households save money, reduce carbon footprint and prepare for emergencies. RN volunteer teams have already cut carbon usage 3.2 million pounds throughout Marin. Teams are forming now in San Marin and at the Hamilton Community Center.



For information and sign up, contact Dara Rossoff-Powell at [RNOutreachAssociate@gmail.com](mailto:RNOutreachAssociate@gmail.com) or call (415) 485-5063. Online registration for the Hamilton Community Center is temporarily unavailable. Dara will let you know when it’s available again or you can visit the Margaret Todd Senior Center or the Novato Gymnastics Center to register in person. You can also get more information on Resilient Neighborhood’s website [www.resilientneighborhoods.org](http://www.resilientneighborhoods.org).

**Coming Soon- Fire Extinguisher Day!**



Please keep a look out for our upcoming flyer. This event is being brought to you by our BMK Emergency Response Team (ERT).



*Cynthia Heather Stringer*  
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[cynthia@successbydesign.net](mailto:cynthia@successbydesign.net)

**BMK resident and club member available for live position:** I provide personal and business services to provide more ease, time, and relaxation for you. Many years as a professional personal assistant/project manager, organizer, household weekly maintenance, bookkeeping, pet care & house sitting and care for an elderly person. I am a licensed EMT, bonded and insured. References available. Please contact Cynthia Stringer, 707-888-9378 or [cynthia@successbydesign.net](mailto:cynthia@successbydesign.net).

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7250 Redwood Blvd, Suite 207  
Novato, CA 94945

## **Community Calendar 2017**

### **September**

**Sept. 4- Office Closed (Labor Day)**

Sept. 21- CSD Board Meeting 7:30pm

Sept. 23- Concert in the Keys

### **October**

Oct. 19- CSD Board Meeting 7:30pm

**\*\*Fire Extinguisher Day \*\***

### **November**

**Nov. 10- Office Closed (Veteran's Day)**

Nov. 16- CSD Board Meeting 7:30pm

**Nov. 23-24- Office Closed (Thanksgiving)**

### **December**

Dec. 16-Santa by Sea

**Dec. 25- Office Closed (Christmas)**

**Neighbor to Neighbor**

Bel Marin Keys Community Services District  
4 Montego Key  
Novato, CA 94949-5301