



# O V E R L O O K

October, 2016

*Edited by Joanie Wynn*

## Vote



You may have noticed the signs around town urging folks to vote yes on measure L. Please take a little time to read the arguments in favor and understand the importance of a yes vote in order to keep Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department well equipped, well trained and ready to respond.

### **ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF MEASURE L**

The Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department (MBVFD) operates on the barest of budgets. Measure L, a ten-year tax of \$213 per parcel (except contiguous parcels held under identical ownership) per year, is necessary in maintaining adequate fire and emergency preparedness for our community. Funding from Measure L will allow the volunteer firefighters in Muir Beach to continue to provide critical services, and operate in compliance with ever increasingly costly state and federal requirements for training and equipment. The California legislation requires volunteer fire departments to provide equipment and training equal to the State's paid firefighting units, which has resulted in significantly higher costs in running the MBVFD. Prior to 2008, grants and donations supported the MBVFD, but now the Muir Beach Community Services District (MBCSD) depends upon a more reliable basis of funding. If the former dedicated fire tax is discontinued the MBCSD will have to fill the gap in funding with available monies for roads and recreation, and those departments are already hurting. We urge you to vote yes on Measure L this November.

Steve Wynn Chief MBVFD  
John Sward Chief MBVFD ret  
Michael Moore Chief MBVFD ret  
Barbara Plotter, Disaster Coordinator  
Lynda Silva

*(Arguments in Favor cont'd.)*

The MBVFD is a professional, trained organization offering an invaluable security net for Muir Beach. With the nearest County fire station 15 minutes away, the ability to call on our volunteers in an emergency is vital to the sustainability of our community. The Muir Beach Volunteer Fireman's Association (MBVFA) provides support, but without revenue from the 2008 and 2012 fire tax measures, the MBVFD would lack the necessary funds for ongoing training, outfitting, and maintenance. **A 10-year term on the fire tax is both practical and fiscally responsible.** The administrative burden of processing the fire tax every four years is considerable. Additionally, a ten-year tax allows the MBVFD to budget for longer-term expenditures rather than subsist with the continual threat of greatly reduced or eliminated funding.

Yes, this money is earmarked for the MBVFD. But, without it, the community will have to use the CSD's general fund to pay for MBVFD operations, which reduces dollars available for all other community purposes. Delaying approval of Measure L would result in a full year's loss of funding. This jeopardizes the entire community's emergency preparedness and physical health, and also opens the door to financial risk for all of us. Thanks to Chief Steve Wynn and his volunteers' work in reducing Muir Beach's ISO ratings a few years ago, households in Muir Beach now save significantly more than \$213 per year in homeowner's insurance rates alone.

**Not passing Measure L is penny wise, pound foolish.**

Suzanne Bender-Van Spyk, MBVFA Treasurer

Victoria Hamilton-Rivers, MBCSD Board Director

Rob Allen, Assistant Chief MBVFD, 27 year Department veteran, EMT

Michael Kaufman, MBVFA President ret.

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## Horse Rescue On Heather Trail

On May 6, 2016 Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department was toned out for a horse and rider down on the Heather trail. The horse had taken a bad step and fell down the hillside lodging itself upside down in a V shaped culvert within thick brush. When Muir Beach and Marin County firefighters arrived on scene the horse was not moving. A veterinarian was immediately dispatched. The rider sustained a minor injury to her leg but the horse's situation didn't look good. The firefighters had to consider the possibility that the horse could have sustained broken bones which meant putting it down had to be a consideration.

The vet's ETA was going to be quite a while so Muir Beach firefighters Maurice Conti, Chris Gove and Robert Allen came up with a plan of action. Still not knowing the extent of the horse's injuries it was determined that a path below the horse must be made, one way or another, in order to get the animal out. Using chain saws to cut through all the thick brush was not an option because the noise would terrify the horse potentially causing it to thrash about and further injure itself or injure the firefighters working close to it.

After some time using hand saws, Maurice and Chris completed the path. The horse remained calm while Chris cut away the leather saddle straps that were tangled up in the brush. When Chris tried to encourage the horse to get up, she wouldn't budge. Chris turned his back to relay the situation to Robert Allen manning the radios and at that moment the horse popped up and immediately headed down the path that Chris and Maurice had made. It was only at that moment everyone realized the horse was fine.



## Sign up for First Aid Class 2/11/17



This informative 4-hour class is offered to all Muir Beach residents. The course is designed for citizen first responders without any medical background. Nurses and doctors appreciate this training as well because it provides hands-on practice for first responder emergency life-saving actions. It is also great, practical knowledge for everyone. Everyone age 14 and up is welcome to attend. Requested donation is \$5. Class will be held at Green Gulch in the morning ...Time TBD.

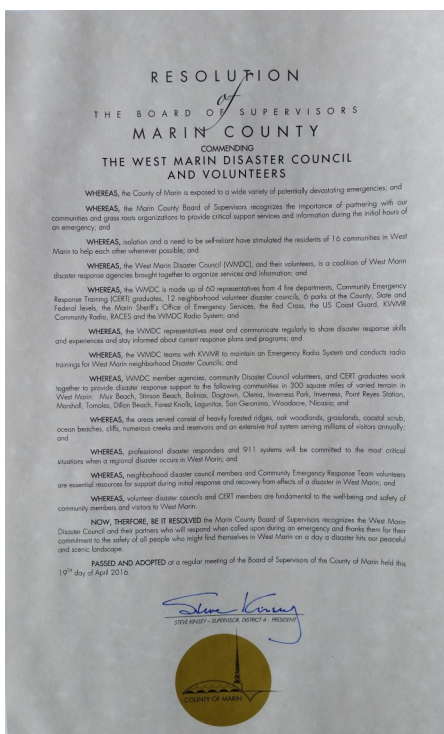
## Community Disaster Meeting and Potluck 6:30pm, 1-10-2017

Come join us on the evening of January 10th to learn about the Muir Beach Disaster Council, the Muir Beach disaster plan and to meet your disaster liaisons to say thank you for their service

## Grant Awarded to Muir Beach Disaster Council

MBDC was recently awarded a grant from Marin County supervisor Steve Kinsey geared towards preparing communities for times of disaster. The grant has allowed us to purchase a mobile community disaster supply trailer along with two large tents and 3 generators. This year we have also received over 30 cots and blankets donated to us by the American Red Cross and an additional two Honda 2500's generators from the city of Mill Valley, Fire Station 4. Barbara Plotter continues to work with hospitals to receive donations for medical expendables such as bandages to further increase the necessary stockpiles of community disaster emergency supplies and equipment. These acquisitions have put us in the strongest position we have ever been in to handle a communitywide emergency.

In recognition of our efforts and as a member of the West Marin Disaster Council, supervisor Kinsey gave us a resolution recognizing the importance of our contribution and commitment to community emergency preparedness.



# FIRE SAFETY DAY

- Fire extinguisher service/re-charge or purchase



## Fire extinguisher service/re-charge.

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Recharge and inspection.....	\$20
New 2.5lb refurbished extinguisher.....	\$30
New 5lb refurbished extinguisher .....	\$50

Drop off extinguishers at the MBVFD Firehouse 9am  
Pick up at 2:30pm. Payment due when you pick it up.

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# OCTOBER 22

For more information contact  
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