



## The MARA News

Winter 2009 Issue

Montecito Area Residents' Association

P.O. Box 150266

San Rafael, CA 94915-0266

mara94901@gmail.com

montecitoresidents.com

# New and future retailers

We are glad to report that several businesses have opened or are planning on opening in our neighborhood.

**Elephant Pharmacy** is gone, but CVS has submitted approval requests to the city to open a pharmacy at the same site. Keep your eyes on that spot!

**Café Trio** has recently opened in the Montecito Shopping Center. This is a Mediterranean bistro cafe, open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The

food is fabulous, and the prices are affordable. They have vegetarian dishes on their menu, as well as traditional comfort food and healthy salads. They also have wine, juice, espresso and tea bars, and all kinds of pastries.

**Trader Joe's** isn't new, but if you have been avoiding shopping there because of the crowds note that now that the new Trader Joe's has opened in Corte Madera, the store in Montecito is much easier and pleasanter to get in and out of.

A **new re-hab veterinary clinic** for dogs and cats will be opening on Fourth Street, across the street from the East San Rafael Vets. It's not competition for them, but is a serious state of the art rehabilitation facility, which has some of the same ownership as ESRV. This will be the only such facility in Marin.

If you like kabobs, then you should try the new restaurant in the Montecito Center called **Rumi** – it is in the Pavillion area.

## Community Emergency Response Team

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009 – An 8.3-magnitude earthquake and the resulting tsunami killed 176 people in the Samoas and Tonga.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2009 – A 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia's West Sumatra province, killing an estimated 1,100 people. Thousands of people, meanwhile, are believed to be buried under rubble.

Some time in the not too distant future? – A 9.2 magnitude earthquake ruptures the San Andreas fault, off the Marin Headlands, releasing more energy than all the explosives in WWII combined – including the Atomic bombs – causing all bridges in the Bay Area to collapse, dams to break, and buildings, houses and highways to collapse. A tsunami sweeps up and down the bay, destroying low lying areas of San

Rafael, Belvedere, and Novato.

Neighborhoods are left to fend for themselves for up to to three days with no water, electricity, gas or plumbing before a relief effort manages to reach the devastated Bay Area.

Sound possible? You bet! CERT training will help you help your family and your neighborhood to be prepared to look after yourselves for those first 72 hours.

San Rafael CERT covers basic skills that are important to know when a disaster strikes. You will learn to work as a team member and you will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number after a disaster. Community-based preparedness planning allows people to prepare for and respond to anticipated

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# CERT: You too can help in an emergency!

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disruptions. Neighborhood preparedness will enhance the ability of individuals and neighborhoods to prepare for a disaster.

A CERT basic session covers the following: Introduction to CERT, Disaster Psychology; Fire Safety; Disaster Medical Operations; Light Search & Rescue Operations; CERT Organization; Disaster Simulation.

Included with your registration fee is a CERT response kit with supplies like a helmet, CERT vest, goggles, gloves, a flashlight, poncho, emergency blankets, duct tape, light sticks, utilities wrench, first aid kit, and emergency food.

The Board of the Montecito Area Resident's Association feels so strongly about the value of CERT training that they will reimburse MARA members who participate 50 percent of the cost up to \$50 upon completion of the course and presentation at a monthly board meeting of the certificate



*CERT graduates learn about emergency preparedness in a real life simulation.*

issued by the city.

A number of your neighbors have been through the course, but the more who do the better. Be prepared for the CERTified neighbors to knock on your door and invite you to a meeting of a small group of homes to plan how they can learn who needs special help, where to store shared

emergency supplies, and where to gather to organize search and rescue teams to check on surrounding households.

For more information visit [cityofsanrafael.org/Government/Office\\_of\\_Emergency\\_Services/Emergency\\_Preparedness/CERT.htm](http://cityofsanrafael.org/Government/Office_of_Emergency_Services/Emergency_Preparedness/CERT.htm).

## Aldersley: a welcome oasis

As you enter the Aldersly Garden Retirement Community, you can see not only the American and California flags waving, but also the Danish red and white flag. This is the first hint of the Danish heritage of Aldersly which was established by the local Danish community in 1921. A house was purchased on this site to house elderly

Danes, who had come to the United States primarily as seamen and maids. As years passed, the campus grew to three-and-a-half acres of beautifully landscaped gardens with numerous apartment buildings, most named for Danish castles such as Rosenborg and Marselisborg.

In Danish, Aldersly means

“care of the elderly.”

Today there are no residents who are native born, but several who are of Danish heritage.

To commemorate its heritage, there are three major Danish celebrations at Aldersly.

Tivoli is held each September. This festival is named for the Famous Tivoli

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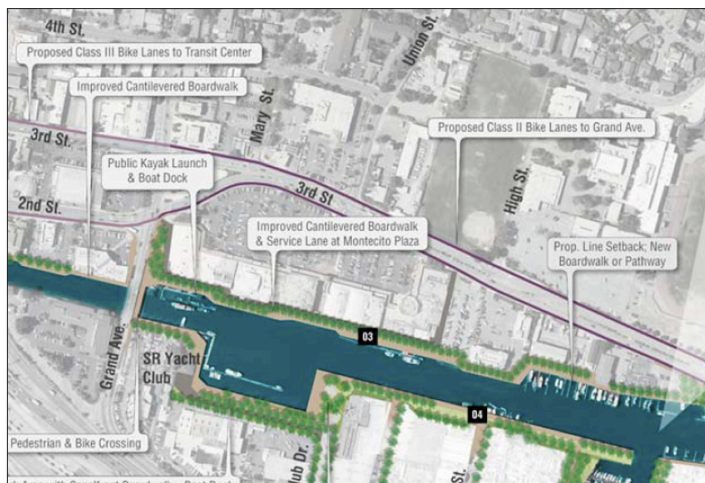
# What does the Canalfront plan mean for us?

For almost a year a committee of San Rafael residents, business and property owners, and representatives of the biking and boating communities have been working on the San Rafael Canalfront Conceptual Design Plan. The City Council tasked the committee to come up with a plan that addresses four issues:

- How to provide a better connection for the Bay Trail from Pickleweed Park to San Pedro Road
- How to provide better public access to the waterfront all along the canal
- How to improve the ability for pedestrians and bicycles to cross over the canal
- Create design guidelines for any future development along the canalfront

The plan is intended to be a vision for the future and is the first necessary step before any applications for funding for public improvements can be made. (There is NO intention to use city general fund money for any of plan.) The final plan was approved by the City Council Nov. 16. Any actual changes are expected to take place over the next several decades – this plan just provides guideposts for future improvements.

The map shows what the draft plan contemplates for our neighborhood –



improvements to the city land at Beach Park and next to the S.R. Yacht Club, possible public boat docks behind the Montecito Center, the improvement and extension of the walkway along the waterfront, and a much better and safer crossing at or near the Grand Avenue bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition, the design guidelines provide for retail stores to have welcoming front doors at the waterfront as well as facing Third Street.

Email MARA at [mara94901@gmail.com](mailto:mara94901@gmail.com) or visit us online at [montecitoresidents.com](http://montecitoresidents.com).

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Gardens in Copenhagen and features Danish food, music, dancing, and sales of all kinds of Danish objects.

Mertens Aften is a wonderful feast held in the fall marking the beginning of winter. In Europe, this day is celebrated with the first cooking of a goose. At Adersly, we have roast duck.

Fastelavn is the Danish equivalent of Mardi Gras,

where attendees may wear costumes and hats and masks gaily decorate the tables. The traditional dinner – of roast pork, two kinds of tiny boiled potatoes, red cabbage, and a delightful Danish dessert – is served. It somehow has a bit of our American Halloween mixed in, since there is a black cat king and queen chosen to preside over the festivities. In olden times, children played pranks on their elders.

Along with the rich Danish heritage, Aldersly is unique for our beautiful gardens. The gardens have grown over 89 years. The great centerpiece is The Rose Garden, with over 70 plants that bloom from late spring through the fall. There are also three lovely fountains, which attract many birds who splash and drink.

There is truly a lovely oasis located in the midst of the Montecito area.

# Where the Salvation Army stands now

Roberts Dairy, in Happy Valley, which is now the Montecito neighborhood, was a prominent Marin County dairy. It was founded by pioneer resident Rachel Armstrong Roberts with two Jersey cows in 1898. Through her hard work the dairy grew to over a thousand cows in 1943.

By 1945, the Roberts Dairy owned six ranches in Marin.

The original family home is at 50 Mary Street. Legend has it that John Paul Chase, who rode with gangster Baby Face Nelson



*Dairy trucks on Mary Street at the creamery in 1938.*

(Sausalito) lived in that house before he began his life of crime.

Roberts Dairy passed through five generations. After Roberts died in 1943, her son, Niles Lundgren, continued to run the business with

his son, Jim Lundgren.

After the dairy closed in 1958, Jim ran Green Pine Nursery at the creamery location on Mary and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. By 1982, the old dairy was slated to be torn down and a Salvation Army thrift store and

community center would be built in its place.

The family was involved in a dispute over their father's will. Jim challenged the court ordered sale of the property. He and his wife, Ann, tried to seek landmark status for the dairy and wanted to convert the creamery back into its original use. They tried to block the sale of the property to the Salvation Army.

*Read more of this article about the exciting history of Montecito at [montecitoresidents.com](http://montecitoresidents.com)*

## Join or Renew Now!

Annual memberships expire December 31. To become a new MARA member or renew your existing membership, send your name, address, telephone number (with your e-mail address if you wish), and a check payable to "Montecito Area Residents' Association" c/o MARA, P.O. Box 150266, San Rafael, CA 94915-0266.

Membership is \$10 per person (\$5 for seniors). MARA welcomes not only residents, but also retail, commercial, and other organizations in our neighborhood as well.

Attend the annual meeting in mid-May and participate in officer elections, voice concerns, and offer your ideas. Email us at [mara94901@gmail.com](mailto:mara94901@gmail.com) or visit us online at [www.montecitoresidents.com](http://www.montecitoresidents.com).

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**SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION . . . JOIN NOW!**