



Awareness Novato

Moderate-Progressive Community Newsletter

September-October 2009 (No. 37)

Greetings, Fellow Novatans and Friends:

**** The Novato "Awareness" newsletter aims at fostering regular communication about local issues among those 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, opportunities, links and programs. We hope that a more informed community will come together to make better decisions about matters of common concern. Also included may be events in neighboring communities, guest editorials and opinion pieces. If you anyone you know might enjoy receiving "Awareness", please forward them a copy.**

**** "Awareness" is available on-line through the Novato Democratic Club (NDC) website: www.novatodemocrats.org NDC co-sponsors "Awareness". Though not bound to a partisan Democratic Party agenda, "Awareness" does reflect the core values of the NDC.**

**** Please check out the Volunteer and Activism section that is also linked on the NDC website (link is on the left: "Volunteer") 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 positive difference in our town -- 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 the newsletter.**

Thank you to the many community members who contribute calendar events and editorials to the Awareness Newsletter. Your comments and additions are most welcome! Contribute items or subscribe or unsubscribe to "Awareness Novato" to Publisher/editor: Lynne Wasley at ourhouse4@earthlink.net

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Every Day in September: Support the Novato Youth Center, Dine at Pasta Pomodoro, Novato

Thursday Sept 10: "THIRST" Documentary Viewing and Special Guest Speaker, Novato

Thursday, September 10 and October 8: City of Novato Multicultural Commission meeting, Novato

Saturday, September 12: Novato Democratic Club, Meet the Candidates, Novato

Saturday, September 12: Autism Information and Resource Fair, Dominican College

Sunday, September 13: (and every Sunday): Childhood Matters, Radio Show

Domingo, 13 de Setiembre: (and every Sunday): Nuestros Ninos, Radio Show

Sunday, September 13: March for Health Care Reform, San Francisco

Monday, September 14: Novato Sanitary Board Meeting, Novato

Monday, September 14 (and the 2nd Monday of each month): Poetry Farm at Dr. Insomnia's, Novato

Tuesday, September 15 (and every Tuesday through Sept): Novato's Certified Farmer's Market, Novato

Wednesday, September 16: Public Workshop - The Commons at Mt. Burdell Design Review Meeting, Novato

Wednesday, September 16: PeaceNovato Meeting, Novato

Wednesday, September 16: National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) Meet the Candidates Night, San Rafael

Thursday, September 17: Novato City Council Candidates Forum, Novato

Saturday, September 19: Annual Novato Coastal Cleanup Day, Novato

Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20: Camp Obama Community Organizer Training, Novato & San Rafael

Thursday, September 24: Sustainable Novato General Meeting, Novato

Saturday, September 26: Rock 'n Blues By the Lake, Novato

Thursday, October 1: Advocating for your Child's IEP Papers, Novato

Thursday, October 1 (and the first Thursday of every month): Democratic Central Committee of Marin (DCCM) Meeting, San Rafael

Friday, October 2: World March for Peace and Nonviolence Kick Off, Novato to S.F.

Saturday, October 3: Novato Democratic Club Monthly Meeting, Novato

Saturday, October 3: Bocce Tournament benefiting Casa Allegra Community Services, San Rafael

Thursday, October 15: Teen Job Readiness Workshop, Novato

Sabado, October 17: Abogando Para El I.E.P. De Sus Hijos, San Rafael

Saturday, October 17: Novato School Fuel 2009 Bocce Tournament, San Rafael

Saturday, October 17: Dining With the Democrats, San Rafael

Wednesday, October 28: Environmental Toxins & Human Health Forum, Novato

Thursday, October 29: "The Future of San Quentin Prison and California's Death Penalty, Dominican College

Tuesday, Novato 3: VOTE!!!

UPCOMING EVENT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January, date TBA: Youth Speaks-Voices From Our Community, Novato

GUEST EDITORIAL

"Why Privatizing Novato Sanitary Agency (Even Just Operations and Maintenance) Is A Dubious Idea That Needs More Public Attention"

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Community Gardens

EVENTS CALENDAR

-- EVERY DAY IN SEPTEMBER -- Support the Novato Youth Center: Dine at Pasta Pomodoro, 140 Vintage Way, Novato. Invite your family and friends and enjoy a great meal at Pasta Pomodoro who will donate 20% of your bill to the Novato Youth Center. Give back to your community and have a nice night out! Donations will be made for lunch, dinner & take out. (415) 892-1643 www.novatoyouthcenter.org

-- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 7-9:00 pm — Special Screening “THIRST” Documentary Viewing, Encore Showing, Hill Community Room (by Margaret Todd Center), 1560 Hill Rd., Novato. Special guest speaker, Dr. David Ovetz, currently teaches political science at COM and has also worked on a variety of issues involving globalization of the ocean. The Award winning movie “Thirst” looks at global corporations and their involvement with local water supplies, trying to combine private profits with what many feel should be a fundamental right to water access. Attend and learn more about Novato Sanitary District’s outsourcing of the operations and maintenance of our new wastewater treatment facility to Veolia, a foreign corporation based in France. This event is sponsored by the Alliance of Concerned Citizens of Novato (ACCNovato) and the Novato Democratic Club. Event is FREE of charge, all are welcome and beverages and snacks will be served! For more info about this event and about ACCNovato www.accnovato.org or Pam at (415) 897-6060

The Alliance of Concerned Citizens of Novato is an association formed by Novato residents to prevent the privatization of the operations and maintenance of Novato's new taxpayer-funded \$90 million wastewater treatment facility at the Novato Sanitary District (NSD). ACCNovato is an alliance of citizens, labor, faith, and community organizers who wish to keep our Novato utilities public with local control! www.accnovato.org

-- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 and OCTOBER 8 (and the second Thursday of each month), 7:00 pm -- City of Novato Multicultural Commission meeting, Novato Police Department, Machin Ave. The Commission sponsors events such as the Multicultural Festival, Movies in the Park, and the World Café, as well as interfaces with the Novato Police Dept. around diversity/multiculturalism and hate-related incidents. Meetings are open to the public. For more info: novatomulticulturalcommission@earthlink.net

-- SATURDAY, SATURDAY 12, 9:30-11 am -- Meet Novato’s Democrat Candidates: Novato Democratic Club (NDC) monthly meeting (the club usually meets the first Saturday morning of each month except during holiday weekends), Sam’s Place 1545 S. Novato Blvd, Novato (located at the junction of Center and S. Novato in the shopping center near the post office). Come and hear from Novato candidates running for the City Council, School Board and Sanitary Districts. There will also be time for your questions. Make a more informed decision when it’s time to vote! Club members will also hold an endorsement meeting/vote after the candidates have all presented (11:00 am). Meeting participants are encouraged to purchase breakfast and/or donate \$5 for coffee, etc. With a focus on local issues, the NDC is also a place where you can learn more about how you can get more involved in local, state and national Democratic activities – and is also an opportunity to support Sam’s Place, one of our local businesses! For details, contact: Suzanne, NDC President (415) 309-6170 or Lynne Wasley, NDC Vice President (415) 898-2557 www.novatodemocrats.org

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. See www.novatodemocrats.org for more info on the Club.

-- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm -- Connecting People to Resources: An Autism Information and Resource Fair, Dominican University, San Rafael. Presented by Marin Autism Lecture Series in Partnership with Marin Autism Collaborative. There is plenty of parking, easy access to Vendors and childcare for families who want to attend the mini-workshops and gain tips and suggestions on how to support their child, teen or adult with ASD from experts in the field. There is NO cost to come and connect with the many vendors (vendors will include: School Programs, Adult Day and Residential programs, Research Programs, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Education Specialists, Post Secondary Programs, Social Recreational Programs, Government Agencies, Parent Resource Agencies, Authors and Technology) There is a small fee to attend a mini workshop. For info on childcare and/or registering for a mini-workshop: Karen Kaplan at karensupportsu@comcast.net.

-- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 (and each Sunday), 7-8 am – Childhood Matters radio show - Tune to 98.1 AM to *Childhood Matters* for relevant, interesting and informative discussions each week. www.childhoodmatters.org (podcasts also available).

-- DOMINGO, 13 de SETIEMBRE (y todos los Domingos a las 8 de la mañana) En programa de radio para crecer y aprender en familia - 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. Anfitriona: Doctora Marisol Muñoz-Kiehne (de Novato). Le invitamos a visitarnos en www.nuestrosninos.com

-- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, Noon-3:00 pm -- March for Health Care Reform, Justin Herman Plaza to San Francisco City Hall. Join with many Bay Area Congressional Districts, Marin County for Obama, and many other Organizing for America (OFA) groups from around the greater Bay Area to send a clear message to members of Congress about health care reform: Let's Get it Done! This will be a peaceful march and rally, family friendly! Please think of the environment and take the bus or ferry into the city. Questions? Email: march4healthcare.sf@gmail.com Learn more and sign up at: www.my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/letsgetitdonehealthinsurancereformnowevents/gpkgrz

-- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 6:30 pm — Novato sanitary Board Meeting, District Administration Building, 500 Davidson St., Novato. The Sanitary Board may tentatively be presented with the final contracts for operations & maintenance for approval and signing. The Alliance for Concerned Novato Citizens of Novato (ACCNovato) encourages your attendance in order to continue monitoring the Boards activities and to hold them accountable for their decisions. Come and show the Board that we are paying attention and also want them to continue to hold their meetings at this more accessible time (6:30). For more info: Pam at 897-6060 www.accnovato.org

-- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 (and the second Monday 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!

-- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 (and every Tuesday through Sept-- weather permitting) 4 --7:30ish pm -- Novato's Certified Farmer's Market, Grant Ave between Machin and Reichert Ave. Many of your favorite farmers, artisans, food purveyors are back again this year + look for some new vendors. Check out the 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 also is a chance to learn more about community groups/events when you check out the information tables from PeaceNovato, Organizing for America (OFA) and Alliance of Concerned Citizens of Novato (ACCN), among others. Tickets for Rock n' Blues by the Lake are now available at the Market. Eat local and support our local farmers and our downtown Grant Avenue businesses. Cut back car emissions and save on gas, *keep it local!* For more info: www.marinfarmersmarkets.org

-- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 -- Public Workshop - The Commons at Mt. Burdell Design Review Meeting, NUSD Board Room, 1015 Seventh St., Novato. The Commons at Mt. Burdell proposes to redevelop the existing Fireman's Fund office campus with a mix of uses, including offices, retail/restaurants/personal services, rental residential units, a hotel/conference center, a health club, a community building, and various active and passive outdoor recreational areas. The project would retain the existing office buildings (725,000 sq. ft.) and add 758,000 sq. ft. of new floor area. The project is proposed to achieve carbon neutral building operations. Project plans may be viewed at: www.ci.novato.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=829 .The Design Review Workshop is intended to provide an opportunity for the Design Review Commission, the public, and the project applicant to have an informal discussion about the project's proposed site design, grading, and building height/massing. The Design Review Commission will not be making a formal recommendation on the project at this workshop. Comments and suggestions on the project are encouraged at this early stage of review so that they may be considered by the Design Review Commission and project applicant. Inquiries/more info: Steve Marshall, Senior Planner: 899-8942 or smarshall@ci.novato.ca.us

-- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 -- PeaceNovato meeting, call for details. Discussion will include working out logistics to meet for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence being held on 10/2. Peace Novato will be holding its final peace vigil for the summer season at the Farmers Market on September 22, Fall/Winter vigils will begin once a month in October. PeaceNovato is also continuing their Crane Remembrance Project. Instructions in crane folding will be given to newcomers who'd like to participate. In remembrance of American lives lost too soon in the Iraqi war, the cranes are displayed and carried by volunteers at various marches/events including Novato's Fourth of July Parade. For more info about the PeaceNovato meeting, the upcoming march on 10/2, peace vigils and/or to join: Julie at 883-8324 or Don at 897-0516

-- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 5:00-6:30 pm -- Marin Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) Meet the Candidates Night, Hanna's Restaurant, 1700 Fourth St, San Rafael. Followed at 7:00 pm -- NWPC Endorsement Meeting, San Rafael City Hall Council Chambers. Come and meet many of the candidates running for elected offices in Marin, including some from Novato. The event offers a wonderful opportunity to meet and chat with some of your favorite candidates. The event is also a fundraiser for the NWPC - the \$25 cost includes food at the reception. To RSVP (ASAP): 897-01224. www.marinnwpc.org

-- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 6:30-8:30 pm -- City Council Candidates Forum, Novato School District Board, 1015 Seventh St. This forum is an opportunity to hear candidates discuss their vision for our downtown, how they'll address climate change and other issues such as senior, family and workforce housing. Ask your own questions and hear what the candidates have to say. When it's time to cast your vote - make an informed decision! Co-sponsored by Novato Housing Coalition, Greenbelt Alliance and Sustainable Novato. The forum will be televised on NPAT. For more: (415) 686-5204

-- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 9 am - Noon -- Annual Novato Coastal Cleanup Day. Meet in Novato at the gazebo at Scottsdale Pond at 9 am for instruction and materials. Volunteers will have their choice of sites to clean: Scottsdale Pond, Hamilton levee, Novato Creek or Warner Creek. Those willing to get their feet and legs wet can do a segment of Novato Creek or Warner Creek. We don't want Novato litter to end up in the Great Pacific Gyre! All ages welcome, with parental supervision of small children. Wear sturdy shoes with thick soles + gloves if you have them. Sponsored by Marin Conservation League. Call Susan Stompe 897-1610 for more information.

-- SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 9 am -6:00 pm (Sat), 9:00 am-4:00 pm (Sun.) -- Camp Obama Community Organizer Training! Marin Power Squadron, 789 Hamilton Parkway, Novato (Saturday) and Carpenters Union Local 35647 Lindero Street, San Rafael (Sunday) Become a community organizer and learn how to bring real health care reform to America, using the same tools that helped elect President Obama. Learn to bring change to your community and your country. (Health Care Organizing Event) Join the President's field team "Organizing for America" (OFA), and help make the change we voted for become reality! Become a leader in your community! This is a two-day training, Sat. & Sun. Please note different locations for each day + different ending times. RSVP or for more info: Patricia Ravitz patricia@patriciaravitz.com. Please include your phone number, email address, and home address when you RSVP. Be the change! Thank you!

-- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 7-9:00 pm -- Sustainable Novato general meeting, the Redwood Rm. at Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing. Sustainable Novato is working 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>. www.sustainablenovato.org

-- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, All Day -- The 7th annual Rock 'n Blues By the Lake -- Stafford Lake, Novato. A musical event for the whole family, proceeds benefit Novato Public Schools! Headliners include: the B-52s and Blake Lewis (American Idol season 6 finalist) Check out the website for a complete list of bands, how to order tickets, and other info about this exciting event. All ages welcome! Limited capacity, only 6,000 tickets will be sold, don't miss out!
www.rnblake.com

-- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 9 am - Noon -- Advocating for your Child's IEP Papers (for parents of students age 3 and up), Matrix Parent Network and Resource Center, 94 Galli Drive, Novato.

Training includes learning key special education facts, how to build an IEP to meet your child's needs, ask the right questions, and communicate your views. Reservations required at least two days prior to workshop. This and all Matrix services are FREE of charge, though donations are greatly appreciated. Other Matrix services include a 1:1 helpline (800-578-2592, M-Th, 9am - 3 pm), support groups and an extensive library covering all disabilities, special educational needs and related areas. RSVP to this event or for more info about Matrix events and services + Servicios ofrecidos en Español: (415) 884-3535 www.matrixparents.org

-- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 7-9:00 pm -- Democratic Central Committee of Marin (DCCM) meeting, San Rafael Corporate Center, Conference Rm., 750 Lindero St. Open to the public. The DCCM meets the first Thursday of each month. Novato currently has four representatives on the Central Committee and four alternates. For more info on this meeting (good to check to confirm location close to the meeting's date) and other upcoming events: www.marindemocrats.org

-- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 3:30/5:00 pm -- The World March for Peace and Nonviolence kicks off on Gandhi's birthday (Oct. 2), the statue of Gandhi at the foot of the Ferry Building, San Francisco. PeaceNovato will join the kickoff event (they will probably leave Marin around 3:30) and will be discussing logistics at their meeting on 9/16. Later this year, coordinated marches will take place around the world; the Bay Area march is tentatively scheduled for December. For more information on the World March, go to www.theworldmarch.org. For more info about PeaceNovato and/or to join: Julie at (415) 883-8324 or Don at (415) 897-0516

-- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 9:30-11:00 -- Novato Democratic Club (NDC) meeting (the club meets the first Saturday morning of each month except during holiday weekends), Sam's Place 1545 S. Novato Blvd, Novato (located at the junction of Center and S. Novato in the shopping center near the post office). October's discussion will include discussions and volunteer needs for the upcoming local election. Meeting participants are encouraged to purchase breakfast and/or donate \$5 for coffee, etc. With a focus on local issues, the NDC is also a place where you can learn more about how you can get more involved in local, state and national Democratic activities + is also an opportunity to support Sam's Place, one of our local businesses! For details, contact: Suzanne, NDC President (415) 309-6170 or Lynne Wasley, NDC Vice President (415) 898-2557 www.novatodemocrats.org

-- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 -- Bocce Tournament benefiting Casa Allegra Community Services. Join the fun at the San Rafael Bocce Courts that includes fabulous courtside lunch. Casa Allegra provides supports to people with developmental disabilities in Marin County, many of whom live in Novato. The agency is fundraising to help pay for essential medical & dental care and purchase adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs or communications devices that are windows to the world for the people the agency supports. www.casaallegra.org. Contact Jeanne Santangelo, jeanne@casaallegra.org or 898-6525 for further information on sponsor benefits and team play. See www.CVNL.org for Casa Allegra's volunteer listings.

-- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 4:30-6:00 pm -- Teen Job Readiness Workshop, Novato Teen Center, 950 7th St. Not a job placement service, this workshop provides a helpful overview and information and services to assist teens ages 14-18 to get and keep a job. Teen Drop-in Clinics are also available the first Thursday of the month (10/1, 11/5, 12/3). A useful workbook is provided that participants can keep. FREE of charge, registration and parent permission is required for the workshop: (415) 899-8200 www.cityofnovato.org/prcs

-- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 -- Novato School Fuel 2009 Bocce Tournament - Registration is now open! Put together your team and get ready for a fun day at the beautiful bocce courts in San Rafael. The tournament will include instructions for beginners, round robin play, a delicious catered lunch, and prizes for the top teams. Players of all experience and ability levels enjoyed this great event last year. Registration deadline is September 18, but registration will close as soon as 32 teams are registered. Only one registration form is required per team. Have fun while raising money for our Novato public schools! For more information, contact Leslie at (415) 897-4259 or lbenjamin@nUSD.org. www.novatoschoolfuel.org

-- SABADO, OCTOBER 17, 10 am - Noon -- Abogando Para El I.E.P. De Sus Hijos. Donde: Canal Alliance, #3. Aprenda a abogar a preguntar las preguntas correctas en el I.E.P. de su hijo. (415) 884-3535 www.matrixparents.org

-- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 5:30-10:00 pm -- Dining with the Democrats: A benefit for the Marin Democratic Party, San Rafael Community Center.
"Best Party of the Year"! This annual event is always lively and interesting - don't miss this chance to meet and dine with many of our local elected officials and active Democrats, enjoy great food (especially the desserts), wonderful music and silent auction + more! For information and to RSVP/order tickets: info@marindemocrats.org www.marindemocrats.org

-- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 6-9:00 PM -- Forum: Environmental Toxins & Human Health, Fireman's Fund, 777 San Marin Dr. What effect do environmental toxins have on our survival as a species? Have we reached a tipping point? How do these toxins affect us at each phase of our lives? How do we explain the explosion in the numbers of cases of autism, learning disabilities, asthma, allergies, Alzheimer's, and Western Metabolic Syndrome? Expert panelists share the latest science that affects us all. Sponsored by Sustainable Novato. For more info: Ed at (415) 902-6365 or <mailto:info@sustainablenovato.org>. www.sustainablenovato.org

-- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 7-8:30 pm -- "The Future of San Quentin Prison and California's Death Penalty, Dominican College. Hear and dialogue with a panel of public officials including a former warden of San Quentin, a murder victim's family member and Assemblyman Jared Huffman. Dominican Sisters Gathering Space at Dominican University, 1520 Grand Ave, San Rafael. Free parking - Free event. Sponsored by a variety of local groups. For more info: 243-0143 or stefanie@deathpenalty.org or www.deathpenalty.org

-- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm – VOTE, It's Your Right! If you're not yet registered or if you've moved, voter registration forms are available at the Registrar of Voters Office located in the Civic Center at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 121, San Rafael. Forms are also available at all offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles, public libraries, police departments, fire departments, and post offices. You may also call the Registrar of Voters at (415) 499-6456 or the Secretary of State at 1-800-345-VOTE and a registration form will be mailed to you. To learn more about voting absentee, voter registration and any question you might have about where to vote, where you're registered (if you've moved), what your current registration status is: www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/RV/Main/reg/index.cfm

UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

-- JANUARY (Specifics to be announced) -- Youth Speaks: Voices From Our Community. Sponsored by United for Safe Schools Novato (USSN) www.unitedsafe.com this forum will be an

opportunity for the youth in our community to share with their peers and with adults their thoughts and feelings on what challenges they face and what is important to them (and should be to us). Discussions will follow. Come and hear from a diverse group of youth and young adults who have a lot to share. If you're interested in participating in the forum /would like to help organize it, contact: Lynne Wasley at 898-2557 or email: ourhouse4@earthlink.net

COMMUNITY UPDATES

-- INDIAN VALLEY ORGANIC FARM and GARDEN, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato. Located on the C.O.M. Indian Valley Campus, the new Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden - where agriculture and youth bloom - is about building on the Marin's progressive agricultural heritage and advancing the sustainable agriculture and healthy food movement. The nearly 6-acre site will serve as a valuable learning laboratory and educational resource for us all. Go to conservationcorpsnorthbay.org to learn more about how you can involved in this exciting new project, to see a site map, or to set up a tour. For more information you may also contact the IVC Farm and Garden manager: Bethallyn Black at 457-8307

-- NOVATO COMMUNITY GARDEN: The Novato Community Garden Committee (of Novato Live Well Network) is preparing project plans to submit to the City of Novato for preparation to lease the city's property at O'Hair Park off of Novato Boulevard. The 1.5 acre site is next to the Dogbone Meadow Park, on the west side. The community garden will have more than 50 plots and a demonstration mini-farm where participants of the garden and members of the community can come and learn how to plant, grow, water and care for vegetables using organic and sustainable principles. With the help of the community, Novato Live Well www.novatolivewell.org believes several community gardens can be created in Novato. They want to start with one—but this can't happen without the help of the community. The group is planning a viewing of the video documentary called "The Power of Community" that tells the story of how neighborhood and community gardens transformed Cuba during a food crisis in 1990, and will also give an update presentation on the Novato Community Garden Project and have time for Q&A with a panel of speakers. For an overview on the Community Garden Project and current updates: www.novatolivewell.org/communitygarden.html

GUEST EDITORIAL

[Why Privatizing Novato Sanitary Agency \(Even Just Operations and Maintenance\) IIs A Dubious Idea That Needs More Public Attention](#)

Opposition has formed against NSD's plans to privatize its new sewage treatment plant (http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_12538960). Not yet fully reported, however, is the wider political context of privatization and details about the cost figures NSD uses to justify the move. A recent private analysis by John Quinley on certain aspects of NSD's proposed privatization of O&M operations concludes that NSD has overstated advantages of privatization. Novatans recognize that issues in respect to NSD's O&M privatization proposal are complex and Mr. Quinley's work addresses only one of them.

For its part, Sustainable Novato considers privatization of water and wastewater facilities to have serious implications for local community control of the health, safety and sustainability of one of our most basic resources. Sustainable Novato has said it wants cooperate with NSD in a public

Novato community forum to educate Novatans about the problem. SN continues to urge NSD to engage a team of truly independent peer reviewers to look at the set of problems privatization may engender, including its wider context. Meanwhile, SN believes NSD should go slow on its proposal until the public has had an opportunity to fully evaluate all of its aspects and implications.

The following statement is one with which many sustainability advocates, environmental organizations and perhaps many Novatans would agree:

(Food and Water Watch): "The waters of California belong to the people of California. The resource must remain public to keep it safe and affordable for them, their families and their posterity. When water and sewer systems fall into private hands, costs grow and consumers end up paying too much for poor quality. It can lead to sewage spills and service problems. Because of these failures, taxpayer money should neither incentivize nor subsidize private ownership, management or operation of water and sewer systems."

(F&WW continues): "Private control of water is a bad deal for California -- it may mean high water rates, expensive financing of water and sewer projects, clean water act violations, high operating costs and corruption. Local governments should keep their water and sewer services in public hands and reject privatization."

-- Ed Mainland

Please check out the NOVATO VOLUNTEER AND ACTIVISM OPPORTUNITIES at Novatodemocrats.org (click on "Volunteer" link on the left). 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!