



# TODAY

... to protect the land forever | October 2018

## Honoring the Sonoma Developmental Center *Center to close after 127 years in operation*



As the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) in Eldridge prepares to close its doors at the end of this year, the broader Sonoma Valley community is coming together to honor the people who have both worked and lived at this indispensable facility for persons with severe developmental disabilities. This is a rough milestone. For those whose family members were longtime residents who had to be relocated, it has not been easy. For those who dedicated themselves to a career at SDC, it has not been easy. The SDC closure will have lasting effects on the residents and employees, the SDC land, and the surrounding community. Under the theme of "Protecting What We Love," the [Parent Hospital Association](#), [Glen Ellen Forum](#), [Sonoma Land Trust](#) and [The Eldridge Portraits Project](#) are serving as a host committee to sponsor three events commemorating and honoring the workers, residents and families of SDC from October 27 through November 4.

DONATE NOW

### Tolay park is open



Tolay Lake Regional Park has opened to the public! Now at 3,400 acres (about half of them our former Tolay Creek Ranch), this is the largest park in the county system. We're proud to have played a role in the park's formation. Congrats to our partners at [Regional Parks](#)!

[Learn more](#)

*Photo courtesy of the Press Democrat.*

### Thanks, Copperfield's!



About 900 Barbara Kingsolver fans enjoyed last

## Vote YES on M — Parks for All!



Election Day is just a week away! We hope you've had time to read about all the propositions and candidates. One local proposition crucial to land conservation is Measure M — and we urge you to vote YES. Measure M is a proposed one-eighth-cent sales tax that will help protect, preserve and save our parks. In order to pass, it needs a two-thirds vote; we need to ensure that everyone who loves parks and open spaces votes yes. This modest sales tax goes a long way, raising about \$11.5 million annually for 10 years, one third of which will fund city parks, and the rest funding county parks. If we want our future generations to enjoy our parks the way we do, we must ensure that we have the resources to maintain our parks now and into the future. As November 6 approaches, remember to vote YES on Measure M!

Still on the fence? Learn more about the places you'll help protect on [Mountains and Molehills](#)

## A year after the fires

listening to her talk about her new book, *Unsheltered*, already a bestseller. Many thanks to our event partner [Copperfield's Books](#) for bringing this remarkable author to Sonoma County and inviting Sonoma Land Trust to co-sponsor the event. It was very special.

## New annual report



We are pleased to share with you our 2017–2018 annual report to the community. From recovering from the devastating wildfires to opening Pole Mountain Preserve, it's been quite a year at Sonoma Land Trust. If you didn't receive the report in the mail earlier this month, please [enjoy it here](#).

## A better place, today



The Land Trust is SO excited to welcome a new addition to our family — seven pounds of pure joy! Read a touching tribute to stewardship staffer Trevor





Nature is resilient. This year, our community proved that it is resilient, too. This October, one year after the devastating wildfires, we reflect on our losses and also remember that land is the heart of our community and land conservation is a vital tool for minimizing the damaging effects of wildfires.

## Learning along the levee



Our community programs staff recently hosted teachers and fourth grade students from McNear Elementary at our Sears Point wetland restoration site for our first guided field trip! The students are actively restoring a section of creek behind their school and, to widen their scope of knowledge, we offered them the opportunity to learn about large-scale tidal marsh restoration and the important ecological impact this work can have now and in the future. The students, teachers and adult chaperones also participated in a service-learning activity by collecting garbage along the levee, which they

We're hiring!



Sonoma Land Trust is currently hiring a stewardship assistant project manager to support preserve and wildlife corridor stewardship in the Sonoma Valley.

[Learn more](#)

Welcome, Aja!



Aja Walters joined us this month as our new development associate. Aja brings with her a wealth of experience in fundraising and database management, most recently working for Interfaith Community Services in Escondido, Calif. *Glad you're here, Aja!*

Greenway grant



Sonoma Land Trust was recently awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Giles W. &

results of their garbage analysis and seeing the public service announcement they create from their experience.

## A million thanks



Last month, Laufenburg Ranch in Knights Valley was the gathering place for Sonoma Land Trust staff and board to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our active volunteers. Gerard's Paella mesmerized our guests with the performance art that goes into making delicious paella in a five-foot pan. Beer from HenHouse Brewery and Robert Rue's wines and homemade sangria rounded out the menu while Altered Agenda kept our toes tapping with lively music. And, once again, gourmet cupcakes were the icing on the festivities. *Thank you* to all our volunteers who give of your time and energy to help us accomplish our mission. We are grateful for your support in this work!

toward the purchase of the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway. The greenway goal is to be a new linear park connecting downtown Santa Rosa neighborhoods with Spring Lake and Annadel parks.

[Learn more](#)



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.  
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