Dad and Son Help Keep Marin Safe from Fire

By Shirley Trimble

Father and son Steven and Elijah Post share a passion for keeping Marin safe from fire. Both of these Civic Center Volunteers serve as lookouts at towers on Mts. Tamalpais and Barnabe. Steven keeps watch about three days a month and Elijah up to six times a year during fire season.

Steven grew up in New York City and moved to San Francisco in the ’70s, drawn by the beauty of Mt. Tam. A lookout for 47 years, he is now the senior lookout and helps train new volunteers.

Elijah grew up in San Francisco. As a child, he spent many days with his dad on Mt. Tam. In 2013 he joined the formal lookout program and took the required training, which is led by Marin County Fire Department staff.

Both volunteers deeply appreciate their past staff supervisors, Fire Inspector Don Keylon and Fire Engineer Matt Watson, and the current liaison to the lookout team, Fire Engineer Henry Bustamonte.

Steven and Elijah start their lookout days with a visual check of their surroundings from the circular lookout building’s 360-degree view of Marin and beyond. Twice a day they check weather, temperature, wind direction, wind speed, humidity, and cloud cover. They report the information via radio to the Fire Department’s dispatch center at the Woodacre Fire Station, keeping in frequent communication as conditions change.

“We are the eyes of Marin,” explained Elijah. “We have a fire

Volunteer Fire Lookouts Steven Post and Elijah Post

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Steven sees lookouts as an important layer of protection to help keep Marin residents and communities safe. “We are very fortunate to have had no extreme fire, considering our recent low humidity and that fire season conditions are a month ahead of typical years,” he said. Steven is very active and often recruits Mt. Tam visitors for the volunteer lookout role. (He is also the first educator of feng shui in the United States.)

Elijah works for a 3-D printing start-up, where he sees parallels with his volunteer role. “If we find a problem, I can ‘dispatch’ a response from my work team with the same clarity and concision I have the privilege of witnessing every time I serve on Mt. Tam,” he said.

Adopt-A-Spot Team Beautifies Marin City

South county residents joined forces to collect and dispose of 300 gallons of trash plus other debris -- 24 pickup truckloads’ worth -- in Marin City in July. Led by Civic Center Volunteer Felecia Gaston, 135 volunteers contributed 828 hours! Local agencies involved included five county departments: Fire, Library, Probation, Health and Human Services, and Sheriff. Marin Housing Authority provided power washing and more. Goodman’s, Starbucks, and other businesses gave supplies and refreshments for the July 20-21 event. Community groups Performing Stars of Marin, Clean Marin, and Sausalito Beautiful were among the many participants. To volunteer for the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact Robert Carson of Public Works, rcarson@marincounty.org or 415-473-2745.
County Counsel Brian Washington welcomes high school, college, and graduate students during the annual Marin County Summer Intern Social. Students from county departments enjoyed meeting peers and networking with staff members.

Who’s New & Welcome!

- Natalie Agnew (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors (BOS)
- Mandy Bebbelani (Novato), Media Team Aide, Health & Human Services (HHS)
- Aidan Berry (San Anselmo), Legal Support Intern, District Attorney’s Office (DA)
- Blake Boehne (San Rafael), Epidemiology Intern, HHS
- Olivia Brandt (Petaluma), Marin Women’s Commission Intern, Human Resources (HR)
- Priscilla Cardenas (Novato), School-to-Career High School Intern, Public Defender’s Office (PD)
- Caroline Carothers (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, DA
- Kate Dodge (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, BOS
- Lauren Fernandes (Petaluma), Juvenile Services Volunteer, Probation Department
- Franz Feutsch (Mill Valley), Volunteer Investigator, PD
- Felicia Gaston (Marin City), Adopt-A-Spot Team Leader, Public Works
- Madeline Gembie (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, DA
- Connor George (San Anselmo), Legal Support Intern, DA
- Rika Gopinath (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks
- Jeffrey Gunther (Kentfield), District 2 Intern, BOS
- Cythea Harrison-Homitz (Fairfax), Preservationist, Fairfax Library
- Daniel Hernandez-Deras (San Pablo), Administrative Aide Intern, HHS
- William Hitt (St. Helena), Fire Lookout, Fire Department
- Ky-lind Hussain (Glen Ellen), Fire Lookout, Fire Department
- Christian Jordan (Mill Valley), Fire Lookout, Fire Department
- Joshua Lee (San Anselmo), Library Aide Intern, Fairfax Library
- Piero Llanos (Novato), Teen Shelves, Novato Library
- Joe Lopardo (San Francisco), Fire Lookout, Fire Department
- Rose Lupo (San Rafael), Corte Madera Creek Cleanup Volunteer, Marin County Parks
- Lynn Merlo (San Rafael), Preservationist, Corte Madera Library
- Anthony Morales (Novato), Park Steward, Marin County Parks
- Bilal Mubarak (Novato), Substance Abuse Prevention/Policy Intern, HHS
- Manisha Murthy (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library
- Pukavadee ’Noy’ NaBangchangs (San Rafael), Client Assessments Volunteer, HHS
- Satvik Namburu (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library
- Lacey Nave (Novato), Coroner Intern, Sheriff’s Office
- Isabel Noto (San Anselmo), Legal Support Intern, DA
- James Sawyers (Mill Valley), Pre-Law Intern, DA
- Robert Schinske (Novato), Legal Support Intern, DA
- Sasha Selivanov (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library
- Ann Shores (Corte Madera), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff’s Office
- Emily Spears (Mill Valley), High School Intern, PD
- Maddie Thomas (Petaluma), Pre-Law Intern, DA
- Sean Tweedie (Novato), Teen Shelves, Novato Library
- Nicholas Uribe (Petaluma), Accounting Intern, Public Works
- Annie Ward (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, County Counsel’s Office
- Cecilia Wolf (Corte Madera), Communicable Disease Team Intern, HHS
- Athena Yap (Novato), Legal Support Intern, DA
- Audrey Zitnay (Rohnert Park), Environmental Health Services Intern, Community Development Agency
Broom Busters: Let’s Pull Together!

Join Marin County Parks every Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Preserve to pull the invasive plant French broom. Not only invasive, broom also acts as fuel during fires. Meet at the Marin County Open Space gate at the end of Ridgewood Drive in San Rafael.

Weed wrenches and work gloves are provided by Parks staff.

RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Please call Rika at 415-297-8779 or email TLbroomclub@gmail.com.

Please note that high fire danger cancels broom-busting events. Call 415-473-7191 for fire danger status.