

Best of Marin Cannabis

READER'S CHOICE

WRITER'S CHOICE

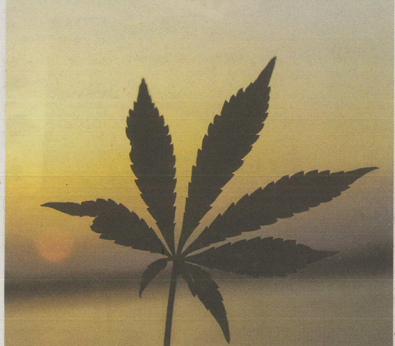


PHOTO BY JENNIFER WILSON

ON A ROLL Marin Gardens won three separate cannabis categories this year.

Best Attorney - Cannabis

Scot Candell, Scot Candell & Associates

Best Cannabis Body Care

Cosmic View

Best Cannabis Delivery Service

Nice Guys Delivery

Best Cannabis Event

Marin Gardens

Best Cannabis Label

Care By Design

Best CBD Product

Albor Medical

Best Edibles

Marin Gardens

Best Pipe Shop

Mighty Quinn

Best Therapeutic Product

Marin Gardens

It seems implausible that a code word between high school buds could become recognized throughout the world—until you learn that Dave Reddix's brother was friends with Grateful Dead-bassist Phil Lesch.

San Rafael and the Waldos were able to take official credit for their code word in 2017 when the Oxford English Dictionary added "420" to its lexicon.

Others claimed to know the true roots of 420, but only the Waldos produced evidence, including mentioning "420" in a 1974 San Rafael High School newspaper and a postmarked note that had accompanied some pot and described it as, "a little 420 for your weekend."

Author's note: It remains illegal to smoke pot on a high school campus, so this publication does not officially endorse meeting at Louie for that purpose. —CK

Best Reasons to Love the Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana and Lynnette Shaw

THE 'GODMOTHER OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA'

Though there are cannabis delivery services in Marin, some legit and some fly-by-night, there is really only one bonafide dispensary in the county. It's the Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana (MAMM) in Fairfax, which accommodates both medical and recreational users and has more history than any other dispensary in the United States. Medical patients are required to show up with a note from a doctor and a valid driver's license or another form of identification.

MAMM was founded 23

Lynnette Shaw, otherwise known as the "Green Queen" and the "Godmother of Medical Marijuana." President Bill Clinton, who claimed that he smoked, but didn't inhale, tried to put Shaw out of business. In 2011 the federal government finally shuttered her establishment, but with ample help from her dogged lawyers and from the courts, she bounced back and reopened in 2017 with a wham-bam party, complete with free food and free beverages.

I tried one of the free edibles—a chocolate brownie. Indeed, I ate the whole thing and was zonked instantly, but still able to drive safely, tripping the whole way, from Fairfax over the Golden Gate Bridge to the Mission District in San Francisco. It was a hairy ride, in the style of Hunter S. Thompson. I would not recommend it. Don't eat the whole thing! I do recommend a visit to MAMM for all your cannabis needs.

Not long ago, I met a couple of Marin residents who told me they drove to Oakland, bought their weed from a dispensary in the East Bay, drove back to Marin and then got stoned. That made no sense to me. It still doesn't. Liberal Marin tends to vote "Yes" on marijuana measures, but when entrepreneurs try to open dispensaries, the foes attend meetings and voice their opposition. "Not in my backyard" has been a rally cry all across Marin.

MAMM deserves support from the county that Shaw has helped for years with medical marijuana. A man who called himself Dan and who said he had been a marijuana smuggler back in the day and had been arrested and imprisoned, told me at the 2017 grand reopening, "Lynnette's place has been good for the community. What she's doing here will spread all over California." Indeed, it has.

MAMM, 6 School St. #210, Fairfax; 415.295.7633. Open seven days a week.

420 The infamous Louis Pasteur statue at San Rafael High School.



Cannabis

Everyone knows 420 is a code word for cannabis, but few know why. I asked a friend who said, "I've heard a lot of stories—that it's a police code for weed, that it has to do with the chemical compound or something?"

Others claim it's Bob Marley's birthday—which it isn't—or Hitler's birthday—which it is, but what's that got to do with weed?

In fact, the true origin is a delightful tale of teenage stoners at San Rafael High School circa 1971. I love this story for how easily it could be mere myth and for its diligent documentation.

The group of boys—who only allowed their full names to be made public after cannabis became legal in California—were nicknamed "the Waldos," because they were known to hang out against a wall.

According to Steve Capper, a friend's brother was in the Coast Guard and had been growing some weed. He was afraid he would get busted by his commanding officer, so he told Capper and his friends they could pick it for free if they wanted it. He even provided them a treasure map.

Capper, on the podcast *Criminal*, explained,

"We're like, teenage boys. 'Free weed? Are you kidding?'"

They agreed to meet at 4:20pm at the Louis Pasteur statue in front of San Rafael High School. They got high, piled into a Chevy Impala and ventured off in search of the rumored field of weed.

They didn't find it that day, nor the next, nor weeks later, though they tried in earnest. The search became a joyful ritual in its own right. They would remind each other of the plan to meet, saying "420 Louie" to each other. Eventually this was shortened to simply 420.