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Contact: Charlie Costello, Email: [Charlie@MariLark.com](mailto:Charlie@MariLark.com)  
Website: [MariLark.com](http://MariLark.com), Phone: (510) 206-4611

## Pumpkins In Berkeley? It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Costello!

Inspirational things are happening in the North Berkeley Hills. In a community formerly known as Berkeley Woods, where Orchids and hot houses once graced the hills, is home to one of the largest pumpkins ever grown in Berkeley weighing over 300 pounds. MariLark Farms, on Woodmont Avenue, is home to the pumpkin known as *Fat Chance* and a host of other names given by the community such as Yellow Bell, Charlie's Sunshine, *Plumpkin*, *PumpedKin*, Putkin, and even Trumpkin.

Even Snoopy, has been seen in the pumpkin patch, the dog made famous by Charles Schultz, sitting or lounging on his back on top of the pumpkin and the Community Seed Bank. "If I can get the pumpkin safely out of the pumpkin patch and into my truck in one piece, I will enter it in the annual Half Moon Bay contest. It's won't win the weigh-off but might place in the top 20 or even win the Most Beautiful category," says MariLark Farms founder, Charlie Costello. The Half Moon Bay weigh-off, known as the World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-off, or better yet, "The Super Bowl of Weigh-offs" happens on Monday, October 8, beginning at 7 am, leading up to the weekend Art & Pumpkin festival Oct. 13 & 14.

In May, Costello launched the MariLark Community Seed Bank, a new venture aimed at encouraging people to grow food. About 25 friends and neighbors came to the unveiling of the seed bank, a street-side structure that works like a Little Free Library and looks like a miniature red barn.

Find out more about what is happening at MariLark Farms.

<http://edibleeastbay.com/online-magazine/fall-harvest-2018/sharing-the-bounty-at-marilark-farms/>

Charlie Costello is available for interviews. For more information, contact him at [charlie@marilark.com](mailto:charlie@marilark.com).

### **About MariLark**

MariLark is about community building one seed at a time. The mission at MarLark is to instill the passion and joy of growing food in the urban environment. Each year we give the farm away, growing hundreds of tomato starts for the local community. In so doing, we help create more urban farms in the process while creating a sense of urgency about the importance of plant biodiversity, seed saving and support of one's community.

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