

# Tiburon Talk

The e-Newsletter  
of the Town  
of Tiburon

MAYOR JEFF SLAVITZ - VICE MAYOR JIM FRASER - COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD COLLINS COUNCILMEMBER ALICE FREDERICKS - COUNCILMEMBER EMMETT O'DONNELL

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February 25, 2011

## A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



### Next Steps in Visioning a Better Downtown

Last month I wrote about the Tiburon business climate and the Town's efforts to explore ways to breathe new life into our downtown and other commercial areas. The goal is to facilitate a community-driven strategy to help our

businesses thrive and to create a downtown we all wish to patronize and that meets more local needs.

Toward this end, a meeting was held on February 10 with business and commercial property owners to commence identifying problems and generating ideas for improvement. Over 50 people participated in a two-hour morning session during which present conditions were reviewed and possible visions broached, particularly for the downtown area. Facilitated by our very experienced downtown revitalization specialist Barbara Maloney, we heard about issues related to retail mix, parking, creating a more pedestrian-friendly experience, outdoor dining, marketing and branding, better connections to Ark Row and much more. There was no consensus, nor was one sought. That meeting was but the first step in a journey that needs to involve the whole community.

The next step: all interested residents, business and property owners are welcome and encouraged to attend an evening session at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 10 in Tarantino Hall at St Hilary's Church at 761 Hilary Drive** (up Rock Hill Drive). Barbara will recap what has been discussed thus far and lead a discussion to identify short, medium and long-term objectives to create more dynamic and vibrant commercial areas in Tiburon.

We don't know where this process will take us, nor whether its outcome will be minor tweaks or significant multi-year plans. We also don't know whether the focus

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DID YOU KNOW?



Tiburon Talk, our monthly newsletter to residents and interested parties, is meant to keep you apprised of what's happening in your local government and around town.

Last month, we received questions about the large number of birds spotted in the Bay during the annual herring "run". Residents and tourists alike were amazed at this natural phenomenon, and the Ark and Marin Independent Journal each published feature stories about it.

Another resident wrote with her suggestions to solve traffic back-ups on Tiburon Boulevard, and another wrote

will be on physical modifications (i.e. modifying streets or sidewalks) or programmatic approaches (i.e. marketing, influencing the retail mix, parking policy) or all or none of these elements. What we do believe is that our downtown and other commercial areas have the potential to be more vibrant, more successful and do a better job of offering what residents want to use and enjoy. It won't be easy. There will be conflicting opinions and possibly even conflicting objectives, but our Town Council, led by the Downtown Committee of Vice Mayor Fraser and Councilmember Dick Collins, is committed to seeing this process through to a constructive conclusion.

As Town Manager, I think it promises to be a very worthwhile endeavor and just might yield some great results. Despite the challenge and the possibility of controversy, we owe it to ourselves to see what can and should be done to keep our wonderful little town humming and in the black. Whether in one's personal life or the life of a town, every now and then it is useful to step back and assess how things are going. This is our time to do just that. If you are at all inclined, do join the process. We are all in this together.

#### **New Restrooms at Blackie's Pasture**

Tired of waiting in line for the restrooms near Blackie's Pasture and McKegney Green, or worse, finding them temporarily closed due to overuse? Relief has arrived! Despite increasing the frequency of its maintenance schedule, the Town found it could not keep up with demand out at Blackie's, especially on warm weather weekends when use of the parks and the Multi-Use Path is high. We added a port-a-potty to supplement resources, but that was clearly just a stop-gap measure until a better solution was at hand.



I am happy to report that we have now tripled the

to voice her support for the CVS Pharmacy coming to town.

We directed the first resident to our Chief of Police, Michael Cronin, who will report his findings in an upcoming issue. He, too, welcomes your comments on this and any other topic.

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Keep your questions coming!

Contact [Diane Crane Iacopi](#), Town Clerk.

restroom capacity at Blackie's. The Town is putting the finishing touches on an additional set of restrooms which were funded entirely through a state grant. The port-a-potty has been banished, and substantial landscaping should soon soften and beautify the area and allow the new building to disappear into the scenery. For a community that prides itself on its attractiveness and amenities for residents and visitors alike, this upgrade is welcome indeed. My thanks go out to our intrepid Public Works staff for handling this change-over so quickly and efficiently.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

## NEWS BRIEFS

### PG&E Storm Safety Tips



With another storm system upon us, PG&E offers these tips to customers to help them stay safe during a power outage.

#### **Call 911 for Downed Lines**

If you see a downed power line, assume it is energized and keep yourself and others away. Call 911 immediately to report the location of the downed line then 1-800-743-5002, PG&E's 24-Hour Emergency and Customer Service Line. During and after a storm, please keep away from flooded areas and downed trees, as these areas could be hiding an energized power line.

#### **Preparing for Power Outages**

Have battery-operated flashlights and radios with fresh batteries ready. Listen for updates on storm conditions and power outages. If you have a telephone system that requires electricity to work (such as a cordless phone or answering machine), plan for alternate communication - have a standard telephone handset, cellular telephone or pager ready as a back up. Freeze plastic containers filled with water to make blocks of ice that can be placed in

your refrigerator/freezer during an outage to prevent foods from spoiling.

### **Safety Tips**

Treat all downed power lines as if they are "live" or energized. Keep yourself and others away from them. Call 911, then notify PG&E at 1-800-743-5002.

Use battery-operated flashlights, not candles.

Customers with generators should make sure they are properly installed by a licensed electrician. Improperly installed generators pose a significant danger to our crews.

Unplug or turn off all electric appliances to avoid overloading circuits and fire hazards when power is restored. Simply leave a single lamp on to alert you when power returns. Turn your appliances back on one at a time when conditions return to normal.

### **Report a Power Outage: 1-800-743-5002**

Before calling PG&E about a power outage, check to see if other neighbors are affected. This would confirm if an outage has occurred in just your residence or within the neighborhood area.

If only your residence is without power, check circuit breakers and/or fuse boxes to see if the problem is limited to the home electric system.

After performing the steps above, single or neighborhood outages can be reported to: PG&E's 24-Hour Emergency and Customer Service Line: 1-800-743-5002

Once your outage has been reported, you can call PG&E's Outage Information Line at 1-800-743-5002 to get a status report on your outage and the anticipated time your power will be turned back on.

### **Wake-Up calls**

If you lose power overnight, you can call PG&E to request a wake-up call. We'll be happy to give you a wake-up call, as well as up-to-date information on your outage and time of restoration.

Questions or comments should be directed to:

KELLI D. NEVIN

Government Relations Representative

Marin and Sonoma County

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

707.577.7045 PG&E | 707.889.0043 Cell

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**BUILDING CODE CORNER: Information for**

## Homeowners, Realtors, and Contractors



The Town recently adopted the latest editions of the state building codes or, as it is officially known, the 2010 California Building Standards Code, Parts 1 through 12. There are many new or revised sections that are now in effect, and the purpose of this new addition to Tiburon Talk is to showcase some of these code sections so that those affected by these changes can be better informed. This month, Sections R314 and R315 of the 2010 California Residential Code will be discussed; roofing contractors and realtors are advised to take special note.

R314 concerns the installation of smoke alarms (what we used to call smoke detectors) in dwellings. Although not a new section, it has been significantly revised to require that "hard-wired" and interconnected smoke alarms be installed in homes whenever any alteration, addition, repair, or remodel work is performed that is valued over \$1000; however, if the work does not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes (e.g. roofing, siding repairs, etc.) the smoke alarms may be battery operated. Also, if the Building Division determines that hard wiring these smoke alarms is technically infeasible due to inaccessible attic spaces or other existing conditions that do not permit an electrician to readily attach these devices to the building's electrical system, then battery operated alarms may be used in these instances. As per the older codes, smoke alarms are required to be installed in each bedroom, in halls leading to bedrooms, and at each floor level of the dwelling. And remember to test them monthly and change batteries often.

R315 is an entirely new section and is a result of recently enacted legislation, SB 183. It concerns the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in residential dwellings. Just in the past few months there have been several fatalities (some of them children asleep in their beds) and near fatalities in California that clearly underscore the importance of installing these life-saving devices in our homes. Basically, the same installation requirements and exceptions concerning interconnecting and hard wiring to the building's electrical system that apply to smoke alarms, also apply to carbon monoxide detectors, but only one device is required outside of the bedrooms and at each floor level including a basement (but not a garage). Further, landlords and realtors are advised to review the new law in its entirety as these requirements apply to all one and two-family dwellings as of July 1,

2011, regardless of whether construction work is performed or not.

Compliance with both of these sections will also be required as part of a Residential Building Record (RBR) inspection, which is required each time a single-family home, duplex, or condominium changes ownership. For questions concerning the specific installation requirements of these devices in your home, please call the Tiburon Building Division at 435-7380.

Sincerely,

Fred Lustenberger  
Building Official

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## Celebrate Earth Day - April 23, 2011



Earth Day is a great opportunity to celebrate Mother Earth and do something beneficial to take care of her. What are you or your group planning to do: Habitat restoration, litter pick up, invasive weed removal?

The Town of Tiburon, in cooperation with the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), is promoting service projects by local agencies and groups to enhance and beautify our town, parks and open space areas. The primary goal is to help other groups recruit volunteers for their Earth Day service projects.

To assist in this endeavor, a coalition of local agencies has been formed to help spread the word about Earth Day projects all over the county. Let us know about your project so that it can be advertised on the "My Earth Day Coalition Website". Coalition members include MCSTOPPP, MMWD volunteer program, Marin County Parks and Open Space volunteer programs, Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership of Marin, and local cities and towns.

So, if you're planning a project and you want the coalition to include it on the website, contact MCSTOPPP at 499-3748, or e-mail [hbunce@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:hbunce@co.marin.ca.us). Provide any details such as, meeting location, start and end times, project description, what will be provided, what to

bring, registration and a contact name and number. The website has yet to be developed but will be up shortly, at [www.myearthdaymarin.org](http://www.myearthdaymarin.org).

Not part of a group but want to volunteer? Call or contact the number or e-mail above to learn how to join the effort. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 435-7354.

Matthew S. Swalberg  
Tiburon Public Works Department  
MCSTOPPP Stormwater Coordinator  
[mswalberg@ci.tiburon.ca.us](mailto:mswalberg@ci.tiburon.ca.us)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Tiburon Artist Laureate Programs

**Art Talk - Tuesday, March 15  
7 p.m.**

**Town Hall Lobby**

Joan Palmero will lead an interactive discussion of Latin American artists--their work and lives. Joan lived in Mexico for many years and will bring some examples of artwork for us to enjoy. Come be a part of this lively conversation.

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Over 40 people attended the February 19 workshop with graphic artist, Roger Felton, shown in the photograph.



The next workshop is on May 21, with guest artist, Jaleh Etemand; topic "Layering".

For more information on these and other Artist Laureate

programs, send an e-mail to Tiburon Artist Laureate Mary Musalo, [marymusalo@aol.com](mailto:marymusalo@aol.com).

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## Special Events

**Tiburon Wine Festival**  
**Saturday, May 14, 1 - 4 p.m.**  
**Pt. Tiburon Plaza**

Tickets are on sale now at the Chamber office for \$65.00. Last year, tickets sold out almost three weeks in advance, so don't delay!

For more information, call 435-5633, or e-mail Georgia or Chris at [tibcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tibcc@sbcglobal.net).

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## Landmarks Society Programs

**Master Gardener Lecture Series -**

**"How to Work with your Clay Soil "**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 10 - 11 a.m.**  
**Art & Garden Center, 841 Tiburon Boulevard**

Healthy plants require healthy soil. Marin Master Gardener Dave Phelps will talk about how to improve the soil in your garden and help your plants, shrubs and trees get the nutrients they need to thrive.

The public is welcome to attend this free program. Look for a talk on **bees** offered by the Master Gardeners on April 6.

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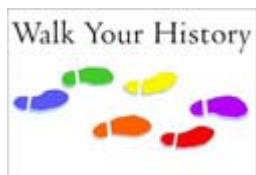
## **25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHINA CABIN**

2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the China Cabin being open to the public as a historical site. The Landmarks Society is planning special events throughout the year to commemorate this anniversary.

The first event will take place in April and will be known as "Japan Month". Landmarks will honor the first Japanese immigrants who came to the United States on the S.S. China. There will be a special display of the story of the Wakamatsu colony, as well as a display of Japanese swords. The display will be open to the public every Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Stay tuned for more details!





**SAVE THE DATE: "WALK YOUR HISTORY" on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.**

This outstanding bi-annual event is back! Two free walks will take place in Tiburon and Belvedere. Both walks culminate at the Belvedere park with a picnic lunch. For more information, contact Alan Brune or Leslie Doyle, Executive Directors of the Landmarks Society, at [lmsoffice@sbdglobal.net](mailto:lmsoffice@sbdglobal.net), or call 435-1853.

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## Bel-Tib Library Community Calendar

For the scoop on events and meetings sponsored by local not-for-profit community and government organizations on the Tiburon Peninsula, visit the Belvedere-Tiburon Library's excellent [community calendar](#).



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## Council and Commission Meetings



***Town Council:*** First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - (March 2; March 16 cancelled).

***Design Review Board:*** First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. - (March 3 and March 17).

***Planning Commission:*** Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - (March 9 and March 23).

***Heritage & Arts Commission:*** Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (March 22).

***Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:*** Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room (March 15).

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed above are in the Council Chambers at Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard.

**Sincerely,**

Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon

435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

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