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February 28, 2013

## A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

 Town Manager  
Peggy Curran

This month's article is a bit car-driven, so to speak - issues of parking lots, roadway management, pavement and shuttle buses all appear below.

### **New Parking Lot**

You may have taken note already: the new parking lot along Tiburon Boulevard at the foot of Lyford Drive is now open to all comers. Getting rid of the dirt parking shoulder in favor of a landscaped lot was proposed several years ago by Councilmember Dick Collins, and subsequently he and Mayor Emmett O'Donnell were appointed to a sub-committee that helped steer it through to completion.

I'm happy to report the 46-car lot, at \$1,320,000, was completed under budget with 46% of its funding coming from a grant from the Transportation Authority of Marin and redevelopment funds that were about to revert to the State of California. Utility poles throughout the site have been undergrounded. The landscaping up top is dominated by multi-trunked African Sumac trees that should expand both upward and outward to rapidly form a green screen between the roadway and the cars. Belvedere will be landscaping below the retaining wall along the multi-use path. The site is equipped with efficient LED lights, our first use of this green technology in public outdoor spaces. We are currently investigating grant funds for a bus shelter to complement the lot's "multi-modal" character, that is, a place of convergence and transfer between transit (bus and ferry) riders, car drivers, walkers and cyclists. My hat is off to Public Works Director Nick Nguyen for his professional and successful management of the project.

### **Peninsula Transit**

And speaking of transit, the Marin Transit District recently announced that it will shift the peninsula's bus service this fall from the existing Route 19 large urban buses to smaller, more community-friendly shuttles with quicker, 30

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-minute headways (the time between buses at any one spot) between 101 at Strawberry and downtown Tiburon. They are also reinstating a pared down version of the old ferry routes that go up into the hills to transport commuters to and from the ferry plaza during the morning and evening commute times. There will be more detail about this new service as it approaches, but I hope everyone will keep it on their radar and seriously consider using the system whenever possible once it arrives. The shuttle service will only persist if it has sufficient ridership. Should we lose this service altogether, we will see an increase in traffic on Tiburon Boulevard - something none of us wants to experience. It will be in our interest as a community to help make this new shuttle service a big success.

### **Road Quality**

The regional Metropolitan Transportation Commission issues grades for Bay Area roadways using what it calls a PCI - Pavement Condition Index. The average rating for Bay Area roads today is 66. In years past the Town's rating was as low as 61. In 2006 the Town was at 66, but set a goal to bring this up to 70, a significantly higher rating. Through an aggressive paving program since that time, the Town hit this goal a few years ago, and we have just learned our PCI rating is now 75. That might not sound impressive, but it is a significant achievement. Maintaining this status will require perpetual vigilance, of course, but that is just what we have in mind. What will help us is that streets are particularly responsive to preventative maintenance, that is, once streets are in good shape it is more cost-effective to keep them that way than to allow them to deteriorate. With streets, it is the old adage at work: a stitch in time saves nine. With little exception, we now have the streets where we want them and plan to keep it that way by staying on top of it.

### **Managing Our Downtown**

The State of California owns Tiburon Boulevard, also known as State Route 131, from 101 to the round-about in our downtown where it ends at Paradise Drive; the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) manages it. We are most fortunate that this is the case, for it is a long road and we much prefer its maintenance burden rest with the state instead of the Town.

There is one small stretch of it, though, where ownership of the Boulevard might be useful to the Town, and that is downtown, from Lyford Drive eastward to Paradise Drive. A significant portion of our downtown properties abut this Caltrans right-of-way (ROW). Every activity in or adjacent to that ROW requires Caltrans approval. Wishing to explore the opportunity for more local control in the downtown, last year the Town Council directed staff to send a Letter of Interest to Caltrans, the official first step to commence the very long process (2-3 years) of "relinquishment", the

Caltrans term for its process of giving all or part of a state roadway to a local jurisdiction. The letter clearly stated the Council was not committed to taking over the Boulevard in the downtown, but was interested in looking into the pros and cons of doing so.

Relinquishment of the downtown stretch would confer complete local control over this 100-foot-wide ROW to the Town. This means avoiding the Caltrans process, which can add substantial time and cost to projects (the Lyford parking lot was heavily encumbered in this manner) as well as influence their outcome. There are many possible projects both big and small where this local control could prove beneficial. These include curb cuts (driveways) for private projects, sidewalks, newsrack regulation, signage, round-abouts, parking reconfiguration and regulation, tree planting and so forth. But, as with so many things in life, there are tradeoffs, and with ownership comes responsibility. With Caltrans out of the approval process, the Town would be free to do as it wishes when it comes to improving the downtown, but would also have to absorb ROW liability and maintenance costs heretofore avoided. The largest of these are periodic repaving (downtown was last paved in 2011) and an eventual replacement of the storm drains.

Last week the Town Council directed staff to continue to explore taking over the downtown ROW, including launching the state legislation (yes, I said it was a long process) necessary for any relinquishment, but the Council indicated it would await the additional information being developed about potential costs and benefits before reaching any final determination. Once further analysis is conducted over the coming months, staff will return to the Town Council for direction. It is an exciting prospect for the Town to take over this roadway, but it is also a step that needs to be considered carefully for, once done, we will own it forever.

#### **Public Comment? Yes!**

Steering away from my car theme, my final note is about our Town Council meetings. I am occasionally asked whether the public may speak on items on the Council agenda if they are not listed as "Public Hearings". The answer is a clear yes. "Public Hearing" is a term of art usually referring to a process that is specified by state or local law for matters like appeals of a lower body action, adoption of ordinances and so forth. If an item before the Town Council does not require a public hearing, it is typically listed on the agenda as an "Action Item", and some items thought to be routine are grouped into a "Consent Calendar" intended, for efficiency, for approval with one motion.

The important thing to know is that EVERY item on the agenda is open for public comment. The Mayor always

inquires if the public wishes to speak on any item regardless of its agenda placement. If you ever see or hear of something of interest on a Tiburon Town Council agenda (for instance, through The Ark or on our website) please know that you will always be welcome to speak to the Town Council about the matter if you so wish. There is also an "Oral Communications" part of the agenda intended to allow the public to comment on matters that are not on the agenda. In sum, whether your issue is on an agenda or not, if you come to a Town Council meeting you will always have a chance to be heard.

Sincerely,

 Peggy Curran,  
Town Manager

Peggy Curran

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### New Rules for Dog Walkers?

 Dog walking

The subject of dogs in the Town's parks and open space will be on the **March 19, 2013** agenda of the **Parks, Open Space & Trails Commission (POST)**. POST's role is to provide advice and recommendations to staff and the Town Council on issues related to the Town's

parks, open space and trails. **The meeting will be held in the Town Council Chambers and will begin at 6:00 PM.**

Recently, members of the public have expressed concerns about safety, sanitation, preservation of sensitive habitat and the behavior of dogs, dog owners and some professional dog walkers, particularly in open space. This has prompted the Commission to launch a process to consider the adequacy of existing rules and ordinances governing dogs and their walkers in parks and open space. POST would appreciate input into this effort.

Chapter 20 of the Tiburon Municipal Code requires that dogs be on a leash in the Richardson Bay Lineal Park (that is, the Multi-Use Path), McKegney Green, South Knoll Park and Playground, Zelinsky Park and Railroad Marsh, Shoreline Park, any street, sidewalk or parking lot in the downtown area, and any commercial district. In all other areas of Tiburon dogs are permitted to be off leash but must be "under the immediate control of a competent,

responsible person who is capable of controlling such animal." "Immediate control" simply means voice command. Dogs are not permitted to "run at large" or be free of any confinement, control or restraint. Dog owners are required to immediately remove and dispose of any dog waste in a sanitary manner. The code applies to all persons walking a dog, or dogs, whether their own or someone else's, in the Town of Tiburon.

The meeting is an opportunity for interested parties to contribute to the discussion before any recommendations are made by POST to the Town Council. Come join the discussion.

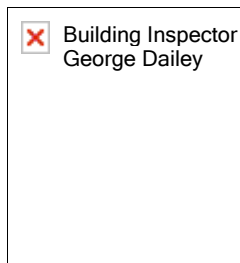
Sincerely,

Tiburon Police Department and  
Department of Public Works

## BUILDING CODE CORNER

### Who We Are and What We Do

#### Building Inspector George Dailey



As the Town's Building Inspector, George Dailey inspects buildings and structures at various stages of construction, alteration and repair; he assists in the review of building plans and specifications and enforces building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and zoning codes and laws; and assists and advises

homeowners, contractors, and design professionals with their construction projects.

George joined the Town staff in 2008, bringing with him more than 45 years of diverse construction, management, and inspection experience. Previously, George served seven years as a building official in the cities of Seaside and Kerman, California. While in Kerman, he also served 10 years on the Planning Commission and five on the City Council. He owned and operated his own construction company, George Dailey Construction, in central California for 27 years, supervising crews of up to 25 at various times. George has earned the designation of Master Code Professional from the International Code Council, a distinction only held by approximately 750 code professionals nationwide. Recently, George passed the rigorous State of California Certified Access Specialist Program exam dealing with building requirements relative to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He holds a

Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and Physics from Azusa Pacific College.

George is proud of his three children: a son, who is a licensed civil engineer in private practice and lives in California; a daughter who holds a doctorate degree and teaches pharmacology in England; and a daughter who is an executive with a Los Angeles insurance firm. In his spare time, George is an avid country music fan, enjoys line dancing, and likes to cook.

Stay tuned for more employee profiles in future Building Code Corners.

Sincerely,

Fred Lustenberger  
Building Official


## ARTIST LAUREATE CORNER

### Special Persian New Year Celebration

#### **The Ancient History of the Persian New Year: Artistry and Artistic Set-Up of Symbols**

Monday, March 11, 7 - 9 p.m.

Tiburon Town Hall  
1505 Tiburon Boulevard

 Tiburon Artist Laureate Jaleh Etemad

My aim as Tiburon Artist Laureate is not only to promote the understanding of the arts in our community but also to promote cross-cultural understanding.

My programs this year are in the form of talks or workshops to be given by known artists. The programs are free and are designed for all ages and abilities. Our talk in January was on the "Art in Cambodia and Beyond". We also had an earlier workshop on how

to sketch your travels. Since the month of March coincides with the Persian New Year, I am planning an exciting talk with demonstrations around this event.

**Please join us on Monday, March 11 from 7 to 9 p.m.** at Town Hall for "The Ancient History of Persian New Year - the Artistry of the Artistic Set-Up of New Year Symbols." Our special guest speaker is Shiva Pakdel-Luchtel. The



artistic symbols will be set up by Parvin Ramazan-Nia and Ziba Javid. A delectable feast of Persian sweets will follow.

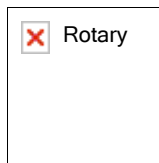
Sincerely,

Jaleh Etemad  
Tiburon Artist Laureate

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere presents: "Crab, Chardonnay & Chocolate"



**Saturday, March 9, 6 - 9 p.m.**

St. Stephen's Church  
3 Bayview Avenue, Belvedere

The Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere invites members of the community to join us for a feast of Dungeness crab at "Crab, Chardonnay & Chocolate" on Saturday, March 9 at St. Stephen's Church in Belvedere.

Tickets are \$50 per person and \$20 for children 12 and under until Tuesday, March 5. After that, tickets will be available for \$60 at the door (\$25 for children) on the evening of the event. Tickets include appetizers (oysters, too!), an all-you-can-eat crab dinner, a dessert buffet featuring chocolate selections, and coffee. There will be a no-host bar.

To order tickets, please visit our [website](#) or send your check to the Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere, P.O. Box 220, Tiburon CA 94920.

If you don't eat shellfish, you can pre-order either Chicken Marbella or vegetarian lasagna. Send your requests to [Judy Wilson](#) by March 5.

We look forward to welcoming you and your friends and family for an evening of fun, fellowship and fine food.


Sincerely,

Judy Wilson, Publicity Representative  
Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere

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## HERITAGE & ARTS COMMISSION

### Art Shows at Town Hall

 Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission

### **American Pen Women - "Commitment to Creativity"**

February 5 through March 28  
Town Hall Community Room  
1505 Tiburon Boulevard  
The Golden Gate-Marín branch of the National League of American Pen Women, a professional group of female writers, artists and composers, will begin its show at Town Hall next week. For more information about the Pen Women and their mission, visit their [website](#).

Town Hall shows are available for viewing Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Vacancies on Town Boards & Comissions**

Have you ever thought of serving on a Town Board or Commission? This is a great way to get involved in the community and participate in local decision-making.

There are current vacancies on the following three boards or commissions: Design Review Board, Planning Commission, and Heritage & Arts Commission.

Tiburon residency is required, as well as the time to attend monthly or twice-monthly evening meetings, some site visits, and related activities. A knowledge of the Town's zoning and general plan policies is helpful for the Design Review and Planning Commission vacancies. An interest in the arts and preservation, as well as the time to work on art openings, historical projects and Town events, are necessary for the Heritage & Arts opening. Most commissioners serve for four years and are eligible for reappointment thereafter.

For more information, or to request an application, contact [Town Clerk Diane Crane Iacopi](#).


We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,


Diane Crane Iacopi  
Town Clerk



For the scoop on events and meetings sponsored by local non-profit community and government organizations on the Tiburon Peninsula, visit the Belvedere-Tiburon Library's excellent [community calendar](#).

 Bel-Tib Library

## Council and Commission Meetings

 Upcoming Tiburon Meetings

**Town Council:** First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 6 & March 20).

**Design Review Board:** First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. (March 7 & March 21).

**Planning Commission:** Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 13 & March 27).

**Heritage & Arts Commission:** Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (March 26).

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:** Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m. (March 19).

Unless stated otherwise, all meetings are held in the Town Council Chambers located at 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon CA 94920.

Sincerely,

Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon  
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

[Forward email](#)



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