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February 28, 2014

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



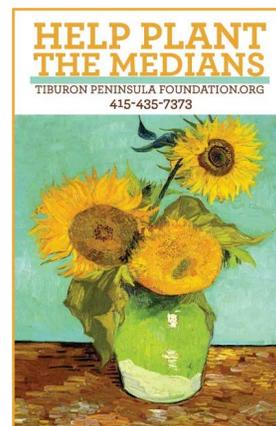
Greening Tiburon Boulevard: the Median Landscaping Project

Ever notice that Tiburon Boulevard medians are all nicely planted except the stretch by Blackfield Drive from Cecilia Way to Bay Vista Drive? This concrete portion, which actually lies in the unincorporated County, has a hard, neglected look, constituting a real eyesore on our otherwise lovely peninsula. Well, the Town and the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation are looking to transform this negative into a big positive soon.

What would greening the medians entail? Their complete makeover involves removing the concrete from curb to curb, working around utilities to excavate the underlayment of rubble and dirt, replacing them with appropriate base and soil, installing an irrigation system and of course installing plants. The cost of the project is estimated at \$417,000. This is lower than previous estimates (which predated detailed engineering), but still a significant sum. Why so high?

Because the medians are so long! 1,770 linear feet! That means removing and importing a lot of material. Because it is in the Caltrans right-of-way and on a busy section of road, there is also the need for careful staging, traffic control and trenching for water supply in some locations.

The Town spent \$65,000 this year to engineer the project and develop specifications for bidding, and is considering another



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contribution of \$235,000 in next year's budget for a total of \$300,000 or 72% of project cost.



Because the medians are in the unincorporated County, the Board of Supervisors, with Kate Sears' assistance, is contributing \$25,000. The City of Belvedere has been asked to participate as well, for this is the entryway for all of its residents, too. The current funding shortfall is \$92,000. Enter the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, which has stepped up to help fundraise to close the gap. Terrific local volunteers, many of them veterans of the effort to create and maintain the existing planted medians, are involved as well.

Optimism is running high for the community effort to improve this neglected patch once and for all. Because, really, are there any of us who would not rather drive by beautiful flowering plants than a long, lifeless stretch of concrete?



Is that the front door we want for ourselves and our visitors for this otherwise lovely corner of the earth? This is one of those simple but enduring improvements that will help put a smile on the face of everyone who passes this way now and long into the future. With this effort on the part of so many entities and individuals, we may just succeed in making 2013 the last year of concrete medians on the Tiburon Peninsula.

If you wish to contribute, visit the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation [website](#), or send a check to "Tiburon Peninsula Foundation - Medians" at P.O. Box 210, Tiburon 94920.

Sincerely,

Peggy Curran

NEWS BRIEFS



Peninsula Emergency Alerts

Last Thursday, the Tiburon Fire District, the Town and the City of Belvedere conducted a test of the new emergency alert siren system. At the same time we also tested SNAP Radio 840AM and a portion of the Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS).

The siren was audible over a large portion but not all of the Tiburon Peninsula and the City of Belvedere. Some people could hear the siren very clearly while others heard it, but less distinctly. This outcome was not unexpected with our hilly terrain. Wind, geography and competing sources of noise all affect who will hear the siren and how well the sound is transmitted. We did identify several small equipment issues with the sirens that will improve their performance; both can and will be corrected.

Most people who were outdoors could hear the siren. This is particularly important because while we have other means of reaching people in their homes, we might not be able to alert people to an impending threat if they are outside. The siren helps to address that issue.

The SNAP radio signal ranged from "scratchy", but understandable, to very clear. It, too, is affected by terrain and distance. While broadcast quality is not perfect it could be understood over almost the entire peninsula and Belvedere. Car radios were clearly superior in their ability to receive the signal. In an actual emergency, every means at our disposal to boost the signal would be employed.

The TENS System was used to call people on the peninsula but only those with published phone numbers during this test. TENS reached over 1300 households on the day of the test. In an actual emergency, the Town would have access to unpublished numbers of all conventional land line phones and we would expect to reach nearly every household.

It's important to remember that TENS can only access "land line" phones unless residents take the step to give us additional numbers at which they would like to be notified. One can go to www.alertmarin.org and sign up to be notified via cellular phone, text and/or email, a step we highly recommend. If you are already signed up with us on the MEANS system you should know that it is being phased out this year by the County and former subscribers are being directed to TENS. Unfortunately, the Town cannot simply transfer individuals' information because TENS requires acknowledgement by users of certain conditions of use.

Please do take a few minutes to put your important mobile phone numbers into the system.

On the whole we consider the test a success. The sirens are one part of a system that has built-in redundancy and overlap in the hopes of reaching everyone by one means or another.

No single alert system can do it all, but between them - especially if you sign up at www.alertmarin.org - we believe we will be successful in reaching almost everyone should disaster strike.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cronin

Chief of Police

COMMUNITY EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED!

THE TIBURON HERITAGE & ARTS COMMISSION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
HONORING

MERV FIELD

FOR
SEVEN DECADES OF PROVIDING
INSIGHT AND INVALUABLE SERVICES TO
HIS COUNTRY, HIS STATE, AND HIS TOWN

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014
7:00 PM
TIBURON TOWN HALL
1505 TIBURON BOULEVARD
TIBURON, CA 94920

The poster features three portraits: a man in a suit and glasses (Vario Photography), a man in a suit (Curt F. IBCA), and a man in a yellow hard hat and glasses (Curt F. IBCA). The background is a scenic view of Tiburon, CA.

The public is invited to a community celebration honoring Mervin "Merv" Field on Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

You can help make the evening a success by sending Merv a personal message of no more than 25 words. These little messages are being compiled for use in a special presentation that evening. Please send them to [Joan Palmero](mailto:Joan.Palmero@tiburonca.gov) c/o Tiburon

Town Hall by Monday, March 3.

We appreciate your participation and look forward to seeing you on March 10 at Town Hall.

Garden Talks at Art & Garden Center



**Wednesday, March 5
10 - 11 a.m.
Art and Garden Center Cottage
841 Tiburon Boulevard**

The Marin Master Gardeners is offering free talks at the Landmarks Art & Garden Center. The next talk in the series of three will take place next week, on March 5. The topic is "Conserving Water in the Garden" (timely indeed!). The series culminates on April 2 with "Hillside Gardening 101 -- Overcoming Challenges in Southern Marin".

For more information, contact [Faith Brown](#) at 435-5320.

More Gardening Workshops - *The Groundwork of Organic Gardening*

**Two remaining Saturdays - May 17 and October 14
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
College of Marin, Indian Valley Campus
1800 Ignacio Boulevard, Novato**

\$30 per class or \$75 for the series* (with advance [registration](#)).

This informative three-part organic gardening series is designed for beginning and seasoned growers alike. Each session includes classroom instruction and practical teaching held on

the thriving College of Marin certified organic farm at the Indian Valley campus, a partnership program with the Marin Master Gardeners.

Class size is limited to 35. Contact [Liz Peer](#) for more information or register [online](#).

The first session covered the principles and practices of organic soil cultivation with a focus on the physical and biological properties of soil. The second and third sessions are described below.

2. *Groundwork in the Main Season Organic Garden.*
Saturday May 17, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wendy Johnson, instructor

In the San Francisco Bay Area the main season for primary crop production runs from the Vernal Equinox (Mar. 22) through the Autumnal Equinox six months later (September 21). In this very practical session we will learn how to make good organic soil mixes for annual and perennial crops, how to establish and record a seasonal planting schedule based on the principles of crop succession and rotation for vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers. How best to irrigate the seasonal garden, how to establish Integrated Pest Management and disease control practices for the home garden, and how to harvest and handle your abundance of crops.

3. *Putting Garden Ground to Rest.*
Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Liza Buckner, instructor

The onset of the dormant season is an excellent time to complete crop planting for the annual winter garden, to harvest a bounty of cultivated and native plant seed, and to divide and propagate perennials for next season, as well as to establish a sound winter composting system for your garden. All these procedures and more will be covered in this final class of the 2014 organic gardening series.

*Proceeds support the Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden, pays instructors and support the outreach to the public of the Marin Master Gardeners.

Council and Commission Meetings

Town Council: First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 5 and March 19).

Design Review Board: First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. (March 6 and March 20).

Planning Commission: Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 12 and March 26).

Heritage & Arts Commission: Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (March 25).

Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission: Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m. (next meeting is March 18).

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

Community Calendar

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



Sincerely,

Town Staff
Town of Tiburon
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

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