

## Chad Monterichard

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**From:** Town Staff [tiburontalk@ci.tiburon.ca.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2008 4:20 PM  
**To:** Chad Monterichard  
**Subject:** Tiburon Talk - The e-Newsletter of the Town of Tiburon

JEFF SLAVITZ, MAYOR - ALICE FREDERICKS, VICE MAYOR - COUNCILMEMBER MILES BERGER  
 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD COLLINS - COUNCILMEMBER TOM GRAM

Jan. 25, 2008



### A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Earlier this month, on January 4, the peninsula was buffeted by gale force winds and pounding rain. While we always try to maintain a state of readiness for the unexpected things nature or man may throw our way, we were able to benefit from the weather warnings to heighten our preparedness in the hours before the storm. What does this entail, you may wonder? The check-lists are too long to include, but here is a sampling of activities:

- alert citizens to prepare through e-newsletter, BEARS (840 AM) radio message
- conduct readiness meetings geared to the imminent threat
- establish contact with County Office of Emergency Services, Fire District and other applicable agencies and utilities
- put appropriate staff on stand-by schedules; arrange for 24-hour coverage
- top off with fuel all police and public works vehicles, emergency generators and equipment
- double-check that catch basins and storm drains are clear
- verify all radios are charged and have correct settings
- empty all town debris boxes
- ensure sand bags, emergency signs, etc. are at the ready

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#### Your Tax Dollars At Work



Did you know that for every \$1 you pay in general property taxes to the County Tax Collector, the Town of Tiburon receives only 8 cents? The remainder goes to the school districts and community college (53 cents), the County of Marin (23 cents) and the remaining 16 cents is split between the fire, sanitary, library and other special districts that serve the the Tiburon community.

In the current fiscal year (2007-2008), the Town of Tiburon will spend an

You get the idea.

This level of readiness helped us through a very challenging storm cycle. As was reported, we suffered localized flooding, downed trees and wires (Public Works responded to over 55 calls for service, the Police Department 39 calls) and widespread and prolonged power outages. The worst of it for our residents were the outages, some of which lasted a full five days. Door-to-door outreach was conducted by the Police Department to see if any affected residents were in peril (none were, although all were cold and very annoyed!).

A heroic although ultimately unsuccessful rescue effort was made by the Tiburon Fire Protection District, along with other local agencies, to pull a man to safety from the roiling bay. Rescuers put themselves in harm's way to save the victim, whom they managed to get to medical attention but who subsequently succumbed to hypothermia. Such tragedy can happen in an instant when a crisis hits!

What can we take from this experience? Here at the Town we try to learn from these incidents to be better prepared for the next time, be it an earthquake or a man-made travesty. In this incident we discovered weaknesses in our radio communication that are now being addressed through changes in training and protocol.

We should all reflect on whether we are prepared to help ourselves, our families and our neighbors when disaster strikes. Remember, in a serious emergency there is a high degree of likelihood that **YOU WILL BE ON YOUR OWN FOR THE FIRST 72 HOURS**. Make sure you are part of the solution and not the problem by getting prepared.

If you have not done so yet or need a refresher, take one of the GetReady classes now offered all over the County. Go to [www.getreadymarin.org](http://www.getreadymarin.org) to learn more.

And remember: unlike our recent winter storm, most emergencies don't come with a warning.

Sincerely,

Peggy Curran  
Tiburon Town Manager

**NEWS BRIEFS**

average of \$2,126 per parcel for public programs and services. Yet, the Town will receive an average annual amount of \$821 in property taxes from a residential property owner.

Property taxes fund approximately 38% of town services. The Town relies upon sales taxes, business licenses, real estate property transfer and transient occupancy taxes, along with user fees, franchise fees and investment earnings to make up the other 62% or \$1,305 difference.

For more information, contact Heidi Bigall, Director of Administrative Services ([hbigall@ci.tiburon.ca.us](mailto:hbigall@ci.tiburon.ca.us))

## Reed Ranch Road Refuge Lane Nearing Completion

This project has been in the making for many years. The improvements will create a refuge lane in the center median to enable east-bound drivers to cross Tiburon Boulevard more safely. New landscaping and traffic control signs will be installed when the work is complete.



Although the construction has been delayed by weather, the contractor, Ghilotti Brothers, plans to complete the project soon. We appreciate your continued cooperation and understanding in adjusting your driving routines during this long-awaited traffic improvement project.

Nicholas Nguyen,  
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

## Shoreline Rip Rap Damaged in Storm

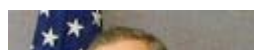


On January 4, high winds and surging tides conspired to wash out a section of the protective rip rap that abuts Shoreline Park near the Donahue Building. The loss of the rip rap in turn threatened the nearby sidewalk with collapse. Town staff, stretched thinly on that day, received calls from concerned citizens about the condition and launched into action, setting up a protective perimeter to secure the area. After the storm subsided, the Public Works Department quickly sized up the situation, obtained emergency approval for repairs from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), solicited several bids, and engaged contractor W. K. McLellan to undertake the work.

We are happy to report the repairs are complete, the sidewalk was saved and further damage was avoided.

Kudos to the concerned citizens for keeping watch and a big thanks to Public Works Superintendent Joel Brewer for his timely and efficient response.

## Crime Rate Statistics in 2007



The Town of Tiburon continues to

be among the safest in Marin....and it's getting safer. Crimes reported to the Police Department continued to decline for the third year in a row. Marin is among the safest counties in California with crime rates consistently below half of the state average; Tiburon can boast a rate that is below half of the county average.

This information comes from the Uniform Crime Report or UCR. Each month every police and sheriff's department in the United States completes this report detailing the number of offenses by type that were reported to the police in the preceding month. Copies of the report are forwarded to the California Department of Justice and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Tiburon's rate of violent crime was .58 per thousand residents in 2005 (state and national statistics are always two years behind) compared to a rate of 2.4 per thousand for the entire county and 8.48 for all of California. The property crime rate was 11.62 crimes per thousand population compared to 24.67 for the county and 49.38 for the state. While this information may be somewhat dated, there has been nothing to suggest that the ratios between Tiburon and the rest of Marin has changed much in the past two years.

Every resident can take a hand in continuing the downward trend in crime. In past Town newsletters we have listed a number of ways you can keep your community safe. Here are two examples: If you must leave your valuables in your vehicles, please take an extra minute or two to secure them out of sight and lock your car. Report any suspicious persons or activity promptly to the police.

Together, we can keep our community safe!

Michael Cronin  
Chief of Police

## Become a "Broom Buster" in 2008

### Help Stop the French Broom Invasion

It's still winter but the bright yellow flowers of French broom already are making an



appearance on Tiburon's hillsides. The Broom Busters of Old St. Hilary's Open Space are out to stop this invasive plant, and they need help.

The volunteer group started working in 1997 after the voters of our community passed two bond issues to purchase the open space above Old St. Hilary's Church. With guidance and support from the Marin County Open Space District, they are removing invasive, non-native plants, especially French broom, pampas grass, yellow star thistle and bull thistle. This allows native plants and animals to flourish, so that future generations can enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

Broom Buster workdays are usually the first Saturday morning each month. The requirements are simple: "Come when you can; leave when you must." No experience is needed. Training, tools and refreshments are provided.

**The next workday is Saturday, Feb. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon.** Volunteers will meet in the parking lot of the Tiburon Peninsula Club and will be pulling broom on the open space behind the club.

For more information or to volunteer, call the the Marin County Open Space District, 499-3778.

## Appeal of Kol Shofar Synagogue Expansion Design to be Heard by Town Council

The Town Council will hear an appeal of the Design Review Board's November 15, 2007 decision to approve the design for the Congregation Kol Shofar Synagogue expansion. The approved plans include construction of a multi-purpose room, classroom addition and other site improvements which the DRB determined were consistent with the plans approved by the Council under a conditional use permit earlier in the year.



This application has no bearing on the ongoing litigation filed by the Tiburon Neighborhood Coalition contesting the approval of the use permit for the Kol Shofar expansion.

The hearing will be held during the Council meeting on February 6 which begins at 7:30 p.m. It will be

held in the Council chambers of Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard.

## Town Addresses Climate Change

At its January 16 meeting, the Town Council voted to join ICLEI--Local Governments for Sustainability. ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional organizations dedicated to sustainable development. ICLEI is assisting numerous agencies in Marin County in the adoption of local Climate Action Plans which will help address state greenhouse gas reduction targets.

By working through ICLEI, and with the other Marin municipalities, the Town will establish a baseline inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, set a target for reducing those emissions, and develop a long-term plan of action to achieve the target.

For more information, contact Associate Planner Laurie Tyler at 435-7397 or visit [www.iclei.org/us](http://www.iclei.org/us).

## Tiburon International Film Festival Returns in March



The Tiburon International Film Festival (TIFF) is seeking volunteers to participate in the 2008 Film Festival, from March 13 through 21.

TIFF's motto, "Understanding the World through Film" is derived from a combination of culture and cinema as a means to greater worldly understanding.

Volunteer for as little as four hours for the entire Film Festival, or as much time as you have! Be a part of bringing international independent films and filmmakers to our community.

For more information, contact Fran Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 381-4123 for more information, or by e-mail at [volunteers@TiburonFilmFestival.com](mailto:volunteers@TiburonFilmFestival.com)

## Vacancies on Town Boards and Commissions

The town is looking for volunteers to fill current and pending vacancies on its boards and commissions. There are current vacancies on the Planning Commission and the Heritage & Arts Commission, as well as a pending vacancy on the Design Review Board. If you are a resident of Tiburon and have the time and interest to serve, please consider a position on one of these commissions.

To apply, visit our website at [www.ci.tiburon.ca.us](http://www.ci.tiburon.ca.us), click on "Useful Forms," and look for the application to serve on a board or commission. You can also visit the Heritage & Arts Commission page from the same site to view some recent projects, and you are welcome to talk to town staff about the time commitments on the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. Call Town Clerk Diane Crane Iacopi at 435-7377 or e-mail [dcrane@ci.tiburon.ca.us](mailto:dcrane@ci.tiburon.ca.us) for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 5 - Annual Belvedere-Hawthorne Nursery School Kitchen Tour. This year's tour includes 6 homes plus fabulous raffle prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Go to [www.belvedere-hawthorne.com](http://www.belvedere-hawthorne.com).

Wednesday, February 6 - Heritage & Arts Commission will host a reception for peninsula artist Ginny Doyle, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Community Room (2nd floor), 1505 Tiburon Boulevard. The event is free and open to the public.

## 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](#).



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Council and Committee Meetings



**Town Council:** February 6 and February 20 at 7:30 p.m.

**Design Review Board:** February 7 and February 21 at 7:00 PM.

**Planning Commission:** February 13 and February 27 at 7:30 PM.

All meetings listed are at Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Blvd.

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 18 for President's Day.

**Sincerely,**

Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon

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