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January 28, 2011

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Our Local Business Climate



The health, or lack thereof, of Tiburon's business community has been on many residents' minds lately. Shuttered doors always seem like bad news, and we've had our share. The DeLano grocery store at The Cove was among the recent casualties. Bistro 35, beloved Rooney's, the Paradise Café and quite

a few non-restaurant businesses throughout our commercial areas are no more. These remain stressful economic times, and more enterprises are likely to succumb before we see the end of it.

There are many good news stories, too. While there is sadness at seeing the Boardwalk Market depart after so many years of faithful service to the community, it was gratifying that Jeannie Fitzgerald and Don Santa were able to craft an agreement that provides for a smooth transition. Woodlands Kentfield Market has a great following; we look forward to having Don Santa replicate that success here in Tiburon. Another newcomer to Tiburon will be CVS Pharmacy, one of the most sought-after needs in our community. They will be moving into the now-vacant "Safeway" location at Beach Road and Tiburon Boulevard. CVS plans to overhaul the building, and carve out at least one small area for another retailer. Re-use of this large site will help reinvigorate downtown. The old Rooney's location recently reopened as "Salt and Pepper". Don Antonio Restaurant has emerged in the former Cottage Eatery space, apparently with great success. Steve Sears and Brian Wilson now own their real estate at Sam's Anchor Café, a solid indication that their long-successful business will be sticking around. Rumors of the death of the Tiburon Playhouse appear to have been, to paraphrase Mark Twain, greatly exaggerated. The land and business owners have reached an accord with the likely result being not only a renewal of the lease but improvements to the building interior as well.

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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. But we don't always know what you would like to hear about.

We would like to hear from you!

Please send us your questions, large or small, concerning how government works or what you would like to know more about. These can be topics of broad general interest or simply questions pertaining to your neighborhood or street. We will attempt to answer them in our "Did

Amid these ups and downs, another story is unfolding as well. In 2010, the Town Council created a "Downtown Committee", endowed it with a modest budget, and tasked it with exploring what can be done, by both the public and private sectors, to make the downtown a more vibrant and successful place. To launch this endeavor the committee members, comprised of Vice Mayor Fraser and Councilmember Dick Collins, met with many downtown land and business owners to hone their understanding of the business landscape from the perspective of those who live it every day. A downtown revitalization expert has been engaged as well, and she, too, conducted a series of interviews with many of these same individuals. As the process unfolds, we expect more meetings with the business community as well as general community-wide meetings so that everyone who has questions, concerns and ideas can participate in a meaningful way. The overall goal is to achieve general consensus on a downtown improvement plan with short, medium and long-term concepts and objectives. Of course, any plan that emerges will get a full and complete vetting by the community and require the approval of the Town Council through the public hearing process.

It may be that the process yields grand plans or only modest tweaks, but it seems certain that in these challenging times, the Town's business climate can only benefit from a concerted effort to identify obstacles, address problems and seize opportunities to make the downtown a more vital and vibrant place. We all want a downtown that meets the needs of residents, is enjoyable to patronize, and economically sustainable. Meanwhile, don't forget how important it is to support our local businesses. Their very existence often depends upon it.

If this topic interests you, stay tuned for information about a community-wide meeting likely to occur in early March. Or, feel free to communicate your comments via e-mail to me or the Downtown Committee; all our addresses can be found on the Town's website.

Sincerely,

Peggy Curran

NEWS BRIEFS

Emergency Preparedness: Ahead of the Pack

**WE ARE
WELL**

A recent Ark headline exclaimed:
"Peninsula Unprepared for Disaster".

you know?" column the following month. Submit your questions to [Diane Crane Iacopi](#), Town Clerk.

Also, start your new year right by giving the gift of time. Volunteer opportunities abound right here on the Tiburon Peninsula. In addition to the groups [listed here](#) you might consider finding out about the programs of the [Tiburon Peninsula Foundation](#) or [Belvedere Community Foundation](#). The TPF recently updated their website. Just "click" on Blackie and he will speak to you!



The article reported on efforts to obtain \$25,000 to fund supplies for use by the cadre of medical personnel who have volunteered to assist in an emergency, and may have left the impression that an important need was going unattended and unfunded. We are happy to report that is not the case. In fact, a more accurate headline might read, "Peninsula Well Prepared for Disaster".

The Tiburon Fire Protection District maintains a large stock of emergency medical supplies at two locations on the peninsula. The need for the **extraordinary** stock of additional medical supplies arises from the real peninsula success story of having organized the Medical Reserve Corps, a large, well-organized group of professional medical volunteers who live in our communities. Because we have this unusual resource, we have set the bar higher for ourselves in terms of equipping the effort. A supply list costing \$25,000 was put together by one of the Medical Corps' leaders, Dr. Tom Cromwell of Belvedere. Our joint Bel-Tib Emergency Services Coordinator, Laurie Gordon, immediately sought grant funding. When it became evident that would not be successful, a plan was hatched in which half the funds would be provided directly by Tiburon and Belvedere, and the remainder sought through our local foundations and other area resources. Laurie's efforts have already netted \$2,500 from Supervisor McGlashan and \$6,500 from the Belvedere Community Foundation, and additional funds are expected shortly. In other words, we are almost there in funding this above-the-norm cache of medical supplies, and will have done so by leveraging resources rather than simply adding governmental expense (we already spend more on preparedness than most communities our size).

Beyond those preparations, over 3,100 local residents have attended a "Get Ready" class. We have our own emergency radio station at 840 AM; early warning sirens are being installed on the fire stations and redundant emergency radio systems are in place. We have mass notification systems with every home phone number in Tiburon or Belvedere preprogrammed and a voluntary system that can include cell phones and email. Key staff members train annually and supplies are on hand to sustain emergency operations for a minimum of seven days. Emergency shelter and medical response plans have been prepared. In short, while there is always room for improvement, we don't know of any community that is better prepared than ours.

If you would like to be a part of the Medical Reserve Corps, be a volunteer or just want more information about any of our programs, contact Laurie Gordon, Emergency Services Coordinator for the Town of Tiburon and City of

Belvedere at 435-7386. And if you haven't taken a "Get Ready" class (preparedness training which was pioneered right here on the peninsula and now used regionally), just give Laurie a call. We all need to take personal responsibility for preparing ourselves and our families, but you can rest assured that your local governments have been taking prudent steps for years to help keep us all safe should an emergency arise.

Sincerely,

Michael Cronin, Chief of Police
Laurie Gordon, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Public Works Advice Corner: The Benefits of Using Pervious Surfaces in Driveway and other Construction



The amount of impervious surface in urban areas continues to grow as new projects and remodels replace naturally pervious surfaces like grass and soil.

Impervious surfaces refer to materials that prevent water from soaking into the soil such as the asphalt and cement streets, parking lots, and sidewalks. These surfaces can contribute to erosion in local creeks because they allow high volumes of rainwater to speed off them and directly enter waterways, or through the storm drain system, without anything to slow it down.

Pervious surfaces allow more rainwater to be absorbed into surrounding soil and helps reduce the amount and speed at which water enters our waterways and creeks. This all helps to reduce erosion.

What are some alternatives to impervious surfaces for patios, driveways, walkways and roads? Examples include using pervious concrete, turf block, stone pavers, and crushed aggregate. You might even consider a split driveway which provides an island of soil to absorb rain and garden water and prevents additional water from running off into the storm drain.

To find out more about pervious materials for you home visit mcstoppp.org and look for "Pervious Surfaces" under the heading, "Caring for our Creeks". Share this with your architect and landscape contractor. You can also contact me, your local Stormwater Coordinator, at 435-7354.

Matthew S. Swalberg
Tiburon Public Works Department
MCSTOPPP Stormwater Coordinator
mswalberg@ci.tiburon.ca.us

COMMUNITY EVENTS

***Marin Village* - A "Social Network" for Seniors, and More**

**MARIN
VILLAGE**



Our Paths - Our Choices

**Information Meeting. Thursday,
February, 17, 2011 at 10 a.m.
Indigo Healing Arts (next to
Boardwalk Market)**

If you are a senior living on the Tiburon Peninsula, you have an opportunity to find out more about a local group that is starting up to provide networking services for seniors who want to "age in place".

According to Tiburon residents Jo Burnett and Carol Weiss, *Marin Village* is a non-profit membership organization with the mission of enabling seniors in Marin County to age in their own homes with grace, confidence and peace of mind. The concept has been endorsed by AARP and the Marin Commission on Aging.

Marin Village provides concierge telephone service and connects members to referrals of vetted service providers throughout the County. They are also building a volunteer organization in individual communities dedicated to assisting neighbors with transportation, and help with errands and small household chores.

All residents are welcome to attend the public meeting on February 17. RSVP to 457-4633, or send an e-mail to info@marinvillage.org. You can also visit their website at marinvillage.org to learn more.

Tiburon Artist Laureate Programs



**Public Lecture and Hands-on
Workshop. Saturday, February, 19,
2011, 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in
the Town Hall Community Room
(2nd Floor)**

The guest artist for this public



workshop is long-time Belvedere resident and graphic artist, Roger Felton.

As a local volunteer, Roger provided most of the design, sketches and art work for the Landmarks Society and Belvedere Community Foundation. He is one of the artists who painted Belvedere's lane signs. His latest project is working with Laleh Zelinsky on an "Historic Ark Row" logo, lane signs and signage.

On February 19, Roger will give a drawing workshop called "Black and White". You will only need paper and pencil to enjoy a drawing lesson from a real pro. For all of you who say you can not draw a thing, Roger says you can, and he will prove it to you. So grab your pencil sharpener and sketch pad and come to the workshop!

E-mail Tiburon Artist Laureate Mary Musalo(marymusalo@aol.com) to reserve a spot.

Landmarks Society Programs

**Master Gardener Lecture Series -
Rose Pruning Tips
Wednesday, February 2, 10 - 11 a.m.
Art & Garden Center, 841 Tiburon Boulevard**

Marin Master Gardener Nena Hart will offer tips on pruning roses at the Landmarks Art & Garden Center on Wednesday, February 2 from 10 to 11 a.m. In addition to sharing her techniques for achieving bountiful blooms and healthier plants, Nena will discuss protective clothing and tool care.

The public is welcome to attend this free program. Look for two additional horticulture talks offered by the Master Gardeners on March 2 and April 6.



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

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 msoffice@sbdglobal.net, or call 435-1853.

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](#).



Council and Commission Meetings



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

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

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

Heritage & Arts Commission: Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (February 28).

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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