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#### In This Issue

[Volunteers needed  
for Labor Day  
Parade](#)

[Is there a Tiburon  
Boulevard  
"Gauntlet"?](#)

[Food Waste Pickup  
Begins August 1st](#)

[Summer Vegetation  
Management](#)

[Community Events](#)

[Bel-Tib Community  
Calendar](#)

[Council and  
Committee  
Meetings](#)

#### Quick Links

[Town of Tiburon](#)

[Get Ready 94920](#)

[Bel-Tib Library](#)

[Reed School  
District](#)

[Tiburon Peninsula  
Chamber of  
Commerce](#)

[Bel-Tib Recreation  
Department](#)

[County of Marin,  
3rd District](#)

[Facts About Marin](#)

July 30, 2010

### A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



#### WHAT IS AN EIR?

Recent news articles on the Library expansion, which proposes to add 18,000 square feet to the existing 10,500 square foot building, have placed a renewed focus on Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and their role in the process of considering and approving projects. The EIR for the "Martha" project, the anticipated 32-unit project on 110 acres at the end of the peninsula, is about to surface too, although in that case the EIR is being prepared at the direction of the County rather than the Town.

So what, exactly, is an EIR meant to accomplish? Those interested in gaining a clearer understanding of the role EIRs play in project review are urged to [click here](#) for a summary.

#### Neighborhood Associations

Tiburon has a wealth of neighborhood associations, many dozen both big and small, quite a few of which display a high degree of community knowledge, organization and involvement. I have had the privilege of being invited to many association meetings and gatherings since becoming Town Manager, and I always appreciate the opportunity they present to talk with residents about what's on their minds. I've yet to attend one where I didn't meet new people and learn new things about neighborhood issues or broader Town-wide concerns and opportunities. Residents, of course, have daily "on-the-ground" experience, so their insight into what is working and what could use improvement is always valuable. In addition to gathering useful knowledge, I do my best to provide information about what is afoot with local government, what projects are under consideration or under way, and to answer questions. Complaints are part of the package (why must the garbage be picked up at 5:30 a.m.!) as are great suggestions. To top it all off, there's always good food, too.

So, if you are so inclined, please consider inviting me to one of your neighborhood association meetings. I'll do my

## Clean Energy



"DID YOU KNOW?"

### *Volunteers Needed*

*Annual Labor Day Parade - Sunday, September 5, 1 p.m.*

*Volunteers are needed for all kinds of activities leading up to the event, including float decoration, as well as parade monitors on the day of the event.*

*The parade starts at Mar West and Tiburon Boulevard and ends at Community Park in Belvedere, in time for the final Concert in the Park.*

*Contact Sherry Burchert at 435-4355 if you would like to get involved in this great, end-of-summer event.*

best to make myself available, I'll try to answer questions and I'll be all ears in hearing what you have to say about life in Tiburon.

### **Tiburon Police Department**

One common thread in my meetings with residents is both an appreciation for, and serious questions about, local policing. This was true again just recently when I attended a meeting in Reed Heights-Tiburon Knolls area. Because of the enduring interest, I asked Chief of Police Michael Cronin to share some of his views on the role of the department. His article follows this one.

In closing, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I encourage you to get out and relish our beautiful Bay Area weather (while the rest of the country swelters) at Friday Nights on Main and the upcoming Tiburon Art Festival on Ark Row August 28 and 29. Both events contribute to making Tiburon such a special place to live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy Curran".

Peggy Curran

## **Tiburon Police Chief Discusses "The Gauntlet"**

One of the enduring urban myths about the Town of Tiburon is "The Gauntlet", also known as Tiburon Boulevard. The myth holds that the Boulevard is a stretch of road where the Tiburon Police prey upon innocent motorists. Exactly why they do that isn't clear, but a lot of people think it must have something to do with "quotas" or revenue, or maybe it's just bored, small town cops who like to exercise authority and have nothing better to do.



I hear this myth frequently, but I think it's rather unfair, so I'd like to debunk this myth, or at least get the facts into the public record so you can decide for yourself.

The gauntlet story has been around for a long time and there may even have been some truth to it at one time. I've lived and worked in Marin for most of my life and I can recall hearing stories about Tiburon's gauntlet from long ago. I also heard the same things about Sausalito's "gauntlet" on Bridgeway, and Novato's on Redwood Boulevard.

I think this perception originated back in the 70's and 80's when Tiburon's Main Street was a very active social scene. The crowd was young and thirsty and a lot of them drove drunk, but it wasn't considered such a big deal back then; a decent attorney could get you off on a "wet reckless" rather than a DUI conviction.

In the early 80's, groups like MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) began to exert political pressure on the criminal justice system to increase enforcement against drunk driving. They also changed the public's tolerance for drinking and driving. The Tiburon Police Department, and most other police agencies in California, responded. Arrests went up and alcohol-related collisions went down, declining by a dramatic 50% statewide from 1985 to 1995. It was not uncommon for TPD officers to take at least one person to jail every night for DUI. Two or three such arrests were common on weekends. Enforcement was a TPD priority.

As citizen compliance with alcohol-related traffic laws increased and accident rates declined, enforcement has declined as well. Over the last decade, TPD has averaged less than one DUI arrest a week. In the last five years, that average has declined to about one every nine days. Education, enforcement and changing social values removed the need for aggressive enforcement, making officers available to concentrate on theft and burglary suppression.

Traffic enforcement remains a priority on Tiburon Boulevard, although it is nowhere near the levels that the myth suggests. We concentrate on the area from Blackie's Pasture to Stewart Drive where the road narrows, the speed limit drops and the sight lines are short.

I don't reward officers for the number of tickets they write, and I leave it to their judgment as to whether a warning will suffice to correct unwanted behavior. Over the last five years we've averaged less than one ticket a day. In fact, about four of every five violators we stop get a warning rather than a ticket. The safe operation of vehicles on the streets of Tiburon is the objective. The revenue from citations is insignificant. It makes up only about one quarter of one percent of the Town's total annual revenue, and is never a consideration in the traffic enforcement process.

I'm sure one reason the myth persists is the high visibility of TPD patrol cars. It's rare that you can drive from one end of the Boulevard to the other without seeing at least one cop. That really isn't because we're stalking residents and visitors, it's simply because there isn't any way to get from one neighborhood to another without driving on Tiburon Boulevard. We send at least one car to an average

of about 7,500 calls per year. Another reason may be the number of people who see us on traffic stops. There are 40,000 trips a day on Tiburon Boulevard; sometimes as many as 400 in a fifteen-minute period. Traffic stops take 5 to 10 minutes. That means as many as 250 cars could pass the officer involved in a single stop.

When you count the amount of trips for normal patrol activity, it adds up to a lot of road time, but we think all that visibility has a benefit. Our accident rate remains low. Tiburon accounts for only about 1% of the people injured in traffic accidents in all of Marin.

Tiburon police have no "gauntlet", but if our visibility reminds people to be sober behind the wheel, mind the speed limit and obey other traffic rules, maybe the myth isn't such a bad thing after all.

Sincerely,  
Michael Cronin, Chief of Police

## NEWS BRIEFS

### **Weekly Curbside Food Waste Pickup Begins August 1st**



Reminder: Starting August 1, 2010, Mill Valley Refuse Service customers can add food waste to their "green cans" for curbside pickup. The yard and food waste will be transported to a new Compost Recycling Center at the Redwood Sanitary Landfill to be made into soil amendments that can be put back into the earth.

#### **How often will it be picked up?**

When food waste is added to yard waste, the law requires it be picked up every week. Consequently, the current bi-weekly pickup schedule for yard (and now food) waste will be changed to weekly service.

#### **What goes in the "Green Can" under the new program?**

Items included in the food waste program are significantly greater than those that backyard composting systems can accommodate: fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, bones, dairy items, food soiled paper, paper cups and paper plates are all eligible "food waste". (But all clean, recyclable papers and cardboard still go in the recycling cart.)

#### **What will it cost?**

There will be a modest rate increase (\$1.63 per household, per month, on average) to cover the additional costs of the food waste service. Customers will also notice an

unrelated annual rate increase for MVRS services of about \$1.05 per month, which brings the total average increase in monthly billing to \$2.68 per household.

Some households may find that the new weekly pickup of food waste enables them to reduce the size of their garbage can from 32-gallon to 20-gallon. If they do, they will more than compensate for these rate increases and will actually see their rates drop a bit.

More details about the food waste program, as well as other services, can be found at Mill Valley Refuse Service's website, [www.millvalleyrefuse.com](http://www.millvalleyrefuse.com), or call MVRS at 457-9760.

Diane Crane Iacopi  
Town Clerk

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### Summer Vegetation Management: An Important Reminder



#### **The Importance of Vegetation Management**

During the summer months, we want to remind property owners of the importance of managing the landscaping and vegetation around their homes for several reasons: traffic safety, fire safety, and resource protection.

#### **Private Property Owners' Responsibility**

It's not uncommon for private landscaping to encroach onto the public street right-of-way. Private landscaping improvements serve to beautify homes, enhance neighborhoods, and create desirable privacy screening. Over time, however, some of these private improvements are not maintained and grow far beyond their original boundaries. The result can be overgrown vegetation that obstructs sight lines for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists, creating a safety hazard for all roadway users.

Take note of the vegetation around your home. If it blocks or obstructs lines of sight of the public street, have it trimmed back or down. This is particularly important on corner lots. If your plants are not set back from the road far enough or are higher than 30 inches, they are likely to be in violation of Town ordinances (Section 16-5.6.6 of the Town Code) and are a public nuisance. In certain instances, through our door-hanger noticing process, the Tiburon Police Department or the Public Works Department will ask you to take necessary action. If you do not take action, you may be cited or billed for the work.

### **Fire Safety and Prevention**

Overgrown vegetation, non-native weeds and trees often become an unnecessary fire hazard. Non-native and invasive species such as Scotch Broom, Pampas Grass, and Blue Gum Eucalyptus are rampant in town and can present a potentially formidable fire fuel load challenge. Although they may seem to have aesthetic value, we urge you to help abate this risk by aggressively removing these plants altogether or, in the case of trees, trimming them appropriately.

It is also important to follow the Tiburon Fire Protection District guidelines of clearing a 100-foot buffer between your home and dense vegetation. If you need to encroach onto the Town's open space to achieve this buffer, please contact the Town and we will facilitate the process for you. For more information, contact Jessica Power at the Tiburon Fire Protection District at 435-7200, or the Public Works Department at 435-7354.

### **Protect our Native Species**

Finally, it's good to remind ourselves of how lucky we are to be living in an area of such unique natural beauty. Did you know that Tiburon has a rare and endangered plant that grows nowhere else in the world? It is called the Tiburon Jewelflower, and is found on the rocky serpentine outcroppings of our peninsula. Another endangered plant species is the Tiburon Paintbrush. Preserving the scarce habitat for these plants is important, but it is a constant challenge due to competition from highly invasive non-native species.

Please help us preserve our natural resources by removing non-native invasive vegetation (particularly broom and Pampas Grass) and consider native plants for your yard that are drought-tolerant and non-seeding. By doing your part with vegetation management, you will help preserve the beautiful natural resources of our peninsula and make it a safer place for all of us.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Nguyen  
Public Works Director/Town Engineer

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Tiburon Art Festival Returns for its Fourth Year!



The Tiburon Art Festival is returning on August 28 and 29 for its fourth year on Ark Row. In addition to the 64 juried artists, there will be live music, family entertainment, activities, wine, beer and champagne.

Plan to visit the Youth Art Tent located on the west end of the Festival. It will feature facepainting, tattoos, a youth crafts table, and local youth musicians, as well as art!

If you are a Tiburon Peninsula student, K through 8th grade, you can submit your work by Friday, August 20th to be displayed at the event. There is a \$15 submission fee.

Contact the Belvedere-Tiburon Joint Recreation Department at 435-4355 for more information.

### Friday Nights on Main Has Extended Ferry Service

**TIBURON  
FRIDAY NIGHTS  
ON MAIN**

Every Friday night  
June 11 - August 20, 2010  
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Gather with your neighbors, friends and family for live music, dancing, dining and shopping on Main St. every Friday night in Tiburon!

**Friday Night Tiburon Ferry Runs**  
Depart Pier 41 for Tiburon  
4:05 p.m.  
Depart Ferry Building for Tiburon  
5:25 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. or 8:50 p.m.  
Depart Tiburon for SF  
6:40 p.m., 7:45 p.m. or 9:35 p.m.

 [www.tiburonchamber.org](http://www.tiburonchamber.org)  
[www.blueandgoldfleet.com](http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com)

For more information on Friday Nights on Main, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 435-5633, or click on the Chamber's link in our sidebar section above.

## Artist Laureate Launches New "Art Talk" Event

**Tuesday, September 21, 7 - 8:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Lobby**

You are invited to join an informal exchange of ideas about art, starting this fall. It is for artists and people who just love art. The topic for the first evening will be: "What Does Art Mean to You?"

We will explore our thoughts in a lively discussion. All are welcome to come and participate in this conversation. So mark your calendars and invite your friends and we will embark on a new journey into the creative process.

Mary Musalo, Tiburon Artist Laureate, will moderate the evening. E-mail her at [marymusalo@aol.com](mailto:marymusalo@aol.com) for more information.

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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:*** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m. (August 4 meeting is cancelled; August 18 regular meeting).

***Design Review Board:*** 1st and 3rd Thursdays, at 7 p.m. (August 5 and 19).

***Planning Commission:*** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m. (August 11 and 25)

***Heritage & Arts Commission:*** 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m. (August 24) in the Town Hall Conference Room

***Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:*** 3rd Tuesday every other month, at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (the next meeting is September 21)

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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