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July 31, 2009

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



**California Budget**

After much difficulty, and making a national spectacle of itself, the state has finally adopted a budget. Tiburon emerged with only one sizeable hit: the state will borrow 8% of property tax revenues from us (and all municipalities) which must be repaid, with interest, within three years per state law. This translates into \$369,000. Since it is a one-time rather than recurring expense, we will cover it out of reserves. Angel Island had been threatened with closure to balance the budget, but it will remain open (hurray!), at least for now. The final verdict on Angel Island remains unclear. In sum, Tiburon made it through a harrowing process relatively unscathed. Of course, our residents and others will feel the impact of myriad cuts made at many levels throughout government and education. Marin County has been hard hit so their services, along with those provided by the state, will be affected.

What might the future, budget-wise, hold for us? This year cities were spared a state taking of gas tax revenues, which are earmarked for streets and drainage improvements, but this threat is likely to resurface in the next budget cycle. Were these tax proceeds withheld, Tiburon would suffer a loss of about \$170,000 annually. "COPS" funding, a public safety program, was left largely intact but also remains vulnerable to the budget axe in upcoming years. Tiburon receives \$100,000 annually from this source. Of course, our locally-generated sales and hotel taxes are down and may remain so for a while yet.

We will continue to be careful and conservative in our local budgeting. I am confident that the austerity measures Council approved in the recently



### "DID YOU KNOW?"

(Everything you always wanted to know about Local Government and were afraid to ask ... )

*Tiburon Talk*, our monthly newsletter to residents and interested parties, is meant to keep you apprised of what's new in your local government and around town. But we don't always know what you want to know.

We would like to hear from you!

Please send us your questions, large or small, concerning how government works or an item of particular interest to you.

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 you know?" column the following month.

Submit your questions to Diane Crane Iacopi, Town Clerk, at [dcrane@ci.tiburon.ca.us](mailto:dcrane@ci.tiburon.ca.us).

adopted budget, and recounted in the May 28 issue of Tiburon Talk (all prior issues are on our website), will allow us to stay financially healthy throughout the year and beyond.

#### **Grantsmanship**

On the positive side of our local ledger, the Town has been highly successful in the past few years obtaining grants from federal, state and local agencies, including a sizeable one we just received for the proposed parking improvements along Tiburon Boulevard east of Lyford Drive. Heidi Bigall, our Administrative Services Director and budget guru, summarizes the grant story for you in an article below.

#### **Security Cameras**

You may have been reading, again, some recent news stories about the security cameras proposed for Tiburon Boulevard and Paradise Drive - the entrances into Town. As those of you who follow local news will already know, we have been talking about these for some time now. Police Chief Cronin penned two separate articles for Town newsletters, including one that was mailed to all residents, describing the proposal and soliciting feedback. There is also a useful Security Camera Information Sheet available on the Town's website (see link at left side of page). The majority of the feedback we have received from residents is supportive of the concept, but we have certainly heard from opponents as well.

The Town Council has discussed the concept several times, and earlier this year directed staff to explore system costs and implementation, including development of a strict use policy, and to return with more information for further consideration. That next step is still a few months out. My point in mentioning it here is to make sure everyone is aware there will be ample opportunity to weigh in with the Town Council on the issue before any final decisions are made.

#### **Tiburon Boulevard**

If it seems like ongoing Tiburon Boulevard improvements are remarkably quiet and painless, that is because they have yet to start in earnest. We are advised by Caltrans that they have experienced some material issues which have sidelined much of the activity. We expect work to recommence this next week, so expect lane closures

and delays to occur in the evenings after 8:00 p.m. Updates are posted regularly on the Town's website.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

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## Stretching the Town Budget through Grants



Over the past three years, Town staff has aggressively pursued outside funding to help make local projects happen. Since July 1, 2006, Tiburon has been awarded a pretty darn impressive \$1,698,894 from 14 different grants. Here are some highlights.

The Town recently completed major improvements to the access paths connecting Tiburon Boulevard to the Multi-Use Path, including new access for the disabled. Partial funding came from an \$87,000 grant from County "Measure A" funds. The Town received a \$45,000 Land and Water Conservation Grant to replace the collapsing retaining wall along the MUP and for the installation of two new water faucets.

The Town continues to supplement its street maintenance program through grants. Since 2006 we have been able to invest an additional \$484,690 in street overlays by procuring Federal Stimulus, "Measure A", State Transportation Improvement Fund, and State Procurement and Technical Assistance Program grant funding. Reed Ranch Road and Ridge Road improvements, coming soon, will be entirely funded using Stimulus dollars.

An exciting proposed improvement project, the complete renovation of the parking area along the south side of Tiburon Boulevard near Lyford Drive, is the latest grant success, garnering \$314,027 in California Transportation Clean Air Act funding. This project promises significant aesthetic improvements to the entrance to downtown Tiburon, a hub for multi-modal transportation (interchanging car, bike, bus and foot traffic), and most importantly, enhanced traffic and pedestrian safety by greatly reducing turning motions on and off the Boulevard.

A \$352,000 Safe Routes to School grant is funding improved pedestrian routes to Del Mar Middle School. These include crosswalks, increasing access for the disabled at various locations and sidewalk widening (a "bulb-out") at the western corner of Tiburon Boulevard and Avenida Miraflores for additional pedestrian space.

In concert with our theme of enhanced pedestrian opportunities and the promotion of alternate transportation, the Town was awarded a federal Non-motorized Transportation Fund grant of \$350,000 for three existing neighborhood "connector" paths to provide all-weather surfacing and greater accessibility. These paths help people get places, like to school, downtown or the ferry, without their cars.

We have also received grants for important but less visible projects such as tree safety maintenance, police in-car video cameras, computers for the Emergency Operations Center, and enhancing the Town's recycling efforts. We received \$66,177 in grant funding from Association of Bay Area Governments Risk Management Corporation and the California Solid Waste Management Authority for these projects.

Applying for these grants takes time, tenacity and specialized knowledge, and often is an extra duty added to staff's normal workload. The Town is fortunate to have staff members capable of successfully soliciting these funds. Special acknowledgement goes to Director of Public Works Nick Nguyen, Associate Planner Laurie Tyler, and Assistant Planner Scott Phillips for their efforts in grant writing on behalf of the Town.

Heidi Bigall  
Director of Administrative Services

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Annual Homeowner's Summit

Consider coming down to Town Hall on **Saturday, August 29, at 10:00 a.m.** to join the annual, informal meeting of town residents with the Town Council. It's a great opportunity to ask questions or let the Council and staff know what's on your mind. Presidents of neighborhood associations are

particularly urged to attend, but all are welcome. We'll make sure there's coffee for everyone.

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## Golden Gate Bridge Weekend Construction - Bridge will remain Open to Traffic



Between July 31 and October 26, the south side Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza and Visitor Areas will experience weekend closures to accommodate construction improvements.

These improvements will include a) repaving the tourist parking lot on the southeast side of the bridge; b) repaving and adding lighting to the employee parking lot on the southwest side; c) modifying the utilities and improving the drainage in the tunnel under the Toll plaza; d) repaving the roadway in the tunnel; e) improvements for persons with disabilities in several areas.

### **Dates and Times of Closure/Areas affected**

1) Friday, July 31 at 9 p.m. - Monday, August 3 at 5:30 a.m. (underpass road under the Toll Plaza, and short access road from the Merchant Road/25th Avenue exit that goes down the short hill to the tunnel/underpass)

2) Friday, August 7 at 6 p.m. - Monday, August 10 at 6 a.m. (same areas as above)

3) Friday, August 21 at 9 p.m. - Monday, August 24 at 5:30 a.m. (main employee parking lot, southwest side of the Toll Plaza)

4) Friday, September 18 at 9 p.m. - Monday, September 21 at 5:30 a.m. (entire southside Visitor Area parking lot; underpass road under Toll Plaza; short access road from Merchant Road/25th Avenue exit that goes down the short hill to the tunnel/underpass)

5) Saturday, October 24 at 8 p.m. - Monday, October 26 at 2 p.m. (northbound Highway 101 curb lane in vicinity of the Toll Plaza; Highway 101 northbound on/off ramp at southside Visitor Area parking lot)

This information was provided by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District.

For more information, go to [www.goldengate.org](http://www.goldengate.org).

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## Lyford House opens to Visitors this Summer

Lyford House, the yellow Victorian on the shores of Richardson Bay at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary, is now open for visitors on the second Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. The next open house is Saturday, August 8, with two more Saturdays, September 12 and October 10.



### **History of the house**

Lyford House was originally the home of Dr. Benjamin Lyford and his wife Hilarita and was located at Strawberry Point on land that Hilarita had inherited from her father, John Reed, holder of the Mexican Land Grant that included the Tiburon Peninsula. In 1957, local conservationists saved the house from demolition and had it transferred by barge from Strawberry to its current location on Greenwood Beach Road in Tiburon. It was deeded to the Audubon Society in 1961 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

### **A local resource**

The National Audubon Society owns the house and maintains the surrounding area (including tidal lots) as a bird sanctuary and local learning resource.

For more information, or to volunteer as a docent, call 388-2524 ext. 113, or visit the website at [www.richardsonbay.audubon.org](http://www.richardsonbay.audubon.org).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



**Friday, July 31**  
**Friday Nights on Main continues through August 14.**

Come join your friends and neighbors between 6 and 9 p.m. for a relaxing evening in downtown



Tiburon. It's a great opportunity to enjoy dining outdoors, or in. Enjoy shopping or browsing, as well. Shops are open until 9 p.m.

For more information on this and other Chamber of Commerce events, click on the "quick link" listed on our sidebar above, or call 435-5633.

**Saturday, August 22 through Sunday, August 23**

Tiburon Art Festival

Ark Row, 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Visit [www.tiburon-artfestival.com](http://www.tiburon-artfestival.com) for more information.

**Sunday, September 6 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Belvedere-Tiburon Labor Day Parade**

(finishes at Belvedere Park with final Concert in the Park for 2009)

If your organization would like to join the parade, or if you have an antique car or truck that you want to show off, enter online at [www.btrecreation.org](http://www.btrecreation.org)

Teen and adult volunteers are needed to be parade marshals, assist in decorating floats and to help organize parade activities.

Call Sherry Burchert at 435-4355, or send an e-mail to [youthprograms@btrecreation.org](mailto:youthprograms@btrecreation.org) for more information.

**Tuesday, September 8 -**

**13th Annual Belvedere-Tiburon Open Golf Tournament**

**Stone Tree Golf Club, Novato**

This year's proceeds go to the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society. Come play for a worthwhile cause! If you can't play, and would like to support the event as a sponsor, you would be most welcome.

Contact [grodericks@cityofbelvedere.org](mailto:grodericks@cityofbelvedere.org) 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](#).



## COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS



**Town Council:** Wednesday, August 5 and 19, at 7:30 p.m.

**Design Review Board:** Thursday, August 6 and 20, at 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission:** Wednesday, August 12 and 26, at 7:30 p.m.

All meetings listed are in the Council Chambers at Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard.

**Sincerely,**

Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

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