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June 27, 2008

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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4th of July Fireworks



Infrastructure is a core issue for virtually all local governments, but it is particularly true of Tiburon. The Town Council has made a priority in recent years of improving the condition of our streets and the multi-use path; a host of other projects are in the works. We are constantly striving to have all Town infrastructure, whether paths or pipes or pavement or parking (and a lot of things that don't start with "p"), be as functional and beautiful as Tiburon itself is as a place to live and work.

The article that follows, written by our Director of Public Works, Nicholas Nguyen, provides some useful background on this timely (and timeless) subject. We are lucky to have Nick, whose other title is Town Engineer, to so ably oversee our many capital projects. I hope you enjoy it and perhaps learn something from it, too.

Sincerely,
Peggy Curran
Town Manager

Of Pipes and Pavement: Reflections on Infrastructure



Many of us go about our busy lives oblivious to the public infrastructure around us and what it takes to keep it safe and functional. We wake up in the morning and take it for granted that we can turn on the light, take a shower, make breakfast, and walk or drive safely to work. So primary is this infrastructure to our quality of life, health, and economic well-being that its reliability is really a social issue much like education or law enforcement.

In spite of its importance, the nation's and California's



As we approach the Fourth of July, the Tiburon Police Department would like to remind everyone that all fireworks, including those so-called "Safe and Sane" ones, are prohibited in the Town and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

This year, vegetation is extremely dry and even a small spark can start a large fire. Personnel from the Tiburon Police Department and the Tiburon Fire Protection District will be strictly enforcing the ban on ALL fireworks, including sparklers.

Please be aware that if you are found using any type of fireworks, you will be subject to citation or arrest resulting in a possible fine, jail sentence or both.

The public safety agencies of the Tiburon Peninsula appreciate your

infrastructure has not received the investment it requires. In 2006, the American Society of Civil Engineers in California completed its report card of the state's public works; the results were less than encouraging. On average, we received a letter grade of C minus with an estimated annual investment need of \$37 billion.

Specifically, the grades were:

Aviation: C
Levees / Flood Control: F
Parks / Open Space: D+
Ports: C+
Solid Waste: B
Transportation: D+
Urban Runoff: D+
Wastewater: C+
Water: C+

Many in the industry believe our once formidable infrastructure legacy is in peril. When we think about American history, we think about the Panama and Erie Canals, the transcontinental railroad, the interstate highway system, Hoover Dam, and our own grande dame, the Golden Gate Bridge. Building great things just seems to be what it means to be American. But today, such projects are few to non-existent and simple but vital projects routinely come under fire. Not-in-my-backyard philosophies, budget constraints, politics, and a host of other issues plague our industry's ability to construct and upgrade our ailing infrastructure. Of course, there are important environmental constraints today that did not exist in the past, but even projects that would help the environment are often stymied these days.

Infrastructure investment has steadily gone down. Between 1956 and 1966, federal infrastructure spending as a share of total non-defense federal expenditures was approximately 10 percent. Over the last twenty years, spending has averaged 3.5 to 4 percent of total non-defense expenditures. State and local government are increasingly picking up more than their fair share of overall investment, or the investments aren't being made at all.

As a result, today's headlines are of the failures of our great systems: Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the banks of under-serviced levees; a heavily-traveled bridge collapsed in Minneapolis; in 2001 the Bay Area ranked as the second-most congested metropolitan area in the nation; and most recently several sewage releases into Richardson Bay pointed out weaknesses in the aging pipelines under area streets.

cooperation as we all strive for a fire free holiday season.

The Tiburon Police Department encourages citizens to celebrate and enjoy a safe 4th of July by viewing the beautiful fireworks display over the San Francisco Bay from the shores of the Tiburon Peninsula (such as the 1900 Block of Paradise Drive or the Blackie's Pasture waterfront).

Please be fire wise and have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Sincerely,

Dave Hutton
Police Captain

Fortunately, there is a silver lining. The California electorate voted in five separate propositions in November 2006 that would stimulate investment in our infrastructure. Propositions 1 A through E dedicated tax revenues for transportation investments and sold bonds to fund investments in public school buildings and flood control facilities. But more will be needed.

At the local level, our Town Council has been proactive in funding key public works programs. Since 2001, the Town has resurfaced nearly 45 percent of its maintained roads. The Council continues to support a healthy investment in the annual street improvement program: over \$1 million is invested annually in upgrading our town roads. The Council is also taking proactive steps to improve peninsula drainage problems. A Stormwater Master Plan is being finalized to help the Town identify the breadth and depth of its drainage needs, prioritize projects and funding, and protect us from flooding. The Town is also slated, over the next several years, to replace its seriously obsolete and inadequate maintenance facility, located behind the Police building and Reed School. This core investment will improve the Town's ability to provide high quality public services long into the future.

In the end, like any successful effort, it takes teamwork. The Tiburon Public Works Department appreciates all the support and assistance it has received from the gracious residents of this beautiful community. To name just a few, we thank peninsula residents Pam Bonnie and Derice Tao, who created a private-public partnership to rebuild our playgrounds, the many volunteers such as Janice Anderson-Gram, Vera Gertler, and Jim Wood who work to keep Tiburon Boulevard clean and beautiful, the Landmarks Society for maintaining our historical sites for future generations to enjoy and, last but not least, the countless residents who provide refreshments to our staff and contractors who dig our trenches and patch our roads!

Together with your continued support, we will keep striving to improve the quality of life, health, and economic well-being of this unique peninsula.

Nicholas Nguyen, P.E.
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

What's in a Name?

The first Town Historian, Louise



Teather, published a book of place names of sites in southern Marin in the 1960s. Copies are still available from the Landmarks Society. But Louise died in 1996, and a lot has changed since then. It is time to bring the list up-to-date, especially for those who have recently moved to Tiburon.



Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, France, died in 368 AD. He was later named a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. Hilary became the patron saint of the Sanchez family who settled in San Francisco. They named their daughter Hilaria. She married John Thomas Reed, owner of the largest land grant on the Tiburon Peninsula, and they named their eldest daughter Hilarita. Hilarita inherited all of Strawberry and 1,000 acres on the east end of the Tiburon Peninsula, and married Dr. Benjamin Lyford. Therefore, we have Hilary Drive, Hilarita Apartments, St. Hilary's Church and School, Old Saint Hilary's landmark, Lyford Drive, Lyford Cove, Lyford Tower (the entrance to Lyford's Hygeia), and Lyford House at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary and Audubon Center. We already had Reed Ranch Road, Reed Heights, the Reed School and Reed School District, the Reedlands, etc.

Many years ago Fred **Zelinsky** started buying Tiburon swampland (wetlands today) and started filling it in. He was the head of D. Zelinsky and Sons, the world's largest painting contractor. He and his wife, Juanita, lived in San Francisco but loved Tiburon. For many years they used the China Cabin as a weekend residence. He also acquired much of Main Street and Ark Row (owning a painting company came in handy). Fred built several of the new buildings on Main Street, and on both sides of Tiburon Boulevard. His son, Ed, Ed's wife Laleh, and daughter Barbara Abrams, donated the land for Tiburon Town Hall, the Belvedere-Tiburon Library, and several parks. We have Juanita Lane, Zelinsky Landing, Zelinsky Park, and the Blue & Gold Fleet ferry boat, MV Zelinsky.

McKegney Green was named for George McKegney, an avid hiker who endlessly walked the trails of Tiburon, many of which had been used by the Miwok Indians and the early Spanish ranchers. George was our "go to guy" in the early days of town government when we wanted to know anything about the ridges and open spaces on the peninsula. He would not have approved CALTRANS filling the bay for a four-lane highway, but when we stopped that plan and could not "unfill" the bay, the land was named for our relentless open space advocate.

The **Allan Thompson Walkway** is named after a dedicated Parks & Recreation Commissioner and a talented local architect. He was also the father of former Tiburon Mayor Andrew Thompson. An old Main Street hardware store burned and Fred Zelinsky, the property owner, wanted to build the building now occupied by Servino's,

but was having trouble getting approval from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). Fred asked my help as I sat on both the Town Council and BCDC. We met with Thompson, who was designing the building. One of my dreams was to open up the water side of Main Street, so I advised Fred that I thought I could get BCDC's approval if he would permit a walkway on the water side of his Main Street buildings. He was reluctant on the grounds that diners would be disturbed by pedestrians walking by. Allan sketched, on a place mat, a design stepping a walkway down a few feet below the diners' site line. Fred agreed and we took it to BCDC; it was approved and was built. The irony was that by the time it was constructed, advancing ALS made it impossible for Allan to enjoy it. So to honor Allan, not just for that project but for his many contributions to the town, it was named for him.

The **Sam Shapero Bridge** crosses the little creek in Blackie's Pasture. It took a number of years and a lot of "horse trading" to assemble the property for Blackie's Pasture. Sam was determined that it would be a town park and, often using his own funds, made it happen. The park was already named for the swayback horse who stood there for so many years, so the bridge was named for Sam.

George & Louise Teather Park is the little park on Beach Road behind DeLano's Market. Louise was our first town historian and a relentless advocate of the Town. George was our first (and only) Poet Laureate. George was a devotee of the Ogden Nash School of poetry and could always be counted on for something to liven up a celebration.

For more more information on the Town's history, visit the Heritage & Arts Commission blog at www.ci.tiburon.ca.us.

Branwell Fanning
Town Historian

NEWS BRIEFS

Zelinsky Playground Fundraising Update



The Zelinsky Playground at South of Knoll Park is geared to children ages 5-12. A committee of community volunteers has partnered with the Town of Tiburon to raise the necessary funds to help renovate this area. The committee is pleased to report that with the inclusion of two recent significant donations, their goal of \$90,000 is within reach.

The Belvedere Land Company and the Allen Family have pledged \$20,000 to the Zelinsky Playground renovation project. This brings the total raised by the committee to over \$86,000. The Allen Family has been involved with Belvedere Land Company since 1936. A community-oriented company, Belvedere Land has worked toward making a difference in the Belvedere-Tiburon area, and has also contributed to the Belvedere-Tiburon Library Foundation, Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, Belvedere Community Foundation, Reed Foundation, Tiburon Peninsula Little League and Concerts in the Park.

The second major donor, the Herbst Foundation Inc., has pledged \$10,000 to the project. In 2005, the Foundation also donated \$10,000 to the renovation of the Tot Lot Playground at South of Knoll Park. The Herbst Foundation is one of the Bay Area's largest non-profit organizations and was ranked among the top 50 United States foundations to award grants in the San Francisco area.

Other significant contributors to the Zelinsky Playground project include the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, the Belvedere Community Foundation, Laleh Zelinsky, Mill Valley Baby & Kids/The Achuck Family, The Tenney Family Foundation, Chrissie Cutting of PEEP PALS, the Moyne Family and John Harrington.

Last but not least, the Town of Tiburon has programmed the Zelinsky Playground renovation into its 2008-2009 budget and will contribute approximately \$75,000 toward the total project cost of \$165,000.

For more information about how you can purchase your commemorative tile and/or support this most important project for the children of the Tiburon Peninsula, please visit our website at www.southofknollparktiburon.com, or call 435-7354.

Sincerely,

The South of Knoll Renovation Committee
Pam Bonnie, Derice Tao, Felicia Goldstein, Claire-Marie Laidley, Sunny Lyrek, Kaili Pelzerunday

UPCOMING EVENTS

Labor Day Parade: Home-grown and Old-fashioned



On Sunday, August 31, starting near the Belvedere-Tiburon Library at the corner of Tiburon Boulevard and Mar West Street, and ending at the Belvedere Park



for the final Concert in the Park of the season, this parade boasts five live bands and a fantastic variety of music, antique cars, creative floats and entries from your favorite organizations. Bring the family and enjoy the fun!

Get involved! If your organization would like to join the parade, or if you have an antique car you want to show off, contact parade chair Marissa Miller for an entry form at mill_marissa@yahoo.com or call her at 225-1431.

Another way to get involved is to sponsor an incredible "ballon vest" and add more color and excitement to the event. You can also advertise your business (by wearing a T-shirt or a sign while walking in the parade). Contact Joan Palmero for details at jpalmerno@ci.tiburon.ca.us or 435-7373.

Volunteers are needed! If you are available on the day of the parade, or in the weeks before the parade, we need both adult and teen volunteers to be parade marshals, decorate floats, and hand out supplies. Contact volunteer coordinator Joan Barth at JoanBarth@aol.com for more information. This is a great way for your teen to earn community service hours for school.

Make a Splash! Make a Statement! Join the Fun!

Other Community Events

Friday Nights on Main continues....

Once again, the downtown is abuzz with locals and visitors gathering on Main Street on Friday nights now through August 15th, except for Independence Day, the 4th of July. Virtually all of the restaurants will be participating this year, offering outdoor (and indoor) food and drink. The live music tradition will continue, too. Hours are 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tiburon Art Festival

The second annual show returns to historic Ark Row on August 23 & 24. This year's event promises to be bigger, better and bolder than ever. It will include paintings, sculpture, wood, glass, jewelry, and photography of the highest caliber by local artists, juried by well-known judges.

Volunteers are needed throughout the summer. Please contact one of the event co-chairs, Cathleen Andreucci (director@btrecreation.org) or Carolyn Wendler (carewendler@hotmail.com) to offer your services and get involved.

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: July 2 meeting cancelled; July 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Design Review Board: July 3 meeting cancelled; July 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission: July 9 and July 23 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

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