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COUNCILMEMBER EMMETT O'DONNELL - COUNCILMEMBER ERIN TOLLINI

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March 31, 2014

## A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



### Parking Meeting April 10!

As you know from past Tib Talks, the Town is engaged in a multi-year effort to improve its downtown for the benefit of residents, downtown businesses and visitors. Revitalization efforts began several years ago with well-attended citizen meetings to identify problems and possible solutions and ideas. We heard a

lot of things at those meetings, and there were many helpful suggestions, but the number one complaint concerned parking. Residents like the two-hour free street parking arrangement, but find it unavailable most of the time, and not everyone is willing to avail themselves of the plentiful, but not free, private parking lots. Somehow "fixing" the parking situation was identified as the most significant thing we could do to improve the experience of patronizing downtown.

This feedback led the Town to commission a "Circulation and Parking Analysis" of the downtown to identify options. The highly regarded consulting firm of Nelson/Nygaard was engaged and produced a report with a multitude of great ideas, some of which have already been implemented and others are in process. Their big idea for remedying the downtown parking issue? Parking meters coupled with a two-hours-free resident permit system. How would meters help? One of the serious limitations of a parking system that relies on a two-hour time restriction is enforcement, and enforcement problems lead to abuse in almost any program. An enforcement officer must individually chalk each tire, and then return later to find the vehicle in the same location with the mark still visible. At that point, the car may be cited. Not only does this require two well-timed visits to each parked vehicle, but it leaves room for people to juggle cars, erase marks or otherwise "game" the system to beat citations. The consequence is that spaces intended for short-term users end up being overstayed by those who really need to find all-day parking solutions in one of the private lots or further up Tiburon Boulevard (like the new Lyford parking lot).

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A meter system with a two-hour resident permit would simplify enforcement and make it difficult or impossible to game the system. Modern parking meters are no longer the one-per-space meters of old. They are now sophisticated multi-space affairs that take credit cards and resident passes, are programmable to adjust rates if desired to reflect location, time of day or year, and many are solar powered.

Nelson/Nygaard has a lot of experience with parking meters, and believes implementation in our situation would result in residents having a greatly increased likelihood of finding a meter and still getting two hours free. It would also allow residents to pay for additional time if they wished to remain longer, a problem with the current inflexible system where the first two hours are free, but after which the parker incurs a real risk of a ticket with no legal option to remain in that parking spot. Many people have expressed frustration the two-hour free approach because it precludes somewhat longer visits to downtown for, say, a little shopping after lunch. Meters would force those overusing or abusing the current street parking into other solutions, freeing those spaces for their intended purpose: short-term visits to businesses and services downtown. I want to note that the basis for considering meters is not to enhance revenue, although the modest stream would cover any cost to the Town for the meter system, including recouping the initial capital expense for their installation. The purpose of meters is to serve as a parking management tool, one that our consultants tell us is the most effective means at our disposal of achieving our goal of greater parking availability.



Source: Nelson/Nygaard

The Town is also exploring whether any parking lot owners are interested in an extension of the street meter system onto their private lots, including the use of resident passes. If this can be accomplished, it would expand free parking for residents. Under this approach, revenue from meters would be used to reimburse private lot owners for the free parking they provide to residents. That means visitors to downtown who

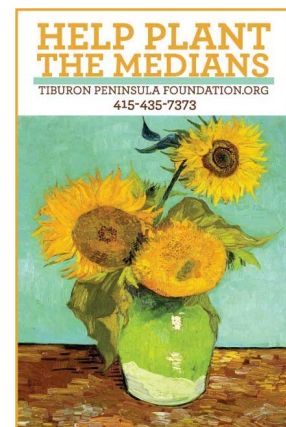
pay into the meter system would be underwriting the cost of expanded two-hour free parking locations for residents. Everyone could benefit from this arrangement.

In addition to meters on the streets and possibly some private lots, the Town is willing to explore arrangements that include assisting private lot owners through Town enforcement (so that violators' cars may be cited rather than towed, which is a private lot owner's only recourse). The goal, again, would be to keep short-term parking available for shoppers and diners, while pushing long-term parkers into private, paid lots, parking more remotely, taking the excellent public transit or doing park-and-ride solutions from locations like Blackie's Pasture.

None of this is set in stone - quite the contrary - these are ideas that need more vetting before coming to the Town Council for decisions. Toward this end, I encourage everyone interested in downtown parking to attend a public discussion at Town Hall on the evening of April 10, a Thursday, at 6:30. Come with issues, ideas, support or consternation - whatever is on your mind - but do come and help us determine how best to address the persistent problem of people not wanting to come downtown because of its parking.

### **Plant the Medians!**

We are growing very excited about the real prospect of transforming the lengthy center medians out near Blackfield Drive from weedy concrete to landscaped greenery and flowers. These medians, which stretch from Cecilia Way to Bay Vista Drive, lie within the unincorporated County, not Tiburon; they are our peninsula "common area", and their beautification will benefit everyone who passes by, in other words, all of us. If funding materializes, we hope to build the project this fall!



The County has joined forces with the Town to help finance this change, and we hope the City of Belvedere will soon follow suit. The local foundations are stepping up, too; the Belvedere Community Foundation is weighing a significant contribution, and the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation has agreed to match donations made on its [website](#), or mailed to them at

P.O. Box 210.

Despite all this support there remains a funding gap, but it is shrinking and, with continued generous contributions from our good residents all over the peninsula, I have great confidence we will get there. Consider sending in a check or visiting the TPF website right now. You'll get to see your (tax deductible) dollars at work every single time you pass along Tiburon Boulevard.

### **Tiburon's 50th Anniversary**

Don't forget to mark Friday, May 30, on your calendars. That evening will be a great community celebration of 50 years as a Town: live music, dancing, food, drink, kids' activities and a BIG fireworks display. You really won't want to miss it. More to come on this soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy Curran". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Peggy Curran

## **NEWS BRIEFS**

### **New Pedestrian Countdown Signals Installed At Tiburon Boulevard and Blackfield Drive**



To enhance public safety for the walking public, bicyclists and drivers, the Tiburon Public Works Department recently installed four 16" x 18" pedestrian countdown signals (PCS's) at the intersection of Tiburon Boulevard and Blackfield Drive. The PCS's will instruct pedestrians to cross Tiburon Boulevard when it is safe by displaying a "walking person" and then provide an "open hand" instructing pedestrians to halt; this is followed by a numerical countdown to inform them of an impending changing light.

These modern PCS's have a robust LED system design that provides high luminous intensity and excellent uniformity and viewing angles. LED colors are "Lunar White" to represent the walking person and "Portland Orange" to represent the hand and countdown numbers.

The Town received numerous calls asking for enhanced pedestrian safety at this high volume intersection. A similar system had already been installed at Tiburon Boulevard and Trestle Glen Boulevard (see above photos) as a result of meetings with members of the Belveron East Homeowner's Association, the Tiburon Police Department, and Caltrans representatives. The Town believes the "countdown" aspect of these signals will provide greater safety to the public crossing Tiburon Boulevard at Blackfield Drive.

Because Tiburon Boulevard is a state highway, we are gratified that Caltrans gave its full support to the Town to add the enhanced traffic system at this intersection. Funding for the project, in the amount of \$2,475, was provided by the Town of Tiburon.

Sincerely,

Matt Swalberg  
Engineering Technician  
Tiburon Public Works Department

## Tiburon General Plan Now Available Online

Tiburon's General Plan, *Tiburon 2020*, was adopted in 2005 and is an important document that provides guidance to plan for the Town's future.

The entire General Plan can now be viewed on the Town's [website](#) by clicking on the "Helpful Documents" page under the "Residents" heading, or using this [link](#) .

You can review and download the entire General Plan or individual elements, including the following:

- \* Land Use Element
- \* Open Space & Conservation Element
- \* Downtown Element
- \* Circulation Element
- \* Safety Element
- \* Noise Element
- \* Parks & Recreation Element
- \* Housing Element

Future updates to the General Plan or its individual elements will be posted on the Town's website, as well.

If you have any questions regarding the General Plan, please contact the Planning Division at 435-7390.

Sincerely,

Kyra O'Malley

Assistant Planner

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Artist Laureate Series - Tonight: Persian Paintings From the 13th to the 19th Century

**Monday, March 31, 6 - 8 p.m.**  
**Tiburon Town Hall**  
**1505 Tiburon Boulevard**

March 20 marks the start of the Persian New Year. Tonight's event will include a powerpoint presentation by Ms. Shiva Pakdel featuring Persian Paintings from 13th Century Miniatures to 19th Century Royal Paintings.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be light refreshments after the presentation.

For more information on this program, or upcoming Art Talks, contact Tiburon Artist Laureate, [Jaleh Etemad](#), at 233-2699.

### Garden Talks at Art & Garden Center



**Wednesday, April 2**  
**10 - 11 a.m.**  
**Art and Garden Center Cottage**  
**841 Tiburon Boulevard**

The Marin Master Gardeners final talk in the series of free public events is "Hillside Gardening 101 -- Overcoming Challenges in Southern Marin". If you have ever faced the challenges of gardening on a slope, with poor soil, drying winds and marauding deer, this talk is for you!

Master Gardener Mary Warner will draw upon her years of experience gardening on a precipitously steep slope in Corte Madera. She will recommend plants that can succeed in specific microclimates, soil types, sun and shade.

For more information, contact [Faith Brown](#) at 435-5320.

## Angels Aweigh: A Benefit in Support of Angel Island State Park



### Saturday, April 5

The Angel Island Conservancy invites you to a luxurious event aboard the yacht Acania in support of Angel Island State Park.

The Tommy Igoe Sextet will perform a private concert on the top deck of the yacht while guests cruise around the Bay and enjoy the sights. Tommy is a Bay Area resident who began drumming at age 2. He has performed around the world with artists such as Art Garfunkel, Blood Sweat and Tears, Dave Grusin, Stanley Jordan, and the New York Voices.

Proceeds from the event will go directly towards the Conservancy's partnership with Angel Island State Park to develop programs and improvements on the island that are designed to inspire visitors of all ages. Projects for 2014 include a new Walking Guide, interpretive signage, work on campsite expansion, and further revitalization of Ayala Cove.

The yacht will depart from Sausalito's Schoonmaker Point Marina and capacity is limited. Tickets are \$500 each. Please go to the Angel Island [website](#) for ticket purchases, or call 435-3972.

## National Perscription Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, April 26



**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**Tiburon Police Department**  
**1155 Tiburon Boulevard**

Tiburon participates in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Bring your old or unused prescription drugs to the Tiburon Police Department for safe disposal.

For more information about this initiative, visit the Department of Justice [website](#), or contact the Tiburon Police Department at 789-2801.

## Council and Commission Meetings

**Town Council:** First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.  
(April 2 and April 16).

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

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

**Heritage & Arts Commission:** Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (April 22).

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:** Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m. (next meeting is a Special Meeting scheduled for April 15).

Unless stated otherwise, all meetings are held in the Town Council Chambers located at 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, CA 94920.

## Community Calendar

For the scoop on events and meetings sponsored by local nonprofit community and government organizations on the Tiburon Peninsula, visit the Belvedere-Tiburon Library's excellent [community calendar](#).



Sincerely,



Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon  
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

[Forward email](#)



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