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November 24, 2010

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Year End Thoughts



The November issue is always our final Tiburon Talk of the year (unless there is a need to dispatch Special Bulletins, of course). This past year has been busy and productive; some highlights:

The aftermath of the Town's legal setback in the Del Mar undergrounding litigation dominated early 2010. On the last day of 2009, the California First Appellate District Court ruled against the Town in one of three lawsuits dating back to 2005 and 2006. The decision set the stage for months of settlement discussions, which resulted in an agreement designed to minimize the financial loss to the Town, reshape the district to comply with the court ruling and allow it to proceed if a new vote endorsed the assessments. That vote occurred on July 21 with affected residents overwhelmingly supporting the revamped district. Engineering is underway with completion of the main task (the joint trench for utilities) expected around this time next year. After that, the utility companies will take several months to pull their lines through the new underground system and take down the poles. What a welcome sight that will be!

Marin Clean Energy launched in May of 2010, concluding a multi-year effort to offer utility customers in Marin the option to receive more of their energy from renewable sources than is available through PG&E. The Town itself opted to be an MCE customer as part of MCE's Phase I (large customers, governments and some residences). Remaining residential consumers will be given the opportunity to choose MCE or opt to stick with PG&E service during Phase II, slated to commence in January of 2012. MCE is the first such "community choice" entity to be established since enabling legislation was passed in 2002. Once again Marin leads the way on environmental stewardship.

In other highlights, the much-discussed security cameras were installed (it took quite a while due to Caltrans

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Reminder:  
The "Spare the Air"  
wood burning ban  
went into effect in all  
nine Bay Area  
counties on  
November 1.

When the Bay Area  
Air Quality  
Management  
District declares a  
winter "Spare the Air"  
day, wood burning is  
illegal until the alert  
is lifted.

To find out if today or  
any day is a "Spare  
the Air" day, simply  
click the icon above,  
or on the [Town's  
website](#).

Individuals can make  
a complaint about  
wood smoke pollution  
by calling the Air  
District's hotline at  
1-877-4NO-BURN, or  
sign up to receive air  
alerts [here](#).

complexities) and are already doing their job helping peninsula crime-fighters. Flower baskets started gracing the downtown thanks to some very caring citizens and a generous five-year grant from Arno and Carol Rayner. The Town's Zoning Ordinance was comprehensively updated, and a new Building Official came on board, the first change in that position since 1990. An Open Space Resource Management Plan was adopted by Town Council after several years in development. The Town conducted its annual street paving program and in doing so finally achieved its long-held goal of a Pavement Condition Index of at least 70 (we are at PCI 73 - a very high standard). A new composting idea was introduced: Food scraps may be added to green (yard waste) cans, which in turn are now picked up weekly instead of bi-weekly.

Balancing the budget was and remains a major challenge with revenue sources across the board in decline. With the organization's long-term financial health in mind, Council adopted a significant change in the way we do business: employees now make the maximum allowable contribution to their pensions. This shift required employees to take an average 4% salary cut, which in turn saves the Town approximately \$100,000 per year. The Town eliminated post-retirement medical benefits for new hires in 2009. These combined steps mark Tiburon as a leader in reducing the burden of pensions on local taxpayers and make our financial outlook stronger.

We also worked on many projects that are expected to come to fruition after the New Year. The new space for Belvedere-Tiburon Joint Recreation programs on Ned's Way has been preliminarily approved by the Town Council and is expected to be built in 2011; Belvedere will partner with the Town on the project through an annual contribution. Revisions to the Town's smoking ordinance were considered by Council; most notably the new rules would impose smoking restrictions on multi-family rental housing and prohibit smoking at public events, like Friday Nights on Main. The draft ordinance was sent back to staff with instructions to explore ways to allow its provisions to be implemented more rapidly; it should return to Council in February. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Martha Property, which has been under development by the County (this remains in their jurisdiction), is now anticipated in January. The Town will have a keen interest in that report. We hope that the Martha project is approved by the County along the lines of the agreement worked out between Tiburon and the property owner, but all of this remains to unfold in 2011. The Library Expansion Project will be considered by the Town Council in spring. The EIR for this important community project was prepared and circulated, but a small portion of that analysis needed

Diane Crane Iacopi  
Tiburon Town Clerk

further refinement so the EIR cycle is taking a little longer than originally anticipated.

A Council "downtown committee" is hard at work bringing stakeholders, that is, commercial property owners, restaurateurs and merchants, together to explore how the downtown can be revitalized and become more of an asset for the community. The proposed parking area improvement along Tiburon Boulevard just east of Lyford Drive has been designed but is on hold for now; Council expects to revisit this significant project, which would enhance both safety and beauty, in the spring once next year's budget position comes into focus. A peninsula Recreation Master Plan, a joint effort of Belvedere and Tiburon, is well underway and should emerge for review in early spring.

In sum, 2011 is shaping up to be another busy year. There is no lack of activity on either the capital project or community planning fronts, and the budget will require continued vigilance to stay in the black. I'm very pleased that, despite the economy, we have been able to keep moving forward with important endeavors for the health and well-being of the community, and do so without diminution in public services. With the strong leadership of our Town Council, the whole staff and I are committed to maintaining this progress going forward.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to wish you a wondrous and joyful holiday season! I hope that 2011 becomes known as the year our economy turned around and moved forward with new vigor and a job for everyone that wants one.

Finally, thanks for reading this newsletter in 2010, and especially for taking note of public safety Special Bulletins. We greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

## NEWS BRIEFS

### **Railroad Marsh Cattail Removal**



The Tiburon Public Works Department hires an aquatic contractor to remove cattails from the Railroad Marsh located behind Town Hall as part of its ongoing maintenance. The purpose is three-fold: removal of the cattails maintains the general health of the marsh, maintains the design capacity of the basin as a stormwater drainage facility, and reduces mosquito habitat. Once the cattails are cut and removed from the Railroad Marsh, they are left on the shore to dry out. Once dried, the cattails are placed in "green waste" containers and hauled away by Mill Valley Refuse to be recycled into compost.

Without periodic removal, the cattails would eventually choke out the marsh and close down the drainage function the marsh plays for the surrounding hillsides. Cattail removal also creates more habitat for migratory birds and enhances views of the marsh.

Marsh maintenance is permitted by the State Water Resources Board primarily in the months of September and October to accommodate migratory bird patterns. Many other animal species are fairly inactive this time of year, so it presents the best opportunity for the Town to perform the work.

Tiburon Public Works Department  
Nicholas Nguyen, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer  
Matthew Swalberg, Engineering Technician

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## **First Rains Hazardous for Drivers - and Local Waterways!**

During the dry season, pollutants







accumulate on roadways. The first rains mix with these pollutants to create slick, unsafe driving surfaces. Not only is this build-up dangerous to drivers, but it's also bad for the Bay!

Winter rains wash vehicle pollutants--notably tailpipe exhaust, zinc from automotive engine oil, copper from brake pad dust, cadmium, lead, and automotive fluids-- off roads and streets into storm drains that flow directly to San Francisco Bay. These pollutants threaten water quality and the health of wildlife in our waterways.

According to Terri Fashing, program manager for Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), it only takes 7-10 days for these pollutants to build-up between rains in large urban areas. "That means we're dealing with an ongoing problem throughout the season."

There are many things Marin residents can do to minimize pollution and make the roads safer during the rainy season. Here are just a few tips from MCSTOPPP:

- Maintain your car regularly! A car that isn't properly tuned produces up to 15 times more pollution than a well-running vehicle.
- Check your driveway or regular parking area for build-up of auto fluids. If your car is leaking auto fluids, promptly take your car to a professional repair shop.
- Until you do, place a drip pan under your car to catch the leak.
- Change your oil regularly. The longer engine oil is in service, the thinner it gets. Leaks are more likely, and exhaust emissions increase.
- Drive less! Try carpooling or taking public transit (even just once a week), link trips as much as possible, and telecommute if you can.

To learn more about preventing water pollution, call MCSTOPPP at 499-6528 for your free copy of "Keeping It All in Tune," a simple, colorful guide with tips to get you through the rainy season.

Matthew S. Swalberg  
MCSTOPPP Stormwater Coordinator  
[mwalberg@ci.tiburon.ca.us](mailto:mwalberg@ci.tiburon.ca.us)

## 2010 Holiday Festival

**Friday, December 3**  
**5:30 p.m. to "A Twinkling Hour"**  
**Downtown Main Street to Ark Row**

Evening festivities will include ice skating, holiday carolers, wonderful holiday treats, gingerbread house decorating for kids, and more! In addition, the shops and restaurants will be offering budget-worthy discounts and specials.

### **ICE SKATING DETAILS:**

The ice rink has limited space and it's filling up fast. Call 435-5633 or go to [hello@shoptiburon.info](mailto:hello@shoptiburon.info) for more information.

### **GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING DETAILS:**

Where: Servino's Ristorante - 9 Main St  
Time: Two seatings - 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Price: \$25 per house (limited to one child per house)

The houses are already built so kids will be able to do the best part - decorate with all the goodies! All proceeds for the event benefit "Kids Believe Achieve", a non-profit created by local kids.

Space is limited; reservations are highly recommended. Go to [hello@shoptiburon.info](mailto:hello@shoptiburon.info) for more information.



**Thanks to the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring these holiday events.**

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## **"Broom Busters" Open Space Workday - December 4**



Join the Broom Busters' biggest workday of the year on Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers will meet in the parking lot of the Tiburon Peninsula Club (600 Mar West Street) and will pull broom on the open space behind the club. No experience is needed.

Marin County Parks and Open Space rangers will be on hand to direct the efforts, provide tools, snacks and lunch. Naturalist David Herlocker will lead a walk to show how plants and animals benefit from habitat restoration and point out unique features of the open space.

The Broom Busters usually hold their workdays the first Saturday morning each month. The requirements are simple: "Come when you can; leave when you must." No experience is needed. Training, tools and refreshments are provided.

For more information or to volunteer, call the Volunteer Coordinator at Marin County Parks and Open Space District at 499-3778.

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## **Landmarks Arts & Crafts Sale**

When: Saturday, December 4

Time: 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Location: Art & Garden Center, 841 Tiburon Boulevard

Come for a cup of hot cider and buy from gifts and treasures from featured local artists. 20% of the sales from this annual event go to benefit the Landmarks Society.

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**TEDDY BEAR TEA**  
**Saturday/Sunday, December 11 & 12**  
**Location: Belvedere-Tiburon Library**

Cost: \$25/person  
Seatings: 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 a.m.  
Reserve Online: [www.teddybearteainfo.com](http://www.teddybearteainfo.com)

Delight your children with this wonderful, age-old tradition. Afterwards, enjoy a holiday sing along with a special elf. Holiday stories will be read by your favorite librarian.



**WREATH SILENT AUCTION**  
**November 15**  
**-December 1**  
**Location: Corner Books at the Boardwalk Shopping Center**

Local artisans have created this year's wreaths in an array of styles and sizes. Sign up on a silent auction bid sheet or meet the minimum price and take home your wreath today!

The Teddy Bear Tea and Wreath Silent Auction are sponsored by Bookmarks, supporters of youth programs at the Belvedere-Tiburon Library. For more information, go to [www.bel-tib-lib.org](http://www.bel-tib-lib.org) and click on "Kids".

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## **Artist Laureate Programs**

**"Art Talk"**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2011**  
7 p.m., Town Hall Lobby

Topic: "What does color mean to you?"  
Come join the conversation about art!

**Artist Laureate Workshop**  
**Saturday, February, 19, 2011**  
10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.  
Town Hall Community Room (2nd Floor)

Our guest artist 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 a "Historic Ark Row" logo, lane signs and signage.

Roger will be doing a drawing workshop called "Black and White". We will only need paper and pencil and we will be enjoying a drawing lesson from a real pro. So 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 sharpener and sketch pad and come to the free workshop!

E-mail [marymusalo@aol.com](mailto:marymusalo@aol.com) to reserve a spot.

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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:*** First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - (December 1; December 15 cancelled).

***Design Review Board:*** First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. - (December 2 and December 16).

***Planning Commission:*** Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - (December 8; December 22 cancelled).

***Heritage & Arts Commission:*** Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (no meeting in December due to the Holidays).

***Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:*** Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room (next meeting is January 18, 2011).

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed above are in the Council Chambers at Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard.

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***PLEASE NOTE:*** Town Hall is closed from Friday,

December 24 through Friday, December 31, 2010, and will re-open on Monday, January 3, 2011.

Happy Holidays!

**Sincerely,**

Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon  
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

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