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November 25, 2009

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Year end thoughts

Here it is already November, so we arrive at our last issue of the year. We made it though 2009, but it was a challenging year financially. Sales and hotel taxes were down. Property taxes continued to increase, albeit at a much reduced pace from the heady pre-recession days. Recent news about state finances continues to be grim (the latest projection is another \$21 billion shortfall), so we expect more "take backs" from the legislature next year. Fortunately, we don't receive a lot of revenue from the state that is vulnerable to rescission, but we can still expect some financial hit in that area. On the plus side of the column, we are significantly benefited by our success in securing grant funding for many projects.

As consequence of this context and concern about how long the downturn might last, we have strived to become a leaner organization. This belt-tightening, coupled with the Town's long history of conservative budgeting and strong reserves, will enable us to ride out this down cycle without draconian measures. We are still doing well by all standards, and far better than many other local governments.

Even though I think we still have a few rough years ahead, I am very positive about our prognosis, financial and otherwise. We are in a position to continue with some exciting public works projects (like the planned improvements to the parking shoulder on the south side of Tiburon Boulevard just east of Lyford Drive), and we expect no diminution in our level of service to the public. Tiburon continues to be an amazing place to live and work, and our commitment to you is to keep it that way.

Before continuing on with several other noteworthy items (do keep reading!), I want to take this opportunity to wish



"DID YOU KNOW?"

WINTER "SPARE THE AIR" WOOD-BURNING REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT

During the winter months, smoke from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces contribute to poor air quality in the Bay Area by releasing fine particulate matter into the atmosphere. Prolonged exposure to fine particulates in wood smoke has been linked to aggravated asthma, lung and heart disease, and increased mortality rates.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District established the "Spare the Air" program in 2008 to address this problem. When the morning forecast predicts that concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) will exceed the national health-based

you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving and an especially joyful Christmas, Hanukkah or whatever holiday you and your family celebrate. And please accept my thanks for all you do throughout the year to make Tiburon so special.

Join a Special Forum to Discuss the Marin Clean Energy Proposal on Tuesday, December 1, from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Mill Valley Community Center.



A special forum for southern Marin communities (Tiburon, Belvedere, Mill Valley, Sausalito and the unincorporated County) will be held next week to explore the Marin Clean Energy proposal.

Why the unusual meeting and attention on this issue? For several years now, a program to offer greater renewable energy options to Marin electric consumers has been under development. Earlier in 2009, the County and eight of the towns and cities of Marin, including Tiburon, joined together in a legal partnership (a "Joint Powers Authority") to form the Marin Energy Authority. This umbrella organization, in turn, is proposing the launch of Marin Clean Energy (MCE), a program that would allow customers of PG&E to obtain their electricity directly from MCE if they so choose.

MCE has a long-range vision about a more sustainable future; initially it will offer electricity from a minimum of 25% renewable sources and move up over time to virtually 100% renewably-generated power, all with the goal of lowering greenhouse gas emissions. The program is ambitious and visionary, and it has some very big pluses for Marin, a place where residents generally have a high level of concern for the environment. There are also some risks associated with the proposal that need to be aired and evaluated.

The December 1 forum will offer knowledgeable presenters both for and against the proposal. Those who have been working to bring MCE to fruition will be present, as will PG&E and others who oppose it. An independent analysis of risk was also commissioned; it was conducted by MRW Associates, a highly regarded firm in the energy field, which will be on hand to discuss its findings. In sum, the forum will present a great opportunity for the public to get information and ask questions in a more informal setting than Council meetings normally allow.

standard, the Air District issues a Winter "Spare the Air" Alert.

From November 1, 2009 through the end of February 2010, do not burn wood, pellets, or manufactured fire logs when a Winter "Spare the Air" alert is issued. Residents whose only source of heat is provided by wood burning are exempt from these restrictions.

For the convenience of its residents, the Town of Tiburon provides a direct link to the Winter "Spare the Air" alerts on its website: go to ci.tiburon.ca.us and click on the (brown-colored) "Today's Wood Burning Status" bar. For people who prefer using the telephone, Winter Spare the Air Alerts are recorded at 1-877-4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876). For more information on this program, visit sparetheair.org.

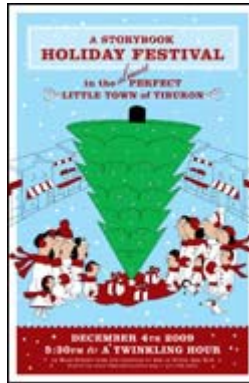
Keep your questions coming! Contact Town Clerk [Diane Crane Iacopi](mailto:Diane.Crane@tiburon.ca.us).

It is important to note that customers of PG&E may elect to participate in MCE only if their respective local government decides to stay in the MCE program; if the local government takes a pass, their customers will not have the option to go with MCE on their own.

We are swiftly reaching the climactic decision point for agencies like Tiburon to decide if they wish to join this effort. The Tiburon Town Council will consider whether to participate in MCE on December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in a Special Town Council meeting. Our hope is that interested citizens will attend the December 1 forum to gain a deeper understanding of the issue, and also come to the December 7 Town Council meeting when the direction our Town is to take will be on the table.

For more information on the proposal visit marincleanenergy.info

'Shop Locally' Goes Festive!



As the holidays beckon, I reissue one of my favorite exhortations: please shop locally whenever possible! This season, I'm equipped with a new tool to entice you: the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has gone all out to create a holiday kick-off on Friday, December 4, with something to offer for the whole family.

Entitled "A Storybook Holiday Festival", it is likely to be the inauguration of a great new Tiburon tradition. The evening's festivities start at 5:30 and will feature classic holiday carolers, costumed characters strolling along Main Street and Ark Row, holiday treats, face painting and a winterland photo shop for the kids. What's more, the Town's shops and restaurants will be offering budget-worthy discounts and specials for the occasion. Waypoint Pizza is hosting a special Kids Believe|Achieve benefit - rendering the art of decorating a real gingerbread house not only good fun, but a good deed, too. (Details on the space-limited gingerbread festivities appear later in this newsletter.)

So please come downtown on December 4 to enjoy a great small-town kind of celebration and kick off your holiday shopping. There might not be snow, but there will be lots of the sights and sounds we all enjoy this time of year. Some nice bargains thrown in there don't hurt, either, and it will all help sustain our Tiburon businesses throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

NEWS BRIEFS

Swine Flu (H1N1) Vaccinations available on a limited basis

Vaccine supplies are still limited and will be given to people in "high risk" categories, such as:

- Pregnant women
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants aged less than 6 months
- Health care workers and emergency medical services personnel
- Children and young adults aged 6 months-24 years
- Persons aged 25-64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications, such as asthma, heart disease, and diabetes

Several clinics in November were sold out of vaccines. The next public clinic is:

**Saturday, December 5 -
9 a.m. until 4 p.m. (while supplies last)
Novato Teen Center, 950 7th Avenue, Novato, CA,
94945**


For more information on H1N1, go to www.marinflu.org.

Laurie Gordon
Emergency Services Coordinator
For Belvedere/Tiburon

"Broom Busters" Open Space Workday and Interpretive Walk

Tiburon's Open Space is a community treasure, but without constant vigilance, French broom, pampas grass and other invasive plants could quickly





take over our hillsides. The "Broom Busters" of Old St. Hilary's Open Space have been battling broom, bull thistle and other non-native plants since 1997, and we need reinforcements.

The next workday is **Saturday, December 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Volunteers will meet in the parking lot of the Tiburon Peninsula Club (1600 Mar West Street) and will be pulling broom in the open space behind the club. 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. Last year, an owl conveniently perched on a nearby tree during Dave's talk.

The "Broom Busters" usually hold their workdays the first Saturday morning of 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, Marin County Parks and Open Space District, 499-3778.

Faith Brown
"Broom Buster" Volunteer

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARIN CLEAN ENERGY FORUM

Tuesday, December 1, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Mill Valley Community Center
180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley

Come hear a discussion of Green Power Alternatives for Marin and how Marin Clean Energy will impact you, the customer (see article above.)

Visit marincleanenergy.info for more information.

"ANGEL LIGHTS" BENEFIT

Thursday, December 3, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Corinthian Yacht Club
Open to the Public

Join television personalities Doug McConnell and Jan Yanehiro as they host the Angel Island Association benefit for the new solar-powered LED Angel Island Lights atop the

island.

To purchase tickets , or to "adopt" an Angel Light, call Gail Dolton at 435-3972, gail@angelisland.org.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

**Friday, December 4, 5:30 p.m.
until the "twinkling hour"**

Main Street

A new Tiburon special event for the whole family to enjoy the holiday season!

Downtown will be transformed into a storybook wonderland with holiday carolers, costumed characters, a winterland photo shop for the kids, and much more. Put the date in your calendar now!

And one more special attraction:



Gingerbread House decorating at Waypoint Pizza. Two seatings--one at 6 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per house. The houses are already built so the kids will be able to spend the time decorating with all the goodies.

This event is sponsored by Kids Believe/Achieve, formed by local kids with the mission of fund-raising for non-profit organizations focused on kids.

Space is limited. Send your \$25 check made out to Kids Believe/Achieve c/o the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 563, Tiburon, CA 94920.

For more information, visit the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce website, or call Georgia or Chris at 435-5633.

LANDMARKS SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS SALE

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The Cottage at the Art & Garden Center
841 Tiburon Boulevard

Come support your Local Artists and the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society, celebrating their 50th anniversary.

For more information, call 435-1853, or go to www.landmarks-society.org.

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, December 2, at 7:30 p.m.; December 16 is cancelled.

Design Review Board: Thursday, December 3 and 17, at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Wednesday, December 9 and 23 are both cancelled.

PLEASE NOTE: Town Hall is closed from Thursday, December 24, 2009 through January 1, 2010.

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

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Town Staff
Town of Tiburon
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Jacopi

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