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January 29, 2015

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



In this issue of our newsletter I note two important public hearings coming up in the month of February: one regards a monumental work of art proposed for Town, and the other a significant school bus subsidy program proposed to reduce that perpetual bane, traffic on Tiburon Boulevard. Please consider attending both of these meetings, as the outcome of each of them could have far-reaching

significance for our lovely peninsula.

Huru Sculpture Hearing Next Week

As reported recently, the Town has been offered a monumental sculpture by renowned artist Mark di Suvero on a "long term loan" basis. Entitled "Huru", it stands 55 feet tall (the height of a five-story building) and weighs 17 tons. The top element of the piece has some movement in the wind. It was recently exhibited in Crissy Field in San Francisco. Possible Tiburon sites for it include the McKegney Green area, Blackie's Pasture and South of Knoll Park, all waterfront locations. For a little more on this proposal, see the [December 3, 2014](#) Tiburon Talk.



The Town Council initially passed on accepting this piece, finding it simply too massive to warrant consideration. Afterwards, however, many proponents of the piece asked the Council to place the matter on an agenda to allow the public and regional art experts to comment before a final determination is made. Consequently, a public hearing was set for Wednesday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m. The Council will hear from all members of the public, those supporting the proposition and those against it, and decide if the proposal warrants further consideration. If the answer is yes, the many issues concomitant with something of this scale will be tackled: specific location, transportation, installation, insurance, liability,

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foundational questions (it is, after all, not just a sculpture but a structure), terms of the loan, costs and so forth. If the answer is no, that will conclude the matter.

Public art has often played a provocative role in stirring the emotions of a community. To wit: I have been hearing people decry the Town's rejection of any piece of art, regardless of size or composition, from such a widely recognized and honored artist, and I also hear equally passionate statements that "Huru" is out of scale and character for our small Town, and many don't mince their words disparaging its artistic statement either. It will be the Town Council's task to sort through these diverse opinions and determine what is best for our community.

All interested in the outcome of this extraordinary proposal are encouraged to attend the February 4 meeting. Come and share your perspective; the Council will wish to hear from everyone who has an interest in this very big proposition.

Tackling Traffic: Yellow School Bus Challenge 2.0

Another public hearing that should not escape attention is coming up on Tuesday, February 24: a Special Joint Meeting of the Councils of both Tiburon and Belvedere to consider another Yellow School Bus Challenge, this time dubbed "2.0" in reference to this second and far more studied attempt to get this program off the ground.



You may recall that, late last summer, the Town and City launched a trial program to see if reduced-cost school bus passes would result in significantly increased bus ridership, all with an eye to the traffic reduction that might result. It was a bold, if somewhat rushed, proposal to address our peninsula's congestion problem. We did not reach the targeted number of sales deemed necessary for meaningful traffic relief so the program did not proceed, but we pledged to regroup and take the additional time between school years to rethink the approach and try again.

That is exactly what has been happening. After conducting a survey to better understand parental decision-making regarding putting their children on school buses, engaging transportation experts to optimize routes, stops and pricing, and bringing five parent activists into the process, a new plan has emerged. It will entail more routes, shorter times spent on buses and, of course, a deep discount. Our goal has not changed: we are still seeking to test the hypothesis that getting many more children on buses will result in meaningful traffic reduction. If we successfully demonstrate this result, we as a community will then need to figure out how to keep it going in successive years.

Please plan to attend the February 24 joint Town-City meeting, which will be held at Reed Elementary School at 6:30 p.m., to learn about this proposal and give your input. Remember, this is about traffic reduction - an issue in which we all have a stake whether we have children in our local schools or not.

Participation

In conclusion, a word about participation. The fact that you are reading this suggests you are interested in what happens in our wonderful town, a very good thing in my estimation. An informed citizenry is fundamental to the health of democracy at every level, but getting engaged and participating is pretty darned important, too. Fortunately, at the local level, participation is relatively easy and surprisingly effective. One of the great benefits of a small town is that the opinions of those who show up (or send welcome emails or other correspondence) really are heard and get weighed in the balance. Its not a question of numbers, per se, or the loudness of the voices, but rather of sharing the diverse wisdom and viewpoints that we collectively possess to achieve the most thoughtful outcome we can muster. So consider doing your part to help the Town - don't hesitate to share your thoughts by coming to these and other meetings or sending your comments to us. We really do appreciate and benefit from hearing everyone's perspective.

Here's to a very successful 2015 for us all. I hope yours is off to a great start.

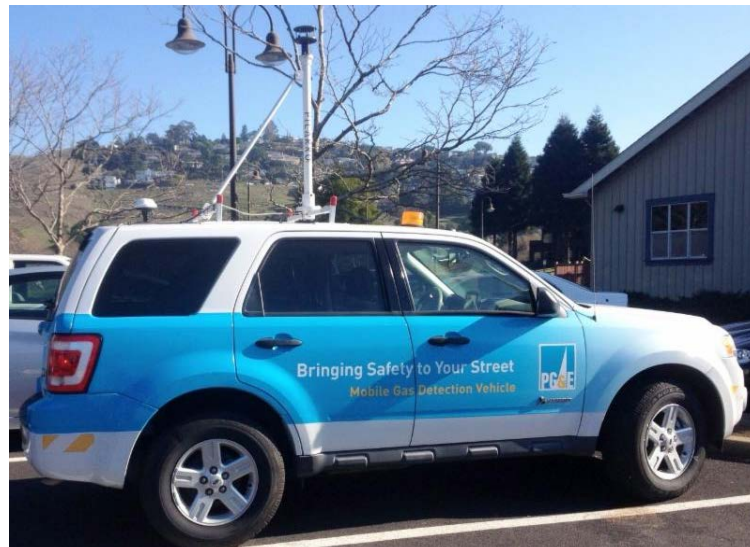
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy Curran". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box.

Peggy Curran

NEWS BRIEFS

PG&E New 2015 Surveys on Monday & Tuesday



PG&E is required to perform gas leak detection surveys every five years. Surveys will be taking place in Tiburon next week. Recently, PG&E has acquired improved technology for these surveys. Initial surveys will be done by a hybrid Ford Escape with special instrumentation. That vehicle will be driving the roads in Tiburon on Monday and Tuesday, February 2nd and 3rd. The PG&E vehicle will be moving at 10 to 15 mph with occasional stops. The PG&E vehicle will be driving our streets between the hours of 1 am and 6 am and between 7 pm and 11 pm. There will be two drives on each road during each of these hours on either Monday or Tuesday.

Most of the work will be in the street with the exception of a few locations where the PG&E main line runs down a private lane and services more than one customer.

During the evening while the vehicle is surveying, there will be minimal walking done unless an investigation is needed. The following morning and throughout the day, PG&E technicians will be walking the streets to complete the compliance survey. Therefore, starting Tuesday you may see people from PG&E walking in your neighborhood as part of routine survey. The entire leak detection survey should be completed by the end of the week.

If you see the bright blue PG&E Ford Escape driving your neighborhood at night on Monday and Tuesday, please remember that this is a routine, required survey.

Sincerely,

Patrick Barnes,
Director of Public Works/
Town Engineer

Connie Cashman

Earlier this month Town Hall lost one of its friendliest faces-- Planning Secretary Connie Cashman--who passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness.

Connie served as the Planning



Secretary for 14 years. She was always courteous, helpful and unflappable. She was extremely well-read, and an astute follower of sports, politics, and film, and she had a wicked sense of humor and laughed frequently. She was also an expert proof-reader and a grammarian extraordinaire, increasingly rare skills these days. She used her many talents over the years to help keep Town Hall running smoothly and efficiently.

Connie loved Tiburon and thought it was the best place in the world to work. She fell in love with Town Hall the first day she drove to work here, revelling in the gorgeous views along the way and the wisteria blooming on the trellises.

Connie was the consummate wife, mother and grandmother, and her family was the light of her life. She freely doted on her three young granddaughters. She had planned to retire later this year and move back to the East Coast to be close to her grandchildren.

That Connie left us so suddenly is a great loss for the Town Hall family and citizens, and she will be missed.

There will be a memorial service for Connie on Saturday, January 31, at 11 a.m. at the Fernwood Mortuary, 301 Tennessee Valley Road, Mill Valley, CA 94941. All are welcome.

Scott Anderson, Director
Community Development Department

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2nd Annual Waterbird Festival This Weekend

Saturday, January 31, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary
376 Greenwood Beach Road
Tiburon, CA 94920



Photo by K. Wilcox

Join the Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary this Saturday, January 31, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. for our second Annual Waterbird Festival. This fun community and family-friendly event coincides with peak waterbird activity on the bay and is FREE to attend. It will include naturalist-led bird walks, spotting scope stations, interactive educational activities, expert speaker sessions and an art exhibit by Keith Hansen. There will also be exclusive fee-based field trips such as birding with Peter Pyle or Keith Hansen, kayaking, and a bay boat trip.

Registration and schedule information can be found on our [website](#). Like us on [Facebook](#), too.

Sincerely,

Kerry Wilcox
Waterbird Program Manager
Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary

Master Gardener Classes Start Up Again

Wednesday, February 4
10 - 11 a.m.
Art & Garden Center Cottage
841 Tiburon Boulevard



Our first Master Gardener talk of the season starts next week with a timely topic of "Water-Wise Edible Gardening".

Reducing water usage in your edible garden will not only save

you money but conserves one of our most important resources. You may ask, "How can I grow an edible garden and save water too?"

In this free talk, Master Gardener Gael Perrin will talk about the most important things you can be doing now to save water and protect your established plants. She will also discuss how to plant your future edible gardens with strategies that will reduce water consumption this year and in the years to come.

For more information, you can contact me at 435-5320.

And mark your calendars for future gardening talks: March 4 and April 1, 2015.

Sincerely,

Faith Brown,
Marin Master Gardener

Artist Laureate Workshop

Monday, February 9
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Town Hall Community Room
1505 Tiburon Boulevard,
2nd Floor (Town Hall)



Our first workshop of the year is a travel lecture by our very own librarian, Karen Carlson. Karen will talk about Indonesia and Bolivia/Peru -- two different sides of the world.

During Karen's 20 years of travel adventure, her interest in art and culture continues to focus on exploration of "exotic" cultures. This year she learned the art of batik and puppetry in Indonesia. She also learned survival skills at 16,000 feet in the Andes mountains of Peru and Altiplano of Bolivia.

Come join Karen for an evening and share the wonder of adventure and art.

Light refreshments will be served. Please [RSVP](#).

Sincerely,

Jaleh Etemad
Tiburon Artist Laureate

Rotary Crab Feed

Saturday, February 21
5:30 - 9 p.m.
St. Stephen's Church -
Kimball Hall
3 Bayview Avenue, Belvedere



The Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere will hold its annual crab feast and fundraiser, ***Crab, Chardonnay & Chocolate***, on February 21, 2015. Tickets for adults are \$70 with wine and beer included and \$55 with non-alcoholic beverages. Tickets for children under 14 are \$25.

The menu includes barbecued oysters and appetizers, a sumptuous crab dinner and a dessert buffet. Chicken and vegetarian dishes are available on request with reservations. The evening will feature live and silent auctions, a game of Heads or Tails for a cash prize and a mini fashion show to benefit Rotaplast International.

Crab, Chardonnay & Chocolate raises funds to support Rotary's charitable projects, including Tiburon's Green Team, Marin Villages, and the Global Book Exchange.

Please reserve your tickets by February 18, by sending your check to the Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere, P.O. Box 220, Tiburon, CA 94910. You can also contact me by [email](#). More information is available at our [website](#).

Sincerely,

Judy Wilson, PR Representative
Rotary Club of Belvedere-Tiburon

Library Website Updated and More Searchable
than Ever



Open 10:00 am - 9:00 pm today ▶

Search



Catalog



Website



www.beltibrary.org

Check out the Library's new [website](#) pictured above and the amazing array of programs listed below (Community Calendar).

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](#).



Council and Commission Meetings

Town Council: First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - February 4 and February 18.

Design Review Board: First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. - February 5 and February 19.

Planning Commission: Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - February 11 and February 25.

Heritage & Arts Commission: Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. (Town Hall Conference Room) - Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24.

Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission: Third Tuesday every other month - Next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 17.

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

Tiburon Talk
c/o Town of Tiburon
1505 Tiburon Boulevard
Tiburon, CA 94920

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