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March 31, 2011

### A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



#### **Downtown Vibrancy: The Process Continues!**

The March 10 special public meeting I mentioned in last month's Tib Talk was a great success. Some 50 residents attended. After hearing an overview of issues, they got right down to work in small groups brainstorming ideas and options of

how to make the downtown more inviting and successful - more vibrant. I was deeply impressed with the constructive, creative, can-do attitude participants brought to the effort. Many said afterwards it was one of the best Town meetings they had ever attended. Many thanks to St. Hilary's for allowing us to use their beautiful facilities for the session.

This meeting was part of an ongoing effort. The next step: the Town's consultant, staff and Downtown Committee (Vice Mayor Fraser and Councilmember Collins) are developing a summary of the meeting results, along with other ideas and input gathered along the way, into a draft report. In addition to presenting information collected to date, the report will take a first run at making sense of it as a plan for short, medium and long term possibilities. Of course, any conclusions or implementing actions need to be the product of the whole Town Council in a session with public participation. We anticipate having this next public meeting sometime in May.

One clear take-away from the meeting: enduring success will require everyone doing their part including landlords, businesses, the Town, the Chamber of Commerce and local residents. We all have a stake in having a more vital downtown, and together, I am convinced we are going to get there. In fact, I can already see the signposts of things turning around for the better...

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DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that all businesses in Tiburon are required to obtain a business license from the Town?

In addition to the many shops and merchants that operate in stores and offices in Tiburon, **all businesses operated out of a private residence also need a home occupation business license.** If you have a business out of your home, you may not have realized that you are required to obtain a business license and a home occupation permit.

Information on what constitutes a "home

## Emergencies - Help Us Contact You

We use this newsletter, Tiburon Talk, to reach people when there is an emergency. Our as-needed Special Bulletins warn of Boulevard closures, oil spills, you name it. But it is only one tool and people cannot always access their computers. It also takes 15-20 minutes for our system to actually deliver the messages we prepare. It's great, but we need more.

In addition to Special Bulletins, we want to be able to CALL you at all your phone numbers with an automated message. This system, called MEANS (Marin Emergency Announcement Notification System), is a terrific way to supplement our e-mail dispatches. Any numbers you provide us will be automatically sent a recorded message. Think about it. You can give us your home and cell phone numbers, your nanny's number, or the number of anyone you wish to have notified, and they will get the timeliest message possible of a fallen tree blocking Tiburon Boulevard, a suspect at large in a neighborhood or an emergency alert. We promise never to call with bake sales or promotions - the use is quite infrequent - but it could be life-saving in an emergency, and sanity-preserving when we are talking about serious inconveniences like unexpected road closures.

OK, I can tell you're convinced. So what to do? E-mail or call Emergency Services Coordinator, Laurie Gordon, TODAY with all the numbers you want contacted to receive these emergency messages. It's quick and easy. Laurie may be reached at [www.getready94920.org](http://www.getready94920.org), and her phone number is 435-7386. We have over 2,800 subscribers to Tiburon Talk, but fewer than 500 numbers in our MEANS system. Help us make this a truly meaningful tool to help us help you when a problem arises. Belvedere readers, you too should call to get on the list. It's about safety for the whole peninsula when the need strikes.

## A Note About Supervisor Charles McGlashan

As many of you know, our County Supervisor, Charles McGlashan, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday at the age of 49. I and many of us here in Town Hall had come to know Charles as the indomitable champion of all causes environmental for the County. He had a big personality, a bigger smile, a seemingly endless store of energy, keen intelligence (a grad of Yale and Stanford) and a good heart. His tenacity was legendary. It's a big loss for us in his southern Marin district and for the County as a whole. I know I will miss him; he was a truly remarkable person. Sincerely,

Peggy Curran

occupation" and forms for obtaining a business license are available [here](#).

The Town is currently in the midst of evaluating and updating its business license procedures. This will help us keep up with changing trends in commerce and technology that affect how businesses operate today and explore how other California cities regulate businesses.

The Town will be looking at different methods to make sure that all businesses that need a business license are accounted for. To that end, the Town has entered into an agreement with the State Franchise Tax Board to exchange information about local businesses to help identify Tiburon businesses that do not have a business license. The Town will also study business license enforcement efforts used by other cities to help track down unlicensed businesses.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Emergency Supply Kits: Get Ready, Stay Ready



The tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan remind us of the importance of being ready for a disaster. In just a matter of days, shelves were bare in many of Japan's stores. People lined up for what was left.

Here on our Peninsula, we could be isolated and facing a similar scenario.

We must be prepared to "shelter in place" and survive on our own for 5-7 days. Do you have the water, food and other emergency supplies for a week? Take a moment to check your emergency supply kits and make sure you have what you and your family will need. If supplies like water, food or batteries are near their expiration date, now is the time to replace them.

#### **What should you have in your kit?**

Include one gallon of water per person, per day, for 5-7 days. This means 5-7 gallons for every person in your home. Don't forget your pets. Food supplies should include non-perishable items that can be consumed without cooking and don't require the addition of water. Avoid high sodium foods that will increase your water consumption. Make sure you have a good flashlight, an AM radio and fresh batteries. For additional items to have in case of emergency, see pages 7, 8, and 16 of your Get Ready manual.

#### **Staying informed during an emergency.**

For local emergency information, tune to 840 AM, the BEARS (Belvedere Emergency Advisory Radios System) radio channel. To be sure you receive the latest local disaster information sign up for MEANS (Marin Emergency Announcement Notification System), and the Tiburon Peninsula Emergency Service Newsletter. To sign up for any of these services, obtain a Get Ready manual, register for an upcoming Get Ready class, or if you have any disaster preparedness questions, please go to [www.getready94920.org](http://www.getready94920.org) or call the Emergency Services Coordinator, Laurie Gordon, at 435-7386.

#### **It's just a matter of time.**

Remember, we live in an active earthquake area, and it is just a matter of time before a major quake or some other emergency strikes. Taking some simple steps now can help you and your family weather the crisis. So please, get prepared today.

Sincerely,

If you have any questions about business licenses in the Town of Tiburon, please e-mail [Joan Palmero](mailto:Joan.Palmero@tiburon.org), or call her at 435-7373.

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Keep your questions coming!

Send them to [Diane Crane Iacopi](mailto:Diane.Crane@tiburon.org), Town Clerk.

Laurie Gordon  
Emergency Services Coordinator

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## Building Code Corner

*"If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built falls in and kills its owner, then the builder shall be put to death."*

-Code of Hammurabi, Circa 1700 B.C

The above quote represents one very early attempt, albeit particularly harsh, to safeguard life and property by the application and enforcement of building codes. Though not nearly as straightforward, and perhaps somewhat less effective, the National Electrical Code is the oldest 'building code' currently enforced in the United States today. It dates from the late 1890s and has undergone numerous changes over the years. Here in Tiburon we currently use the 2010 California Electrical Code, which is derived from this code, and here are two important changes that became effective as of the first of this year:

Arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) protection is now required everywhere in dwelling units except kitchens, garages, bathrooms, porches, decks, and laundry rooms, which are all areas covered in some fashion by ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. Previously, only circuits supplying outlets in bedrooms were required to have this level of protection. First developed and used in the aircraft industry, AFCI devices utilize fairly complex microprocessor technology to detect aberrant electrical waveform patterns and will automatically shutdown a circuit when this condition appears. The idea is to prevent structure fires and the resultant loss of life and property. These devices, which also function as regular circuit breakers and can often be installed in existing panel boards, are now required for new dwellings, additions, remodeled areas of dwellings, and when new sub-panels or main services are replaced. They are not required, but are highly recommended, as part of a residential resale inspection. (Ref. CEC 210.12 B.)

The familiar three-prong receptacle outlet is going the way of the 100-watt light bulb. Tamper resistant receptacles are now required to be used on 15 and 20-amp receptacle outlets virtually everywhere within and outside of dwellings. These devices look like ordinary receptacles but make it very difficult for children to get injured by inserting fingers or objects into them. They cost about 50 cents more than a conventional receptacle and are now required whenever new or replacement receptacles are installed in your home. (Ref. CEC 406.11.)

There were four Stop Work notices issued this month, mostly for work being conducted without a permit. If you have a question about whether or not your project requires a permit, call the Tiburon Building Division at 435-7380. Help us help you maintain the safety of your home and comply with the Town's regulations.



Sincerely,  
Fred Lustenberger  
Building Official

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## New Program for Seniors with Memory Loss

The Belvedere Community Foundation has made a generous donation to fund a new program on the Tiburon peninsula for seniors with memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Senior Access is an adult day care program that provides specialized activities and a social milieu for older adults living with memory loss. Equally important, it also provides respite for family caregivers.

The inspiration for opening a senior program in Southern Marin is credited to Reverend Jim Ward, retired pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Belvedere, who expressed concern about his community. "Many of our congregants were missing church services and I knew that they were vulnerable, older adults, living alone or with a family member. Sometimes they would call the church just to have someone to talk to or dial 911 to be comforted by the local paramedics. That's when I contacted Chris Chater from Senior Access (in San Rafael) to see what could be done. The Belvedere Community Foundation stepped in and donated \$20,000 to help fund the opening of the local center.

Senior Access activities include morning coffee and lunch, intergenerational activities, memory games, and expressive arts, all designed to engage people with dementia. The program operates every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church in Belvedere, and at a nominal cost. Senior Access also hosts a social club in San Rafael, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00p.m.

For more information about the program, call 491-2500, e-mail [info@senioraccess.org](mailto:info@senioraccess.org), or visit [www.senioraccess.org](http://www.senioraccess.org).

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Martha Company (Easton Point) Project DEIR



The County of Marin Community Development Agency is requesting public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the 110-acre Martha Company property located at the southeastern end of the Tiburon Peninsula. The project is being called the Easton Point Residential Development and it proposes 43 single-family homes on the site. This is the largest undeveloped tract of private land remaining on the peninsula.

The DEIR analyzes the potential environmental impacts from the 43-unit project, including visual, biological, traffic, safety, hydrological, cultural, noise and other topical areas. The DEIR also discusses several alternatives to the project, including a "no project" alternative, a reduced-density 32-unit project (reflecting the agreement reached between the property owners and the Town of Tiburon in 2009), and two other 43-unit project designs. The DEIR concludes that the project will have significant impacts on numerous environmental resources. This is an important project for the community and your comments are valuable.

Copies of the DEIR on CD are available at the County of Marin Community Development Agency, at Tiburon Town Hall, and [online here](#). The deadline to submit written comments on the DEIR to the County of Marin is **April 29, 2011**.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Upcoming Special Events

**Salmon "Kiss and Release"**  
**Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**Blackie's Pasture**

Bring the kids and help release salmon hatchlings into the Bay. Members of the Tiburon Volunteer Fire Department

will sell BBQ food and soft drinks. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Tiburon Salmon Institute at 435-2397.

**Tiburon Wine Festival**  
**Saturday, May 14, 1 - 4 p.m.**  
**Pt. Tiburon Plaza**

Tickets are on sale now at the Chamber office for \$65.00. Last year, tickets sold out almost three weeks in advance, so don't delay!

For more information, call 435-5633, or e-mail Georgia or Chris at [tibcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tibcc@sbcglobal.net).

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## Landmarks Society Programs



### Master Gardener Lecture Series

#### *Creating Habitat for Pollinators*

**Wednesday, April 6, 10 - 11 a.m.**

**Art & Garden Center, 841 Tiburon**

**Boulevard**

**Program cost: free to the public**

Gretchen LeBuhn, associate professor of biology at San Francisco State University, will discuss flowers that attract native bees and honeybees and how to create a pollinator-friendly garden. LeBuhn is director of the Great Sunflower Project, which has recruited citizen scientists across the U.S. and Canada to monitor bee visits in their own backyards.

For more exciting Landmarks Society programs, visit [www.landmarks-society.org](http://www.landmarks-society.org)

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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. - (April 6 and April 20).

**Design Review Board:** First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. - (April 7 and April 21).

**Planning Commission:** Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - (April 13 and April 27).

**Heritage & Arts Commission:** Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (April 25).

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:** Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room (the next meeting is May 17).

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

**Sincerely,**

Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon  
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

[Forward email](#)



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