



MAYOR EMMETT O'DONNELL - VICE MAYOR ALICE FREDERICKS - COUNCILMEMBER JIM FRASER  
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## In This Issue

[New Planner Joins  
Town Hall Staff](#)

[Zero Waste Marin](#)

[May 9 Is Bike To  
Work Day](#)

[Community  
Organizations:  
Tiburon Peninsula  
Village](#)

[Tickets for Wine  
Festival Still  
Available](#)

[Mountain Play  
Celebrates 100  
Years](#)

[Council and  
Committee  
Meetings](#)

[Bel-Tib  
Community  
Calendar](#)

## Quick Links

[Town of Tiburon](#)

[Get Ready  
94920](#)

[Bel-Tib Library](#)

[Reed School  
District](#)

[Belvedere-  
Tiburon  
Landmarks](#)

[Tiburon](#)

April 30, 2013

## A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



### Tiburon Gets Greener!

Thanks to Marin Clean Energy - the program championed by the late Marin Supervisor Charles McGlashan and now adopted throughout Marin County - Tiburon has become an official "Green Power Community". Almost 40% of all the electricity consumed in Tiburon now comes from renewable energy sources.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this places us in the top 20 of national green power communities.

[Marin Clean Energy](#) is a program of the Marin Energy Authority (MEA), an agency that was formed in December of 2008. Tiburon was involved in MEA's creation from the start, actively participating in the process of vetting the feasibility of the core concept: the direct procurement of energy from renewable sources at the local level. While some Marin agencies initially chose not to participate, Tiburon's Town Council felt the tough questions had been answered and joined up, thus enabling all Tiburon residents to choose, or not, to get greener energy through this mechanism. The experiment has proven highly successful, offering cleaner and greener sources of electricity at rates competitive with PG&E. In fact, the model, unique in the state, is working so well it is being examined for emulation by other California communities. You know what they say about imitation - it is the sincerest form of flattery - and in this case certainly bespeaks the impressive track records the Marin Energy Authority and its star program, Marin Clean Energy, have developed in their short life.

It is worth noting, too, that Tiburon Councilmember and former Mayor Dick Collins sat on the first board of directors of MEA and actively helped them create the basic tools and contracts they needed to accomplish their mission. As was cited by MEA at a recent Town Council meeting when the agency presented the Town with its Green Power Community recognition, Dick was an original and significant contributor to the agency's strong start. Dick has since rotated off the

[Peninsula Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Bel-Tib Recreation Department](#)

[County of Marin, 3rd District](#)

[Facts About Marin Clean Energy](#)

[Tiburon Peninsula Foundation](#)

board and Tiburon is now ably represented on the MEA board by Mayor Emmett O'Donnell, another early enthusiast for this remarkable experiment.

### **Information Station**

You may have seen it: the railroad-themed little stand on the wide sidewalk outside of Café Acri on the corner of Main Street and Tiburon Boulevard. A collaboration of the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce and the Town, the station is a navigational aid for visitors to our downtown. It points out the Railroad and Ferry Museum, Ark Row, the public restrooms, lists all businesses (on a small panel designed to be easily removed for periodic updating) and describes peninsula events and amenities. One might think our downtown is sufficiently compact that people simply discover everything on their own, but in fact many visitors miss Ark Row altogether, don't realize we have a charming historical museum and more. They leave thinking we have one very short Main Street and great views, but nothing else. The Info Station should help them get oriented and find every shop, service and amenity our little town has to offer its residents and guests.

The Info Station does have one aesthetic problem we intend to remedy, and that is the necessary but unattractive "cane rail" around the base. This was added belatedly to serve as a warning to the visually impaired that a structure exists. This will be modified to perform the same function but be a lot more attractive - probably replaced with a low planter made out of the same bricks as the sidewalk. After all, it's hard to have too many flowers brightening the downtown.

### **Baskets are back**

Speaking of flowers, the flower baskets are back! Many thanks to Hazel Carter and Randi Brinkman for managing the acquisition and hanging of the baskets, and to Carol Rayner and her late husband Arno for their generosity in funding them for five years. This is the fourth year the baskets have graced our downtown.

### **Tiburon Boulevard**

The possibility of the Town taking over the downtown portion (only) of Tiburon Boulevard has engendered some letter writing of late, the supposition of which is that doing so will impose a financial burden on the Town unequal to any benefits ownership might confer. Accepting ownership from Caltrans would mean "local control" and allow the Town to manage the right-of-way as it sees fit, ranging from big items like intersection management (i.e. signals or roundabouts) and roadway configuration to a multitude of smaller items like driveway curb cuts, signage, parking, landscaping and, indeed, everything in the wide Caltrans right-of-way. Accepting ownership, though, transfers maintenance responsibility to the Town as well. The overall proposition is simple: local control is good, but it comes at a cost. The Council's task will be to weigh that tradeoff and determine

what is best for the Town's future.

As this dialogue moves forward I want to make a few points in the interest of keeping the discussion focused on the merits (or lack thereof) of the proposal rather than on extraneous or even unfair suppositions.

Here we go:

1. The issue has advanced with Council taking initial steps toward taking over the Boulevard, but is far from settled and there will be more opportunity for the public input.
2. More information is being developed about the costs and benefits of ownership.
3. This issue grew out of the Downtown Vibrancy Project and a desire to more actively manage the downtown to enhance its economic viability and improve its look and functionality. Despite assertions to the contrary, it is not now and never has been pushed by "special interests".

I have complete faith that the Town Council will judiciously sift through the pros and cons of this interesting option and arrive at a sound decision for the community. As always, everyone's participation in the process is welcome.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### **New Planner Joins Town Hall Staff**



Tiburon Town Hall welcomed a new employee this month. Assistant Planner Kyra O'Malley began work on April 22. She takes over for Associate Planner Laurie Tyler, who left in February after more than six years employment with the Town.

Kyra (pronounced KEER-ah) grew up in Davis, California. She holds a bachelor's degree in city and regional planning from the California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Kyra is a member of the American Planning Association. She worked for three years as a planner at the City of Elk Grove near Sacramento, performing duties similar to those she will encounter here in

Tiburon. She also worked for two years in the private sector as a land use planner for a telecommunications firm based in San Francisco. Having years of experience on both sides of the public counter is an added plus for any new Town employee.

Between those jobs, Kyra worked in the state capitol as a legislative analyst for one assembly member, and as an intern for a second assembly member, gaining first-hand experience with the workings of the legislature.

Kyra resides in Marin County. Among her favorite pastimes is being outside, whether hiking, jogging, or people-watching; movie-going, and hanging out with family, especially her young nephew. She also likes to take in a major league baseball game whenever she visits a city that has a team.

The next time you're near Town Hall, please drop in and say "hello" to Kyra O'Malley, our newest Town employee!

Sincerely,

Scott Anderson  
Director of Community Development

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## Zero Waste Marin (by 2025)

# ZERØWASTEMARIN

Earth Day was Monday, April 22. Many people ask what they can do in support of Earth Day. Why not participate in [Zero Waste Marin](#), a local version of a statewide initiative to reduce the amounts of waste going to our landfills by 2025? And one thing you can do is compost!

Composting classes will be offered at Green Point Nursery in Novato on the following dates from 10 a.m. to 12 noon:

Saturday - May 18  
Saturday - June 15

Green Point Nursery is located at 275 Olive Avenue (at the corner of Atherton Avenue).

There is a \$10 fee for these classes. Discounts will be offered on the purchase of compost bins.

Learn how to sheet mulch, build a "hot pile", and transform food scraps with worms. Call 473-7128 for more information, or register for the classes [here](#).

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## May 9 Is Bike to Work Day

Why not give bike commuting a try? On May 9, there will be "energizer stations" located throughout Marin to help make your commute a little better. Visit one of these stations for drinks, breakfast snacks, and bike support:

- Vista Point at Golden Gate Bridge
- Mill Valley along Richardson Bay Pathway
- Greenbrae along Corte Madera Creek Pathway
- San Anselmo Town Center
- Novato Alameda Del Pardo at Nave Drive
- San Rafael along Lincoln Avenue Pathway

You can also join the Bike to Work Day team challenge at your workplace. Organize a team (2 to 5 cyclists) and log your miles throughout the month of May. Teams who log the most mile will win prizes. [Sign up](#) now!

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## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

### Tiburon Peninsula Village: Who We Are and What We Do

MARIN  
VILLAGES



Our Paths - Our Choices

The "Village" concept of helping seniors age in their own homes started with The Beacon Hill Plan in Boston in 2001 and has spread across the country. It landed in Marin in 2009. In October of 2011, a local group was formed for Tiburon, Belvedere, and Strawberry residents called the Tiburon Peninsula Village, or TPV.

TPV has 85 members and over 30 volunteers. The latter drive members to medical appointments, shopping and social events and sometimes

change light bulbs and service smoke detectors. Some 20-40 roundtrip rides and other services are being performed each month by the volunteers and by members helping other members. Subsidized memberships are available based on income.

### Ride Share Program

Giving up the keys can be challenging wherever you live, including in our community. While new, more frequent bus service is coming later this year and the "Catch A Ride"

program\* is up and running, seniors cannot have enough choices for reliable transportation.

\* A \$10 vehicle registration fee (passed by voters in November 2010) subsidizes eight one-way rides a month for 80 year olds; non-drivers qualify at 60-79 years old. Call 457-INFO to join this program.

### **Other Village Activities and Services**

Marin Villages maintains a list of vetted service providers.

Our local village organizes lunches at local restaurants, had an outdoor table at Friday Nights on Main last year, has coffee klatches at the new Element Coffee & Tea Bar on the Boardwalk, puts on domino games, and sponsors daytime lectures on topics of wide interest.

The TPV book club, BYOB (bring your own book), is a unique group where members bring their own books to discuss rather than all reading the same book.

### **Join Our Village**

For more information about how to become involved with Tiburon Peninsula Village, or for more information about the "Village" concept, visit the [marinvillages.org](http://marinvillages.org), or call 457-4633.

I have been the Town of Tiburon's long-standing representative on the Marin County Commission on Aging and I now serve as co-chair of the local Village Steering Committee. You can call me at 435-3988.

Sincerely,

Allan Bortel  
Tiburon Peninsula Village member

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## **30th Annual Tiburon Wine Festival**

**Saturday, May 18, 1-4 p.m.**  
**Pt. Tiburon Plaza**



Tickets for the 30th annual Tiburon Wine Festival are still available. The festival, featuring 60 wineries (including four from Marin), will take place on Saturday, May 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pt. Tiburon Plaza. Tickets are \$65.

To purchase tickets, please visit our [website](#), or call the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce at 435-5633.

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## Mountain Play Celebrates 100th Anniversary



May 19 through June 16  
Mill Valley

Although not a Tiburon-based event, we thought it noteworthy to report that the Mountain Play will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year with a production of *The Sound of Music*.

The Mountain Play is a great outdoor theater tradition in a special setting on Mt. Tamalpais. Click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

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## Council and Commission Meetings

**Town Council:** First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (May 1 and May 15).

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

**Planning Commission:** Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (May 8 and May 22).

**Heritage & Arts Commission:** Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (May 28??).

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:** Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m. (next meeting is May 21).

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

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## 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

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