



MAYOR EMMETT O'DONNELL - VICE MAYOR ALICE FREDERICKS - COUNCILMEMBER JIM FRASER
COUNCILMEMBER FRANK DOYLE - COUNCILMEMBER JEFF SLAVITZ

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August 29, 2013

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Fall Traffic

Although the days remain sunny and warm, we know summer is over when we see the sudden uptick in traffic associated with the return of kids to school. Last year I reported on efforts to analyze and address peninsula traffic. You may recall a group of interested parties (town, city, schools, transit agencies, law enforcement, etc.) convened to evaluate the nature of our traffic congestion and develop ways to tackle it. Of course, that process confirmed that the problem does not lend itself to ready solutions. Our unique geography intractably drives traffic to Tiburon Boulevard, and the roadway itself is constrained in its capacity by the narrow right-of-way and hilly topography. In short, we have traffic congestion that might be marginally relieved by technological or physical improvements, but is really dependent upon changes in behavior. Chief Cronin provides an update on the traffic situation in this issue.

Medians

Ever notice that all of Tiburon Boulevard, where it is a divided highway, has nicely planted medians except for the stretch flanking Blackfield Drive from Cecilia Drive to Bay Vista? This portion, which is actually in the unincorporated County, is concrete, often weedy and generally an abrupt eyesore in the midst of our otherwise lovely peninsula.

This year the Town is embarking upon a plan to change this - but it might take your help. It's a big job to replace these medians - preliminary engineering estimates put the cost at \$500,000-\$600,000. The Town has budgeted funds to fully engineer the project and obtain a Caltrans permit for the work. Next year, additional funds are tentatively earmarked for this endeavor which, if approved by the Council (budgets are adopted one year at a time), would bring the Town's funding level to \$300,000 or at least half the cost of the

[Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks](#)

[Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce](#)

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[Tiburon Peninsula Foundation](#)

project. But from where, you may wonder, might the balance of funds materialize?

The Town is actively seeking funding partners right now to bridge the gap, with Mayor Emmett O'Donnell leading the effort to get everyone on board. The City of Belvedere has been asked to consider funding participation, for this portion of the County is Belvedere's entryway, too. The local foundations are being approached for assistance, as are businesses in the nearby Cove Shopping Center. I am very pleased to announce that the County of Marin, under Supervisor Kathrin Sears' guidance, has already agreed to provide \$25,000 toward this effort. Thank you, Supervisor Sears! Terrific local volunteers, many of them veterans of the effort to create and maintain the existing planted medians, are involved as well and will be doing some private fundraising.

Optimism is running high that we can all pull together and beautify this neglected area. After all, are there any of us who would not rather drive by a long stretch of beautiful flowering plants than a lifeless concrete divider? Is that the front door we want for our otherwise beautiful corner of the earth? I believe this is one of those simple but significant improvements that will benefit the quality of life for everyone who passes this way now and long into the future.

Pensions

Last but certainly not least, I wish to supplement [my comments last month](#) about pensions. I received quite a bit of feedback on that article, almost all of it positive, but some questions were raised, too, particularly from a group called Citizens for Sustainable Pension Plans. These citizen activists pointed out a few places where they felt I should have provided more background or context. Since any concise article on a complicated subject can result in oversimplification, I appreciate this feedback and am happy to oblige with two points of clarification:

1. I said "the Town has no debt". My point was that, unlike many if not most municipalities, we have no bonded indebtedness or borrowed funds. CSPP agreed this is true, but expressed the concern that the reader might take this to mean the Town has no unfunded liabilities. While I thought my discussion about liabilities later in the article addressed this, I want to clarify that the Town does have unfunded liabilities for some employee-related obligations, including pensions. I don't know of any city that does not. We compare very favorably to most, however, and I believe our budgeting approach is up to the task of managing and reducing this exposure into the future. The whole purpose of my article was to identify this ongoing challenge and steps we have taken to address it.

2. I also said "...once someone is retired their pension

becomes the responsibility of PERS, not the Town". By that I meant the Town does not issue pension checks to retirees, CalPERS does. Once someone retires they are off our books, as it were, except for the small retiree medical benefit I mentioned (no longer offered to new hires). CSPP correctly pointed out, however, that the calculation of the Town's CalPERS pay-as-you-go rate for current employees includes an actuarial assessment of the cost of retirees past and future. Thus the Town does have ongoing costs associated with retirees imbedded in the rate we pay to CalPERS. I was not trying to suggest otherwise, and indeed spoke about our vulnerability to CalPERS' unfettered ability to pass through all its costs and shortfalls to member agencies, but I thank CSPP for prompting this clarification.

One of CSPP's goals is to seek greater transparency in reporting liabilities, and toward that end they wish to see municipalities post all financial reports on their websites. We share this goal, so we will soon be going beyond just having our budget online and will offer all financial reports on our website.

I always welcome feedback on or questions about articles in this newsletter, so thanks to all of you who got in touch with me.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

NEWS BRIEFS

LABOR DAY PARADE....Come join the Parade!



Sunday, September 1
1 p.m. Lineup
2 p.m. Parade
4 p.m. Concert in the Park

Lineup for the parade is at 1 p.m. on Lagoon Road. If you want to be in it, just show up and we will include you. Come be a part of a hometown parade!

At 2 p.m., the parade starts at Mar West and Tiburon Boulevard, proceeds along Tiburon Boulevard onto Main Street and Ark Row, ending in Belvedere, where you can join the last of the summer Concert in the Park Series. The concert starts at 4 p.m. and features "The Sun Kings", celebrating 50 years of Beatles music.

Bring a blanket, a picnic, your family and friends, and enjoy the official end of summer in style.

Sincerely,

Traffic on the Boulevard



At its September 4, 2013, meeting, the Town Council will consider approval and funding for an experimental "Bike Train" to run between downtown and Bel Aire School. If authorized, the once-a-week "train" of school children on bikes will be supervised by the Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) under a contract with the Town. The program would run for one school year. Volunteers will be sought to supervise the bike train on additional days. The hope is that parents will become more comfortable with allowing children to bike to school if trained, adult supervision is provided.

In April of this year, Caltrans advised the Town that it would move ahead with synchronization of the Tiburon Boulevard signals this past July. Despite those assurances, Caltrans has not yet implemented this change, citing staffing shortages and the need to assign all its resources to the Bay Bridge project. I am pleased to report Caltrans has now assigned a staff person to the Tiburon project, and estimates completion of its review in September. It has not given us a date yet when the signals will be synchronized. Because there are few signals that are significantly spaced apart we do not expect dramatic improvement from this, but every measure that helps traffic flow a little better is a good one.

The new Marin Transit shuttle is now running every thirty minutes between Strawberry and downtown Tiburon. We want to thank [Allan Bortel for his recent letter](#) to The Ark exhorting everyone to use the shuttles as a safe, convenient and traffic-reducing way of getting kids and others around the peninsula.

The shuttle stops at Reed and Del Mar schools and near Blackfield Drive. Kids riding in the westbound direction don't have to cross the Boulevard to get to school. Those on the eastbound leg have to cross the Boulevard but only at intersections where crossing guards are present. It costs \$2.00 per adult (a 20% discount is available if you have an inexpensive Clipper Card) and kids age 6-18 ride for \$1.00 each way or can get a 31-day pass for \$40.00. Using the shuttle keeps cars off the Boulevard, reduces pollution and is a great way to introduce children to public transit. Marin Transit's Redwood High School bus is in higher demand than in past years so another bus will be added this week.

None of these initiatives is going to result in a dramatic reduction in traffic on the Boulevard because, even without school traffic, the roadway is over its capacity at peak periods.

What can you do? Consider using the new shuttle service for school and business. If you commute to downtown Tiburon to work, the shuttle may be for you. If you take the ferry into the City, try the ferry feeder shuttles through the neighborhoods in the morning and evening commute hours. If you own a business downtown, or have a construction project going on at your home, consider asking your employees to park for free at Blackie's Pasture and carpool or take the shuttle from there.

Anything we can do to get out of one or two occupant cars and into alternative modes of mobility works for the common good.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cronin
Chief of Police

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tiburon Salutes the America's Cup Tomorrow at Friday Nights on Main

**Friday, August 30 - 6 until 9 p.m.
Main Street**



Tiburon salutes the America's Cup and its proud sailing tradition at a special Friday Nights on Main tomorrow, from 6 to 9 pm.

With the America's Cup being held for the first time in San Francisco Bay, Tiburon is proud to welcome and celebrate the America's Cup to the Bay Area this weekend, September 1 through 4. We also wish our own Youth America's Cup Team, USA45 Racing, luck in its races over the weekend.

Main Street will be closed to traffic for the evening, creating a unique venue in which to wine & dine al fresco, while enjoying live music from the The Foggiest Notion.

The America's Cup Event Authority will be at the event with lots of photos and interactive information about the America's Cup--the teams, the races and upcoming events--and a raffle with amazing prizes and a few surprises.

Come by Ferry!

Ferry service to and from the Ferry Building and Pier 41 in San Francisco is available on Blue & Gold Fleet, with return service at the conclusion of Friday Nights on Main.

And don't miss the rest of our exciting Friday Nights on Main this year--September 13 (Oktoberfest), September 20 (Fireman's Ball), and September 27 (sponsored by RCP Tiburon Mile Open Water Swim).

Friday Nights on Main is hosted by the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact the Chamber at 435-5633, or visit our [website](#).

Artist Laureate Workshop

Saturday, September 7

10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Tiburon Town Hall Community Room

"Botanical sketching and painting" (water colors and/or pencils) led by treasured local artist, Helen Drake Muirhead.

A little background:

Helen grew up drawing and painting. At Mills College, she studied Art History and Philosophy. After college, Helen studied painting at the San Francisco Art Institute; then, in Mexico City, she studied seventh century painting technique and worked in oil.

Returning to Marin, Helen taught children's art classes. She also became interested in native plants and studied botany and began to paint in watercolor. Plant forms and their



fragile structures, changing as they grow and mature, continually amaze her. She has exhibited and taught botanic illustration at Strybing Arboretum, and has exhibited at Dominican University and Tiburon Town Hall.



List of items you may want to bring to the workshop:

- Smooth Watercolor paper or Bristol board
- Watercolors or colored pencils
- Small Brushes
- Black drawing pencil
- Jars or plastic cups for water

Helen will provide the flower set-ups.

RSVP only if you have not done so already. You do not want to miss this workshop!

For more information, [contact me](#), or visit my [website](#).

Thank you!
Jaleh Etemad
Tiburon Artist Laureate

Calling All Golfers!

Tuesday, September 10
San Geronimo Golf Club - Nicasio



There's still time to register for the annual Belvedere-Tiburon Golf Tournament on Tuesday, September 10 at the San Geronimo Golf Club in Nicasio.

The fee of \$140 includes greens fee for 18 holes, BBQ lunch before the shotgun start, and appetizers and drinks post play.

Form a foursome, or sign up as a single player and we will add you to an open slot. To register, visit our [website](#) and click on "GOLF NOW". You can also contact the City of Belvedere at 435-3838, or Landmarks Society at 435-1853.

Our thanks to the City of Belvedere and the Town of Tiburon for designating Landmarks as this year's tournament beneficiary. The proceeds will help Landmarks manage and maintain our historic sites--Old St. Hilary, the China Cabin, the Railroad Ferry & Depot Museum, and the Art and Garden Center.

So gather your golfing friends and make a day of it!

Sincerely,

Alan K. Brune,
Executive Director
Belvedere Tiburon Landmarks Society

Paradise Cay Home & Boat Tour Supports Whistlestop Wheels

Sunday, September 15
1 until 5:30 p.m.
Paradise Cay

Tour starts at the Tiburon Yacht Club
400 Trinidad Drive
Paradise Cay, Tiburon

Come experience the original California dream lifestyle developed over 60 years ago in Paradise Cay. This one-of-a-kind waterfront home and boat tour includes five luxury

private homes and yachts.

Even though this is a walking tour, Whistlestop Wheels, the recipient of the proceeds, will provide shuttle vans for those who prefer not to walk.

After the tour ends at 4:30 p.m., stick around for an hour to enjoy delicious delicacies prepared by Stacy Scott Catering, a fashion show by Koze, and the lively music of the Bill Canada Jazz Experience. All this is included in the price of admission.



Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door and can be purchased at our [website](#).

We look forward to seeing you!

Deborah L. Wright
Driftwood Marin

ZERØWASTEMARIN

Zero Waste Marin, in partnership with the Town of Tiburon and the City of Belvedere, invites you to a community conversation entitled, "Which Bin do I Use?" This one-hour presentation will take place on:

Tuesday, October 1, 2013
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Council Chambers

Looking for ways to reduce waste at home and what to do with items like soiled napkins or takeout containers? Looking for ways to shop smarter?

Local experts from Zero Waste Marin will provide easy tips to help you make smart pre-purchase decisions, save money on your grocery bill, and figure out how to easily dispose of household items.

Refreshments will be provided and attendees will receive a reusable shopping bag from Zero Waste Marin.

Please RSVP to [Connie Zhang](#) or call her at 543-9119 x161.

Zero Waste Marin is dedicated to helping Marin County reach its goal of Zero Waste by 2025.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Attention Tiburon Photographers



The 12th Annual Belvedere Community Foundation Online Digital Photography Contest has started. Celebrating the beauty and spirit of our area, the photographs should reflect life on the Tiburon Peninsula.

Register for the contest, submit photos and view the gallery to vote for your favorites--all [online](#).

The contest opened on August 1; the last submission will be accepted on October 31, 2013.

Sincerely,

James Campbell
Belvedere Community Foundation

Council and Commission Meetings

Town Council: First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
(September 4; September 18).

Design Review Board: First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m.
(September 5; September 19).

Planning Commission: Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (September 11; September 25).

Heritage & Arts Commission: Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (September 24).

Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission: Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m. (next meeting is September 17).

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

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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