



MAYOR JEFF SLAVITZ - VICE MAYOR JIM FRASER - COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD COLLINS COUNCILMEMBER ALICE FREDERICKS - COUNCILMEMBER EMMETT O'DONNELL

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November 30, 2011

## A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



### Last newsletter of the year

As is our norm, this issue will be the last regular Tiburon Talk of the year. Allow me to take this opportunity to highlight a few things from this past year and also provide a glimpse into what you might expect from the Town in 2012.

The year 2011 was a very productive one in which the Town completed some projects, made significant progress on several major objectives, and improved its sound financial footing while advancing its quest to rein in pension and post-retirement costs.

This year saw the opening of Woodland's Market and the approval of a CVS Pharmacy in the downtown. The Town Council approved a new long-term contract with Mill Valley Refuse Service which improves service and provides some additional revenue to the Town. Blackie's Pasture is sporting new restrooms and a new signboard for local events. With the paving of Trestle Glen and portions of Paradise Drive happening right now, our PCI (pavement condition index) will be enviously high and the best it has ever been. The long overdue Del Mar undergrounding project is finally underway, Council passed a visionary smoking ordinance, and the Town adopted an Open Space Management Plan to assist it in using limited resources to the best advantage. Two projects which have been extensively planned and engineered will come before the Town Council for final consideration early next year: the new recreation facility on Ned's Way and the parking lot along Tiburon Blvd at the foot of Lyford Drive (a safety and beautification effort).

A significant push this year entailed the development of plans and concepts for revitalizing our downtown. Many residents attended a series of public meetings, the result of which was a comprehensive report issued in May. Implementation of its many recommendations is

[Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Bel-Tib Recreation Department](#)

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

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## DID YOU KNOW?



### Winter SPARE THE AIR Wood Burn Ban

Did you know that the Winter Spare the Air wood-burning season runs between November 1 and February 29?

Each day by 2 p.m., the Bay Area Air Quality District will issue an air quality forecast for the next day. If the air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* will be called and will remain in effect

underway. Included among them are modest downtown enhancements (restroom upgrades, benches, etc.), creation of a "branding" task force comprised of remarkably well-qualified local volunteers, which is now half way through its task of determining how best to attract locals and visitors to bolster our flagging downtown, and a parking and circulation study to help the Town solve some parking management issues and rethink car, pedestrian and bicycle routing in the downtown.

A new effort nicknamed CART was also launched. The acronym is short for Community Action to Reduce Traffic. The lofty goal of this group, spearheaded by Vice Mayor Jim Fraser and outgoing Mayor Jeff Slavitz, is to envision and implement strategies to reduce traffic on Tiburon Boulevard. It is a very earnest endeavor and includes both Tiburon and Belvedere elected representatives, Reed Union and St. Hilary's school representatives, PTA and Safe Routes to School people and a host of others, all dedicated to the daunting task of freeing the peninsula from the hostage status imposed upon it by our one-road physical limitation. As part of the effort, Reed School will survey parents about how their children are currently getting to school; the hope is to identify and reduce impediments to having kids walk, bike, carpool or ride the bus instead of begin driven (often one child per vehicle). And the problem investigation goes beyond school traffic; CART will be looking at ways commuters and trades-people exiting and entering the peninsula can perhaps modify their times or travel methods to improve the situation. Please feel free to lend us your thoughts on this topic and please stay tuned - this will be a major push next year and everyone may be asked to consider playing some role in traffic reduction. I also urge you to continue on to read Chief Cronin's related article in this edition of Tiburon Talk about the challenges of traffic on the Boulevard.

So, for 2012, in addition to our usual maintenance and street projects and CART, you can expect to see and hear much more about the downtown effort and a resolution of and possible construction starts on the recreation and parking facilities. You can also expect to see a complete (and very exciting) overhaul of the Town's website, new signage for the peninsula to get people to and around downtown more effectively and attractively, additional Blackie's Pasture improvements (with the help of the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation) and the completion of the Town's portion of the undergrounding project. As always, we will endeavor to keep you abreast of actions and issues via this newsletter.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to wish you and yours the merriest of Christmases, a Happy Chanukkah and the very best this wondrous season has to offer. I hope to see you out on Main Street this Friday evening, December 2, for the tree lighting ceremony, ice skating and much

for a full 24 hours.

**During a Winter Spare the Air Alert, the use of fireplaces, pellet stoves, wood stoves, fireplace inserts and outdoor fire pits is illegal.**

Check before you burn.

To find out if a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, you can call 1-877-4NO-BURN, sign up for automatic phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515, sign up for email Air Alerts, or follow @SpareTheAir on Twitter and become a fan of "Spare the Air, Bay Area" on Facebook.

There is also an easy link from the Town's website .

Please do your part to keep our air healthy.

\* \* \*

Keep your questions coming!

Send them to [Diane Crane Iacopi, Town Clerk](#).

more. And I fervently hope we all find that 2012 ushers in a much improved economy and peace and prosperity everywhere.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Traffic Challenges on Tiburon Boulevard



I think it is safe to say that we all agree that traffic on Tiburon Boulevard is a problem. Unfortunately, there are no easy fixes, but as reported by the Town Manager above, an effort is underway to tackle this challenge and find ways to improve the situation.

One suggestion we hear frequently is that the problem would be fixed, or at least greatly reduced, if only the police would get out and direct traffic at intersections during the busiest traffic hours. At first glance that has some appeal; surely that would move cars through intersections more quickly. But that's actually not so. The key intersections are controlled by traffic signals and it isn't a good idea for an officer to give directions that conflict with these lights; doing so creates confusion that often actually slows traffic. It also increases the risk of an accident and raises liability issues were one to occur.

In addition to not adding value to intersection management, the police are needed for other, more useful duty during these peak periods. On direction from me (not the individual officer's preference), I want our officers to be at our schools enforcing traffic rules and acting to enhance student safety.

Another common suggestion is to re-time the signals on the Boulevard. They are not in fact controlled by the Town, but are owned and controlled by Cal Trans. They are also already set to maximize the amount of green light time they provide for traffic on the Boulevard.

Our real problem is simply one of capacity: we are near or at maximum capacity on Tiburon Boulevard at certain times of the day. According to data published by Cal Trans in 2010, we are averaging over 2000 cars an hour at peak periods through the intersection of Tiburon Blvd. and Trestle Glen. That is our problem and that is what has to

change if we are to see any meaningful improvement in traffic flow.

We don't have any answers yet but we're working on it. The largest opportunities and the greatest challenge may lay in changing the behavior of residents and regular visitors.

Sincerely,

Michael Cronin  
Chief of Police

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## Building Code Corner: Holiday Lighting



### **'Tis the Season for Temporary Electrical Installations**

Article 590 of the California Electrical Code addresses temporary electrical installations, including holiday decorative lighting. Although only about two pages in length, it offers some common sense precautions for those planning to decorate their homes with holiday lighting. It also limits these installations to 90 days, so don't forget to take down your holiday lighting within this timeframe.

### **Check for UL Listings**

When shopping for lighting products or other electrically powered decorations, always remember to check for the product listing on the box or package. Although they may possess sentimental value, "vintage" decorations may not have UL listings (approvals by Underwriters Laboratories) or be safe for consumer use. Consult a licensed electrician if you are unsure of the safety or usability of your holiday lighting and decorations.



### **Don't Overload!**

Even though most commercially available holiday lighting products use much less power than they used to, it's still possible to exceed the rating of the branch circuit by powering too many strings of lights from it, so check the packaging and follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding the maximum number of light strings on one receptacle outlet. And although not required by code, it is highly recommended that all holiday lighting be attached only to receptacles that have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter protection (GFCI). If you have an older home that does not have GFCI protected exterior outlets, now is a good time to have them installed (no permit required).

### **Multiple Cords**

Be careful when running flexible cords and cables and avoid sharp corners and projections whenever possible. If you have to run cords through doorways or other pinch points, remember to provide some form of protection (such as wrapping with multiply layers of electrical tape or plastic sheathing) so that the wiring does not get damaged. It is okay to splice cords and cables without a splice box provided that the grounding conductor (ground wire) continuity is maintained. (If you're not sure how to properly splice conductors, consult a licensed electrician.) Ensure that the wiring is supported adequately (per manufacturer's recommendations) and allow for proper strain relief when running lights on trees and other vegetation.

While you've got the ladders out, remember to check the batteries and test the operation of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

The Tiburon Building Division

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Downtown Festivities on Friday

#### Holiday Celebration:

##### *A Twinkling Hour*

*Friday, December 2,*

*5:30 p.m.*

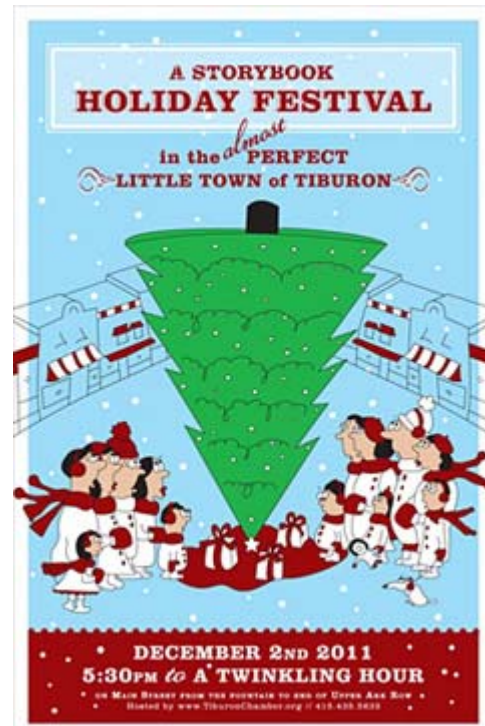
*Main Street and Ark Row*

Come kick off the holidays downtown with a tree lighting ceremony, an ice skating rink, and gingerbread houses!

On Friday, December 2, for one magical, fun-filled night only, the 2011 Holiday Festival will feature an outdoor skating rink to delight families, couples, and ice skating enthusiasts!

So grab your coziest scarf and hat and get ready to ice skate along the shores of the San Francisco Bay with the most breathtaking backdrop of the twinkling, present-wrapped San Francisco skyline.

For more information, contact the Tiburon Peninsula [Chamber of Commerce](#) (435-5633).



### Landmarks Society Holiday Events

#### Art & Craft Sale

*Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

*Art & Garden Center Cottage*

*841 Tiburon Boulevard*

This popular holiday arts and crafts fair features locally-crafted jewelry, pastel and watercolor paintings, scarves and sweaters, cards, pottery, gift boxes, and edible goodies, as well as the Landmarks famous pear brandy!

For more information, contact the Landmarks Society office (435-1853) or on the web by [clicking here](#).

### **In Concert - Musae**

*Friday, December 9, 8 p.m.*

*Old St. Hilary Church  
(Park at Woodlands Market and take shuttle)*

This year, Musae explores darkness and light, transformation and rebirth--winter solstice themes that have been a central part of seasonal lore for centuries.

Featuring music from Sweden, Norway and Canada, to the warmer shores of New Zealand and the American South, this special concert showcases the stunning beauty and spiritual aspects of the season.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, and \$15 for seniors and youth. For more information, call the Landmarks office at 435-1853.

The concert is sponsored by the Landmarks Society and Tiburon's Heritage & Arts Commission.



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## **More Community Events**

### **Broom Busters Workday**

*Saturday, December 3, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.*

*Meet in the Tiburon Peninsula Club parking lot located at 1600 Mar West Street*

Join the Broom Busters of Old St. Hilary's Open Space for their biggest workday of the year. Marin County Parks & Open Space rangers will be on hand to help direct the efforts, provide broom removal tools, as well as snacks and lunch.

Naturalist David Herlocker will lead a walk to show how plants and animals benefit



from habitat restoration and point out unique features of the open space.

To volunteer, or to receive email announcements of future workdays, call the Volunteer Coordinator at Marin County Parks & Open Space at 499-3778.

### **Seed Ball Toss**

*Sunday, December 4, 10 a.m.*

*Blackie's Pasture*

Whether you have a great pitching arm, love flowers, or want to be a part of a great community beautification project, please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 4, at the statue of Blackie at Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon. We will be gathering to "broadcast" wildflower seed balls that the students at the Reed District schools have made over the past few weeks.

A wildflower seed ball is a combination of compost, red clay and wildflower seed formed into a ball shape (think meatballs). Once dry, all we need to do is toss the balls into the area where we would like to see flowers, and Mother Nature will do the rest. In the ball, the wildflower seeds are protected from wind and birds until enough of our winter rains have saturated the sphere to start the germination process. When the seeds germinate, the ball cracks open and we get about one square foot of flowers where the seed ball lands.

The Town of Tiburon, the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, and the Landmarks Society worked all through the summer and fall grading the land and preparing the area for a wildflower meadow. Come help the Brownies and Scouts and students from the Reed District schools as they add their contribution to this marvelous project.

For more information, call James Campbell at 309-0619. Come show your Peninsula Pride!

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### **Spaghetstock - A "Far-Out" Rotary Fundraiser**

*Friday, December 9, from 6 until 10 p.m.*

*St. Stephen's Church*

*3 Bayview Avenue, Belvedere*

The Rotary Club of Tiburon and Belvedere invites the community to get on board for Spaghetstock, a celebration of peace, love and spaghetti with a 1960s theme, on Friday, December 9, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at St. Stephen's Church in Belvedere.

Tickets are \$25 per person which includes an open bar for the first hour, a delicious spaghetti dinner with a choice of



three sauces, and a contest for the best '60s costume. The evening's festivities will also include a live auction with the opportunity for attendees to bid on a trip to New Zealand, a silent auction with items ranging from a fabulous Indian cooking class and dinner to premium wines and holiday gifts, a 50/50 raffle (in which the winner gets half of the proceeds from raffle sales, and the club gets the other half) and a dessert auction.

Proceeds will go to help fund the club's local, national and international projects, including support for Rotaplast's mission to perform cleft-palate surgery on needy children around the world.

For tickets, please contact Laurie Gordon at 435-7386 or email her at [gotready@gmail.com](mailto:gotready@gmail.com).

You can also contact Judy Wilson, Rotary Club publicity representative, at 435-0305, or email her at [judith@telli.com](mailto:judith@telli.com), for more information.

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## Tiburon Artist Laureate Programs



Mark your calendars for these upcoming Artist Laureate events in 2012:

**Art Talk - Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

7 p.m. - Town Hall Lobby  
Joan Foster, Docent with MOMA and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, will be discussing landscapes and how the American landscape has changed over time.

**Art Workshop - Saturday, February 18, 2012**

10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. - Town Hall Community Room  
"Light and Dark"  
Drawing with Roger Felton

For information on these or any other artist laureate programs, feel free to [contact me](#).

Sincerely,

Mary Musalo  
Tiburon Artist Laureate

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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](#).



## Council and Commission Meetings



**Town Council:** First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m (December 7; December 21 cancelled).

**Design Review Board:** First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. (December 1 and December 15).

**Planning Commission:** Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (December 14; December 28 cancelled).

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

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission:** Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room (next meeting is January 17, 2012).

**Town Hall will be closed beginning Friday, December 23 through January 2, 2012.**

### Happy Holidays!

Town Staff  
Town of Tiburon  
435-7373

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