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February 26, 2010

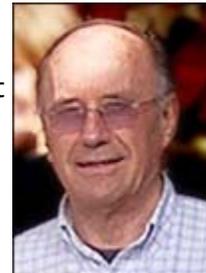
A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Change in the Building Division

Last week Town staff held a small (his wishes) retirement party for Dean Bloomquist, Tiburon's Building Official for the past 17 years, and its Building Inspector for three years before that. Ever modest, Dean did not want us to make a fuss, but if exemplary service was the determining factor a fuss would have been in order. Dean oversaw the construction and redevelopment of innumerable homes and commercial properties in Tiburon over his long tenure. He did so with a tremendous sense of allegiance to the spirit of the building codes, embracing their important purpose of making the whole community a safer place to live. Dean knew the letter of the code inside-out, but he also used common sense in its application where flexibility was possible (not always the case) and tried to solve problems when they arose. Code enforcement is not always a popular role, but Dean exercised his duty with great professionalism, consistency and even-handedness.

We wish Dean all the best as he heads off to new adventures. The process of interviewing candidates for his replacement is underway, and I hope to have more to say on that front by the time our next newsletter rolls around.



To provide a little background on just what it is the Building Division does every day, Scott Anderson, our Director of Community Development (the department comprised of Planning and Building) put pen to paper (or rather, fingers to keyboard) to provide the following summary.

Sincerely,



"DID YOU KNOW?"

"You are Not Alone" program helps seniors keep in touch

The "You Are Not Alone" program, or YANA for short, began at the Tiburon Police Department in 1988 and has since gained national recognition. Tiburon's elderly and disabled citizens that sign up for the program are called every morning to ascertain how they are doing and to offer them a "good morning" to start off the day. If there is a problem or there is no response, police officers are immediately dispatched to the resident's home.

On numerous occasions, officers have found YANA participants had fallen sometime since the previous

Tiburon Building Division - Focus on Safety



The primary purpose of the California Building Codes is to provide for life safety, safeguard property, and to protect the public welfare. The Building Division is the enforcement agency established to ensure that all construction related activity is properly permitted and that all work complies with the minimum standards established by the California Building Codes. These codes include building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, fire, energy conservation, disabled access, and housing. The Building Division also enforces certain state workers compensation regulations and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.

These standardized construction codes, often called "uniform codes", are technical and complex and rely heavily on professionals such as architects, engineers, and plan-checkers for the proper design, preparation, review and approval of drawings. Contractors and building inspectors ensure that the work in the field complies with the approved drawings.

Tiburon's Building Division consists of four persons: a Building Official, a Building Inspector, an Assistant to the Building Official/Records Management Coordinator, and a Permit Clerk. Together they handle several hundred building permit applications each year from start to finish. In addition to ensuring that construction is properly built, the Building Division performs an enforcement function when people, knowingly or unknowingly, fail to secure permits for work being done that require permits and inspections. A typical enforcement practice involves issuance of a "Stop-Work Order" which requires that all work on the project cease until plans are approved and a permit issued. Substantial penalties are imposed for work without appropriate permits.

Other functions performed by the Building Division include residential resale inspections when dwelling units are sold. While not required by state law, the Town has been performing these resale inspections since the 1970's.

The purpose of these resale inspections is to identify life-safety deficiencies in homes before they are sold so

day's call, and have helped them up or provided medical response from the Tiburon Fire Protection District.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please contact the Tiburon Police Department's business line at 789-2801.

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Keep your questions coming!
Contact Town Clerk
[Diane Crane Iacopi](#).

that owners, realtors, and prospective buyers are made aware of unsafe or inadvisable physical conditions. Mandatory requirements include replacement of inadequate or overloaded electrical systems, installation of smoke alarms, installation of ground-fault circuit interrupters in critical locations (such as kitchen, bathroom, garage, and exterior outlets), installation of seismic straps on water heaters, safety railings on stairs and balconies not up to code, decks weakened by age, rot or other causes, and seismic upgrade of buildings that do not meet minimum standards.

These inspections occasionally turn up additions or other work performed without permits, which is often substandard and potentially dangerous. The resale report also includes a records search in Town files and provides useful information about the permit history of the property. For a fee of only \$150, these inspections improve the safety of Tiburon's housing stock, increase owner awareness of basic life-safety devices and improvements, and help maintain property values over the long run.

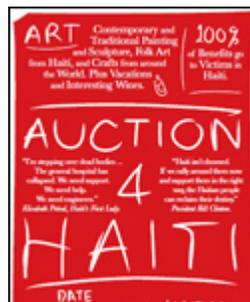
The Building Division is also responsible for implementing new safety regulations adopted by the State of California regarding fire prevention in so-called "Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas, which comprise most of the Tiburon Peninsula due to the large expanses of open space preserved over the years. New buildings in WUI areas must have ignition-resistant exterior materials, on roofs, siding and windows, and are held to higher standards for vegetation clearance from buildings.

For more information on any of these issues, please contact the Tiburon Building Division at 435-7380, Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Scott Anderson
Community Development Director

NEWS BRIEFS

Haitian Relief Art Auction A Success



The art auction for Haitian earthquake relief held on Sunday, February 21, at Town Hall, was a great success. Over \$25,000 was raised; all the money will go directly to the American Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, Partners in Health, and UNICEF.



The auction was made possible by generous donations of artwork by numerous artists, and was sponsored by gallery owner and Belvedere resident, Virginia Breier. The event was executed by over 30 local volunteers, and donations of food by the Boardwalk Market, Sam's Anchor Cafe, and Strawberry Safeway. The Tiburon Volunteer Fire Department barbequed hot dogs and hamburgers.

For a first hand account from one who was in Haiti immediately after the earthquake, come hear Dr. Thomas Cromwell, physician and Belvedere City Council member, speak of his experiences on Friday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. (See the Community Calendar below.)

Diane Crane Iacopi
Town Clerk

Save Our Native Plants: There's Still Time to Join the Tiburon "Weed Whackers"

The serpentine soil on the Tiburon Middle Ridge Open Space parcel supports four plant species--Tiburon jewelflower, Marin dwarf flax, Tiburon paintbrush, and Tiburon buckwheat (shown here)--that are recognized by Federal and State governments as needing protection.



Wouldn't you like to help protect these plants that are severely threatened by invasive weeds?

The "Weed Whackers" met for the first time on February 13; they will meet again on Tuesday, March 2, and Saturday, March 13, for two hours. They will continue to meet during the rainy season while the soil is damp and it is easier to remove the weeds.

If you come out on either of these dates, you're in for a special treat: Local botanist and Tiburon resident Eva Buxton will talk about the rare plants and describe the threats to them from non-native species. She will describe what to do to protect these special species and their habitat.

Once volunteers are familiar with the weeds to remove and where to do it, they can work on their own time. But the group will still meet on the designated days, at least

for a while. To borrow the Marin County "Broom Busters" slogan: "Come when you can; leave when you must!"

Time to Meet: First Tuesday and Second Saturday of the month, between 10 a.m. and Noon.

Equipment to bring: Waterproof pad to sit on; gloves; pick axe or pulaski (small trowel); sturdy shoes/boots; layered clothing; plenty of water. Broom wrenches will be provided.

Where to meet: At the junction of Gilmartin Drive and the fire road that leads to the "Hippie Tree", 0.35 mile from Tiburon Boulevard, just before Gilmartin's sharp turn to the right. Parking is available below the double yellow lines on Gilmartin Drive.

Contact Eva Buxton at evabuxton@sbcglobal.net for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

DR. CROMWELL TALKS ABOUT HAITI

Friday, March 5th - 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Town Council Chambers
1505 Tiburon Boulevard

Belvedere anesthesiologist Dr. Thomas Cromwell cared for the wounded during the Vietnam War, worked alongside Iraqi physicians in Baghdad, and helped in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. He is also a volunteer member of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) that is mobilized during natural disasters, wars and other problem situations. He'll talk about the work of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake that devastated a country which already had a substandard medical system, and crumbling infrastructure.

"GENTLY USED" ART AUCTION #5 - BELVEDERE-TIBURON LIBRARY

Thursday, March 11 - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

(Preview for Library Society Members)

Friday, March 12 - 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 13 - Noon until 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 14 - Noon until 3:00 p.m.

Donations of "gently used" fine art and fine art books will

be accepted on:
Monday, March 8 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Belvedere-Tiburon Library Founder's Room
1501 Tiburon Boulevard

Proceeds benefits the programs of the Belvedere-Tiburon Library.

Contact Pamela Dekema, 435-2340, or Joan Don, 435-3783, for more information.

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: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m. (March 3 and March 17).

Design Review Board: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, at 7 p.m. (March 4 and March 18).

Planning Commission: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m. (March 10 and March 24)

Heritage & Arts Commission: 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m. (March 23)

All meetings listed are in the Council Chambers at Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard.

Sincerely,

Town Staff
Town of Tiburon
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

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