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January 27, 2012

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Much is underway as I write this, our first newsletter of the New Year. Over the next month or so I expect the Town Council to decide whether to proceed with the planned recreation facility on Ned's Way (tentatively called "Dairy Knoll", in homage to the historic use of that land). I also expect direction on the Lyford Parking Lot (now that could use a name

upgrade) located along Tiburon Boulevard at the foot of Lyford Drive. Both projects have been reviewed by the Town Council many times and approved in concept; they are now poised for those final go/no-go decisions that get made only when costs come fully into focus.

What else can you expect in 2012? The Town Council certified the Environmental Impact Report for the Library Expansion Project at the end of last year; the scope and design of the building itself are likely to be resolved this spring.

Del Mar undergrounding is in full swing and the Town's portion, the "joint trench", will be finished in late summer. After that, the utilities companies will transfer their overhead lines to underground conduit, a process that can take up to one additional year. Then it's "poles down"! While the utility companies are busy doing their job, we will get busy paving the Del Mar neighborhood streets - something we have held off doing until the trenching is complete.

The downtown project, the goal of which is to create a livelier and more economically successful downtown, is going full steam. I anticipate having much to report on that endeavor as the year unfolds. This will include some sprucing up, better signage, a new "information station" on Main Street to help visitors find Ark Row and other attractions and amenities (like restrooms), possible changes to the way the Town manages its street parking and rolling out a marketing strategy to help our flagging

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3rd District](#)

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DID YOU KNOW?



Who Do I Call if I Need a Debris Box?

Allowable Debris Box Vendors

If you need to have a debris box placed on your property in connection with construction work, or just for cleaning out your property, the Town of Tiburon last summer entered into a franchise agreement with [Mill Valley Refuse Service](#) and [Grange Debris Box Company](#) to provide debris boxes within the Town.

Because this is an exclusive agreement, it is a violation of the Town Code for

businesses.

On the traffic front Marin Transit, the County agency that runs transit buses throughout Marin and down Tiburon Boulevard, has launched a Tiburon Transit Needs Assessment, which is described in the following article. The timing of this effort is fortuitous as it coincides with the nascent Tiburon-Belvedere-Schools push to ease congestion (Community Action to Reduce Traffic or CART for short) recently covered in this newsletter and The Ark. More information and an open mind on the part of Marin Transit about our needs will help us identify and explore all possible ways to reduce peninsula traffic woes. I encourage you to check out the website for Marin Transit's study you will find below, and, most importantly, please fill out their online survey regarding transit. It is a great opportunity to share your thoughts with this important service agency.

Of course the various special projects I mentioned above are only part of our focus. The everyday work of local government, which is to say public safety, road and park maintenance, permit processing, budget management and public policy development all continue unabated. In sum, I anticipate 2012 will be a very productive, fruitful year and look forward to speaking with you about it through this newsletter and in other forums as well.

Sincerely,

Peggy Curran

Tiburon Transit Needs Assessment



Marin Transit has just kicked off the Tiburon Transit Needs Assessment that will look at existing transit conditions, identify travel patterns on the Peninsula, and develop and evaluate future mobility strategies to enhance the existing transit service within the communities of Tiburon, Belvedere, and Strawberry. A very important element of this study is the proactive engagement of local citizens as well as those who come to the Peninsula daily for work to understand current and future travel needs and challenges as they relate to mobility within the region.

The Marin Transit team will be reaching out to a diverse group of community members and visitors to conduct interviews, hold discussions, and conduct survey's to gather critical data that will aid in the development of feasible transit enhancements. A project webpage has been

any other debris box company to service residential or commercial properties in Tiburon.

Having just two companies providing debris box service helps reduce truck traffic on Tiburon Boulevard while allowing customers competition in pricing. It also allows the Town to collect a franchise fee from these two vendors.

If you want more information about debris box service, contact [Heidi Bigall](#), Director of Administrative Services, at 435-7379.

* * *

Keep your questions coming!

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

established on the Marin Transit [website](#) (and click the Tiburon Transit Assessment Survey link).

Following initial data gathering, a public meeting will be conducted in the spring to share some draft concepts for future transit that will be based on the information gathered and received through this survey and other discussions. Please watch for a meeting announcement and mark your calendars to share your thoughts on the draft concepts.

For project updates or to join the project mailing list, please visit the website or contact Marin Transit at 226-0855.

Sincerely,

Robert Betts, AICP
Senior Planner
Marin Transit

NEWS BRIEFS

Crime Is Down



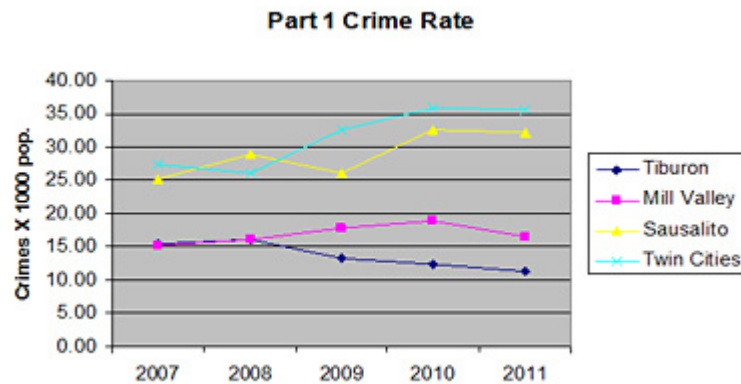
Every month the Tiburon Police Department files a report with the California Department of Justice and the FBI. This report, called the Uniform Crime Report, is broken down into two sections labeled simply at Part 1 and Part 2.

The one used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to law enforcement is Part 1, also referred to as "The Crime Index". It is composed of selected offenses including the violent crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as the property crimes of burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson. Data has been collected since 1930. All other offenses are contained in Part 2. The data is usually presented as the rate per thousand inhabitants in individual jurisdictions.

The Town of Tiburon has a Part 1 crime rate that is consistently less than half that of the State of California. Statistics for the State are only available through the end of 2010 and they show the average Part 1 crime rate from 2007 through 2010 was about 33 crimes per thousand. Over the same time period, Tiburon's crime rate was just over 14 Part 1 crimes per thousand or about 125 Part 1 crimes a year; about 80% were property crimes. We still investigate 15 to 20 assault cases a year; sadly, about half involve domestic violence.

From 2007 to the end of 2010, the Part 1 crime rate for the State has dropped about 14%. Tiburon's crime rate declined 20% in the same period and continues to trend downward. By the end of 2011 Tiburon's crime rate had dropped 26% over the preceding five years, outpacing the state and our neighbors.

Complete statistics for the State are not yet available for 2011, but we have the numbers from some of our similar-sized neighbors shown in the following graph:



It is hard to point to any single factor to explain our good fortune and it is important to consider some differences in the communities we used for comparison. Two of the most significant differences are geography and commerce. All the other communities in the comparison are astride US 101 and all of them have substantial numbers of retail businesses; both are factors in attracting large numbers of non-residents, some of whom commit crimes.

I do think it is fair to conclude the security camera system we installed at the end of 2010 also had an impact. It has enabled us to make a number of arrests that we would not otherwise have made which probably prevented some crimes. Perhaps more important than the arrests was the publicity that surrounded the acquisition of the system. The steady decline in crime rate generally correlates with the extensive publicity that attended the approval process in 2008 and 2009 and which continued into 2010 as the system became operational.

There are, I'm sure, many other factors that influence our crime rate but none more so than the residents of Tiburon. Historically our crime rate has been a little less than half that of the rest of the State; we're now close to being just a third. I believe that if residents all take a few simple precautions like locking cars and homes, securing valuables and reporting suspicious activity, we can push our crime rate even lower.

Sincerely,

Michael Cronin
Chief of Police

Building Code Corner: Experts Needed



Building Code Appeals Board

The Town Council recently approved Resolution 34-2011 establishing the Tiburon Building Code Appeals Board (BCAB) as an official standing body of the Town of Tiburon. The purpose of the BCAB is to offer residents an alternative venue to appeal a decision or interpretation made by the Building Official regarding the application or enforcement of a specific requirement as contained in the Town's adopted building codes. The Board can only render decisions related to the technical requirements of the codes and cannot address administrative concerns such as fees or other permitting requirements.

The duties of the BCAP are: (a) to act as the appeals board from decisions and interpretations of the Building Official regarding non-administrative provisions of the Town's adopted building codes (b) to render decisions on appeals and other decisions in writing to the Building Official with a duplicate copy to appellant and (c) to adopt such reasonable rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the conduct of its duties.

The BCAB will consist of five regular members and two alternates who, except for the initial members, will serve terms of five years each. Because BCAB members will be required to rule upon technical matters pertaining to building construction and design, as well as electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems, they must have verifiable qualifications based on their experiences and training. To this end, it highly desirable that the Board be comprised of at least one member who is a registered design professional, such as an architect, a building contractor or superintendent with at least ten years of experience, five of which are in responsible charge of work; one member who is a registered design professional with structural engineering experience; one member with at least ten years of mechanical or plumbing experience as a contractor, superintendent, or design professional; one member with at least ten years as either an electrical contractor or engineer; and one member who is a registered design professional with energy code and/or green building code compliance experience or a licensed roofing contractor with at least ten years of experience. The

alternates should be similarly qualified. Tiburon residency is not required.

The Town is now actively recruiting for individuals to serve on the BCAB, and this is an excellent opportunity for those who would like to volunteer their services in a way that benefits the community while also enhancing their own professional skills and qualifications. And because it is only anticipated to meet a few times per year, the BCAB will not require members to sacrifice very much of their spare time.

Please contact the [Tiburon Building Division](#) or the [Town Clerk](#) for more information on how you, or someone you may know of, can participate in this vital civic function.

Fred Lustenberger
Tiburon Building Official

Free Assistance for Business Owners in Southern Marin



Do you have financial, operational or marketing questions about managing your business? Could you benefit from fresh independent advice regarding your business plan, product or service?

With six outreach offices throughout Marin County, including Sausalito and Marin City, and a focus on economic development, the **Small Business Development Center** provides current and future business owners with FREE, confidential, one-to-one counseling, various low-cost services and partial scholarships. Advisors have a rich background in business management in various industries and many are bilingual.

Funded in part by the Small Business Administration (federally funded) and the Marin County Board of Supervisors, the SBDC has helped thousands of North Bay business owners. SBDC now wants to help current and future Southern Marin business owners and it does not matter if the business owner works in an office, a retail store, in a restaurant or from home.

To learn about the SBDC's various services or to register for counseling or a training program, visit our [website](#) or call (888) 346-7232 or (707) 524-1770.

Sincerely,

Leonard Weingartner
Small Business Development Center

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TIBURON HERITAGE & ARTS COMMISSION

Artist Reception - Jim Woods

*Wednesday, February 8, 6 - 8 p.m.
Town Hall Community Room*

The Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission invites you to an artist reception of the photography of Jim Wood entitled "*Marin and the City*".

The Heritage & Arts Commission sponsors 12 art shows and other events, including a Plein Aire competition, throughout the year.

For more information, contact [Joan Palmero](#).

Tiburon Artist Laureate Program



Guest Artist Workshop

Saturday, February 18, 2012
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Town Hall Community Room

*"Light and Dark"
Drawing with Roger Felton*

For all of you who say you cannot draw a thing, Roger says you can and he will prove it to you. So grab your pencil sharpener and sketch pad and come to the Tiburon Town Hall on Saturday, February 18.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Musalo
Tiburon Artist Laureate

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. (February 1 and February 15).

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

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

Heritage & Arts Commission: Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (February 27).

Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission: Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room (next meeting is March 20, 2012).

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

Sincerely,

Town Staff
Town of Tiburon
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

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