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January 30, 2009

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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ANGEL ISLAND



Supporting Tiburon Businesses

No doubt many of you have noticed vacancies cropping up in the downtown and elsewhere in Tiburon.

Quite a few shops have closed their doors in recent months, and the downtown is quiet even for the winter off-season.

Tiburon has its advantages and challenges as a retail environment. Of course, the beauty and remarkable setting of the downtown is a plus, drawing both locals and visitors when the weather is pleasant for dining, shopping, strolling and lounging on the rolling green embankment. Visitors arriving by ferry from the city are particularly valuable, as they patronize businesses and enjoy our town without bringing a car along in the process. But our geography works against us, too. It is hard to sustain a business at the end of a long road when locals have other choices that may be as or more convenient and offer a greater diversity of shops and restaurants. Business has always been a challenge in Tiburon even in good times.

In a 2005 survey conducted for the Town by Godbe Research, almost all (98%) Tiburon residents reported they visit downtown at least a few times a year, with 63% reporting going between one and twenty times a month. Clearly a vital downtown is an important amenity to our Tiburon way of life.

Right now, in this difficult retail climate, our businesses are hurting and need locals to come to the rescue. If you are among the majority in Tiburon that values having a successful downtown (even if it isn't perfect - I know, we need a pharmacy!), please consider increasing your patronage of our local businesses. If we spend more of our dollars for food, clothing and other wares and services locally, we will help sustain peninsula businesses through a very rough patch. Doing so also means your sales tax dollar goes to Tiburon, not neighboring communities. When you stop to think about it, a Tiburon with no business activity would not only be a far less interesting place to live or work; it would become more of a bedroom community to the greater metropolitan area than the vital

IMMIGRATION STATION GRAND RE-OPENING



Come celebrate the grand re-opening of the U.S. Immigration Station, Angel Island, on Sunday, February 15, 2009.

The dedication ceremony will take place from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon; public tours will be conducted from noon to 3 pm, with presentations by Charlie Chin, storyteller; Melody Takata, performance artist/dancer; Silvia Lange, historical re-enactor, and museum designer Daniel Quan. Admission and tram service on the island are free; reduced rates on ferries from San Francisco and Tiburon are available. You must take the 8:45 am ferry from SF or the 8:50 am ferry from Tiburon in order to attend the Dedication Ceremony. For

small town it is today.

So give it some thought, especially this year as the economy continues to struggle: if you can buy goods or services right here in Tiburon, please do! Many are offering great deals in this buyer's market. It's a tangible way of ensuring we actually have places to eat, drink, and shop nearby in the years to come. It's also a great way to help sustain the fabric of our community.

Sincerely,

Peggy Curran

NEWS BRIEFS

FEMA Flood Zone and Informational Meeting

The City of Belvedere, the Town of Tiburon, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will host a meeting this **Monday, February 2, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Belvedere City Council Chambers, located at 450 San Rafael Avenue in Belvedere.

FEMA recently mapped most of the downtown Tiburon and Belvedere Lagoon neighborhood into a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This mapping change may result in the requirement for flood insurance if you do not already have flood insurance.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and resources concerning the new FEMA flood zone maps directly from FEMA personnel. A FEMA representative and a FEMA insurance expert will be in attendance and make presentations regarding the ramifications of the flood hazard designation and to answer your questions about this important topic.

Even if not required by federal law, owners and tenants may desire to purchase or consider purchasing flood insurance given the new map designations which indicate that these areas would flood during a 100-year storm event. Significant cost savings may be achieved by purchasing flood insurance prior to May 4, 2009 (the date the new maps are to be released by FEMA).

For more information regarding the meeting, contact Tiburon Director of Community Development Scott Anderson at 435-7392.

For information on flood insurance, call your agent or visit the National Flood Insurance Program's website at www.floodsmart.gov.

complete ferry schedules, visit the Angel Island Immigration Foundation website, www.aiisf.org. Visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Angel Island State Park prior to their arrival at 435-5390.

SPARE THE AIR! NEW WOOD-BURNING REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT

The *Spare the Air* Program was established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to educate people about air pollution and to encourage them to change their behaviors to prevent it.



During the summer months, ground-level ozone is the pollutant of concern. Ozone is formed when pollutants combine on hot summer days, and it accumulates when there is little wind. During the winter months, it is smoke from wood-burning fireplaces that aggravates air quality in the Bay Area.

Dangers of Wood Smoke

In the winter, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) becomes a dangerous pollutant. Fine particulates can bypass the body's natural defenses, penetrating deeply into the lungs and even passing into the bloodstream. Prolonged exposure to fine particulates in wood smoke has been linked with aggravated asthma, lung and heart disease and increased mortality rates.

To address this problem, BAAQMD passed Regulation 6, Rule 3, in July of last year making it illegal for the first time in the Bay Area to burn wood, pellets, or manufactured fire logs when a **Winter Spare the Air Alert** is issued.

For the convenience of its residents, the Town of Tiburon provides a direct link to the Winter Spare the Air Alerts on its website: go to www.ci.tiburon.ca.us and click on the "**Today's Wood Burning Status**" bar.

The winter *Spare the Air* season this year runs from November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

Wood may be burned in either a fireplace or a stove on days that are not designated as Spare the Air Alert days. Wood-burning stoves may be used on Alert days if they are the only source of heating for a home.

The new rule also places year-round prohibitions on excessive chimney smoke and burning of garbage, plastics, or other harmful materials in fireplaces and woodstoves.

Residents and businesses should burn clean, dry wood in short, hot fires with plenty of ventilation in order to reduce air pollution from smoky and inefficient fires. Firewood suppliers are now required to label their wood as "seasoned" or "unseasoned." Seasoned wood contains less

moisture and burns more cleanly.

Stay Informed!

When the morning forecast predicts that concentrations of PM2.5 will exceed the national health-based standard, the Air District will issue a *Winter Spare the Air Alert*. These alerts are posted on the *Spare the Air* homepage, www.sparetheair.org, as well as the Air Quality District's home page, www.baaqmd.gov, and the Town's website as noted above.

On the *Spare the Air* website you will also find answers to frequently asked questions about air pollution, description of its health effects, information about how various communities and employers are working to prevent pollution, and a variety of other educational resources.

For people who prefer using the telephone, *Winter Spare the Air Alerts* are recorded at 1-877-4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876).

You can also call this number to:

- Sign up for e-mail Air Alerts and automatic phone alerts, to "check before you burn."
- Report wood smoke concerns in your area.

Diane Crane Iacopi
Tiburon Town Clerk

IT'S TIBURON BUSINESS LICENSE TIME

The Town has sent out its annual Business License renewal notices. For new businesses, or businesses that have not been licensed but should be, we offer the following information:

1. For businesses operating in commercial locations such as Main Street, Tiburon Boulevard, or the Cove Shopping Center, you need an Application for a Business License. It's a simple, one-page form. Complete the form, pay your fee and you're ready to go.
2. For businesses operating out of a residence, you need the above Application for a Business License AND an Application for Home Occupation. The purpose of this additional form is to assure the Town, and your neighbors, that the business you operate in your home will not in any way disrupt the residential nature of your neighborhood, as it especially refers to parking and noise. Once these two forms are completed and approved, and your fees are paid, you can embark upon your home business venture.

For your convenience, the forms and the information pages with fee schedules may be obtained at Tiburon Town Hall, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, or on the Town's website, www.ci.tiburon.ca.us. Go to "Services," then click on

"Forms," scroll down to, and print Forms 1, 1a, 2, and 2a.

If you need clarification on any aspect of the Business Licensing process, please call me at 435-7373.

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful year.

Joan Palmero
Business License Administrator

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT AND NOXIOUS WEED ABATEMENT

The Town of Tiburon is embarking upon the development of an Open Space Management Plan for the 240 acres of Town-owned open space on the peninsula. The plan is intended to guide our management practices to ensure that limited resources for land stewardship are well spent. In particular, the plan will address the reduction of non-native or "noxious" weeds.



As this effort moves forward, we want to encourage private property owners to address the spread of noxious weeds on their land as well.

Noxious weeds pose a threat to rare plants (the peninsula is home to several such species) and other native plants by crowding them out. They also increase fire fuel hazards. Serious noxious weeds on the Tiburon Peninsula include pampasgrass (*Cortaderia selloana*) and French broom (*Genista monspessulana*). It is good practice to abate them whenever possible. They can be removed anytime of the year.

Pampasgrass, though biologically a grass, grows to the size of a large shrub. Wind can carry the seeds up to 20 miles. The massive size and dense base of each plant with its accumulated litter reduces wildlife habitat, creates breeding grounds for rodents and reduces recreational opportunities in conservation areas. It's best to remove a pampasgrass plant in its entirety, but, if that is not possible, it is advisable to cut off the tall seed plumes whenever they appear in order to minimize seed dispersal.

French broom is another widespread pest. It produces thousands of seeds that build up in the soil over time, creating dense thickets that can spread rapidly, obliterating rare and native plants by out-competing them.

Only by acting in concert on public and private property will we gain the upper hand on this persistent problem. By doing your part to remove non-native weeds from your

property, you will help make the Tiburon Peninsula a more attractive, fire safe and ecologically diverse place.

If you are interested in joining the fight against noxious weeds on Town open space, a group is being formed to do just that every other Saturday morning. Look for more information on this effort in a subsequent Tiburon Talk or call Eva Buxton, a local botanist, at 435-2745, to get involved.

A very informative brochure and other information on the plants can be found at the California Invasive Plant Council at www.cal-ipc.org.

Thank you for your help in tackling this issue.

Matthew Swalberg
Public Works Engineering Technician

UPCOMING EVENTS

Artist Laureate Workshop: "Keep It Simple" - Part II

Saturday, February 21

Artist Laureate Mary Musalo will hold her second workshop in a series on Saturday February 21, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Tiburon Town Hall (on the second floor, Community Room). This workshop, which is open to the public, will feature finger painting with acrylic painting medium.

Ms. Musalo will help you explore your creative side and increase your ability to visualize, find out what inspires you, and what awakens the "Artist Within."

Finger painting supplies will be provided but please bring a painting smock or "painting clothes."

To register, or for more information, contact Ms. Musalo at 435-2775.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, February 2

Art Exhibits at Town Hall:
Kirsten Hagen (through February 27);
Marin County Society of Watercolorists (through March 27);
www.tiburonheritageandarts.org .

Tuesday, February 3

9:30 am - 4:00 pm
"Valentine Kitchen Tour"

Benefit for Belvedere-Hawthorne Nursery Schools
To buy tickets, call 490-2767 or visit www.belvedere-hawthorne.com.

Friday, February 6

8 pm
Concerts at Old St. Hilary's
The Ben Stolorow Trio
To buy tickets, call 435-1853 or visit
www.brownpapertickets.com or www.landmarks-society.org.

Wednesday, February 11

10 - 11 am
Garden lecture by Marin Master Gardeners
February topic: "Sowing Seeds for Vegetables and Flowers"
Presenter: Susan Lukens
Location: Landmarks Art and Garden Center, 841 Tiburon Boulevard
Cost: Free

Friday, February 13

Last day to purchase Valentine's Day Tennis Lesson
Packages: 30 - 50% off!
Call William Higgins at 963-2549 for more information.
Sponsored by Belvedere-Tiburon Jt. Recreation,
www.btrecreation.org.

Sunday, February 15

Angel Island Immigration Station Grand Re-opening (see sidebar article)

Saturday, February 28

9- 1 pm; 1 - 5 pm
First Aid Class; CPR Class
Cost: \$15 first aid; \$35 CPR
Sponsored by the Tiburon Fire Protection District
Class Location: Tiburon Police Station
To register, call 435-7200 or
contact jpower@tiburonfire.org.

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](#).



UPCOMING MEETINGS

COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS



Town Council: Wednesday, February 4



and 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Design Review Board: Thursday,
February 5 and 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission: Wednesday, February 11 and 25
at 7:30 p.m.

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

Sincerely,

Town Staff
Town of Tiburon

Editor: Diane Crane Jacopi

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