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March 27, 2009

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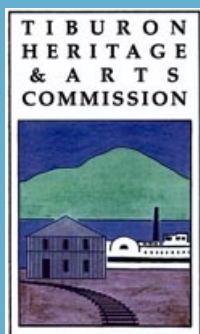
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ART WITHIN YOUR REACH



A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Yesterday afternoon the Town Council and Staff came together for the annual Council-Staff Retreat at The Lodge at Tiburon. Every year around this time, the Council and about ten members of Staff gather around a table to review progress on previously established goals, talk about the budget, the future and generally enjoy a forum that is conducive to a more relaxed and freewheeling discussion about the business of keeping the Town of Tiburon running smoothly. The retreat is open and the press attends but, as is the whole concept with retreats, it is designed to afford a more casual, open-ended give-and-take than the more structured bi-weekly Council meetings.

We reviewed current projects, most of which have been or will be completed this year. A host of capital projects, including guardrail replacements, the Pine Terrace path connecting Tiburon Boulevard with the Multi-Use Path, the second and final phase of the Mar West overlay, and the annual increment in the failed streets improvement have been completed or are in the works. We've been busy on development of an Open Space Management Plan to assist with noxious weed control and fire hazard reduction; remodeling and equipping two playgrounds; advances in emergency preparedness; the adoption of green building standards; a bicycle-pedestrian master plan; greater limits on Saturday construction noise; assisting in formulating and joining the new Marin Energy Authority for more renewable power; updates to our Zoning Ordinance; and a complete overhaul of our sign regulations. That is a partial list, but it gives you an idea of what happens throughout the year in addition to our regular duties of processing permits, maintaining streets and parks and policing our neighborhoods to enhance our safety.

A few items of note for the future: Council directed Staff to seek Caltrans approval for use of its right-of-way along Tiburon Boulevard, just east of Lyford Drive, and to conduct further engineering design work toward the end of improving and beautifying the parking area there. We reviewed efforts to secure Federal Stimulus Funding for local projects (we have already landed \$170,000 for road projects), and Staff was asked to return to Council with a variety of projects for further discussion and direction including possible expansion of the Town's ordinance on smoking, fire safety requirements for secondary dwelling units in single family homes, and historic preservation incentives.

The budget is always a topic at our retreats. We look at budget performance - how we are tracking with projected revenues and expenses. For this year, fiscal year 2008-2009 (July 1 to June 30), overall revenues are tracking somewhat higher than projections and spending is less than what was appropriated. This reflects the very conservative nature of our projections (we are very cautious not to peer through rose-colored glasses when it

## Two Art Venues in the Heart of Town

The Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission sponsors 12 art exhibits each year in the two Tiburon Town Hall Galleries. We invite you to drop in, treat yourself to unique artwork, build a collection, or make a present of artwork to a friend - all while supporting our gifted local artists.

Currently on exhibit in the Town Hall Lobby Gallery are the fascinating watercolors and collages of local favorite, Karen Carlson. Karen, who is a familiar welcoming face at the Library, has created a collection of evocative pieces which primarily reflect her travels in the Middle East and Spain - a group of Tajikistani children in colorful clothing reading to each other (look for the message on one of the books) - little boats pulled up on the shore of the Sea of Galilee - a bullfighter in his sparkling Suit of Lights - a nightscape of the city of Nineveh painted from a vantage point across a valley. All but a few of the pieces in the exhibit are for sale. Karen's work will be on exhibit through Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

Beginning on Monday, March 30, 2009, Town

comes to anticipating revenue!) along with the exercise of constraint in spending. We also had some savings that resulted from several positions being vacant for portions of this past year. For next fiscal year, we looked at big picture assumptions and what we see ahead for revenues. All budget assumptions will be aired and discussed as part of the lengthy budget adoption process, but early indications suggest we can expect reduced revenues from sales tax, hotel tax and permit revenues, as well as a flattening of property tax revenues. In short, we expect next year's budget to be tight and are planning accordingly.

One last part of the retreat is the opportunity it affords for both the Council and the Staff to reflect aloud on how that working partnership is faring. I'm happy to report that there was a high degree of respect, collegiality and appreciation expressed all around. Speaking for Staff, we consider ourselves fortunate to report to a Council that is so supportive, thoughtful and hard-working. Tiburon remains a remarkable, exciting and rewarding place to be involved in local government.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CHANGE IN BUILDING PERMITS - SATURDAY "QUIET WORK" ONLY



Currently, Saturday work is allowed from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. without restriction, except that work involving heavy equipment is not allowed.

As of March 20, 2009, allowable work hours will remain the same, but construction activity is limited to quiet work. "Quiet work" means that any noise related to permitted construction activity cannot be audible beyond the property line.

The new "Quiet work only" regulations apply to building permits, tree removal permits and encroachment permits.

Weekend violations can be reported through the Police Department non-emergency line at 789-2800.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dean Bloomquist  
Building Official

### PROPOSED NEW HOURS FOR TOWN HALL

Starting in May, there is a plan afoot to put Town Hall staff on a compressed work schedule. This means that staff members would work the same total number of hours in a two-week period, but in nine days rather than ten.

Compressed work schedules have become commonplace in both public and private offices in California in the past few decades. They started in earnest in the 1980s when public agencies were required in many places in the state to reduce trips to and from workplaces as an air quality mitigation measure.

Hall visitors will be treated to the dreamy watercolors, vibrant flowers in oils, and amazing portraiture of Strawberry artist Hilda Kidder. Hilda comes to us by an interesting and circuitous route that began in Yorkshire, England, took her to Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, back to England and then to San Francisco. Hilda is known for her fine portraits and the atmosphere and feeling she conveys in all her work. Her work will be on display in the upstairs, Community Room gallery of Town Hall from Monday, March 30, 2009 through Thursday, May 28, 2009. Her Meet-the-Artist reception will take place on Wednesday, April 1 from 6 - 8 p.m. The public is welcome.

Tiburon Town Hall is at 1505 Tiburon Boulevard. Viewing hours for all Town Hall exhibits are Monday through Thursday, 9 - 5 p.m. and Fridays, 9 - Noon. All artwork may be purchased at the front desk and 25% of the profits benefits Heritage & Arts projects.

For more information on these, and future art shows or on the Tiburon Heritage and Arts Commission, please call Joan Palmero at 435-7373. Please also visit us online

In the case of Tiburon, Town Hall, which currently closes at noon every Friday, would instead be closed every Friday (except by appointment). Staff would work behind closed doors one Friday (as it now does Friday afternoons) and be off the alternate Friday. Monday through Thursday work hours would be lengthened, with counters opening earlier (7:00 a.m. for building, and 8:30 a.m. for everything else) and staying open longer (until 5:30 p.m.). Building inspections would be conducted on 'closed' Fridays. Of course, changing Town Hall's hours would not affect the Police Department's scheduling, nor would it affect the streets and parks staff who would continue to work Monday through Friday.

As a point of comparison, many Marin local government offices are closed either every, or alternate, Fridays including Larkspur, Fairfax, Mill Valley, Novato, San Anselmo and Belvedere. Others are closed Friday afternoons.

Eliminating one work day, by lengthening the other nine in a two-week period, achieves several things. Employees would be driving to work at slightly more off-peak times and not coming into Town at all on the off Friday, lightening traffic and concomitant air emissions on those days. Town Hall would not be heated, air-conditioned or lit on off-Fridays. Longer hours Monday through Thursday would give those who work regular business hours greater access to Town Hall by allowing earlier or later visitations. Right now several staff members are already on alternate schedules due to their commute distances or other factors. From a management perspective, a compressed schedule would put everyone on essentially the same schedule for greater efficiency and better supervisory coverage.

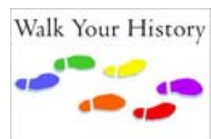
There is a trade-off, of course, in that Friday mornings would no longer be available (except by appointment) for Town Hall business, but the expanded access on the other days of the week, including a net increase of four hours when Town Hall is open, should compensate for this inconvenience.

The plan is to implement this in May on a six-month trial basis. If during that time we find we are not able to meet the needs of the community in at least as satisfactory if not better fashion, we will reconsider and revert to the current system or search for other alternatives.

Peggy Curran  
Town Manager

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WALK YOUR HISTORY EVENT IS NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 5



"Walk Your History" is a free event designed to provide the community with an opportunity to learn more about the fascinating history of the Tiburon Peninsula.

There will be three (3) walking loops around the peninsula with volunteer docents located at historic "hotspots." Come and hear their exciting stories!

The self-guided walks begin at 9:30 a.m. at Belvedere Park and will cover the following routes:

[\(click here\)](#).

1) Belvedere Loop = Stairways and Historic Homes (Tuckey House, Blanding Casino, Hill Crest, and Blanding House);

2) Lagoon Loop = Historic Richardson Bay, Hilarita/Net Depot, and Reed Dairy;

3) Downtown Loop = China Cabin, Ark Row, Main Street and the Railroad & Ferry Museum.

From 12 until 2 p.m. there will be music in the Belvedere park and a BBQ lunch free to those with a stamped "Passport" from one of the historic walks.

The City of Belvedere and Town of Tiburon are proud sponsors of this event, along with the Belvedere Community Foundation, Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, Landmarks Society, Heritage & Arts Commission, Belvedere-Tiburon Library, Jt. Recreation Department, and the Belvedere and Tiburon Police Departments. Sam's Anchor Café is also a sponsor.

This would be an excellent event for a Book Club, Bridge Club, Mom's Group, Hiking Group, or just about anyone. So dust off those tennis shoes, grab a water bottle, and bring the dog and kids.

To volunteer or find out more, contact Jt. Recreation Director Cathleen Andreucci at 435-4355.

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## MORE HISTORY IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD: Tiburon Romberg Center Celebrates 30 Years



community.

San Francisco State University cordially invites you to visit the Tiburon Romberg Center on Saturday, March 28 for a special celebration in honor of its 30 years of service to science, education, the environment, and our

As the only academic marine and estuarine research facility on the SF Bay, the Romberg Tiburon Center (RTC) plays a critical role in the educational and environmental efforts of the Bay Area. RTC's 30th Anniversary Celebration will provide a unique opportunity to meet the scientists and Bay Area environmental community. The March 28 event will include a keynote "State of the Bay" address by SF State Dean Emeritus James C. Kelley, as well as remarks by John D. Goldman of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund and SF State President Robert A. Corrigan.

Situated on a breathtaking 37-acre parcel of bay front property in Tiburon, SF State's Romberg Tiburon Center has a rich and colorful history which speaks to its proximity and relationship with the bay. RTC was created on April 3, 1978, when then SF State President Paul Romberg signed a 30-year educational lease with the US government for \$1. Originally established as SF State University's Center for Environmental Studies (TCES), the Center was renamed in Romberg's honor when he passed away in 1983.

Over the last 30 years, RTC has transformed the site's military buildings for use by SF State's arts and sciences community. RTC continues to expand its research, education and stewardship efforts. Initially, there were

only two scientists and a handful of students on site and no course offerings. Today, the Center is home to several research labs and courses, 15 faculty members, 13 research technicians, 26 students, and educational and administrative staff. NOAA is back, as well, represented by the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and visiting scientists from other institutions regularly collaborate with RTC faculty.

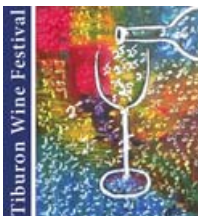
Plans for continued development of the Center have taken on new urgency and focus. With the future of the site now secured, the Center's master planning effort has begun and big changes are in store for the "Navy Net Depot." Garfield is full of ideas that will continue to increase the caliber of RTC science, education, stewardship, and community service that has been the Center's mission from the start.

"Paul Romberg would certainly be pleased with how far we have come in the 30 years since SF State hung its name on the front gate," Garfield said from his office in the renovated warehouse. "The potential for this place is enormous. I look forward to setting in motion the next 30 years of development and returning the waterfront to a serviceable deep water port for the benefit of the extended research community."

San Francisco State's RTC Anniversary Event takes place tomorrow from 1 to 4:30 p.m., and will include refreshments, talks, a slide show and a tour of the research facilities. For more information, call 388-3540, or e-mail [rtcinfo@sfsu.edu](mailto:rtcinfo@sfsu.edu).

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## SAVE THE DATE!



### **Saturday, May 16**

Wine Festival at Pt. Tiburon -

Tickets for the 26th Annual Tiburon Wine Festival are selling fast! Purchase on-line at [www.tiburonwinefestival.com](http://www.tiburonwinefestival.com) or contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 435-5633.

### **Friday, June 5 through Friday, August 14**

Friday Nights on Main

### **Friday, August 21 through Sunday, August 23**

Tiburon Art Festival

For more information on these and other Chamber of Commerce events, click on their "quick link" on the sidebar above.

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## OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

### **Wednesday, April 1**

6 - 8 p.m.

Artist reception for Hilda Kidder (oils, watercolors and portraiture)

Location: Tiburon Town Hall Community Room

### **Wednesday, April 8**

10 - 11 a.m.

Garden lecture by Marin Master Gardeners

April topic: "Water Wise Gardening"

Presenter: Eric Rayner

Location: Landmarks Art and Garden Center, 841 Tiburon

Boulevard  
Cost: Free

**Friday, April 24**

8 p.m.

Concerts at Old St. Hilary's - Virtuoso Harpist Anna Maria Mendieta presents *Tango del Cielo*, a fresh and innovative presentation of the passionate and sensuous music of the Argentine Tango, featuring violin, cello, percussion, tango and flamenco dancers.

To buy tickets, call 435-1853 or visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or [www.landmarks-society.org](http://www.landmarks-society.org).

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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](#).



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS



**Town Council:** April 1 meeting cancelled; Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

**Design Review Board:** Thursday, April 2 and 16 at 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission:** Wednesday, April 8 and 22 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 Iacopi

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