Improving Our Town

I am hard pressed to recall a busier time here in Town Hall and around Town. A great many endeavors are underway, all of which stand to benefit the community and make Tiburon an even lovelier and more prosperous place to live and work. I’ve reported this year on many of these, including the effort to tame peninsula traffic, revitalize downtown, address our parking problems, control pension costs, create a new home for recreation programs displaced from the schools due to surging enrollment, and more.

Here's an update on a few of the more prominent efforts:

**Dairy Knoll**
The new recreation center at 600 Ned’s Way, named in homage to the historic use of the site, is under construction and should be completed around March 2013. It will house Joint Recreation’s offices and provide ample space for existing and expanded programming for kids and adults. It's a beautiful site just a short hop off Tiburon Boulevard up Ned's Way (the street by the Police Department). Dairy Knoll will be a marvelous addition to the community with three activity rooms that can be combined into one for larger gatherings. Joint Rec staff's relocation to the new building also results in a de facto expansion of Town Hall as they vacate their current offices upstairs. This in turn will allow us to stop renting records storage space at other sites and relieve some current overcrowding.

**Lyford Drive Parking Lot**
Anyone who drives down the peninsula will have seen the large excavated site on Tiburon Boulevard at the foot of Lyford. This project, also due to be completed early in 2013, will transform the dirt shoulder parking for some 45 vehicles into a paved and landscaped area for the same number of cars that is both safer and aesthetically pleasing. Overhead wires crossing the site are coming down, too!
Del Mar Undergrounding and Paving
This neighborhood's long-held dream of undergrounding its utilities is on track to come true in 2013. The underground system (the Town's portion of the work) has been built, so the utilities now have to pull wires, energize the system and remove the poles, all of which takes quite a few months and is largely out of the Town's control as to timing. The Town is moving, though, to repave the streets now that the trenching is completed. Before long the whole neighborhood is going to look like it just spent the winter in Saint-Tropez.

Downtown
Revitalization activities are going strong... including the imminent hiring of a part-time person to implement the Marketing & Communications Task Force's strategy for improving the business climate and bringing more foot traffic (mostly via ferry) to downtown. Meanwhile, holiday plans are popping up. The Town plans to install new holiday street light banners to doll things up, and downtown property owner Mrs. Laleh Zelinsky is sponsoring a contest to select and reward the best dressed windows of the season. The tree lighting and ice skating street party is on November 30, and another treat is scheduled for Saturday, December 8, when window decoration winners will be selected and merchants will be offering special discounts perfectly timed for holiday shopping. Both events will feature carolers and many festive touches.

Another downtown improvement addresses the public restrooms by the Angel Island ferry dock. These guest facilities are, hmmm, let's just say "uninviting". I could use stronger language but kids might be reading this! Plans are underway to completely gut and rebuild proper restrooms that are light, bright, and properly accessible to the disabled.

Improving Customer Service
From time to time we receive complaints about permit services, particularly the building inspection process. This is not uncommon in government, as "enforcement" services (like inspections to enforce the building code) are inherently challenging; we sometimes have to tell people things they don't wish to hear if codes are not being followed or other violations become evident. Despite the nature of the beast with enforcement activities, be it building codes, traffic stops or zoning violations, all of which are important to keep our community safe and beautiful, we always seek to be fair, professional and ultimately helpful in our services. If we identify an issue, our goal is not just to call it, but to help find a path to overcome or correct it.

In response to some recent complaints, earlier this month the Town engaged an independent firm to conduct a customer satisfaction survey. It will ask those who have experienced the Town's permitting process during the past
year to tell us about their experience. We are always interested in improving our services, and periodic inquiries to solicit feedback provide very useful information to help us do just that.

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In sum: our infrastructure is improving every day in both visible ways, as noted above, and in stealthy ways, like through our annual drainage improvement project. The downtown is slated to become more inviting and vibrant, crime is down, and we have exceeded our pavement management goals (and we will be even better off after paving the Del Mar neighborhood). Volunteer efforts have helped beautify the peninsula, too, protecting our history and environment in the process. Included for accolades are Peninsula Pride for their periodic cleanup of Tiburon Boulevard, the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation and Landmarks for improvements to Blackie's Pasture and restoring the trestle remnants, Harvey Rogers and his master gardeners for the wonderful native garden at Blackie's, and Broom Busters for tackling the perpetual challenge of invasive plant species in our open space. And how about the Basketeers who bring us the lovely flower baskets each summer? (There are so many volunteer efforts I need to add an apology to those not listed here.) Finally, we in Town Hall are committed to providing the best possible services we can for the health and safety of the community. We are not perfect, but we certainly strive to be a model of effective government.

I firmly believe things are going very well in our great little town thanks to the vision and leadership of our Town Council, our dedicated citizenry and our hard-working staff. We are indeed lucky to call this corner of the world our home.

I bid a happy and safe Halloween to you and your family. And how about those Giants!

Sincerely,

Peggy Curran

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Wood Burn Ban in Effect November 1**

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 (BAAQD) 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 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.

To find out if a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, call 1-877-4NO-BURN, sign up for automatic phone alerts (1-800-430-1515) and 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.

Do your part to "spare the air".

Bay Area Air Quality District

BUILDING CODE CORNER:
Some Tips on Getting Your Home Ready for Winter

Check Your Furnace
If your home has a forced air heating system, have it inspected by a licensed heating contractor or by PG&E, which offers free furnace inspections and pilot relights to its customers. A thorough inspection will include checking for potentially hazardous conditions that can occur as heating equipment ages, as well as ensuring that the unit and ductwork are operating as efficiently as possible. The furnace filter should also be replaced at this time. Go to the PG&E website for more information on PG&E's free furnace inspection program.

Dryer Ducts
This is also a good time to inspect and clean the clothes dryer duct of lint and other debris, which should be done at least once a year. A clean dryer duct will significantly reduce the risk of fire while decreasing the energy and time needed to dry your clothes.

Weatherstripping
Inspecting and repairing the weatherstripping on your doors and windows will ensure that the warm air inside stays inside as long as possible. Sealing cracks and crevices around the exterior walls and ceilings with caulk and/or spray foam sealant will also reduce heating bills by
preventing heat loss to the exterior. For more information on ways to improve your homes energy efficiency contact a certified energy consultant or the Tiburon Building Division.

Rain, Drains, and Gutters
Along with winter comes the rain, which means it's time to clean the roof gutters and ensure that they drain into an approved storm drainage system. We receive numerous calls from Town residents each year shortly after the first significant rains of the season concerning to water runoff in places it shouldn't be. Besides the mess, sediment laden runoff water can cause damage to adjacent properties and to the environment. So please have your storm drains inspected by a landscape or plumbing contractor to ensure proper functioning. If you currently have a renovation project underway that has affected the grade around your home, please call the Building Division as soon as possible and we will gladly assist you in complying with the Town's jobsite winterization requirements.

Sincerely,

Fred Lustenberger
Building Official

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 14
11:30 a.m.
San Francisco Yacht Club
98 Beach Road, Belvedere

Honoree: Harvey Rogers

The annual Chamber of Commerce/Rotary Club Lunch will honor 2012 Volunteer of the Year, Harvey Rogers, for the thousands of hours he has put into planning, planting and maintaining Blackie's Garden.

The lunch is Wednesday, November 14, at 11:30 am at the San Francisco Yacht Club. The public is welcome. The cost is $28 and reservations must be made in advance.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce or 435-5633 to make a reservation.
ROTARY CLUB FESTA ITALIANA

Saturday, November 17
6 to 10 p.m.
St. Stephen's Church
3 Bayview Avenue, Belvedere

The Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere offers a taste of Italy at Festa Italiana on Saturday, November 17 from 6 until 10 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church.

The annual fundraising event takes its inspiration this year from European street markets. There will be delicious hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction and marketplace, wine, roving street entertainers, an Italian pasta dinner and dessert buffet. Come join your friends and neighbors and have some fun for a good cause. Dress as your favorite Italian and compete for a best costume award.

Funds raised will go to Rotary's efforts to help others in Marin County and around the world, including support of the Bel Aire School Liberia Well Project.

Tickets are $40 until November 15 and $50 at the door. To purchase tickets, contact Laurie Gordon at 435-7386, or send a check to the Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere, P.O. Box 220, Tiburon CA 94920.

For more information, contact Judy Wilson, Rotary publicity representative, or visit the website.

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES DOWNTOWN

TIBURON WINTER FESTIVAL
Friday, November 30

The Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce invites you to the following family-friendly events.... Come down and help kick off the holiday season in downtown Tiburon!

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Fountain Plaza
6:00pm

Gingerbread House Decorating
Sam's Anchor Cafe
27 Main Street
4:30pm, 5:30pm and 6:30pm (3 seatings)
$35 per house
The houses are already built so kids will be able to do the best part - decorate with all the goodies! All proceeds for the event benefit Kids Believe Achieve, a non-profit created by local children with the mission of fundraising for kid-focused, non-profit organizations.

Space is limited and reservations are highly recommended.*

**Ice Skating**
Main Street
(across from Fountain Plaza)

Opens to Public at 3:30pm (sessions run every half hour)
$25 advance reservations; $15 at the door (prices are per person and include skate rental). Group reservations available.*

**Reservations for Gingerbread House Decorating and Ice Skating will be taken starting Thursday, November 1.**

Reservations are taken in the order received. Emails and telephone calls received prior to November 1 will not be considered. Contact the Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce at 435-5633 to make reservations.

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**HERITAGE & ARTS COMMISSION**

**Art Shows at Town Hall**

**Nancy Sumner - Quilts**
Distinctive colors and designs through November 28.

**Landmarks Historic Multi-Media Display**
Annual Town Hall lobby show begins November 5.

Proceeds from sales benefit the programs of the Heritage & Arts Commission whose mission it is to preserve and advance the Town’s unique historic and cultural character and to advance the arts in the community.

Town Hall shows are available for viewing Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.
HOLIDAY CRAFTS SALE
Saturday, December 1
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Art & Garden Center
841 Tiburon Boulevard

DIVINE FEMININE: WOMEN IN HOLIDAY SONG
Friday, December 14
8 p.m.
Old St. Hilary Church

The 14-voice women's vocal ensemble Musae explores the power of all-female holiday music. Austere medieval carols, pointillistic contemporary compositions, raw and passionate Russian polyphony, and lush Romanticism are sure to recharge your spirit.

This concert is presented jointly by the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society and the Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission.
Buy your tickets soon since this ALWAYS sells out! Tickets $15 & $20, available at the Landmarks Office, Tiburon Town Hall, and Brown Paper Tickets.

There is no parking at Old St. Hilary's. Please park at the Boardwalk Shopping Center and take a shuttle to the concert. Shuttle service begins at 7:30 p.m.

Community Calendar

For the scoop on events and meetings sponsored by local non-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. (November 7; November 21 cancelled).

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

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

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

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission**: Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m. (next meeting is November 20).

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