

# Belvedere E-Newsletter



CITY OF BELVEDERE, CALIFORNIA

## From the City Manager

January 30, 2014

*Mary Neilan*



### Water Conservation Efforts

As a result of record low rainfall, Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors recently passed a resolution requesting 25-percent voluntary water use reductions by all water users. With reservoirs at 54 percent of capacity, customers are being encouraged to turn off automatic sprinkler systems, check for leaks and replace high use toilets, showerheads, etc. with low flow devices.

The City will be doing our part by reducing irrigation on the Beach Road medians, along the San Rafael Ave seawall, in the landscaped areas at City Hall and at Land Company Park. Community Park and Tom Price Park are served by well water, which has so far been sufficient but could be affected overtime if the drought worsens.

Like any property owner, the City has a significant investment in its landscaped areas and intends to make sure they survive this water shortage. Judicious use of this very precious resource should allow us to meet MMWD's goal and maintain attractive parks and streetscapes.

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### New Hours at City Hall

City Hall will be open an hour earlier than usual starting Monday, Feb. 3. Employees will be testing out an alternate schedule with longer days Monday through Thursday that will allow us to open City Hall at 8:00am. The office has always been closed on Friday, although a reduced staff is here working and can provide service by appointment or in case of an emergency. The alternate schedule will relieve employees of their commute one day every other week, reducing collective miles driven by 19,056 miles a year.

### Correction

Last month I wrote about the National Flood Insurance Program and the debt they owe to the U.S. Treasury after paying claims from hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Sandy. I misspoke in my article, stating that more than \$20 million was owed, when I should have said more than \$20 **billion**. A difference that's definitely worth noting.

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### **New City Hall hours:**

**8:00am to noon and  
1:00pm to 4:30pm,**

**Monday to Thursday.**

**Closed Friday.**

Congratulations to the Honorees!

**2013 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
Larry Wheat**

**2013 CITIZEN EMERITA  
Vera Gertler**

*Mr. Larry Wheat and Ms. Vera Gertler were presented with the awards of Citizen of the Year and Citizen Emerita at the 35th Annual Town Meeting on January 27, 2014. This distinction is awarded to outstanding Belvedere Citizens who provide exemplary volunteer support to the City. We appreciate their service!*



## Save the Date!

Belvedere Community Foundation's  
Clean and Green Day

**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

## Marin Master Gardeners



## “Dealing with Wildlife in the Garden”

Speaker: Brian Rafferty

**February 5, 2014**  
**10:00—11:00 AM**

Landmarks Society  
Art & Garden Center  
841 Tiburon Blvd.

Come and learn about how to have a garden and deal with the local Marin wildlife, including but not limited to gophers, moles, rabbits, deer and squirrels.

*Admission is free and no advanced registration is required.*



## Are You Using Clean Energy?

Belvedere was one of the original cities in Marin that helped found Marin Clean Energy (MCE), which provides an alternate source of electric energy for all Marin residents. Currently, almost 80% of Belvedere residents are utilizing the clean energy provided by MCE.

As of January 1, 2014, both the commercial and residential rates per KWh charged by Marin Clean Energy are lower than the rates paid by PG&E customers. More importantly, there is a difference in the source of the electricity provided:

- Only 19% of PG&E's electrical energy comes from renewable sources.
- Over 50% of MCE's electrical energy comes from renewable sources.
- MCE's customers are given the option to have 100% renewable energy for a slightly higher cost.

Residents who wish to make the simple switch to Marin Clean Energy as their power provider can do so by calling **(888) 632-3674**. Other than the knowledge that you are using cleaner energy sources, you will not notice that you have changed energy providers. Electricity from MCE still comes over PG&E transmission lines into your home, and your monthly utility bill will continue to be sent by PG&E.

*Marin Clean Energy is a public non-profit Joint Powers Authority of the county and cities of Marin, and now residents of Richmond in Contra Costa County.*

## Tiburon Film Society Presents

## “Heaven's Mirror: A Portuguese Voyage”

**Tuesday, February 4, 2014**  
**Beginning at 6 PM**

Bay Model  
2100 Bridgeway  
Sausalito, CA 94965

*Admission is FREE and open to the public!*



## Crab, Chardonnay & Chocolate

Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere's  
Annual Crab Event



**Saturday, March 1, 2014**  
**5:30 to 9:00 PM**

Tarantino Hall  
St. Hilary's Church  
761 Hilary Drive  
Tiburon, CA 94920

Everyone's invited to attend the Rotary Club's annual crab extravaganza for an evening of friendship, feasting and fun! Appetizers, oysters, crab galore with all the trimmings and a dessert buffet are included in the ticket price, with chicken and vegetarian dishes available for those who are unable eat crab.

The live auction features a Wine Country getaway in Healdsburg, pampering for two at Champagne Salon & Day Spa and a special wine collection. The Personalities Silent Auction features lunches at local restaurants with notable individuals, including Tiburon man about town Merv Field, Marin County Supervisor Kate Sears and Dr. Angelo Capozzi, founder of Rotaplast International.

Crab, Chardonnay & Chocolate is a fundraiser, and proceeds will go to Rotary's projects to support youth and literacy, including Bel Aire School's outreach project for its sister school in Liberia, 10,000 Degrees, the Global Book Exchange and Rotaplast International.

*Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$20 for children.*



*Conservation Corps North Bay Presents...*

### THE GROUNDWORK OF ORGANIC GARDENING

A three-part workshop series on establishing a productive organic garden  
Three Saturdays: February 4, 2014; May 17, 2014; October 4, 2014

\$30 per class or \$75 for the series when you register for all 3 at once

**February 1, 2014, 10 AM—1 PM**

#### "The Living Ground"

Instructor: Jeff Creque

This session will cover the principles and practices of organic soil cultivation with a focus on the physical and biological properties of soil. Emphasizing the intricate soil food web present in every healthy garden, Jeff will provide ample practical teaching on making and using compost, and growing and incorporating cover crops and green manure into the soil, as well as techniques of carbon sequestration for the living soil and the planet.



Bel-Tib Recreation's

### Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance

**Friday, February 7  
7:00—8:30 PM**

Belvedere Community Center

*\$50 per couple/\$15 for each additional daughter*

For more information, or to sign up, please call Belvedere-Tiburon Rec at (415) 435-4355



### Simple Safety Tips from PG&E:

PG&E provides the following important safety tips to keep customers safe during an electric or gas emergency:

- ◆ Never go near downed power lines. If you see a downed power line, assume it is energized and extremely dangerous. Do not touch or try to move it—and keep children and animals away. Report downed power lines immediately by calling **911** and PG&E at **1-800-743-5000**.
- ◆ If you smell or hear escaping gas, get everyone outside to a safe location away from the building and upwind where you can no longer smell natural gas. Once outside, use your phone to call **911** and PG&E at **1-800-743-5000**.
- ◆ If you suspect a gas leak, do not use electrical switches, appliances or telephones because sparks can ignite gas from broken lines.
- ◆ Do not check for a gas leak with a match or an open flame.
- ◆ Always store flammable material safely away from ignition sources like water heaters, furnaces and stoves.
- ◆ Know when and how to turn off electricity, water and gas at the main switch and valves.



A wealth of safety and readiness information, including tips on how to build a disaster supply kit and an emergency communication plan for your family, is available through PG&E's website, at <http://www.pge.com/safety/preparedness/> and through the Federal Emergency Management Agency at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).