

From: **Miriam Ganz** daisybugg21@aol.com
Subject: **Fwd: June 13 City Council Meeting**
Date: Today at 1:25 PM
To: **Alison Foulis - City Clerk** afoulis@cityofbelvedere.org

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

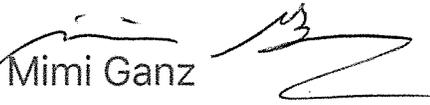
From: Miriam Ganz <daisybugg21@aol.com>
Date: June 13, 2016 at 1:19:19 PM PDT
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk <afoulis@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: June 13 City Council Meeting

Dear City Council Members,

I bring to your attention the attached article written May 28, 2016 in the Marin IJ by Barry Thompkins' Out of My Mind: "Oh, deer, what can the matter be?" Clearly Belvedere has become the laughing stock in the news and will continue to be so if this cruel and inhumane idea of sterilizing the does continues. I can assure you we will be the laughing stock in social media, local, national, and international news!

Animal rights groups will gladly get involved. They will bring to the forefront the undo suffering this will cause the deer.

Respectfully submitted,


Mimi Ganz

111 Bayview Ave., Belvedere

- [Reprints](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Subscriber Services](#)
- [Work for us](#)

ONE ENORMOUS INEQUALITY GAP ONE CLICK TO START ADDRESSING IT.

SCHOOLS

- [Home](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Barry Tompkins](#)

Barry Tompkins' Out of My Mind: Oh, deer, what can the matter be?



Bay Area sportscaster Barry Tompkins, seen on Monday, Aug. 22, 2011, in Fairfax, Calif., began his career in San Francisco in 1965 and has worked for HBO and Fox Sports Net. He is known for his work as a boxing commentator, but has covered football and other sports. He lives nearby in Ross. (IJ photo/Frankie Frost)

Posted: 05/28/16, 3:35 PM PDT |

[1 Comment](#)

I am here this week to offer a small bit of advice. If you are a biped, you needn't be concerned. Just go on about your Sunday embracing the day and the glorious place that we live.

If however, you are a quadruped with a relative that just happens to be named Bambi, RUN. RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!! But only if you live in Belvedere.

It seems that the deer who inhabit the island of Belvedere have come under the scrutiny of that most dangerous of all predators — a committee. There is a hue and cry these days to dissuade these literally doe-eyed creatures from doing what they must do in order to continue doing anything — eating.

The unfortunate fact for both the deer and the committee is that they (the deer, not the committee) are herbivores, and thus get their greatest joy from ingesting everything that grows in the ground or on bushes or trees. The deer, for their part, particularly enjoy flowery offerings that require the most finite of pruning by the most devout green-thumber. Of which Belvedere apparently has many, and which in large part accounts for the forming of the aforementioned committee.

It is also likely the reason that the deer moved to Belvedere in the first place — better restaurants. A melt-in-your-mouth prize-winning rose to the deer is like having a Dover sole filleted and deboned for you at Gary Danko.

I should offer an apology to my Belvedere friends. My wife and I are such bad gardeners that when we lived in Tiburon the deer rejected our foliage and moved down the street to you.

Now, if you are a deer and reading this, 1) congratulations, and 2) pay attention. The committee is considering a couple of options. It is advocating the hiring of a company called White Buffalo Inc., a Connecticut-based nonprofit that proudly proclaims that it specializes in “lethal and non-lethal” deer population management. Only deer that are Belvedere homeowners — and I'm guessing there are only a couple — have a vote in this matter.

The "lethal" option is, as the Marin wildlife experts have said, "excessive." Well, yeah, particularly if you happen to be a deer in the gun sight of a White Buffalo Inc. mercenary. Fear not, though; Anthony DeNicola, the founder of White Buffalo Inc., is quick to point out that, "People think that because we kill, we lack compassion." That's a demand that I will always make. I will only hire compassionate killers. They never fail to send a sympathy card to the parents and, not to mention an invitation to a venison dinner at the Rod and Gun Club.

Advertisement

And so we come to the second alternative — the non-lethal portion of the evening.

In this scenario all you philandering stags out there will be boogying like crazy down at the salt lick. This calls for the female portion of your number to be shot with a tranquilizer gun and administered an ovariectomy, at absolutely no cost to the recipient. It is entirely an out-patient procedure — no little fawns to fawn over ever again, no more prenatal natural childbirth classes, no more sleepless nights — and best of all, after a few years, no more deer population in Belvedere.

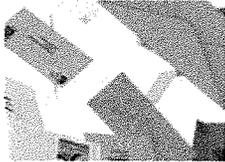
Wait. What?

There are, according to the deer census bureau, approximately 100 deer living on the island of Belvedere. That would come to one deer for every 20 residents. Half of the deer — by sheer chance — are female. So that would mean 50 to 60 ovariectomies at \$1,200 per. Or, roughly the cost of building a fence for those who don't already have one — to keep the deer out and protect your precious roses.

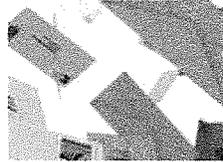
All in favor ...

Barry Tompkins is a longtime sports broadcaster who lives in Marin. Contact him at barrytompkins1@gmail.com.

Top Stories



[Marin IJ Readers' Forum for June 11](#)



[Marin IJ Readers' Forum for June 10](#)



This Week's Circulares

TAP FOR CIRCULAR



TAP FOR CIRCULAR



TAP FOR CIRCULAR



Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 1:38 PM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Deer

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michele Dillard
Date: June 13, 2016 at 1:14:10 PM PDT
To: Mary Neilan - City Manager <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: Deer

Dear Mary,

I have been in contact with Wyman Harris about the deer committee's work in Belvedere and wanted to share a summary of my response to him (which was followed by a thoughtful and lengthy discussion) so that a range of voices are on this issue before the city council decides whether to move forward with seeking a permit for the proposed deer management plan.

For me personally, the deer are not an issue. I protect plants with deer netting and chalk up losses of other foliage to the price of co-existing with nature, and enjoy seeing the deer around. But I do appreciate that others do not share my views and know the deer committee is trying to address real concerns in the community. I also am pleased the committee is only considering non-lethal options, should a compelling case for intervention be made.

The question for me has been whether there are enough metrics and research to establish, among other things, that (1) there is measurable deer population growth, (2) that experienced deer researchers can say with some scientific certainty that 40 does on an island of this size is untenable, (3) that there is some measurement of property damage or habitat/ecological damage and that shows a significant negative impact, (3) any other evidence of increased deer/human conflict such as vehicle collisions, (4) the deer are themselves not healthy due to overpopulation (I heard the statistic that a significant number are found dead each year on Belvedere but the question is *why?*) (5) that other alternatives have not worked (i.e., deer fencing, plant choices, etc). (6) a clear case for the connection between size of the deer population and lyme disease in a community here in CA (although arguably this latter point is a public health issue and needs to be addressed with better education in the community).

I have spoken with the wildlife management team at HSUS and also understand the nature of Marin HS and Wildcare's concerns. It is important for people to understand that Belvedere could not apply for a grant to HSUS until a permit has been issued by the state. That process in the normal course necessitates that a compelling case for intervention be made based on various metrics. So the first step by the council should be making sure that a *thorough, independent* analysis has been done that makes a compelling case for deer management in the first place. Should that case be made, the community might also benefit from a better understanding why this specific sterilization plan is better than any other non-lethal options that were considered.

Thanks so much,
Michele Dillard