

# Belvedere E-Newsletter



CITY OF BELVEDERE, CALIFORNIA

450 San Rafael Ave.  
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April 13, 2013

## From the City Manager

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Next week marks my three-month anniversary in Belvedere. This is the second city I have had the pleasure of managing and the sixth for which I have worked in one capacity or another. Cities come in all shapes and sizes and vary quite a bit in the type and quality of service they provide. They also differ in the source and quantity of resources at their disposal. When I arrive in a new city, I try to familiarize myself as quickly as possible with both the operational capacity of the organization and its financial health. This helps me understand if there are issues to be addressed right away, or if we can continue with “business as usual” as I settle in to my new role.



I was encouraged, but not surprised, to see that in Belvedere the small staff provides an excellent level of service and demonstrates an obvious commitment to the community and the organization. Problems are addressed proactively, and, while there is always room to improve, most of what I hear from residents is support for our efforts and an interest in understanding the challenges we face.

To that end, I was pleased with the reception my budget report received at the last City Council meeting. Preliminary to this year’s budget deliberations, my staff and I reviewed the status of the City’s reserves, projected operating revenue and expenses for next fiscal year and described the numerous capital projects to be funded over the next 12-36 months.

The report identified an operating shortfall that will need to be addressed prior to the budget being adopted. It also pointed out that reserves are now at or just below the minimum established by Council policy, creating a need to amend the policy or develop a plan to replenish the reserves.

The deficit is not huge and the reserves are still considerable. But the situation raises a question as to how the City wishes to manage its finances and operations going forward. After building up a very nice reserve over a period of years, the City had every reason to feel comfortable spending some of its savings to complete many wonderful projects and provide fantastic municipal services. Now, with some significant capital expenditures pending, we need to consider how to reduce expenses to insure the City continues to maintain its infrastructure and meet residents’ needs.

At their May 13 meeting, the Council will review the draft budget for FY13/14 and discuss how best to bring that into balance. I hope to be able to provide them with options that reduce expenses with minimal disruption to city services and programs and I welcome your input in that regard. Please feel free to contact me anytime, 435-8906.

### Did You Know?

- BELVEDERE RECEIVES \$.20 OF EVERY PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR PAID BY BELVEDERE PROPERTY OWNERS.
- TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE IN FY12/13 IS EXPECTED TO BE \$3.8M
- PROPERTY TAX MAKES UP 70% OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE

### In this Issue

- WALK YOUR HISTORY
- TIBURON FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES FILMS ON YOUTH
- ZERO TOLERANCE DISTRACTED DRIVING
- UPCOMING MEETINGS

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tiburon International Film Festival

When: April 11-19, 2013

Where: Playhouse Theater  
40 Main Street, Tiburon

Tiburon International Film Festival will continue its support for independent films and filmmakers from around the world by presenting a wide range of films from 30 countries in fiction, documentary, short, animation, music...and more.

For more information please visit:

[www.TiburonFilmFestival.com](http://www.TiburonFilmFestival.com)

### Films on Youth

For the first time, Tiburon International Film Festival will focus on *Films on Youth*, a collection of films made by or about youth from around the world, coming of age, social class, growing up, sexuality and the challenges that the young people face in today's global society.

The films which will be presented are: *Coming Up, A Quest For Peace: Nonviolence, Fanfare for Marching Band, Five Years, Prora, Skunk, A World for Raul*

Showtime: Sunday, April 14,  
2013, 2:00 PM

### Regular City Meetings: Open and Public

Regular meetings of the following bodies are held at City Hall and are open to the public.

City Council: Second Monday,  
6:30pm

Planning commission: Third Tuesday,  
6:30pm

Parks and Open Space Committee:  
Second Thursday, 4:00pm

Citizens Flood Zone Committee:  
Second Wednesday, 6:30pm



*Concerts in the Park—Coming Soon!*

## *Join us for **Walk Your History 2013 - Into Lyford's Hygeia***

### ***HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON THE STREETS OF TIBURON'S HYGEIA FOR WALK YOUR HISTORY 2013***

***New walk begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 21***

***Tiburon's Ferry Plaza***

***The entire community is invited to come and Walk Their History!***

*Walk Your History, a special biennial community celebration, is a FREE event designed to educate the community about the fascinating history of Belvedere and Tiburon. Over 800 people attended the 2011 Walk Your History event, and this year's event is expected to bring out even more!*

*Over 50 volunteer and Living History docents will bring history to life on the walk to Lyford's "Hygeia," the land of health. The walk up Paradise Drive, past the Lyford Stone Tower, and on to Mar West and Lyford Cove, will be dotted with costumed characters from the early 1900s and feature the historic home "The Castle." Walkers will enter the homes and gardens of historic houses along the walk, enjoying astounding views along the way.*

*The self-guided walk begins and ends at the Ferry Plaza, where participants can enjoy gourmet coffee and healthy treats in the morning, and then enjoy delicious BBQ lunches at noon while listening to music and taking in the views.*

*Sponsors ("History Makers") for this event include the City of Belvedere, Town of Tiburon, Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society, Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, Belvedere Community Foundation, and Belvedere Tiburon Recreation.*

*Polish up your walking shoes and save the date! Bring the kids. Bring the dog!*



The Planning Commission agenda for April 16 includes:

1. A Study Session on a project to demolish the existing structure and construct a new home at **1 Windward Road**.
2. A Public Hearing to consider a project at **288 Beach Road**
3. A Public Hearing to consider a project at **40 Bayview Avenue**

The complete agenda is available on the City's website: [www.cityofbelvedere.org](http://www.cityofbelvedere.org)

**Planning Commission  
Meeting**

**April 16, 2013**

## Belvedere Police Department To Hold Zero Tolerance Distracted Driving Enforcement Operation

As part of April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month campaign, Belvedere Police will be actively ticketing those texting or operating hand-held cell phones on April 3rd and April 16th. Drivers who break the law and place themselves and others in danger will be cited with no warnings. The current minimum ticket cost is \$159, with subsequent tickets costing at least \$279. Last April, over 57,000 tickets were written statewide for texting and hand-held cell use. There were nearly 450,000 convictions in 2012. Whether it's a ticket or a crash, as the campaign theme states, "It's Not Worth It!"

Distracted driving is a serious traffic safety concern that puts everyone on the road at risk. In recent years, hundreds have been killed and thousands seriously injured in California as a result of collisions that involved at least one driver who was distracted. Nationally, an estimated 3,331 died in 2011. As a result, law enforcement across the state, including Belvedere Police are increasingly cracking down on cell phone use and texting. This April will see over 225 local agencies plus the CHP conducting zero tolerance enforcements.

Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Younger, inexperienced drivers under 20 years old have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes. In addition, studies show that texting while driving can delay a driver's reaction time just as severely as having a blood alcohol content of a legally drunk driver.

Studies also show that there is no difference in the risks between hands-free and hand-held cell phone conversations, both of which can result in "inattention blindness" which occurs when the brain isn't seeing what is clearly visible because the drivers' focus is on the phone conversation and not on the road. When over one third of your brain's functioning that should be on your driving moves over to cell phone talking, you can become a cell phone "zombie."

To avoid a distracted driving ticket or crash, Belvedere Police offers drivers the following tips:

- Turn off your phone and/or put it out of reach while driving
- Include in your outgoing message that you can't answer while you are driving
- Don't call or text anyone at a time when you think they may be driving



**it's  
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