



BELVEDERE E-NEWSLETTER: May 12, 2023

City Council Highlights

Several important items came before the City Council at our regularly scheduled [May Meeting](#):

- We discussed the FY2023-24 budget, which will return to Council for approval in June. Thanks to Belvedere's long history of conservative fiscal planning, the budget funds priority items despite a projected decline in revenues while continuing to honor the City's robust reserves policy.
- The Finance Committee, which reviewed the budget, asked for approval to form an ad hoc committee to explore possible changes to the Fire Tax, which has not kept pace with our fire contract costs.
- We approved funding to finalize the environmental review of the levee upgrade project. This is an essential step as we continue to seek grant dollars for this critical project.
- We discussed draft revisions to the City's Construction Time Limit policies to better incentivize prompt completion of projects and reduce noise and parking disruptions for neighbors. The suggested policy replaces a system of monetary penalties levied at project completion (often hotly contested) with increasingly costly time-limited construction permits.

Belvedere Housing Element Update

Round One: The State of California requires municipalities to develop an updated Housing Element (HE) every eight years. The Housing Element sub-committee worked to create an HE that balanced our community's realities with State mandates. Most importantly, we had to describe how we plan to accommodate 160 new housing units within the city limits over the next eight years. Our Housing Element was adopted by the Belvedere City Council in January and submitted to the California Department for Housing and Community Development (HCD) for preliminary review.

Round Two: Belvedere received HCD's review letter on May 1 and, consistent with the experience of all Marin municipalities, HCD did not approve our initial

submission. The HE subcommittee -- comprising Planning Commissioners Carapiet, Johnson, and Lasky, Council Members Mark and Cooper, the City Attorney, and our Housing Consultant -- is now working hard to craft an effective response.

To read Belvedere's Housing Element, HCD's response letter, and public comments, please click [here](#).

Coyotes In Belvedere

Belvedere's coyote consultant, Rebecca Dmytryk of Humane Wildlife Control, Inc., presented her findings to the City Council on May 8. After spending five days in the field, which included video surveillance and interviewing several residents, she concluded that there are most likely two coyotes in Belvedere and that they are repeat visitors from Tiburon. The full report is available [here](#).

We are pleased to share that there has been a reduction in reported coyote sightings and encounters since January 2023. Rebecca will continue to consult, the City is purchasing dedicated video cameras that can be placed around Belvedere at different locations to monitor coyote activity, and we are completing the Response Plan. This week our Police were trained in hazing techniques and are prepared to step in at any time to help.

These are encouraging developments. But to stay vigilant, **we have established a dedicated Belvedere Coyote Hotline: (415) 435-8942!** Please use this number to report any non-emergency coyote sightings or encounters, or use the Report Form found [here](#).

Communications Task Force Update

One of the City Council's 2023 key initiatives is improving overall communications with Belvedere residents. At the May Council meeting, the communications task force shared an update on their work including insights from a survey completed by 170 residents (thank you to everyone who participated). You can see the task force's full update [here](#). The City will be implementing changes to address the feedback and a full revamp of the City's approach to communications is expected in August.

Going forward, you can expect to receive this monthly newsletter on the Friday following our regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Emergency Preparedness Day: Sunday June 4th at Community Park



Belvedere residents are invited to join their neighbors for Belvedere Emergency Preparedness Day from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on June 4th in Belvedere Community Park.

- Belvedere Block Captains will be on hand to show residents how to sign up for AlertMarin, register on the Block Captains website, and demonstrate their two-way radios.
- The Police Department will offer tips on assembling an evacuation

GoBag.

- Dr. Thomas Cromwell will teach participants how to perform CPR and will have Narcan Nasal Spray samples to distribute.
- Belvedere Community Foundation will distribute gas shut-off wrenches.
- City of Belvedere staff will discuss Coyote Awareness and plans for creating Evacuation Routes.
- Tiburon Fire will serve FREE burgers and hot dogs fresh off the BBQ!

Volunteer Opportunities

The Belvedere City Council will be considering appointments to the following committees:



- Belvedere Planning Commission (two seats)
- Belvedere Historic Preservation Committee (two seats)
- Belvedere Parks Open Space and Lanes Committee (three seats)
- Belvedere-Tiburon Joint Recreation Committee (one seat)
- Belvedere-Tiburon Library Agency Board of Trustees (one seat)

If you are interested in serving, please submit a letter of interest and a brief statement of qualifications by June 5th to the Mayor at City of Belvedere, 450 San Rafael Ave., Belvedere, CA 94920-2336, or c/o clerk@cityofbelvedere.org. For more information, call 435-3838.

Upcoming City Council, Committee Meetings and Events

Regular Planning Commission Meeting
May 16, 2023, 6:30 PM

Regular City Council Meeting
June 12, 2023, 6:30 PM

Emergency Preparedness Day
June 4, 2023, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Belvedere Community Park

Concerts in the Park
June 18, 2023, 4:00 PM
Belvedere Community Park

For more information on meetings and agendas please visit the [City Website](#).



City Of Belvedere

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