

## **BELMONT PRESS RELEASES – 2001**

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10/25/2001 Flag Dedication Ceremony...

(Press Release not found.)

10/30/2001 Belmont Police Establish...

**PRESS RELEASE**

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

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Type of Incident: **Belmont Police Establish Community Drop Box** Case #: N/A

Location: Belmont Police Department Date: 10/30/01 Time: 1200hrs

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**EVENT**

In an effort to better serve the community, Belmont Police are establishing a community drop box at the Belmont Police Department, 1215 Ralston Ave, Belmont. The drop box is installed outside the front door to the police department to collect items of concern from citizens in the community, without having to have those items brought inside the police building.

Initially, the drop box will be made available to parents wishing to dispose of candy brought home by their children on Halloween, which they feel may be "of concern". The police department will dispose of all candy collected. Future uses will include a drop off for any "suspicious mail" which is received by citizens. In the case of suspicious mail, items collected will be turned over to the San Mateo County Health Department.

The drop box was donated to the Police Department by the US Postal Service, through cooperation of Belmont Postmaster Frank Young and was repainted courtesy of Superior Auto Body in San Carlos.

By: Sergeant Patrick Halleran Authorized By: Sergeant Patrick Halleran

Date: 10/30/01 Time: 1200hrs Date: 10/30/01 Time: 1200hrs

11/20/2001 Police Join with Other Agencies...

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**BELMONT POLICE JOIN WITH OTHER AGENCIES  
FOR SEATBELT AND CHILD SAFETY SEAT CHECKPOINT**

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*When:* November 28, 2001 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

*Where:* 1400 Blk of Alameda, Belmont

*Who:* Belmont PD, San Carlos PD, Redwood City PD & Millbrae PD

*Press Contact:* Sgt. Robyn Pitts - Belmont Police Press Information Officer

The Belmont Police Department, with assistance from the San Carlos, Redwood City & Millbrae Police, will be conducting a seatbelt and child safety seat checkpoint on Wednesday, November 28, 2001 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM.

Belmont Police are using the checkpoint as an educational tool to remind the public that both adults and children need to "Buckle Up". Officers with special training on the proper installation of child safety seats will be at the checkpoint to inspect seats and provide information to parents.

The timing of the checkpoint was chosen to remind drivers of this important safety information during this heavily traveled holiday season.

By: Sergeant Robyn Pitts Authorized By: Sergeant Robyn Pitts

Date: 11/20/01 Time: 1330 hrs Date: 11/20/01 Time: 1330 hrs.

11/21/2001 City Council Reorganization...

**NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 21, 2001**

**CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

**City Council Reorganization Planned for November 29**

*Belmont, CA --*

The Belmont City Council will swear in the three members elected November 6 at a special meeting set for 7:00 November 29, 2001 in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. The entire community is invited to attend the ceremony and reception immediately following.

Belmont voters elected George Metropolis, Dave Bauer and Terri Cook to four year terms. They will take the oath of office November 29. At the same meeting, a new mayor and vice mayor will be selected and outgoing Mayor Eleanore Hahn and Council Member Pam Rianda will be recognized for their years of community service.

The special meeting will be shown live on cable Channel 26.

# # #

11/28/2001 Seatbelt / Child Safety Seat ...

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 28, 2001

CONTACT:  
Sergeant Patrick Halleran  
(650) 595-7400

### Seatbelt / Child Safety Seat Checkpoint a Success

*Belmont, CA --*

The Belmont Police Department, with assistance from the San Carlos, Redwood City & Millbrae Police, held a seatbelt and child safety seat checkpoint in the 1400 block of Alameda, on Wednesday, November 28, 2001 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM.

"The checkpoint is an educational tool to remind the public that both adults and children need to 'Buckle Up' - especially with the heavily traveled holiday season upon us," said Chief Greg Janke.

Officers with special training on the proper installation of child safety seats, conducted inspections of child safety seats and provided information to parents.

In all, 1300 drivers were contacted and only 20 of those were not wearing seatbelts. 41 parents had their child safety seats inspected, with 37 of those being used incorrectly. However, due to the educational nature of the checkpoint, no citations were issued.

Several other parents made appointments for child safety seat inspections, to be conducted at a later date. Parents wishing to have their child safety seat inspected should contact their local Police or Sheriff's Department to see about scheduling an appointment for an inspection.

# # #

11/29/2001 Seatbelt Checkpoint...Update

(Press Release not found.)

11/30/2001 Renovated Lodge Available...

# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 28, 2001

**CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

### Renovated Lodge Available for Rentals

*Belmont, CA --*

The Lodge Building on the grounds of Twin Pines Park is now open after extensive renovation work. For bookings, or rental information, contact Francis Mason at 637-2927.

"I'm pleased we have this community asset accessible to the public again," said Parks and Recreation director Karl Mittelstadt. "It's a great place for a wedding, a retreat or any kind of group meeting."

The newly renovated Lodge Building, with a capacity of 100 people, contains three rooms that can be rented separately or together for parties, meetings, and other social gatherings. The facility also contains a full kitchen, two bathrooms, two storage closets, a fireplace and a patio overlooking the Belmont Creek that can be used for outdoor parties or a wedding.

The following renovations took place in the past year:

1. All new kitchen
2. All new lighting
3. All new restrooms (ADA approved)
4. All new paint
5. All new windows and doors
6. Enlargement of the lobby

The Lodge was originally a residential home until it was converted to a Sanitarium in 1932. The sanitarium operated until 1972. The City of Belmont purchased the Lodge Building and the area known as Twin Pines in 1972. In 1975, the City converted the building in to a Community Center.



12/06/2001 Autobahn Motors Donates Bicycles to Belmont Police

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 6, 2001

CONTACT:  
Sergeant Patrick Halleran  
(650) 595-7400

### **Autobahn Motors Donates Bicycles to Belmont Police**

*Belmont, CA --*

Autobahn Motors, a Belmont Mercedes Benz Dealership, has donated five high-end bicycles to the Belmont Police Department. The black & white Mercedes Benz 24 speed mountain bikes will be used to patrol parks, schools, apartment complexes and business areas in Belmont.

Police Chief Janke and officers from the department will accept the first bicycle from Autobahn General Manager, Michael Famileti, at 2:30 PM on Monday 12/10/01. Autobahn is located at 700 Island Parkway, just northeast of the Highway 101/Ralston Ave. interchange.

"The bicycles will give our officers added mobility that is not possible in a patrol car. In addition, the bikes will allow for better interaction with the public," said Chief Greg Janke. The five new bicycles supplement two mountain bikes currently used by Belmont Police. The Belmont City Council formally accepted the donation at the November 27<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. The bicycles are valued at \$2,000 each.

"We are pleased to be able to donate these bicycles to the City of Belmont," said Famileti. "We are proud to be a part of this community and we want to help the Police Department do their job."

# # #

12/06/2001 Pedestrian Decoy Event

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 6, 2001

CONTACT:  
Sergeant Patrick Halleran  
(650) 595-7400

### **Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement Event on Dec. 12**

*Belmont, CA --*

The Belmont Police Department, with assistance from the Redwood City & Millbrae Police, will be conducting a Pedestrian Decoy Event on Ralston Ave. It will take place on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM in the area of the Carlmont Shopping Center.

"The purpose of the event is to raise drivers' awareness of their responsibilities to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks," explained Corporal Chris Ledwith of the Belmont Police Department. "This time of year in particular, drivers are sometimes distracted and it can be especially dangerous for the many pedestrians around shopping areas."

Police personnel in plain clothes will be used to cross Ralston Ave. in marked crosswalks while motorcycle officers observe for pedestrian right of way violations. Motorists failing to yield the right of way to the pedestrian will be cited.

The Belmont Police Department will continue enforcement of pedestrian right of way violations on a continuous basis and will work with both the Redwood City Police Department and the Millbrae Police Department on pedestrian decoy events in their respective cities.

12/13/2001 Pedestrian Decoy Results

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 13, 2001

CONTACT:  
Sergeant Patrick Halleran  
(650) 595-7400

### **Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement a Success**

*Belmont, CA --*

The Belmont Police Department, with assistance from the Redwood City & Millbrae Police, conducted a Pedestrian Decoy Event on Ralston Ave., on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM in the area of the Carlmont Shopping Center.

Police personnel in plain clothes were used to cross Ralston Ave. in marked crosswalks, while motorcycle officers observed for pedestrian right of way violations. Motorists failing to yield the right of way to the pedestrian were stopped. A total of 69 enforcement stops were made, with 61 citations issued and 8 warnings given. The fine for violating a pedestrian right of way in a crosswalk is \$103. Passing another vehicle, which has stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, carries a fine of \$270.

"The event met its objective, which was to raise drivers' awareness of their responsibility to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks," explained Sergeant Patrick Halleran of the Belmont Police Department. "The Carlmont Shopping Center area was chosen due to numerous complaints regarding this problem from merchants and neighborhood residents."

The Belmont Police Department will carry out enforcement of pedestrian right of way violations on a continuous basis and will work with both the Redwood City Police Department and the Millbrae Police Department on pedestrian decoy events in their respective cities.

# # #

12/20/2001 Belmont Hails Governor's Support for Local Revenues

**NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 21, 2001

**CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

**Belmont Hails Governor's Support for Local Revenues**

*Belmont, CA* -- City Manager Jere Kersnar, back from the League of California Cities' conference in Sacramento, praised Governor Davis for his commitment to protect local revenues.

Governor Davis spoke at the conference, saying "I will not balance this budget on the backs of local government. I will fight to see you receive funds from the vehicle license fee to provide important services."

Until just a few years ago, the vehicle license fee went exclusively to local government. In 1999, the State had a budget surplus and reduced the fee paid by motorists, but promised to use State funds to "backfill" or make up the difference to local government. Belmont and other local governments had expressed concern in recent months that the State would try to solve its \$12 billion deficit problem by taking local revenue, as was done the last time the State faced a large deficit.

"The VLF is approximately 10% of our General Fund and one of our largest revenue sources in Belmont," said Kersnar. The "backfill" alone is \$900,000 and the equivalent of:

26% of the Police force

75% of the street maintenance budget

78% of the park maintenance budget

Mayor Dave Warden stated, "I am pleased the Governor has indicated he intends to keep the State's promise to local governments. If we were to lose this funding, we would need to make deep cuts in critical services to our community. Staff is already in the process of developing budget adjustments for early next year due to the weak economy. If the State were to take away our revenues, it would be an unbearable 'double-whammy.'

# # #

# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2001

**CONTACT:** Thomas Fil  
(650) 595-7435

### BELMONT RAISES FUNDS FOR SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

*Belmont, CA* -- The City of Belmont has sold \$7.5 million in revenue bonds to fund improvements to the City's sewer system. The issue was sold at an average interest rate of less than 4.95% to a group of Wall Street firms led by Salomon Smith Barney. Proceeds of the issue will be used to construct improvements to the City's sewer system, including rehabilitation of the system's catch basins and pipelines. The improvements, which are underway, will lessen the intrusion of storm water during rainy periods and should produce cost savings to the City's more than 8,000 customers.

The low interest rate on the bonds is due to the City's good credit rating from the investment community. Moody's gave Belmont a rating of A3 and Fitch gave the City a rating of A. These ratings translate into savings for Belmont ratepayers, since the cost of making the sewer improvements is lower than it otherwise would be.

"We were delighted with the extremely low rates offered on these bonds, and believe those rates are clear indications that the credit markets believe in the sound financial operations and quality of the management here in Belmont," said Thomas Fil, Belmont's Finance Director. "Not only were the rates very attractive, but there were close to eighteen different firms actively bidding for the bonds," he continued.

The Salomon Smith Barney led syndicate has reoffered the bonds to the public at yields ranging from 2.00% in the year 2002, to 5% in the year 2031, the last year of the loan. The bonds are repayable from the fees that the City charges its customers for sewer service, and have no claim on other assets of the City. The City last raised sewer rates in Spring 2001.

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