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1/14/2002 Belmont Seeks Residents for Several Commissions

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2002 **CONTACT:** Kathy Kern – (650) 595-7414

Belmont Seeks Residents for Several Commissions

New Youth Positions on Parks and Recreation Commission

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont is currently recruiting residents interested in serving on the City's four advisory commissions: Parks and Recreation; Planning; Finance; and Arts. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 8 and the application is available on the City's website: www.belmont.gov.

New this year are two seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission dedicated to youths. Belmont residents between 13-17 are encouraged to apply for these one-year positions, which will be full voting members of the commission (parent/guardian consent required).

The Parks and Recreation Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding park, athletic field and facility development, recreation programs, and related policies. In addition to the two youth positions, there are four other vacancies on the Commission. Three positions are for two years until March, 2004; there is also one vacancy for the remaining year of a term, until 2003. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

The Planning Commission reviews and takes action on planning applications and makes recommendations to the City Council. There are four vacancies on the Planning Commission, for three year terms that expire in 2005. The Planning Commission meetings the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

The Finance Commission participates in the budget review process, serves at the Audit Committee for the City, conducts an annual review of the City's investment policy and reviews other financial issues. There are three vacancies for three year terms. The Commission meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM.

The Arts Commission advises the City Council on a variety of matters related to visual arts, theatre art, music and dance. There are three vacancies for two year terms. The Commission meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

To apply for any of these outstanding opportunities to contribute to your community, fill out the application form available on the website or at the City Clerk's Office (1070 Sixth Street, Suite 311) and return in to the City Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 8. Applicants must live in Belmont. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 595-7413.

#

1/23/2002 January 22nd City Council Meeting

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2002 CONTACT: Kathy Kern – (650) 595-7414

Postponed Council Meeting Rescheduled for January 29

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont City Council meeting of January 22 was postponed due to a power outage. The meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 29. The meeting will be held in the Senior and Community Center at 7:30 PM and will be televised live on cable channel 26. The agenda will include all of the items posted for the January 22 meeting.

Power went out at the Civic Center Complex and other areas of Belmont and San Carlos around 5:00 PM on Tuesday and did not come back on until about 10:00 PM.

#

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409, Craig Ewing – (650) 595-7908

Belmont Embarks on 33 Improvements to the Permit Process

One-Stop "Lab" to Open in March

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont City Council has adopted thirty-three recommendations for improving the City's development review and approval process. The recommendations are intended to make the process easier, quicker, and more clear for customers. The cornerstone of the recommendations is to have a centralized location, or one-stop center, for applicants. The City has committed to converting space on the third floor of City Hall into a working "One-Stop Laboratory" to develop the best configuration in anticipation of a permanent center once the new Police facility is completed.

The City requested a study of the development review process by Management Partners, Inc., which was delivered at the January 8 Council meeting. Staff has reviewed the thirty-three recommendations for permit re-engineering in Belmont and presented an implementation plan on January 29. "We believe that all of the recommendations from Management Partners are valid; some will be easy to implement, others will be complicated," said Community Development Director Craig Ewing.

"The permit re-engineering effort will introduce significant change to the procedures, practices, and even the culture of development review in Belmont. Traditionally, government has seen the review process as an assembly line...step one, step two, step three, etc. We want to be more like a Pit Crew in Belmont, bringing different specialties together for quick and effective action," said City Manager Jere Kersnar.

Among the key recommendations are:

Establish a "one stop shop" for permitting activities in the City.

Clarify the roles of involved departments, divisions, and individual employees implementing the development review and building permit processes.

Implement a permit/project management structure for planning and building permits that will establish accountability across division and department lines.

Establish a consistent definition for "completeness" and communicate it to all reviewing departments.

Reduce the number of plan sets required for submission.

Help to educate the customer about permitting processes and requirements through the use of promotional materials.

Increase the use of Administrative Approvals for processing of basic projects.

1/31/2002 Belmont Embarks on 33 Improvements to the Permit Process (pg 2 of 2)

Staff believes, and the Council concurred, one of the most significant changes the City can effect is an improved public counter for the issuance of permits. This has long been recognized as necessary for offering better customer service – a single location where an applicant has comprehensive access to Planning, Building, Public Works, Fire and Business License services. A permanent one-stop center is envisioned for City Hall once the new Police facility is completed. However, a temporary center would immediately propel staff to cultivate improved inter-department relations. As an open and flexible space, such a center would be a laboratory for testing and working out the best configuration for a permanent one-stop center. Staff anticipates such a "lab" to be open in March.

Staff will also establish an administrative committee to implement and oversee the permit re-engineering program. This group would include representatives from all affected departments, particularly Community Development (Planning and Building), Public Works, and Fire. Parks and Recreation, Finance and the City Manager's. The Committee will meet on a regular basis to develop strategies, receive reports and act as a forum for inter-departmental dialogue. "Our 'marching orders' would be the recommendations themselves," said Ewing.

"Our system isn't broken, but we know it can be improved and we intend to do just that," said Kersnar.

#

2/6/2002 Community Workshop to discuss...

(Press Release not found.)

2/20/2002 Hillside Development Meeting - February 20th ...

(Press Release not found.)

2/21/2002 Belmont Police receives technology to assist in ...

Join us!

Community Meeting

to discuss the

Belmont Police Facility

The purpose of this public meeting is to review

Preliminary site plans

and to get input from the public on the possible location and size of a new Police building near City Hall.

February 21, 2002

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Belmont City Hall

1070 Sixth Ave., Suite 101

Belmont

For more information, call 595-7409

2/21/2002 Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement Event Feb.21

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2002

Sergeant Dan DeSmidt (650) 595-7400

Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement Event on Feb. 21st

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department, with assistance from the Millbrae Police & San Bruno Police, will be conducting a Pedestrian Decoy Event in both Milbrae & Belmont. It will take place on Thursday, February 21, 2002 between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM on El Camino Real in Milbrae and on the same date in the area of Notre Dame High School on Ralston Ave. in Belmont.

"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.

Police personnel in plain clothes will be used to cross the roadways 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 stopped, and may be issued a citation.

The Belmont Police Department will continue enforcement of pedestrian right of way violations on a continuous basis, and will continue to work with neighboring law enforcement agencies to address traffic related concerns within our communities.

A Belmont PD representative will be available to assist any personnel prior to, and during the Belmont portion of the event. Please call Sgt. DeSmidt in advance for specific media requests.

2/21/2002 Police Facility Community Meeting...

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2002 CONTACT: Sergeants Pitts or Halleran (650) 595-7400

Belmont receives technology to assist in communicating with the community

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Police Department, along with San Carlos Police Department and the South County Fire Authority have received a free "TeleMinder" computer, valued at \$25,000, from TeleMinder Corporation of Los Altos.

The TeleMinder computer is capable of mapping out an area affected by an emergency or disaster and dialing the telephones of the residences and businesses in the area. When a person picks up the phone, they will be instructed to go to their computer and obtain information. For instance, TeleMinder can be used to inform residents that a child is missing in the area and the child's description, and residents can be informed to close their windows and shut their doors due to a hazardous material spill in the area. Additionally, TeleMinder can be used to provide non-urgent information within the communities of Belmont and San Carlos.

"This technology will be particularly useful to us in our Belmont Safe Schools Program to alert parents, schools, etc. of matters of concern. Such a system would have been immensely valuable on September 11," said Chief Greg Janke.

[Chief Janke and the members of the Department](#) are very excited about the wide variety of uses of this innovative system and what it means towards the safety of the communities.

The grant is to receive an entire TeleMinder Computer System for use by the three agencies. The computer will be kept at the Belmont Police Department and will be available twenty-four hours a day for use by all three agencies. Belmont Police Department took the lead in the grant process and the application was completed in December of 2001.

Note: photo of grant award ceremony available upon request

#

2/28/2002 Annual State of the City Event by: Dave Warden

Annual State of the City Event February 28

Mayor Dave Warden will present his State of the City Address Thursday, February 28 at the annual event sponsored by the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Warden will share "Dave's Top Ten List" and discuss other issues of importance to the community. Everyone is invited to attend.

This year's event will be at the Iron Gate Restaurant, 1360 El Camino Real, beginning with a no-host bar at 11:30 and lunch served at noon. The cost for lunch is \$30 per person. The event has been moved to a larger room to accommodate reservations, so some space is still available. To make a reservation, call the Chamber of Commerce at 595-8696.

#

2nd Community Meeting regarding the new **Belmont Police Facility**

The purpose of this public meeting is to get further input

from the community on

Preliminary site plans

For a new Police building near City Hall.

Stop by:

March 19, 2002

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Belmont City Hall

1070 Sixth Ave., Suite 101, Belmont

For more information, call 595-7409

3/25/2002 New "One Stop" Permit Center to Open March 25

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2002

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

New "One Stop" Permit Center to Open March 25

Belmont, CA -- A new Permit Center, designed to simplify and expedite the process of getting permits in Belmont, will open in City Hall on Monday, March 25.

The Permit Center is the first major change to be made as a result of a recently-concluded study that examined the development review process in Belmont. The study, conducted by Management Partners, recommended thirty-three changes. The cornerstone of the recommendations was to have a centralized location, or one-stop center, for applicants.

The City has converted space on the third floor of City Hall that was used for the Grade Separation project into a working Permit Center "Laboratory." This site will be a "work in progress" and will help staff develop the best configuration in anticipation of a permanent Permit Center once a new Police facility is completed.

The new Permit Center will co-locate staff from all the departments that impact the development process: Community Development (Building and Planning Divisions), Public Works, and Fire. A centralized cashier will also be located at the Permit Center, so applicants can pay one time at one place. "We are changing from an assembly line process...department one, then department two, then department three, to a "Pit Crew" model - bringing different specialties together in one location for quick and effective action," said City Manager Jere Kersnar.

The Permit Center, in Room 309 of City Hall, will have zoning, building and public works technicians present during normal business hours (8-12 and 1-5). Experts from zoning, building, and public works will be present daily 2-4 PM, with a fire inspector also present Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2-4 PM.

With the opening of the Permit Center, staff is initiating other changes to improve customer service. A new, easy to use, comprehensive application packet has been created for single family residence design review. In addition, the number of plans required to be submitted for single family residence projects has been reduced from fifteen to six. This will save applicants money and will reduce the number of bulky plans created. Staff has also created a customer satisfaction survey so we can learn what is working and what is not. These are just the first of several "re-engineering" efforts to take place as staff continues to learn from the experience of the Permit Center and implement the other recommendations of the Management Partners study.

"Staff from many departments have worked very hard over the past two months to make the Permit Center a reality. We know it won't be perfect on day one - it is a laboratory that we will constantly learn from and improve. But the Permit Center is a significant improvement over the current system and the City is committed to working on other enhancements to the development review process," said Kersnar.

Note to editors: A formal "ribbon-cutting" ceremony will be held April 2 at 4:00 PM. A separate media advisory will be distributed.

#

4/2/2002

Permit Center Grand Opening

You are cordially invited to the official opening
of the City of Belmont's new

PERMIT CENTER

Ribbon-cutting Ceremony:

Tuesday, April 2 - 4:00 PM

City Hall - Room 309

Refreshments to follow

Zoning

598-4204

Building

595-7422

**Public
Works**

595-7427

Fire

595-7478

General Information: 595-7416

Changing How Work Gets Done!

4/10/2002 Ray Davis named Public Works Director

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Ray Davis Named Public Works Director

Belmont, CA --

Mr. Ray Davis, currently the Transportation Administrator for the City of San Leandro, has been appointed Public Works Director in Belmont, City Manager Jere Kersnar announced. His first day will be May 20, and he will be formally introduced to the community at the April 23 City Council meeting.

"Ray comes to us with a wealth of experience in traffic and transportation engineering. He has strong management skills and experience working with neighborhood groups and others to build consensus, in negotiating with applicants in regard to development proposals, and working with other departments in processing development applications - all of which will be called upon in Belmont," said Kersnar in making the appointment, which was ratified by the City Council April 9.

Mr. Davis has 25 years of both public and private sector experience. In addition to over five years with San Leandro, he spent a total of nine years with the cities of Santa Monica and Torrance. He also spent over ten years in the private sector, including service with Brain Kangas Foulk Engineering (BKF) in Redwood City. Mr. Davis was recently elected to the International Board of Directors of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the leading professional transportation engineering association.

"I am looking forward to joining the Belmont team and adding my experience to that of the staff in place. I want to promote customer service, responsiveness, and professionalism," said Davis.

Mr. Davis received his Bachelor of Science in Transportation Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and his Master of Public Administration from Cal State Dominguez Hills.

City Manager Kersnar also thanked Duncan Jones, who has served as Acting Director since the departure of John Curtis in October, 2001. "I know Duncan, and the rest of staff, had to rearrange their work because of the vacancy, and the fact that the work keeps getting done is a tribute to Duncan's leadership and the team's efforts."

#

4/23/2002 Citizen Opinion Survey Being Distributed

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Citizen Opinion Survey Being Distributed

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont's 2002 Citizen Opinion Survey will be arriving in resident's mailboxes this week. Approximately 3,000 surveys are being mailed out beginning today to randomly selected households. Residents can respond by calling a toll-free phone number or by [using the internet](#), as noted in the instructions with the mailing.

"The information from the survey results will help us identify the issues that are important to the community and how we can improve the City services we provide. It will also be helpful as we implement the Service Delivery Initiative and performance budgeting in Belmont," said City Manager Jere Kersnar.

The survey was designed and will be conducted by the Gelfond Group, a professional research firm that has done similar surveys for public and private sector clients. Responses to all the survey questions are confidential and are sent directly to Gelfond; the City will not see individual response. The aggregated results will be shared with the City and community when tabulations are completed.

"I encouraged residents who get the survey to take the few minutes needed to answer the questions so we have the benefit of your opinions about City issues and customer service; it will help us do a better job," continued Kersnar.

Survey results will be posted on the City Web Page (www.belmont.gov) in July 2002 and will be reported in the Fall Belmont newsletter.

This is the first time Belmont has done a citywide satisfaction survey since 1995.

#

6/4/2002 Belmont Police Establish Crime Tip Line

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 4, 2002 **CONTACT:** Det. Sgt. Patrick Halleran(650) 595-7412

Belmont Police Establish Crime Tip Line

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department has established a Crime Tip Line for citizens wishing to provide information on crimes being investigated by Belmont Police. The Crime Tip Line is a voicemail system, checked regularly by a Belmont Police detective, on which citizens can leave information. "There were several recent cases where tips from the public provided crucial information" said Detective Sergeant Patrick Halleran. "One such case was a home invasion robbery where detectives only had a first name of a suspect and citizen tips lead to his identification and arrest within three days of the crime. Citizens can still call the business number and talk to one of our records personnel, but this line gives another option for getting the information to us," Halleran added.

The Crime Tip Line is an investigative tool intended to be an addition to the regular telephone numbers at the Police Department. Information can be left anonymously, but citizens are encouraged to leave a name and call back number for investigators.

The Belmont Police Crime Tip Line number is 650-598-3000. Citizens are reminded that they should call 9-1-1 for in-progress crimes or crimes which have just occurred.

#

6/7/2002 Belmont Wins Planning Award

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Wins Planning Award

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont's San Juan Hills Area Lot Merger Program has received the 2002 "Planning Implementation" award by the Northern Section of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association.

In December, 2001, the City of Belmont fulfilled a 13 year objective from its San Juan Hills Area Plan when it directed the merger of 206 lots into 52. "The City felt these lots, part of a 1926 subdivision in steep and geologically unstable soil, would pose severe development risks to the owners and the community unless strong measures were implemented," said Planning and Community Development Director Craig Ewing. "Key to the program's success were Belmont's development standards for hillside lots and roadways, which had been enacted over the past dozen years," Ewing continued.

Twenty-three property owners appealed the process for 71 of the 206 lots. The City Council rejected all but one of the appeals. The program was given the award for the extensive planning analysis prepared as part of the appeals process. Criteria for the award included: originality, transferability, quality, implementation, and comprehensiveness. Belmont was the top award winner in the Planning Implementation category for small jurisdictions.

The award will be presented to City officials on June 21 after which Belmont's proposal will be submitted to APA's California Chapter Awards Jury for statewide consideration.

#

6/19/2002 High-Tech Bicycle Lockers in Belmont Caltrain Station

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

High-Tech Bicycle Lockers in Belmont

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont station will be the first on the Caltrain system to have a new type of "on-demand" bicycle lockers. Belmont Public Works staff will begin installing the 40 new lockers on Friday June 21, 2002. The lockers are fully funded by a \$60,000 Transportation Fund for Clean Air grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The "eLocker" system is a combination of an electronic locking mechanism and special lockers. "We are excited to premiere the new system and are pleased to be working with Caltrain on this project," said Public Works director Ray Davis.

Caltrain to distribute electronic keys. The key holder can use any available locker, anywhere on the Caltrain system. Data on locker usage is available to Caltrain through a Palm interface. If inappropriate material is stored in the locker, Caltrain will be able to remove it and determine who placed it there. The eLocker keys will make administration of the keys by Caltrain much easier.

The special lockers will be green powder coated perforated steel, to match the existing benches, trash receptacles and bike racks at the Belmont station. The tops will be solid steel. The perforations will allow Caltrain inspectors, as well as Belmont police, to see if anything other than bicycles are stored in the lockers. Caltrain's master key can be used to immediately remove inappropriate material from the locker. The lockers will be installed in circular and semicircular arrangements in the station underneath the bridge south of the elevator.

BART is currently installing the same lockers in some of their stations.

#

6/21/2002 Orientation Meeting July 9 for Potential City Clerk Candidates

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Orientation Meeting July 9 for Potential City Clerk Candidates

Belmont, CA --

The City of Belmont will be holding a special election on November 5, 2002 to fill the remaining year on the term of the City Clerk. The City Council voted in May to conduct a special election to fill the term vacated by Kathy Kern, who has served as clerk for 6 years.

To find out more about the position of City Clerk, and the election process, interested residents are invited to a special orientation meeting on Tuesday, July 9 at 5:30 PM in Room 101 of City Hall. A panel of experienced city clerks will discuss what it is like to be a city clerk. "This is a unique position and we want to make sure those interested in it have a full understanding of the responsibilities before the election season begins," said City Manager Jere Kersnar.

The filing period to run for City Clerk will open on July 15 and close on August 9. You must be a registered voter in Belmont to run for the office.

For more information on the orientation or the clerk's position, call 595-7413.

#

6/26/2002 Citizen Opinion Survey Results

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Citizen Opinion Survey Results

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont's 2002 Citizen Opinion Survey results were presented to the City Council on Tuesday, June 25, 2002. Among the key findings are:

91% of residents rated Belmont "above average" as a place to live
69% of residents rated Belmont "above average" for the overall quality of services
Satisfaction levels with key services were:

89% favorable for police protection
91% favorable for fire protection
45% favorable for zoning and planning
63% favorable for park, athletic field and open space maintenance
52% favorable for maintenance of streets, roads, sidewalks and street trees

49% of residents said traffic was a serious problem in their neighborhood
96% of residents feel "very safe" or "fairly safe" in Belmont
85% of residents feel it is "very easy" or "fairly easy" to obtain information about City services in Belmont
72% of residents rated City staff "above average" for overall helpfulness

Approximately 3,500 surveys were distributed in April to randomly selected households. Residents could respond by calling a toll-free phone number, by using the internet, or by mailing the responses in a postage-paid envelope. 702 residents responded, including 367 who used the internet. **The results are at the 95% confidence level, +/- 4%.**

"I am grateful that so many residents took the time to complete the survey. The survey results help us understand what issues are most important to the community and how we are doing. Staff will be analyzing the data and using it to improve service delivery," said City Manager Jere Kersnar.

[Survey results](#), an [executive summary](#) and [charts](#) are available on the City web page (www.belmont.gov) under "press releases."

This is the first time Belmont has done a citywide satisfaction survey since 1995. The survey was designed and conducted by the Gelfond Group, a professional research firm that has done similar surveys for public and private sector clients.

#

6/28/2002 Belmont Wins Finance Award Again

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Wins Finance Award Again

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

The award is for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Belmont's CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including full disclosure.

This is the eleventh time Belmont has received the award, and the fourth consecutive certificate.

"Belmont has a long and rich history of superior financial reporting. This award is reflective of the City's commitment to sound financial planning and reporting. It is a testament to the comprehensive financial policies set by the City Council and the hard work of a dedicated staff," said Thomas Fil, Finance Director.

The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 14,000 government finance officials.

#

7/5/2002 Belmont Adds Two to Police Force; Looking for More

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 5, 2002 CONTACT: **Captain Ed Wood** – (650) 595-7400

Belmont Adds Two to Police Force; Looking for More

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department is pleased to announce that Kenneth Stenquist and Michael Thompson have begun their duties with the department after successfully completing the 117th Alameda County Sheriff's Office Regional Training Center Police Academy. They are currently in the Belmont Police Department Field Training Program.

"We are pleased to add two such capable officers to our ranks. I know they will be a great addition to our team," said Captain Ed Wood.

Ken Stenquist, a native of Northern California, was previously employed as a Police Office Specialist with the Belmont Police. He also served in the U.S. Marine Infantry, serving two deployments overseas and was honorably discharged.

Michael Thompson was raised in Millbrae attending Mills High School. He received his Bachelors Degree from Cal State Sacramento University. Prior to working with Belmont he was in the service industry.

The Belmont Police Department is currently recruiting for Police Officers and Police Office Specialist. For more information please contact Human Resources at (650) 595-7452.

#

8/1/2002 Belmont Holds Citywide Garage Sale August 3rd

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 5, 2002 CONTACT:

Captain Ed Wood – (650) 595-7400

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#

8/2/2002 Belmont Cuts Waste, Reaches State Recycling Goal

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Cuts Waste, Reaches State Recycling Goal

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont was presented a **Resources for the Future Award** last week by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) in recognition of meeting the state's stringent solid waste diversion requirements.

Belmont was certified as having a 63 percent diversion rate in 2000, exceeding the state mandate of a 50% reduction in solid waste. Only 172 of 445 jurisdictions statewide have met the requirement, including five in San Mateo County.

Components of Belmont's successful recycling programs include:

Residential and commercial curbside recycling for paper, containers, and yard waste and seasonal (christmas trees), administered by BFI under City contract; construction demolition and salvage goals administered by the Building Division.

Backyard composting, Park and Recreation Dept. mulching and wood chipping.

Public education and outreach (BFI quarterly newsletter, school curriculum, business audit and source reduction tips)

"We are pleased to be in the limited group of cities that has met the state's tough mandate," said City Manager Jere Kersnar. "With our partners at BFI and the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, Belmont is continuously working on programs and long-range planning to increase recycling rates," Kersnar continued.

Belmont was one of four Bay Area communities approved by the CIWMB at its monthly meeting in July. Menlo Park was also certified in July. "We commend these cities and counties for leading the way with recycling and resource conservation efforts," said Waste Board Chair Linda Moulton-Patterson.

Public Resources Code section 41780, enacted by AB 939 (Sher) – the Integrated Waste Management Act (Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989) – requires every city and county in the state to divert from landfill at least 50 percent of the waste generated within their jurisdiction in 2000. The Legislature amended this statute in 2000, requiring jurisdictions to sustain their waste diversion efforts into the future.

A list of all cities and counties with approved rates is available at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/PressRoom/Resources/DivRates.htm.

#

8/9/2002 Changes at the Permit Center

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Changes at the New Permit Center

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont has implemented three changes recently, all designed to further improve the permit/development process in the City.

The new Permit Center, designed to simplify and expedite the process of getting permits in Belmont, was opened in March. The Permit Center has now been expanded, taking over the offices formerly used by the City Clerk. "This new space gives us some breathing room and also allows us to have our files nearby, which wasn't the case previously," said Mark Nolfi, Permit Center Coordinator.

Another change made to improve customer service is the addition of afternoon building inspections. Previously, only morning inspections were possible. "By shifting our workload around, we have been able to provide more options to the customer," explained Building Official Joe Cyr. Inspections are now available between 9-12 and 1-4.

Finally, after reviewing usage patterns, the hours of technical expertise from the Fire Authority have been changed. A representative of South County Fire is now available in the Belmont Permit Center from 1-4 on Tuesday and Thursdays. All Belmont-related permits and fire safety questions should be addressed at the Permit Center, not at the headquarters in San Carlos.

The Permit Center, in Room 309 of City Hall, co-locates staff from all the departments that impact the development process: Community Development (Building and Planning Divisions), Public Works, and Fire. A centralized cashier is also located at the Permit Center, so applicants can pay one time at one place. The Permit Center is open normal business hours (M-F 8-12 and 1-5). Technical staff from Planning, Zoning, Building and Public Works are available daily from 2-4. For more information, call 595-7416.

#

8/27/2002 Belmont Police Campus Cop goes Electric

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2002 CONTACT: Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

Belmont Police Campus Cop Goes Electric

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department is going high-tech and low emissions with its newest patrol vehicle. The TH!NK Electric Vehicle, manufactured by the Ford Motor Company, has joined the Belmont PD vehicle fleet. The TH!NK, which looks like a large golf cart, is street-legal and has a top speed of 27 mph. It will primarily be used by Officer Scott Fegley, the School Resource Officer for Carlmont and Notre Dame High Schools. "The TH!NK vehicle allows for more interaction with students than a regular patrol car and better mobility than walking" said Capt. Don Mattei.

The TH!NK vehicle, valued at \$8,000 was donated to Belmont by Hayward Ford. **Representatives from Hayward Ford will formally present the TH!NK Vehicle to the City on Thursday August 29, 2002 at 9:00 AM in front of Belmont City Hall, 1070 Sixth Ave., Belmont.** The Police Department's new mobile command center, made possible through grant funding and local business donations, will also be on display.

In addition to campus patrol, the TH!NK vehicle could be used at school athletic events in the event of an injured player on the field. "Its lightweight and wide tires enable the TH!NK to drive on grass fields smoothly and easily" added Capt. Mattei. Outside of school hours, the Police Department plans to use the TH!NK to help patrol community events, such as the upcoming Belmont Art & Wine Festival in September.

#

8/30/2002 Belmont DUI Checkpoint

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2002 CONTACT: Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

Belmont Police Join with Neighboring Agencies for Labor Day DUI Checkpoint

Belmont, CA --

Five San Mateo County agencies and the CHP will be joining forces in the City of San Mateo on Friday August 30, 2002, for a multi-agency DUI Checkpoint. The checkpoint will be on El Camino Real in the southern part of San Mateo, and will run from 9:00 PM Friday night to 3:00 AM Saturday morning. Officers from the Belmont, San Mateo, San Carlos, Hillsborough and Colma Police Departments will be staffing the checkpoint, along with officers from the California Highway Patrol. "We are hoping that through our combined efforts, we can make this a safer holiday weekend for everyone in the community," said Belmont Police Capt. Ed Wood.

The checkpoint is part of the Avoid the 23 Campaign, which will run from Friday August 30th through Monday September 2nd. Questions regarding the campaign should be directed to Jan Ford at (650) 322-9121.

#

9/5/2002

School officials to help control on-campus parking problems

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2002 CONTACT: Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

School officials to help control on-campus parking problems

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department has joined forces with the school officials to help control an increasing parking and traffic problem at local schools. In the next few weeks, school officials will be issuing Courtesy Warning Notices to parents and other drivers who park illegally on campuses.

"Most of our schools were built at a time when kids took the bus to school. Now, instead of half a dozen buses, we have a few hundred cars dropping off and picking up kids," said Capt. Don Mattei. This change in the way kids get to and from school causes major traffic problems, especially if parents park in red zones to wait for their child. "We have limited police resources, so this program was created to help us address a problem by working as a team with school officials" added Capt. Mattei.

The Warning Notices are being issued as part of Belmont Safe Schools, a partnership between the Belmont Police Department and all public and private schools in the city, designed to provide a safer environment for the students.

The Warning Notices do not carry a fine, but the fine amounts for the violations are printed on the notice to educate drivers what a real citation would have cost. The driver will get the original, and each school will forward a copy to the Police Department. "We are going to keep track of the Warning Notices, and if a driver doesn't get the message with a Warning Notice, we will send a traffic officer to issue a real citation" added Capt. Mattei.

#

9/9/2002 September 11 Remembrance

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2002 CONTACT: Chief Greg Janke(650) 595-7400

September 11 Remembrance

Belmont, CA --

The City of Belmont is planning a brief observance to remember the anniversary of last year's tragedy. It will be held on Wednesday, September 11 at 8:40 AM at the flag pole in front of City Hall. "The observance is intended to give city staff, the City Council, commissioners, and members of the public an opportunity to come together, honor those who lost their lives, and reflect on what happened a year ago," explained Chief Greg Janke.

The ceremony will include brief remarks, a lowering of the flag by members of the Police Department and a moment of silence at 8:46 am. The flag will be returned to full staff and the Pledge of Allegiance will conclude the observance.

Belmont Police and South County Fire representatives will also be participating in a countywide event at the County Fair and Exposition Center in San Mateo.

#

11/4/2002 **Donate Old Mobile Phones to Benefit Belmont Safe Schools**

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Donate Old Mobile Phones to Benefit Belmont Safe Schools

Belmont, CA -- In recognition of America Recycles Day on November 15, the City of Belmont is asking residents to donate their used cell phones to help protect the environment and raise funds for the Belmont Safe Schools Program.

The public may donate their used mobile phones at the following locations from November 14-18 during normal business hours:

- * Belmont City Hall - 1070 Sixth Ave, 3rd Floor Lobby
- * Belmont Senior Center - 1223 Ralston Ave
- * Belmont Library - 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas

Any portable mobile phone is accepted, excluding bag phones or vehicle-installed models. All donors should deactivate the phones before turning them in.

"250 million used mobile phones are lying around in this country," said City Manager Jere Kersnar. "If individuals pull their old phones out of drawers and off shelves and turn them in, we can keep them out of the landfill and convert them into funding for a worthwhile cause."

The City of Belmont, in conjunction with the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, has partnered with CollectiveGood, a company that generates funds for charities through cell phone recycling. Mobile phones contain hazardous materials such as mercury, cadmium, nickel and gallium arsenide that could contaminate ground water if discarded in landfills. Donated phones are kept out of landfills, and are either refurbished and sold primarily in Latin America, or they are scrapped for parts.

Belmont Safe Schools was started in 1999 as collaboration between the Belmont Police Department and the public and private schools in the city to ensure the safety of children in the event of a school-related emergency. It was designed to facilitate communication and disaster preparedness planning between schools, parents and the City.

"We're excited about this opportunity," said Don Mattei, the Belmont Police Captain who helped develop the Safe Schools program. "Not only will it benefit our schools, but donated phones are recycled, thereby protecting the environment as well."

#

11/8/2002 City Council Reorganization Planned for November 26

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2002

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

City Council Reorganization Planned for November 26

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont City Council will swear in the new Mayor and Vice Mayor at 7:30 PM on November 26, 2002 in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. The entire community is invited to attend the ceremony and reception immediately following.

According to Council policy, current Vice Mayor Paul Wright will become Mayor for 2002-2003 and Council Member George Metropulos will become Vice Mayor. At the meeting, out-going Mayor Dave Warden will also be recognized for his year of service to the community. The business items on the agenda that night will consist of consent calendar items only; there will be no public hearings. The meeting will be shown live on cable Channel 26.

Newly elected City Clerk Terri Cook will be sworn in at a special meeting on December 10.

#

11/12/2002 Coffee with Cops

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2002 CONTACT: Sgt. Pat Halleran– (650) 595-7412

Coffee with the Cops

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Police Department, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, is hosting a "Coffee with the Cops" program on Tuesday, November 19 from 8:00 – 9:00 AM in Room 101 of City Hall (1070 Sixth Ave).

Residents and business owners are invited to spend an hour with the Police Chief, Police detectives and an FBI agent to discuss issues such as identity theft and recent bank robberies in the region.

"Identity thefts are on the rise and we want everyone to have the tools to protect themselves and their businesses," said Detective Pat Halleran. "This is particularly important with the holidays coming up, as more scam artists are out there and more credit cards are being used," Halleran continued.

"Not only does this kind of event provide useful information to the community, it helps us get to know our residents and businesses better and gives them a direct connection with the Police Department," explained Chief Greg Janke.

For more information, or to sign up, please call Sgt. Halleran at 595-7412 or Charmaine Hope with the Chamber of Commerce at 595-8696.

#

11/13/2002 Council Member Cook Resigns

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2002 **CONTACT:** Jere Kersnar – (650) 595-7408

**Council Member Cook resigns;
Council to hold Special Meeting to discuss options**

Belmont, CA -- Council Member Terri Cook resigned her seat during the Council meeting of November 12.

Cook, elected City Clerk last week, had to resign prior to being sworn in on December 10. Her resignation last night was prompted by an agenda item to consider changing the City Clerk's salary. Cook was prevented by law from participating in that discussion, so resigned her seat effective immediately prior to that agenda item. The remaining Council Members present directed staff to report back on the options for a "step" salary range for the City Clerk.

As a result of Cook's resignation, the City Council now has 30 days to either appoint a replacement or to call a special election to fill the seat. Subsequent to Cook's resignation, and as provided for under State law, the City Council unanimously added an item to the agenda to begin the discussion of next steps. No action was taken but direction was given to staff to set up a Special Meeting of the City Council in the next week on this topic. The Special Meeting has not yet been set but will be noticed and the agenda posted in compliance with the Brown Act.

Clerk-elect Cook will be sworn in following the certification of the election at a Special Meeting at 7:00 PM on December 10. A brief reception for the new Clerk will follow the swearing-in prior to the regular Council meeting at 7:30 PM.

#

11/15/2002 Grant Leads to Seat Belt Enforcement

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2002

CONTACT: Sgt. Robyn Pitts (650) 595-7400

Grant leads to Seat Belt Enforcement

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Police Department is joining more than 12,000 law enforcement agencies in a nationwide effort to enforce seat belt laws. The *Operation ABC Mobilization* starts November 25th and continues through the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The enforcement blitz comes as new data show that more men and women die in traffic crashes than any other cause.

Belmont recently received a \$5,100 "mini-grant" from the Office of Traffic Safety that is allowing the Police Department to engage in two one-week blitzes to increase the level of seat belt enforcement. The Belmont Police Department will conduct an informative Seatbelt/DUI checkpoint on November 30, which will include child safety seat inspections for those interested. Saturation enforcement will take place from November 25 through December 1 as the first part of the grant. The second increased enforcement period will be in May 2003.

"We participate in these mobilizations because they save lives," said Corporal Chris Ledwith of the Traffic Division. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported recently that child fatalities from traffic crashes have declined by 20 percent since 1997, when the mobilizations began, and 39 million more Americans are buckling up. "We are doing better, but 47% of the people killed in vehicle collisions were not wearing seatbelts. More needs to be done," continued Ledwith.

Teens will continue to be a key target of the *Operation ABC Mobilization*. Fatality rates for teens are twice that of older drivers, and the risk of crashes for teens is four times that of older drivers. This year, approximately 8,000 Americans, adults and children, will die in crashes simply because they failed to buckle their seat belts.

#

11/22/2002 Applicants Sought for Council Vacancy

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 22, 2002 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Applicants Sought for Council Vacancy

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont City Council, at a Special Meeting held last night, established a process to fill the vacant Council position. One seat on the five-member Council is open due to the resignation of Terri Cook, who was recently elected City Clerk.

The City Council has 30 days from the date of the resignation to either call for an election to complete the term or to appoint someone. The Council chose to try to fill the seat by appointment.

Anyone wishing to be considered for the vacant Council seat, which runs until November 2005, must submit a written expression of interest to the City Clerk's office in room 311 of City Hall by 5:00 PM Tuesday, December 3. In order to serve on the City Council, you must be a registered voter in the City of Belmont.

There is no specific application form and interested parties can submit whatever information they consider relevant to help the Councilmembers choose. All applicants will be interviewed by the City Council at a Special Meeting on Monday, December 9. The time has not yet been set, but the meeting will be noticed according to the Brown Act and is open to the public. The City Council will then consider appointing someone at the regular meeting of December 10. Should the Council choose not to appoint anyone at that time, they still have until December 12 to appoint or call for an election.

The City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Councilmembers often serve on other local and regional committees. Members of the City Council are paid a \$390 per month stipend and receive some health and retirement benefits.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 595-7413.

#

1/14/2003 Special Election for Council Vacancy

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Special Election for Council Vacancy

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont will hold a Special Election on June 3 to fill a vacant Council position. One seat on the five-member Council is currently open due to the resignation of Terri Cook, who was elected City Clerk in November 2002. The term of the vacant seat runs until November 2005.

Packets will be available to any interested candidate beginning Monday, February 10, and the deadline to file papers as a candidate is Friday, March 7. These dates are set by Election Code. Papers must be picked up and returned **in person** to the City Clerk in Suite 311 of City Hall. To be a candidate, you must be a registered voter in the City of Belmont.

The City will conduct an orientation for all declared candidates after the filing period closes in March.

The City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. Councilmembers often serve on other local and regional committees. Members of the City Council are paid a \$390 per month stipend and receive some health and retirement benefits.

The deadline to register to vote for the June election is May 19.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 650-595-7413.

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