

70 Press Releases were issued during 2003, as follows:

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TITLE:</u>
1/14/2003	Special Election for Council Vacancy
1/16/2003	Belmont Seeks Residents for Several Commissions
1/29/2003	State of the City Event February 20, 2003
1/29/2003	City Blasts Governor's Raid of Local Funds
2/6/2003	Budget Reduction Strategy Released
2/10/2003	Belmont Video to Begin Airing
2/10/2003	Council Candidacy Period Begins
2/21/2003	City of Belmont and NDNU to Sign Advisory Board Agreement
2/25/2003	Compost Giveaway March 8
2/28/2003	Belmont Receives Federal Funding for Police Facility
3/6/2003	Belmont Solicits Community Group Funding Request
3/6/2003	New Comprehensive Business Form Available Online
3/19/2003	Community Planning Meeting for Twin Pines Park Playground
4/4/2003	Write-In Candidate Filing Begins
4/16/2003	City Council Candidates Forum April 30
4/16/2003	Special Events in Twin Pines Park April 19
4/29/2003	First Sister City Delegation Slated to Visit Belmont on April 29
5/6/2003	Political Sign Regulations
5/8/2003	Belmont Wins Financial Award Again
5/20/2003	Seat Belt Mobilization and Checkpoint
5/22/2003	Proposed FY 2004 Budget Released
5/23/2003	Missing Belmont Man Found Deceased
5/27/2003	Public Safety Memorial
5/30/2003	Citywide Flea Market June 7
6/4/2003	New Council Member
6/23/2003	City Council Reports Available on the Web
6/26/2003	Vacancy on Arts Commission to be filled
7/1/2003	Belmont Awarded Two Grants
7/1/2003	Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement Event on July 2, 2003
7/7/2003	Major Road Improvement to Begin
7/7/2003	Election Season Set to Begin
7/10/2003	ABC 7 Community Outreach Comes to Belmont
7/16/2003	Belmont to hold Citywide Garage Sale August 2nd
8/5/2003	Aerial Photos to be taken...
8/14/2003	Missing Person from Belmont - new photo (8-18-03)
8/18/2003	Special Meeting to Consider Canceling Election
8/20/2003	Ballot Measure to Maintain Current Level of Emergency Response
8/22/2003	Missing Person:Nancy Jean MacDuckston "UPDATE" Photos
8/27/2003	New Recreation Classes Start Soon

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TITLE:</u>
8/29/2003	Missing Person: Nancy Jean MacDuckston "UPDATE"
9/5/2003	Felony Hit and Run
9/5/2003	Belmont Council Meetings Now on Channel 27
9/9/2003	Turn In Your Old Computer for Reuse and Recycling
9/22/2003	A Celebration of Artists
9/24/2003	Missing Person: Nancy Jean MacDuckston "UPDATE"
9/29/2003	Some Offices to Close in Preparation for Move
10/2/2003	Community Meeting to Discuss New Belmont Library
10/15/2003	City Council Adopts Vision Statement
10/20/2003	Belmont Prepares for City Hall Retrofit
10/28/2003	PD/Cityhall Groundbreaking - Wednesday November 12 at 1PM
10/28/2003	City Official Reorganization - Wednesday Night November 12th
10/30/2003	Suspicious Death - Update (2) - Photos
10/30/2003	Suspicious Death - Probable Homicide
10/31/2003	Suspicious Death - Update (5)
10/31/2003	Suspicious Death - Update (4)
10/31/2003	Suspicious Death - Update (3)
11/6/2003	Missing Person: Nancy Jean MacDuckston - Update
11/6/2003	Suspicious Death - Update (7)
11/6/2003	Suspicious Death - Update (6)
11/10/2003	Police Department/City Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony
11/12/2003	Fire Station #14 Dedication
11/14/2003	Grant Leads to Seat Belmont Enforcement
11/14/2003	Planning Commission Openings
12/2/2003	City Hall to Close Over Holidays
12/2/2003	Sandbags Available for Belmont Residents
12/4/2003	Breakfast with Santa, December 13th
12/15/2003	Library Project Update
12/19/2003	Fire Station 14 Open House December 21st
12/22/2003	City Hall to Close: December 25 through January 4, 2004
12/23/2003	Detonation of Explosive Device on Old County Road

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.

1/16/2003 Belmont Seeks Residents for Several Commissions

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2003 CONTACT: Terri Cook – (650) 595-7414

Belmont Seeks Residents for Several Commissions

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont is currently recruiting residents interested in serving on the City's four advisory commissions. The deadline to apply is Thursday, February 6 and the application is available on the City's website: www.belmont.gov.

The Arts Commission advises the City Council on a variety of matters related to visual arts, theatre art, music cultural art and dance. There are three seats up for appointment, each for a two-year term. The Commission meets the third Monday 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 seats up for appointment, each for a three-year term. The Commission meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM.

The Parks and Recreation Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding park, athletic field and facility development, recreation programs, and related policies. There are three seats up for appointment on the Commission, each for a two-year term. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Last year the City added two youth seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Belmont residents between 13-17 are encouraged to apply for these one-year positions, who are full voting members of the commission. Parent/guardian consent is required.

The Planning Commission reviews and takes action on planning applications and makes recommendations to the City Council on land use issues. There are three seats up for appointment on the Planning Commission, each for a three-year term. The Planning Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

To apply for any of these opportunities to contribute to your community, fill out the application form available on the website or from the City Clerk's Office (1070 Sixth Street, Suite 311), and return it to the City Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 6. Applicants must live in Belmont. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 650-595-7413.

1/29/2003 State of the City Event February 20, 2003

(Press Release not found.)

1/29/2003 City Blasts Governor's Raid of Local Funds

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Blasts Governor's Raid of Local Revenues

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont City Council last night approved a [resolution](#) opposing the Governor's attempt to take \$4 billion of local revenue from cities and counties. Instead, Belmont urged the state to allow the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) "tax holiday" to end and restore fees to their 1998 levels.

Prior to adopting the resolution, Council reviewed a staff report outlining the impact of the Governor's proposal. All told, Belmont would [lose almost \\$2 million](#) in revenue if the Governor's budget were approved. The City Council urged residents to become informed of the issues involved and the consequences for Belmont and [share their views with the Governor and state legislators](#).

"Just over a year ago, we were praising the Governor for protecting local revenues," said City Manager Jere Kersnar. In December 2001 Governor Davis said, "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." "What a difference a year makes. Now, we are fighting the same Governor for the survival of basic local services," said Kersnar.

"The VLF is about 10% of our General Fund and one of our largest revenue sources in Belmont," said Kersnar. The "backfill" alone is approximately \$1 million and the equivalent to:

- 31% of Police patrol costs
- 71% of the park and open space budget
- 83% of the annual street maintenance budget

Until just a few years ago, the vehicle license fee went exclusively to local government. In fact, in 1996, voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot measures to constitutionally guarantee the fee went to local government. In 1998, 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. The law specifically said the fee would go back up "if sufficient funds" weren't available to the state. Surely, that day has come. Belmont supports legislation, ABx4 by Speaker Wesson, clarifying the law to allow the fee to revert back to 1998 rates and commends the Assembly for passing it yesterday.

Staff is already in the process of developing budget adjustments of \$1.3 million for Council consideration next month. These adjustments are due to the weak economy and need to be made independent of any state action. The City Council is expected to vote on those budget cuts on February 25. "If we lose VLF funding, we would need to make deep cuts in critical services to our community or raise additional revenues, on top of what we've already done. Another State takeaway of our revenues would be an unbearable double-whammy," said Kersnar.

Earlier this month the City Council approved a resolution creating a voluntary payroll deduction to allow employees to contribute to the "Save our Services Fund" set up to fight Sacramento and protect local revenues.

#

2/6/2003 Budget Reduction Strategy Released

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Thomas Fil – (650) 595-7907

Budget Reduction Strategy Released

Belmont, CA -- City Manager Jere Kersnar has formally released his budget correction plan to address the continuing economic downturn. The strategy includes a [recommended package of \\$1.3 million](#), made up of \$831,000 in cuts/transfers and \$468,000 in additional revenues. The City Council will act on the package February 25.

"This package responsibly responds to the long-term structural budget problems the City is facing. Our revenues have dropped significantly due to the downturn in the economy and we don't anticipate them coming back anytime soon. At the same time, our costs continue to increase, so action is needed," said Kersnar. "The wild card, unfortunately is the state. If the Governor is successful in taking local revenues, we will have to go back to the City Council for additional cuts or revenues," Kersnar continued. The package provides an additional \$650,000 as a road map for where those additional cuts and revenues could come from, should state action require it.

Examples of items recommended for immediate cuts include: Reduce funding to local non-profits by 10%, Reduce funding for one police officer position, Eliminate Trauma Support Services, Eliminate printing and distributing a Community Calendar, Reduce funding for technology purchases, Increase the franchise fee on refuse, Increase revenue from the Art and Wine festival.

The process of developing the package was an inclusive one, with input from all departments and employee associations. Council provided policy direction early in the process by adopting principles for staff to follow in developing the package. The Finance Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission will also provide input prior to Council action and the public is welcome to share their views at the February 25 Council meeting.

Belmont could lose almost \$2 million in revenue if the Governor's budget were approved - \$1.1 million from the General Fund. Should the state take away local revenues, more significant cuts would need to be made, such as: Reduce funding for two additional police officers and a dispatcher, Close City Hall between Christmas and New Years, Reduce funding for the Teen Program, Reduce maintenance of parks.

The City urged residents to become informed of the issues involved with the state budget and the consequences for Belmont and share their views with the Governor and state legislators.

More information on the recommended budget reduction strategy, and the impact of state actions can be found on the City's website at: www.belmont.gov.

#

2/10/2003 Belmont Video to Begin Airing

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Video to Begin Airing

Belmont, CA -- A twelve minute video informing the community on the City Council's top 12 priorities will begin airing tonight on Peninsula TV, cable station 26. As a founding member of PenTV, the City of Belmont had a number of "credits" for production time that had to be used or would be lost. As a result, the Belmont video was professionally created by *times two video productions*, a locally-based firm for only \$200 of City funds. The video, titled "Looking to the Future," will air at the following times on channel 26:

February 10 5:30 PM, February 11 5:30 PM, February 12 4:00 PM

February 13 9:00 PM, February 14 10:00 PM, February 17 7:00 PM

February 18 5:30 PM, February 20 7:00 PM, .

After February 20, it will air 2-3 times per week through October. The 12 priorities established by the City Council in 2002 are:

Build a new Fire Station 14, Replace the Police Facility, Enhance the 101/Ralston interchange, Build a Bike/Pedestrian Bridge, Implement Performance Budgeting, Begin spending RDA Bond Priorities, Re-engineer the Development Review Process, Reach Consensus on the Harbor Industrial Area, Undertake a Visioning Process and Update the General Plan, Build a new Library, Develop a Low-Moderate Income Housing Strategy, Develop Traffic Policies.

#

2/10/2003 Council Candidacy Period Begins

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Council Candidacy Period Begins

Belmont, CA -- The filing period has opened for the City of Belmont's June 3 Special Election to fill a vacant Council position.

Packets of information and candidate requirements are available as of February 10; the deadline to file papers as a candidate is Friday, March 7. These dates are set by the 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.

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.

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.

#

2/21/2003 City of Belmont and NDNU to Sign Advisory Board Agreement

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: City of Belmont: Dan Rich
650-595-7409
drich@ci.belmont.ca.us

Notre Dame de Namur University: Mark Lewis
650-524-9811
mlewis@ndnu.edu

CITY OF BELMONT AND NDNU TO SIGN ADVISORY BOARD AGREEMENT

Belmont, CA (February 20, 2003) – The City of Belmont and Notre Dame de Namur University will celebrate the newly created Belmont/NDNU Advisory Board with a kick-off event on Wednesday, February 26 at 5:00 pm in Ralston Hall Mansion on the NDNU campus. City, University, and community leaders will be present as Belmont Mayor Paul Wright and NDNU President Dr. John Oblak sign the formal agreement establishing the Advisory Board. A brief inaugural meeting and reception will follow.

The Advisory Board will be comprised of four members: the Mayor of Belmont, Paul Wright, the Belmont City Manager, Jere Kersnar, the President of NDNU, Dr. Oblak, and NDNU Board of Trustees member, Dee Tolles.

In addition, a permanent Working Group that takes direction from the Advisory Board has also been established to act as a "think tank." The Working Group will include: three representatives from the city – Dan Rich, Assistant City Manager, Craig Ewing, Community Development Director, and Rick Frautschi, Planning Commissioner; three from NDNU – Maureen Freschet, Director of Community Relations, Dr. Gretchen Wehrle, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and David Wilson, Vice President of Associated Students; and three from the Belmont community – Pam Clark, President of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce, Catherine Bonner, Belmont-Redwood Shores School Board, and Sam Hutkins, Central Neighborhood Association.

The Advisory Board is the result of months of informal discussion between city officials and representatives of NDNU regarding ways to enhance communication and collaboration between the two entities and the community at large. In August 2002, following a conversation with Dr. Oblak, former Mayor Dave Warden presented the idea of an Advisory Board to the City Council. The proposal was enthusiastically received and unanimously approved.

"We're pleased and proud to establish this formal mechanism with Belmont's own 'hometown university' to help ensure even more positive interaction in the years to come," said Mayor Wright. Dr. Oblak agreed, noting that "as a growing institution and key contributor to the community, NDNU is delighted that the Advisory Board will be there to serve as a forum for discussion and solution of common issues and interests."

Notre Dame de Namur University is an independent Catholic, coeducational institution serving nearly 1800 students. It is the fifth oldest institution of higher education in California and was the first college for women authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees. Founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur, Belgium in 1851 and chartered by the state in 1868, the University is fully accredited and offers 24 liberal arts and career preparation undergraduate programs, evening degree, credential, and certificate programs, and graduate degrees in 15 areas of study. The 50-acre campus is located in Belmont, just south of San Francisco.

2/25/2003 Compost Giveaway March 8

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Compost Giveaway March 8

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont is partnering with BFI recycling to provide free compost to residents on Saturday, March 8.

"Because our curbside yard trimming program has been so successful, we are able to 'close the recycling loop' by providing compost free to residents," said Kathleen Phalen, who coordinates the City's recycling program.

Residents will be allowed up to one cubic yard (about six full garbage cans) of compost. It will be available from 9 AM until 2 PM in the parking lot of City Hall, 1070 Sixth Avenue. Residents should bring their own shovels, containers and gloves. Proof of residency is required.

"Compost is great for your garden. With spring planting right around the corner, now is the time to start preparing your soil with this nutrient-rich compost," said Karl Mittelstadt, Parks and Recreation Director.

For information on backyard composting and other recycling issues, contact RecycleWorks at 888-442-2666 or www.recycleworks.org. RecycleWorks, a countywide effort, will have a booth at the Peninsula Home and Garden Show at the San Mateo Expo Center this weekend.

#

2/28/2003 Belmont Receives Federal Funding for Police Facility

NEWS

FOR RELEASE

February 28, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Receives Federal Funding for Police Facility

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont will receive \$250,000 in federal funds for a new Police facility, thanks to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's efforts.

The money was included in the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations approved by Congress on February 13. "In this time of heightened concern about the security of our country, local police departments are more important than ever and their crucial needs must be met," said Eshoo. "These federal funds will help Belmont complete its new police facility so that our community is served effectively and hometown security will be a state-of-the-art reality."

Plans have been underway for quite some time to relocate the Police Department from the seismically unsafe and outdated facility they are currently housed in. Plans went out to bid in 2001 to retrofit City Hall and move the Police in, but the construction costs were 52% over estimates and funding was not available. A new architect is currently fine-tuning the plans with a goal of bringing the cost down and breaking ground this fall. The basic design of the building has not changed, and improvements such as a larger Emergency Operations Center, a first floor Permit Center and possibly a Council Chamber are being considered. "We are confident we can get a better project for the police and the City as a whole for less money than the previous plans," stated Assistant City Manager Dan Rich. The Planning Commission is expected to review the new plans next month.

"The federal funds bring this long-desired and much-needed project one step closer to reality," said Police Chief Greg Janke. "We are grateful to Congresswoman Eshoo for her leadership on this issue," he continued.

#

3/6/2003 Belmont Solicits Community Group Funding Request

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2003

CONTACT: Joni Stallings – (650) 595-7408

Belmont Solicits Community Group Funding Requests

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont's annual community group funding process is now underway. For eligibility, applicants must demonstrate that the main beneficiaries of their proposals are residents of the City of Belmont.

The application must demonstrate Belmont community support, and shall be for a single or time-limited project or event. In light of the local and state budget situation, the amount of community group funding that is available for fiscal year 2003-04 is reduced from funds that were available for the current fiscal year.

Interested organizations should submit the following:

1. A cover letter explaining the request for funding
2. A complete projected [Budget](#)
3. A complete [Statement of Mission, Goals and Objectives](#), including specific benefits to citizens of Belmont.

In order to be considered for funding, the above materials are due in the Belmont City Manager's office by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2003, and can be mailed to 1070 Sixth Ave., Suite 300, Belmont, CA 94002. The City Council is expected to make decisions on funding in June. Forms can be found on the Belmont website at www.belmont.gov under Press Releases. For more information, call the City Manager's office at (650) 595-7408.

#

3/6/2003 New Comprehensive Business Form Available Online

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2003

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

NEW COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS LICENSE FORM AVAILABLE ONLINE

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Finance Department has streamlined the business license application process by creating a single application form that can be used by all business types. The new form has been modernized and simplified. Instructions have been written to reduce preparation time.

"The new form should come as welcome relief for the nearly 500 applicants the City licenses annually," said Thomas Fil, Finance Director. "We understand how difficult it can be to work through the myriad of regulations that are required of businesses. We want our business community to view their relationship with the City positively, so any change we can make to improve the licensing process we consider seriously. An example of this is the new application form. It is easy to read and prepare. Plus, it can be accessed from the City's website. You can handle all of your licensing needs at your convenience."

The new form design complements the City's Permit Center for the development community. Forms were consolidated and the addition of the tax calculator simplifies determination of the tax that a customer is required to pay.

The new form is available at City Hall in the Finance Department (suite 301), the Permit Center (suite 309) and on the City's website at www.belmont.gov.

For more information on the business license form or process, please call 650-595-7436.

3/19/2003 Community Planning Meeting for Twin Pines Park Playground

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2003 **CONTACT:** Karl Mittelstadt – (650) 595-7443

Community Planning Meeting for Twin Pines Park Playground

Belmont, CA -- Belmont's Department of Parks and Recreation would like to invite the community to join them in discussing the proposed improvements and expansion for the Twin Pines Park Playground.

The workshop will describe the project's goals, program elements, and schedule. Weather permitting, it will also include a quick site walk.

"I am looking forward to community input for this project," said Director of Parks and Recreation, Karl Mittelstadt. He added, "Belmont residents involvement is essential for the success of this project."

The Parks and Recreation Department is asking residents of Belmont to attend the meeting on Saturday, March 29, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. and share their ideas for the improvements to Twin Pines Park Playground. The meeting will be held in the Twin Pines Senior & Community Center, 1223 Ralston Avenue.

"We are excited about this project," said Mittelstadt, "Not only will it benefit our residents, but it will be more attractive to our visitors as well."

#

4/4/2003 Write-In Candidate Filing Begins

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2003

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Write-In Candidate Filing Begins

Belmont, CA -- The filing period is about to open for interested write-in candidates for the City of Belmont's June 3 Special Election to fill a vacant Council position.

Packets of information and candidate requirements are available as of Monday, April 7; the deadline to file papers as a write-in candidate is Tuesday, May 20. 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.

Nomination requirements for write-in candidates are the same as other candidates, but their name will not be pre-printed on the ballot, and they need not submit a candidate's statement, since there is no provision to add it to the sample ballot. Write-in candidates are also required to file all appropriate campaign disclosures governed by the Fair Political Practices Committee (FPPC).

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. The three candidates whose names will appear on the ballot for this election are George Burgess, Coralin Feierbach, and George Kranen.

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.

#

4/16/2003 City Council Candidates Forum April 30

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

City Council Candidates Forum April 30

Belmont, CA -- -- Belmont neighborhood associations and the League of Women Voters are sponsoring a City Council candidates' forum on Wednesday April 30 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. The forum will be held in the Senior and Community Center in Twin Pines Park.

Three candidates are running for the Council position on the June Special Election ballot: George Burgess, Coralin Feierbach and George Kranen. The term runs until November 2005, and fills the unexpired term of Terri Cook, who resigned after being elected City Clerk.

The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters and will be taped for rebroadcast on PenTV, channel 26. The forum will be shown at the following times:

Mon, 5/5, 9pm

Tues, 5/6, 10pm

Fri, 5/9, 10pm

Mon, 5/12, 9pm

Tues, 5/13, 10pm

Fri, 5/16, 3pm

Sat, 5/17, 7:30pm

Mon, 5/19, 10pm

Tues, 5/20, 5pm

Thurs, 5/22, 7pm

Fri, 5/23, 3pm

Mon, 5/26, 9pm

Tues, 5/27, 10pm

Thurs, 5/29, 7pm

Friday 5/30 at 3pm

#

4/16/2003 Special Events in Twin Pines Park April 19

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2003 CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Special Events in Twin Pines Park Saturday, April 19:

Egg Hunt, Child Safety Program, Blood Drive and Pancake Breakfast

Belmont, CA -- A variety of community activities will take place this Saturday, April 19, in Twin Pines Park starting at 8:00 AM.

- The Belmont Rotary Club is sponsoring a Blood Drive and Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 AM until noon in the Senior and Community Center. Breakfast, including Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Coffee, Milk & Orange Juice is free if you donate blood or \$3 for adults and \$1 for children if you don't.
- The Belmont Kiwanis Club is joining with the Police Department to provide a Child Safety Day Program from 9:00 AM until noon. Activities will include fingerprinting and photographs for kids.
- The City's traditional "Egg Adventure Hunt" for children ages 3-10 will occur at 9:00 AM sharp in Twin Pines Park.

All residents are invited to attend any of these community events.

#

First Sister City Delegation Slated to Visit Belmont on April 29

After several years of planning, Namur, Belgium is sending a Sister City delegation to Belmont. The delegation, composed of city officials, representatives of business, school and the press, will be in Belmont all day Tuesday, April 29.

Members of the media are invited to the formal Sister City program at which time the "key to the City" will be presented. The program will be at 5:00 PM in Ralston Hall Mansion on the campus of Notre Dame de Namur University. After the program, members of the delegation, as well as City officials and Sister City Committee members will be available for interviews. A list of the twenty one-member delegation, which includes three Deputy Mayors and four members of the working press, is attached.

The City Council selected Namur as Belmont's Sister City in 2001 because it is the location of the motherhouse for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SND), the founders of Notre Dame de Namur University (formerly College of Notre Dame), which has been in Belmont since 1923. The Council formally adopted the Belmont/Namur Sister City Resolution shortly after receiving a touching letter of support from the Mayor of Namur to the Mayor and citizens of Belmont immediately following the September 11 tragedy. "We are pleased to be able to welcome our friends and colleagues from Namur to Belmont," said Mayor Paul Wright. "We trust this will be the beginning of a long and meaningful partnership."

Dr. John Oblak, President of NDNU, noted that the University wishes to strengthen the existing common bond. "We look forward to actively participating in the Sister City Program. One of the ways we're celebrating this partnership is to offer a one-year tuition and fee waiver scholarship to a student from Namur."

Namur is an ancient city in south central Belgium where the Sambre and Meuse rivers meet. Considered an important strategic site, through the centuries Namur survived numerous sieges, from one led by Louis XIV of France, the "Sun King," on up through the Napoleonic Wars and the two World Wars. Today, the City of Namur has just over 100,000 residents and is the heart of the Province of Namur (435,000 population) and the seat of government for the region of Wallonia (3.5 million).

A Sister City Committee has been working hard to make certain the April 29 delegation visit is a success. The day will include a breakfast with City officials, a city tour, a luncheon and campus tour hosted by NDNU, and a reception in Ralston Hall Mansion. The Belmont Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce have made contributions to support the day's events.

The NDNU scholarship will be one of two programs currently being developed under the umbrella of the sister city relationship. The other program in the startup phase is an "e" pals program coordinated by the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. This program is designed to allow students from Namur to communicate electronically with their counterparts in Belmont. While in Belmont, the delegation will meet with the Sister City Committee to discuss other ideas for the two communities' relationship. It is hoped that the relationship will yield many more programs and activities that will benefit both cities.

Discussing the upcoming visit, Sr. Roseanne Murphy, SND, stated, "When people ask about 'Namur,' it gives us the opportunity to tell them about the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who founded the college in 1851. The name of the university and the Sister City of Belmont have become a lifetime tribute to those sisters."

#

Namur, Belgium Delegation

Visit to Belmont, CA - Tuesday April 29, 2003

1	Mr. Frédéric LALOUX (Head of Delegation)	Deputy-Mayor in charge of Sports, Logistics and Fire Brigade
2	Mrs. Yvette DESTRÉE	Deputy-Mayor in charge of Social Affairs
3	Mrs. Dominique RENIER	Deputy-Mayor in charge of Registry Office and Population
4	Mr. Philippe LAFORGE	Member of the City Council
5	Mr. Baudouin SOHIER	Member of the City Council
6	Mrs. Nicole GROYNE	City Hall Officer (International Relations)
7	Mrs. Francine PIETERS	City Hall Officer (Mr. LALOUX's staff)
8	Mr. Luc ARNOULD	Director General - NEW (Namur-Europe-Wallonie)
9	Mrs. Marie-Claire BODSON	Hospital Officer
10	Mrs. Marie BOULANGER	Hotel - Restaurant
11	Mrs. Dominique DESOMME	Nurse
12	Mrs. Annie DESTRÉE	Auditor (accounting)
13	Mrs. Danielle DURANG	Nurse
14	Mr. Albert GUERDON	Senior Citizen
15	Mr. Christian MOYAERT	Building Contractor
16	Mrs. Michèle NORBERG	Walloon Region Administration Officer
17	Mr. Marcel PESESSE	Manager of a Retirement Home
18	Mr. Ludwig MARION	Press - Canal C (local TV)
19	Mr. Freddy GILLAIN	Press - Clin d'œil (local newspaper)
20	Mrs. Pascale GENARD	Press - Vers l'Avenir (national newspaper)
21	Mrs. Valérie DUPONT	Press - Radio Contact (local radio)

5/6/2003 Political Sign Regulations

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Political Sign Regulations

Belmont, CA -- Saturday, May 10 marks the first day on which temporary political signs for the June 3 election may be erected in the public right-of-way in the City of Belmont. However, no signs are allowed in the public right-of-way on Ralston Avenue, El Camino Real, Old County Road, and Alameda de las Pulgas.

Political signs on private property or in the permitted public-right-of-way that interfere with sight distance, safe bicycle or pedestrian circulation, or disabled accessibility are not allowed. Belmont's sign ordinance prohibits signs larger than four square feet (except for the fence at Twin Pines Park, where one sign up to 16 square feet is allowed). In addition, illuminated signs, signs placed on roofs, signs placed on private property without the express consent of the property owner, or signs placed in any street median, or on any bridge, public utility box, utility pole, traffic control sign, signal or street sign are prohibited.

If you have questions or complaints regarding political signs, please contact the City Clerk's office at (650) 595-7413, or email cclerk@ci.belmont.ca.us. For the full text of the Belmont City Code related to political signs, please visit the City's [MuniCode](#).

#

5/8/2003 Belmont Wins Financial Award Again

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2003 **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).

This is the twelfth time Belmont has received the award, and the fifth consecutive certificate.

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.

"Belmont has a long 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.

#

5/20/2003 Seat Belt Mobilization and Checkpoint

(Press Release not found.)

5/22/2003 Proposed FY 2004 Budget Released

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2003

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409 Thomas Fil – (650) 595-7907

Proposed FY 2004 Budget Released

Belmont, CA -- City Manager Jere Kersnar has formally released his proposed budget for fiscal year 2004. A presentation on the budget will be made at the May 27 City Council meeting and the Council is expected to act on the budget at their June 24 meeting.

The proposed FY04 budget is \$57.6 million, with General Fund expenditures of \$11.9 million. The General Fund supports basic services such as police, public works and parks. General Fund expenditures are down 6.3% from FY03, despite substantial increases in benefit costs, indicating the success of the Mid-Year Budget Correction Plan adopted in February. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for FY04 is \$19.6 million, including funding for key projects such as the Ralston/101 interchange, the Police Facility/City Hall project, and the Belmont Library. Funding for the CIP comes from accumulated reserves set aside in prior years, grants and other restricted revenue sources.

"This is essentially a status quo budget, based on the cuts made in the past two years; no additional cuts or service reductions are proposed," said Kersnar. "The wild card is the state. If the Governor is successful in taking local revenues, we will have to go back to the City Council for additional cuts or revenues," Kersnar continued. Belmont could lose several hundred thousand dollars if the Governor's recently released revised budget is approved. Should the state take away local revenues, significant cuts would need to be made, such as:

- Reduce funding for two additional police officers and a dispatcher
- Close City Hall between Christmas and New Years
- Reduce funding for the Teen Program
- Reduce maintenance of parks

More information on the recommended budget and the impact of state actions can be found on the City's website at: www.belmont.gov.

#

5/23/2003 Missing Belmont Man Found Deceased

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Missing Belmont Man Found Deceased** Case #: 0305-1318

Location: 500 blk El Camino, Belmont Date: 5/22/03 Time: 10:10 AM

Victim: George W. Graham Age: 47 yrs

EVENT

On Thursday May 22, 2003 at approx 10:10 am, a 47 year old Belmont man who had been reported missing the day before, was found deceased in a wooded area in the 500 blk of El Camino. While the Coroner will determine the exact cause of death, at this time there is no indication of foul play. "There were no signs of a struggle and no apparent trauma to the victim" said Det. Sgt. Patrick Halleran. Halleran added, "We have no indication that Mr. Graham was the victim of any criminal act."

A friend had reported Graham missing to Belmont Police on Wednesday night. The friend told police that he had regular contact with Graham and became concerned when he had not heard from him for several days. A citizen who was walking along the east side of El Camino found Graham's body in a wooded area approx. 20' from the road and called 9-1-1 from a nearby business.

Anyone with information relating to the circumstances of Graham's death is asked to call Belmont Police at 595-7400.

By: Sergeant Patrick Halleran Authorized By: Sergeant Patrick Halleran

Date: 5/23/03 Time: 1200hrs Date: 5/23/03 Time: 1200hrs

5/27/2003 Public Safety Memorial

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2003 CONTACT: Sgt. Robyn Pitts (650) 595-7400

Public Safety Memorial held in Belmont

Belmont, CA -- Local public safety agencies in San Mateo County will be taking part in the second annual San Mateo County Public Safety Memorial Service. This special commemoration is in honor of fallen public safety professionals and will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2003 at 10:00 AM at Cunningham Memorial Chapel-Notre Dame de Namur University, 1500 Ralston Avenue in Belmont. The service will be non-denominational.

This is the second formal tribute of its kind in San Mateo County, and is being organized by Redwood City Firefighter Greg DaCunha. Due to last year's success, the service expanded from South County Agencies to now include all San Mateo County Agencies. Belmont Police Department was part of last year's memorial and members will continue to be a part of this commemorative day by sending a representative of the department. The representative this year will be Police Captain Ed Wood.

Greg's personal interest in spearheading the effort stems from the loss of his friend and co-worker, Firefighter Matt Smith, with whom he went through the San Mateo County Fire Academy. They were working together the day that Matt died in the line of duty. Greg naturally was impacted by the loss, as were members of public safety. This memorial is "An opportunity to honor Matt and other fallen public safety professionals, and create that positive experience and recognition here in San Mateo County."

Local public safety agencies including police, fire, America Medical Response (AMR), California Highway Patrol (CHP), San Mateo County's California Department of Forestry, San Mateo County State Parole's Office and the County Sheriff's Department will have representatives present to read the names of their fallen members and retirees who have passed away. Chaplains Mike Ryan and Jacqueline Clark will be conducting the ceremony. Ceremonial bell, bagpipes and special music will be part of the service. The public is invited to join in the commemoration and honoring of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in an effort to keep all of us safe.

The City of Belmont would like to remind people that an event of this size, maybe up to 500 people, would cause slower traffic in the area of the University. There is plenty of designated parking on the campus and the surrounding campuses. There will be signs to show where to park and where to exit after the memorial.

#

5/30/2003 Citywide Flea Market June 7

(Press Release not found.)

6/4/2003 New Council Member

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2003

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

New City Council Member to be Sworn in on June 24

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont City Council will swear in its new member at a special meeting set for 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2003 in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. The entire community is invited to attend the ceremony and a reception immediately following. The special meeting will be shown live on cable Channel 26.

Semi-official results from the June 3 Special Election indicate that Coralin Feierbach won the seat with 49% of the vote in a three-way election. It is anticipated the results will be final and certified in time for the June 24 ceremony.

The regularly scheduled City Council meeting will begin at 7:30.

#

6/23/2003 City Council Reports Available on the Web

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Belmont, CA -- Staff reports for City Council agenda items will be available on the Belmont website (www.belmont.gov) starting in July.

Previously, only agendas and minutes were available online; if someone wanted the actual staff report, they had to go to City Hall during office hours for a copy. Beginning with the July 8 meeting, the full staff report, with an analysis of the issue and staff recommendation, will be available twenty-four hours a day to anyone with internet access. Reports and internally generated attachments for the City Council, Redevelopment Agency and Fire Protection District will be posted by noon on the Friday before City Council meetings.

"This is just another way we are trying to be more customer-focused," said City Manager Jere Kersnar. "We recognize it's sometimes difficult to get to City Hall, so we want to do more to bring City Hall to the residents," continued Kersnar.

To access the reports, simply click on the new "meeting agendas and minutes" link near the top of the City's website. Go to the City Council Calendar and pick the agenda of the meeting you are interested in and the agenda title will link you directly to the staff report.

Reports for the July 8 meeting will be available by the end of the day on July 3. Reports and all attachments will continue to be available at City Hall.

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

6/26/2003 Vacancy on Arts Commission to be filled

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2003

CONTACT: Terri Cook – (650) 595-7414

Vacancy on Arts Commission to be filled

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont is currently recruiting residents interested in serving on the City's Arts Commission. The deadline to apply is Friday, August 8 and the application is available on the City's website: www.belmont.gov.

The Arts Commission advises the City Council on a variety of matters related to visual arts, theatre art, music cultural art and dance. The Commission meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

There is currently one vacancy, for a term that expires in 2005. The Commission will interview candidates at its regular meeting of Monday, August 18 and will make a recommendation for appointment to the City Council. The Council is expected to appoint a new commissioner on August 26.

To apply for this opportunity to contribute to your community, fill out the application form available on the website (City Clerk page). It is also available in the City Clerk's office (1070 Sixth Avenue, Suite 311) and the Parks and Recreation office (1225 Ralston Avenue). Return the completed application to the City Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on August 8. Applicants must live in Belmont.

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

#

7/1/2003 Belmont Awarded Two Grants

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2003

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Awarded Two Grants

Belmont, CA -- The State of California announced the City of Belmont was awarded two separate grants totaling \$245,000.

"These grants will go a long way to increase efficiency and enhance services to the community. I am proud of our staff for searching out these funds to help stretch limited local resources," said City Manager Jere Kersnar.

The first grant is part of the Code Enforcement Grant Program and is for \$112,387. The funds will be used to improve the efficiency of, and supplement its existing local funding for, code enforcement programs related to housing code maintenance or compliance.

The City requested funding to purchase a network computer system, laptops and printers, digital and video cameras, PDA's that tie into the City's Geographical Information System, a scanner, projector with screens, vehicles, and inspection and safety equipment that will help maximize the effectiveness of our interdisciplinary code enforcement team. Inspectors will now be able to enter data directly into the computer system from the field instead of writing it down and then reentering into the system later.

More than 120 applicants competed for funds and 30 received either partial or full funding. Belmont was one of only 13 applicants to be fully funded.

The second grant, for \$133,346, is part of the Jobs/Housing Balance Program (JHB). According to the State, this innovative program is the first of its kind in the country to reward communities who plan for housing to meet the needs of their workforce and deliver on those plans by allowing needed development to occur where it is most needed. Awards can be used for capital projects or purchases benefiting the community. The purpose of the grants is to provide financial incentives to cities and counties that increase their issuance of residential building permits.

A total of \$25 million was awarded to jurisdictions that increased permit approvals by over

24,000 housing units statewide compared to the previous three-year averages. Belmont was one of only three cities in San Mateo County to receive funds. The grant funds have been earmarked for the new Police Facility.

"The award of State housing funds today will provide an immediate boost to local economies across the state," said Matthew Franklin, California's Director of Housing and Community Development. "These funds will empower our local partners – nonprofit and for profit developers, cities and counties – to hire or retain construction workers, architects, engineers, building materials suppliers and others, creating a ripple effect throughout the state economy."

#

7/1/2003 Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement Event on July 2, 2003

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2003

CONTACT: Sergeant Robyn Pitts - (650) 595-7400

Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement Event on July 2, 2003

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department, with assistance from the Millbrae Police will be conducting a Pedestrian Decoy Education operation in Belmont. It will take place on Wednesday, July 2nd, 2003 between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM on Ralston Ave in Belmont.

"This is another piece of our ongoing campaign to increase the awareness of drivers, and their responsibilities to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks", said Traffic Sergeant Robyn Pitts.

Police personnel in plain clothes will be used to cross the roadways in marked crosswalks while officers watch for violations of the pedestrian right of way. 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.

#

7/7/2003 Major Road Improvement to Begin

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich –(650)595-7409

Major Road Improvements to Begin

Belmont, CA -- Road improvements to Ralston Avenue from Cipriani Boulevard to Alameda de las Pulgas, and on Alameda de las Pulgas from Carlmont Drive to the northern City limit will begin shortly.

Funding for the project includes three Federal Surface Transportation Program grants totaling \$520,000. The City has awarded the \$765,000 contract to G. Bortolotto & Company. "This project will restore the pavement to good condition, will improve left turns and will create new areas for future landscaping," explained Public Works Director Ray Davis.

Work is anticipated to start on July 14 and be completed in October. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to seek alternate routes. Ralston Avenue from Cipriani Boulevard to Alameda de las Pulgas will be routinely reduced to one lane in each direction during active construction through the duration of the project. Work on Alameda de las Pulgas between Carlmont Drive and Ralston Avenue and Ralston Avenue between Alameda de las Pulgas and El Camino Real will be of short durations this summer and involve lane closures on Ralston Avenue, and Alameda de las Pulgas between Carlmont Drive and Ralston Avenue, and road closures with detours on Alameda de las Pulgas between Ralston Avenue and the northern City limit. Working hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"We recognize there will be inconveniences during construction, but the long-term benefit to the community will be significant," stated Davis.

The pavement on Ralston Avenue from Cipriani Boulevard to Alameda de las Pulgas will be milled down and overlaid with asphalt concrete. New median will be added to complete the separation of eastbound and westbound lanes. The new eastbound Ralston Avenue right-turn lane at Alameda de las Pulgas will be completed as well as the required traffic signal modification. The new median will be excavated and backfilled with soil amendment and conduits placed for irrigation so that the City can install landscaping when funding is available.

Ralston Avenue from Alameda de las Pulgas to El Camino Real, and Alameda de las Pulgas from Carlmont Drive to the northern City limit will be slurry sealed to restore the surface. Striping improvements include a second left-turn lane from northbound Alameda de las Pulgas to westbound Ralston Avenue, a new left-turn lane for northbound Alameda de las Pulgas to the northerly Safeway driveway, and a new left-turn only lane for southbound Alameda de las Pulgas to eastbound Ralston Avenue. Added channelization striping on Alameda de las Pulgas will provide more orderly flow in and out of the driveways for the Carlmont Shopping Center and the Immaculate Heart of Mary complex. Likewise, new striping on Ralston Avenue will make the left-turns easier from Notre Dame Avenue, Chula Vista Drive, Entrance to Notre Dame de Namur University and entrance to Twin Pines Park.

Further information regarding the project may be obtained by contacting the Department of Public Works at (650) 595-7427 or e-mail at pworks@ci.belmont.ca.us.

#

7/7/2003 Election Season Set to Begin

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Election Season Set to Begin

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont will hold a General Municipal Election on November 4. Two seats on the five-member Council will be up for election, as well as the City Clerk and City Treasurer positions. The term of each position is until November 2007.

Election material will be available to any interested candidate beginning Monday, July 14, and the deadline to file papers as a candidate is Friday, August 8. If an incumbent has not filed nomination papers by 5:00 P.M. on August 8, further nomination of candidates, other than incumbents, for such elective office will be received until 5:00 P.M. on August 13. These dates are set by Election Code.

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

Nomination 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 Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. Council Members often serve on other local and regional committees.

Members of the City Council and the City Treasurer are paid a small stipend. The City Clerk is a full time management position.

For more information or to make an appointment for picking up a nomination packet, please contact the City Clerk's office at 650-595-7413.

The deadline to register to vote for the November election is October 20.

#

7/10/2003 ABC 7 Community Outreach Comes to Belmont

July 3, 2003

Dear Belmont Resident or Community Representative:

Our next ABC 7 Listens community feedback meeting will be held in Belmont on Thursday, July 24, 2003 from 7:30PM to 9:00PM at Notre Dame de Namur University's Ralston Hall Mansion, 1500 Ralston Avenue.

ABC 7 Listens is our ongoing community outreach project that we hope will keep us in touch with our viewers. ABC 7 Listens community meetings are held every month at different locations in the Bay Area.

We are inviting residents and people who are involved in providing services to the City of Belmont to join us and discuss problems, needs, and interests. Our goal is to be aware of key issues and, more specifically, stories that ABC 7 News should be covering. We hope that this meeting will be the beginning of a long-term relationship. We'll let you know how to get in touch with us whenever you have a story lead.

I hope that you will be able to join ABC7 News Reporter Laura Marquez, some of our news managers, and me on July 24th. A news camera will be present to record parts of the meeting. Please note that although the focus will be on Belmont, the meeting will be also be open to other residents of the Bay Area.

Space is limited, so please RSVP via e-mail to abc7listens@kgo-tv.com, or call the Public Affairs Department at (415) 954-7702. If you have any questions, call me at (415) 954-7712.

7/16/2003 Belmont to hold Citywide Garage Sale August 2nd

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2003 **CONTACT:** Mary Doherty – (650) 595-7439

Belmont to hold Citywide Garage Sale August 2

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont will be holding it's annual citywide garage sale on Saturday, August 2. Sales will be held at multiple locations throughout the City from 9 am to 3 pm unless otherwise noted.

To have your sale advertised on the citywide list, return a registration form NO LATER THAN JULY 23rd. The cost to register is \$5. [Forms are available online](#) or at the Parks and Recreation Department in Twin Pines Park.

A list of [sale locations](#) will be available at the Parks and Recreation office or at www.belmont.gov a week before the sale.

"This is a great way for residents to clean up the house and make some money at the same time. It also benefits the environment by minimizing the amount of material that ends up in the landfill," said Parks and Recreation Director Karl Mittelstadt. "The Citywide sale is always a fun community event that brings neighbors and friends together," he continued.

#

8/5/2003 Aerial Photos to be taken...

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Aerial Photographs to be taken for Enhanced Geographical Information System

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont has retained the firm of Towill Inc. to update the City's Geographical Information System (GIS) and Computer Aided Drawings (CAD) based on aerial photographs of the City. As a result, a series of flyovers will occur between August 7 and 14.

The flights will be between 10 AM and 2 PM and the aircraft will be flying at 3000 feet overhead. The total flight time will be approximately 90 minutes.

The City first inaugurated a GIS program in 2000, based on CAD drawings extracted from aerial photographs taken in 1994. Examples of what the GIS can do include mapping for the Lot Merger Project and the development of a Trail Map for Parks and Recreation.

"The update allow us to capture changes to the physical environment that have occurred in the past nine years and will also allow for a greater level of detail in the system. After the second phase of this project is completed, we will be able to update our existing CAD and GIS files," said Valerie Harnish, Information Services Manager for the City. "This will enhance the capabilities of our Public Works, Police, Finance, Community Development and Park staff," continued Harnish.

In order to provide "markers" for the aerial mapping of the City, Towill Inc. has refreshed a series of 40 "X's" that are painted on streets and sidewalks throughout the City. The "X's" are approximately 5' by 5' in size. All locations are identical to those that were used in 1994 but some of the paint has faded so it needed to be refreshed.

#

8/14/2003 Missing Person from Belmont - new photo (8-18-03)

Missing Person Press Release

Nancy Jean MacDuckston

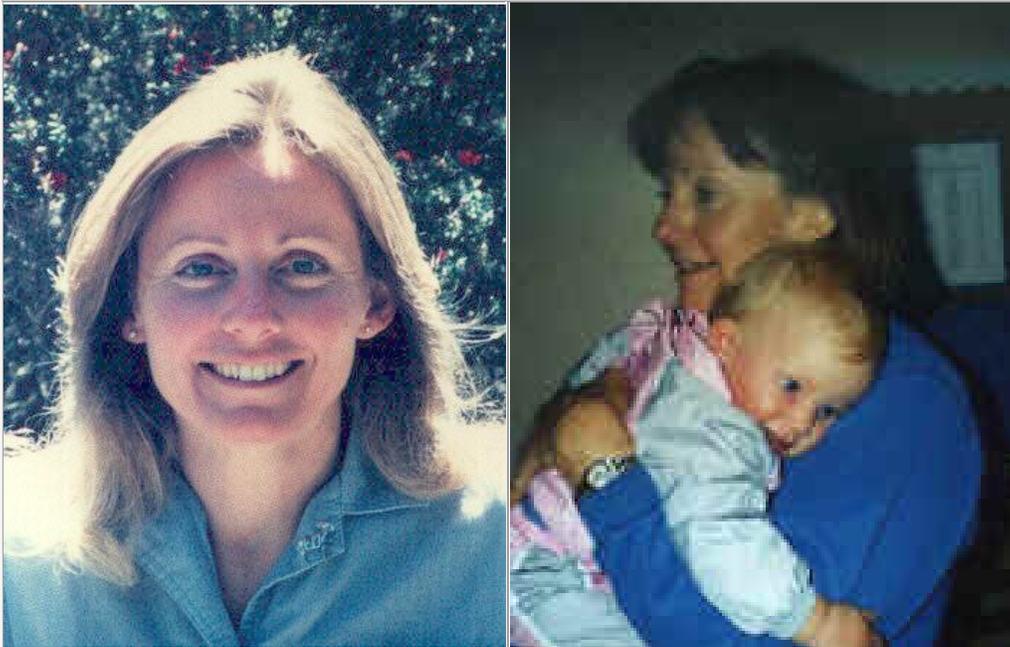
Type of Incident: **Missing Person**

Case #: 0308-0721

Location: 2000 Block of Belle Monti Ave

Date: 8/12/03 Time: 9:00 AM

Page last updated



8/18/2003 **Special Meeting to Consider Canceling Election**

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Special Meeting to Consider Canceling Election

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont City Council will hold a Special Meeting on August 21 at 6 PM in Room 101 of City Hall to consider canceling the November municipal election.

The terms of two City Council seats, the City Clerk and the City Treasurer expire this fall. Normally, an election would be held on November 4 to fill these positions. However, at the conclusion of the August 13 filing deadline, only four individuals sought the four positions. State law give the Council the option to appoint those individuals and cancel the election. That will be the topic of the Special Meeting on Thursday. Canceling the election would save the City approximately \$15,000.

The following filed for the four positions:

City Council - Phil Mathewson, Dave Warden

City Clerk – Terri Cook

City Treasurer – John Violet

Members of the City Council and the City Treasurer are paid a small stipend. The City Clerk is a full time management position. The term of each position is until November 2007.

Belmont voters will still have an election in November to consider a parcel tax for the South County Fire Authority.

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

#

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2003 CONTACT: Chief Herb Jewell at (650) 802-4225

Ballot Measure Devised to Maintain Current Minimum Level of Emergency Paramedic and Fire-Rescue Response Services

San Carlos, CA --

Despite three years of internal belt-tightening, the South County Fire Protection Authority - the fire-rescue agency that provides emergency fire suppression, medical (paramedic), rescue, and hazardous materials response services in Belmont, San Carlos, and the unincorporated Harbor Industrial

Area - is currently in the worst financial condition of its 24-plus year existence, and future years could be even bleaker.

The Fire Authority's basic economic problem continues to be a widening gap between available revenue - primarily service fees received from the Belmont Fire Protection District and the City of San Carlos - and regular and recurring expenditures associated with the delivery of minimum levels of emergency and non-emergency services, such as labor, vendor, maintenance and repair, utility, workers compensation, and liability insurance costs, among others. The Fire Authority would not have been able to maintain its current minimum level of service - five, three-person fire-rescue companies plus a battalion chief, daily, for fire suppression & rescue services - after June 30, 2003 - without the use of fund balance and bridge loans from the Belmont Fire Protection District and the City of San Carlos approximating \$750,000. These two budget deficit reduction strategies only provide the Fire

Authority with financial relief through December 15, 2003.

To deal with the Fire Authority's on-going financial challenges, the Board of Commissioners took action at their August 4, 2003 meeting to establish the South County Fire Protection Authority Paramedic and Firefighting Services Community Facilities District No. 2003-1, and to call an election for the public to vote on this measure.

The formation of the Fire Authority's community facilities district (CFD) - **contained within a parcel tax measure (Measure I) on the November 4, 2003 general election ballot** - must be approved by a

super majority (2/3's + one) of voters within the Fire Authority's jurisdiction (Belmont, San Carlos, and the unincorporated Harbor Industrial Area).

Six key elements of Measure I include:

- 1) The term of the measure is limited to seven years: FY 2004-2005 through FY 2010-2011.
- 2) Funds raised by the measure will only be spent for paramedic and firefighting services within the Fire Authority's jurisdiction.
- 3) There will be no incurrence of any bonded indebtedness associated with this measure.

8/20/2003 Ballot Measure to Maintain Level of Emergency Response (pg 2 of 2)

- 4) For residential occupancies, the annual rate per dwelling unit will be \$88.00.
- 5) For commercial occupancies, the annual rate per square foot will be \$.11.
- 6) No escalator factor will be added to either of the two annual rates, above.

"If the Measure I parcel tax is successful, it will ensure the public served that we will be able to continue the current minimum level of emergency paramedic and fire-rescue response services in Belmont, San Carlos, and the unincorporated Harbor Industrial Area," said Chief Jewell.

If Measure I is not passed, the following Fire Authority personnel changes will occur:

- 1) The Supervisor of Administrative Services position would be eliminated from the authorized budget.
- 2) Nine Firefighter positions (seven currently filled; two currently frozen) would be eliminated from the authorized budget.
- 3) Three Fire Captain positions would be eliminated from the authorized budget, with effected incumbents subsequently demoted to Firefighter positions.

The local and regional paramedic and fire-rescue service level reduction consequences of Measure I not passing include:

- 1) Daily, on-duty Fire Authority strength would be reduced from five to four fire-rescue companies (Engine 13/Downtown San Carlos would be the three-person fire-rescue company eliminated, with Truck 13/Downtown San Carlos subsequently being reconfigured as a two-piece, paramedic-staffed combination company).
- 2) Daily, on-duty Fire Authority advanced life support (paramedic) capability would be eliminated at one of the Fire Authority's four fire stations (Fire Station 16/San Carlos Hills would be the effected fire station).
- 3) Daily, on-duty Fire Authority hazardous material specialist capability would be reduced by 25% (reduced from a daily maximum strength of eight to a daily maximum strength of six).

- END -

8/22/2003 Missing Person:Nancy Jean MacDuckston "UPDATE" Photos

PRESS RELEASES

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Missing Person** Case #: 0308-0721

Location: 2000 Block of Belle Monti Ave. Date: 8/12/03 Time: 9:00 AM.

Missing Person: MacDuckston, Nancy Jean

Find Teacher Nancy Website - www.findteachernancy.com

8/27/2003 New Recreation Classes Start Soon

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

New Recreation Classes Starting Soon

Belmont, CA -- Have you seen your Fall Belmont Activity Guide yet? Lots of new and returning classes for everyone from preschool through seniors are starting soon. Many activities fill up fast and others get cancelled if there are not enough advance signups, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. When you've finished with your back-to-school shopping, or putting away your vacation items, sit down with a cup of coffee and peruse your Guide! A copy is available on the City's homepage at: www.belmont.gov.

Did you know the City offers yoga 4 nights a week, as well as Friday and Saturday mornings? "We offer something for virtually everyone's schedule or interests, so why not try something new," said Recreation Supervisor Mary Doherty. If you like to create your own gift and decorating touches, the City has a number of new classes this season, like Wheat Weaving, Mini Books, Christmas Wreath, or Ikebana. There are also new Kollage Adult classes for drawing, painting, and watercolor. Don't forget the returning Photography and Calligraphy classes for adult, in addition to many fitness and belly dance classes.

"For your kids, we also have many new dance, science, and other interesting classes and clubs, including magic! You can focus their energy through our many sports and martial arts classes as well," said Doherty. Continuing to expand the preschool offerings, the City has the popular Kindermusik ® with Yvonne for several age groups; as well as Strollerobics starting this fall ®.

Find the Library listings, many special events - including the upcoming 20th Annual Art & Wine Festival - and lots more in the Guide. *Check it out now!*

Contact the Belmont Parks & Recreation Department with any questions, or to register at (650) 595-7441, or fax us at (650) 595-7419.

#

8/29/2003 Missing Person: Nancy Jean MacDuckston "UPDATE"

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Missing Person** Case #: 0308-0721

Location: 2000 Block of Belle Monti Ave. Date: 8/12/03 Time: 9:00 AM.

Missing Person: MacDuckston, Nancy Jean

On Tuesday 8/12/03, at approximately 9:00 AM, Mr. Bruce MacDuckston came to the Belmont Police Department to report his wife Nancy missing. Nancy MacDuckston was last seen by her adult daughter, at home in Belmont on Monday, August 11, 2003, approximately 8:30 AM.

(Update 8/29/03)

Belmont PD investigators are consulting with the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit to evaluate what resources might be appropriate for this investigation. Results of that consultation should be available within the next several days.

Belmont PD investigators have also solicited the expertise of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office of Response and Restoration. These scientists have evaluated the facts of the case, and provided an oceanographic projection for this case. For the purpose of this projection, these scientists assumed that an adult entered the ocean at the location of Nancy's belongings, and at the time of her disappearance. The NOAA modeling and simulation studies concluded that if remains were to come ashore, they would do so south of Davenport, between Santa Cruz and Monterey Harbor. This information was passed along to the US Coast Guard to assist with their patrols of the area. The Belmont Police Department would like to thank these agencies, and all the local, state and federal agencies as well as the citizen volunteers who have provided assistance with the on going investigation.

(Reminder)

Last week investigators released a new sketch of the man seen dining with Nancy on Monday 8/11/03 at the New Davenport Cash Store. The man is believed to be Asian or Polynesian, 5'6", 160 lbs, in his early 50's. Anyone with information on this case, or the man in the sketch, please call the Belmont Police Dept at (650) 595-7400, or the tip line dedicated to this case at (650) 598-3000.

Copies of all press releases related to this case including photos of MacDuckston and her vehicle are available on the web at:

<http://www.belmont.gov/news/missingpersonpreleases.htm>

The latest sketch can also be obtained on the web at:

http://www.sketch-artist.com/belmont/03-080721_3_L.jpg

By: Sergeant Dan DeSmidt Authorized By: A/Capt. Patrick Halleran

9/5/2003 Felony Hit and Run

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Felony Hit & Run** Case #: **0309-0094**
Location: **El Camino Real at Broadway** Date: **9/2/03** Time: **1623 hrs**
Victim: **George Nelson Chapman - 68 yrs of Menlo Park**
Suspect: **White Male 30's, short brown hair**
Suspect Vehicle: **Metallic Green SUV with passenger side damage**

(Update)

On 9/2/03 at approximately 4:23 PM a metallic green SUV struck a man on a moped on El Camino Real at Broadway in Belmont. The driver of the SUV was a white male in his 30's with short brown hair. The driver got out of the SUV to check on the victim, who was seriously injured. The driver then returned to his SUV and fled the area.

As of today, investigators have not been able to identify the outstanding SUV or the suspect driver. We now believe that the green SUV has a boxy body style similar to a Land Rover, although it may not be that exact make.

Today we will post a photograph of the moped that the victim was driving on our web site (www.belmont.gov) under the "News" heading. The hope is that a witness will remember seeing the moped and the green SUV on El Camino Real near the Iron Gate Restaurant and come forward to help us solve this case.

This investigation is ongoing, and Belmont PD investigators request the assistance of any witnesses who were in the area of the Iron Gate Restaurant at the time of the collision, or anyone that can help to identify the missing driver. Anyone wishing to assist in the investigation should call: (650) 595-7400.



9/5/2003

Belmont Council Meetings Now on Channel 27

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Council Meetings Now on Channel 27

Belmont, CA -- Channel changes were made by Comcast on August 23, 2003, converting the Belmont City Council broadcasts from Channel 26 to Channel 27 on the Comcast Cable Channels. Peninsula Television programming will remain on Channel 26.

In the absence of regular city channels for Redwood City and Belmont, Comcast has reproduced Peninsula TV to broadcast also on Ch 27 during non-City broadcast times. When the Council meeting broadcast begins, it will interrupt the Pen TV Channel 27 programming.

"Long-term, this will give the City the ability to broadcast targeted programming for Belmont residents," said Information Services Manager Valerie Harnish.

#

9/9/2003 Turn In Your Old Computer for Reuse and Recycling

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Turn in your Old Computer for Reuse and Recycling

Belmont, CA --

Residents and small businesses in Belmont can drop off up to five computer systems for free at two locations during the month of September:

- * September 13, 9AM-2PM at the San Mateo County Expo parking lot in San Mateo
- * September 20, 9AM-2PM at Tyco, 307 Constitution Ave, Menlo Park

"The state has banned all computer monitors and TVs from the landfill because many electronics contain hazardous wastes, such as lead and mercury, that can harm our water supply and taint the soil if buried in a landfill," explained City Engineer Kathleen Phalen. "This is a safe and environmentally friendly way to dispose of your unused computers," she continued.

The Computer Collection Events for Reuse and Recycling is a project that the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA) is undertaking with its event partner, the Computer Recycling Center (CRC), to keep approximately 60,000-150,000 pounds of electronics out of the landfill during these collections. The SBWMA will be paying the fees for recycling; therefore, **proof of residency is required** in order for the event to be no cost to participants (valued up to \$20 per item).

Acceptable computer items are: computers (CPUs), computer monitors, laptop computers, keyboards, computer mice, computer speakers, printers, and scanners. These items will be evaluated for reuse by CRC, which promotes the highest and best re-use of computer and electronic equipment, and recycles unusable items to keep them out of landfills. Donation receipts will be available.

Items not accepted are TVs, consumer and household electronics, batteries and power packs, appliances, computer disks, CDs, videotapes, game cartridges, and packaging. Most of these materials are accepted for recycling (many with no fee) at the Recyclery located at 333 Shoreway Road in San Carlos.

Businesses with more than five computer systems and other office equipment can visit the Computer Recycling Center's Web site to arrange Business Pick-ups at www.CRC.org.

#

9/22/2003 A Celebration of Artists

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2003 **CONTACT:** Vern Holte – (650) 595-7441

"A CELEBRATION of ARTISTS" Honoring Belmont Artists

Belmont, CA -- The Arts Commission of the City of Belmont is hosting a reception for all artists who live or work in Belmont. The reception, entitled, "A Celebration of Artists," will be held the evening of Wednesday, October 15th, 2003 from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm at the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center in Twin Pines Park, 1225 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, CA.

The Arts Commission wants to provide a forum to meet the artists, allow local artists to meet one another, exchange ideas, and to listen to what the City can do to promote the arts in the community. The Commission invites artists who work in all art forms including visual, literary, and performance artists, musicians, and composers to participate. Refreshments will be served.

For more information go to the Arts Commission page.
Artists interested in attending are asked to RSVP via e-mail to celebrateartists@yahoo.com or by calling 650-595-7441.

The Arts Commission advises the City Council on a variety of matters related to visual arts, theatre art, music, cultural art, and dance. Its mission is to promote awareness of the creative arts to enhance the quality of life for the citizens and visitors of Belmont. The Belmont Arts Commission meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center.

#

9/24/2003 Missing Person: Nancy Jean MacDuckston "UPDATE"

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Missing Person** Case #: 0308-0721

Location: 2000 blk Belle Monti Ave., Belmont Date: 8/12/03 Time: 9:00AM

EVENT

On Tuesday August 12, 2003 at approx. 9:00AM Mr. Bruce MacDuckston came to the Belmont Police Department to report his wife Nancy missing. Nancy MacDuckston was last seen by her adult daughter at home in Belmont on Monday, August 11, 2003 at approx. 8:30AM.

(Update 9/24/03)

The volunteer group of family and friends from the community will be having a meeting this Thursday, September 25, 2003 @ 7:30 PM, at the Belmont Senior & Community Center located in Twin Pines Park (1223 Ralston Ave., Belmont). A spokesman for the family and a representative of the Belmont Police Department will be on hand to answer questions from the media. Nancy's husband Bruce, will also be at the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to help the volunteers focus their continued efforts to find Nancy.

Copies of all press releases relating to this case, including photos of Nancy MacDuckston and her vehicle are available on the web at:

<http://www.belmont.gov/news/missingpersonpreleases.htm>

The latest sketch of the man reportedly seen with Nancy in Davenport on the evening of August 11th can be obtained on the web at:



###

By: Sergeant Patrick Halleran Authorized By: Sergeant Patrick Halleran

9/29/2003 Some Offices to Close in Preparation for Move

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Some Offices to Close in Preparation for Move

Belmont, CA -- In anticipation of the relocation of City offices during construction, several offices will be temporarily closed this week.

- The City Clerk's office will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, September 30, from 1-5 PM.
- The Permit Center will be closed all day Friday, October 3.
- Staff in other departments will also be cleaning offices on Friday, but will remain open to the public.

Bids for the Police Department/City Hall retrofit project will be opened on Wednesday, October 1 and the City Council is expected to award a contract on October 14. City offices are tentatively scheduled to relocate within the Civic Center complex at the end of October and construction is expected to begin in mid-November.

#

10/2/2003 Community Meeting to Discuss New Belmont Library

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2003

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

COMMUNITY MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW BELMONT LIBRARY

Belmont, CA --

The City of Belmont, Belmont Library and the Library Steering Committee invite the public to attend a community meeting to discuss the new Belmont Library.

The meeting will be held **on Thursday, October 9, 2003 at 7PM in** the Belmont Library located at 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas.

Based on feedback from previous community meetings, the architect will present the most current versions of the library program, the site plan, floor plan, and building design for public review and comments.

Input from next week's community meeting will help the architect and Steering Committee refine the plans and develop a recommendation to the City Council, which is expected to consider the issue in early 2004.

For additional information please contact Linda Chiochios, Belmont Library Branch Manager at (650) 591-8286.

#

10/15/2003 City Council Adopts Vision Statement

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

City Council Adopts Vision Statement

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont City Council unanimously adopted a community-drafted Vision Statement at its meeting last night. The adoption was the culmination of a six-month process that included the active participation of more than 70 committee members and input from more than one hundred others.

The adopted [Vision Statement](#) can be found on the attached sheet. It focuses on five key values:

- Distinctive Community Character
- Natural Beauty
- Thriving Culture
- Thriving Economy
- Easy Mobility

Seven committees made up of residents and people who work in Belmont spent countless hours over the summer exploring conditions and values, brainstorming themes, and identifying shared visions. The entire community was invited to participate on Vision Saturday in September and then provide input on the draft vision at the Art and Wine Festival and on the web. An Editors Committee of community members took the common vision themes and community input to develop the final statement, which was approved without changes by the City Council.

"This is not staff's vision, or even the City Council's vision; this is truly the community's vision – every word came from and was discussed by community members," said project manager Craig Ewing.

The City embarked on a visioning process to help shape the long-term future of Belmont. It is the centerpiece of a three-part, long-range initiative to set overall direction for the community. The other components include an Economic Development Strategy (to be considered by the City Council on October 28) and an update of the General Plan (to begin in 2004). The General Plan, required of all cities by state law, addresses issues such as the location and density of appropriate land uses, traffic and circulation, housing, safety, conservation, open space and noise. Belmont's General Plan was last prepared in 1982.

Members of the Vision Committees will be recognized by the City Council at the October 28 meeting.

#

10/20/2003 Belmont Prepares for City Hall Retrofit

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Prepares for City Hall Retrofit: Some temporary closures and relocations

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont City Council awarded a contract for the Police Department/City Hall Project to Thompson Pacific at its October 14 meeting. As a result, City offices will be closed temporarily in the coming weeks to move and many will be relocated during construction.

The Finance Department will be closed for business all day Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24; Finance will reopen in its temporary location, the Lodge in Twin Pines Park, at 1 PM on Monday, October 27. All other City operations will remain open during that time.

City Hall offices at 1070 Sixth Avenue will be closed for business on Friday, October 31 for moving and will reopen at 1 PM on Monday, November 3. Police, Finance and Parks and Recreation will remain open during that time.

The following are the locations of City offices during construction:

City Clerk	Suite 301	595-7413
City Manager/City Council	Suite 300 *	595-7408
Community Development	Suite 200	595-7417
Finance – Business Licenses/City Treasurer	The Lodge	595-7436
Human Resources	Suite 300-A *	595-7452
Information Services	Suite 200	595-7446
Parks and Recreation	1225 Ralston *	595-7441
Permit Center (Planning, Building)	Suite 200	595-7416
Police (Dispatch, Patrol, Detectives and Administration)	1215 Ralston	595-7400
Public Works	Suite 200	595-7425
* = <i>no change</i>		

Construction is expected to start around November 10 and last approximately 14 months. During construction, the north driveway on Sixth Avenue (next to Wells Fargo) into the Civic Center and Twin Pines Park will not be accessible to the public and parking on that side of City Hall will be blocked.

A groundbreaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 12.

#

10/28/2003 PD/Cityhall Groundbreaking - Wednesday November 12 at 1PM

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2003 CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

City Official Reorganization Wednesday Night, November 12

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont City Council will recognize in-coming and out-going officials at a special meeting at 7:30 PM on November 12 in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. The entire community is invited to attend the ceremony and reception immediately following.

New Council Member Phil Mathewson, returning Council Member Dave Warden, returning City Clerk Terri Cook, and new Treasurer John Violet will be sworn in at the meeting.

According to Council policy, current Vice Mayor George Metropulos will become Mayor for 2003-2004 and Council Member Dave Bauer will become Vice Mayor. In addition, out-going Mayor Paul Wright, who is leaving the City Council, will be recognized for his years of service to the community, as will out-going City Treasurer Howard Mason.

The business items on the agenda that night will consist of consent calendar items only and there will be no public hearings. The meeting will be shown live on cable Channel 27.

There is no City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 11, due to the Veterans' holiday.

#

10/28/2003 City Official Reorganization - Wednesday Night November 12th

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2003 Contact: Dan Rich 650-595-7409

Police Department/City Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony Set for 1:00 PM November 12

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont is pleased to announce that the groundbreaking for the new Police Department/City Hall building will occur on Wednesday, November 12 at 1:00 PM. The public is invited to this ceremony.

The event will occur in the parking lot behind City Hall at 1070 Sixth Avenue. The ceremony is scheduled to be approximately one-half hour in length and will be followed by a simple reception.

Plans have been underway for many years to move the Police out of their current "temporary" facility into a larger and seismically secure building. The City Council awarded a contract for construction on October 14. Bids on a similar project were rejected in 2001 when they came in 52% over estimates.

Thompson Pacific of San Rafael was awarded the contract for the retrofit, renovation, and expansion of City Hall, in order to make it an essential services building for the Police Department. Harris & Associates of Concord is the Construction Manager, and KMD of San Francisco led the design team on the project.

Construction is expected to take about fourteen months to complete. Many City offices will be temporarily relocated during construction and parking on the north side of the building will be used for construction equipment.

#

10/30/2003 Suspicious Death - Probable Homicide

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Suspicious Death – Probable Homicide** Case #: 0310-1781

Location: 1000 Block Kedith St. Date: 10/28/03 Time: 1315 hrs

Victim: **47 yr old female** (Name withheld pending notification of next of kin)

EVENT

Today at approximately 11:10 AM, the victim's employer called the Belmont PD and requested a welfare check at her home, as she had not arrived for work. Officers responded and found the house secure. There was no answer at the door, and Officers were unable to locate the victim. At approximately 1:15 PM, the victim's daughter entered the house and found her mother lying on the floor. Blood could be seen at various locations inside the home, at the victim was unresponsive. 9-1-1 was called and Belmont PD Officers returned to the house with South County Fire Paramedics, who pronounced the woman dead.

As of this press release, the woman's death is being investigated as a homicide, pending the Coroner's office investigation. Investigators from Belmont PD are in the process of contacting the victim's known family members and associates.

This investigation is ongoing. A Belmont PD spokesperson will be available at the Belmont PD station 5:00PM.

###

10/30/2003 Suspicious Death - Update (2) – Photos

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Suspicious Death – Probable Homicide** Case #: 0310-1781

Location: 1000 Block Kedith St. Date: 10/28/03 Time: 1315 hrs

Victim: **47 yr old female** (Name withheld pending notification of next of kin)

EVENT

Today at approximately 11:10 AM, the victim's employer called the Belmont PD and requested a welfare check at her home, as she had not arrived for work. Officers responded and found the house secure. There was no answer at the door, and Officers were unable to locate the victim. At approximately 1:15 PM, the victim's daughter entered the house and found her mother lying on the floor. Blood could be seen at various locations inside the home, at the victim was unresponsive. 9-1-1 was called and Belmont PD Officers returned to the house with South County Fire Paramedics, who pronounced the woman dead. As of this press release, the woman's death is being investigated as a homicide, pending the Coroner's office investigation. Investigators from Belmont PD are in the process of contacting the victim's known family members and associates.

UPDATE (2200 HRS)

Investigators have interviewed a number of the victim's family members and associates. So far they have been unable to locate the victim's boyfriend. He is Johnny Sotto of Daly City. Sotto is described as a Filipino male, 41 yrs, 5-8, 145 lbs, with black hair, and brown eyes. Sotto is not being named as a suspect, but is a person of interest for investigators. It is hoped that Sotto will be able to offer information that will assist in this investigation due to his relationship with the victim. Sotto may be driving a white 1992 Toyota Tercel or Paseo Cal. Lic# 3SMD449.



Bumper Sticker



Suspect and Vehicle & Suspect Vehicle Look-alike

Anyone with information on Sotto, or anything else regarding this case is asked to contact the Belmont Police Department at (650) 595-7400.

10/31/2003 Suspicious Death - Update (3)

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Homicide** Case #: 0310-1781

Location: 1000 Block of Kedith St. Date: 10-28-03 Time: 1315 Hrs.

Victim: Lecaroz, Emerenciana (47 Yrs.) of Belmont

UPDATE

Belmont Police are requesting the public's assistance in locating Johannes "Johnny" Sotto's and or his vehicle. Sotto is believed to be the boyfriend of homicide victim, Emerenciana Lecaroz, who was discovered deceased in her home on 10/28/03.

Investigators have been unable to locate Sotto, and are asking for the public's help in locating him. Sotto is described as a Filipino male, 41 yrs, 5-8, 145 lbs, with black hair and brown eyes.

Sotto's vehicle is described as a White 1992, 2 door, Toyota Paseo Cal. Lic# 3SMD449. Sotto's vehicle has after-market rims, with tires that extend beyond the wheel wells, and a sticker that reads "Toyota Motor Sports" in the rear window. His vehicle is also believed to have an after market exhaust system, which has a different sound than a stock exhaust system.

A photograph of Sotto standing next to his vehicle, a photo of stickers believed to be in the back window of the vehicle and a photo showing the front end of a similar Toyota Paseo have been posted on the Belmont PD Web Site.

Police are asking the public to call the Belmont Police Department at (650) 595-7400 if you have any information regarding this case. Press releases and images can be accessed on the City of Belmont Website:

www.belmont.gov/news/photosubjandveh.htm

Sotto is wanted for questioning in this case and his involvement in the crime has not been determined. The public is reminded that if they see Sotto or his vehicle, they should call 9-1-1 and not approach him.

10/31/2003 Suspicious Death - Update (4)

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Murder** Case #: 0310-1781

Location: 1021 Kedith St. Date: 10-28-03 Time: 1315 Hrs.

Victim: Lecaroz, Emerenciana (47 Yrs.)

Suspect: Johannes "Johnny" Sotto (8/24/62) of Daly City

Suspect Vehicle:

White 1992 Toyota Paseo with after-market rim and exhaust, and a "Toyota Motor Sports" sticker in rear window.

UPDATE (10/31/03)

Today, Belmont PD investigators have announced that Johannes "Johnny" Sotto has been named as a suspect in the brutal murder of Emerenciana "Emmy" Lecaroz. Investigators are relying on the public's assistance in locating Sotto and or his vehicle. Photos are now available on the web at www.belmont.gov (under "News").

Lecaroz was discovered murdered in her bedroom on 10/28/03. Yesterday members of the investigations team attended the victim's autopsy, which revealed that Lecaroz was fatally stabbed during a long struggle inside her home. Investigators have been unable to locate Sotto since the victim's young daughter discovered the body on Tuesday. They are asking for the public join their efforts to locate this potentially dangerous suspect. Sotto is described as a Filipino male, 41 yrs, 5-8, 145 lbs, with black hair and brown eyes. Investigators have reason to believe that he remains in and around the San Mateo County area.

Sotto's vehicle is described as a White 1992, 2 door, Toyota Paseo Cal. Lic# 3SMD449. Sotto's vehicle has after-market rims, with tires that extend beyond the wheel wells, and a sticker that reads "Toyota Motor Sports" in the rear window. His vehicle is also believed to have an after market exhaust system, which has a different sound than a stock exhaust system.

A photograph of Sotto standing next to his vehicle, a photo of stickers believed to be in the back window of the vehicle and a photo showing the front end of a similar Toyota Paseo have been posted on the Belmont Web Site at www.belmont.gov (under "News").

A Belmont PD spokesperson will be available today to answer any questions regarding this case

By: Sgt. Dan DeSmidt Authorized By: Capt. Ed Wood

10/31/2003 Suspicious Death - Update (5)

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Murder** Case #: 0310-1781

Location: 1021 Kedith St. Date: 10-28-03 Time: 1315 Hrs.

Victim: Lecaroz, Emerenciana (47 Yrs.)

Suspect: Johannes "Johnny" Sotto (8/24/62) of Daly City

Suspect Vehicle:

White 1992 Toyota Paseo with after-market rims and exhaust, and a "Toyota Motor Sports" sticker in rear window.

SECOND UPDATE (10/31/03)

Today, Belmont PD investigators have announced that Johannes "Johnny" Sotto has been named as a suspect in the brutal murder of Emerenciana "Emmy" Lecaroz. Investigators are relying on the public's assistance in locating Sotto and his vehicle. Photos are now available on the web at www.belmont.gov (under "News").

*****SPECIAL REQUEST*****

When reporting on this case, please focus on the suspect's vehicle. His 1992 Toyota Paseo is very distinctive, and investigators hope that this unique vehicle will lead to the suspect. The following is the description of the vehicle seen in the photograph with Sotto:

White 1992 Toyota Paseo with wide after-market tires and exhaust. On the rear window is a sticker, which reads "Toyota Motor Sports". The car's California license plate is 3SMD449.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts in this case.

11/6/2003 Suspicious Death - Update (6)

(Press Release not found.)

11/6/2003 Suspicious Death - Update (7)

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Murder Suspect found Dead** Case #: 0310-1781

Location: 1021 Kedith St. Date: 10-28-03 Time: 1315 Hrs.

Victim: Lecaroz, Emerenciana (47 Yrs.)

Suspect: Johannes "Johnny" Sotto (8/24/62) of Daly City

Suspect Vehicle:

White 1992 Toyota Paseo with after-market rims and exhaust, and a "Toyota Motor Sports" sticker in rear window.

UPDATE (11/3/03)

Belmont PD investigators have announced that Johannes "Johnny" Sotto, who was named as a suspect in the brutal murder of Emerenciana "Emmy" Lecaroz was found dead in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park yesterday. His cause of death is unknown pending autopsy.

Belmont PD investigators continue to gather and examine physical evidence. To this point they have no reason to believe that there are any additional suspects outstanding in this case.

Still outstanding, however, is Sotto's vehicle. Investigators are still relying on help from the public to locate his car. Due to Sotto's location, there is clearly reason to believe that his car is somewhere in San Francisco. SFPD has conducted a grid-search of the area, but the car was not found.

As a reminder, the vehicle description is as follows:

White 1992 Toyota Paseo with wide after-market tires and exhaust. On the rear window is a sticker, which reads "Toyota Motor Sports". The car's California license plate is 3SMD449.

Photographs of Sotto and his vehicle can still be obtained on the web at:

www.belmont.gov (under "News")

Thanks to all of you for your efforts in this case.

By: Sgt. Dan DeSmidt Authorized By: A/Capt. Pat Halleran

11/6/2003 Missing Person: Nancy Jean MacDuckston – Update

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Missing Person** Case #: 0308-0721

Location: 2000 Block of Belle Monti Ave. Date: 8/12/03 Time: 9:00 AM.

Missing Person: MacDuckston, Nancy Jean

On Tuesday 8/12/03, at approximately 9:00 AM, Mr. Bruce MacDuckston came to the Belmont Police Department to report his wife Nancy missing. Nancy MacDuckston was last seen by her adult daughter, at home in Belmont on Monday, August 11, 2003, approximately 8:30 AM. To this point, an exhaustive investigation has turned up little information regarding Nancy's whereabouts.

(Update 11/6/03)

On Friday 11/7/03 (7:30-8:30 pm) there will be a public candlelight vigil and non-denominational service for Nancy MacDuckston at the Congregational Church, 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont. Friends and family members have arranged for the service, and all are welcome. The public is being asked to carpool to the vigil, as parking in and around the Church is limited. By: Sergeant Dan DeSmidt Authorized By: A/Capt. Patrick Halleran Date: 11/6/03 Time: 1000 hrs Date: 11/6/03 Time: 1000 hrs

11/10/2003 Police Department/City Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony

Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich - (650) 595-7408

MEDIA ALERT

What: Police Department/City Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony

When: 1:00 PM, Wednesday November 12

Where: Belmont City Hall
(Parking lot behind the building)
1070 6th Avenue

Who: City of Belmont officials

Why: Beginning construction on long-desired project

Renderings of the building will be on display and the ceremonial shoveling of dirt will occur. A reception will follow the brief ceremony.

#

11/12/2003 Fire Station #14 Dedication

SOUTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

WHO:

*Belmont Fire Protection District/City of Belmont
City of San Carlos
South County Fire Protection Authority
San Carlos Chamber of Commerce
Belmont Chamber of Commerce
Harbor Industrial Association
Community Members – Belmont, San Carlos, and Harbor Industrial Area
Fire-Rescue Agencies – San Mateo Operational Area
Other Interested Parties*

WHAT:

*Dedication Ceremony/Ribbon-Cutting for Newly-Rebuilt
South County Fire Protection Authority Fire Station No. 14*

*This facility is being dedicated to the memory of deceased South County Fire Protection Authority
Battalion Chiefs Dan Gadwah and Gene Mullins.*

WHEN: Tuesday, November 18, 2003; 5:00 p.m.

WHERE:

*South County Fire Protection Authority Fire Station No. 14
911 Granada Street, between Masonic Way and Ralston Avenue,
Belmont (Thomas Bros. Map 749-F7)*

WHY:

*Completion of South County Fire Protection Authority's Multi-Facility Fire Station Remodel/Rebuild
Program*

HOW:

*No RSVP's required. Light refreshments will be served. Due to limited on site and off site vehicle
parking at/near the fire station site, use of public transportation or walking is recommended. The
Belmont Cal Train station/station parking lot are located approximately two blocks west of the fire
station site, at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and El Camino Real (northeast corner).*

***If you require any further information about this special event,
please contact***

Fire Chief Herb Jewell directly at 650/802-4225.

11/14/2003 Grant Leads to Seat Belmont Enforcement

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2003 CONTACT: Sergeant Dan DeSmidt – (650) 595-7400

Grant leads to Seat Belt Enforcement

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Police Department will be issuing citations to persons not wearing seatbelts from November 17-30 2003. The increased enforcement coincides with the National Buckle Up America Mobilization and the California Seat Belt Compliance Campaign.

Last year in California, 1,268 unbelted vehicle occupants lost their lives in traffic collisions. Approximately 45 percent (571) lives could have been saved had they remembered to buckle up. "We participate in these mobilizations because they help raise awareness and save lives," said Corporal Chris Ledwith of the Traffic Division.

"The seat belt use rate for 2003 is 91.2%, which sounds good, but it means more than 3 million people— the population of 21 states - in California fail to buckle up," Ledwith continued.

Since most crashes occur within 5 miles of home, wearing a seatbelt and using child safety seats is the most effective action a person can take to protect themselves and their loved ones from injury or death in a traffic collision.

A grant from the Office Of Traffic Safety, through the California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency, will fund officer overtime to enforce seatbelt laws. This follows the month long public information campaign using the slogan "Seatbelts. Remember. Or be remembered". And the extensive billboard, radio, & TV ads proclaiming "Seatbelts or body bags...One size fits all!".

#

11/14/2003 Planning Commission Openings

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2003 **CONTACT:** Terri Cook – (650) 595-7414

Belmont Seeks Residents for Planning Commission Vacancies

Belmont, CA -- The City of Belmont is currently recruiting residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission. The deadline to apply is 5:00 P.M. Friday, December 19, and the application is available on the City's website: www.belmont.gov under "City Clerk Homepage."

Two vacancies exist on the Planning Commission, with terms set to expire in March of 2005. The Planning Commission reviews and takes action on planning applications and makes recommendations to the City Council on land use issues. The Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

To apply for either of these positions and to have an opportunity to make a contribution to your community, fill out the application form available on the website or from the City Clerk's Office (1070 Sixth Street, Suite 301), and return it to the City Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, December 19. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for early January. Applicants must live in Belmont.

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

#

12/2/2003 City Hall to Close Over Holidays

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2003 **CONTACT:** Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

City Hall to Close Over Holidays

Belmont, CA -- As a cost-cutting measure, City administrative offices will be shut down from December 25 through January 4. The following offices will be coompletely closed:

- City Clerk
- City Manager
- Community Development
- Finance (including business licenses)
- Human Resources
- Information Services
- Permit Center (including building inspections)

Police will be fully operational. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For other Police matters, please call 595-7400. Parks and Public Works crews will be on duty but administrative staff will not. For Park emergencies, call 595-7400 and for Public Works emergencies, call 595-7427. The Belmont Community Learning Center (Day Care) will remain open on its regular holiday schedule and the Senior and Community Center will be open on a limited basis. Please check with Center staff for dates and times.

"The City Council had to cut almost \$500,000 recently to respond to state takeaway's of local revenue and the continued weak economy," explained City Manager Jere Kersnar. "This furlough is part of that package of cuts and will save the City more than \$100,000. While we regret cutting services to the public, we hope this time of year will be least disruptive," Kersnar continued.

#

12/2/2003 Sandbags Available for Belmont Residents

Notice

January 1, 2004

CONTACT: Department of Public Works – (650) 595-7425

Sandbags available for Belmont Residents

The Belmont Public Works Department is providing a limited supply of filled sandbags for residents. The sandbags may be picked up at the following location 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Outside the **Corporation Yard** (110 Sem Lane) under covered shelter.

Please note, due to the renovations of City Hall, no sandbags will be available at that location this year.

Residents, particularly those who live in areas that regularly experience some flooding, are strongly encouraged to pick up sandbags to ensure they are prepared for possible flooding. Residents may obtain up to 12 bags per Belmont address.

Public Works staff has the following suggestions for residents to prepare for the rainy season:

- ü Clean gutters and down spouts to assure proper water run off away from the home
- ü Do not block the gutters, creeks, drainage canals, or catch basins with trash or debris.
- ü Store unused sand bags in a dry or covered area. Sandbags are not watertight and will absorb water. This makes them very difficult to move when wet.
- ü Contact the Public Works Department at 595-7427 if you observe any significant blockage of leaves or other debris in gutters, creeks, or drainage canals.

#

12/4/2003 Breakfast with Santa, December 13th

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2003 **CONTACT:** Mary Doherty – (650) 595-7441

Breakfast with Santa on December 13

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department is once again sponsoring the annual Breakfast with Santa event. This year, Santa will arrive at the Belmont Senior and Community Center on December 13 at 10:00 AM.

Children under the age of ten will receive a special gift and a picture with Santa. Breakfast for everyone includes pancakes with toppings, sausages and orange juice. Entertainment will be provided by Mr. Horsefeathers – a magician/juggler.

The price is \$8.00 (including the gift) for children under ten and \$7.00 for those ten and older. *Reservations must be made by Thursday, December 11.* To register, come to the Parks and Recreation Department at 1225 Ralston Ave, or fax your credit card registration to 595-7419.

For more information on the event, please call 595-7441.

#

Belmont Library Project Update

December 2003

Status

The following renderings were approved by the City Council in December. The City has begun assessing the tax approved by voters to pay for the new Library and the bonds are expected to be sold by January.

The Parks & Recreation Commission will be reviewing the site plan for Belameda Park on January 14, 2004. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the Library plans and permit applications in February 2004.

The current schedule calls for construction to begin in January 2005.



Background

Since last April, the Library Steering Committee has been working diligently with Field Paoli, the architects, on re-conceptualizing the plans for the new library. On July 22, 2003, City Council directed the Library Steering Committee to proceed to the schematic design stage with a revised "L" shaped project concept and two sizing options: 18,000 and 21,000 square feet.

The schematic design stage was contemplated to produce a well-defined, reasonable concept into a spatial definition where the scope, scale, design and relationship among the components of the projects are shown.

Based on input from the community meetings, the architects, members of the Steering Committee, and Parks & Recreation Department, the site plan has been developed to provide two new play areas, an entry plaza, areas for outdoor reading and picnics, and accessible walkways.

12/19/2003 Fire Station 14 Open House December 21st

Fire Station 14 Open House December 21

Belmont, CA - The South County Fire Protection Authority - the fire/rescue agency that serves Belmont, San Carlos, and the unincorporated Harbor Industrial Area – invites Belmont residents to visit their newly reconstructed Fire Station No. 14. The event is on Sunday, December 21, 2003, between 1:00 and 4:00 PM at the station - located at 911 Granada Street, near Ralston Avenue.

The new Fire Station No. 14 - which houses a paramedic engine company, a brush patrol vehicle, and a reserve aerial ladder truck - resumed operations November 1st, and was publicly dedicated on November 18th in the memory of deceased Fire Authority Battalion Chiefs Dan Gadwah and Gene Mullins.

This 9,300 square-foot, newly-reconstructed fire station - funded primarily from pre-March, 1998 Redwood Shores fire/rescue service contract revenue - replaces a 2,700 square-foot fire station originally constructed in 1954.

Due to limited public parking in the area surrounding Fire Station No. 14, visitors are encouraged to park their vehicles at the Belmont Cal Train Station parking lot just west of the fire station.

#

12/22/2003 City Hall to Close: December 25 through January 4, 2004

Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2003 CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Reminder: City Hall to Close

Belmont, CA -- As noted in an earlier release, City administrative offices will be shut down from December 25 through January 4. The following offices will be completely closed:

- City Clerk
- City Manager
- Community Development
- Finance (including business licenses)
- Human Resources
- Information Services
- Permit Center (including building inspections)

Police will be fully operational. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For other Police matters, please call 595-7400. Parks and Public Works crews will be on duty but administrative staff will not. For Park emergencies, call 595-7400 and for Public Works emergencies, call 595-7427. The Belmont Community Learning Center (Day Care) will remain open on its regular holiday schedule and the Senior and Community Center will be open Dec. 29-30 from 10 AM until 2 PM.

This first-ever furlough of City staff is part of a package of budget cuts recently made by the City Council. This one item will save the City's General Fund more than \$100,000. The cuts are due in large part to the loss of revenue from the Vehicle License Fee.

#

12/23/2003 Detonation of Explosive Device on Old County Road (pg 1 of 2)

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2003

CONTACT: Sgt. Robyn Pitts or Dan DeSmidt – (650) 595-7407

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: Detonation of Explosive Device Case #: 0312-1158

Location: 1296 Old County Road, Heritage Motors Date: 12-20-03 Time: 0006 hours

UPDATED PRESS RELEASE/VIDEO RELEASE

On the morning of 12/20/03, officers received a call to respond to the sidewalk area in front of an automotive repair shop on Old County in Belmont. Workers found the remains of a crude explosive device, and a second similar device that was undetonated. Only one device actually detonated, but no one was injured and there was no damage. The San Mateo County Sheriffs' Office Bomb Squad responded and rendered the second device safe. Personnel from South County Fire remained on scene until the device was neutralized. Neighboring businesses were checked for similar devices. Evidence was collected at the scene that included a videotape of the suspect placing the crude devices near a gas meter for the building. The video is currently being enhanced to show more definition of the suspect, and suspect vehicle. No motive for this crime has been established. No one has claimed responsibility for placing the devices at this business. There does not appear to be any political motivation involved.

The videotape reveals the unknown suspect drove southbound on Old County Road (OCR) to O'Neill Avenue in what appeared to be a dark colored Ford SUV. The suspect parked on O'Neill and walked back to OCR. The suspect, who appeared to be a white male medium to heavy set, was carrying a white or clear plastic bag to the front of Heritage Motors. The suspect removed what appeared to be the devices from the bag and placed them next to the building. The videotape shows one of the devices detonating. Additional description of the suspect is that he was wearing a dark colored jacket, possibly a black leather jacket, light colored pants, possibly denim, and dark colored shoes. He has short, light colored hair and he was clean-shaven. The suspect was smoking a cigarette and appeared to use the cigarette to light a fuse on one of the devices before he walked away and returned to his vehicle.

Investigators from Burlingame PD, San Mateo Co Sheriffs Office, FBI, ATF and Belmont PD met to discuss the investigations on the recent incidents in Burlingame and Belmont. It appears that there are enough differences in the two incidents to believe that they are not related to one another. Also, it appears that this is an isolated incident and that it is not connected to any other local, state or federal incident.

12/23/2003 Detonation of Explosive Device on Old County Road (pg 2 of 2)

A portion of the video, which shows the suspect, the suspect vehicle, and the device, has been posted on the City of Belmont web site. If anyone has any information regarding this case, the potential suspect or suspect vehicle, please contact the Belmont Police Department at 650-595-7400.

By: Sgt. Robyn Pitts

Authorized By: Capt. Mattei

Date: 12-23-03 Time: 1445 hours

Video of suspect/vehicle/device:

Warning! Each file greater than 20 MBs

Suspect Parking Vehicle, Walking along Sidewalk

[Camera1.avi](#)

Suspect Parking Vehicle, Device Detonating

[Camera4.avi](#)