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1/9/2004 Training the Community for Emergencies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2004 CONTACT:
Sgt. Robyn Pitts (650) 595-7400

Training the Community for Emergencies

Belmont, CA -- Beginning January 14th, the Belmont Police Department, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department, will be presenting the first of eight classes on community emergency response preparation. The sessions are called C.E.R.T., which stands for Community Emergency Response Team. C.E.R.T. is based on a model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1994, which was modified and standardized by F.E.M.A (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

The training consists primarily of classroom discussions, but participants will also be taught how to use tools such as fire extinguishers and first aid equipment with the assistance of South County Fire Authority personnel. The sessions will be every Wednesday from 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM at Fire Station 14, which is located at the corner of Ralston Avenue and Granada Street.

In order to sign up for this training, or for more details, please contact the Belmont Parks and Recreation Department at 650-595-7470. It is not necessary to be a Belmont resident. The cost is \$42.00 for all 8 sessions. Included in this cost are all class materials, and after the successful completion of the course, an emergency response kit will be issued. The kit consists of a hard hat, goggles, high-visibility vest and work gloves.

"In light of the "9-11" disaster, and other man-made and natural disasters, it is more apparent than ever that emergency personnel need the assistance of the community," explained Acting Police Chief Don Mattei. "This class is an important step toward helping our residents help themselves and the community," Mattei continued.

After the completion of the eight sessions, participants will become certified volunteers and will be trained to assist first responders in various emergency situations, according to Belmont Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Hilory Brown. In addition to members of South County Fire, there will be Belmont Police Volunteers with emergency preparedness and disaster planning expertise instructing the participants on what they can do to help in an emergency.

C.E.R.T. Volunteers are not a replacement for emergency personnel, but they augment the personnel handling the emergency. An emergency can be anything from a major accident to earthquake. "C.E.R.T. is a vital tool in allowing the community to safely assist emergency services personnel in the event of a major disaster or emergency," Fire Marshall Jim Palisi said.

###

1/9/2004

New Year Brings New Recreation Classes

(pg 1 of 2)

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2004

CONTACT: Mary Doherty – (650) 595-7441

NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW RECREATION CLASSES

Belmont, CA --

Ring in the New Year with one or more of Belmont's new recreation classes. Did you make a New Year's resolution to get more exercise? Spend a little more time focusing on yourself? Get the kids involved with something new? Well, Belmont Parks and Recreation is the place to go to make your resolution come true – but hurry, space is limited and some classes start soon!

The following is a sample of some of the exciting offerings:

- Kollage - Art with Mommy & Me, and Adult classes – starting the week of Jan. 12th. (Note: Kollage's 'new' home for classes is the Barrett Community Center, 1835 Belburn Ave.)
- Kidz Love Soccer - ages 3 ½ -6 years (classes split out by age), starts Jan. 13th
- Little Gypsies - ages 4-7 years - Wed. 4-4:45pm, starts Jan. 14th
- Gymnastics for 3-5 years starts Jan. 22
- Blue Angels Ski & Snowboard program, starts Jan. 24th for 5 weeks
- Belly Dance - Trim and Tone, starts Jan. 26th
- Rock Climbing for 9-13 year olds; tennis and karate; senior classes; crafts; and many, many more!!!

There are also some very special events worth getting on the calendar:

- Family Sweets & Skate Valentine Celebration February 8th

AGE: 2 yrs & up with adult

FEE: Per person - \$9 Residents, \$11 Non-residents, includes skate rental and free skate time, \$12 each at the door.

LOCATION: Belmont Iceland

Fathers and daughter, Mother and son, or any adult with a special child! Let them know how special you think they are by bringing them to this celebration of Valentine's Day in a different way! Enjoy hot chocolate and dessert on the ice! Be treated to a short skating performance around you, and then have skating time together.

- STOMP - the show

Saturday, March 27th 5:00pm at Flint Center in Cupertino.

See Belmont's own Nick Pack perform as STOMP returns to the Bay Area for ONE weekend and meet the cast! If you've never seen STOMP, don't miss it! STOMP takes everyday sounds of pipes and brooms, lighters, garbage pail lids (and more!) and makes them extraordinary! Gather your friends and let's go! Orchestra seats for \$40 Residents, \$42 Non- residents

For more information on any of these exciting opportunities, as well as other programs, check out the Activity Guide sent to you or online at www.belmont.gov, or contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 595-7441.

1/15/2004 Belmont Seeks Residents for Commission...

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2004

CONTACT: Terri Cook – (650) 595-7414

Belmont Seeks Residents for Commission Openings

Belmont, CA -- *The City of Belmont is currently recruiting residents interested in serving on various City Commissions. The deadline to apply is 5:00 P.M. Friday, January 23, 2004, and the application is available on the City's website: www.belmont.gov under "City Clerk Homepage, by calling (650) 595-7413, or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 1070 Sixth Avenue, Suite 301.*

There are three openings on the **Parks and Recreation Commission** for terms expiring on March 1, 2006. The Parks and Recreation Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and makes recommendations to the City Council on matters pertaining to Belmont's Park and Recreation programs, as well as on capital improvements to the City's various parks and open space areas.

There are two openings for **Youth seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission**. The City Council will consider applications from Belmont residents who are between the ages of 13 and 17 years old. Parent/Guardian consent is mandatory. These seats are for one-year terms, which expire March 1, 2005.

There are three openings on the **Arts Commission**, for terms expiring on March 1, 2006. The Arts Commission meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to visual arts, theatre arts, cultural arts, music and dance.

There are two vacancies and two seats set to expire on the **Finance Commission**. The Finance Commission meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and participates in the budget review process, serves as the audit committee for the City Council, conducts an annual review of the City's investment policy and, at the request of the City Council, evaluates proposals, programs and contracts for long and short term financial consequences.

To apply for any 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, January 23. Applicants must live in Belmont.

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

#

1/16/2004 America's Most Wanted to Assist With Search...

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2003 CONTACT: Sgt. Dan DeSmidt (650) 595-7400

AMERICA'S MOST WANTED TO ASSIST WITH SEARCH FOR MISSING TEACHER NANCY MACDUCKSTON

Belmont, CA --

The search for missing Belmont pre-school teacher Nancy MacDuckston will again go nation-wide on Saturday, January 17, 2004, when her story will appear as a segment on Fox Television's ***America's Most Wanted***. Previously, the case has been featured on both Good Morning America and the Montel Williams Show.

Nancy MacDuckston, a popular teacher at a Belmont pre-school, was last seen by her adult daughter at home in Belmont on the morning of Monday, August 11, 2003. Her tan 2001 Mazda MPV minivan was located the next day on Hwy 1 near Davenport in Santa Cruz County.

The segment, which was filmed on location in both Belmont and Davenport, will appear in the Bay Area on KTVU Channel 2 at 9:00pm. "This remains an open investigation and we'll use any resource available to us to find Nancy," said Acting Detective Sergeant Kevin Daley. Acting Sgt. Daley will be in the America's Most Wanted Call Center in Washington D.C. during the broadcast to assess any tips phoned in during the show.

#

1/27/2004 Pedestrian Decoy Operation to Be Held

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26,

CONTACT:

Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

Pedestrian Decoy Operations to be Held

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont and San Carlos Police Departments, will be conducting joint Pedestrian Decoy Operations on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 in both the cities of Belmont & San Carlos.

The San Carlos decoy operation will be conducted between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM in the 600-700 blks of Laurel St., San Carlos. The Belmont operation will follow, between 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM in the 1800-2000 blks of Ralston Ave., Belmont.

Police personnel in plain clothes will be used to cross the roadways in marked crosswalks, while motorcycle officers will watch for pedestrian right of way violations. Motorists failing to yield the right of way to the pedestrian will be stopped. The fine for violating a pedestrian right of way in a crosswalk is \$103. Passing another vehicle, which has stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, carries a fine of \$270.

“Our goal is to raise drivers’ awareness of their responsibility to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks,” explained Sergeant Mike Brake’ of the Belmont Police Department. “This is an opportunity to educate the motoring public on pedestrian right of way and related traffic laws”, continued Sgt. Brake’.

Both departments will carry out enforcement of pedestrian right of way violations on a continuous basis and will continue to work together on future pedestrian decoy events in their respective cities.

###

1/28/2004 Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement a Success

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2004

CONTACT: Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

Pedestrian Decoy Enforcement a Success

Belmont, CA --

The pedestrian decoy operation carried out by the Belmont Police and San Carlos Police Departments was very successful, according to Belmont Police Sergeant Mike Brake'.

Police personnel in plain clothes were used to cross the roadways in marked crosswalks, while motorcycle officers watched for pedestrian right of way violations. Motorists who failed to yield the right of way to the pedestrian were stopped.

The decoy operation, which was conducted in both Belmont and San Carlos on Tuesday, January 27, 2004, resulted in a total of 16 enforcement stops, with 13 citations issued (8 in Belmont / 5 in San Carlos) and 3 warnings given. The San Carlos decoy operation was conducted between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM in the 600-700 blks of Laurel St., San Carlos and the Belmont operation was conducted between 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM in the 1800-2000 blks of Ralston Ave., Belmont. The fine for violating a pedestrian right of way in a crosswalk is \$103. Passing another vehicle, which has stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, carries a fine of \$270.

"The event met its objective, which was to raise drivers' awareness of their responsibility to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks," explained Sergeant Brake' "The locations were chosen due to numerous complaints regarding this problem from merchants and neighborhood residents," Sgt. Brake' added.

Both agencies will continue to focus on enforcement of pedestrian right of way violations and will work together on future pedestrian decoy events in both cities.

###

1/28/2004 Belmont Commission Deadline Extended!

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2004

CONTACT: Terri Cook – (650) 595-7414

Belmont Commission Application Deadline Extended!

Belmont, CA --

The City of Belmont is currently recruiting residents interested in serving on various City Commissions. The deadline to apply has been extended to 5:00 P.M. Friday, February 13, 2004, and the application is available on the City's website: www.belmont.gov under "City Clerk Homepage, by calling (650) 595-7413, or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 1070 Sixth Avenue, Suite 301. The deadline was extended to increase the pool of candidates.

There are three openings on the **Parks and Recreation Commission** for terms expiring on March 1, 2006. The Parks and Recreation Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and makes recommendations to the City Council on matters pertaining to Belmont's Park and Recreation programs, as well as on capital improvements to the City's various parks and open space areas.

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To apply for any 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, February 13. Applicants must live in Belmont.

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

###

2/5/2004 Child Safety Seat Inspections

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2004

CONTACT: **Capt. Ed. Wood (650) 595-7400**

Child Safety Seat Inspection Check

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Police Department, in conjunction with the San Carlos Police Department, will conduct an educational Child Safety Seat Inspection check on Tuesday, February 10, 2004. The inspection will be held from 9:00am to 11:30am in Belmont, at the Carlmont Shopping Center; and from 12:00pm to 2:30pm in San Carlos, at Long's Plaza on El Camino Real. Several officers from each department will be available to help educate the public on the proper use of child safety seats.

The inspection is part of the national *Operation ABC (America Buckles up Children) Mobilization*, which began in November 2002. The inspection will offer parents and drivers the opportunity to learn how to properly restrain the child passengers in their vehicles. "This event comes as studies continue to show more children are killed as the result of traffic collisions than any other cause," explained Belmont Captain Ed Wood.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2002, an average of 6 children under 14 were killed and 721 were injured in motor vehicle collisions every day. Children in this age group accounted for 5 percent of all traffic fatalities and 9 percent of all injuries in traffic collisions. While restraint use is up in many age groups, un-restrained or improperly restrained child passengers represent an alarming number of traffic fatalities and injuries.

The men and women of the Belmont and San Carlos Police Departments are committed to ensuring the safety of children traveling in motor vehicles. "It is our goal to see that every child be safely and properly restrained and parents are educated to make that goal a reality," said Wood.

Persons wishing to have a child safety seats checked at this event are encouraged to make an appointment. Belmont residents may contact David Asher or Brian Weddell at 595-7400. San Carlos residents may contact San Carlos Police Department Child Safety Seat Hotline at 802-4111 ext 450. "Drive-ins" at the event will be taken as time allows.

###

2/11/2004 Child Safety Seat Inspection Is a Success

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2004

CONTACT:

Sergeant Michael Brake' (650) 595-7400

Child Safety Seat Inspection Is a Success

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department, in conjunction with the San Carlos Police Department, held an educational Child Safety Seat Inspection on Tuesday, February 10, 2004. The first inspection was in operation between the hours of 9:00am to 11:30am in Belmont, at the Carlmont Shopping Center. The inspection team was then moved to the San Carlos CalTrain Depot on El Camino Real between 12:00pm to 2:30pm. The officers inspected 34 child safety seats, 18 in Belmont and 16 in San Carlos and found that only 3 out of the 34 child safety restraints were installed correctly.

The inspection is part of the national *Operation ABC (America Buckles up Children) Mobilization*, which began in November 2002. The inspection offered parents and drivers the opportunity to learn how to properly restrain the child passengers in their vehicles. "This event was important as studies continue to show children are killed as the result of traffic collisions more than any other cause," explained Belmont Police Sergeant Michael Brake'.

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The men and women of the Belmont and San Carlos Police Department are committed to ensuring the safety of children traveling in motor vehicles. "It is our goal to continue educating parents and see that children are being safely and properly restrained," said Sergeant Brake.'

###

2/26/2004 Annual State of the City Event Set for March 11

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Annual State of the City Event Set for March 11

Belmont, CA --

Mayor George Metropulos will present his State of the City Address on Thursday, March 11 at the Ralston Middle School gym. The event is free and the entire community is invited.

Mayor Metropulos' presentation will be part of a larger event, titled "Celebrate our Community: Past, Present and Future." It begins at 4:00 PM with children's activities and music by the Ralston Jazz Band. The program will get underway at 4:30 and will include performances by the Carlmont High School cheerleaders and dancers, the Notre Dame High School choir, Ralston cheerleaders and Central Elementary School third-graders. A reception will follow the program.

"I'm excited about expanding the scope of the annual State of the City event to incorporate our talented youth. These kids are our future and we should celebrate them, as we also take a look back at where we came from," said Metropulos. The Mayor is expected to give an update on several major projects in Belmont and tie them to the City's history.

###

2/26/2004 Meeting to Discuss Park Improvements March 4

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2004

CONTACT: Karl Mittelstadt – (650) 595-7441

Meeting to Finalize Park Improvement Plans April 7

Belmont, CA -- The Parks and Recreation Commission will be making final recommendations on two important community projects at it's Wednesday, April 7 meeting.

The first is improvements to Patricia Wharton Park at the corner of Notre Dame and Middle in the Central neighborhood. Improvements being considered for this mini-park include new landscaping, pathways, benches and irrigation system.

The other project to be acted on is the Alameda Gateway – to mark the entrance into Belmont at the San Mateo border. This project would include landscaping and a monument sign on the north side of Alameda de las Pulgas.

The Commission meets in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center at 7:30 PM.

“We hope residents near these two locations will continue to share their thoughts with the Commission,” said Parks and Recreation Director Karl Mittelstadt. The Commission took public input on the projects at its March 4 meeting and is now ready to make a final recommendation.

For more information, please call 595-7441.

###

3/2/2004 Fatal Traffic Collision

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: Fatal Traffic Collision Case #: 0403-0047

Location: 1100 blk Ralston Ave
Date: 3/1/04 Time: 9:48PM

EVENT

Belmont PD officers are currently investigating a solo fatal traffic collision on Ralston Ave. W/B Ralston Ave traffic is currently being diverted at 6th Ave. Preliminary witness statements indicate that victim's gray Toyota was E/B Ralston Ave when it suddenly swerved to the left, crossed Ralston Ave, and rolled over, killing the driver.

This investigation is still in its' very early stages. Any witnesses are asked to call the Belmont Police Dept's Traffic Division at (650) 595-7400.

By: Sgt. Dan DeSmidt Authorized By: Capt. Ed Wood
Date: 3/1/04 Time: 2250 hrs Date: 3/1/04 Time: 2250 hrs

3/2/2004 Fatal Traffic Collision Update

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: Fatal Traffic Collision Case #: 0403-0047

Location: 1100 blk Ralston Ave Date: 3/1/04 Time: 9:48 PM

(Update – 3/2/04)

The driver in last night's fatal traffic collision has been identified by the San Mateo County Coroner's office as Kevin Michael Fatooh (26 yrs) of Sunnyvale. The investigation still indicates that this was a solo vehicle collision, although the cause remains in question. The Coroner's Office will complete their investigation following an autopsy later in the week.

There were apparently witnesses who stopped at the scene of this collision last night but left prior to providing a statement or their contact information. This investigation is ongoing and investigators would like these citizens, or any other witnesses to call the Belmont Police Dept's Traffic Division at (650) 595-7400.

By: Sgt. Dan DeSmidt Authorized By: Capt. Ed Wood
Date: 3/2/04 Time: 0900 hrs Date: 3/2/04 Time: 0900 hrs

3/5/2004 Fatal Traffic Collision Determined to be a Suicide

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Fatal Traffic Collision Determined to be a Suicide**

Case #: 0403-0047

Location: 1100 blk Ralston Ave., Belmont

Date: 3/1/04 Time: 9:48 PM

EVENT

(Update - 3/5/04)

On Monday 3/1/04 at approx 9:40 PM, Kevin Michael Fatooh (26 yrs) of Sunnyvale, was driving E/B in the 1100 block of Ralston Avenue when his vehicle suddenly veered across the roadway, collided with a light pole, and rolled over, finally coming to rest on its' side near an adjacent office building.

Initially, investigators believed that Kevin Fatooh died as a result of injuries sustained in the rollover traffic collision. However, after a forensic examination completed by the San Mateo County Coroner's Office, it was discovered that Fatooh died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Belmont PD investigators located a .357 caliber revolver among the twisted wreckage of the 1990 Toyota Camry that Fatooh was driving. It appears that the gun was stolen several months ago from a residence in Hillsborough, although the theft was never reported to police and investigators are working to trace the gun's ownership. The gun matches the description of one Fatooh had with him earlier in the day, according to witnesses. It is unknown how Fatooh came into possession of the gun. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensic Lab will be conducting tests on the gun to confirm that it was indeed used by the victim to take his life.

At this time the motive for Fatooh's suicide is unknown, and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information on this case is asked to call Belmont Police Detectives at (650) 595-7400.

3/5/2004 Belmont Police begin receiving cellular 9-1-1....

***Belmont Police begin receiving cellular 9-1-1
directly from selected carriers***

Belmont, CA --

Beginning today, customers of the Metro PCS cellular phone system, who dial 9-1-1 in the City of Belmont on their cell phones, will be connected directly to the Belmont Police Communications Center rather than CHP. This is part of the Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 System being phased in statewide.

Until recently, all cellular 9-1-1 calls went to the CHP, who transferred the information to the appropriate local agency. The CHP Communications Center for the Bay Area is in Vallejo. "The problem with that system is it depended on the caller knowing where they were calling from." "If the caller was lost or got disconnected, we often have difficulty knowing where to send help," said Sgt. Patrick Halleran. The public is reminded that no technology is error free, and callers using their cell phones to call 9-1-1 should always tell the dispatcher where they are, Halleran added.

The various cellular providers are required to upgrade their equipment in order to work with the new system, which uses GPS technology to locate the caller's location. Belmont has cell sites for Metro PCS, Sprint, Nextel and Cingular. While Metro PCS is the only carrier in Belmont on the new system, Sprint, Nextel and Cingular are expected to be added to the system by the end of the year.

#

3/8/2004 Recreation Classes Offer Something for Everyone

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2004

CONTACT: Mary Doherty – (650) 595-7441

Recreation Classes Offer Something For Everyone

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Park and Recreation Department is the place to go for your spring activities – but hurry, space is limited and some classes start soon!

The following is a sample of some of the classes that begin soon and still have openings:

Tennis, golf, yoga, dance, Italian, Kollage art, and senior fitness.

For more information on any of these exciting opportunities, as well as other programs, check out the current Activity Guide sent to you or available online at www.belmont.gov, or contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 595-7441.

The summer Activity Guide should be in mailboxes by April 15th - something fun to look forward to on tax day!

###

3/8/2004 State of the City Event

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich - (650) 595-7409

-- MEDIA ALERT --

What: 2004 State of the City Event

Theme: Celebrate our Community: Past, Present and Future

When: Thursday, March 11 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Where: Ralston Middle School Gym

Who: Presentation by Mayor Metropulos

Performances by: the Ralston Jazz Band, the Carlmont High School cheerleaders and dancers, the Notre Dame High School choir, Ralston cheerleaders and Central Elementary School third-graders.

A reception will follow the program.

Why: Annual celebration and Mayor's presentation to the community.

Free and open to the entire community!

Photo Opportunities: Student performances

Art Wall

Mayor Metropulos' presentation, including historical photos

#

3/12/2004 First Belmont C.E.R.T. Class Graduates

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2004

CONTACT:

Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

First Belmont C.E.R.T. Class Graduates

Belmont, CA --

Twenty-two enthusiastic Belmont residents graduated this month from the first class of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program.

While local government prepares for everyday emergencies, during a disaster the number and scope of incidents can quickly overwhelm conventional emergency services. The CERT program is all-risk, all-hazard training designed to train local residents to help themselves and their neighbors in times of need. "In the case of a major disaster such as an earthquake, help from outside may take up to 72 hours to get here" said Sergeant Patrick Halleran. The skills taught to CERT volunteers range from performing basic first aid, fighting small fires, to conducting light search and rescue.

The 20-hour course was taught, one evening a week over a span of 8 weeks, with a different topic taught each week. The primary instructors for the program were Belmont PD Volunteers, Matt Lucett and Lisa Lucett. Matt is a Program Specialist for the San Mateo County Emergency Medical Service Agency and his wife, Lisa, is a 9-1-1 Dispatcher for San Mateo County Communications. Classes were taught at South County Fire Station 14 and run through the Belmont Parks & Recreation Department.

Graduates from the program received some basic equipment, including a green vest and green hardhat with CERT logo for easy identification at emergency scenes, safety goggles, work gloves & a duffle bag in which to carry them. The group will meet on a regular basis to keep their newly acquired skills sharp.

A second class is planned for later in the year.



3/15/2004 Parent Education Night - March 26

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/15/04

CONTACT:

Officer John Bradley (650) 595-7480

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT MARCH 24

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Safe Schools program invites parents of students grades K-8 to a Parent Education Night at the Ralston Middle School Gymnasium on Wednesday March 24th, 2004 at 7:00 PM.

This evening is intended to present parents with practical information from experienced speakers on various issues relating to our children. These issues will include information relating to teenage drug and alcohol use, Internet safety, bullying, and Megan's Law information," explained Sergeant Pat Halleran.

Participants will be given a copy of **A Parents Guide For the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use**. This booklet is a great reference tool for parents. It is a multi-page booklet that covers concerns parents might have for their elementary, middle and high school students.

The Belmont Safe Schools program made a similar presentation earlier in the school year. "Parents who attended the last session remarked that the information that they received was very practical and helpful. We received several positive comments regarding the experience and knowledge of the presenters as well," said School Resource Officer John Bradley, who coordinated the event.

"We believe that you will take a great deal of information from this evening, and that you will walk away very informed," continued Bradley.

For more information about the event or the Safe School Program, contact the Belmont Police Department at 595-7400.

###

3/16/2004 Code Enforcement Now Accepting...

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

CODE ENFORCEMENT NOW ACCEPTING ANONYMOUS CALLS

Belmont, CA --

The City Council has authorized staff to accept certain code enforcement complaints anonymously. Until now, all complaints had to be submitted in writing.

If you believe there is a violation of the City's Property Maintenance Ordinance, and it can be seen from the public right of way, you can call a new hotline to report it. The new number, (650) 610-5743, is now operational. Anyone reporting an alleged violation should clearly state the address and the nature of the problem. Staff will record the complaint and investigate to see whether or not a violation has occurred.

"The Council wanted to make it easier for residents to report concerns. Some people are hesitant to report an issue if they have to give their name or talk to a live person," explained Code Enforcement Officer Kirk Buckman. The new number is dedicated only to code enforcement messages and will not be answered by a person. It can be used 24 hours a day.

The effectiveness of the hotline will be evaluated after six months.

If the alleged code enforcement violation is not visible from the public right of way, the complaint must still be made in writing. Any such complaint can be reported via email at kbuckman@ci.belmont.ca.us or by sending it to:

Code Enforcement, Suite 200
Belmont City Hall
1070 Sixth Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002

If you have questions about the City's code enforcement program, more information is available on the web at www.belmont.gov under the Community Development Department or by calling (650) 637-2968.

###

3/24/2004 Belmont Police Cut Back Office Hours

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2004

CONTACT:

Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

BELMONT POLICE CUT BACK OFFICE HOURS

Belmont, CA --

Effective Monday, March 29, 2004 police reports or other clerical services from the Belmont Police Records Bureau will only be available between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on weekdays.

“Historically, our Records Bureau has been open from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday through Friday. Unfortunately, we simply can’t maintain those extended hours under the current budget and staffing constraints” said Sergeant Patrick Halleran. “However, we want to assure the public that our regular public safety services will not be affected; this only impacts citizens needing copies of police reports, records checks and related services” Halleran added. Non-criminal fingerprinting, which is required for certain licenses and permits, will be done by appointment only, on Wednesdays during office hours.

“We regret that people will have to wait longer to obtain copies of reports and other documents, and not be able to get this information after hours. It’s an unfortunate sign of the times,” said Halleran.

###

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2004

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 and the purpose furthers the community's vision.

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 2004-05 will likely be reduced from funds that were available for the current fiscal year.

Interested organizations should submit the following:

1. Cover letter explaining the request for funding
2. Complete projected Budget (Exhibit A)
3. Complete Statement of Mission, Goals and Objectives, including specific benefits to citizens of Belmont (Exhibit B)
4. Self-Certification Form (Exhibit C)

In order to be considered for funding, the above materials are due in the Belmont City Manager's office by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2004, and can be mailed to 1070 Sixth Ave., Suite 300, Belmont, CA 94002. The City Council is expected to make decisions on funding at the May 25 City Council meeting. Forms can be found on the Belmont website at www.belmont.gov under Press Releases. Belmont's Financial Policies for Community Group funding are also available, which describes the criteria to "self certify" that your organization is appropriate to apply. For more information, call the City Manager's office at (650) 595-7408.

###

3/29/2004 Festival Poster Contest Announced

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

FESTIVAL POSTER CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Arts Commission is sponsoring a contest to design a poster for the 2004 Twin Pines Art and Wine Festival. The contest is open to any artist over 18 who lives or works in Belmont. The deadline is June 11.

“The popular event has had the same poster for the past 20 years and the commission felt it was time to try something new,” explained Parks and Recreation Director Karl Mittelstadt.

Artists can use a variety of mediums for creating the poster, but are required to incorporate the “Twin Pines” logo. Judging will be based on:

- Adherence to the rules
- Originality
- Aesthetic presentation
- Conveying the message
- Adaptability to other marketing materials
- Overall balance (size, fonts, positioning)

Detailed requirements and an entry form are available on the web at www.belmont.gov or by calling Parks and Recreation at 595-7441.

“The goal of the poster contest is to tap into the artistic talent of our community and bring new energy to the festival,” said Mittelstadt.

The 2004 Festival will be held on September 18 and 19 in the unique confines of Twin Pines Park

###

Press Release

Friday, March 25, 2004

Contact: Catherine Fraser, City of Redwood City, 650-813-8463,
Cfraser@pa.hodes.com

Mayors of Belmont and Redwood City Break Ground April 5 at Ralston /101 Interchange Marking Start of an Imperative Interchange Improvement Project

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., March 29, 2004 – Mayors Jeff Ira and George Metropulos plus other dignitaries will host a groundbreaking and celebration of the vital Ralston Avenue/Route 101 interchange Improvement Project at 2:00 PM on April 5 adjacent to the interchange site. This commemoration marks the start of construction on this multi-million dollar project to increase efficiency of the exit ramps and enhance safety for this major business and residential center.

“We’ve leveraged scarce local dollars with State grants and funds from the Shores Transportation Improvement District, including Oracle Corporation and other Redwood Shores businesses, to fund improvements to this interchange that will really make a difference to thousands of people every day.” said Redwood City Mayor, Jeff Ira.

“This is a true opportunity, long awaited, to help free the community of traffic hassles that plague this area.” Said Belmont’s Mayor, George Metropulos, “Ultimately this really means smart planning for now, and for the future.”

“We are thrilled to partner with Belmont and Redwood City in a project as important as this, “ said Randy Smith, Vice President, Global Real Estate and Facilities for Oracle Corporation. “We are committed to enhancing efficiencies and safety for the Redwood City community and for our employees who work here.”

The project will be commemorated with a groundbreaking event on Monday, April 5, 2004 at 2:00 PM adjacent to the interchange.

Scheduled speakers are:

- Jeff Ira, Mayor of Redwood City
- George Metropulos, Mayor of Belmont
- Mark Church, President, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
- Rich Napier, Executive Director C/CAG
- Mark Matherson President, Redwood Shores Business Association
- Randy Smith, Vice President, Global Real Estate, Oracle Corporation
- Bijan Sartipi, Director, District 4, Caltrans

Refreshments will be served and guests will enjoy a “Celebration of Americana,” including a display of vintage American cars, culminating with a dove release to symbolize peace of mind and freedom from traffic congestion.

Route 101, in and around the Ralston Avenue Interchange, has been one of the most congested areas on the peninsula for years – a by-product of the economic vitality of the Redwood Shores and Route 101 businesses, and the fact that there are only two entrances/exits from this growing housing and business area.

The project will improve the efficiency and safety of this interchange during peak traffic hours by reducing the need for motorists to weave in and out of traffic lanes to get to their destinations. The two off-ramp loops will be eliminated, and traffic will instead come to two new signalized intersections. Island Parkway will be realigned and connected directly to Marine Parkway at one of the new off-ramp intersections.

The final design phase for the improvements to this interchange started in September 2000 (initial Traffic Studies have been done since 1997), and the complete design was submitted to Caltrans for final approval in January of 2003

Redwood City is the lead agency for the project, and shares the design costs with the City of Belmont. The City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG), with support from the County of San Mateo, was instrumental in securing State grant funding for this project. Additional funding came from businesses in Redwood Shores throughout the Shores Transportation Improvement District. The project was designed by Mark Thomas and Company. For additional information, please visit:

www.redwoodcity.org/groundbreaking.

4/2/2004 Meeting to Finalize Park Improvement

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2004

CONTACT: Karl Mittelstadt – (650) 595-7441

Meeting to Finalize Park Improvement Plans April 7

Belmont, CA -- The Parks and Recreation Commission will be making final recommendations on two important community projects at it's Wednesday, April 7 meeting.

The first is improvements to Patricia Wharton Park at the corner of Notre Dame and Middle in the Central neighborhood. Improvements being considered for this mini-park include new landscaping, pathways, benches and irrigation system.

The other project to be acted on is the Alameda Gateway – to mark the entrance into Belmont at the San Mateo border. This project would include landscaping and a monument sign on the north side of Alameda de las Pulgas.

The Commission meets in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center at 7:30 PM. “We hope residents near these two locations will continue to share their thoughts with the Commission,” said Parks and Recreation Director Karl Mittelstadt. The Commission took public input on the projects at its March 4 meeting and is now ready to make a final recommendation.

For more information, please call 595-7441.

###

4/13/2004 Library Grant

ORACLE GRANT FUNDS NEW BELMONT LIBRARY

Belmont, CA --

The City of Belmont has received a \$300,000 grant from Oracle Corporation to help fund the new Belmont Library. The grant provides the critical funding needed to construct a 20,000 square foot library, as desired by the community. Randy Smith, Oracle Vice President for Global Real Estate & Facilities, will present the check to the City Council at its April 13 meeting.

“This donation is a key piece of funding needed for the project,” said Mayor George Metropulos. “With Oracle’s contribution, we are able to build a very substantial library that meets the needs of the community. Now, we can focus additional fundraising efforts on upgrading the technology, furniture and finishings to build a library that the residents will be proud of for decades to come,” Metropulos explained.

Belmont voters approved a bond measure in 2001 to build a new library to replace the existing 5,000 square foot facility located at 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas. The project was predicated on the City getting a grant from the State Library Bond (Prop 40). Belmont submitted an extensive grant proposal to the State in 2002, but was not awarded a grant due to the tremendous demand for funds statewide. Since that time, staff and library supporters have looked at options ranging from scaling back the project to private funding sources.

“We were impressed with the City of Belmont’s plans to create a technology center,” said Randy Smith, Vice President, Global Real Estate & Facilities, Oracle Corporation. “We are pleased to partner with the City to create specific after-school programs that reinforce our focus on technology education.”

“We are grateful to Oracle for this generous grant to Belmont,” said City Manager Jere Kersnar. “They understand the importance of a library to the health and education of a community and we appreciate their support of this vital project,” continued Kersnar.

The City Council approved the schematic design for the new library last September and the Planning Commission approved the project on March 16. Now the architectural firm of Field-Paoli is preparing detailed construction documents and the project is expected to go out to bid in November with construction beginning in January 2005.

“We are delighted with this gift and with the plans for the new Belmont Library. We are very excited about the opportunity to work with Oracle as an education partner and the potential it offers to create a dynamic new program in the new Belmont Library,” said librarian Linda Chiochios.

#

4/13/2004 Sister City Delegation

Sister City Delegation to Visit Belmont on April 19-20

Belmont, CA -- A delegation from Namur, Belgium will be in Belmont all day Monday and Tuesday, April 19 and 20. "We are pleased to be able to welcome a second delegation of friends and colleagues from Namur," said Mayor George Metropulos.

A community-based Sister City Committee has been working hard to make certain the delegation visit is a success. The two days will include a number of events such as breakfast with City officials, a luncheon hosted by Notre Dame de Namur University, lunch with the Belmont Rotary Club, a visit to several schools, a stop at the Belmont Library and dinner at Ralston Hall for the annual Chamber of Commerce awards (this year presented to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur).

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.

The Namur delegation of eleven will include Mayor Bernard Anselme, two deputy mayors, and four members of the working press.

Members of the media are invited to attend the following activities:

- Ralston Middle School – 10 AM, Monday, April 19 (the e-pals program will be demonstrated)
- Belmont Library – 4:30 PM, Monday, April 19 (Books from Namur will be donated)
- City Breakfast – 9:00 AM, Tuesday, April 20 (formal welcomes will be made)

During the breakfast, members of the delegation, as well as City officials and Sister City Committee members will be available for interviews.

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, 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 delegation of twenty-one members visited Belmont last April and a group from Belmont is planning a trip to Namur for June.

###

4/21/2004 New Database for Traffic Concerns

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2004

CONTACT: Ray Davis, Public Works Director (650) 595-7459

NEW DATABASE TO ASSIST IN RESPONDING TO CITIZEN TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Federal Traffic Safety Grant Helps Belmont in Quest to Improve Traffic Safety

The City of Belmont is implementing a computerized collision database to help address safety concerns in the community.

In order to have better data to respond to citizen concerns regarding vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian safety, the City of Belmont is installing a computerized collision database that will be tied into the City's Geographical Information System (GIS) through a \$42,500 traffic safety grant.

"The new database will enable staff to quickly assess the locations throughout the City with the highest number of collisions," said Ray Davis, Public Works Director. "This will provide a useful tool for the City to be proactive in designing solutions for high collision locations and for all users of our transportation system. We will be able to determine the collision history, type of collisions, time of day, primary collision factors and a multitude of factors in minutes rather than days that is currently required."

The grant -- awarded by the Office of Traffic Safety through the California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency--will be used to provide the computerized collision database that will be tied into the City's GPS mapping system. The database will then be used to assist City staff in determining the appropriate engineering solution to traffic concerns throughout the community. The database should be operational this summer.

"Getting better tools into the tool chests for Belmont's traffic safety practitioners is going to save more lives in the long run," said Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. "We're fully in support of what the City of Belmont is doing."

Traffic safety is a primary concern on a Local, Regional, State and Federal level. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 35,000 Americans were killed and 950,000 injured in vehicle crashes in 2002. This was more than twice the number of people killed or injured as a result of a crime.

#

4/21/2004 Earth Day Activities

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Earth Day Activities

Free Spring Compost Giveaway, Cell Phone Collection, Thermometer Exchange

BELMONT, CA – City of Belmont and RethinkWaste have teamed up to giveaway compost on Saturday, May 1, 2004. The compost is made from yard trimmings collected at the curb from communities every other week, and composted at the BFI-Newby Island composting facility located in San Jose. Residents may take up to 1 cubic yard of compost (about six full garbage cans) at no charge from the Belmont City Hall Parking Lot between 8 AM and 12 PM, as long as the supply lasts. The compost is ideal as an amendment to enrich soil.

Compost is the result of nature decomposing organic materials into a dark, nutrient-rich soil. Not only is curbside composting available to residents, but backyard and worm composting are other options. Home composting workshops and bins are available through RecycleWorks, a program of the County of San Mateo.

In recognition of Earth Day, which is April 22, the City of Belmont is once again collecting used cell phones. Cell phones can be brought to the Permit Center on the second floor of City Hall between April 19th and 30th. The purpose of this event is to encourage the public to recycle, particularly items with hazardous waste such as cell phones. The donated phones will be refurbished and reused and the Belmont Safe Schools Program will get a modest donation for each phone recycled.

The City will also be having a thermometer exchange from April 19-23. People can bring in their old mercury thermometers and receive a digital one in exchange.

Mercury, a component of thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent lights and old paint can affect the human brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver. Mercury does not break down in the environment and is a prime stormwater pollutant. In fact, a mercury fever thermometer, like those used in the home, contains enough mercury to contaminate 9,000 cans of tuna fish. Residents can prevent and reduce sources of mercury pollution by purchasing non-mercury or low mercury products and properly disposing of products that contain mercury.

#

4/23/2004 Belmont Police Chief Greg Janke Retires

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Police Chief Greg Janke Announces Retirement

Belmont, CA --

Following a distinguished twenty-nine year career in law enforcement, Belmont Police Chief Greg Janke announced his retirement today, effective May 26, 2004.

“I have had an amazing career and am blessed to have had the chance to serve the people of Belmont,” said Chief Janke. “This has certainly been the high point of my career and has not made the decision to retire an easy one.”

City Manager Jere Kersnar praised Chief Janke’s commitment to community policing and his support for the Belmont Safe Schools program. “He will be missed,” said Kersnar. “Greg has certainly made an impact in Belmont.”

Chief Greg Janke joined the Belmont Police Department on April 2, 2001 after serving since 1996 as Police Chief in the City of Calistoga. He was attracted to Belmont by its quaint, small-town atmosphere and the dedication and commitment of the men and women of the Police Department.

Chief Janke is a member of the Belmont Rotary Club and was a member of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is proud of his 29 year Life Membership in the California Peace Officer’s Association where he also served as a member of the Board of Directors, and of his extensive involvement in numerous other community and professional organizations. Prior to entering law enforcement, Chief Janke had been a member of the Ventura County Fire Department for three years. He earned a Master’s of Public Administration from Golden Gate University in 1988, completed the POST Command College in 1993, and attended the FBI National Academy in 2000.

Chief Janke is currently recuperating from a recent back surgery and will be retiring with his wife of 28 years, Ann, to their home in Long Beach, California. Following his recuperation, Chief Janke hopes to resume flying, playing golf, and making frequent trips to Dodger Stadium to support his favorite team. Chief Janke may be contacted via email at: GregAJanke@aol.com.

Captain Don Mattei, who has served as acting chief since Chief Janke’s disability, will continue in that capacity.

###

5/6/2004 Parent Education Night

**May 6, 2004 CONTACT:
John Bradley (650) 595-7480**

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT MAY 19

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Safe Schools program invites residents to a Parent Education Night on Wednesday May 19th. The program will be at 7:00 PM in the Carlmont High School Gymnasium. This is the third such event presented this school year by Belmont officials.

“The focus of the night will be on drug and alcohol use. We want to give parents practical information from experienced speakers on these critical issues,” explained Sergeant Pat Halleran.

Participants will be given a copy of **A Parents Guide For the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use**. This booklet is a great reference tool for parents. It is a multi-page booklet that covers concerns parents might have for their elementary, middle and high school students.

“This is a very timely presentation that will aid parents’ understanding of this significant issue in our community. I urge all parents to attend this important presentation and begin to have a dialogue with their children about drug abuse immediately,” said school superintendent John McIntosh. The Belmont Safe Schools program made two similar presentations earlier in the school year, including one in March. “Parents who attended the previous sessions remarked that the information that they received was very practical and helpful. We received several positive comments regarding the experience and knowledge of the presenters as well,” said officer John Bradley who coordinated the events.

The City of Belmont, which devotes two full time police officers to youth services, also has an active DARE program. DARE is a ten week program that focuses on drug awareness and negative behaviors and is taught to every fifth grader in the city. It has also been expanded in recent years to provide additional programming at Ralston Middle School.

For more information about the event or the Safe School Program, contact the Belmont Police Department at 595-7400.

###

5/7/2004 Annual Flea Market Set For June 5th

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2004

CONTACT: Mary Doherty – (650) 595-7441

Annual Flea Market Set for June 5th

Belmont, CA --

- Are you getting the urge to clean up and clean out?
- Do you need to make space for new purchases?
- Is your group looking for a way to make some money for a project?
- Do you love a bargain?

If you answered yes to any of the above, the Belmont Flea Market is the place for you!

The annual event will be on Saturday, June 5th at the Barrett Community Center field from 9am - 2:30pm.

The deadline for signing up to have a booth is May 27th, and space is limited! \$30 buys you a 20' x 20' space.

“This is a great event for buyers, sellers and even the environment,” said Recreation Supervisor Mary Doherty. “Buyers find incredible items at incredible prices; sellers can do that spring cleaning they’ve been thinking about for years (and make some money in time for summer); the environment gains when items are reused instead of going to the dump,” explained Doherty.

Contact City of Belmont Parks & Recreation at 595-7441 for your registration form, or come into 1225 Ralston Ave., Belmont to pick one up. While you’re at it, check out our new Summer Activities Guide or call to request one, so you don’t miss out on all the possibilities starting soon.

###

5/15/2004 Don Mattei Named Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Don Mattei Named Chief of Police

Belmont, CA --

City Manager Jere Kersnar announced today that Captain Don Mattei has been appointed Chief of Police in Belmont, replacing Greg Janke who announced his retirement last month, Mattei has been acting chief since last June when Chief Greg Janke left for back surgery. Mattei will be sworn in Monday, May 17 at 8:30 AM in the Lodge building.

“Nobody knows the Belmont Police Department as well as Don,” said Kersnar in making the appointment. “His knowledge of, and love for, the department and the community made him the clear choice for chief,” Kersnar continued.

Chief Mattei’s law enforcement career spans twenty-five years. Mattei rose through the ranks of the Belmont Police Department serving as a detective, sergeant, captain and acting chief of police. He has represented the department on numerous law enforcement committees in the county and is responsible for many innovations in the department including the Belmont Safe Schools Program.

“I am honored to be appointed chief and am excited to be able to continue to serve Belmont in this new capacity,” said Mattei. “I look forward to setting the tone and direction of the police department and lead it into the future. My goal for the Department in the foreseeable future is to continue working with members of the Department to refine and enhance community policing, a philosophy of policing that emphasizes problem solving, and to focus on youth issues in the community. We have a great team and I want to build on our tradition of commitment and excellence,” he continued.

Mattei received his Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science from the College of Notre Dame (now Notre Dame de Namur University) in Belmont where he also received a graduate degree and now teaches. He also attended the prestigious FBI Academy. He resides in San Mateo with his wife Jenny who is a teacher at I.H.M. and two daughters.

###

5/17/2004 Reminder about Parent Education Night

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2004

CONTACT:

Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

REMINDER ABOUT PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT MAY 19

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Safe Schools program would like to remind residents about the Parent Education Night on Wednesday May 19th. The program will be at 7:00 PM in the Carlmont High School Gymnasium, with the doors opening at 6:30 PM. This is the third such event presented this school year by Belmont officials.

“The focus of the night will be on drug and alcohol use. We want to give parents practical information from experienced speakers on these critical issues,” explained Sergeant Pat Halleran. “We would like to remind parents that this program is designed for parents only, and we are asking them not to bring children or students to this event. “We want parents to have an opportunity to ask questions and bring up issues that they might not feel comfortable to talking about, if their children were present”, Halleran continued.

Participants will be given a copy of **A Parents Guide For the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use**. This booklet is a great reference tool for parents. It is a multi-page booklet that covers concerns parents might have for their elementary, middle and high school aged children.

Members of the media are asked to arrive at 6:15 PM for a pre-event briefing. San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force Commander, Trisha Sanchez and Belmont Police Department Public Information Officer, Sergeant Patrick Halleran, will be available to answer questions and provide additional information at that time. Members of the media are asked not to film or take photographs of the presenters, as they are active narcotics officers.

#

5/19/2004 Public Safety Memorial

May 19, 2004

CONTACT:

Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORIAL TO BE HELD IN BELMONT

Belmont, CA -- On Sunday, May 23 at 10:00 AM, local public safety agencies in San Mateo County will be taking part in the third annual San Mateo County Public Safety Memorial Service, in honor of fallen public safety professionals. The non-denominational memorial service will be held at the Cunningham Memorial Chapel, on the campus of Notre Dame de Namur University, 1500 Ralston Avenue in Belmont. The Belmont Police Department has been a part of this event from the beginning and will be represented this year by Chief of Police Don Mattei.

The memorial was organized by Redwood City Firefighter Greg DaCunha, after the line-of-duty death of his friend and co-worker, Firefighter Matt Smith. "This is an opportunity to honor Matt and other fallen public safety professionals here in San Mateo County" said DeCunha.

Local public safety agencies including police, fire, America Medical Response, California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Department of Forestry, and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office will be represented at the memorial. The names of agency members and retirees who have died during the past year will be read aloud at the memorial. The public is invited to join in honoring all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their community.

The Belmont Police Department would like to remind the public that traffic in the area of the University may be impacted prior to and after the memorial, however parking will be provided on the campus.

#

5/21/2004 FY05 Budget Released

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2004

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

Proposed FY 2005 Budget Released:

\$1.48 Million Reduction Strategy Included

Belmont, CA -- City Manager Jere Kersnar has formally released his proposed budget for fiscal year 2005. A presentation on the budget will be made at the May 25 City Council meeting and the Council is expected to take final action on the budget at their June 22 meeting.

The proposed FY05 total base budget is \$54.4 million, down \$3.2 million from FY 04. General Fund expenditures are \$11.9 million, and increase to \$13.1 when transfers to subsidized funds are included. The General Fund supports basic services such as police, public works and parks. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for FY05 is \$15.8 million, including funding for key projects such as the Police Facility/City Hall, the new Belmont Library, and sewer/storm drain improvements. Funding for the CIP comes from accumulated reserves set aside in prior years, grants and other restricted revenue sources.

“Even with nearly \$2 million in adjustments made in recent years, the City faced an unprecedented challenge in developing a Fiscal Year 2005 budget that is balanced and meets the City’s minimum reserve requirements,” said City Manager Kersnar.

Some of the causes of the budget challenge in Belmont include:

- Sales tax revenue is down significantly and is not expected to be at 2003 levels again until 2008
- Hotel tax revenue is down 18% this year and down 45% since 2001
- The state has taken more than \$5 million of revenue from Belmont in the past 20 years
- This year, we will lose about \$600,000 of our money to the state
- At this point, it looks like the state is going to take an additional \$380,000 in General Fund revenue for the next two years
- PERS health care costs have gone up \$805,000 in the past two years
- Workers Compensation rates have gone up 43% over the past two years

“Because of the continuing weak economy, cost escalations, and state takeaways, we have had to propose \$1.48 million in a Budget Correction Strategy in order to balance the budget,” explained Kersnar. The Strategy includes the layoff of four full time employees (plus eliminating funding for two vacant positions) and four part time employees. Some of the elements of the Strategy are:

- Reduce City newsletter to one per year
- Reduce Community Group Funding by 5%
- Stop significant Advanced Planning projects
- Reorganize staffing in Police, Recreation, Permit Center and & Finance due to permanent position reductions
- Eliminate 3 regular part-time positions (Senior Center)
- Eliminate one Police Community Service Officer
- Eliminate funding for part-time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Transfer staff time to Development Services, increase fees to cover costs
- Create Code Enforcement fines and penalties
- Impose a Refuse Vehicle Impact fee

“These kind of difficult cutbacks are occurring up and down the Peninsula, but that doesn’t make it any easier,” continued Kersnar. “Residents will have to understand that service levels can’t be maintained with the limited resources available.”

Summary information of the recommended FY05 budget and the Budget Correction Strategy can be found on the Finance Department page of the City’s website at: www.belmont.gov. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget on June 8.

###

5/28/2004 Summer Bowling Program

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2004 CONTACT: Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

BELMONT AND SAN MATEO POLICE CO-SPONSOR

SUMMER BOWLING PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department and the San Mateo Police Activities League have teamed up with Bel-Mateo Bowl to provide a safe and fun summer activity for the youth of both communities.

The Bel-Mateo Bowl, which is located at 4330 Olympic Avenue, in San Mateo, has agreed to provide every child in the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District and the San Mateo-Foster City School District with a pass entitling them to on free game each day during the upcoming summer vacation. Shoe rental fees will also be waived for youth using these passes.

"Our department has always had a strong focus on the youth of our community and we are enthusiastic about being a part of this program." Said Belmont Police School Resource Officer John Bradley.

The passes were made available by the Bowling Management Group, which manages the Bel-Mateo Bowl in San Mateo, Palo Alto Bowl in Palo Alto and Serra Bowl in Daly City. "This is an outgrowth of the successful summer bowling program we began several years ago at Serra Bowl which is sponsored by the Daly City, South San Francisco, Colma & Broadmoor Police Departments," said Mike Leong of the Bowling Management Group. "We are happy to offer this program to the youth of San Mateo and Belmont," Leong added.

The passes will be distributed to the schools in the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District during the week of May 31st through June 4th.

#

7/1/2004 Meeting to Discuss Plan for Police Building Site

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2004

CONTACT: Karl Mittelstadt – (650) 595-7443

Meeting to Discuss Plans for Police Building Site
Parks and Recreation Commission to Consider Options July 7

Belmont, CA -- The Parks and Recreation Commission will discuss options for the current Police building site at its next meeting.

The current Police headquarters will be demolished as part of the current City Hall construction project and the Police will move into the renovated City Hall building later this year. The site, adjacent to the Manor Building and Meadow, will be developed with a combination of parking and landscaping.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will consider two proposals and solicit input from the community, at a meeting on Wednesday, July 7. The Commission meets in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center at 7:30 PM.

“We encourage residents to share their thoughts with the Commission,” said Parks and Recreation Director Karl Mittlestadt. The Commission’s recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council, which is expected to review the issue at its July 27 meeting.

For more information, please call 595-7441.

###

7/16/2004 Annual Citywide Garage Sale Set for August 7th

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 16, 2004

CONTACT: Mary Doherty – (650) 595-7441

Annual Citywide Garage Sale Set for August 7

Belmont, CA – The City of Belmont will be holding it's annual citywide garage sale on Saturday, August 7. 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 \$7. 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, in local papers, or at www.belmont.gov after August 2.

“Maximize your success by doing your own advertising in addition to ours and get your neighbors involved so more people come to your neighborhood. Make copies to hand out the lists to people who come, so we all help each other,” said Recreation Superintendent Mary Doherty. “It’s a fun community event that brings neighbors together and can generate some cash for you while helping the environment by reducing the amount of unwanted items that end up in the landfill,” she added.

###

7/16/2004 Full Agenda for Arts Commission Meeting...

Full Agenda for Arts Commission Meeting July 19

Belmont, CA –

Arts Award

The Shoreline Grill restaurant is being awarded the “Supporter of the Arts” Recognition. The certificate recognizes the contributions of an individual, business or organization that expand awareness of the creative arts in the community.

The Belmont Arts Commission selected Shoreline based on its outstanding support of local artists and commitment to promote community expression. For several months, Shoreline Grill has worked with local artists to exhibit their works, recently works of artists from the Kollage Community School for the Arts have been prominently displayed at the Shoreline Grill. The restaurant, owned by Kiomars Mohammadi and Mehdi Mozayani, is located at 2039 Ralston Avenue in Carlmont Shopping Center.

“I was very excited to nominate Shoreline Grill for its selfless efforts at promoting the creative arts. This is a shining example of business and the arts working together to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors of Belmont,” said Belmont Arts Council chair Gail Gandolfi who first submitted the recognition concept to the Arts Commission.

A presentation will be made at the July 19 Arts Commission meeting.

Art and Wine Festival Poster

Several local artists submitted one or more entries to the 2004 Twin Pines Park Art & Wine Festival Poster Competition sponsored by the Arts Commission. The deadline to enter was June 11th.

“The artists submitted refreshingly different interpretations using a variety of techniques and creativity. We are indeed very fortunate to have such professional talent in Belmont and honored by their willingness to share their talent with the community,” said Arts Commissioner Gardenia Kimmey.

The Commission selected artist Ellen Chong as the winner of the competition. Chong, a peninsula native, works as a local artist and educator. She maintains a professional art studio in the Twin Pines Art Center in Belmont, and has been a part-time faculty member of the Art Department at Notre Dame de Namur University for the past six years.

Chong will be at the Arts Commission meeting on the 19th to present her work with optional design modifications requested by the Commission.

Future of the Commission

Finally, the Arts Commission will have a discussion on the 19th about its future and transitioning to an independent organization. The Arts Commission meets in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center at 7:30. The public is welcome to attend. For meeting agenda, minutes and further information log on to www.Belmont.Gov or call 650-595-7441.

###

7/20/2004 Belmont Library Closing to...

NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2004

CONTACT: Linda Chiochios – (650) 591-8286

Belmont Library Closing to Make Way for New Library
Belmont, CA –

The doors will close on the “old” Belmont Library on August 8 at 5pm so that construction of the new Library can begin. An artists rendering of the new library is below:



Belmont voters overwhelmingly approved a bond measure in 2001 to build a new library. The Project consists of: (a) demolition of the existing 5,600 square foot library; (b) the construction of a new one-story, 20,000 square foot library; and (c) improvements to the Belameda Park area adjacent to the new library. The new library building will include a children’s area, staff areas, a community room with a courtyard, an adult wing and a small café.

The new Library is expected to reopen in the Spring of 2006.

Material borrowed from the Belmont Library may be returned to any public library in San Mateo County, including:

- Ø San Carlos Library, 610 Elm Street, 591.0341
- Ø Foster City Library, 1000 East Hillsdale Blvd., 574.4842
- Ø San Mateo City Library-Hillsdale Branch, 205 West Hillsdale, 522.7880
- Ø San Mateo City Library-Marina Branch, 1530 Susan Court, 522.7890

To follow the progress of the new building or to learn how you can contribute to the project, visit www.smcl.org, www.belmont.gov or www.friendsofthebelmontlibrary.org.

You may contact the Library at (650) 591-8286. Leave a message if you wish a call-back.

#

7/29/2004 City Manager Kersnar Resigns

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

City Manager Kersnar Resigns

Belmont, CA – City Manager Jere Kersnar announced today his resignation from the City of Belmont. In his letter to the City Council, he stated that the reason for his resignation was the pursuit of other employment opportunities.

Kersnar has been the City Manager since October 2000. During his tenure, Kersnar instigated or oversaw a number of projects and programs, including:

- Police Department/City Hall remodel
- Belmont Library reconstruction
- Institution of performance budgeting
- Reconstruction of the Ralston/101 Interchange
- Development of a City-wide Visioning Project

“I am very proud of the accomplishments of the City and our staff during my time with Belmont,” Kersnar said. “This has been a very gratifying chapter in my professional career, and I leave knowing that the City is on the right track. It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Belmont, the City Council members, and the City staff.”

“Jere will be missed by the Council and the community,” said Mayor George Metropulos.

“He provided outstanding leadership during difficult financial times and we were able to make progress on a number of significant programs for the citizens of Belmont under his direction. We all wish Jere the best in his future endeavors.”

During his tenure, Kersnar assisted in strengthening the working relationship between the City and Notre Dame de Namur University, helped establish a positive working relationship with the Belmont/Redwood Shores School District, and was influential in regional affairs, having served as Chair of the San Mateo County City Managers Association.

Assistant City Manager Dan Rich will serve as Acting City Manager in Kersnar’s absence. The City Council is expected to designate an Interim City Manager at their meeting on August 10, 2004.

###

8/6/2004 Child Seat Checkpoint

Free Child Safety Seat Inspections To Be Held

Belmont, CA –

The Belmont and San Carlos Police Departments, will conduct joint educational Child Safety Seat Inspections in both cities on Wednesday, August 11, 2004. In Belmont, inspection will be held from 10:00am to 12:00pm, at the Carlmont Shopping Center. The San Carlos inspection will be held from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, at the San Carlos CalTrain Depot. Officers from both departments will be on-hand to help educate the public on the proper use of child safety seats.

The inspections will offer parents and drivers the opportunity to learn how to properly restrain child passengers in their vehicles. “This event comes as studies continue to show more children are killed as the result of traffic collisions than any other cause,” explained Belmont Police Sergeant Patrick Halleran.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2002, an average of 6 children under 14 were killed and 721 were injured in motor vehicle collisions every day. Children in this age group accounted for 5 percent of all traffic fatalities and 9 percent of all injuries in traffic collisions. While restraint use is up in many age groups, un-restrained or improperly restrained child passengers represent an alarming number of traffic fatalities and injuries. The men and women of the Belmont and San Carlos Police Departments are committed to ensuring the safety of children traveling in motor vehicles. “It is our goal to see that every child be safely and properly restrained and parents are educated to make that goal a reality,” said Sergeant Halleran.

Persons wishing to have a child safety seat checked at this event are encouraged to make an appointment. Belmont residents may contact David Asher at 595-7400 and San Carlos residents may contact San Carlos Police Department Child Safety Seat Hotline at 802-4111 ext 450. “Drive-ins” at the event will be taken as time allows.

###

8/11/2004 Daniel Rich Named Interim City Manager

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Daniel Rich Named Interim City Manager

Belmont, CA --

The City Council announced last night that they have named Daniel Rich as Interim City Manager, taking over for Jere Kersnar who submitted his resignation two weeks ago.

“Dan knows the City and the organization well and we are confident he will keep things moving forward during this interim period,” said Mayor George Metropulos.

Rich has served as Assistant City Manager since 2001. Prior to that, he worked in the Sunnyvale City Manager’s office for nine years. “I’m pleased to be able to serve Belmont in this new capacity,” said Rich. “We have a good team of dedicated employees and a lot of important projects underway. I want to make sure progress continues and we build on our tradition of quality service to the community,” he stated.

The interim assignment is expected to last four to six months as the City conducts a search for a permanent City Manager.

###

8/23/2004 Sobriety Checkpoint

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2004

CONTACT:

Sergeant Michael Brake' (650) 595-7400

Sobriety Checkpoint

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department will be hosting a multi-agency sobriety checkpoint on Friday, August 27, 2004. The checkpoint will be held from 8:00pm to 1:00am, in the 1300 block of El Camino Real. The police hope to educate the public, and discourage any revelers from getting behind the wheel and driving under the influence.

The risks associated with driving while impaired are extremely high. A first time offender will pay in excess of \$2500.00 in fines and court costs, loss of license, possible incarceration, along with other mandated training through the court. "It's important to remember that you don't have to be drunk to be an impaired driver," said Sergeant Brake'. Motorists can expect delays in the area during the hours of operation. The Belmont Police Department strongly advises a designated sober driver for those choosing to go out and drink.

8/25/2004 First Week of School

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2004

CONTACT:

Officer Ken Stenquist

(650) 595-7400

REMINDER TO DRIVERS – SCHOOL HAS STARTED

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department, in conjunction with the Belmont Safe Schools Program, would like to remind the community that school has begun for some children. “We urge residents, parents, and the motoring public to be alert, watch for children going to and from school and obey all traffic laws” said Belmont Police School Resource Officer Ken Stenquist. “The speed limit in a school zone is 25 mph, and it will be enforced” Stenquist added.

Some of the private schools have already begun their school year. All public schools in Belmont will begin on Wednesday, September 1, 2004. The police department is expecting traffic congestions in and around the schools during the week of 08/30/04 – 09/03/04. In an effort to reduce traffic congestion around the schools, Belmont Police Department will be increasing patrols around schools during this week and are asking drivers to use alternatives to the “single student” car. “When possible, we encourage carpooling, taking the bus & walking” said Officer Stenquist. Traffic congestion will be minimized if these alternatives are used. “If you have to drive, leave your residence a few minutes earlier to avoid traffic congestion and always, remember to use caution on the roadway and be courteous to your fellow drivers” Stenquist added.

###

8/30/2004 Residential Burglaries

PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6254(f)

Type of Incident: **Residential Burglaries**

Location: City Wide Date: August 2004

EVENT

Belmont Police investigators are looking into a handful of residential burglaries that have been reported in the last few weeks. Suspects may be ringing doorbells and then checking for unsecured doors and windows if nobody answers the door. This is a common tactic used during warm weather when residents often leave doors and windows open for ventilation. Residents are reminded to secure all doors and windows before leaving your home.

Last week a resident in a neighborhood on the west end of the city didn't answer a doorbell and soon after saw a man entering the rear yard. That suspect, who ran off and was not located, was described as a dark skinned male in his 20's. He may have been associated with two other men in a brown full size van with a light colored horizontal stripe.

Similar crimes have been reported in neighboring jurisdictions. Investigators are working with those agencies to determine if there is any connection.

Anyone with information on these cases is asked to call Belmont Police Detectives at (650)595-7400.

By: Sgt. Dan DeSmidt
Date: 3/2/04 Time: 1830hrs

Authorized By: Capt. Ed Wood
Date: 3/2/04 Time: 1830hrs

9/1/2004

Belmont Police Announce Promotion

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2004

CONTACT:

Sergeant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7400

BELMONT POLICE ANNOUNCE PROMOTION

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont Police Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Kevin Daley to the rank of Sergeant. Kevin was first hired by the Belmont Police Department in 1984 as a Reserve Police Officer and was hired as a Regular Officer later that same year. He has worked varied assignments including Field Training Officer, Corporal and Detective. For the past year Kevin has been supervising the Investigations Bureau as an Acting Sergeant. Kevin lives in Woodside with his wife Nan and teenage daughter Colleen. "I am pleased to have Kevin join our team of Sergeants" said Chief of Police Don Mattei.

Kevin's promotion is effective on Monday September 6, 2004. There will be a formal swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at 9:00 AM, on the patio of the Twin Pines Lodge Building.



###

9/30/2004 New Website Launched

(Press Release not found.)

9/30/2004 Free Compost Giveaway

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2004

CONTACT: Barbara Ebel – (650) 595-7427

Free Compost Giveaway

BELMONT, CA – The City of Belmont and RethinkWaste have teamed up to giveaway compost on Saturday, October 9, 2004 between 8 AM and noon. “The compost is the result of nature decomposing organic materials into a dark, nutrient-rich soil,” said program coordinator Barbara Ebel. Residents may take up to 1 cubic yard of compost (about six full garbage cans) at no charge from the Belmont City Hall Parking Lot, as long as the supply lasts. The compost is ideally used as an amendment to enrich soil. Belmont residents are reminded to bring shovels, gloves, containers and proof of Belmont residency.

According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, approximately 40 percent of California's waste stream consists of compostable organic materials, including yard trimmings, grass clippings, food scraps, and woody debris. By participating in curbside collection of yard trimmings, valuable resources are put back into use as rich compost, suitable for general landscaping and as topsoil for lawns. “Proper management of yard trimmings reduces the nutrient runoff to wetlands and the Bay, thereby promoting better water quality. In addition, by applying compost to yards, we are putting organic resources into our soil, providing a non-chemical alternative to fertilizers,” said Ebel.

Not only is curbside composting available to residents, but also backyard and worm composting are other options. Home composting workshops and bins are available through RecycleWorks, a program of the County of San Mateo.

For more information call 650.802.4349 or email info@rethinkwaste.org

###

9/30/2004 Library Construction Begins

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2004

CONTACT: Dan DeSmidt – (650) 595-7410

Construction Begins on New Belmont Library

Belmont, CA –

Work on Belmont's new Library is now underway and the old facility has been demolished.

The project is being done in two phases. Demolition and site preparation has begun with an anticipated completion date of December 14, 2004. Construction equipment and trucks began to arrive this week, which may affect traffic on Alameda de las Pulgas and along the truck route on Ralston Ave. Due to construction fencing, the SamTrans bus stop has been moved one block south. Bids for constructing the new building are expected in early December and the new library is expected to open in Spring 2006.

Material borrowed from the Belmont Library may be returned to any public library in San Mateo County, including:

- **San Carlos Library**, 610 Elm Street, 591.0341
- **Foster City Library**, 1000 East Hillsdale Blvd., 574.4842
- **San Mateo City Library-Hillsdale Branch**, 205 West Hillsdale, 522.7880
- **San Mateo City Library-Marina Branch**, 1530 Susan Court, 522.7890

Belmont voters overwhelmingly approved a bond measure in 2001 to build a new library. The Project consists of: (a) demolition of the existing 5,600 square foot library; (b) the construction of a new one-story, 20,040 square foot library; and (c) improvements to the Belameda Park area adjacent to the new library. The new library building will include a children's area, staff areas, a community room with a courtyard, an adult wing and a small café.

Over \$375,000 has been pledged for technology and furnishing upgrades; more is needed to make the library the best it can be. To follow the progress of the new building or to learn how you can contribute to the project, visit www.smcl.org, www.belmont.gov or www.friendsofthebelmontlibrary.org.

###

Notice

October 22, 2004

CONTACT: Department of Public Works – (650) 595-7427

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:

- Clean gutters and down spouts to assure proper water run off away from the home
- Do not block the gutters, creeks, drainage canals, or catch basins with trash or debris.
- 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.
- Trim vegetation back from curbs and gutters and use the BFI yard waste can for leaves to help keep drain inlets clear during the rainy season.
- 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.

###

11/5/2004 Belmont Cleans Up Community

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2004

CONTACT: Dan DeSmidt (650) 595-7408

Belmont “Cleans Up” Community

Belmont, CA –

The City of Belmont is sponsoring two “environmentally friendly” events this month.

The first is the CASH FOR CANS RECYCLING CHALLENGE. Due to the leadership of a resident, Belmont will take part in the US Conference of Mayors Cash for Cans Recycling Challenge competing with cities across the nation for a \$5000 award to see who can collect the most aluminum beverage containers in the two-week period from November 2 through November 15. Students from the Belmont/Redwood Shores School District are taking part by running collections with proceeds benefiting their playground funds. The City has collection receptacles at the Senior & Community Center, and in the lobby of City Hall. Residents are encouraged to pitch those aluminum cans in for this recycling challenge. Questions about the challenge can be directed to Kathleen Phalen at 595-7469.

The second event is BELMONT OPEN SPACE CLEAN-UP DAY. The Parks & Recreation Department is asking for volunteers to help clean up in the Carlmont Canyon Area on Saturday November 13, 2004 at 9:00 am in Hidden Canyon Park (at the end of Carlmont Drive). Over the years this beautiful canyon, home to an extensive hiking and biking trail system, has been a dumping ground for cars, car parts, tires, cans, bottles and other trash. The goal is to remove as much debris as possible. For information on this event, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 595-7441.

###

11/15/2004 City Council Reorganization

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2004

CONTACT: Dan DeSmidt – (650) 595-7408

City Council Reorganization Planned for November 23

Belmont, CA --

The Belmont City Council will select a Mayor and Vice Mayor on November 23. The Council meeting will start early, at 7:00 p.m., in the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. The community is invited to attend the reorganization ceremony and a reception immediately following the meeting.

At the meeting, out-going Mayor George Metropulos will be recognized for his service to the community. The new Mayor and Vice Mayor will be selected and the Mayor will then receive the oath of office. The business items on the agenda that night will be limited.

The meeting will be shown live on cable Channel 27.

#

11/24/2004 Belmont E-Mail System Down

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich - (650) 595-7408

Belmont E-Mail System Down

Belmont, CA -

The City of Belmont's email system has been out of service since Friday morning November 19th due to a network failure. The City's website and phone system are not impacted. However, due to the problem City staff has not been able to receive emails from , or send emails to, anyone outside the Civic Center complex. Emails sent to the City during this time will be received when the system is fully operational and will be responded to as quickly as possible.

"In the event that your email is returned to you, that is an indication that we have not received your email. We regret the inconvenience caused by this and appreciate the community's patience until it is fixed," said Information Services Manager Valerie Harnish.

Staff and consultants have been working on the problem around the clock and have fixed several fiber connection breaks but have not yet resolved all the problems. Additional testing is being done today.

###

11/29/2004 Breakfast with Santa

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2004

CONTACT: Mary Doherty – (650) 595-7441

Breakfast with Santa on December 11

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department is once again sponsoring the popular Breakfast with Santa event. This year, Santa will arrive at the Belmont Senior and Community Center on December 11 at 10:00 AM.

Children under the age of ten will receive a special gift and a picture with Santa. Breakfast for everyone is all you can eat including pancakes with toppings, bacon, juice and coffee. Fantasy Magic with Mr. Magic will provide entertainment.

“This year, we want to make this a giving event as well as a fun one, so please bring a can of food for Second Harvest Food Bank, and a clean, gently used jacket or coat for the One Warm Coat drive. Jackets and coats for children (ages 0-5 years), men or women will be donated to a number of agencies to be given out free to local residents. There is a great deal of need, so let’s give generously, while enjoying the Breakfast with Santa,” said event coordinator Mary Doherty.

The price for Breakfast with Santa is \$5.00 for children under 3 years and \$10.00 (including a gift and picture for children under 10) for those aged 10 – 99 years old. Register Early - Space is Limited! 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.

###

12/13/2004 Belmont expected to Award Contract

NEWS

FOR RELEASE

December 13, 2004

CONTACT: Dan Rich – (650) 595-7409

Belmont Expected to Award Contract for Library Project

Belmont, CA -- The Belmont City Council is expected to award a contract with Gonsalves & Stronck to construct the Belmont Library/Belameda Park Project at its December 14 meeting.

The bid from Gonsalves & Stronck came in approximately \$220 thousand under budget. “In this time of heightened fiscal concern, having the bids come in under our estimates is very encouraging,” said Finance Director Thomas Fil. The lower than expected bid allows the City to accept all the optional bid items such as an upgraded ceiling and additional casework. “We are looking forward to working with Gonsalves & Stronck to build the new Belmont Library and park for our residents.”

Plans for a new library have been underway for quite some time, dating back to 1998. Phase I of the project, demolition and grading, is almost complete. Phase II, the construction of the building and the surrounding park, were opened on November 23 and Gonsalves & Stronck was the lowest of six bids received.

“Construction should begin by early January,” said Fil. “and the expected opening for the new library is Spring 2006,” he continued.

The Friends of the Belmont Library are continuing a private fundraising effort to be able to enhance furnishings and equipment in the new library.

###