



CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

~Greg Scoles, City Manager

December 7, 2012

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To Mayor and Council:

Last weekend was our first major storm of this winter and we had over 4 inches of rain from Friday Nov. 30th thru Sunday Dec. 2nd. Our field crews from both Public Works and Parks and Recreation were well prepared for this event and as a result there was minimal storm related problems. There is some additional information about the storm impacts below. Our public safety staff and field crews should be commended for their preparation and response to this event.

In September there was a gang related freeway shooting/attempted homicide in Belmont on Hwy 101 and yesterday the Belmont Police Department Detective Bureau, in collaboration with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the San Francisco Police Department, conducted a joint operation resulting in the arrest of the suspected shooter who is an East Palo Alto resident. Although he attempted to flee from officers, the suspect was safely taken into custody in Redwood City, and he is now awaiting trial. This arrest was the result of an intensive investigation led by Belmont detectives. As Police Chief DeSmidt noted "The positive outcome to this investigation is due to the professionalism and high degree of cooperation between all of the officers and agencies involved." We should all be proud of the extraordinary effort show in this case by our Department.

Yesterday one of the pumps at the North Road Sewer Pump Station stopped running. The City's contractor inspected the pump and it appears that the pump shorted out and damaged the winding and bearings in the motor. The contractor is still assessing the extent of the damage and the repairs may take a few days to a couple of weeks to complete. We should have a better estimate of the repair time next week. As a precautionary measure the City has contracted to have a standby by-pass pump set up at the station. For safety purposes, a temporary fence will be installed around the by-pass pump, which should be completed by the end of the day.

Remember that next Thursday from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Fire Station 14 on Ralston Ave. the Belmont Fire Fighters will be holding their annual toy drive for children in need. This is a great event and a great place to take children (see announcement below for details).

Have a great weekend...it looks like this one will be dry!

Greg

December Happenings

- Dec. 11th Council Reorganization ([AGENDA](#), [JPFA](#))
- Dec. 24th -Jan. 1st City Hall Closed
- Jan. 8th Regular Council Meeting
- Jan. 21st Martin Luther King Day (City Hall offices closed)
- Jan. 22nd Regular Council Meeting
- Feb 12th Regular Council Meeting
- Feb 18th President's Day (City Hall office closed)
- Feb 26th Regular Council Meeting

DECEMBER 2012

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JANUARY 2013

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FEBRUARY 2013

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Storm drain covered with debris?

Please contact Public Works at 595-7425

Additional Information~



Remember to use your **green container** for branches and yard clippings; do not place yard debris into the gutter or roadway.



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Need sandbags? The City of Belmont has two "fill your own" sites for residents in need of sandbags. Sand and bags are available anytime 7-days a week (shovels provided) at the following locations:

110 Sem Lane - Belmont Corporation Yard

2701 Cipriani Boulevard - Fire Station 15

December Storm-Rainfall Totals

San Juan Pump Station

Rainfall from 11/30/2012 to 12/6/2012

Device Time	Rainfall Amount (inches)
11/30/2012	2.13
12/1/2012	0.61
12/2/2012	1.27
12/3/2012	0
12/4/2012	0
12/5/2012	0.31
Total:	4.32



Hiller Street PS

Rainfall from 11/30/2012 to 12/6/2012

Device Time	Rainfall Amount (inches)
11/30/2012	2.03
12/1/2012	0.6
12/2/2012	1.32
12/3/2012	0
12/4/2012	0
12/5/2012	0.34
Total:	4.29

Storm Damage to Trees

The Parks and Recreation Department responded to trees damaged in the recent storm. Below is a photo taken of a tree on Ralston Avenue leaning on an electrical line after the storm. In Addition a tree in Cipriani Park needed to be removed along with a tree in McDougal Park that had fallen over. There were no reported injuries from fallen or damaged trees and it appears the preventive trimming and removal of trees is paying dividends when Belmont gets hit with these big storm events.



Belmont Responds to the First Big Storm of the Season

The recent storm system had Public Works and Park & Recreation crews, and the Public Safety personnel busy throughout the week long event responding to the storm-related calls. Nothing was immune from this past storm. Crews responded to calls related to flooding, downed tree limbs, power outages, street signs and fences blown down, and mudslides. Sand and bags went quickly as residents prepared for this storm; and crews continued to replenish both to keep up with the public need.

Public Works staff posted updates on the department's Facebook and Twitter pages to keep residents informed of new information as it came up.

While there may have been a break in the weather last Monday and Tuesday, the crews were still out in force clearing roadways of debris and mud from the previous few days.

The Public Works Department would like to thank all the residents that helped clear storm drains inlets in their neighborhoods.



Belmont Creek



Tree branch down in roadway



Ralston and El Camino Courtesy of Belmont Patch
Lower photos taken by Mary Morrissy

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Message from PG&E

This past weekend Northern Californians experienced the third and strongest in a series of winter storms. Along with record winds and rain, there were numerous power outages, primarily caused when trees fell into power lines. PG&E crews worked around the clock all weekend long to restore electric service to our customers.

Number of Customers affected by a power outage by the series of three winter storms:

- System-wide (Eureka to Bakersfield) – 748,300 customers
- Bay Area – 341,100 customers
- San Mateo County – 46,865 customers

PG&E offer these tips to help customers during storms:

- Customers can call our 24-hour Outage Service Line at **1-800-743-5002** to report an outage, to report a hazardous condition or to get the latest information on outages in their community.
- Assume downed power lines are energized and extremely dangerous. Do not touch or try to move them — and keep children and animals away. Report downed power lines immediately by calling 911 and PG&E at **1-800-743-5002**.
- Do not use candles because of the risk of fire. If you must use candles, use extreme caution. Do not use candles near drapes, under lampshades or near holiday trees. Keep candles away from small children, and do not leave candles unattended.
- If your power goes out, turn off or unplug all electric appliances; otherwise, several appliances may come back on at once and overload your circuits when power is restored. Hot appliances also pose a fire hazard if they come back on while you're away or asleep. Leave a single lamp on to alert you when power returns. Turn your appliances back on one at a time when conditions return to normal.
- Have battery-operated radios with fresh batteries ready for updates on storm conditions and power outages.
- Have battery-operated flashlights with fresh batteries on hand.
- Have a cell phone or hard-wire, single-line telephone on hand. Cordless phones will not work without electricity.
- Fill used liter-size plastic soda bottles with water and place them in the freezer. During an extended outage, transfer them to your refrigerator to prevent food from spoiling. Open the refrigerator only when necessary to keep warm air out and cooler air in.
- If you have a generator, inform PG&E and do not use it unless it is installed safely and properly. If it is not, you risk damaging your property and endangering yourself and PG&E line workers who may be working on nearby power lines. Information on the safe installation of generators can be found on our website at www.pge.com/generator.

Parks and Recreation News

Peninsula Arts Museum will be leaving the Manor Building

The Peninsula Arts Museum will be leaving the Manor Building, likely in February 2013. The museum is moving to Burlingame along with other artists to create an arts center.

The Manor Building is also occupied by the Peninsula Arts Council a non-profit that promotes arts in San Mateo County and the Belmont Arts Council which is a club of local artists. The building is approximately 5,728 square feet, was built in 1908, and remodeled recently using City funds.

What this means for Belmont:

- The City will get back the space currently occupied by the Peninsula Arts Museum including the gallery, library, reception room, and storage rooms on the first floor of the building. The Parks and Recreation Department is planning on adding the space to the Facility Rental portfolio and marketing it for appropriate events.
- The 11 artists renting space on the 2nd and 3rd floors will become direct tenants of the City of Belmont. Currently, the 11 artists pay rent to the Peninsula Arts Museum which covers the rent for the entire building with those funds. The individual artists will need to sign permits with the City and start to pay rent directly to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The City will need to sit down with the Peninsula Arts Council and the Belmont Arts Council to discuss their future at the facility.
- Staff expects a net revenue increase from this change because the rental rates from the 11 artists will amount to the same as existing rent for the entire building and the event rentals should increase revenue.

Staff expects to take this item to the Parks and Recreation Commission in February for input. A rental fee schedule will be included in the midyear budget review.

Belmont Tree Giveaway

Every year the City of Belmont conducts a Tree Giveaway Program that includes delivering trees to Belmont residents. This year, the Parks and Recreation Department distributed about 40 trees with an emphasis on the Sterling Downs and Homeview neighborhoods. Staff met at a joint meeting of those neighborhoods associations and promoted increasing the number of trees in the areas. Residents can request many different types of trees and this year it appears fruit trees are getting popular. The Tree Giveaway is funded through the Tree Fund and people request trees through the Belmont Activity Guide.

Kudos to Parks and Public Works

Dear Daniel,

We wanted to thank you for helping us choose trees that really do turn lovely colors in the fall. They are a great choice for Avon Street and we really appreciate your thoughtful guidance of that whole process two years ago. (Geoff and I were back east last winter so we missed seeing the trees change.)

Sincerely,

Jane and Geoff Fernald



New State Construction Requirement Kicks In Under The Regional Municipal Storm Water Permit



The City of Belmont is required to implement its Clean Water Program as a condition of the [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System](#) (NPDES) permit for the City's storm drain system. The conditions of this permit direct municipal compliance with the [Federal Clean Water Act](#) to protect the quality of local stormwater runoff.

Cities in the Bay Area are responsible for controlling stormwater pollution by complying with the [Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit](#) (MRP) issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board. The City of Belmont implements the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit requirements with all other San Mateo County local agencies as a co-permittee for the [Storm-water Pollution Prevention Program](#) (STOPP). This permit requires the City to prevent the discharge of non-stormwater (materials other than rain water) from entering the municipal storm drain system and San Francisco Bay.

A new section of the stormwater requirement went into effect on December 1, 2012 for development projects that will create and/or replace at least 2,500 square feet, but less than 10,000 square feet of impervious surfaces including stand-alone single family home projects. These MRP requirements can be satisfied by at least one of the followings:

- Direct roof runoff into cistern or rain barrels for use.
- Direct roof runoff onto vegetated areas.
- Direct runoff from sidewalks, walkways, and/or patios into vegetated areas.
- Direct runoff from driveways/uncovered parking lots onto vegetated areas.
- Construct sidewalks, walkways, and/or patios with permeable surfaces.
- Construct bike lanes, driveways, and or/covered parking lots with permeable surfaces.

The City has already implemented other stringent MRP requirements for development projects impacting areas larger than 10,000 square feet. Typical stormwater treatment requirements for these larger size projects include installation of bio-detention, water harvesting or bio-treatment systems.

Since the new December 1, 2012 requirements will affect a large percentage of the design review applications processed in the City, staff is planning an informational presentation in an upcoming [Planning Commission](#) meeting in January or February of 2013.

Some notable activities this week from Information Services include:

- The selection process for a new website vendor has been progressing with Council Members Wozniak and Feierbach leading a sub-committee to qualify the recently recommended vendor.
- There was a meeting this past week with Information Technology leads from San Mateo, Foster City, and Belmont to discuss and plan for the upcoming technology needs for joining the Belmont Fire Administration with San Mateo and Foster City.
- There was significant work done this week to configure the new server that will be used in upgrading the City's permitting software system. This work is in preparation for the upgrade that is scheduled to be finalized after the first of the year.
- Information Services participated in the kick-off/planning session for the new online police reporting project that is currently underway.

Human Resources Department Updates

RECRUITMENT

Deputy Fire Chief: The Deputy Fire Chief job announcement will close today at 5:00 PM. This is an internal recruitment process, a career opportunity open to Belmont Fire Protection District employees only. The selection process will be scheduled for the week of Dec. 10th.

Management Analyst: This upcoming recruitment will be open to internal and external applicants and will provide professional level and administrative support to public safety (fire and police).

LABOR

Labor Agreements

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) between the Belmont Fire Protection District and the Belmont Firefighters Association, International Association (IAFF L2400) and the Fire Management Unit were fully executed and will soon be available on the City/District website. Thank you to the labor representatives and District team for negotiating the District's first MOU!

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The Compensation and Benefits Program for the City of Belmont Unrepresented Management Group was recently updated and approved by City Council at the November 29, 2012 meeting. The most notable changes include the elimination of the Performance Based Bonus Program; the

addition of a new pension tier for new employees – rather than 2% @ 55 formula based on the highest one year, the new formula is 2% @ 55 formula based on a three (3) years average salary; caps placed for current employees on cash out/deferred compensation; reduced medical plans cost for future employees; and a new “defined contribution” Retiree Medical Plan for new employees.

These changes are consistent with modifications made to other City labor agreements and Belmont Fire Protection District agreements that provide better sustainability to the organization.

Training and Development

The HR Department strives to offer an array of training and development opportunities to employees to ensure the skillset and knowledge of our workforce and management are continually enhanced. The following training opportunities were offered recently and employees who obtained supervisor approval were enrolled by HR to the respective classes.

- Public Speaking
- Business Writing Class
- Difficult Conversations
- Skelly Process, Disciplinary Action
- Supervisory Academy
- Leadership Academy
- Prevention of Harassment

Upcoming Classes:

- Strategic Organizational Change
- Labor Relations Basics

Belmont's Reusable Bag Ordinance

On Tuesday, 11/27 the City Council introduced Belmont's Reusable Bag Ordinance. A public hearing and second reading of the Ordinance is scheduled for the January 8, 2013 City Council meeting. If adopted, the Ordinance will become effective on April 22, 2013 (Earth Day). The intent of the Ordinance is to reduce the environmental impacts related to single-use carryout bags and to promote the use of reusable bags. The Ordinance will regulate the distribution of paper and plastic single-use carryout bags by all retail establishments in Belmont, including those selling clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer. It would not apply to restaurants or non-profit charitable reuse organizations. Earlier this year, the County of San Mateo led a regional effort on this issue. The County Board of Supervisors adopted a Model Reusable Bag Ordinance in October and certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project which covered 18 jurisdictions in San Mateo County (including Belmont) and 6 jurisdictions in Santa Clara County. Both Belmont and the County of San Mateo will be conducting outreach to retail businesses in advance of the effective date of the Ordinance.

San Juan Hills Master Development Project

On Tuesday evening, staff conducted a meeting with interested residents of the Skymont/Ralston Ranch neighborhood to provide background/education and answer questions on the acquisition of the former Lehmer properties, funding sources used (Fleet Fund Loan), slope/density limitations on subdivisions, Measure F, ENA developer selection process, and next steps.

Staff also reviewed the potential subdivision areas (Bishop Road & Marsten Frontage) and illustrated the challenges (topography and regulatory) associated with a large scale subdivision. Staff reaffirmed clear project goals to address the loan obligation and preserve the maximum amount of permanent open space. The meeting was very well attended with over 30 residents present. Residents were pleased that the City took steps to acquire the property but voiced their concerns with potential development of portions of the property. Residents also voiced a strong preference for the City to find other ways to address the loan obligation (i.e. Ballot Initiative/Parcel Tax). Overall, the meeting ended on a positive note and residents appreciated this outreach and are expecting additional outreach efforts prior to any Council decisions made on the project.

Recology Holiday Service Notice

Holiday Schedule

There are changes to most residents' collection schedules though the weeks of Christmas and New Year's as both holidays fall on a Tuesday. There will be no CartSMART Recycle, Compost and Garbage collection services on Tuesday, December 25, 2012 and Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

If your regular collection day falls on or after the holiday, your service will be delayed by one day. Your regular collection service schedule will resume the week of January 7, 2013. Please see the schedule below, and help spread the word.

MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Dec 24 Regular Service	Dec 25 Christmas Day NO SERVICE. Office Closed	Dec 26 Service for Tuesday Customers	Dec 27 Service for Wednesday Customers	Dec 28 Service for Thursday Customers	Dec 29 Service for Friday Customers. Office Closed
Dec 31 Regular Service	Jan 1 New Year's Day NO SERVICE. Office Closed	Jan 2 Service for Tuesday Customers	Jan 3 Service for Wednesday Customers	Jan 4 Service for Thursday Customers	Jan 5 Service for Friday Customers. Office Closed

Shoreway Environmental Center Update

Plastic Bags to Be Accepted at Shoreway Public Recycling Center

We are excited to announce that you will be able to drop off plastic bags for recycling at Shoreway's Public Recycling Center starting later this month. In the industry, we refer to it as "film plastic" and the accepted items include not only grocery bags, but also dry cleaning, produce, bread and frozen food bags, as well as shrink wrap – basically any type of plastic bag that stretches when pulled. The bags and shrink wrap must be clean though, so no food inside them please.

WEATHER and WINTER PREPAREDNESS - Message from Secretary Mark Ghilarducci of the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)

Secretary Ghilarducci noted that between 1950 and 2009 flood-related emergencies resulted in more state of emergency proclamations for California counties than any other hazard and that between 1950 and 2007 flood-related emergencies caused more deaths than earthquakes and wildfires combined. During the latter period, flood-related events accounted for more than twice the amount of disaster-related costs administered by Cal EMA.

As part of winter weather preparations, Californians are encouraged to replenish or assemble an emergency supply kit, and review or develop a family emergency plan.

Emergency supply kits should include:

- At least a three-day supply of food and water for each family member
- First aid supplies and medicines, as well as cash
- Battery operated radios and flashlights
- Extra batteries and a manual can opener

Emergency plans should include:

- The name and phone number of out-of-town contacts
- Safe routes from your home or business to higher ground
- A place to reunite if you and family members are separated
- Considerations for family members with access and functional needs

If they haven't already done so, Californians who have developed their emergency plans and assembled or purchased emergency supply kits should take steps to winterize buildings which may be used as shelter. This includes insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather stripping doors, clearing rain gutters and trimming tree branches.

Ghilarducci recommended that Californians could obtain sandbags from their local Public Works department and that people with access and functional needs should make sure battery operated wheelchairs, breathing machines and other pieces of equipment are properly charged.

During the inclement weather, residents should listen to the radio or watch television to obtain information about the latest forecast and instructions from local officials, use telephones only for emergency calls, avoid driving if possible and cooperate with emergency officials.

Additional preparedness information is available at www.calema.ca.gov and www.ready.gov.

For the latest weather updates visit www.weather.gov.



Press Release



Belmont Fire Department
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2012

CONTACT:
Lieutenant Patrick Halleran (650) 595-7430

Santa to Visit Belmont Fire Station as Part of Annual Toy Drive

Belmont, CA --

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Santa will be helping Belmont Firefighters to collect toys for needy children at Fire Station 14, located on Ralston Ave. at Granada St., as part of the annual Belmont Firefighters Toy Drive.

Belmont Firefighters have begun their annual Toy Drive for children in need. As part of this campaign the Belmont Fire Department will be holding an open house at Fire Station 14 on Thursday, December 13th from 5pm to 8pm. The event will include an opportunity to visit with Santa, play in the snow*, see the fire house, meet your firefighters and enjoy some holiday refreshments. Be sure to bring your camera to photograph your child with Santa.

Although not required, people attending the open house are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the firefighters' toy drive. Toys collected by the firefighters will be given to local children in need.

The open house & visit by Santa are part of the annual toy collection effort, which began this week. Anyone wishing to donate toys can drop them off between now and December 25th at either Belmont Fire Station.

- Station 14 – 911 Granada St. (corner of Granada St. & Ralston Ave.)
- Station 15 – 2701 Cipriani Blvd. (corner of Cipriani Blvd. & Ralston Ave.)

We accept new, unwrapped toys such as dolls, puzzles, board games, toy trucks/cars and action figures. Please do not to give DVDs or video game, as we never know what technology the child has access to. Also, we are unable to accept bicycles."

**snow courtesy of Belmont Iceland*

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