



CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE

~Greg Scoles, City Manager

July 27, 2012

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To: Mayor and Council

As I noted last week we are going to be making the Weekly Update available to the public through our website and the various social media sites the City utilizes to promote community engagement. On the City's website individuals can currently [Sign Up For Mailing Lists](#) which include Council and Fire District Agendas, Parks and Recreation Information, Planning Commission Agendas, Press Releases and much more. We have added a selection that would allow people to opt in to receive a link to the most current Weekly Update via e-mail, also. If you haven't used this service go to the above link for mailing lists and sign up.

Speaking of community engagement, National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday August 7th and the City has put together a flyer that will be available at the various venues that will help our citizens know how to connect with the various communication tools utilized by the City including our website, Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor etc. (see the National Night Out Social Media flyer attached to this update). This has proved to be a very popular event with each year being larger than the last. This year there are 8 different neighborhoods participating. The various locations for the National Night Out event are listed below.

I've also included a press release from the League of California Cities where they are congratulating Cities for continuing their faithful adherence to the Brown Act for government accountability and transparency, even though the State in their ongoing effort to strip revenue from local agencies decided to suspend portions of the Act. This is not the first time the State has chosen to suspend the Brown Act. The State also did this in 1990 for budget reasons and again as they did back then, Cities across the State have made commitments to adhere to the Act regardless of the 3 year suspension.

At the last Council meeting the City Council recognized Nikon Precision, one of our outstanding corporate citizens, for their recent donation of camera equipment to the Belmont Police Department. This donation was valued at over \$3,200 and Nikon Precision has donated more than \$11,000 worth of camera equipment to the Police Department over the last 8 years. Thank you again Nikon for your generous donation and commitment to Belmont.

In the recent budget discussions the Council requested that the Parks and Recreation and Finance Commissions meetings be televised like the Council and Planning Commission Meetings. I'm happy to let you know that the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on August 1st will be televised (more about this below). Some of the items being discussed at that meeting include McDougal Park, Cipriani Dog Park improvements and the Barrett Community Center ([Parks and Rec Agenda](#)).

Greg

Important Dates

- August 2nd Ralston Ave meeting
- August 7th National Night Out
- August 14th Regular Council Meeting
- August 28th Council Summer Break (meeting Cancelled)
- Sep. 3rd Labor Day (City Hall closed)
- Sept. 11th Regular Council Meeting
- Sept. 15th CA Coastal Cleanup Day-Belmont Creeks to Bay
- Sept. 25th Regular Council Meeting
- Sept. 28th Council of Cities Dinner/Meeting (Iron Gate)



JULY 2012

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AUGUST 2012

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SEPTEMBER 2012

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Unconstitutional Provisions of AB 1484 to be Challenged in Lawsuit from League of Cities

The League of California Cities plans to move forward with litigation to challenge the unconstitutional provisions of AB 1484, the Redevelopment Budget Trailer Bill. The League's board of directors met recently and unanimously agreed to instruct staff to commence the process for legal action. League officials posited that lawsuits **were likely** when the bill was first passed due to the "claw-back" of city sales taxes and city property taxes to satisfy the state's funding demands and serious disagreements between Finance and successor agencies about how much they should be receiving for debt service payments.



AB 1484
Redevelopment Budget Trailer Bill

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie commented the following: "The board of directors of the League took this action because AB 1484 represents a clear and present threat to the ability of cities to meet the public safety and other vital public service needs of the city resident of California. We also strongly believe the sales tax and property tax "claw-back" provisions violate the constitution and are inconsistent with other parts of AB 1484 that declare that redevelopment successor agencies are separate and apart from city governments."

Legislators ignored the protests of city officials and the League in the run-up to the bill's passage despite the fact that AB 1484 clearly was at odds with the state constitution and measures adopted by the voters of California in 2004 (Proposition 1A) and 2010 (Prop. 22). The **League reports** that "League attorneys will report back to the League board on the specific plans for implementing the litigation authorization" and that "The board's authorization covered possible intervention in an action filed by member city/cities or successor agency/agencies or the filing of a separate legal action."

July 20, 2012

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Cell: (530) 400-9068

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

League Board of Directors Adopts Resolution Congratulating Cities for Continuing to Adhere to All Provisions in the Brown Act Despite State's Decision to Suspend Certain Requirements for Fiscal Reasons

Calls on the Legislature to Abide by Similar Transparency Provisions

Sacramento — At its meeting in Manhattan Beach today, the board of directors of the League of California Cities adopted a resolution congratulating cities for their continued faithful compliance with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act even though the Legislature has suspended several of its provisions for three years. The League board in its resolution also calls on the Legislature to comply with similar transparency requirements, including publishing all agendas and legislation no less than 72 hours before proposed action is taken. The board's action follows a review of the suspension by the League's Brown Act Committee, which comprises eight of the state's leading legal experts on the statute.

AB 1464, which was enacted on June 27, contains a schedule of mandates that are suspended during FY 2012-13. SB 1006, which was also enacted on June 27, extended the suspensions through FY 2014-15, for a total of three years. Suspended provisions of the Brown Act include:

- Preparation and posting at least 72 hours before a regular meeting of an agenda that contains a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting. (See Gov. Code § 54954.2(a).)
- Inclusion on the agenda of a brief general description of all items to be discussed in closed session. (See Gov. Code § 54954.2(a).)
- Disclosure of each item to be discussed in closed session in an open meeting, prior to any closed session. (See Gov. Code § 54957.7 (a).)
- Report in open session prior to adjournment on the actions and votes taken in closed session regarding certain subject matters. (See Gov. Code §§ 54957.1(a)(l)-(4), (6); 54957.7 (b).)
- Provide copies to the public of certain closed session documents. (See Gov. Code § 54957.1 (b)-(c).)

The League has long been a strong advocate for open government and transparency. In 1953, collaborating with the California Newspaper Publishers Association, the League worked to pass the Brown Act, the state's local government open meeting law. At that time, many city charters already required open city meetings accessible to the public. The Brown Act simply extended that requirement to thousands of local agencies including many special districts, school districts and others that had not already adopted similar policies. The League's publication, *Open and Public IV* (Revised 2010), is seen as the definitive resource on the Brown Act throughout the state.

"The cities of California are committed to open and transparent government. It's our duty as elected officials to ensure that the people have access to the workings of their local government and business being conducted on their behalf. It's enshrined in the California State Constitution that the people's business be conducted in a way that is open," said League President and Mountain View Mayor Mike Kasperzak after the board vote.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie said: "League leaders also call on the Legislature to adopt these same important transparency provisions to post agendas 72 hours in advance of a public meeting and also provide at least 72 hours between the time a bill is in print and when it is voted on. Transparency is the foundation for public confidence in every level of government — local, state and federal."

The Legislature's action this session is not unprecedented. These same Brown Act requirements were suspended in 1990, at which time most cities reported they would continue to comply with all requirements of the Brown Act regardless of the suspension.

For more information about the Brown Act and this resolution, please visit [League of California Cities - Open Government](#)

Parks

Twin Pines Senior & Community Center Painting and Improvement Project



Twin Pines Community Center

The Parks and Recreation Department is conducting preliminary planning for a project to paint and improve the Twin Pines Senior & Community Center. The building is 25 years old and little has been done to the facility. The project would be funded from grant funds, donations, and city funds. Staff have secured at least a \$25,000 Community Development Block Grant and have asked for more from the County. In addition, it appears that the Senior Center will receive a donation of \$55,055 from the estate of William Pearce of Belmont. Staff anticipates bringing the donation acceptance to Council and propose using the funds directly for this project. The project is a tribute to the community that has been created through the programs and activities in the Twin Pines Senior & Community Center.

Homeview & Sterling Downs Neighborhood Associations Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation



Tree Talk at O'Donnell Park

Staff from the Parks and Recreation Department attended a joint meeting of the Homeview & Sterling Downs Neighborhood Associations on Saturday July 21 to discuss adding more trees to those neighborhoods. Each fall, the Parks & Recreation Department conducts a free tree giveaway providing trees to about 30 homeowners. This year, the program will be expanded in the Sterling Downs and Homeview to increase the number of trees provided to these neighborhoods. In addition, the Homeview Neighborhood is planning on organizing a group of volunteers to help plant trees for those individuals who would have trouble planting. It is hoped that increasing the number of trees will help beautify the neighborhood, reduce storm water runoff, and provide shade and wind reduction for residents.

Parks Continued...



For live web streaming log on to www.belmont.gov

Televising Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings

Starting in August, the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings will be televised in the same manner as City Council and Planning Commission meetings. The meetings will be televised locally on Channel 27 in real time and then stored on the website for future viewing. Thanks to the City Council for moving forward on this initiative, it will help to ensure the citizens of Belmont are able to track and participate in parks and recreation topics and projects.

New Fall Activity Guide to be Released - See What's New

NEW! ACTIVITIES

<i>Preschool/YOUTH</i>	<i>Pg</i>
Mugglebees Theater.....	17
Little Footsteps	13
<i>YOUTH</i>	
Afterschool Art-Leather, Copper.....	16
Capoeira.....	19
Creative Writing.....	18
Film Groups, Special Needs.....	17
Freshi Animation Afterschool.....	16
Language Adventure.....	15
Magic Class.....	17
Mugglebees Showstoppers.....	17
Public Speaking.....	18
Skyhawks Basketball.....	14
Skyhawks Volleyball.....	14
Skateboarding, Indiv.....	14
Zumbatomic.....	19
<i>ADULT</i>	
Bring Spark Back In Your Life.....	28
Create Balance In Your Life.....	28
Relaxation Stretching.....	25
Watercolors.....	29
<i>ADULT, 50 +</i>	
Arthritis Exercise.....	30
Relaxation 101.....	30
Rejuvenate your Retirement.....	33
Social Networking.....	33
Wii Bowling party.....	32

Public Safety

National Night Out

Plans are being finalized by PD and the NNO committee. Tues August 7th at about 6 p.m. for most locations (unless otherwise noted):



1. Carlmont Drive neighborhood located on the 2600 block of Carlmont Drive near the cul-de-sac.
2. Carlmont Shopping Center in conjunction with the Carlmont Merchants Association and the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.
3. DNAB – Downtown Neighborhood Association of Belmont on Sunnyslope between O’Neill and Broadway.
4. Semeria Park.
5. Homeview Association – O’Donnell Park 6 – 8 p.m.
6. BHCIA – Belmont Heights –entrance to Water Dog Lake trail off Hallmark Drive 5:30 – 8 p.m.
7. Sterling Downs Association – Alexandria Park.
8. Frances Avenue cul-de-sac.

Residential Burglary Ring

PD released a video of a burglary suspect to the media last week. The video has since been viewed over 1000 times on the Belmont Public Safety YouTube channel [Belmont, CA - Public Safety - YouTube](#)

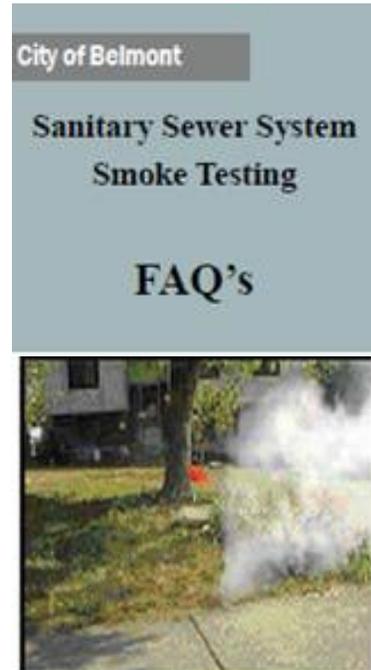
Tips have been coming in and progress is being made by Detectives. Updates will come when arrests are made.



Public Works Continued...

FY 13 Sewer System Infiltration/Inflow Assessment – Public Outreach for Smoke Testing

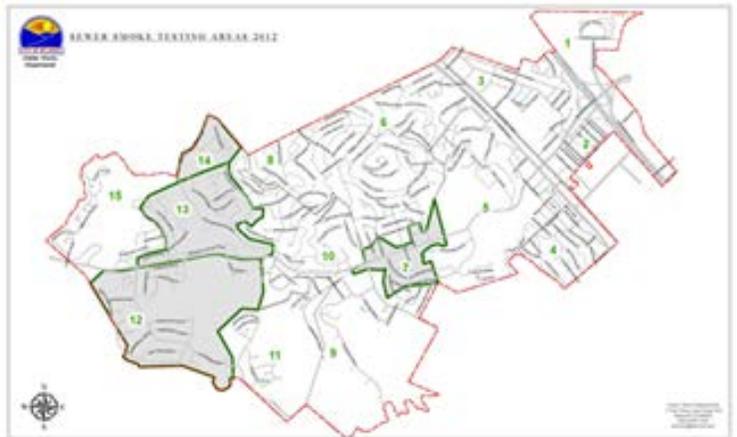
Public Works staff is finalizing public notices and letters that will be mailed this upcoming week to residents. In addition to paper mailings, notifications will go out to social media sites such as Nextdoor.com, Belmont Patch, Facebook and Twitter. The Belmont webpage will have Information on smoke testing in the form of maps, frequently asked questions, videos, links, notification letter and other miscellaneous information pertaining to smoke testing. ([Click here to view the Smoke Testing Brochure](#)).



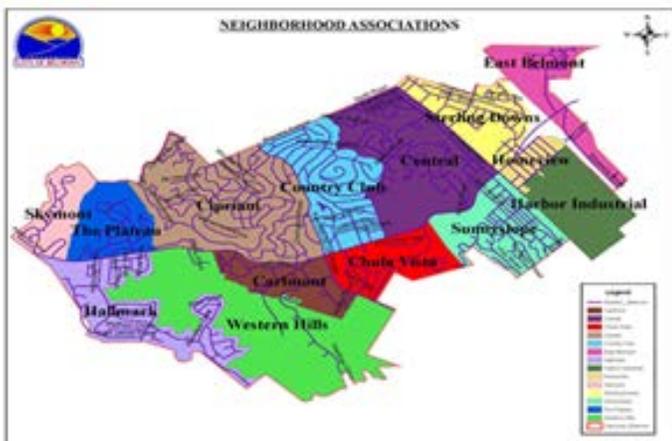
The smoke testing is scheduled to begin in early August.

Smoke testing schedule:

- Basin 7- August 7th to August 10th.
- Basin 12- August 14th to August 22nd.
- Basin 13- August 23rd to September 7th.
- Basin 14- September 11 to September 13th.



Basin Map

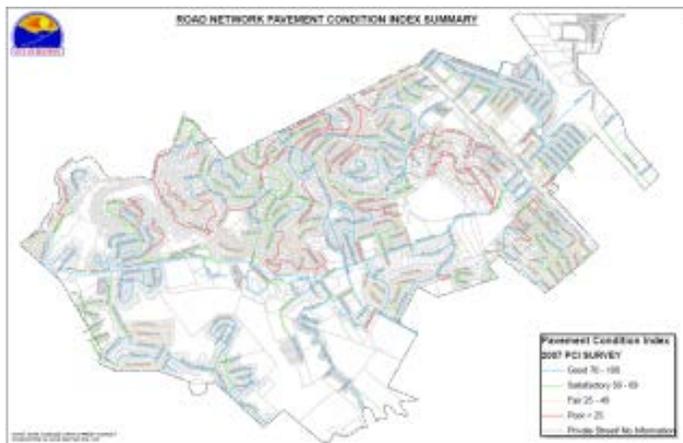


Neighborhood Association Map

Public Works Continued...

Pavement Condition Assessment is moving forward

The City has received a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Pavement Management Technical Assistance Program (P-TAP) 13 in the amount of \$20,500 (of which 20% was matched by the City). P-TAP provides Bay Area jurisdictions with assistance and expertise in implementing and maintaining a Pavement Management Program, primarily the MTC StreetSaver software. Through P-TAP 13, MTC has hired Capitol Assets & Pavement Services, Inc. to assess and measure the condition of City Streets, and update the database of the [City Pavement Condition Index \(PCI\)](#). This data will be used to update Belmont's Pavement Management System, identify funding scenarios for various level of service (based on varying funding scenarios) and recommend priority project list for the City's annual CIP implementation. The data will also be used to prepare reports required by MTC.



[Click on the map for the Pavement Condition Index \(PCI\) Method and Definition](#)

Field survey is anticipated to start in the first week of August. Field work involves surveyors inspecting representative segments of the roadway and documenting its condition based on a standard rating criteria. Weekend and early morning inspections will occur as these are the best times to evaluate our major (busy) streets such as Ralston Avenue for safety reasons, and not to impact traffic.

An update will be provided on the [Public works webpage](#) once the final schedule and vehicle information are provided.

Public Works Continued...

Update on 2012/2013 Solid Waste Franchise Rate Setting Process

The purpose of this update is to keep City Council informed on the timing, schedule of events and issues affecting Recology's 2013 Compensation Application review (performed in 2012) and the Recommended Rate Adjustment process for the upcoming 2013 Rate Year (i.e., establishing rates for January 1-December 31, 2013). The goal is to provide and update pertinent information to effectively plan for and manage communications regarding the next year's compensation application and rate setting process.

August 2012

- Recology submits their application for 2013 Compensation Rate to the City

September 2012

- September – review and comments due back to Recology.
- Review of rate application with City Council.

October – December 2012

- Prop 218 noticing, Council hearing, and approval of final 2013 solid waste rates.

Prop 218 Public Notice Implications

Prop 218 requires an agency to provide 45 days public notice directly to all account holders prior to authorizing a rate increase. If more than 50% of all account holders file a protest letter within the 45 day public comment period, the agency cannot adopt the proposed rate increase.



Public Works Continued...

Mandatory Commercial Recycling (AB 341)

Mandatory Commercial Recycling was one of the measures adopted in the Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan by the Air Resources Board (ARB) pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006). The Mandatory Commercial Recycling Measure focuses on increased commercial waste diversion as a method to reduce GHG emissions. The Regulation was adopted at CalRecycle's January 17, 2012 Monthly Public Meeting. This regulation reflects the statutory provisions of AB 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011 [Chesbro, AB 341]) and provides additional procedural clarifications. AB 341 sets forth the requirements of the statewide mandatory commercial recycling program. And as such, each jurisdiction is responsible to implement a commercial solid waste recycling program that consists of education, outreach and monitoring of businesses, that is appropriate for that jurisdiction and is designed to divert commercial solid waste from businesses, whether or not the jurisdiction has met the requirements of PRC Section 41780. Each jurisdiction shall report the progress achieved in implementing its commercial recycling program, including education, outreach and monitoring, and if applicable, enforcement efforts and exemptions, by providing updates in its electronic annual report.

Public Works in conjunction with RethinkWaste (SBWMA) and Recology is working to fully implement and meet the requirements of AB 341. BizSMART is the name of the program for the Recycle, Compost and Garbage collection services for commercial customers in the RethinkWaste service area. City, Agency and Recology workshops have been conducted in the time leading to the July 1 deadline with focus on where education and outreach would be most beneficial. In reality, Data shows that City's customer base has done a great job since the beginning of the new trash agreement in January 2011. There are approximately 6750 accounts in the City; 415 of those accounts are commercial and multi-family residential (MFD). Almost 94% of those accounts are subscribed to garbage and recycling, or compost (or both); and achieve 47% diversion rate by volume.

Commencing with this new requirement, a new section is being provided as per staff's request for Recology to report monthly on the net result of its commercial recycling sales efforts with regard to providing service. This table provides the changes in commercial service subscription levels (i.e., service volume) for the various materials picked up. For the June 2012 report period, Belmont's commercial sector experienced:

- ✓ a net increase in 29.79 cubic yards of commercial recycling service
- ✓ a net increase of 0.69 cubic yards of commercial compost service
- ✓ a net decrease of 29.1 cubic yards of commercial garbage service

Click on Rethink Waste to learn more about BizSMART Program



Happenings Around our City

Belmont Blast – To the Nationals

This week Coach Eric McCrystal contacted the City Clerk's office explaining that the Belmont Blast softball team was entered again to compete in the Nationals for a 3rd year. The Nationals will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado. He explained that the team will be involved in a gift bag exchange and asked if the City would be willing to participate in providing items for the bags. The City Clerk's office contacted other departments and in a short turn around we were able to supply the team with City of Belmont pins, pens, note pads, wrist bands and other items. Coach Eric was very pleased with the response the team received for this project from the City and noted that Belmont will be well represented at the Nationals. He gave the City a pin that represents each player with her number on the stars. He indicated that there will be twenty or so teams from California at the Nationals. Stay tuned for the results.



National Night Out - Social Media Flyer



Questions?
contact us at:
650-595-7413 or
cclerk@belmont.gov

Belmont.gov

Stay Informed

www.belmont.gov

See what's going on at City Hall, in Your neighborhood and more

- Click on HOT TOPICS
- Comment on issues of interest
- Sign up for classes with the Parks and Recreation
- Help prevent crime and keep your family safe
- Also find us on:

Facebook

Twitter

Nextdoor.com

- Sign up for email alerts for meeting agendas and updates

City Council, Planning, Parks and Recreation and Finance Commission meetings televised on Comcast Channel 27 and webstreamed on belmont.gov