

Belmont News Fall 1995

www.belmont.gov

Check Out Your City's Web Site for All Kinds of Information

Want to know what's going on around town – from the latest concerts and plays to community fund-raisers to hot issues before your City Council? Plug into the City's new home page on the World Wide Web (address: www.belmont.gov).

Named "Belmont Access for the Community" – BAC, for short – the web site currently includes (among other things) information about the Ralston-Harbor-Holly grade separation, businesses, schools, civic organizations and an updated community calendar, plus Council agendas and minutes and the entire quarterly City recreation guide. You can also see a chronological history of Belmont, assembled this past summer as an eagle-scout project by Belmont resident Jonathan Herbach.



City Technology Specialist Lynette Tillner reports that Belmont is also pursuing partnerships with other cities and agencies to leverage its participation in

high-tech networking. By pooling assets and talents with such potential partners as San Carlos and Foster City as well as school districts, other governmental entities and non-profit organizations, Belmont hopes to get maximum technology benefits at minimal cost – for example, by sharing resources and getting discounts on volume purchases of equipment.

Please note: The Internet address for City Hall (different from the web address) has been changed to cityhall@belmont.gov ■

The Gardner Sanitarium and Other Medical Institutions

The City of Sanitariums

The city of Belmont would in the first half of the twentieth century become home to five sanitariums, institutions for the development of mental and/or physical health. The Gardner, California, Alexander, Nerve Rest and Twin Pines Sanitariums would be founded in the town, taking advantage of Belmont's sedate atmosphere and the nearby population growth in San Carlos.

Treatment Centers

The first such institution in Belmont, the Gardner Sanitarium was opened in 1901, for nervous disorders treatment. Next, deeming the Belmont climate and environment suitable for the patients, Doctors Harry C. Warren and Max Rothchild bought land in 1910 from Caesar R. Spilvalvo and built their California Sanitarium there. Spilvalvo's land, adjacent to the Reid School, contained a house known as "Miramonte" which Warren and Rothchild used for their institution, a treatment center for pulmonary diseases. (In 1924, the Charls S. Howard Foundation used part of the estate as a "free preventorium for children with tubercular tendencies")

Envisioned by Mrs. Annette S. Alexander, property for the Alexander Sanitarium was purchased (across Ralston Avenue from the Gardner Sanitarium) in 1915, and the institution officially opened in 1924. It treated mental patients, using techniques that were at the time modern, and became quite popular. By 1948, the sanitarium could house seventy-five patients, and contained a swimming pool, bowling green, as well as tennis, croquet and badminton courts. It remained standing until 1973, when it was closed and taken over by the Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center.

The Nerve Rest Sanitarium, the fourth in Belmont, began its life in the home of Marquard Hansen, between Hill Street and Ralston Avenue. In 1918, the house was sold to Mrs. Maude Carrington Reed, who established the sanitarium. Soon after, the property was acquired by a Mrs. Tinker, who renamed it the Hillwell Sanitarium and turned it into an elderly home. More recently, it became the Buena Campbell Sanitarium, until it was demolished in the 1970s.

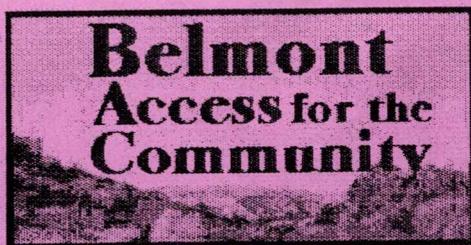
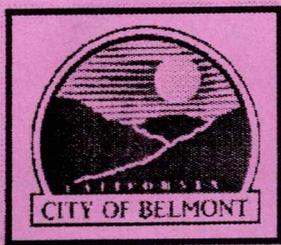
In August, 1925, the Twin Pines Sanitarium was officially founded on part of the old Janke picnic grounds, originally the George L. Center home. Incorporated with a capital of \$75,000 by Doctor Norbert J. Gottbrath, the Twin Pines facility treated nervous disorders, as the Gardner Sanitarium had. In 1930, Doctor William Rebec took over the sanitarium and became a psychiatrist known nation-wide, and whose efforts resulted in California's Humane Commitment Act, which ensured that mental patients were treated well. After his death in 1941, Twin Pines was overseen by a board of his heirs, and in March, 1972, the facility closed its doors. In 1973, Twin Pines Park was established on the location, the sanitarium was determined by the city to be a historical landmark.

[History Tour](#) | ["Discovery"](#) | [Crossroads Established](#) | [A Town Forms](#) | [A Community Established](#) | [A Community Grows](#) | [Comments?](#) | [BAC: Belmont Web Server](#)

Last Updated: 7/16/95

Please feel free to [comment on this project](#).

Webmaster: [Belmont Government](#)



BELMONT

a community on
the Internet

The City of Belmont has had a "home page" on the World Wide Web since April 7, 1995. We are making some exciting advances in bringing City government closer to the citizens and in providing services that enhance and strengthen our community. Our new Website, "Belmont -- Access for the Community" (BAC) is attracting an average of 39 visitors a day and is growing rapidly. You can find information about local Business, Education and the Library, Local Government, the Metropolitan Area, Organizations, groups and clubs, News and activities as well as Technology and partnerships. Most recently, we added a chronological history of Belmont thanks to a local Eagle Scout candidate, Jonathan Herbach.

Of particular interest is our Community Calendar (on the News page) where you can see what is happening in Belmont on any given day. Listed by meeting date, you will find City Council meetings, Belmont School activities, Concerts, Homeowner's Association meetings, and other events in our community. If you know of an event that should be added, you can complete a form online and submit it for inclusion on the calendar.

Another popular page is our Organization page. We are beginning to add information for Homeowner's Associations and other local groups. There are links to valuable services provided by non-profit organizations in San Mateo county and the Bay Area. Belmont-based organizations are encouraged to contact the City's Technology Specialist at 415/595-7446 to learn how they can participate in this project.

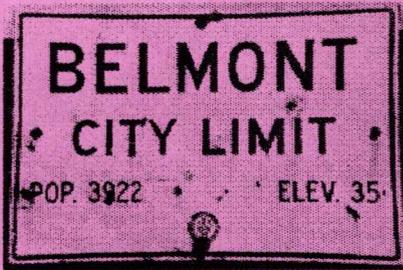
The Local Government page contains information for all City departments. We have included regular updates of the City Council agendas and minutes, the Planning Commission agendas, general department information and the Recreation Guide. The Zoning Ordinance is available in ASCII format and can be downloaded along with the Planning Department application for your use.

The Metropolitan Area page is a listing of resources and fun places to visit via your computer in the Bay Area, California, United States and the World. You can get information on local transportation, earthquakes, weather, news, and see what other Bay Area cities are doing. You can jump to information from State and Federal government agencies including the I.R.S. or you can take a virtual tour of the White House.

Information on the BAC Website continues to grow and improve thanks to the many suggestions from visitors to our pages. Please continue to send us your comments and suggestions, we are striving to make the information provided relevant and useful for the citizens of Belmont. If you have access to the World Wide Web, you will find BAC at: <http://www.belmont.gov/>. If you have comments or suggestions about the City's Internet project, please contact the Technology Specialist at 415/595-7446 or send an e-mail message to the City at: cityhall@belmont.gov.

<http://www.belmont.gov/>

..... going **B.A.C.** to build the future



Belmont's History on the Internet

Belmont, CA -- August 30, 1995

A "Historical Tour of Belmont" is now available through Belmont-- Access for the Community (B.A.C.), the City of Belmont's community-wide presence on the Internet. B.A.C. has been available on the World Wide Web since April 7, 1995 and is a highly successful project. B.A.C. relies on citizen volunteers who have spent many hours developing the structure and content of our web pages as well as formatting information from local non-profit organizations to encourage their participation. The City of Belmont is especially proud of a local Eagle Scout candidate, Jonathan Herbach, who worked all summer with friends, other Boy Scouts, the Belmont Historical Society and the Belmont Senior's Club to put a chronological history of Belmont together for B.A.C.

To create the Historical Tour, Jonathan, along with other Boy Scouts, friends and family members spent time doing research at the Belmont Historical Society's archives, located in Twin Pines Park. Jonathan and his team of helpers, interviewed long time residents from the Belmont Senior's Club, and wrote and formatted the resulting documents. Now that the History Tour is complete, Jonathan will demonstrate his project at the upcoming quarterly meeting of the Belmont Historical Society. The meeting will be held on September 9, 1995 at the Lodge Building in Twin Pines Park and the demonstration will begin at 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the Belmont Historical Society at 593-4213 and leave a message that you are planning to attend.

Project Credits: Jonathan Herbach, a resident of Belmont and a scout in Troop 98 of San Mateo, began this project in June, 1995. However, much of the work for the History Tour was accomplished with the help of (or by) others. In fact, many people contributed to this project's research, interviews, HTML expertise, photo retouching, and creativity. Although this is an ongoing project, it could not have been started without the help of these people: Bruce Chang, Steve Childs, Etta Herbach, Matt Johnson, Jonathan Kratter, Alexei Kosut, Denny Lawhern, Madeline Lombaerde, Miles Michelson, Lynette Tillner, and Tom Seivert. In addition to the specific work on these pages, Belmont's senior citizen community was very cooperative because they were willing to share some of their experiences in Belmont. Some of the contributors were: Bert Johnson, Edith Johnson, Edith Patrick, Betty Slay, and Bethal Walden.

You can find the Historical Tour of Belmont by visiting: <http://www.belmont.gov/hist/> available on the World Wide Web! For additional information on B.A.C. and it's related projects, please contact Lynette Tillner, Technology Specialist for the City of Belmont at (415) 595-7446 or via e-mail at: cityhall@belmont.gov.

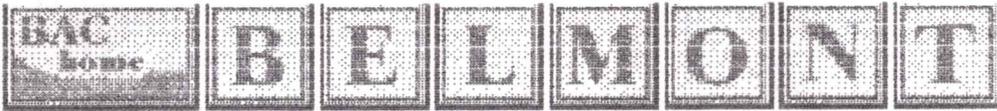


*Boy Scout Troop
Photo from
History Archives*



*Jonathan Herbach,
Eagle Scout
candidate*

Boy Scouts then and now -- Belmont's History brings them together.



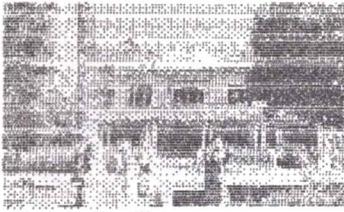
You can use the image links above or one of the text links below to go to the corresponding area.

- [Home page for Belmont, CA](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Local Government](#)
- [Metropolitan](#)
- [Organizations](#)
- [New Technology](#)

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[Disclaimers](#)

Page last updated August 29, 1995



Belmont Historical Society

1225 Ralston Ave.
Twin Pines Park
at back of Manor Building
415/593-4213

Officers

Tom Seiver *President*
Denny Lawher *Vice President and Curator*
Holly Roger *Secretary*
Ellie Woodart *Treasurer*
Helen Cros *Corresponding Secretary*

Directors

Caroline Fisher
Jim McLaughlin
Dr. Gordon Seely
Charlaine Seivert
Ellie Woodart

Events

- **Belmont History Room open**
Twin Pines Park, back of Manor House
Open 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.
For more information, call 415/593-4213
 - **Press Release New**
Historical Tour of Belmont available on BAC
 - **Historical Tour of Belmont New**
-

Internet

What is it & the history

How you can access it now

on-line services

clients vs. servers

Features of the Internet

email

World Wide Web

general form

URL description

searching

Yahoo!

Netscape's points of departure

home pages

Miles's Home Page

Jonathan's Home Page

other places

SeniorNet

Whitehouse Web

Microsoft Web

ftp / gopher / news (if time permits)

Belmont Web Server & Historical Tour

Belmont Web Server

Historical Tour

Why Started

How Accomplished

Mission

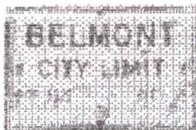
Examples of Tour

How it will continue

Questions & Answers

Time to play with the Internet / Historical Tour

A History of Belmont



Mission Statement & Background Information

This project was created to educate both the citizens of Belmont and the citizens of the world about the history of Belmont, CA. This project is under the joint control of the Belmont Historical Society and the Belmont Historical society.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Project Credits](#)

Belmont's History!

Belmont: "Discovered"

Before Belmont was "Discovered", who lived in the area? A pre-history of Belmont.

Belmont: Crossroads Established

How was Belmont settled? A history of the first few years in Belmont.

Belmont: A Town Forms

How did Belmont develop? Why did people want to 'set up shop' in Belmont? Belmont until the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

Belmont: A Community Established

How did Belmont grow its own community? A history of the first half of the 20th Century in Belmont.

Belmont: A Community Grows

How did Belmont grow from less than 3,000 people to over 25,000 people? A history until present-day.

BAC: Access for the Community

The present and future of Belmont.

A Form for Comments

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please, let us know!

Last Updated: 8/30/95

Please feel free to comment on this project

Webmaster: [History Webmasters](#)

ON-LINE: Belmont in cyberspace

Continued from 1A

would like to have the Belmont Historical Society submit an entry.

Tillner eventually wants the public to have access to B.A.C. through computer terminals located in such places as libraries, schools and the senior center.

Obtaining these computers and training people how to use B.A.C. will require funding. While setting up the initial program has cost about \$500, Tillner said she is looking for

ways to fund its expansion.

She is currently applying for a \$200,000 grant from the National Telecommunications Information Association, an organization which operates under the aegis of the Department of Commerce.

The association promotes the expansion of the Information Superhighway.

While Tillner said there is only a small chance of getting the grant, she is also looking at forming partnerships with Belmont's private sector.

Enquirer Bulletin 4/18/95

Belmont goes on-line

Internet location puts residents in touch with government, business information

BY ALAN SISENWEIN
Staff Reporter

Belmont is now putting together its own computerized equivalent of the yellow pages.

At last week's City Council meeting, Lynette Tillner, the city's technology specialist, announced the availability of "Belmont-Access for the Community (B.A.C.)."

Like the yellow pages, B.A.C. will carry information about local government, schools, businesses and clubs.

Unlike the yellow pages, Belmont's location in cyberspace will be accessible to anyone in the world through the Internet. Tillner said individuals from as far away as the United Kingdom, Russia or China would have access to the program.

But B.A.C. is primarily de-

signed to be a tool for Belmont residents, Tillner said.

"It's a way of developing community in a highly diverse area," Tillner said. "People go off to work and never find time to find out what's going on in their community."

The service will contain materials ranging from City Council agendas to restaurant reviews.

When users enter the Internet site, they will see a menu bearing the acronym "BELMONT." Each letter in the acronym stands for a subject heading.

The "B," for instance, stands for Business and the Chamber of Commerce. A user seeking information about the chamber would find its address and phone number in addition to a statement of its purpose.



MATT SUMNER/ENQUIRER-BULLETIN

Head out on the highway: Belmont's technology specialist Lynette Miller.

The site will also offer users a chance to comment on local government. For example, the Police Department is currently offering a "How are we doing?" survey on B.A.C.

"It's a good way to re-engineer government," Tillner said.

In the future, Tillner plans to expand the information on municipal departments. Public hearing notices and the Parks

and Recreation Activities guide will also be featured.

The program, however, is still in its infancy. Tillner has just begun recruiting businesses and organizations to take part in B.A.C. She said she is particularly interested in attracting non-profit organizations.

For instance, Tillner said she

See **ON-LINE**, page 12A