

Belmont is still divided by its political disputes

5 N. TIMES 12/17/84

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — Local political feuds continued to divide this community during 1984. And, at year's end, there appeared to be no end in sight for many long-standing disputes.

Four city councilmen spent much of 1984 defending themselves against a recall campaign; School District Superintendent Dr. Ron Gilpatrick tried to negotiate an out-of-court settlement of several lawsuits involving the district; and Belmont City Hall continued to defend itself against numerous legal claims filed by flooded property owners.

None of the issues was clearly resolved.

The councilmen survived the recall Nov. 6, but their survival was by a small enough margin — 600 to 700 votes — that political spats and confrontations against the council members are sure to continue at City Hall.

Indeed, even the recall group called Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC) announced it will not disband and will continue to monitor council actions.

The one positive note from Belmont's numerous local battles is that they prompted a heavy turnout at the polls.

More than 80 percent of the city's 15,488 registered voters went to the voting booths on Nov. 6.

Mayor William Hardwick and Councilmen Donald Heiman, Wil-

Glancing back at

1984

liam Moore and Joseph Green retained their council seats. One other local measure asking taxpayers to pay for the purchase of surplus school lands for future recreational uses was turned down by voters.

Meanwhile, the school superintendent continued to try to reach agreement between several litigants and the school district.

As the year neared an end, Gilpatrick said he was optimistic that an agreement might soon be reached between School Trustee Charles Paetzke, Gilbert T. Armando Investments, Inc., and the school district.

The legal fighting stems from a lawsuit Paetzke filed as a taxpayer in 1981 against Armando Investments, the firm which arranged for private organizations to lease surplus classrooms in schools.

Paetzke alleged that the school district failed to follow certain bidding procedures while paying fees to Armando. Paetzke's suit seeks to recover for the district \$32,529 in fees paid to Armando.

Other school officials, meanwhile, said they'd like to see the

legal actions dropped. A majority of the school board voted in August 1983 to file a lawsuit against Paetzke, alleging that he has breached his fiduciary duties. Meanwhile, a cross-complaint filed by Armando Investments against the school district also is pending.

A storm drain task force met numerous times during 1984 to try to find ways of solving this hilly city's persistent storm drain problems. Council members — who had proposed forming a \$15 million storm drainage assessment district but quickly dropped the plan during heavy public opposition — are hoping to receive from the task force a workable solution to Belmont's flooding problems.

Storm damage lawsuits pending against Belmont City Hall total more than \$4.5 million and city coffers have been reduced by expensive outlays for repairs to some flood-damaged streets.

Finally, as the year neared an end, Kumam Corp.'s plans to build the \$135 million Island Park development won approval from the Planning Commission and City Council.

The mixed-use project includes plans for a high-rise hotel, 10 office buildings, 220 residences and a 15-acre public park with several athletic fields. Island Park is planned for a 68-acre site east of Bayshore Freeway.

Belmont's artifacts will be preserved

S.F. TIMES 3/22/84

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — A developer has been given permission to resume construction of a \$6 million office building, but the developer will be forced to pay thousands of extra dollars for continuing archaeological tests because American Indian artifacts continue to be found on the site.

Creekside Office Building, a three-story structure, "is going to be built," archaeologist Miley Holmon said this morning. "Unfortunately he is going to spend more money. The problem that remains is resolving the issue of how we treat the archaeological materials that are there."

Holmon has been sifting through the graded ground at the site for more than a week following the discovery of two human bones believed

to be those of an Indian. The city ordered the developer, Ben Kong, president of Famco Investment Corp., to stop construction.

There are state laws prohibiting development of areas found to have unique archaeological significance until the artifacts are removed.

Holmon said he's found an Indian spear point, perhaps thousands of years old, various tools and a stone grinding pestle on the two-acre site near the intersection of Sixth and Emmet avenues.

He said the artifacts reveal that a large village of Ohlone Indians, "estimates vary from 200 to as many as 500," once lived on the site and adjacent Twin Pines Park. There are also large accumulations of seashells,

"In the past, they would go to a museum," Holmon responded. "The new (state) law gives the Indians the right to bury them again."

The archaeologist noted that the construction project has already damaged the site, in an archaeological sense, but he added that no one is trying to thwart the development.

"The Indians are cooperating with the developer," Holmon said, "and we are also cooperating with the developer. There will be an office building there; we are not going to stop it. All we can do is demand what the law requires."

Jerry Podesta, Belmont's City Planning Director, this morning said, because of the recent findings, the city from now on will require soil borings on most proposed construction sites before work is allowed to begin.

usually associated with Ohlone Indians who frequented the area.

The office building site "appears to be on the edge of the main village and the Indian artifacts disappear the closer you get to Sixth Avenue," Holmon added.

The developer has already been forced to pay thousands of extra dollars for fill dirt which had to be hauled onto the site for the pad for the office building. Holmon said Kong originally intended to use some dirt excavated from the site.

The archaeologist hopes to give the city of Belmont and the developer his formal recommendations next week. "We anticipate that we will recommend that a bunch of excavation be done along the water line (being built into the site)" Holmon said.

Ella Rodriguez, an Ohlone Indian, has been on the site each day monitoring the archaeologist testing. Any Indian artifacts that were found were hand-excavated, according to Holmon.

What then happens to the artifacts?

Archaeologists: T co

S.F. Times 5/13/84

Archaeological digs have begun at Stanford West, a large meadow on the Menlo Park edge of Stanford University's land and also at an office construction site in Belmont.

They are some of the last sites left on the Peninsula, for archaeological investigation, where humans are known to have been living for the past 5,000 years.

Stanford West is the site for an 1,100-unit housing project proposed by the University last summer, but since postponed.

Led by Assistant Prof. John Rick, Stanford archaeologist, and graduate student Barbara Bocek, who has been studying the earliest Californians for six years, some 20 students are working on the dig. Most of the work is being done on weekends, when the students are free from classes. No estimate is possible at this time of how long the dig will take.

The search is spurred by new evidence accumulated that shows what sort of people lived on the Peninsula.

"It is now deduced that the first Peninsulans encouraged the growth of wild tobacco, which they smoked and used for medicinal purposes — but used no other form of agriculture," said Bocek in a campus interview. "They wore rabbit-skin furs, lived in huts, and traded with other natives as far away as Napa and the Sierra Nevada.

"They crossed the Bay in vessels made out of reeds and moved seasonally to take advantage of particular game, fish, and herbs; were fairly peaceable and lived in 'tribelets' of about 250 people.

"They would go down to the Bayshore for shellfish, marsh products, and the aquatic birds. They probably made their homes in the middle altitude areas, such as Stanford West."

As codirectors of the archaeological research, Rick and Bocek use the latest technologies to find the clues; these include radiocarbon tests, X-ray sourcing of obsidian, and computer printouts to map the different densities at which various types of artifacts are found. Bocek has also poured over the records of old Spanish missions and dug into the archives of the Smithsonian.

She, Rick, and their team of students have completed a three-year dig on Jasper Ridge, the biological preserve set aside by Stanford two miles to the west. There they found stone tools, shells, bones, and grinding stones. Burned rocks indicated the remains of hearth where the natives cooked their food. Now the investigation moves to Stanford West.

"Among our finds were pieces of obsidian glass that came from Napa, with a few from the Sierra Nevada," said Bocek. "It is a

ogy, has dated human remains in this area back several thousand years.

"There are archaeological sites on the ridge that represent one part of a settlement pattern which those early people followed all the way from the ridge down to the banks of the San Francisquito Creek, past Stanford West and so to the Bay.

"We think the creek was their home base, or at least represented the center of their territory.

"The early Californians who lived beside the creek were probably a tribelet which was part of a larger linguistic group that stretched from present San Francisco down through San Jose as far as Big Sur.

"They may not have been

closely related, but probably each neighboring group could understand each other when they met. California included a very complex mix of languages, and it would have been very hard to go far in any direction without crossing a linguistic boundary.

"There was a lot of exchange, including marriage, between the various groups, but in terms of



They're invading the construction projects

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language they differed quite a lot. The tribelet based on the San Francisquito, for example, was distinct from the tribelet in Oakland, and even more different from the people over in Marin.

"The preferred name for the Francisquito people today would be the Ohlone. That name actually comes from a tribelet we think lived in the vicinity of San Gregorio, on the coast immediately west of Palo Alto. Today's Native Americans have taken that name to include the inhabitants of the whole area."

Marin people were very different even in those days. They had a completely different language. They are known as the Coast Miwok. It is probable that they traded with other natives all around the Bay.

Stanford is giving financial help to the archaeological team to cover the cost of further excavation. A number of spots at Stanford West will be investigated, as one of the questions for which answers are sought is whether there was one tribelet center there, or a complex of sites.

The team also wants to find out if different people carried out specialized functions in parts of the settlement. "This will give us an idea of their organization, how many groups there were, and how

they divided their space up among themselves," Bocek said.

"Stanford West is very promising archaeologically. It is one of the few areas in the mid-range altitude — halfway between Bayshore and the hills — that is still not urbanized. The Bayshore has been lost to archaeology in any real sense. There is so much industrial activity there that most of the shell mounds have been destroyed."

Meanwhile, Indian artifacts have been unearthed in Belmont at the site for a new office building near the intersection of Stanford and Emmet avenues. The construction was temporarily stopped while archaeologists removed artifacts.

Archaeologists will continue to search the Belmont site while construction continues on the project.

Bocek noted that "it is not unusual to find mounds with human bones in them that show wounds had been inflicted. Spearheads have been found imbedded in some bones. It would be unwise to suggest that there was an earthly paradise in California those days. Better to think of them as typical humans who had their problems."

Rick agrees that the early Californians may not have been that different from us today.



Archaeologists are surprised by some findings in Belmont

S.F. TIMES 6/1/84
By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — Archaeologists searching for Indian artifacts at a construction site have made a surprise discovery — white man artifacts.

"There is a bottle dump there over 100-years-old and we are proposing to explore it as well," said archaeologist Miley Holmon. For the past two weeks Holmon and other archeologists have been sifting through the graded site for the Creekside Office Building, a \$6 million project near the intersection of Sixth and Emmet avenues.

Work had been stopped after ancient human bones and Indian artifacts were unearthed. The developer, Ben Kong, president of Fambco In-

vestment Corp., has since been given permission to resume work on the building and trenches have been dug for the foundation.

Archaeologists have removed numerous Indian artifacts, including spear points, tools and two stone grinding pestles, and while making boring tests they discovered the old bottle dump.

Some of the broken bottles have been "dated back to the 1860s," according to Holmon. "They are berry bottles, medicine bottles, wine bottles, whatever...they are very interesting."

Although no complete bottle has yet been discovered, Holmon is proposing that the bottle dump be excavated to find more materials, perhaps whole bottles. He said the

bottle dump could reveal fascinating historical information on the early white settlers.

The archaeologist is also proposing further excavation along the trench for the proposed water line leading to the office building.

Because of the number of Indian artifacts discovered at the site, adjacent to Twin Pines Park, Holmon said there was once a large village of Ohlone Indians there, perhaps as many as 500 people.

State law prohibits development of any area found to have unique archaeological significance until the artifacts are removed.

Holmon said he has forwarded his recommendations for further excavations to Kong and also to Belmont city officials. "Ultimately the city has the responsibility of enforcing the provisions they put on Mr. Kong's initial building permit," Holmon said.

Although the excavations have delayed construction plans at the site, Holmon said the slowdown is necessary at San Mateo Site Number 150 (the name given the site by state officials).

"San Mateo 150 is one of a kind," Holmon said. "All of the other villages of that size on the Peninsula have been destroyed by developments."

"We know very little about the nuts and bolts of the Indians who lived on the bayside. It would appear that we have the potential for retrieving information about Indians from thousands of years ago."

Belmont firm snared in Catch-22

S.M. TIMES 7/11/84
BELMONT — A small manufacturing plant here is caught up in a Catch-22 nightmare which threatens the jobs of 35 employees.

Circraft Inc., a firm which manufactures circuit boards for computers, was recently ordered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up its waste water before discharging it into the municipal treatment plant.

Circraft subsequently agreed to spend \$200,000 to install a waste-water treatment system, but when the firm presented its plan to the Belmont Planning Commission it was turned down.

City planners said Circraft, located at 519 Marine View near Old County Road, is a nonconforming use for the neighborhood.

The firm has been in business at that location for nearly 20 years and Circraft has been allowed to continue to operate as long as the company makes no expansions at its plant.

The proposal to construct the waste-water treatment facility at the plant would constitute an expansion and would therefore be illegal, according to city planners.

Greg Cummings, an environ-

mental consultant for Circraft, appealed to the City Council Tuesday night to overturn the planning commission's decision.

Cummings said the EPA threatens to close the company down if the water-control system is not installed by July 26 and he added "35 jobs will be lost."

Circraft is thus "caught in a Catch-22," said Councilman Donald Heiman. "The city says you can't and the federal government says you have to."

"This is a very sensitive issue," said Councilman Joe Green. "We are damned if we do and damned if we don't. We can't just close up (that) shop."

Mayor William Hardwick agreed that he has "no desire to push this business out of operation" and he noted that the company's proposed addition is an environmental improvement.

The council then voted to direct the planning commission to amend the city's zoning ordinance to give Circraft a conditional-use permit for the waste-water treatment facility.

Only Councilman Robert Hoffman voted against the move. He added he was sensitive to the potential loss of jobs, but said he has always tried to "uphold our ordinances and our laws."

A Draining Task

CARL ENQ. 2/5/84

In December, Belmont citizens overwhelmingly rejected a proposed storm assessment drainage district that would have ended the city's annual winter flooding problem.

Many of the residents, in their decision to oppose the assessment district, claimed the city council and staff had not sought enough public input in the drainage plan. Others complained that too few alternatives to an assessment district were explored.

The assessment district failed, and now Belmont's new City Manager Ed Everett is putting together a task force to gather information and ideas about new ways to solve the drainage problem.

This is the community's chance to let public officials know what they want. "We, as a council body, have made the assumption that there is a problem, it is now the responsibility of the committee to determine the size of the problem," Everett said.

Although there are no formal requirements for participation in the ad-hoc committee, Everett suggested interested persons fill out a questionnaire with queries re-

lating to the person's specific area of interest — their technical, engineering and financing background.

We at *The Carlmont Enquirer-Bulletin* encourage all citizens with a little spare time and the willingness to contribute it to join the committee. Only by working together will a viable solution be found.

More community involvement will also diminish the chance of finger-pointing if an idea fails. The council will not have to bear the sole burden of blame if, as in the assessment district, an idea does not gain city-wide acceptance.

The committee will be forming soon. If you would like more information, call the Belmont City Hall.

Storm Drainage Applications Available

CARL ENQ 2/15/84

Applications for the Storm Drainage Task Force in Belmont are available now.

The Task Force will have the responsibility of recommending ways to alleviate the storm drain problem and to assist in implementing its recommendations.

Interested persons should be prepared to make a significant time commitment over the next six months (an evening meeting at least every other week).

Each applicant must fill out a brief form which will be used by the City Council in selecting the Committee. Applications are available at City Hall, or call 573-2201 to have one sent to you.

Applications should be submitted by Feb. 24 to the City Manager's office in City Hall, 1365-5th Ave., Belmont, CA 94002. If you have already sent in a letter, please fill out an application also.

Drainage Committee Forms

CARL ENQ 2/15/84
By GRACE DONATELLI

As promised at the Jan. 10 city council meeting, Belmont's City Manager Ed Everett presented his report of recommendations to the council Jan. 31 regarding the forming of an Ad-Hoc Drainage Committee.

The council decided it was necessary to form a task force to incorporate all spectrums of the public into solving the storm drainage problem after the council's idea of an assessment district was overwhelmingly rejected by Belmont citizens in December.

Everett recommended, in his report that the committee find solutions to the storm drainage problem and present them to the council within six months. The members of the committee should be prepared to implement their

recommendations, Everett stressed.

"We, as a council body, have made the assumption that there is a problem, it is now the responsibility of the committee to determine the size of the problem," Everett said.

Everett also stressed that the council be sympathetic to whatever the committee comes up with. "We can't put this group together and then not listen to what they have to say," Everett said.

In his report, Everett suggested persons interested in becoming members of the committee fill out a questionnaire with queries relating to the person's specific area of interest — their technical, engineering and financing background and what type of committee history they have.

Everett, with the council's go

ahead, plans to get the questionnaire together "post haste" for review by the councilmembers this week. He is also designing an advertisement to appear in area newspapers publicizing the openings available on the committee.

A progress report with respect to the committee members will be presented at the Feb. 28 council meeting by Everett.

In other council business the adjustment of the mid-year budget was discussed.

Three alternative budget adjustments to eliminate the deficit of the city budget were introduced by Assistant City Manager Michael Shelton.

Alternative I has a resulting general fund of about \$114,000, alternative II zero and alternative III, \$16,112.

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30 people seeking seats on panel for

Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES 3/18/84
The Belmont City Council has received 30 applications from people interested in serving on the ad hoc committee for storm-drain improvements.

Although only an advisory group, the committee will be powerful because it will be in charge of determining how the city should raise the money to solve its massive storm-drain problem and then implement its recommendation.

The condition of the 50-year-old storm-drain system is the city's most serious public-works problem. Breakdowns in the storm-drain system during heavy rainfall frequently have resulted in extensive property damage.

Belmont

In December, the City Council tried to raise money to finance the estimated \$15 million in repairs that are necessary by forming a storm-drain-assessment district. But property owners shouted a loud and clear "no" to the proposal, and the council was forced to scrap the idea.

The council's last-straw solution to the problem was formation of a committee to decide what would be the best way of raising the money to make the repairs. The committee also will be charged with pro-

moting the idea among Belmont residents.

City Manager Edward Everett, at the direction of the council, solicited applications from all of the city's identifiable neighborhoods — Belmont Heights, Central, Barrett, Hallmark, Cipriani, Homeview, Skymont Plateau and Belcrest Gardens. Several applicants from each neighborhood will be chosen.

The council also has said it wants individuals with specific expertise — legal, financial and engineering — on the committee.

The council is scheduled to announce early next month the committee's membership.

Some of the committee members will

storm-drain improvements

represent individuals with a special interest in the committee's decision. For example, one applicant, Frank Carraro, is a resident of San Francisco. But he owns about one-eighth of the undeveloped land in the city.

Other non-resident applicants include a representative of the College of Notre Dame, Donald Ganshelmer; P.M. Melliar-Smith, who also owns a large parcel of undeveloped land in the city; and Merrill Higham, representing the Carlmont Village Shopping Center. The Belmont elderly and Chamber of Commerce also are seeking special representation.

The other applicants are:

- From Barrett: Russ Wertenberg,

David Frydenlund, Jane Hall and Frank O'Neill.

- From Belcrest Gardens: Maria Altorfer and Edward Rodriguez.

- From Belmont Heights: Joe Crangle.

- From Central: Henry Barton, David Bomberger, Norman Heise, Bettie Anne Nicewonger and Joe Younger.

- From Cipriani: Fred Cira, Helen Chericoff, Chris Cooper, Chris Evangelides, John Miller and Judith Nowag.

- From Hallmark: N.P. Cain, E.P. Condon and G.R. Green.

- From Homeview: Richard Enea.

- From Skymont Plateau: Floyd Sampson and Brian Rianda.

'Outrageous' Comments

Editor:

CARL F. ENR. 3/28/84
I was outraged to read the letter by Jim DeChaine. He called the turnout at the storm drainage meeting "a very vocal minority from our community." In fact, over

3,000 residents showed up to protest their assessments. The largest turnout we have ever had on an issue. To think the residents would recall the council for one mistake is ridiculous.

The citizens have been very vocal in what they want. They have had to go to the ballot twice to let the council know what a majority of the community wants and doesn't want. They still haven't listened. The limit on building permits, the Kumam development, and now the final straw, the storm drainage

assessment. It is obvious they are going to do what they want and not what the residents want. They left us no alternative but the recall petition. The council should be working for the benefit of the community, not against it.

Belmont is becoming a developers delight and a residents nightmare. We have to live with traffic jammed Ralston, inadequate sewers, and poor planning.

Margo Cheechov
Belmont

Belmont to reduce residents' '84-'85 tax

By Mary T. Fortney

Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES 6/21/84
Belmont plans to reduce property tax bills in 1984-85 because the South County Fire Protection District has an extra \$300,000 in its fund.

The reduction will amount to \$36 on a home assessed at \$100,000.

The decision to give residents a tax break was made Wednesday night by the Belmont City Council, acting as the board of the Belmont Fire Protection District.

City Manager Edward Everett said future needs of the fire authority were such that the Belmont district had more money on hand than it needed. The district's revenue for 1984-85 is estimated at \$1.9 million and its proposed operating budget at \$1.6 million.

The fire authority includes Belmont and San Carlos, with each city contributing 50 percent of the budget. However, the tax reduction won't apply to San Carlos residents because the communities handle their support for fire protection in

a different way. San Carlos' contributions come from the city's general fund, while Belmont puts revenues (property tax income) for the fire district in a separate fund.

The reduction would be on a one-time basis.

Belmont finance director Michael Shelton reported property taxes for the fire protection district are now amount to 17 cents for each dollar in property taxes. The \$300,000 reduction would reduce that figure to 14 cents.

The council also approved an operating budget for the city of \$3,785,996.

Shelton reported the council agreed with staff recommendations on proposed uses of revenue sharing funds for the coming fiscal year. Major items included \$30,752 to purchase three police patrol vehicles; \$27,171 for animal control; \$64,219 for maintenance of playing fields at city schools, and a \$17,000 contribution to the Whole Earth Diversion program.

No money in budget for drains

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES 6/27/84
A \$4.5 million general operating budget that adds three workers to the city payroll but includes no money for storm drain repairs was approved by the Belmont City Council Tuesday.

Council members earmarked a total of \$266,000 in discretionary funds to pay for two new employees and for new equipment, including city vehicles. The new employees will be an additional city planner and a part-time worker to serve senior citizens.

The city expects to have \$350,000 in reserves, which will be used for cash-flow purposes.

However, the budget does not include money for storm drain repairs, Belmont's most serious public works problem. Officials are awaiting recommendations on how to deal with storm drainage from a task force studying the problem. About \$20,000 is expected to be contributed to the storm drain repair fund during the year from new developments.

The city last year was forced to make expensive repairs to storm drains in the Carlmont Village Shopping Center and at two other sites. The work cost the city \$922,000.

To pay for the repairs, the city took \$572,000 from the general fund and added it to the \$350,000 in the storm drain fund. The fund is made up of fees paid by developers when they begin new projects.

Since few new projects are being started, there will be little money flowing into that account. The council chose not to draw money from the general fund and place it in the storm drain fund for contingencies.

That means that, if the city is faced with storm drain damage this winter, it may also face using money budgeted for other things to solve the problem.

Belmont:

Council Allocates Funds For Study, Supervisor

CARL ENQ. 8/22/84

Belmont's senior citizen's quest to establish a senior center came one step closer to reality on Monday, August 13, as the city council unanimously agreed to hire an architect to select a site, conduct a preliminary design, and plot a budget for construction of the center.

Group 4 Architecture of South San Francisco was selected from three competing firms, according to, city Recreation Director Rick Haffey.

Funding for the study, which brought applause from seniors who packed half the council chambers, will come from budgeted Redevelopment Agency money.

Depending on the site selected and the services required, fees will range from \$21,110 to \$31,470, Haffey said. The Redevelopment Agency budgeted \$50,000 for these services.

Haffey said site selection for the senior center should be accomplished by mid-November, while the rest of the work should be completed by January 1985, in time for the next budget season.

Belmont senior citizen's club President Hugh Slay thanked the city council for the progress being made to date, but added, "we've got a lot more to do" to realize the 15-year dream of the city's seniors to have a center.

In a related matter, Haffey announced the new senior citizen recreation supervisor would assume her duties by mid-September. The new, part-time senior citizen assistant, Geanne Gillispy, is a graduate of Humboldt State University and has served the senior citizen's recreational needs in Burlingame.

In landing the position, Haffey said, Gillispy bested 16 applicants for the job.

Financial Disaster Not Likely In San Carlos, Belmont

CARL FVO, 5/30/84
By STEVEN STARK

With a total of more than \$14 million invested in various sources, Belmont and San Carlos do not stand to take the financial beating San Jose recently took when that city was forced to sell bonds and securities at a \$60 million loss to meet the city's daily expenses.

According to the two cities' money people, investments are made much more conservatively.

"No way San Jose can happen here," said Dianne Gershuny, San Carlos finance director and assistant city manager.

"Our investments are solid—we know where they are," according to Belmont director of finances Michael Shelton.

In a city where interest earned on investments is the third largest

source of income outside of property and sales tax revenues, elected city treasurer Jean Zucca of Belmont is charged with investing some \$6.5 million.

Keeping idle funds safe while getting the highest return possible is the job of treasurer, Zucca said.

MADE MONEY

"I really do think I made the most for the city as possible," the second-term treasurer said. She made approximately three-quarters of a million dollars for Belmont last year.

"It's ironic though—by law we are supposed to get the highest rate possible, but then if anything goes wrong, city treasurers are held responsible," Zucca said.

Zucca, who receives financial advice from the city finance com-

mission, policy from the city council and guidelines from the state, said she learned everything relating to the job from the California Municipal Treasurer's Association, where she met the beleaguered San Jose Treasurer Richard McCoy.

"I would have put my trust in him (McCoy)," Zucca said. "It's a shame everyone can't look back and see the things he did for San Jose in the past," Zucca added.

IN SAN CARLOS

For San Carlos city treasurer Al Hons, whose prior background in finances and investments spanned 35 years as assistant comptroller for Del Monte foods, fiscal responsibility, characterized by short-term federally secured investments, helped San Carlos survive Proposition 13.

"There are a lot of people out there who want to sell you something," Hons said, "but you have to be careful who you are dealing with."

Hons said he has been watching the banking industry even closer than in the past in light of bank failures and deregulation. As protection for the city's investments, Hons said, deposits over the maximum federally insured \$100,000 are rarely made.

"We don't have any big, major investments in any one place," Hons said.

San Carlos does not use brokers, either, Hons said, and most investments are short-term.

"I'm sure they (San Jose) made more money than we did taking

IN BELMONT

Don Heiman, Belmont city council liaison to the city Finance Commission voiced his opinion that Belmont's investments were conservatively made. He commended the expertise of the commission.

"They're absolutely top-notch people, all looking out for the city's best interests," Heiman said. "I feel very confident 'San Jose' could never happen here."

San Carlos councilman Gayton DeRosa praised the "consistently good investments" made by treasurer Hons. "I have no fears (San Jose could happen here). All the latest reports reflect that we're in no trouble at all—we're operating on a much smaller scale than San Jose with the safest investment possible."

risks, but the risks came back to haunt them," Hons added.

For Gershuny, diversity is the mainstay of San Carlos' investments. Other criteria, she said, is security for the principal and yield. Government backing is not necessarily a criteria, Gershuny said, but presently all of San Carlos' \$8 million in investments are government insured.

Like Gershuny, Shelton listed as criteria for investments security and yield. "We're very aware of our accounting of our investments and have the finance commission review the ledgers monthly," Shelton said.

Unlike bigger cities such as San Jose, Shelton said, smaller cities like Belmont and San Carlos are limited by law to only a handful of investment options. "Ours are most safe," he said.

Living on hillsides



H. TIMES 2/9/84

If you are a homeowner living on a hillside like this one in Belmont's San Juan Canyon, you can receive information on how to prevent landslides and other problems at a public information program.

Director of Public Services, John Hopkins. Speakers will include Joel Baldwin, an engineering geologist and Howard Donley, a soil engineer. Belmont's Geological Consultant William Cotton will be present to answer questions regarding city property. The

averted by homeowners who properly landscape and situate downspouts so that water is channeled to streets. Keep creek areas on their properties free of debris. The program has also been presented recently for home-

Program set to outline hillside living hazards

S.M. TIMES 2/15/84

BELMONT — "Living on Hill-sides," an educational program for interested homeowners, will be pre-sented Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, the council announced Tuesday night.

The program includes tips on "winterizing" hillsides to prevent slides and other disasters from occur-ring during winter rains.

The program will be conducted by Belmont Director of Public Services John Hopkins. Belmont's geological consultant, William Cotton, will be at the program to answer questions.

In other council business:

- The council approved a resolu-tion of appreciation for outstanding public service by Michael Shelton, who served as acting city manager for

five months before the council hired Ed Everett for the post.

The council also agreed to give Shelton a \$500 bonus for his work as acting executive director of the re-development agency.

- Councilmen tabled a proposal to have a professional appraisal of the city and fire district properties on the 1300 block of Fifth Avenue.

- The council introduced amend-ments to existing ordinances which will eliminate the city's Board of Design and place the board's duties with the Planning Commission. Other changes involve the manner in which excavation permits are granted and revisions designed to speed up processing of applications at City Hall.

Belmont offers tips for living on hillsides

Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES 2/15/84

A seminar designed to provide Belmont property owners with tips on living on hillsides will be pre-sented later this month in the City Council chambers.

The "Living on Hillsides" pro-gram was discussed Tuesday night before City Council members to give them an idea of what will be presented at the seminar, which will start at 7 p.m. Feb. 29 at City Hall, 1365 Fifth Avenue.

Because of problems caused by

heavy winter rains in 1982 and 1983, geologists have been able to find some ways to avoid costly landsliding and flooding problems by make some adjustments before and/or during storms.

Speakers at the seminar will be Joel Baldwin, engineering geolo-gists for Howard-Donley Associ-ates, and soil engineer Howard Donley.

Among the suggestions to be dis-cussed in detail by the two men are: making periodic checks of roof gutters, planting along barren

ground, and inspecting uphill and downhill areas during and after the storm.

Among the warnings are: allow-ing water to pond anywhere on a hill, allowing water to flow uncon-trolled across the ground and ignor-ing changes in the land or deformati-ities in foundations and walls.

Pamphlets containing informa-tions about mitigating hillside prob-lems also will be available at the seminar. The cost to the city will be \$96.25 for 200 copies.

Belmont Plans Seminar For Benefit Of Hillside Residents

CARL. ENP 2/22/84

By DANIEL GAVIN

The Belmont City Council listened to discussion on a seminar for hillside residents and continued the public hearing on zoning ordinance amendments at last week's meeting.

The small turnout — nine people at its peak — was probably attributable to ABC, the network carrying the Winter Olympics, and not ABC, Alert Belmont Citizens — the group spearheading the drive to recall the mayor and three councilmen.

Regardless of which ABC Belmont citizens chose to follow, the council listened to details about a special seminar for hillside residents on protecting their homes and property from the ravages of winter rainfall and run-off.

The "Living on Hillside" seminar at the Belmont council chambers, Feb. 29, 7 p.m., will be a nuts and bolts discussion on how residents can recognize trouble areas and prevent the type of damage experienced during the last two years of heavy rainfall.

A question-and-answer session and demonstrations will be given by engineering geologist Joel E. Baldwin and soil engineer Howard F. Donley of Howard-Donley Associates.

A list of do's and don'ts has been prepared and the guest speakers, along with Director of Public Services John Hopkins, will explain how residents can distinguish the minor problems that can be remedied by the residents from major problems that require the expertise of a soil engineer and landscaper.

The council continued the public discussion on changes to the city code and zoning ordinance. The

purpose of the proposed amendment is to streamline the development applications process.

City Planner Jerome Podesta recommended the deletion of the Design Review Board in favor of approval by the planning commission. The change could shorten the application process by 12 to 26 days.

Other proposed changes would allow the planning commission, rather than the city council, to grant approval to the master grading plan and the annual allocation. The proposed change could trim as much as one month off the process-

ing time, according to Podesta.

The council recommended clarification of the language of the proposed amendment and will vote on the proposal at the next council meeting.

Councilmember Donald Heiman briefly talked about a possible additional cost to the city should the council purchase a portion of the McDougal School property.

While no specific costs have been discussed, Heiman wanted the council to consider the likelihood of expenditures for items like new pipes, meters and fences.

Belmont task force to look at flood problems

S.M. TIMES 4/18/84

BELMONT —
Following an unsuccessful bid to establish a \$15 million storm drainage assessment district, the City Council has established a 23-member citizen's task force to seek other ways of upgrading the city's dilapidated storm drain system.

City officials admit that Belmont's storm drain system is in terrible shape and is partly responsible for the floods which have swept through this hilly community in recent years.

The City Council had

hoped to establish an assessment district to raise \$15 million which it said is needed to repair and update the storm drain system. The plan, however, drew strong opposition from the homeowners who complained that they were facing hefty tax increases.

The council dropped its proposal four months ago.

However, councilmen said that Belmont's flood problems will not magically disappear and the council agreed to form a Storm Drainage Task Force to seek other solutions.

Thirty three people applied to serve on the task force and City Manager Ed Everett narrowed the committee total to 23 names which were presented for approval by the City Council.

Here are the task force members, the neighborhood each represents and each member's occupation:

David Bomberger, Central neighborhood, an engineer; Frank Carraro, a nonresident who owns property in Belmont, an engineer; Helen

Chernicoff, Cipriani neighborhood, an economist; Fred Cira, Cipriani, an engineer; E.P. Condon, Hallmark, an engineer; Joseph Crangle, Hallmark, financial.

Richard Enea, Homeview, a policeman; Donald Gansheimer, College of Notre Dame, finance; Dick Green, Hallmark, cost analyst.

Nels Hansen, Seniors, a construction foreman; Norman Heise, Central, a teacher; Merrill Higham, Carlmont Shopping Center, certified public accountant; P.M. Mellier-Smith,

Skymont Plateau, grantsmanship.

Bryan Rianda, Plateau-Skymont, engineer; Russ Wertenberg, Barrett, engineer; Chris Evangiledes, Cipriani, finance; David Frydenlund, Barrett, government; John Miller, Cipriani, geologist.

Judith Nowag, Cipriani, word processing; Henry Barton, Central, engineer; Edward Rodriguez, Belcrest Gardens, information system planner; Gail Wright, McDougal, finance; and Bettie Anne Nicewonger, Central, sales.

Wednesday, April 18, 1984 THE TIMES San Mateo—SZ:3



(Times Photo)

SANBAGGED STREET

Sandbags lined this street in Belmont after winter rains washed over the roadway and flooded the homes at the left. The City Council's proposal to establish a \$15 million storm drainage assessment district was dropped last winter following heavy public opposition.

S.M. TIMES 6/13/84

Task force touring Belmont



Members of the Storm Drainage Task Force are touring Belmont neighborhoods where flood damage is still evident from past winter storms. Task force members Dick Green, left, and Judy Nowag, right, view a demolished deck and eroded hillside behind the home of Alice Chapman, center, on San Juan Boulevard. The City Council appointed 23 members to the task force and charged them with making recommendations for alleviating storm drainage problems. The council previously dropped its plan to establish a \$15 million storm drainage assessment district following strong public opposition to the plan. During the winter of 1983, flood damage to public property and roadways totaled \$735,000 and private property damages exceeded \$300,000. Belmont City Hall currently faces a total of \$4 million in flood damage claims which have been filed against the city.

(Times Photo by Ray Zirkel)

Belmont

Officials Prepare For 'The Big One'

By GRACE DONATELLI

Grab up Spot, run to the nearest door jam and hold on for what might seem the longest, and most frightening, few minutes in your life.

Earthquakes — even the mention of the word sends chills up the spines of some, and sends other people to neighborhood stores to hoard.

But the people who have first aid kits in their basements, extra batteries in their umbrella holders and bottled water in their closets may be on to something — survival.

The growing concern of "the big one" by Belmont officials prompted the city to send out an earthquake exercise sheet. City Clerk James McLaughlin is working on an emergency list of telephone numbers people can call if roads are out.

In accordance with the Los Angeles Earthquake Awareness week in September 1980, the

American Red Cross came out with a course and a pamphlet on earthquake survival.

The pamphlet, entitled Safety and Survival in an Earthquake, prepares the average citizens step by step on how to survive a quake.

The pamphlet lists home emergency supplies and what to do before, during and after an earthquake. It outlines menus and recipes that can be made with canned food, food storage tips, what is safe drinking water and first aid.

Briarpatch Cooperative Market in Menlo Park has put together a \$200 survival kit packed in two 30-pound garbage cans and secured with animal-proof ties.

Inside the kit is food, water, a first aid kit, flashlight and everything else a household would need to survive an earthquake. Briarpatch urges those that have their kits to store them in the back yard or somewhere outside of the house in case the house is destroyed.

Some helpful hints to follow during an earthquake are:

✓ if indoors, stay put. Get under a sturdy table or desk or brace yourself in a doorway or corner. Choose a location which will allow air to breathe in the event the building collapses. Stay clear of windows, heavy mirrors and any hanging objects;

✓ if you have children, go through an earthquake drill with them. Have them choose a doorway or table to hide under;

✓ in a crowded store or public place, don't rush for exits. Move away from display shelves and find something to hide under;

✓ in a car, pull to the side of road and stop. Don't park under bridges, overpasses or overhead wire. Stay in the car if electrical wires fall across the vehicle.

Information for after an earthquake:

✓ immediately check for injuries;
✓ turn off main valve of gas and shut off electrical power if you

suspect damage to wiring;

✓ check water. If water is off use emergency water obtained from water heaters, toilet tanks, melted ice cubes and canned fruits and vegetables. Don't drink water from a toilet tank if a disinfectant was added to the water;

✓ do not use vehicle unless there is an emergency;

✓ be prepared for aftershocks. Use extreme caution when entering damaged buildings;

✓ each family should have an escape plan or a place to meet if all members of the house aren't home at the time of the earthquake;

✓ teach every member of the family how to turn off gas and electrical outlets and talk over each step so children aren't scared.

The above facts are included in the pamphlet sold at the American Red Cross for \$2. For further information call the Sequoia Service Center in Menlo Park at 366-3851.

Unique Belmont adoptions

If anybody is looking for a personal pothole ...

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

DEN. TIMES 9/25/84
Potholes are not cuddly or cute, they don't have belly buttons and they don't come from cabbage patches.

But one Belmont city official has decided that they need love — and “parents” — as much as any stuffed doll.

City Clerk James McLaughlin has proposed that the city create an “Adopt-a-Pothole” program — similar to the Cabbage Patch Doll “adoptions” — to allow Belmont citizens to lavish their love and care on orphan chuckholes.

The unusual proposal received a positive response from the City Council during its Tuesday night meeting. The council asked City Manager Ed Everett to prepare a report on implementation of the idea for the May 8 council meeting.

The adopt-a-pothole program would be only one of many unconventional ways cities nationwide have thought up to replenish their treasuries.

For example, some cities have gift catalogs that allow residents to make tax-deductible donations of new typewriters and parking meters. Belmont is considering starting its own gift catalog.

McLaughlin said he got the idea for the adopt-a-pothole program about a month ago

and proposed it as a way to allow citizens to make tax-deductible donations to the city and fulfill their deep need to give love at the same time.

The program also would fulfill the city's deep need for more money. Emergency storm drain repairs made last year have depleted the city budget. Some street repairs are being postponed because of that, City Engineer Adel Nepomuceno said.

“We have a lot of streets that need resurfacing or repaving, and there are a lot of potholes, especially in the Sterling Downs and Homeview neighborhoods,” which are in the city flatlands, Nepomuceno said.

“Before we spent our money on the drainage system, we were able to repave the streets every year. We are postponing it this year because we are short of funds,” he said.

To adopt a pothole, residents would, upon identifying a needy hole, contact the city and make a \$25 donation to pay to have it repaved.

In return, the residents would get a certificate of adoption and an “I Love My Pothole” bumper sticker. The “love” part of the phrase would be a little red heart and not a word.

The program would cost, at most, \$1,000

for printing the bumper stickers and the adoption certificates, McLaughlin said.

“Look what happened with the Cabbage Patch Dolls. These days, who knows? There is the possibility that people will send contributions from throughout the country to get their ‘I Love My Pothole’ bumper sticker,” McLaughlin said.

“I don't really foresee any long divorce cases with people battling over the custody of the pothole. But these days, who knows?” he said.

McLaughlin said the “Adopt a Pothole” program was suggested by an article in the journal of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks about a city in Texas that has a similar program.

The city recreation supervisor, Rick Haffey, has endorsed the idea and has suggested that trees, park benches and other city orphans also be candidates for adoption.

The idea may seem silly, but silly or not, the idea could result in smoother roads in some areas of town, McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin had the idea during the U.S. bicentennial in 1976 to have citizens pay \$10 to paint the city fire hydrants in patriotic colors. Citizens responded enthusiastically, he said.

“That was a rather zany idea that raised \$1,500 for a monument in Twin Pines Park,” McLaughlin said.

'I ♥ my pothole'



JIM MCLAUGHLIN

The Belmont City Clerk says "potholes are like unwanted children, in need of love and attention."

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer
S.H. WIKES 5/2/84
BELMONT — "Adopt a pothole?"

"Why not?" says City Clerk Jim McLaughlin.

"Potholes are like unwanted children, in need of love and attention," he notes in a resolution forwarded to the City Council.

Under the city clerk's plan, motorists soon may adopt a pothole for a \$25 fee. The motorist would then receive a Certificate of Pothole Adoption (suitable for framing) and a bumper sticker which reads "I ♥ My POTHOLE."

The long-neglected pothole would receive a fresh filling of asphalt.

City officials hope that enough motorists care about those unwanted potholes, then the potholes soon might disappear — at least temporarily.

But then there always will be a new pothole popping up somewhere for a motorist who is waiting to adopt, according to McLaughlin. He adds that pet rocks and Cabbage Patch Dolls may be just "passing fads... Belmont's potholes are forever."

McLaughlin admits he stole the Adopt-the-Pothole idea from the City of San Antonio, Texas, where City Clerk Norma Rodriguez reports that "results in the campaign have been gratifying."

Under San Antonio's program citizens may purchase a pothole of their choice for \$15 and the city then patches it, Rodriguez reports. There's even a trend in the Texas town for husbands to occasionally buy a pothole for their wife on her birthday, the clerk adds.

Meanwhile, back in Belmont, the city councilmen appeared bemused recently when McLaughlin presented his adopt-a-pothole plans.

But city staff members remain straight-faced and serious.

City Manager Ed Everett notes the staff is even considering expanding McLaughlin's plan.

The staff is exploring the possibility of setting up a gift certificate booklet "in which people can adopt different kinds of things and donate them to the city such as a piece of playground equipment, a tree or whatever," Everett said.

Belmont Turning Hate Into Love

City Sponsors 'Love' Campaign To Repair Streets

By STEVEN STARK

Just when you thought you saw your last "I love my _____" bumper sticker and thought there were no more orphan Cabbage Patch Dolls in the world left to adopt, along comes Belmont City Clerk Jim McLaughlin's proposed "Adopt a Pothole" program.

McLaughlin, creator of the Bicentennial-year fire hydrant painting drive which helped finance the Twin Pines Park monument, proposed in city council the "Adopt a Pothole" program after reading of the idea in a city clerk's magazine.

Under the proposed adoption program, under staff study until the May 8 city council meeting, city residents can adopt the pothole of their choice for the price of a \$25 tax-exempt donation.

Not only will the adoptive parents have a repaired pothole as a namesake but will also receive an official certificate of Pothole Adoption, suitable for framing, and a

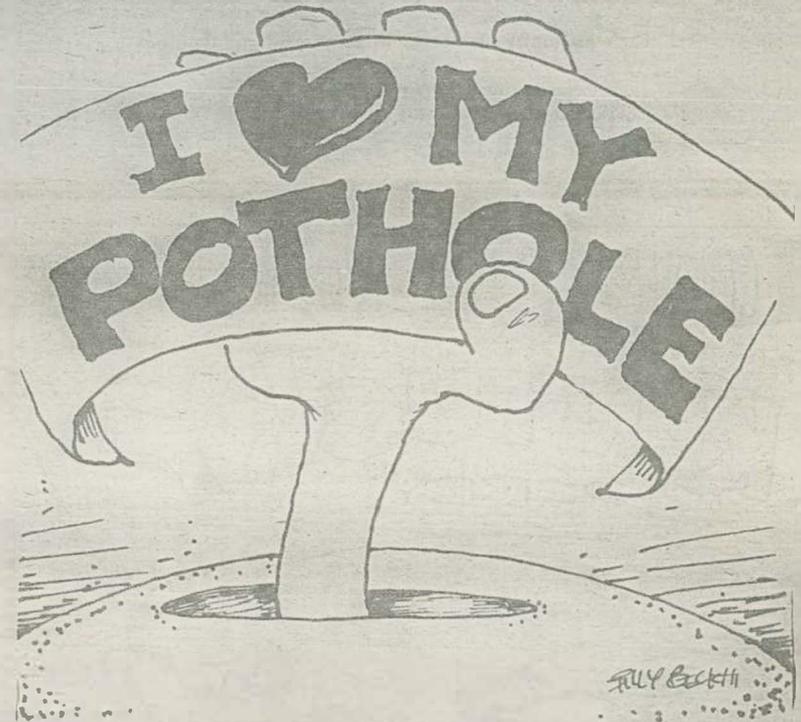
bumper sticker proclaiming, "I Love my Pothole." (The "Love" symbolized by a heart.)

"Potholes are like unwanted children, in need of love and attention by means of adoption," McLaughlin states in his proposed resolution.

McLaughlin said he doubts if there will ever be any long, drawn out pothole custody battles between divorced adoptive parents, but cautioned, "who knows these days?"

"Government business and the raising of revenue to pay for the City's needs is serious business but there is also a need for a City to unite and have a bit of enjoyment once in a while—and at least a few smiles in the process of raising money for the needs," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin, who devised the Bicentennial year idea of offering, for a \$10 tax-deductible donation,



the opportunity to paint a fire hydrant which raised \$1,500 to fund the monument at Twin Pines Park, hopes contributions for pothole adoptions will carry over to raising funds for drainage improvements.

McLaughlin also foresees additional neighborly functions arising to raise badly needed city funds and suggested such events as Pot-Luck Dinners, Pothole Parties and

Pothole Raffles.

According to city public services director John Hopkins, more than 150 chuckholes are repaired annually. "We've got an ongoing program to correct the potholes," Hopkins said.

So the next time you ditch into a pothole, swear—adopt the poor, orphaned chuckhole. But hurry—you know how fast the Cabbage Patch Kids went.

For want of wheelchair ramp, council sits in copying room

S.M. TIMES 6/22/84
BELMONT — The City Council convened temporarily in the City Hall copying room Tuesday because the director of an agency that provides services for handicapped people — including constructing ramps — couldn't get her wheelchair to the upstairs council chamber.

Lucy Muir of the Center for Independence of the Disabled in Belmont attended the session to request \$3,300 in revenue-sharing funds.

"It makes it so difficult if your own city that you live in isn't giving some kind of support," she said, adding that it would make soliciting funds from other jurisdictions easier.

The meeting was a study session on the proposed \$8.36 million budget and a hearing on the revenue-sharing portion. The council will meet again at 7 p.m. today in City Hall. Final adoption is scheduled Tuesday.

Usually, the council meets in the wheelchair-accessible chamber, but another meeting was being held there.

Finance Director Michael Shelton said today that to continue qualifying for federal revenue-sharing money, the city must develop a plan by October to eliminate physical barriers in city offices and implement the plan within the next two years.

Although Belmont has previously funded CID, it is not among the four agencies slated to receive \$139,142 in revenue-sharing funds in the proposed budget.

Other agencies requesting funds but not in the budget are the Human Investment Project (\$5,000), San Mateo Women's Shelter (\$1,000) and the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Center (\$1,000).

Recommended projects were patrol vehicles for the Police Department, the Whole Earth Diversion (counseling) Program, animal-control services and school-district turf maintenance.

City Manager Ed Everett said the study session stressed long-term policy decisions rather than departmental reviews, which are scheduled today.

Most of the meeting was divided between discussions of the Redevelopment Agency budget and discretionary fund proposals.

However, during an overview of the budget, Shelton said that the \$169,0400 allotted expenditure out of the expected \$664,527 liability fund is guesswork.

"Frankly, I haven't any idea if this

number is anywhere near close to what we'll spend next year," he said.

At issue was the approximately \$4½ million in inverse condemnation claims against the city. The claimants say the city was responsible for damaging their property because inadequate storm drains resulted in flooding.

"What happens if they win?" asked Councilman Donald Heiman. "Do we go bankrupt?"

Everett said that even in a worst-case scenario, the city would work out a payment plan.

The budget doesn't include any proposals concerning the controversial storm-drainage problem.

"With the exhaustion of funds in the storm-drainage fund and the current efforts of the storm-drainage committee to make recommendations to address the problem, staff makes no recommendations in the proposed budget to address storm drainage needs," says the introductory budget letter from Everett.

Capital improvements budgeted for \$275,000 under the Redevelopment Agency include repairs at the Twin Pines Park entrance and parking lot, a senior-center architectural study, reconstruction of Hiller Street between Ralston Avenue and Marine View Avenue, and a traffic signal installation at Sixth and Emmett Avenue.

D2— San Mateo THE TIMES Thursday, June 21, 1984 ★★★

Belmont approves ambitious capital improvement plan

BELMONT — Free of a lawsuit that until last week clouded the legitimacy of the Belmont Redevelopment Agency, the City Council Wednesday went ahead with plans for \$675,000 worth of capital improvements.

The decision to budget for improvements to the Twin Pines parking lot, senior center architectural study and major projects on Hiller Street and Ralston Avenue was part of a special meeting reviewing the city's \$8.36 million overall budget, which is due to be adopted at the council's regular meeting Tuesday at 8 p.m.

City Manager Ed Everett said today that a lawsuit challenging the legitimacy of the Redevelopment Agency brought by county Legal Aid was dismissed last week, leaving the way clear for the agency to actually implement projects.

"We've committed to a parking lot downtown and that's going to happen," he said. "We've committed to the senior center, and that's going to happen."

He said Redevelopment Agency action had been virtually frozen by lawsuits since its inception three years ago. A final Legal Aid suit challenging the city-county financing formula for the agency still has to be settled.

Everett said the second most significant action at Tuesday's meeting, which was the last of two four-hour budget reviews, was that the council actually completed decision-making.

"For the first time in a long time, the Belmont City Council has approved a budget prior to July 1," he said. "Last year, I don't think we had a budget until August."

Other items discussed in the budget included:

- Revenue sharing funds — The council decided to add a \$750 grant to the Center for Independence of the Disabled in Belmont. The CID had originally requested \$3,300. Councilman Robert Hoffman objected to the grant.

"We need to take care of what our charter is," he said. "We need to take care of our own city."

Everett said that absent Councilman Joseph Green agreed with Hoffman, but the other three councilmen said they wanted to at least give token recognition to CID's work in Belmont.

- Discretionary funds — The council carved another \$11,186 in contingency funds from the discretionary budget by moving some projects into other budgets and trimming the estimate on seismic safety improvements at City Hall.

City threat of fines forcing cleanup of auto repair shops

S.M. TIMES 7/18/54

BELMONT — Owners of several auto repair shops on Old County Road are beginning to clean up their area after city officials threatened to impose fines for those who don't.

"There have been considerable efforts to clean up Old County Road," Police Chief Floyd Sanderson told the City Council recently.

The council recently declared that the businesses, wedged between the road and the Pacifica Railroad tracks, have become a blighted area.

The council gave shop owners 60 days to remove numerous autos and other materials off the public right-of-way in front of the businesses.

"We have a problem," admitted Donald Kolko, a shop owner who told the council that the auto

repairmen are forming an association to begin improving the area. "We all ought to work together on this problem."

The shop owners have started to move some cars off the city's right-of-way, they've pulled weeds and picked up debris, according to Kolko. "The reason we got into trouble was because the material piled up."

Kolko reminded the council that the auto shops "do provide a public service...we are an industry that is necessary." He asked that the city allow the shop owners to continue to park some autos on the city's easement.

David Palmer, an attorney who said he has hired to represent the shop owners, asked the council for an extension on the mid-August deadline for beginning enforcement.

Mayor William Hardwick suggested that the shop owners continue to work with the city officials to eliminate the blight.

Councilman Joe Green told the group of shop owners "we're asking you to clean up. There have been suggestions that we should bulldoze that (area) and that is not the answer."

Councilman Donald Heiman told the group that "the progress you made is quite substantial at this point."

Councilman Robert Hoffman noted that the shop owners will also benefit from a cleaner business area.

Kolko said the auto repair merchants will continue to work with city officials. "None of us want to fight city hall," Kolko noted.

By Don Heiman
Belmont City Councilman

You don't recognize the names Lynette Tillner, Paul Goodman, Jerald Frost, John LaSota, Randy Perry, Mark Fregon, George Smith, but these people have something in common; they all work for Belmont and all have done more than was required to fulfill their duties.

We often hear complaints about government employees, but seldom are aware of the good things they do. The Belmont City Council has undertaken a program to recognize our employees when they are deserving. I would like to relate a few incidents which make me proud to be associated with our outstanding staff.

BUDGET

In order to complete this year's budget document Lynette spent many evenings and early mornings at considerable personal sacrifice working to complete the necessary typing, assembly and production of the budget. As a result of her effort, the budget was adopted prior to the new fiscal year, a first for Belmont.

Paul and Mark, while fixing a sewer on Ponce Avenue, performed a splendid job. The property owner personally felt compelled to go to the City Manager's office to tell him about the fine work accomplished by these dedicated employees.

Jerald and John were correcting a dangerous condition on a sanitary sewer cleanout box. A citizen wrote a letter describing the conscientious and careful work of the employees. The men cleaned his driveway after completing the job, leaving not a speck of dirt.

Randy was called to search for a blocked sewer line. He found that the blockage was not on city property, but took considerable time to locate the problem and tell the property owner what was wrong. The homeowner wrote a letter saying Randy was an outstanding employee.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL

George, while working in the City's Corporation Yard, noticed that a tanker truck parked at a nearby business was spilling a hazardous chemical into the street. He immediately directed his crew to build a sand dike to contain the chemical. His quick thinking saved that business thousands of dollars in clean up costs and saved the City countless hours and expense to repair storm drains.

I, personally, had an opportunity to see the efficiency and good work of our South County Fire Authority. At my business a young employee collapsed, stopped breathing and had no heart beat. Inside of minutes Captain Art Roberts, Mark Nelson and David Crane appeared and kept him alive until the Paramedics arrived. They even helped clean up the mess we had created attempting to revive the young man. I appreciate what these firemen accomplished and I am sure the wife and two small children this man would have left behind appreciate it too.

JUST A FEW

These are just a few stories; many remain untold. Some are earthshaking and some are not, but they indicate the dedication and concern our employees demonstrate for the people of Belmont.

Many of you reading this probably know of similar stories. The City Council is interested in hearing them so we can give commendations when deserved and record them in employee's personnel records. Please write to us: The Belmont City Council, 1365 Fifth Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002

The City Council wants to recognize and support the good work of our staff. Please help us in this endeavor.

An unexpected double from Belmont council

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

The Belmont City Council Tuesday not only made good on a promise to rebate unneeded money from an overflowing city fund, it doubled the amount of the rebate.

The council, in its capacity as directors of the Belmont Fire Protection District, last year voted to rebate \$300,000 in property taxes from the fire district fund.

The rebate was to appear on citizens' property tax rolls as a credit, but it didn't make it to the county tax assessor's office in time for the 1983-84 tax bills.

So the council Tuesday placed that rebate on the 1984-85 tax rolls, and added another \$300,000 rebate to the amount, bringing the total to \$600,000.

The reason for the rebate is that the city is accruing more tax money than it needs to finance its part of the operations of the South County Fire Authority, which serves Belmont and San Carlos.

Essentially, the city can either use the money, let it sit in the bank, or give it back to the citizens. It doesn't need to use the money, and it is already accruing hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest on it. The council decided to let the citizens share some of their wealth.

"If we hadn't rebated the money, we would have had \$1.9 million in the fund, and we are getting over \$250,000 a year in interest, and we don't need that much money," Mayor Bill Hardwick said.

The fund will have \$1.9 million in revenues, and \$1.6 million in expenditures during this fiscal year. The rebate actually will take \$300,000 from fund's reserves, city Finance Director Michael Shelton.

Property owners in the fire protection district, which includes land outside the city, will receive the rebate in two installments on their property tax bills, which are received in November and April, Shelton said.

Homeowners Rebates

Belmont's taxpaying homeowners probably won't notice it, but tax bills will contain a rebate.

The Belmont City Council, acting as the board of the Belmont Fire Protection District voted last Wednesday night to rebate some \$300,000 to city homeowners.

The rebate, amounting to \$36 on a home assessed at \$100,000 and \$72 on a home assessed at \$200,000, will appear on resident property tax bills, according to City Finance Director Michael Shelton.

According to the recently-adopted budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year, the South County Fire District has an excess of \$300,000 in revenues over expenses that that was pledged to Belmont residents.

2—The Garimont Enquirer-Bulletin Wednesday, October 3, 1984

Expansion projects criticized

Proposals to expand Ralston Place and the Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center were roundly criticized by Belmont councilmembers at a "scoping

meeting" last week.

The scoping meetings were held to allow for early public input into the environmental review process for both projects.

The Ralston Place residential development project includes 37 one-bedroom units, a recreational building, and a swimming pool to be constructed at Sixth and Hills streets.

The expansion of the Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center would take place in five stages. A total of 100 additional beds are included in the expansion proposal, which also calls for the addition of an adolescent wing, a children's unit, two office buildings, a chemical dependency wing, a gym, and a swimming pool.

In presenting the Ralston Place project to councilmembers and the public, architect Richard Reif of King/Reif Associates in Menlo Park, said earlier concerns expressed by planning commission members have been addressed in the revised plan.

Of particular concern to the planning commission was the possible obstruction of the bay view enjoyed by residents of the neighboring convalescent home and inaccessibility by emergency service vehicles.

to the swimming pool area.

Despite Reif's attempt to address planning commission concerns, his revised proposal received criticism from several councilmembers.

Councilmember Joe Green suggested that more affordable housing is needed for the project and proposed building additional apartments, rather than constructing the swimming pool on the site.

Both councilmember Don Heiman and Bob Hoffman raised concerns about traffic congestion in the area of the project and questioned approving a development that would only add to the current problem.

The proposed expansion of the Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center was also criticized by councilmembers who argued that a "tremendous scale-down" of the project may be necessary.

As with Ralston Place, councilmembers questioned the expansion project because of increased traffic in the area. Hoffman also expressed fears that the criminally insane would be treated at the expanded center without benefit of adequate security.

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Business Blight Problem Fading

By Steven Stark

CAPL. ENP 6/22/84
Belmont's latest crackdown on

blight on Old County Road (OCR), initiated in April by city council appointment of a task force, appears to be proving more successful than in the past, according to police chief Floyd Sanderson.

Despite continued violations of city laws by Old County Road businesses ranging from operating without licenses to conducting business on the sidewalks, Sanderson said he was impressed by the concern and

understanding of the street's businessmen for the problems.

Sanderson said only a handful of businesses are the culprits of blight along the street.

"I met with a great deal of warmth and general concern," Sanderson said. "They understand our problem."

"There is some marginal improvement now," Sanderson said in his videotaped report to city council last Monday night, "but clearly there will have to be a continued

police department effort to remind these businessmen of their responsibilities."

TIME TO COMPLY

Council decreed Old County Road businessmen have 60 days to comply with city zoning and building codes. No longer will vehicle repair work be tolerated on the street's sidewalks, council decided; there will be a crack down on illegally parked cars.

Most of the businesses along the west side of OCR are auto-related, and the combination of work being performed on the sidewalks, insufficient off-street parking and old cars left to rot, have led to a long-term blight situation there.

Past attempts to clean up OCR yielded little success due to a combination of factors, according to city officials polled.

Councilman Joseph Green, mayor in 1981 when cleanup of the street was last attempted, said there was a different outlook last time.

"At that time we encouraged the beautification of the street, but we didn't enforce it. We hoped they would do it on their own and the majority of businessmen were very cooperative," Green said.

"There's only a handful of businesses who are downright sloppy," Green said, "and we gave them the opportunity to voluntarily comply."

NO LICENSES

Planning commissioner Densel Lawhern was president of Sterling Downs Homeowner's Assoc. in 1981. Then, as now, he mentions businesses operating without business licenses.

"There's no investigation unless

someone complains," Lawhern said. The commissioner said he will present a list of zoning and other infractions by OCR businessmen to the police department within the month.

"We really don't have the staff to go out there and a lot of stuff is kind of dropped. Plus, it's a matter of economics—to go to court to force compliance costs money," Lawhern said.

IMPRESSIVE

"But I am impressed with what's going on now—there is some temporary cleaning up going on," Lawhern added.

After years of discussion, push seems to be coming to shove. Sanderson said his department will be issuing courtesy tickets for now, but come August 15, real-life fines will be issued. Meanwhile, both the planning commission and city council will pursue refining ordinances to streamline enforcement of illegal practices along OCR.

"We're not doing anything but enforcing the codes we have," city manager Ed Everett said. "The market place will take care of the rest."

Auto mechanics angered by Belmont decision

They say they will go out of business if they cannot repair cars on easement

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff
PHYL. BROWN 6/21/84
Mechanics on Old County Road

who repair cars on the easement in front of their garages angrily told the Belmont City Council Tuesday that its campaign to stop the practice will put them out of business.

The mechanics were upset about a council decision to enforce laws against streetside repairs in order to clean up the clutter on Old County Road between Ralston Avenue and Hillside Boulevard.

After hearing their complaints, the council decided to discuss the issue further at its July 10 meeting.

The west side of Old County Road is lined with about a dozen auto repair shops sandwiched between the Southern Pacific Rail-

road tracks and the road. About 150 people work in the shops, the mechanics estimated.

The narrow strip of land, leased from the railroad company, barely accommodates the garages. Shop owners fix big cars on the asphalt easement between the garage and the street because their places are so small larger cars cannot fit inside.

This practice has been good for the shop owners, who have been there for decades. But it has been a problem for the city, which for years has been concerned about the unsightliness of disassembled automobiles that litter the street.

The police department began to implement the month-old council decision last week. It mailed the shop owners letters telling them the

city would start enforcing laws against parking, storing or repairing cars on city rights of way. The laws, enforced only occasionally until now, will be enforced religiously after Aug. 21, the letter said.

"Business owners who have routinely been parking on the sidewalk area and allowing trash to accumulate will have 60 days to take corrective measures before enforcement begins," Police Chief Floyd Sanderson's letter said.

Sanderson said in the letter that he tried to ask the shop owners to clean up their store fronts. "In some cases, improvement was demonstrated. In others, nothing was done," he said.

Taking the easement would force most if not all of the auto repair

businesses to close, according to Don Kolkko, owner of Kolkko's Foreign Cars.

"It's a large part of our business to be able to park cars on the street. If it comes down to not being able to park cars on the easement, it will be a big problem," Kolkko said.

Another mechanic said the council is right, that the area is unattractive now. "It is an eyesore. I spend a lot of time trying to keep the street clean. Something should be done. But I think we can work together to do it without them taking away the easement," the mechanic said.

Sanderson said the shop owners can start by removing the junk cars and scrap materials from the public easement.

Business is caught in middle

U.S. says build or else, city won't give permit

By Stephen Jones

Times Tribune staff
STEP. JONES 7/12/84

A Belmont circuit board manufacturer is caught in a Catch-22 situation between the federal government and the City Council that threatens to shut down his business.

Circraft Inc. may have to close July 26 and lay off 35 employees because the Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the company to clean up the waste water it discharges. The company has been directed to build a water treatment system on its grounds if it wants to remain open.

The federal agency's demand is only half the problem for Circraft because a Belmont zoning ordinance will not allow the company to expand.

With the city prohibiting Circraft from adding the 15-by-24-foot treatment structure to its plant, the company will not be able to meet EPA regulations and may subsequently fold. The business has been at 519 Marine View Road for more than 18 years.

Circraft President Lee Adams said the "liquidation" of his business is possible, but that he is examining other options to keep his company operating. He is trying to decide whether relocating the plant, at a cost of approximately \$500,000, is worthwhile.

Adams said he may also build the treatment system within the existing company building by reducing production. The decrease in output would force the layoff of about 10 workers, he said.

"I hope we won't have to shut down in any respect," Adams said. "I would hate to give up without trying every alternative."

City Council member Donald Heiman did not share Adams' optimism at Tuesday night's council meeting. Heiman predicted that the business will close if the City Planning Commission does not amend its decision against the construction of the treatment system.

"It's a good business employing a lot of people that is caught in a Catch-22 where the city says you can't, but the federal government says you must," Heiman said.

(Cont'd on BACK)

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Times Tribune staff

PH. BROWN
7/13/84

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Times Tribune staff
PH. JONES 7/13/84

A Belmont circuit board manufacturer is caught in a Catch-22 situation between the federal government and the City Council that threatens to shut down his business.

Circuit Inc. may have to close July 26 and lay off 35 employees because the Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the company to clean up the waste water it discharges. The company has been directed to build a water treatment system on its grounds if it wants to remain open.

The federal agency's demand is only half the problem for Circuit because a Belmont zoning ordinance will not allow the company to expand.

With the city prohibiting Circuit from adding the 15-by-24-foot treatment structure to its plant, the company will not be able to meet EPA regulations and may subsequently fold. The business has been at 519 Marine View Road for more than 18 years.

Circuit President Lee Adams said the "liquidation" of his business is possible, but that he is examining other options to keep his company operating. He is trying to decide whether relocating the plant, at a cost of approximately \$500,000, is worthwhile.

Adams said he may also build the treatment system within the existing company building by reducing production. The decrease in output would force the layoff of about 10 workers, he said.

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(Continue BACK)

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Times Tribune staff
PH. BROWN 6/27/84

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PH. BROWN 7/13/84

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"It's a good business employing a lot of people that is caught in a Catch-22 where the city says you can't, but the federal government says you must," Heiman said.

(Continue BACK)

Heiman moved that the Council direct the Planning Commission to change the zoning ordinance and grant a conditional-use permit to Circraft to keep it in business. The council passed the measure with a vote of 3-1.

Public hearings will be held by the City Council and Planning Commission to allow others to speak on the issue.

Adams said he hopes to receive a decision from the commission by the July 26 deadline. At that time, Adams will be required to stop accepting all purchase orders and close Circraft if the EPA is not satisfied with his response.

Equipment costing about \$200,000 is scheduled to arrive in Belmont next month if the commission follows the council's direction and grants Adams the use-permit.

Adams said he does not object to the agency's request for a water system because "it would improve, rather than degrade the environment." He estimated the system would reduce the amount of acid stored at the company by 75 to 90 percent.

What Adams said he disagrees with is the planning commission's move to block installation of the new system.

"I can't understand how anybody would be so blind to oppose adding this facility when all we're trying to do is make the environment better," Adams said. "It's a short-sighted decision on the part of the people opposing it."

City Council member Robert Hoffman, who cast the one vote against amending the zoning ordinance, said Circraft has outgrown its present site and that it must either move to a new location or comply with city policy.

"It is a difficult decision to put people out of work, but we also have to adhere to city ordinances and look at the purpose of the law," Hoffman said.

Belmont City Council Grants Housing Permit

C.M.L. ENV
6/20/84 BY Steven Stark

Belmont city council took the first step towards moving the proposed Kumam Corp. project towards public hearings, approved a general plan amendment that would allow a gear-maker to possibly expand his business, and declared a flood-swept house a public nuisance doomed for demolition at its meeting Tuesday.

The meeting was dedicated to former mayor Walter T. Worthge, who died last Sunday at the age of 50.

Long involved in civic organizations ranging in causes from the Scouts to the Jaycees to independence for the handicapped, Worthge was president of the San Mateo Arts Council which was based in Belmont largely through his efforts. He was awarded the William Ralston Award for Community Service in 1982 by the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

KUMAM CORP.

City manager Ed Everett was directed to co-sign the Kumam Corp. application for a use permit for the proposed housing, office, park and hotel complex the company wants to construct on 65 acres east of the Bayshore Freeway.

Everett said it was standard procedure for the property owner of a proposed project to co-sign with the developers. The city, as owner of the land Kumam Corp. plans to develop, co-signed. The wording of the resolution made it clear the city expressed no opinion on the eventual fate of the project.

"We're trying to make sure the project goes public, and this is the first stage," Everett said. Public hearings on the use permit will enter the agenda of the planning commission and city council for public hearings prior to official city action.

AMENDMENT

Gear manufacturer Wilbur Harbold was granted a general plan amendment for his Mountainview Avenue site. Council followed planning commission advice in denying design review for his proposed warehouse and shops.

Planning commission chairman Densel Lawhern decried the general plan amendment.

"If we are going to have a general plan, we should depend and work towards it, not change it everytime someone comes forward," Lawhern said.

"To me, the city is not addressing the need for affordable housing," Lawhern said.

According to the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the proposed project, 8-20 units with an averaged-sized household of 2.4 occupants would be lost through the general plan amendment.

Conditions set on development include open space beyond that needed for legal setbacks, buffer landscaping and exterior architecture to blend with the single-family homes of the surrounding neighborhood.

Harbold has operated his gear manufacturing company in Belmont 20 years.

In other council action:

- Dr. Cecil Reeves was hired, for a 6-month stipend not to exceed \$6,000, to assist the 23-member Storm Drain Task Force. Reeves was helpful in the past in aiding other large groups reach unity of purpose.

- Council also condemned as a public nuisance a Marburger Avenue house left in mid-slide from last winter's storms. Council declared the house at 3112 Marburger Ave. a public nuisance set for demolition. Should demolition not proceed before the upcoming winter storm season, public hearings at the planning commission followed by formal action will occur, according to John Hopkins, director of public services.

- June 26 was set for the public hearing to consider an appeal filed by a circuit-board manufacturer to a planning commission denial for an application for a wastewater treatment enclosure at Circraft, Inc., 519 Marineview Ave.

Under the applicant's proposed wastewater treatment construction project, mandated by federal law for treatment of the toxins used at the plant, construction would constitute and illegal addition to a legal but non-conforming use, according to the general plan.

The Belmont city council next meets June 26 at 8 p.m. in council chambers, 1365 Fifth Ave.

Blighted area gets more time for cleanup

S.M. TIMES 8/15/84

BELMONT — The City Council won't drop its campaign against blight, but councilmen did agree Tuesday to give auto shop owners a little more time to remove vehicles from walkways on Old County Road.

The council began its campaign in May following complaints that numerous vehicles, mechanical parts and litter covered much of the public right-of-way in front of auto repair shops and other businesses on Old County Road.

The blighted area was targeted for a cleanup by the council, which formed a task force to initiate action. The council announced that if the public right-of-way isn't clear by Aug. 21, City Hall would begin enforcing various city codes to force action.

Police Chief Floyd Sanderson, chairman of the task force, has since reported that several businesses in the area have begun tidying up their areas. Several shop owners also formed an asso-

ciation to work together at improving their area.

Donald Kolko, spokesman for the shop owners, told the council Tuesday that his group is trying to develop a parking lot in the area to alleviate some of the parked-vehicle congestion on Old County Road. Furthermore, Kolko said, the shop owners want to meet with Belmont's redevelopment agency to see if the agency can assist in developing off-street parking.

Not all businesses are cleaning up their areas, Kolko admitted, but he said "less than 10 percent of the businesses contribute to the blight."

Mayor William Hardwick said the council might end up "focusing on the worst violators" in the area.

Council members agreed to give the shop owners two additional months (to Oct. 23) before the city begins enforcement measures to remove the vehicles parked on the walkways.

No new Belmont building permits

S.M. TIMES 8/29/84

BELMONT — The City Council refused Tuesday to accept any new applications from home builders, even though the city's growth control ordinance allows up to 56 new homes each year and there have been only 14 applications this year.

A proposal to reopen the application period in September was unanimously turned down by council members. The council vote was a complete turn-about from last year when councilmen reopened the application period for new homes.

This year, however, there are new studies being made which could affect future home construction in this city — even beyond the current growth control law.

City Manager Ed Everett noted that the San Juan Committee (which is looking at future building in the western hills area) and a Storm Drainage Task Force will both complete their studies and make recommendations to City Hall within three or four months.

"You may not want to open it (the application period) back up," Everett said.

Mayor William Hardwick noted that, because of the council action, no applications for new home construction will be accepted until next May.

Belmont's growth control or-

dinance was approved by voters in 1979. The limit of no more than 56 new residential units per year will continue through 1990.

In other business:

- Council members said they are opposed to changing city ordinances which currently prohibit any street banners. The council also agreed to place on the agenda for a future meeting the whole issue of banners and political signs.

- The council heard a report from William Blucher of the Mosquito Abatement District.

Rule changes may be due on campaign signs

S.M. TIMES 9/12/84

BELMONT — This city will continue to allow the posting of political signs alongside city streets, but there may be new provisions which will say where — and how long — a political sign can be displayed.

So said members of the City Council Tuesday night as they began a review of the sign ordinance.

Councilman Robert Hoffman declared that the city's sign ordinance "is so weak that it's almost nothing" compared to ordinances in neighboring cities. Hoffman recommended that the Belmont council "put some teeth in it."

City Attorney Kenneth Dickerson refuted Hoffman by saying that provisions in Belmont's sign ordinance are similar to the ordinances in San Mateo and Redwood City.

Furthermore, Dickerson said Belmont's present ordinance prohibits any signs on public property unless the city manager issues a permit for such signs. Dickerson also cautioned the

council that municipal sign laws have been restricted in recent years by the courts.

Hoffman persisted in his criticism of what he called the visual pollution alongside Belmont streets. "We are getting to the point where signs are plastered all over Ralston (Avenue)," he said.

Other councilmen were less critical.

Councilman Donald Heiman said political signs are one way nonincumbent candidates "get name recognition." Heiman added that "sign pollution is bad — censorship is worse."

"I am not in favor of amending our sign ordinance to prevent political signs," Heiman said.

Councilman William Moore agreed with Heiman and he noted that "Belmont is a politically active community."

City Manager Ed Everett agreed with the councilmen, noting that "sign pollution is part of the price of democracy." He added, however, that he wants to

"get out of the sign business" and he urged the council to drop the present provision which gives the city manager the authority to issue permits for political signs.

Councilman Joseph Green agreed that the city manager should be removed from the sign permit process.

"I think the political process warrants the use of signs," noted Mayor William Hardwick, but he added that the ordinance could be amended to limit the posting of political signs to 24 days preceding an election. The ordinance could also be changed to allow political signs without the permit requirement, but the signs must be placed back from the curb areas on city streets, Hardwick said.

The city attorney told the council that he will "come up with some (sign ordinance) language" that will reflect the general direction of the council. The proposed new language will be presented to the council Oct. 9.

Belmont planners to review sign ordinance amendments

S.M. TIMES 9/26/84

BELMONT — The City Council agreed Tuesday to send to the Planning Commission proposed amendments to the city's sign ordinance.

The proposed changes would limit the posting of political signs to 24 days preceding an election; signs must be set back from street curbs; and the size of political signs would not be allowed to exceed 2 feet by 4 feet.

The amended ordinance was forwarded to the council by City Attorney Kenneth Dickerson following recent complaints from some council members that political signs are becoming an eyesore.

Councilman Robert Hoffman, leader of the crusade to clean up the signs, had recommended that the council put some teeth in its sign ordinance. After reviewing the amended ordinance, Hoffman said it still had no teeth.

Councilman Donald Heiman said a proposed 5.5-foot setback requirement could prompt "a lot of anger and confusion." He said the emphasis of any new ordinance should be to make sure that signs are removed after elections.

The council continued its discussion, briefly, before Planning Director Jerry Podesta noted that any changes to the sign ordi-

nance should first be reviewed by the Planning Commission. The council then voted to forward the ordinance.

In other business:

- The council held a brief hearing on a developer's request to build a 37-unit residential project at 6th Avenue and Hill Street.

- The council briefly reviewed a proposed expansion of the facilities at Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center. Both Heiman and Hoffman said the proposed construction is too large for the site and must be scaled back.

PEN TIMES Belmont 6/3/84

On Monday, trustees of the Belmont School District will receive a recommendation from Superintendent Ron Gilpatrick on the disposition of the district office and the Barrett and Cipriani school sites. The board meets at 7:30 p.m. at Central School at 1525 Middle Road.

On Tuesday, the Planning Commission will review compliance with a use permit granted to the Arco gas station at 470 Ralston Ave. and will hold a public hearing on a conditional use permit for off-site parking at 850 Old County Road. The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave.

On Wednesday, the Park and Recreation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

PEN TIMES BELMONT 6/5/84

City Council — Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., Belmont.

Parks and Leisure Services Committee — First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission — First and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Belmont School District board — First and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Ave.

Belmont County Water District board — Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1513 Folger Drive.

PEN TIMES BELMONT 6/20/84

City Council — Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., Belmont.

Parks and Leisure Services Committee — First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission — First and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Belmont School District board — First and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Ave.

Belmont County Water District board — Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1513 Folger Drive.

PEN TIMES TODAY 6/26/84

BELMONT: At 8 p.m. the City Council will meet in the council chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., to discuss hear the results of a petition drive to recall four of five city councilmen.

PEN TIMES Belmont 7/1/84

The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers. On the agenda is a design review for an urgent-care center at 581 Masonic Way and a discussion of zoning ordinance amendments for the C-4 district.

PEN TIMES Belmont 6/10/84

The City Council Tuesday will consider placing speed-deterrent bumps on a one-block section of Winding Way at the request of citizens in the neighborhood. The council also will discuss litigation related to storm-drain damage in a closed session that will follow the public meeting. Both meetings will be held in the council chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., beginning at 8 p.m.

The trustees of the Belmont School District will hold a special meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday to select an appraiser for the closed Barrett and Cipriani school sites, which are scheduled to be sold. The trustees also will discuss revising two board policies regarding the relationship between the school board and the community and the relationship between the board and its management staff. The school board meeting will be held in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Drive.

PEN TIMES BELMONT 7/5/84

City Council — Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., Belmont.

Parks and Leisure Services Committee — First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission — First and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Belmont School District board — First and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Ave.

Belmont County Water District board — Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1513 Folger Drive.

PEN TIMES TODAY 6/12/84

BELMONT: At 8 p.m. the City Council will meet in the council chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., to discuss placing speed deterrent bumps on a one-block section of Winding Way, at the request of area neighbors. In a closed session prior to the public meeting the council also will discuss litigation related to storm-drain damage.

BELMONT: At 4 p.m. the Belmont School District board of trustees will meet in the district board room at 2960 Hallmark Drive to discuss selecting an appraiser for sale of the Barrett and a portion of the Cipriani School sites.

PEN TIMES TODAY 6/28/84

BELMONT: At 7:30 p.m. the Board of Directors of the Belmont County Water District will meet in the district board room, 1513 Folger Drive, to discuss awarding a contract for construction of utility buildings at the Hallmark reservoir site and West Belmont reservoir site. The board also will discuss approving the 1984-85 district budget.

PEN TIMES TODAY 6/19/84

BELMONT: At 7 p.m. the City Council will discuss approval of its 1984-85 budget and Revenue Sharing allocations in the study session chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave.

BELMONT: At 8 p.m. the Planning Commission will meet in the City Council chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., to discuss approval of two conditional use permits for secondary housing units on Belmont Canyon Road and on Alhambra Drive.

PEN TIMES Belmont 6/17/84

At 8 p.m. Monday, the Belmont School District board of trustees will meet in the board room in the district offices, 2960 Hallmark Drive, to discuss a resolution of intent to lease the upper level of Cipriani School and the tentative budget for the 1984-85 school year.

At 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, the City Council will discuss approval of its 1984-85 budget and Revenue Sharing allocations in two special meetings in the study chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave.

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, the Planning Commission will meet in the City Council chambers in City Hall to discuss approval of two conditional use permits for second housing units on Belmont Canyon Road and on Alhambra Drive.

PEN TIMES 7/13/84 BELMONT

City Council — Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., Belmont.

Parks and Leisure Services Committee — First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission — First and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Belmont School District board — First and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Ave.

Belmont County Water District board — Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1513 Folger Drive.

PEN TIMES Belmont 7/15/84

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, the Planning Commission will meet in the City Hall council chambers, 1365 5th Ave. The City Council will not meet this week.

PEN TIMES Belmont 6/24/84

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, the City Council will meet in the council chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., to hear a report from the city clerk on the certification of petitions requesting an election to determine whether four councilmen should be removed from office through a recall election; the city attorney will give a report on the state Supreme Court decision regarding placement of political signs in public rights of way.

This week in ...

PEN. TIMES Belmont 8/12/84

The City Council will meet in the council chambers at 8 p.m. Tuesday. The council will hear a report on efforts to locate a senior center in town. There also will be a report on the Browning-Ferris Industries garbage transfer station rates and a report on the progress toward cleanup of businesses on Old County Road. The meeting will be held in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave.

CALL ENQ 9/19/84

Belmont

At the September 11 meeting the Belmont City Council took the following action :

o Authorized execution of an agreement between the city and Group 4 Architecture Research and Planning, Inc. for site selection, preliminary design, and program budget for a senior center.

Under the agreement site selection should be completed by mid-November, while preliminary designs and a construction cost budget should be completed by the end of January 1985.

o Approved an agreement with Hughes, Heiss and Associates for recruitment and selection services for an assistant city planner. Services are not to exceed \$2,700.

City council authorized the hiring of a second city planner as part of the fiscal year 1984-85 budget.

The Belmont City Council next meets September 25 at 8 p.m. in council chambers, 1365 Fifth Ave.

Council Summaries

CALL ENQ 10/13/84 Belmont

At the regular meeting of Sept. 25, the Belmont City Council took the following action:

● Denied an urgency ordinance request prohibiting political signs from being posted in the public right of way by a vote of 3-1.

Councilman Don Heiman's lone dissent was enough to send the proposed ordinance to the planning commission for review. Urgency ordinances require four affirmative councilmembers votes.

The planning commission was directed to clarify regulations concerning the size, placement, and fines for non-compliance.

● Established a four-hour parking zone on Sixth Street between Ralston Avenue and Hill Street between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the request of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

● Established a no parking zone on Elmer Street.

● Set Oct. 9 for a public hearing on the moratorium concerning the Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center.

PEN. TIMES BELMONT 9/5/84

City Council — Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., Belmont.
Parks and Leisure Services Committee — First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission — First and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Belmont School District board — First and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Ave.

Belmont County Water District board — Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1513 Folger Drive.

PEN. TIMES Belmont 8/19/84

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday the Planning Commission will meet in the City Council chambers, 1365 Fifth Ave., to discuss a proposal to rezone approximately 100 parcels citywide to bring them into compliance with land use designations in the city general plan. The commission also will discuss a requested rezoning and general plan amendment for Cipriani School and a conditional use permit to allow the Charles Armstrong School, a private school for learning-impaired children, to locate at the former McDougal School site.

PEN. TIMES BELMONT 8/22/84

City Council — Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., Belmont.

Parks and Leisure Services Committee — First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission — First and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Belmont School District board — First and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Ave.

Belmont County Water District board — Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1513 Folger Drive.

Belmont *CALL ENQ 9/5/84*

At the regularly scheduled meeting of August 27, the Belmont City Council took the following action:

● Denied a request of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce to place a banner across Ralston Avenue announcing the Labor Day Biathlon.

Councilmembers unanimously agreed that all such signs and banners should be banned in an effort to control visual clutter in the city.

● Voted unanimously against extending the deadline for applications for building allocations in the city.

The brief council meeting was followed by the members' quarterly review of Belmont City Manager Ed Everett.

City Council honors youth teams

Times Tribune staff
DEN. TIMES 8/19/84

Belmont has been uncommonly blessed with two winning youth sports teams this year, and that has not escaped the notice, or the appreciation, of the city.

The City Council in a meeting last week honored the two all-star teams and helped finance one's

Belmont

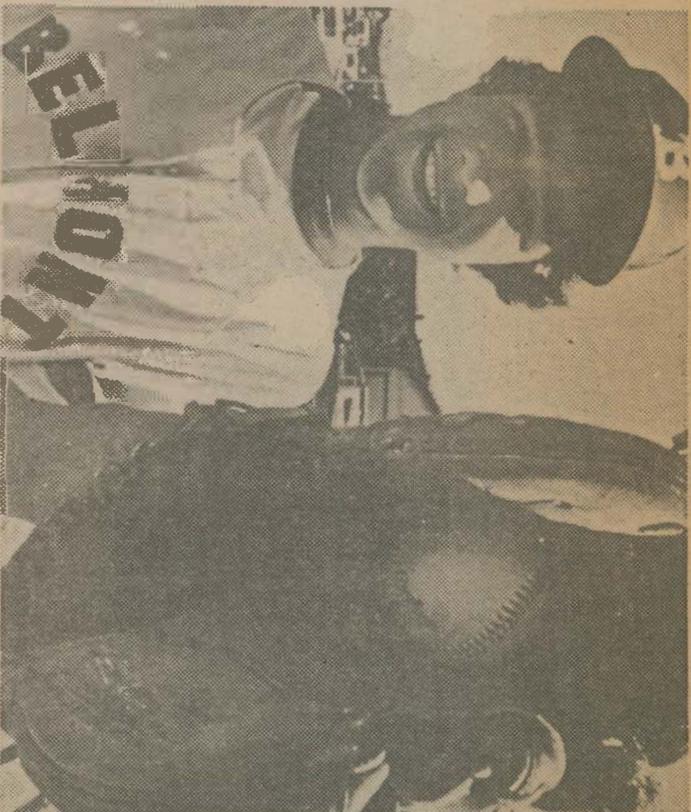
quest for greater glory.

The Belmont all-star Babe Ruth baseball team received a commendation from the council, presented by Mayor William Hardwick, for winning the District 7 championships July 14, beating out nine other teams from locales ranging from Hollister to San Mateo.

The commendation, mounted on a plaque, "acknowledges and commends the outstanding accomplishment" for "setting an example for combining good sportsmanship and hard play."

The council also named Aug. 15 Babe Ruth baseball day in Belmont.

"I want to congratulate each of you, and thank you for so successfully representing Belmont," Hard-



Times Tribune staff photo by Joe Meleno

Rick Orme of Belmont has a double reason to be proud. His Belmont All-Star Babe Ruth baseball team won the District 7 championship in July, coming in ahead of nine other teams. Last week the City Council compounded the honor by awarding the team a special commendation for its efforts.

wick said as he presented the plaque to the team manager, Kirk Martinelli.

"These are the best boys out of our six regular Belmont Babe Ruth teams. We just had fine players, and some especially great pitching

performance," Martinelli said.

The achievements of the Belmont Bobby Sox Minor All-Stars, who recently won the district 51 championships, also received commendation. The council decided to

pay \$1,000 to help finance a trip to the Bobby Sox National Championships in Los Angeles, Aug. 18-24.

The council usually reserves financing of private community groups to revenue sharing allocations, but decided this is a special occasion.

Adele Della Santini, a member of the Planning Commission with a daughter on the all-star team, said the trip will cost the team \$10,000. The team had raised only \$4,000 as of last week, she said.

Belmont

CARL ENO
8/22/84

At their regular meeting on Monday, August 13, the Belmont City Council took the following action:

- Approved funding for a preliminary study into a possible site, and construction design of a senior center. (See related story on page 7).

- August 15 was named Belmont Babe Ruth and Bobby Sox Day to honor the boy's (ages 13-15) and girl's (ages 10-12) exceptional play.

The Belmont Babe Ruth team won the District 7 championship and came in second in the Central State Championship in Stockton.

Babe Ruth manager Kirk Martinelli, coach of the All-Star team by virtue of managing the championship team from Belmont, described his teams battle for the gold as a "struggle all the way."

The runner-up finish was the best Belmont Babe Ruth All-Stars have ever accomplished.

Meanwhile, the Bobby Sox All-Star team is in Southern California in double elimination competition for the state championship. In winning the district title, the Belmont Bobby Sox outscored their opponents handily.

- Despite cooperation and noticeable improvement along Old County Road, enforcement of debris and auto repairs on the city right of way will begin August 21.

Council directed the Belmont P.D. to begin enforcement in their crackdown on blight along the strip.

- A report by Assistant City Manager Michael Shelton concerning garbage rates at the BFI transfer station suggests residents who wish to save some money should transport their garbage to Ox Mountain themselves.

Rates set at the BFI transfer station by the San Carlos city council represent a 133 percent increase over rates at the now-closed March Road site in Menlo Park, Shelton said.

- A resolution approving appraisals be conducted for the closed Cipriani, McDouglas and Barrett Schools was adopted. The appraisals will give citizens and city officials a better idea of the stakes involved in the November ballot measure regarding a one-time assessment to purchase the playfields and Barrett building, according to city manager Ed Everett.

Everett said the appraisals are necessary for the city to continue negotiations with the Belmont School District for the purchase of the playfields, should the ballot measure fail.

An appraisal conducted by the district on the Barrett site has not been made public, to date.

Belmont City Council moves plans forward for senior citizen center

S.M. TIMES 8/24/84

BELMONT — The 4,500 senior citizens who live in this community may soon have a center to go to for a wide variety of social and leisure services.

City Recreation Superintendent Rick Haffey recently recommended that the City Council hire an architect to study possible sites and draw up plans for a senior center.

When the council accepted Haffey's recommendation, senior citizens viewed the action as a

green light for their long-awaited center.

Local senior citizen organizations currently hold their functions in the Lodge Building in Twin Pines Park, but Haffey said "the largest room in the building only accommodates 45 people, so they've had to turn people away."

Haffey and representatives of the Belmont Seniors Club and Belmont chapter of American Association of Retired Persons

have toured senior centers in several Peninsula cities during the past year. They have also "looked at four possible sites (for a senior center) in Twin Pines Park," according to Haffey.

A panel of city officials and senior citizens recently interviewed several architectural firms. The panel chose Group 4 Architecture to conduct a study of possible sites for a senior center and make preliminary designs for the building. The city's

Redevelopment Agency Board has budgeted \$50,000 for architectural services.

Once a proposal is made — and providing the City Council gives formal approval for a senior center — Haffey said, construction might begin in 1986.

The success of the plan is dependent on funding. Haffey said other cities have received federal grants to cover some construction costs for senior facilities.

social programs, the recreation superintendent noted.

He is unabashed in his personal support for a new senior facility in Belmont.

"I think it is absolutey necessary," he said.

But will the City Council give final approval for a new facility?

"I think they (the council members) are committed, at some point, to providing seniors with a center," he said.

Pressure for a senior center in Belmont has been growing along with the numbers of senior citizens, according to Haffey. The 1980 census showed about 3,500 seniors amongst the city's 24,400 total population.

"The numbers (of seniors) have changed dramatically in the past couple years," said Haffey. He estimated that at least 4,500 senior citizens currently live in Belmont.

Senior centers traditionally offer a wide spectrm of services, ranging from leisure service to

Belmont will vote on political sign law

Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES 1/24/84
A tougher ordinance governing the posting of political signs on public rights of way will be presented to the Belmont City Council for its approval Tuesday.

The council on Sept. 12 voted to revise the ordinance after considering the impact of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allows cities to ban such signs.

The court in May upheld a Los Angeles city ordinance, ruling that cities have an interest in removing

"visual clutter" and traffic hazards from utility poles, street signs, lampposts, fire hydrants and other municipal properties.

The council chose to toughen its existing laws controlling the signs, settling on a compromise aimed at protecting citizens' right to free speech while minimizing visual blight.

The Belmont approach, like that of neighboring Redwood City and San Mateo, places restrictions on the size of the signs, their number

and the length of time they may be posted.

City Attorney Kenneth Dickerson has prepared a revision of the present ordinance from the council's earlier direction for consideration at the meeting.

The proposed ordinance, if adopted, would allow the signs to be posted for 24 days prior to any election. The signs would be allowed on all public rights of way, including Ralston Avenue, the Alameda de las Pulgas and El Camino Real.

Belmont's music ban may be costly

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES 10/14/84
The Belmont City Council ban on amplified music at the Lodge Building in Twin Pines Park will mean less of another sound, the ring of the city cash register.

The decision will mean a "several thousand dollar" drop in the revenues from renting the building, which is a popular site for weddings and other special events.

Last week council voted to ban from the lodge all amplified music, both recorded and live, because of park neighbors' complaints that the music is a nuisance.

The ban will be effective Jan. 10, because the Lodge Building has bookings until then.

"We will have less opportunity to book the building for weddings, anniversaries, things of that sort. A guesstimate is we will lose several thousand dollars a year because of the new policy," city Recreation Superintendent Richard Haffey said.

The money from the rentals went into the city general fund.

Haffey said the decision means the Parks and Leisure Services Department now will make less of a contribution to the city coffers. He is not sure how that will affect department operations, he said.

Haffey said the neighbors, mostly those living in the Sunnyslope area south of the park, said Saturday events have been the biggest nuisance. The lodge building fre-

quently holds two weddings on Saturdays, he said.

"The way the park is set up, music reverberates noise in the neighborhood," Haffey said.

Previous park policy allowed amplified music only with the doors to the building closed. But the sound wafted from the park and into the neighbors' yards through open windows, Haffey said.

The council made one exception to the rule. The Park Boosters Summer Concerts still may be held in the building.

Expansion of Hills center denied by Belmont council

CARL ENO 10/17/84

The Belmont City Council adopted an extension to an emergency ordinance prohibiting further expansion of the Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center at the Oct. 9 meeting.

The ordinance, in effect immediately, was unanimously adopted by the councilmen in attendance. Councilman Donald Heiman was absent.

Citing past experiences with the center's patients roaming the surrounding neighborhood unattended and in fear of future incidents, the council voted to ban, for the next 12 months, further development of the site.

A proposed rezoning of the

site from Agriculture to Planned Development, presently being studied by the city planning commission, would invalidate the emergency ordinance if adopted by council.

A planned development zoning would allow the city far more control over development, according to city planner Jerome Podesta. The P.D. zone would mandate that a conceptual plan be drawn up by the applicants followed by a detailed development plan. Both would have to be approved by the city council.

Gary Bozzini, medical director at the psychiatric center, called the need for more office space, "critical."

Bozzini said that the 25-physician staff was forced to meet with patients in the cafeteria, in halls and on the lawn, due to lack of office space.

Bozzini flatly denied allegations that criminally insane patients had been or will be treated at the clinic.

In an interview held later in the week, Bozzini said that many mentally disturbed persons never receive psychiatric attention. However, he said "we can't assume that everyone roaming Belmont streets are our (Belmont Hills) patients."

"There are an awful lot of mentally disturbed persons who are never diagnosed, let alone treated."

An environmental hearing of the centers proposed expansion program was roundly criticized last month by the council.

In other council action:

- Amplified music at Twin Pines Park Lodge build-

ing was banned with the exception of the summer concert series. The ban will begin Jan. 10, 1985, to allow those already booked into the Lodge to bring music with them.

Neighborhood complaints about loud music late at night forced the policy change "guestimated" to cost the Parks and Recreation department approximately \$10,000 in lost bookings at the site, according to Rick Haffey, recreation director.

"Belmont can lose \$10,000 to give a couple of residents peace and quiet," Councilman Bob Hoffman said in voting for the ban. "This isn't going to break us."

Councilman Bill Moore was the lone dissenter. He cited a "fundamental problem with telling the citizens 'no more music' but allowing us (the city) to use amplified music."

- Simplified rules concerning false alarms from burglary and/or fire alarm systems were adopted. Under the new rules, to be enforced beginning Jan. 1, 1985, more than three false alarms in six months will result in an extra fee of \$100 per user. More than six false alarms in one year will result in a revocation of the alarm permit.

According to Police Chief Floyd Sanderson, false alarms are a danger to responding officers.

"It puts the officers in a different mind set when they know that they are responding

to a real alarm." Sanderson said. "They respond better when there is a greater chance of the alarm not being false."

The original alarm ordinance was adopted in October 1988, but proved confusing to the public, Sanderson said.

"It's to our advantage to reduce the number of false alarms and right now we are consulting and assisting alarm users to alleviate the problem," Sanderson said.

- Resigning planning commission members Jon Stuebbe and Steven Vartan were commended by the council for their services to the City.

The cleanup proceeds on County Rd.

CARL ENO 11/7/84

By Steven Stark

The war still rages, but some battles have been won.

In its simplicity, this is how the war to clean up the blight along Old County Road has progressed since the Belmont City Council took issue with the car-repair oriented businesses along the stretch of road in April.

Taking offense to repairs being conducted on the public right of way and streets, to cars parked along the sidewalks for weeks and sometimes months at a time and to the general visual impression of malaise along the strip, the city council directed the Belmont police department to cite violations.

The businessmen, at first struck aghast at the denial of amenities they had assumed to be theirs by virtue of tradition, rallied to form a business owners association. The results have been noticeable.

"Generally, appearance of the area continues to improve," Belmont police chief Floyd Sanderson reported to council last week, "although with some exceptions," he added.

These improvements, noted Sanderson, include fewer vehicles being parked on the right-of-way, far less work being done on vehicles on the right-of-way, a general improvement of business frontage along the entire area and space for the pedestrian to walk between the curb and buildings.

The business owners, to help accommodate the need for more parking in the area, have acquired a 14-spot parking lot. By shelling out and sharing the \$300 a month rent on the lot, the owners are helping to satisfy themselves and the city.

After months in the making, improvements are at hand. Enforcement of city regulations will continue, however, Sanderson said.

Belmont's train station is going to undergo facelift

S.M. TIMES 11/28/84
BELMONT — The Belmont railroad station is due for a facelift, expansion and a move north, a representative from Caltrain told the City Council Tuesday.

He said the State Department of Transportation expects to come up with a new master plan early in 1985 with construction on a wider and longer boarding platform north of the present platform sometime in mid-year.

Assistant City Manager Mike Shelton said the move north is expected to alleviate interference with traffic signals at the intersections of El Camino Real, Old County Road and Ralston Avenue.

The boarding platform is expected to be completed next October with expansion of the parking lot and a new shelter done thereafter as weather permits.

Shelton said the council was pleased with the announcement and plans to work closely with the council and city staff in developing plans for the station. The state will fund the project.

In other action the council:

- Agreed to fund two off-road dirt bikes and to revive a dog unit for the police department to better patrol inaccessible areas such as Water Dog Lake. In the last year, the lake has been the site of one murder and a drowning. The dirt bikes will cost \$3,900 and starting up the dog unit again will cost \$8,740.

- Adopted an emergency ordinance prohibiting the use of trailers or recreational vehicles for occupation on a public right of way.

- Directed the chief of police to produce an ordinance prohibiting automotive businesses from working on cars or parking cars overnight on a public street. The council's action was particularly directed at car repair and body shops on Old County Road. Shelton said the council also plans another field inspection in six months to decide whether more stringent measures are necessary.

- Took the Red Barn antique shop at 951 Old County Road off the city's list of historic places to open the way for its owners to demolish the building. City staff members have determined the building is structurally unsafe and a fire hazard and the owners say they are unable to bring it up to code.

- Continued until Dec. 11 the public hearing on the Island Park development project.

Council Briefs — Belmont

CARL. ENQ. 11/21/84

Belmont City Council took action on these matters at the November 13 meeting:

- An ordinance outlawing motor vehicles as a place of residence was unanimously agreed upon by councilmembers in attendance. Councilmen Joe Green and Bob Hoffman were absent.

The law, if passed as an urgency ordinance November 27, would take effect immediately making it illegal to inhabit any motor vehicle on city streets.

Residents of Sterling Downs and Homeview neighborhoods had requested the law following incidents of entire families residing in motor homes on neighborhood streets.

Planning Commissioner Dallas Knudson was one of several residents calling for the ordinance.

- Finance commissioners Brenda Smernoff and Robert

Ledoux were reappointed for terms set to expire September 1987.

- Lieutenant James Scales, recently retired 20-year veteran of the Belmont Police department, was awarded a resolution of appreciation for outstanding public service to the city. (See related article.)

- November 27 was set for public hearings to consider approval of the Island Park tentative subdivision map, the financial agreement between the city, the city redevelopment agency and the Kumam Corp. and on the use permit for a detailed development plan. All three issues have received planning commission approval.

The Belmont city council next meets November 27 at 8 p.m. in council chambers, 1365 Fifth Ave.

Council votes

PEN. TIMES 12/2/84
Belmont

(Nov. 26 meeting)

Rezoned 39 properties to conform with the general plan.

Unanimous.

Passed an ordinance providing sewer service connection fees to be prescribed by resolution of the council.

Unanimous.

Amended Belmont city code to prohibit the use recreational vehicles and trailers as living places.

Unanimous.

Belmont starts action to outlaw use of motor vehicles as homes

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

PHOTOS 11/18/84

The Belmont City Council last Tuesday moved to make it illegal for people to live in cars. In the same evening, the council also rezoned 39 city parcels to bring them into conformance with the city's general plan.

The ordinance prohibiting residence in a vehicle could be enacted as early as Nov. 27. Automobiles, recreational vehicles, campers and vans are addressed specifically in the law.

The council considered the law in response to concerns voiced by residents of the Sterling Downs and Homeview neighborhoods. Sterling Downs is between El Camino Real and the Bayshore Freeway, north

of Ralston Avenue. Homeview is in the same area but south of Ralston.

Sterling Downs homeowners told the council that a recent incident — involving a family that for the past seven weeks has resided in a recreational vehicle — has distressed the neighborhood.

"An ordinance is definitely needed," Dallas Knudson, a member of the Planning Commission and resident of the area, said. "We understand the family's problems, but when you have the (vehicle) generator running in front of your home, it's upsetting."

"Our (homeowners) association urges that an ordinance be passed. It isn't only one type of vehicle that is the problem. We have had cars, buses, campers. The only thing we

haven't had is someone pitching a tent."

Rose Ozwirk, a resident of the Homeview neighborhood, also said her neighborhood has had difficulties with individuals and groups taking up residence in vehicles.

"About a year ago we had a school bus with 10 people living in it. I don't feel that people should be able to set up housekeeping in your neighborhood," Ozwirk said.

The council, with Robert Hoffman and Joseph Green absent, agreed that the practice is a problem. The ordinance, introduced Tuesday, must be presented a second time before it becomes law.

The council had considered making the law active immediate-

ly, but could not because the vote of four council members is required to do so. It indicated that it may attempt to make the law active immediately during the meeting of Nov. 27, when at least four councilmen are expected to be present.

In the other action, a trimmed version of a controversial proposal to rezone dozens of parcels citywide to bring them into conformance with their land-use designations in the general plan was approved unanimously.

Property owners in July were outraged by the proposal and protested to the Planning Commission the suggestion that 100 parcels be rezoned. The public outcry clipped the number of rezonings to 39, including institutions like the College of Notre Dame, business properties and residential land.

School sites price

Council, board agree

CARL ENO, 11/7/84
The Belmont City Council formally approved a negotiated buying price for three closed school fields at their Oct. 23 meeting, setting the stage for city voters to assess themselves \$160 per parcel to purchase the fields.

Council unanimously concurred with the Belmont School District Board of Trustees, who voted on the \$1.025 million selling price for the playing fields of the McDougal, Barrett and Cipriani Schools at their Oct. 9 meeting.

The sale price includes the entire Barrett site, which the citizens' group, "The Park People," have earmarked for use as a community center.

Parks and Recreation officials have described the need for recreation space within the city as "dire" in the past.

Revenues raised by voter approval of Measure B will raise approximately \$1.25 million, more than the acquisition price.

In other council action:

- Planning Commissioners Dallas Knudson and Mary Janet Collins were reappointed for a full three-year term to expire Sept. 30, 1987. Also Richard (Dick) Green was appointed by council to the Planning commission for a three-year term, replacing Jon E. Stuebbe.

Green, a Belmont resident of 24 years, has served in various school-related committees and presently serves on the Storm Drain Task Force.

Milt Ciarlariello was appointed by council to complete the planning commis-

sion term of Steve Vartan. The San Juan Canyon resident of three years has served as a scout master in Washington state, where he also served on a school board. Ciarlariello's term expires Sept. 30, 1986.

Parks and Recreation commissioners Michael McQueen and Richard Gay were reappointed by council for full two-year terms set to expire Sept. 30, 1986. There remains one vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council requests interested citizens to apply.

- A garbage rate increase of 11.72 percent, retroactive to Oct. 1, 1984, was approved.

Browning Ferris Industries requested a rate increase of 16 percent in July to offset operating cost increases but a South Bayside Transfer Station Authority subcommittee negotiated the lower rate increase.

The higher operating costs arose from construction and operation of the newly-built transfer station in San Carlos. BFI officials said transfer station costs will be absorbed after this year and rate increases in future years will be only for increased operational costs.

- Nov. 13 has been set for public hearings to consider the adoption of an ordinance rezoning more than 33 parcels of land on the 1000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, the 1500 block of Ralston Ave., the 800 block of Belmont Ave., the 1300 block of El Camino Real, the 800 block of Old County Road and the 1000-1200 blocks of Elmer St.

Council delays excavation permit

S.M. TIMES 11/19/84

BELMONT — The City Council on Tuesday put off allowing a developer to dig out and haul away 16,000 cubic yards of dirt from the site proposed for an office building at 20 Davis Drive.

The delay came after some homeowners in the western hills complained that present plans for the project could create an adverse visual impact in the neighborhood.

Bill Larsen, a homeowner and member of the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association, said that because of the slope of the land, one side of the proposed office building will offer a three-story wall for nearby residents to look at. He claimed that the developer does not plan any landscaping on that side of the building so that office tenants will have "an unimpeded view of the bay."

"There are a tremendous number of discrepancies in what is proposed and what they intend to build on that site," Larsen added.

John Raiser, the developer, described the proposed office building as a first-class project which will include extensive landscaping in order to fit in with the surrounding residential neighborhood. The building will have 84,000 square feet of office space, a much smaller structure than what could be allowed under city codes for the site, Raiser noted.

Larsen said homeowners view the office building as "a sensitive proposition" and he said homeowners want to "work with the developer."

An attorney representing Raiser Development noted that the Belmont Planning Commission has already approved the design review for the office building.

He added that Raiser Development initially asked to excavate 4,000 cubic yards at the site, but the firm now requests a permit to remove 16,000 cubic yards. Most

of the increase is because of Planning Commission requirements for drainage improvements at the site, he said.

Councilman Donald Heiman recommended that the request for the excavation and hauling permit be referred back to the Planning Commission for further review. Heiman said the council can't force the developer to meet with members of the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association but he suggested that such a meeting might smooth out some of the complaints from the neighborhood.

In other business, the City Council:

- Introduced an ordinance that would prohibit anyone from living in a camper, trailer or recreational vehicle parked on a city street. That step follows complaints from homeowners in the Sterling Downs neighborhood that a family is living in a trailer parked on a street.

- Introduced an ordinance to rezone 39 land parcels scattered throughout the city.

In other action, the council upheld a Planning Commission decision to amend the zoning laws that could have forced an 18-year-old business to close.

Circuit Inc., a printed circuit board manufacturer, was caught in a classic "Catch-22" situation in its attempts to comply with conflicting federal and city laws.

The business was founded before its present commercial zoning was established. It is a non-conforming use and, by city law, cannot expand.

However, the federal Environmental Protection Agency required Circuit to add a waste-water treatment facility that would have constituted an expansion.

The City Council concurred with the Aug. 21 Planning Commission decision to allow non-conforming uses to expand if it promotes the public health and welfare.

Belmont toughens sign laws

New restrictions to take effect after November

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

VEN. TIMES 9/12/84

Belmont political candidates will face stricter laws governing where they can post signs, although the new guidelines will not be in effect for the November election.

The Belmont City Council Tuesday decided to strengthen an existing sign ordinance during discussion of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in May that allows cities to ban the signs from public property. The court upheld a Los Angeles city ordinance, ruling that cities have an interest in removing "visual clutter" and traffic hazards from utility poles, street signs, lampposts, fire hydrants and other municipal properties.

Such clutter has been a problem in Belmont, especially along the city's main thoroughfares, Ralston Avenue, El Camino Real and Alameda de las Pulgas.

The council chose to continue to allow the signs, settling on a compromise aimed at protecting citizens' rights to free speech while minimizing visual blight.

"I think sign pollution is bad, but censorship is worse," Councilman Donald Heiman said. "I would not be in favor of banning the signs."

The Belmont approach, like that of neighboring Redwood City and San Mateo, is to place restrictions on the size of signs, the number allowed in an area and how long they may remain up.

The final version of the revised ordinance will not be developed or approved before the November election, so the existing law will remain standing.

Although a draft of the new ordinance will not be presented until the Oct. 9 council meeting, the city no longer will require a permit for posting the signs.

City Attorney Ken Dickerson said recent court rulings indicate having the city manager issue permits to post signs is unconstitutional, because he can choose not to grant them at all.

Sr. Center may push arts aside

CALL. ENG. 12/5/84
By Steven Stark

Preliminary recommendations for the siting of a senior citizen center in Belmont calls for the demolition of the San Mateo Arts Council center and replacing it with a new building.

Representatives of Group 4 Architects, selected by the Belmont city council late in the summer to select the most appropriate site for the senior center, told a packed council chamber Nov. 29 that demolishing the arts center and replacing it with a brand new building would be the best buy for the money spent.

The options include 1) expanding the Lodge Building at Twin Pines Park, 2) purchasing the first floor south wing of the Creekside Commercial Building on Fifth Avenue, 3) expanding the Twin Pines art center building or 4) building a new structure at the art center site.

The architects said the price for the four options ranges from \$1.1 million for option one to \$1.3 million for option four.

Parks and Recreation superintendent Rick Haffey told the artists in attendance that the city would do everything possible to help relocate the Arts Council, should city council decide on option four.

"The Arts Council is a valuable community resource that we would like to preserve," Haffey said.

The approximately \$1.2 million needed, Haffey said, would come from a variety of sources, including county grants, state legislated funds from Proposition 30 and from matching city Redevelopment Agency funds.

Senior center may wind up at Twin Pines

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

DEN. TIMES 12/16/84

A consultant to the city of Belmont has recommended that the Twin Pines Art Center should be torn down to make way for a new Senior and Community Center in Twin Pines Park.

The site recently was chosen from among a list of four as the most ideal for the senior and community center, after a series of meetings with seniors and other community members, Recreation Superintendent Rick Haffey said.

A meeting on the recommendation will be held Jan. 3 in the City Council chambers at City Hall.

The alternative emerged as the most popular because it would put the center in the scenic park and would yield the city the best facility for its money, Haffey said.

There were three other alternatives for a center under study by a city consultant, Group 4 Architects, including:

- Expansion of the lodge building in the park.
- Purchase of the south wing of the first floor of the new Creekside commercial building, adjacent to the park.
- Expansion of the Art Center building.

Seniors rejected the lodge because it is a two-story building and would require them to climb stairs. The south wing of the Creekside office building, on Sixth Avenue, offers only 5,000 square feet of space. The Arts Center is an 8,000-square-foot building.

Renovating the Arts Center was rejected because that would cost only slightly more to build an entirely new building, Haffey said. "Renovating the existing building would cost about \$1.1 million. Building a new one would cost \$1.2 million," he said.

Belmont senior citizen center idea isn't sitting well with some artists

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

TIMES TRIB. 12/24/84

A recommendation that the Twin Pines Art Center in Belmont be replaced by a senior citizens center has upset the artists who turned the once-vandalized building into studios and galleries.

The proposal puts the artists at odds with Belmont's seniors, who say demolishing the building and replacing it with a new one is the best alternative for the first Belmont senior center.

However, both the artists and the seniors say they don't want the conflict to develop into the sort of full-scale battle for which Belmont is famous.

The building in Twin Pines Park is home for 26 artists who want to stay because it is a workplace and showplace for their art. Its low rent probably can't be found anywhere else, they said.

"I definitely want the art center to continue its existence, because it is of value," said sculptor Ruth Waters. "It does not just serve the little town of Belmont, it serves the entire Peninsula."

Demolition of the art center was recommended earlier this month by the Group 4 Architects consulting firm as the alternative that would yield the city the best facility for its money.

Renovating the center or other park buildings would cost the city as much or more as constructing a new building on the art center site,

the consultants found.

The cost of constructing a new building has been estimated at \$1.2 million, to be financed with a combination of city, county and state funds.

A meeting on the consultant's recommendation will be held Jan. 3 in the City Council chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave.

The art center once was part of the Twin Pines Psychiatric Hospital, purchased by the city for a park in the mid-1970s. The concrete-block structure contained the hospital's padded cells.

The artist's colony was born in 1976 when Waters asked permission to construct studios in the then badly vandalized building.

"The City Council thought I was out of my tree to even want to touch it. There wasn't a single exterior door that I could close. It was so bad, the parks department didn't want to use it for a Halloween haunted house," Waters said.

Today the center contains studios for sculptors, photographers, painters and potters, among others, and has a waiting list of 120.

The artists pay the city minimal rent, some as little as \$15 a month, for their studios. The approximately \$8,000-a-year in rent money is recycled into improvements to the building, so the city makes no profit from the artists.

Belmont seniors have wanted their own center for decades, but the dream always has seemed out of reach. The recent creation of a

city redevelopment agency that will use tax-increment financing to pay for part of the development has brought the dream closer to reality.

Hugh Slay, president of the 200-member Belmont Seniors Club, said he feels badly that the first choice for the new center would evict the artists. But the art center is the site he has his eye on.

"I feel very bad about it. But that building is not a particularly beautiful building like the others in the park, and the park is where the center should be. It's downtown, near the Police Department and shops and stores," Slay said.

For Kathleen Podolsky, a photographer at the center, moving would mean reconstructing a darkroom. Other artists have other needs and would face other inconveniences.

"A photographer has to have water and electricity; the painters need good light and space where they can set up an easel; the sculptors need floor-level space where they can bang and pound; the potters need a kiln," Podolsky said.

"We are all upset there is a chance that we will lose the center. None of us is against the seniors, but it is very hard to find space where we can work. The Twin Pines Art Center is an ideal location," she said.

Whatever happens, both Slay and Waters said they want to avoid the bickering that they said is characteristic of Belmont.

Thank You Belmont Council

CARL ENG 5-12-3/84

Editor:
Congratulations to the Belmont City Council for passing a law to nix "Peeling Rubber" which has become an increasing problem at the Carlmont and Bayview Shopping Centers.

If they can, now, also pass a law

to ban blaring auto radios and motorcycles with noisy (or no) mufflers, Belmont would become a less stressful, and more pleasurable place to reside.

Art Dunning
Continental Way
Belmont

Letters To The Editor

CARL ENG 6/22/84

Editor:

We live in a Belmont Hills neighborhood which is composed mainly of hillside homes on winding streets. The children in our neighborhood walk to school-fields in order to play.

School closure has placed our children's playgrounds in jeopardy. Sale of any of the open space at the closed school sites would result in a serious loss of playground space in the central area of Belmont. This city also needs more meeting rooms for organizations and recreational activities.

Belmont does not have funds available to purchase land from the school district. A group of con-

cerned citizens called the "Park People" is proposing purchase of the playing fields at McDougal and Cipriani schools and the entire Barrett school site. Buildings at the Barrett site could provide a community center for Park and Recreation Department use. Purchase could be accomplished if Belmont voters approve a one-time only special tax on the November ballot.

The price tag for playgrounds and parks will be expensive, but we citizens face the alternative of permanent loss of open space.

Sincerely,
Warren and Judy McCarty
Coronet Blvd., Belmont

PEN TIMES TUESDAY 9/23/84

BELMONT: At 8 p.m. the Belmont City Council will meet in the council chambers at 1365 Fifth Ave. The council will choose between two proposed ordinances that would regulate the size and placement of political advertising signs; consider establishing a four-hour parking zone on Sixth Avenue between Raisin Avenue and Hill Street; and consider creating a no-parking zone on Elmer Street.

PEN TIMES TUESDAY 10/21/84

BELMONT: At 8 p.m. the City Council will meet at City Hall to discuss what security measures can be taken to make Water Dog Lake, where a 12-year-old boy was murdered, safer. The council also will discuss the status of cleanup of Old County Road automotive businesses.

PEN TIMES BELMONT 11/25/84

BELMONT: Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave., Belmont. Parks and Leisure Services Committee — First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission — First and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Belmont School District board — First and third Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices at 2960 Hallmark Ave.

Belmont County Water District board — Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1513 Folger Drive.

PEN TIMES MONDAY 12/11/84

BELMONT: At 8 p.m. Belmont School District trustees will meet at Central School, 525 Middle Ave., for the organization of the board. A children's musical program will precede the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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BELMONT: At 7:30 p.m. the Planning Commission will meet in the City council chambers, 1365 Fifth Ave., for the annual review of site utilization for four schools and continued discussion of the housing element and zoning ordinance for political signs.

Belmont

CARL ENG 8/22/84

At their regular meeting on Monday, August 13, the Belmont City Council took the following action:

- Approved funding for a preliminary study into a possible site, and construction design of a senior center. (See related story on page 7).

- August 15 was named Belmont Babe Ruth and Bobby Sox Day to honor the boy's (ages 13-15) and girl's (ages 10-12) exceptional play.

The Belmont Babe Ruth team won the District 7 championship and came in second in the Central State Championship in Stockton.

Babe Ruth manager Kirk Martinelli, coach of the All-Star team by virtue of managing the championship team from Belmont, described his teams battle for the gold as a "struggle all the way."

The runner-up finish was the best Belmont Babe Ruth All-Stars have ever accomplished.

Meanwhile, the Bobby Sox All-Star team is in Southern California in double elimination competition for the state championship. In winning the district title, the Belmont Bobby Sox outscored their opponents handily.

- Despite cooperation and noticeable improvement along Old County Road, enforcement of debris and auto repairs on the city right of way will begin August 21.

Council directed the Belmont P.D. to begin enforcement in their crackdown on blight along the strip.

- A report by Assistant City Manager Michael Shelton concerning garbage rates at the BFI transfer station suggests residents who wish to save some money should transport their garbage to Ox Mountain themselves.

Rates set at the BFI transfer station by the San Carlos city council represent a 133 percent increase over rates at the now-closed March Road site in Menlo Park, Shelton said.

- A resolution approving appraisals be conducted for the closed Cipriani, McDougal and Barrett Schools was adopted. The appraisals will give citizens and city officials a better idea of the stakes involved in the November ballot measure regarding a one-time assessment to purchase the playfields and Barrett building, according to city manager Ed Everett.

Everett said the appraisals are necessary for the city to continue negotiations with the Belmont School District for the purchase of the playfields, should the ballot measure fail.

An appraisal conducted by the district on the Barrett site has not been made public, to date.

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