

Recall Charges Answered By Belmont Mayor

CARL ENQ. 7/18/84

Belmont residents will be asked to recall or retain four of five of their city councilmen on November 6 it was confirmed last Tuesday night, while Mayor William Hardwick, one of those under attack, gave what he had described earlier as "a formal response to the charges made in the recall petitions."

"I find it very difficult to understand the hostility that some people hold towards members of this City Council," Hardwick said, reading from an 11 - page prepared statement.

More than 20 percent of the registered voters in the city have signed the recall petitions; the election has been set in November to coincide with the general election, thereby saving Belmont money that a special election would cost. Facing the recall are, besides Hardwick, Councilmen Joseph Green, William Moore and Donald Heiman. Councilman Robert Hoffman was not targeted for recall by the citizen's group, Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC).

Hardwick went on to say that, "This council is an extremely dedicated, honest group of men who have worked diligently to resolve issues which are in the best interest of the community, by listening to the citizens and by attempting to be responsible in every situation."

Hardwick said it was appropriate to make a formal response to the recall group because, "this election will place the voter of our community in the position of determining who to believe."

Hardwick stated the targeted councilmen did not circumvent Proposition 13, as charged, to finance the proposed but nixed storm drain assessment district. Hardwick said the proposed assessment was a benefit assessment, as allowed v proposition 13.

As to the charges the council wasted \$100,000 in public funds for consultant fees to address the storm drain problems in the city, Hardwick asked, "can you imagine the reaction of the property owners if we asked them to respond to a recommended project but told them we did not know what the cost would be or the scope of the work proposed?"

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Hardwick said the information in the engineer's report "will be used when corrective work is undertaken."

Hardwick said the council would be "derelict in our duty if we did not propose some method to correct the existing conditions. Money spent because we won't correct a decaying (storm) system is a waste."

To charges the council publicly supported a special election at the request of and for the benefit of the Kumam Corp. development plan for east of the Bayshore Freeway, Hardwick stated there never has been a vote held for the proposal. A referendum passed by the citizens exempting the properties east of Highway 101 from the 56 dwelling unit per year limit is the only binding law in effect at the site, Hardwick said.

To the charge that the council has ignored the mandate of the people expressed in 1979 to control future residential growth by refusing to enact any long term measure to prevent over-development, Hardwick stated council has "implemented every aspect of this ordinance."

CITIZEN CONTROL

To the charge that council has removed areas of the city from citizen control by forming a Redevelopment Agency, Hardwick stated "It is my opinion that the Council would be derelict in its responsibilities if it did not take advantage of the opportunity to retain needed revenues within its own community rather than allow them to continue to be directed to other portions of the county."

Hardwick called the potential revenues from the Agency "a God send" due to the budgetary problems faced by the city when it was formed. Possible projects financed by the agency, in which revenues are raised through taxes on new developments, include a senior citizens center, Twin Pines Park improvements, a youth sports complex, low interest loans for maintenance and repairs for homes in the redevelopment area, and street traffic improvements, Hardwick said.

Letters To The Editor

Recall a damaging, devisive, negative action

CARL ENP 10/17/84
Editor:

After many years of watching Belmont grow and develop into a desirable place to retire and enjoy family and friends, of all the things that have occurred in the years I've lived in Belmont, I sincerely believe the proposed recall of four city councilmen, has got to be the most damaging, devisive, negative action ever.

As I reflect on the past few years, I think of the people who are proposing the recall and why? John Stoddard, David Bomberger, Heartley Laughead, Cora Feierbach, Lida Paetzke. What positive thing have any of these people done for the community?

Lida Paetzke ran for City Council and lost. Lida Paetzke filed a law suit against the City Manager a few years ago, charging him with misuse of funds regarding a computer that was purchased by the city. After a court hearing, the suit was dismissed and the City Manager was exonerated of any wrong doing. However, it did cost the city thousands of dollars.

After two attempts at being appointed and two election campaigns, Mr. Charles Paetzke finally won a seat on the Bel-

mont School Board. Before being elected, Mr. Paetzke filed a law suit three years ago involving the school district. The law suit involved the leasing of vacant school space. One of the leasees involved in Mr. Paetzke's suit is Pittman Learning Center. The school district lost over \$1 million dollars in revenue due to Pittman's withdrawing from their lease. Later, Pittman rented a warehouse from Mr. Paetzke's employer, Wadsworth Publishing Co.

The Paetzke suit and all other related law suits have cost the school district over \$33,000 to this date with no way of ever recovering these losses. How many more frivolous law suits can the community take from the Paetzkes?

Lida Paetzke and four other individuals have promoted the recall of four city councilmen. The charges being misuse of monies (spent) to study the storm drainage problem, Island Park development and the Redevelopment Agency that was formed to acquire funds to upgrade the easterly section of Belmont-Home-View, Sterling Downs, Old County Road, downtown parking, Twin Pines Park and a

portion of the drainage problem. All of these projects are a positive effort to help Belmont.

I fail to comprehend what will be gained by this negative action to recall four honest, sincere, decent family men

Belmont council deserves support

Editor:
CARL ENP, 10/17/84

As residents of Belmont for the past 34 years, Betty and I have seen many people serve on our city council. We have not always agreed with them but we have never felt strongly enough for a recall and we don't feel that way at the present time.

We feel very strongly that the present council has tried to bring the people together.

They have brought about many changes in the city government which in the future will benefit all citizens of Belmont.

For many years we have needed recreation facilities. The Island Park east of Bayshore Freeway will be a big step in meeting some of these needs.

For the past 15 years the seniors of Belmont have been requesting a Center of their own to no avail. This council has seen fit to start the proper procedure to obtain one for them.

This council has shown compassion for the Belmont people. They did not go ahead with the storm drainage assessment. By law they could have proceeded with the assessment. They chose not to proceed.

who are serving our community.

Think about preserving the good name and integrity of these four people and our community. Vote NO on the Recall.

Rose Ozwirk
Belmont

Please do not recall the four city councilmen that are working truly for a Better Belmont.

Hugh K. Slay
President
-Belmont Seniors Club
Belmont

Belmont recall scheduled

S.M. TIMES 4/11/84

BELMONT — The City Council agreed Tuesday to schedule its own recall election, but only after Mayor William Hardwick deliver a long, harsh criticism of the group trying to oust him and three of his colleagues.

Hardwick said the charges levelled by the recall group are "totally unfounded and totally without substance." He said he finds it "very difficult to understand the hostility that some people hold toward members of the City Council."

In a prepared statement, the mayor denied that the council tried to circumvent Proposition 13 when it proposed a \$15 million assessment district for storm drain repairs. He said the council mailed letters to 8,000 property owners indicating the amount of their assessment and killed the proposal after residents expressed their opposition.

Hardwick also denied that the council wasted public funds by spending \$100,000 for consultant fees and an engineering report on the assessment district.

"Can you imagine the reaction of the property owners if we asked them to respond to a recommended project but told them we did not know what the cost would be or the scope of work proposed?"

He added that the information in the report "is still valuable and will be used when corrective work is undertaken."

The recall group, Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC), has also accused Hardwick, Donald Heiman, William Moore and Joe Green of ignoring a residential growth control ordinance passed by voters in 1979 and refusing to enact long-term measures to prevent over-development.

Hardwick responded that the council "implemented every aspect of this ordinance in our growth management program, which was mandated by the people." He further claimed that the council is being careful about development.

"No matter how we attempt to solve a problem, this group is not going to be satisfied," he said.

The mayor also discounted the recall group's claim that the redevelopment agency is unnecessary.

He said the council would be derelict if it did not establish the agency, which will produce revenue for a senior citizens center, park improvements, a sports complex, improvements for downtown parking and traffic, and other needed projects.

Hardwick concluded that the voters of Belmont "have always shown a great deal of wisdom in the way they cast their votes. I place my faith in the citizens of this community to sort their way through this maze and cast a vote that will bring credit to the city."

A group of council supporters stood and applauded. The council then voted to place the recall election on the Nov. 6 ballot.

In another agenda item, the council indicated it might also place on the Nov. 6 ballot a proposal to buy the playing fields at three neighborhood schools.

A group called the Park People is proposing a one-time-only tax

of about \$150 per property owner to raise \$1 million-plus for the fields at Barrett, Cipriani and McDougal schools.

Park People also proposes buying the school buildings at Barrett for a community center.

A recent survey conducted by the group showed that 74 percent of those polled said they would vote for the plan, said David Frydenlund, a spokesman for the group.

However, Geraldine Steinberg, property consultant for the school district, said the district has not yet determined a price for the fields.

The council then agreed to schedule a public hearing for July 24 to determine whether to place the park purchase plan on the Nov. 6 ballot.

City Manager Ed Everett said before the meeting that the district will come forward with a price tag for the land.

Heiman said he would also like the Park Department to estimate how much it will cost to maintain the fields.

Belmont recall proposal misguided, should be dropped

We have always regarded the recall procedure as an important aspect of representative government that can be resorted to when there is evidence that public officials have failed to carry out their duties. We think it is a mistake and a miscarriage of justice for persons to enlist recall to try to get rid of elected officials they simply don't agree with.

To condone such use of the power of recall would be to weaken representative government, not strengthen it. Used in a vindictive or whimsical way, recall petitions can harass public officials at substantial public expense as recent experience in San Francisco, directed against Mayor Feinstein, showed so well.

If the group of Belmont citizens who have announced plans to circulate recall petitions directed against Mayor William Moore and City Council members Joseph Green, William Hardwick and Donald Heiman persist in their effort, they will subject their community to a divisive, expansive experience that can and should be avoided.

The petitioners are reportedly charging the four public officials with "mismanagement of our community resources and erosion of the democratic process" — charges which the councilmen state in their written responses are "categorically untrue," "ludicrous," and "gross distortions of the truth."

Mayor Moore says many of the accusations being made by the petitioners are "flat misrepresentation of fact." He believes the recall move is "part of a continuing effort to discredit and disrupt the City Council" by a group of citizens unhappy with council decisions.

Moore expressed the opinion that the recall move is an outgrowth of a recent council proposal to establish a storm drainage assessment district in Belmont — a proposal which was dropped by the council in view of public opposition to it.

To differ with local government proposals, in Belmont or anywhere else, is one thing. To attempt to remove from office duly elected officials who are honestly and earnestly carrying out the duties of their office is quite another.

We agree with former Belmont mayor and councilman Joe Zucca when he says the power of recall should be reserved for public officials who have failed in a significant way to carry out their obligations. None of the targets of the current campaign, he points out, deserve such action. "so why in hell put them through this?" Zucca is helping organize a "Committee Against the Recall."

Twenty percent of Belmont's approximately 14,000 registered voters must sign recall petitions within 120 days for a recall election to be scheduled. We hope those who are urging a recall will, upon further reflection, refrain from placing the community and its elected officials through this expensive, divisive and unwarranted ordeal.

If, however, they persist and circulate recall petitions, we believe the citizens of Belmont should refuse to sign them.

Recall effort to start soon

S.M. TIMES 1/20/84
BELMONT — This city's first-ever campaign to recall City Council members will begin within the next few days, said Lida Paetzke, spokesperson for Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC).

"The county clerk has approved the form of the petition so we are now in the position to proceed to get the signatures," she said Thursday.

"Our clock starts running today," she added. ABC has 120 days to obtain the signatures of about 3,000 Belmont voters (20 percent of the total) to qualify the recall for a ballot.

Mrs. Paetzke said volunteers will begin circulating petitions as soon as they are printed.

ABC has served recall notices on Mayor William Moore and Councilmen Joseph Green, William Hardwick and Donald Heiman, charging them with "mismanagement of our community resources and erosion of the democratic process."

Robert Hoffman is not a target of the recall drive.

Meanwhile, Committee Against the Recall (CAR) has formed for an anti-recall campaign.

"Our job is going to be to try to discourage people from signing recall petitions," said Joe Zucca, a former councilman and mayor who helped form the group.

Growth ordinance

S.M. TIMES 3/16/84
Editor, The Times:

The letter from Eve Sterry is in error. She states that I played no part in writing Belmont's growth control ordinance. The facts are, the Citizens for Orderly Growth authored and sponsored the initiative, the actual writing of the ordinance was left up to the city.

As chairperson of the Belmont Planning Commission at the time, I presided over many public hearings devoted to the actual writing of the ordinance. It was a long and arduous process and, as chairperson, I had a significant role in helping to write the ordinance. All sides of the issue were being heard and evaluated equally.

I am proud of the Planning Commission's accomplishment. As proof of my involvement in helping to write the ordinance, I offer the written minutes and the recorded tapes of the Planning Commission meetings.

Any public official should willingly accept criticism; but, hopefully, critics, acting fairly and responsibly, will check the facts.

DONALD HEIMAN
Belmont

Fun is on his agenda as parks commissioner

Times Tribune staff
 PEN. TIMES 1/1/84
BELMONT — For the next two years, Gail Wright will be taking care of business when it comes to recreation.

Wright, a seven-year Belmont resident, recently was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission and named regional commissioner of the city's 700-participant American Youth Soccer Organization.

Wright, a San Francisco-based financial analyst, said he thinks child's play is serious business.

"The basic idea is that if we don't invest in kids when they are young we will have to invest in them later, when they get into trouble," Wright said.

Wright was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission in November. Among his first acts was recommending to the city that it buy part of the Belmont Elementary School district's vacant school sites.

As AYSO commissioner, Wright will coordinate soccer play for the city's 54 youth soccer teams. The teams each have 15 players. Both boys and girls compete in AYSO soccer.

"My job is setting up a schedule of activities to make sure that the games in 1984 are successful," Wright said. His

Belmont

work will include purchasing uniforms for the players, reserving playing fields, and recruiting volunteer coaches.

Wright became involved in AYSO through coaching, when his youngest son began playing in the organization's coeducational division four years ago.

He played soccer for fun himself while a student at Stanford University and while serving with the Army overseas.

Wright said this year promises to be successful because of the continuing dedication of the scores of volunteers working to promote the program.

"It will be a successful year, because of our volunteers on all the jobs, the coaches, the referees, even the orange ladies, who give oranges to all the kids at halftime," Wright said.

The only adversity facing the division is a lawsuit by a girl player's father, charging the Belmont AYSO is discriminating against his daughter. The AYSO national headquarters is scheduled to discuss the suit, and possibly respond to it, after a meeting to be held in the next few weeks.

Growth statute

S.H. THES 3/8/84
 Editor, The Times:
 We note with amazement that Belmont City Councilman Don Heiman, in his effort to avoid a recall election, claims that he helped write Belmont's Growth Control Ordinance.

To set the record straight, Citizens for Orderly Growth (COG) authored and sponsored the 1979 growth control initiative ordinance, which the voters approved by a 2-to-1 margin.

Mr. Heiman played absolutely no part in writing the ordinance or working for its adoption. As a matter of fact, in 1982 he and the other councilmen tried to water it down by promoting an exemption for Kummam's massive Island Park project, a move which COG strenuously opposed and the voters rejected by a vote of 5197 to 2919.

EVE STERRY
 Belmont

Tough first task for new manager

by Phyllis Brown
 Times Tribune staff
 PEN. TIMES 1/1/84
BELMONT — The City Council reaffirmed Tuesday it will form a committee to seek solutions to the difficult problem of how to pay for citywide storm-drain repairs.

The council placed the job of suggesting ways to choose committee members in the hands of the new city manager, Edward Everett, who arrived Monday and was present at his first council meeting Tuesday.

Everett will poll the council members for opinions on how the committee members should be chosen and then propose a

number of alternative selection methods at a Jan. 24 council meeting.

The selection of the committee will be important because it is key to the council's last-ditch attempt to solve the city's most serious problem.

For the past several years, residents and businessmen have suffered damage from flooding and mudslides, in part because of the inadequacy of the storm-drain system.

Emergency repairs to badly damaged areas and payment of property-damage claims against the city have resulted in a badly strained city budget.

The council first said it would form the committee in a meeting Dec. 13, one week after an assessment district it had pro-

posed to finance the storm-drain repairs was overwhelmingly rejected by angry property owners.

Some residents were so upset by the proposal they initiated efforts to recall Mayor William Moore and Councilmen Joseph Green, William Hardwick and Donald Heiman. By the end of next week, the recall group expects to begin circulating petitions for the councilmen's removal from office.

How the City Council's committee will be chosen and who will be on it will be important to its success, council members said.

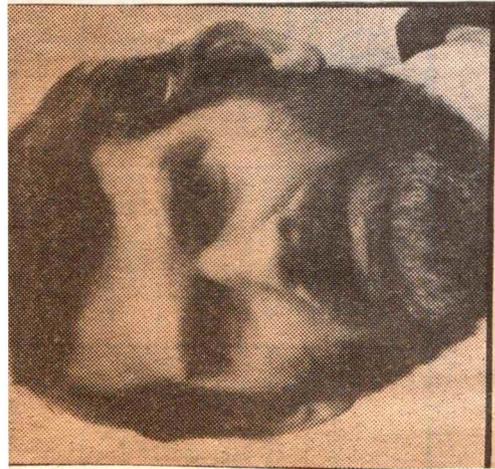
"The most important thing is getting community support for the committee,"

Councilman Robert Hoffman said.

Councilmen William Moore and Donald Heiman even suggested that a committee be formed to select the storm-drain committee.

Councilman Green, referring to the infighting that has characterized Belmont politics since the city began, said in response, "Only in Belmont would you have a committee to select a committee."

The idea was scrapped when Everett said he would suggest ways for the council to select the storm-drain committee.



Edward Everett ... to set up storm-drain committee.

Save Belmont!

**DO NOT SIGN
RECALL !!**

We CARE

Yacky Signs?

**Yacky
People!**

**Let's Get Rid
Of Both!**

(Times Photo)

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Different messages appear on a wall alongside Ralston Avenue in Belmont. Groups are campaigning for, and against, the recall of four city council members.

A strange calm settles over the Belmont recall

S.M. TIMES 3/2/84 By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — Believe it or not, there is a recall movement against four city councilmen, despite the strange calm that has settled over this politically volatile community.

It's one of the quietest recall campaigns ever staged on the Peninsula.

It's deliberately planned that way by members of Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC) who are quietly, but doggedly, circulating recall petitions through the neighborhoods.

"We don't have to make a big to-do over this thing," said Hartley Laughead who is one of the ABC organizers.

How is the recall drive going?

"It's coming along fine," Mrs. Laughead replied. "There seems to be a high percentage of people who want to sign." She added, however, "I am not giving out any figures."

The recall petitions must be signed by 20 percent of Belmont's 14,000 registered voters within the next 2½ months before a recall election can be scheduled.

The recall group announced last December that they intend to remove from office Mayor William Moore and Councilmen Joseph Green, William Hardwick and Donald Heiman. ABC charged the four with "mismanagement of our community resources and erosion of the democratic process." Only Councilman Robert Hoffman is not a target of the recall.

The recall notices were presented to the councilmen one week after 2,500 angry homeowners converged on a stormy council meeting

denounce a plan to form a citywide \$15 million storm drainage assessment district.

The hostile crowd jeered at and shouted down city officials who tried to speak. The council then voted to drop plans for establishing the assessment district.

The shouting died, the recall move was born and the recall notices were formally served to the councilmen without fanfare, late at night, during the close of the Dec. 13 council meeting.

An anti-recall group called Committee Against Recall Election (CARE) was soon formed. Joe Zucca, a former city councilman and mayor who is one of the CARE organizers, said the group plans to quash the recall.

"We sense that they (the recall group) are not doing too well," Zucca said. "They seem to, on occasion, circulate the petitions and then, suddenly, they will stop as though they can't tolerate the rejection."

Zucca said members of CARE "have been talking to lots of people. A number of people say this recall is silly."

CARE has staged a small support-the-council rally and posted anti-recall signs along streets.

ABC has distributed newsletters critical of council actions and more than 50 volunteers are circulating the recall petitions.

Still, the campaigns for and against the recall have been remarkably quiet in this community where political bickering between citizen groups is commonplace.

Even Belmont's most vocal political group, Citizens for Orderly Growth (COG), the organization

Belmont recall

S.M. TIMES 3/9/84

Editor, The Times:

I was outraged to read the letter by Jim DeChaine. He called the turnout at the storm drain meeting "a very vocal minority from our community." In fact, over 3,000 residents showed up to protest their assess-

ments. It was 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 drain 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 voters should refuse to sign recall petitions

A group of Belmont citizens, unhappy with decisions of that city's administration, has introduced a discordant note in Belmont local government by mounting a recall campaign against Mayor William Moore and Councilmen Joseph Green, William Hardwick and Donald Heiman.

The campaign was formally begun last December and, as *The Times* reported last week, is being opposed by an anti-recall group headed by former Mayor Joe Zucca.

As we commented in early January, we believe it is regrettable for any individual or group to try to resort to recall procedures in order to get rid of competent and dedicated elected officials they simply don't agree with. The drastic measure of a formal recall should be reserved for those cases where public officials have failed to carry out their duties.

After all, that's why we have elections in the first place — to permit the voters to place in office the representatives of their choice. Public officials who have been elected and are doing their level best to carry out the duties of their office should not be subjected to costly and divisive recall campaigns.

If elected representatives pursue policies that are no longer in accord with the views of the majority in the community — a circumstance which we are convinced does not apply in this case — they can be voted out of office at the next election.

To differ with local government policies and proposals, in Belmont or anywhere else, is one thing. To pursue a recall campaign to try to force out of office duly elected officials who are earnestly attempting to do what they believe is right for the community is quite another.

Mayor Moore has characterized the recall attempt as an outgrowth of last winter's council proposal concerning a storm drainage assessment district in Belmont — a proposal which was dropped by the council in view of public opposition to it. He believes the recall move is "part of a continuing effort to discredit and disrupt the City Council" by a group of citizens unhappy with council decisions.

Organizers of this campaign need the signatures of some 2,800 registered voters in the next 10 weeks in order to force a recall. We believe they would serve their community better by abandoning this ill-advised campaign. Lacking that, we believe the citizens of Belmont should refuse to sign the petitions.

Task force

S.M. TIMES 3/23/84

Editor, *The Times*:

A task force is presently being formed at City Hall, set up in an attempt to solve Belmont's dangerous flooding problems. This task force will consist of a voluntary group from a cross-section of our city. It will study the problems in their entirety: where damages occur, how they occur, what will be needed to stop flooding, what the cost will be, and how to pay the estimated \$15 million it will take to complete the much needed improvements. The time has come for all citizens of Belmont to recognize that these improvements and repairs of the existing system must be made.

We have a City Council which has the guts and ambition to try to tackle this problem. Their previous attempt failed — the assessment district was abandoned. The council members willingly did so in view of the opposition of some of the people. However, a great credit should be given to the council for trying to solve a problem which stretches over a period of 20 years or more.

I have lived in Belmont 11 years. I have witnessed numerous personal

tragedies because of flooding. Previous councils did not listen to the people's cry for help. A friendly slap on the shoulder and a "sorry, we can't help, the city has no money," was the usual answer. Let's recognize the fine quality of our present council members, how they stubbornly refuse to give up on this problem because they know Belmont is in danger. Let's also recognize the workload they have undertaken to solve it. Let's support them all we can in their efforts to save Belmont.

MARIANA SKARPNES
Belmont

Recall subjects explain their points of view

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES
7/2/84

Joe Green thought twice before running for a Belmont City Council seat in 1980. The job would take precious time from the four business endeavors he worked at seven days a week.

Today, the councilman wonders whether his decision to seek office was wise. He is one of four councilmen facing Belmont's first recall election.

Like his colleagues, Bill Hardwick, Don Heiman and Bill Moore, Green said the recall is a misuse of the power, based on lies, a waste of taxpayers' money and an attempt to take over the city.

But unlike his fellows, who are determined to hold their seats, Green is so "disgusted" by the campaign he doesn't know if he still wants the job.

"I am tired, I am hurt, I am disgusted," Green said in an interview. "I have really mixed emotions about whether I even care to campaign or serve out the next nine months."

The councilmen are targeted by

the Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC), a group founded by Donald Hollenbaugh, Lida Paetzke, John Stoddard, Hartley Laughead and Debra Lynne Beaufort.

ABC formed in December to oust the four from office. Its six-month campaign for signatures on petitions to force a recall proved a success two weeks ago.

Bob Hoffman is the only councilman not threatened by recall. Hoffman last week said he will not comment on the drive.

The council will set a vote date on July 10, but it has indicated the recall will be on the November general election ballot.

If successful, the recall will force two council elections next year — a spring special election to replace ousted officials and a November regular election mandated by the city charter.

The elections would cost the city at least \$24,000 — \$6,000 for the November 1984 election, \$12,000 for the special election, and \$6,000 for the November 1985 election,

City Clerk James McLaughlin said.

ABC charges that the councilmen tried to bypass Proposition 13 by proposing a \$15 million assessment district without a vote and wasting public funds on a study of the idea.

The proposal, which raised the ire of 3,000 property owners, was abandoned. The council then formed a citizens committee to determine how to finance repairs to the 50-year-old system.

ABC also asserts the councilmen have ignored the public will in negotiating construction of a mixed-use development east of the Bayshore Freeway with the Kumam Corporation, despite a public vote against the project.

A city-Kumam liaison committee is developing plans for the project — its size, design and revenues the city would get from it. The proposal eventually will be submitted to the Planning Commission and City Council for public hearings and a decision on whether it will be built.

Green, 56, was interviewed in the office of the sporting goods store he owns on El Camino Real. He is manager of Nabisco Brands in Brisbane and runs fast-food franchises and apartments as well.

Green said the charges leveled against him are false. He opposed the district he is accused of supporting. He approved a \$100,000 study for it, but the report was district the entire time. I never

lem?"

Though ABC began its petition drive shortly after the council abandoned the assessment district, its real issue is the Kumam project, Moore said.

Moore said ABC has misrepresented the issue. The group says the council has "continued to cater to Kumam and proceeds with its development plans." Moore said the city has not approved the development. A decision on the project will come after lengthy Planning Commission and City Council public hearings, he said.

"That development would be of tremendous benefit to the city, to the tune of \$750,000 a year. There will be trade-offs. But that we will go through the public hearing process to discuss those," he said.

Moore agreed the recall is an effort to control city policy making. Donald Heiman, a first-term councilman, agrees with Green. But he is determined to fight the campaign. Heiman, 53, is vice president of a San Carlos-based company that builds safety equipment for nuclear reactors.

"This council did nothing wrong with the storm drain district or Kumam. I think (ABC) slants the facts, takes things out of context, and then uses them to their own ends. They are very politically astute people," Heiman said.

The assessment district and Kumam both were attempts to solve Belmont's two biggest problems: dilapidated storm drains and insufficient revenue sources.

"When we tried to fix the storm drains we tried to fix something that has been a problem for 20 years. No other council addressed the problem, but we are getting

(Continue Back)

voted for the assessment district. I voted for the study because it is a good tool that is being used by the storm drain task force," Green said.

ABC asserts citizens in 1982 voted against the Kumam Corp. Island Park development. Green said the vote was on whether the area east of the Bayshore Freeway should be exempt from a 1979 city law that limits home construction to 56 units per year.

Regardless, Green said he supports Island Park because the city must have the revenues, chiefly sales taxes and occupancy taxes from a proposed hotel. The project also would include badly needed playing fields.

"We don't just need it. We have got to have it. The city is desperate for income. We'd get a hell of a lot more out of it than just the marshlands that are there now," Green said.

The charges leveled against him show the recall is not an attempt to stop corruption, Green said. Its aim is taking over city hall, he said.

Bill Moore, a salesman with a container manufacturer in Oakland, said he is "sick of the lies" ABC has circulated. "They have advanced all sorts of nonsense and they know it's nonsense," he said.

"We dragged a 20-year-old problem out to the light of day," Moore said of drainage system. "We studied the problem, we suggested a solution to the problem, we held public hearings on the problem and needed, he said. It is being used by the storm drain task force.

"I was against the assessment based on the hearings we rejected the district. What is their prob-

lobbered for it," Helman said.

Heiman said the area east of the freeway will be developed no matter what Belmont does. Belmont should allow sensible development to get revenues needed for services, like storm drain repairs.

"I will fight this (recall). I will campaign very hard. I will post signs, mail out literature, just like any other campaign. And I would be glad to debate the ABC people if they wanted to come and defend their position."

Bill Hardwick, 57, has been on the City Council since 1970. If he serves out his term in office until 1987, he will have been on the council for 17 years. Hardwick, 57, works for the Southern Pacific Transportation Co., headquartered in San Francisco.

He, too, defended the assessment district and Island Park as vital to the city's healthy future, calling the recall charges unfair and inaccurate.

Hardwick believes the key to the ABC drive is one of conflicting policies. The group is antagonistic to development and the council is sympathetic to development, Hardwick said.

"I think its a growth, no growth philosophical split," he said.

But the result of the split, the recall, can only be bad for Belmont, he said.

"I think it's too bad to subject the city to this. It has come about because of political opportunism. ABC is using these issues as a means to push their philosophies. This group is willing to say anything, whether it is true or not, to achieve its political ends," Hardwick said.

Belmont extends construction ban

SAN FRANCISCO TIMES 10/10/84

BELMONT — The City Council on Tuesday extended a ban on construction at Belmont Hills Psychiatric Center even though an attorney representing the center said, "We are getting a bum rap."

The council action followed sometimes heated debate between council members and center officials over plans for the property.

Officials said they presently want only to construct an office building for their doctors.

"We have 25 psychiatrists and only seven offices," said Dr. Gary Bozzini, medical director. "Our doctors are seeing patients in the hallways, on the grounds and in the cafeteria."

He also said the center will not bring in criminally insane people for treatment.

Harley Fleischmann, an attorney who represents the center, said, "We are being unfairly treated." He asked the council to end the building moratorium.

Councilman Robert Hoffman said the center most likely plans also to expand its hospital facilities.

There is "a great deal of concern in this community" over what type of patients would be brought to the expanded center, he said.

"If you want to build and expand, come before us with plans on what the total development is going to be and the type of people" to be treated, Hoffman said.

The council voted 4-0 to extend the building ban for one more year. (Councilman Donald Heiman was absent).

In other business the council:

- Gave resolutions of appreciation to Jon E. Stuebbe and Steven C. Vartan, who are resigning from the Planning Commission. Stuebbe is moving to Bakersfield and Vartan cited increased job demands.

- Proclaimed October as National Crime Prevention Month.

- Prohibited amplified sound in the lodge at Twin Pines Park because of complaints from neighbors. The council will allow amplified music in the meadow six times a year during the summer concert series.

Councilmen to pick date for recall

Times Tribune staff

PEN. TIMES 6/24/84
The four Belmont city councilmen being recalled probably will face the voters in the November general election, according to Mayor William Hardwick.

The City Council tonight will decide when in the next two weeks it will meet to set a date for the recall election, the first ever in Belmont.

"It would appear that we probably will set it for the general election," Hardwick said. "It makes sense if we can get it on the November ballot and save money. And, more people vote in general elections."

Holding the election in November would cost about \$6,000. Holding a special election at another time would cost the city \$12,000.

The success of a petition drive that won enough support to force the recall election will be certified in a council meeting tonight.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. in the council chambers in City Hall, 1365 Fifth Ave.

By state law, the council will have 14 days after today in which to decide when the election should

take place. The meeting to schedule the election probably will be July 10, City Clerk James McLaughlin said.

The councilmen slated for recall are Hardwick, Joseph Green, Donald Heiman and William Moore. Robert Hoffman is not targeted for recall.

The recall ballot will list the four targeted councilmen and give voters a "yes" or "no" choice on each of them. A majority vote will decide each issue.

Hardwick said that scheduling his own recall election is not pleasant, but is "just part of being in politics. You'd prefer not to be doing it, but the rules are set up that way."

The recall drive was led by the Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC), a watchdog group which claims the four are guilty of disregarding the will of the people.

ABC formed for the recall effort. It began the petition drive that resulted in an election in January after the council had proposed an unpopular assessment district to repair the city storm drain system.

The \$15 million public works project was the target of massive

citizen protest. ABC, riding the crest of unrest, hit the council with the recall on the night it abandoned the idea.

The Alert Belmont Citizens is a new organization, but many of its members have been opposing the council members for years.

The assessment district, which ABC members claim was a waste of money, has not been the only project to draw the group's opposition. ABC also opposed a proposal to build a massive commercial and residential complex east of the Bayshore Freeway.

The Kumam Corporation's Island Park project, which is still being negotiated, is unpopular, and the council knows it, ABC has said. The council is negotiating the development against the citizens' will, according to ABC.

The councilmen all maintain that they have not done anything wrong in any of those cases. They believe the recall not based on any "misdeeds," but rather is an attempt to take over City Hall, they have said.

4 Belmont councilmen face recall by voters, probably in November

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

Belmont voters will decide, probably in the November general election, whether to recall four of their five City Council members.

After hearing the results of a recall petition drive read, the council Tuesday night acknowledged that enough valid signatures had been collected and agreed to meet July 10 to formally set a date for the recall election.

Mayor William Hardwick, one of those being recalled, indicated the vote of confidence probably would be held at the same time as the general election, Nov. 6, to save money.

The recall campaign began in December after 3,000 angry citizens gathered at a community meeting to protest a council plan to create an assessment district to finance \$15 million in repairs and improvements to storm drains.

The council discarded the plan after assessing citizens' wrath, but that did not appease citizens who saw it as an attempt to bypass Proposition 13's restrictions on raising taxes.

Hardwick said the task of setting a date for his recall was unpleasant.

"I'd prefer not to be doing it. It's uncomfortable. I don't like the thought that there are a lot of people who really dislike me," Hardwick said.

The election must be held within 125 days of the July 10 meeting. A simple majority vote would remove the councilmen.

The valid signatures of 2,727 registered voters were required to force recall of Hardwick, Joseph Green, Donald Heiman and William Moore. Robert Hoffman is not a recall target.

The Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC), the group spearheading the drive, more than succeeded in garnering that many signatures, McLaughlin said.

ABC circulated separate recall petitions for each of the four councilmen. They were filed in May. McLaughlin counted the signatures and checked their authenticity against San Mateo County voter registration data. He presented the results at the meeting.

The citizens group gathered 2,890 signatures to recall Green; 2,762 were valid and 128 were disqualified. Some 2,886 signatures were gathered to recall Hardwick; 2,756 were valid and 130 were disqualified.

The group gathered 2,873 signatures to recall Heiman; 2,741 were valid and 132 were disqualified. For Moore, 2,883 signatures were gathered; 2,747 were valid and 136 were disqualified.

Green was not disquieted by setting a date to discuss his own ouster. "It doesn't bother me a bit. I was elected to serve for four years, and I have done that. My term really ended in April," Green said.

He was referring to the 1983 extension by 19 months of the councilmen's terms in office when Belmont City Council elections were moved from April to November.

The term of office for Green and Moore is set to expire in November 1985. The terms of Heiman and Hardwick are set to expire in November 1987.

Hoffman, the lone councilman not facing the recall campaign, declined to comment on listening to his fellow officials grapple with their possible ouster. He said he will continue to do so.

"I represent a large constituency. No matter what I said (about the recall), 50 percent of it would be mad at me. It would be stupid for me to get involved," Hoffman said.

ABC believes the recall is an effort to remove officials who have callously disregarded citizens' wishes while asserting their own.

The conflicts between the council and the members of ABC are not new, however. ABC believes the 3-year-old attempt to seal a deal for construction of a mixed-use housing and commercial complex east of the freeway is in violation of community wishes.

The group believes that the project, Island Park, has been rejected by Belmont citizens in referendums and public meetings. The council responds that the project is in the formative stages, and has not been approved. It would not be without public debate.

Stationery use at issue in Belmont

S.M. TIMES 4/12/84

BELMONT — A group trying to recall Councilman Donald Heiman from office has accused the councilman of "gross abuse of his power" because Heiman used city stationery to endorse and promote another political candidate.

Heiman explained Wednesday that he purchased the stationery from the city, and none of the letters was either prepared or mailed at city expense.

He added that he used city stationery "merely to identify myself" when his letter, endorsing the candidacy of Sid Berlin for county supervisor, was sent to other city council members throughout San Mateo County.

"We firmly believe that Councilman Heiman's use of City of Belmont material for personal purposes is a gross abuse of his power as an elected representative of our city," said Lida Paetzke, spokesperson for Alert Belmont Citizens, a group which seeks to recall Heiman and three other councilmen from office.

"I don't know if they made a mountain out of a molehill," Heiman responded. "I thought I did what was

right. I used city stationery which I paid for. I can only say that if I have done something wrong then I am sorry."

Belmont City Attorney Kenneth Dickerson said it doesn't appear that Heiman did anything legally wrong. "My only concern would be whether he used public property for private

purposes," Dickerson said. "If he bought it (the stationery), it would be his property. Then he wouldn't be using public property."

Dickerson added that Heiman "has a right to sign his name as a councilman. When he's elected to office he doesn't give up his first amendment rights."

Letters To The Editor

CARL END 1/25/84

Hats Off To Rose

Editor:

Hats off to Rose Ozwirk for "telling it like it is" in her recent letter to the editor ("Frivolous" Recall, Wednesday, Jan. 11). Not everyone in Belmont agrees with Rose, but she does keep well informed as to what goes on in our town. She attends most every City Council meeting, Planning Commission meetings and other city meetings. She has been active in the Homeview Association and served as it's president for several years.

She has, for years, fought for what she believes is right in political and community affairs, and usually has documented proof of what she says. Again I congratulate her for coming forward and trying to open the eyes of the citizens of Belmont.

I have attended numerous City Council meetings over the 31 years I have been a Belmont resident and I do not always agree with their decisions, however I think the council we have now is one of the most honest, hard-working, considerate and dedicated councils we've had. They have faced some hard issues and I know in talking to some of them on different occasions, they've been really "torn up inside" trying to reach the right decision.

At our Neighborhood Association Christmas party, Mayor Moore attended, but instead of enjoying the evening, he spent it answering questions and getting opinions on the controversial storm drain assessment issue. He really was concerned in what the people wanted, thought, and their ideas and solutions. As for the Kumam Island Park Properties, I personally have a copy of the over 4,000 signatures collected in favor of the city council's decision to rezone those properties.

I hope before you decide to sign any recall petition you give serious thought to the consequences to these men, the community and

to yourself as a taxpayer. If these signatures are obtained there would be the cost of a recall election, then there would be a special election to elect four council persons. These two elections would cost \$15,000 to \$30,000 and would take several months, during which time this town will be in a turmoil like we haven't seen before. With four council seats open we will have so many people running for these seats it will undoubtedly be one of the dirtiest campaigns you've ever seen. Does our town really need this? Please give this a lot of thought before you sign any recall petition.
Mrs. Jean Whatley
Belmont

Letters To The Editor

CARL ENO 3/7/84
A Clean Campaign?

Editor:
Regardless of a final decision concerned with the recall of four Belmont City Councilmembers, I'm hopeful that those persons placing "No Recall" signs all over Belmont will see fit to remove them following whatever decision is completed.
Art Dunning
Belmont

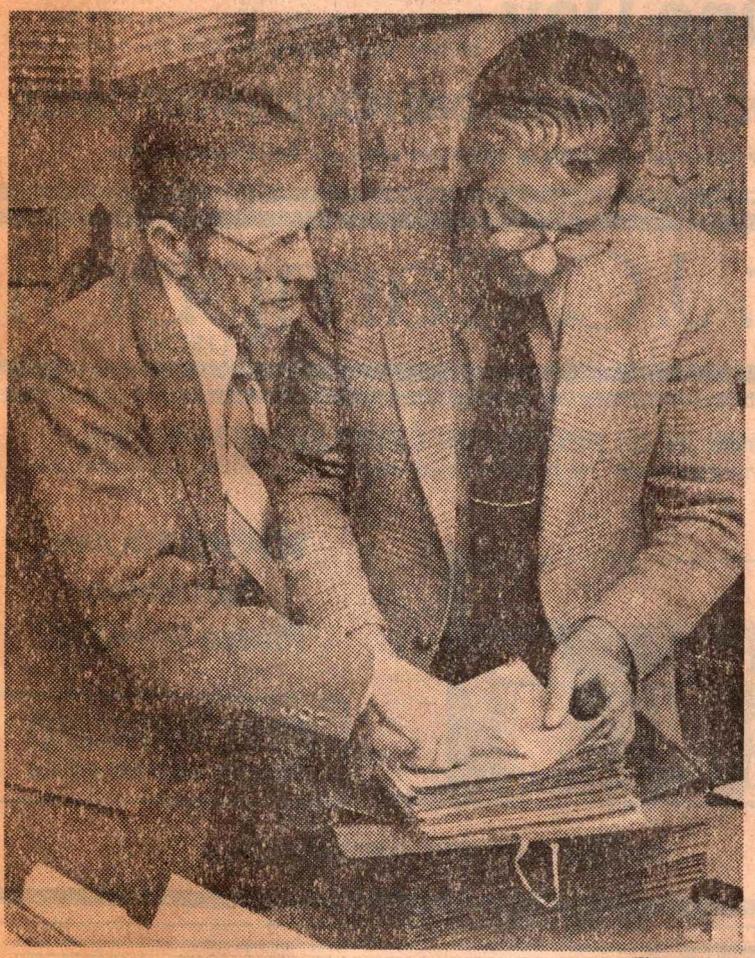
Who Wrote What?

Editor:
We note with amazement that Belmont City Councilman Don Heiman, in his effort to avoid a recall election, claims that he helped

write Belmont's Growth Control Ordinance.

To set the record straight, Citizens for Orderly Growth (COG) authored and sponsored the 1979 growth control initiative ordinance, which the voters approved by a 2-to-1 margin.

Mr. Heiman played absolutely no part in writing the ordinance or working for its adoption. As a matter of fact, in 1982 he and the other councilmen tried to water it down by promoting an exemption for Kumam's massive Island Park project, a move which COG strenuously opposed and the voters rejected by a vote of 5,197 to 2,919.
Eve Sterry, secretary
Citizens For Orderly Growth (COG)



(Times Photo)

CHECKING RECALL PETITIONS

S.M. TIMES 5/2/84
Belmont City Clerk James McLaughlin, right, checks recall petitions that were turned in Friday by Donald Hollenbaugh of Alert Belmont Citizens. About 2,900 registered voters signed the petitions seeking the recall of Mayor William Hardwick and Councilmen Donald Heiman, William Moore and Joseph Green. McLaughlin has 30 days to validate the signatures on the petitions. If at least 2,727 are valid, a special election will be scheduled.

No Recall

CARL ENQ
2/15/84

Editor:

I'm adding my voice to those who have spoke out against the recall of four Belmont City Councilmembers. These are sincere, dedicated people of impeccable integrity. I would like to know the position of the fifth member of the council who has remained conspicuously silent regarding the false accusations against his colleagues.

A recall would only serve to divide the city, hurt honest people and cost you, the taxpayer, money. Let your choices be made the democratic way by voting in the next election. Support the Belmont City Council. Do not sign the recall petition.

Dorothy Baker
Belmont

Letters To The Editor

CARL ENQ 2/22/84

How Absurd!

Editor:

It is really deplorable that a small group of power hungry dissidents are trying to take advantage of well intentioned honorable Belmont City Councilmen by instituting recall proceedings against them. The primary thrust for this move is the recent attempt on the Council's part to solve a community-wide drainage problem via the only legal and significant financial vehicle available — a storm drainage assessment district.

During the public hearing on the proposed creation of the assessment district, a very vocal minority representation from our community protested the formation of the district. The Councilmen listened to their feelings and concerns, then they took action to kill the assessment district and abandon the drainage project.

The Council did not override this opposition by moving ahead with the assessment district as they legally could have done. Neverthe-

less, the dissidents are trying to capture the emotion of that public hearing in a frivolous attempt to remove the councilmen from office.

How absurd! In my 21 years of local government service I have never witnessed such a preposterous abuse of the recall power, which has been given to the electorate, such as this dissident group is attempting to do. I support and applaud the efforts of the CARE Committee in attempting to offset the actions of the pro-recall group.

I would encourage anyone confronted by any representative of this group not to sign their recall petitions in order to create an unnecessary costly election. Such an election would not only be unnecessarily costly but would prove to be very embarrassing for the community as well. Belmont does not need any more community turmoil generated by such actions. Support your City Council. They really have your best interests at heart and are serving you well.

James P. DeChaine
Former Belmont City Manager

Council's efforts to solve the City's storm drainage problems that have existed for over 20 years, to look for downtown parking and traffic problem solutions and their attempts to bring more business into Belmont to strengthen our weak tax base.

This Council is working to acquire a Senior Citizens Center and to get five lighted ballfields for the youth of our community. We need these dedicated men!

Please don't listen to the misinterpretations and erroneous information being bandied about! Please don't sign the recall petitions — it could drastically effect the future of Belmont!

Hugh K. Slay
35-year Belmont Resident

Letters To The Editor

CARL ENQ 2/29/84

Recall 'Unjustified'

Editor:

The petition drive by some Belmont Citizens seems to be an issue generating much discussion around town. I feel there is no justification for this divisive action! The four councilmen whose names are on the petition to be recalled have acted in what they felt was the best interest of the community. I would be hard pressed to find a single person who agrees with any of our five councilmen 100 percent, but each has performed to the best of his abilities and each is serving on the Council because he was able to obtain enough votes from the Belmont citizens to be elected as a councilmember.

In fact, Councilman Hardwick is now serving his fourth term as an elected official. To me, that indicates broad community support for our council as it presently exists. These men serve on the City Council because of their commitment to

the improvements of our community! Just because a group of citizens has opposing views on issues is no reason to put our town through the turmoil of recall!

There is so much that needs to be accomplished in this world, please encourage these misguided, misinformed citizens to spend their time helping those who are less fortunate than they are and not to further divide our community which is already very polarized! Please let them know that you will not sign the recall petitions and that their time would be better spent by working to improve our community rather than by working to tear it apart!

This City Council has listened to the citizens of Belmont. They are continuing to act responsibly in their efforts to solve problems that existed in Belmont for many, many years and that no other Council before them has been willing to deal with! I specifically refer to this

Fair Criticism

CALL, ENQ 3/14/84
Editor:

The letter from Eve Sterry in "Letters to the Editor," March 7, is in error. She states that I played no part in writing Belmont's growth control ordinance. The facts are, the Citizens for Orderly Growth authored and sponsored the initiative, the actual writing of the ordinance was left up to the city.

As chairperson of the Belmont Planning Commission at the time, I presided over many public hearings devoted to the actual writing of the ordinance. It was a long and arduous process and, as chairperson, I had a significant role in helping to write the ordinance. All sides of the issue were heard and evaluated equally.

I am proud of the Planning Commission's accomplishment. As proof of my involvement in helping to write the ordinance, I offer the written minutes and the recorded tapes of the Planning Commission meetings.

Any public official should willingly accept criticism; but, hopefully, critics, acting fairly and responsibly, will check the facts.

Donald Heiman
Belmont City Councilmember

Belmont recallers claiming

success

S.H. TIMES 5/18/84

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — A strangely quiet, but dogged, recall campaign against four city councilmen has apparently succeeded in gathering enough signatures to force a special election.

"I am happy to report that we have enough signatures," reported Lida Paetzke, spokesperson for the recall group called Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC).

Today was the deadline for ABC to produce at least 2,727 signatures on petitions seeking to recall Mayor William Hardwick and councilmen Donald Heiman, William Moore and Joseph Green.

"As of right now we have approximately 2,900 signatures," Mrs. Paetzke told The Times this morning. "We will submit them to the City Clerk at 4 p.m. today."

Belmont City Clerk James McLaughlin has 30 days to validate the signatures on the petitions. Once that's completed, the City Council must schedule a special election.

ABC accused the councilmen of "mismanagement of our community resources and erosion of the democratic process" and began circulating the petitions for the recall four months ago.

The petition drive was strangely hushed and throughout the campaign ABC members refused to disclose how their drive was going.

"We were all busy working very hard and when you're working hard you don't have time to make a lot of noise," said Mrs. Paetzke. The apparently successful petition drive means "there are a minimum of 2,900 voters in this community who would like to see the recall on a ballot," Mrs. Paetzke added. "I think those people signed because they would like to see a change in the City Council policy."

Hardwick disagrees: "I think a lot of people signed it just to put it on the ballot without much of an idea of what the issues were," Hardwick said this morning.

"We knew it was a determined group and I assumed they had been working a long time and would turn something in," Hardwick added. "All we can do is wait for the city clerk's office to check and verify them (the petitions)."

According to law, 20 percent of the approximately 14,000 registered voters in Belmont must sign recall petitions before a special election is set.

The recall campaign surfaced last winter after the City Council

dropped its plan to establish a \$15 million storm drainage assessment district. ABC didn't quarrel with the council's action to abandon the district, but ABC organizers charged the council with attempting to circumvent Proposition 13 when the district was initially proposed.

The recall group also accused the council of wasting \$100,000 in public funds that were spent for consulting fees for the proposed drainage district.

Councilmen were also accused of catering to Kumam Corp., the developer proposing a massive east-of-Bayshore Freeway project.

The four councilmen have accused ABC of "gross distortions of the truth" and the councilmen charge that the recall campaign is only serving to split the community.

"I think it is just too bad," Hardwick said, referring to the campaign. "It's divisive and it doesn't serve any real purpose. It would be much better if we found some cooperative efforts to resolve problems, but apparently that's not going to happen."

Belmont group seeking recall of councilmen has no replacements

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff
PEN. TIMES 6/19/84

The citizens' group that has targeted four of five Belmont city councilmen for recall has not decided who should take the officials' seats if they are voted out of office.

A spokesman for Alert Belmont Citizens said the group is focused on ousting Mayor Bill Hardwick and Councilmen Joseph Green, Donald Heiman and Bill Moore in the recall election.

The group gathered the signatures of more than 2,727 registered voters on petitions to recall the four councilmen. The signatures were checked against county voter registration records and found valid last Friday.

"We are not considering candidates at this time. Our primary concern is the recall election," spokeswoman Lida Paetzke said Monday.

ABC claims the recall is fair because the council tried to circumvent Proposition 13 and raise taxes by proposing a storm drain assessment district. The group also alleges the council is negotiating development of the mixed-use Island Park housing, office and recreation development east of the Bayshore Freeway against citizens' wishes.

The councilmen deny any wrongdoing, saying they dropped the assessment district plan and that, regardless, it was not prohibited by Proposition 13.

They said citizens have not had a chance to decide whether they like the development because the developer has not presented his final proposal yet.

Paetzke said the organization has not met since the announcement last Friday that the petition drive to place a recall election before the voters was successful.

The City Council is scheduled to receive formal notice of the success of ABC's recall drive at its June 26 meeting.

Under the law, the council has two weeks after the June 26 meeting to set a date for the recall election. The election must be held within the following four months.

All four of the councilmen have said they would like to hold the recall election at the same time as the November general election because it would save the city money.

The recall election will cost about \$6,000 if consolidated with the November general election, City Clerk James McLaughlin said. The election would cost \$12,000 if held separately.

If any of the councilmen are voted out of office, a second City Council election will have to be held within the four months after the recall election.

McLaughlin said it once was possible to hold both the recall and City Council replacement elections at the same time. But the law has been changed to prevent that.

Conflict had arisen because the auto repair businesses along the road constantly block the right of way areas in front of their shops with an overflow of cars.

The council had pointed to the excess cars as one reason the surrounding neighborhood has a "blighted" appearance.

Donald Kolko, a spokesman for the mechanics group, said the owners are working to improve the appearance of the area by removing debris and garbage that has accumulated in the area. He said the group will try to find alternatives to parking cars in the right-of-way city zones for long periods of time.

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Belmont sets Nov. 6 date for council recall election

By Stephen Jones
Times Tribune staff
PEN. TIMES 7/11/84

Four Belmont City Council members will face a recall election this November, the City Council decided Tuesday night.

A resolution was adopted by the council that will put four of the five City Council members up for recall in the Nov. 6 general election.

The council decided to hold the recall vote as part of the general election to avoid the extra cost of a special municipal election.

Mayor William Hardwick, one of the members whose post is in jeopardy, said announcing a date for his own recall was "a unique experience, but not a pleasant one."

Voters will decide whether to recall Hardwick and Councilmen Donald Heiman, Joseph Green and William Moore because of controversy arising from the council's plan last fall to create an assessment district that would finance \$15 million in repairs to storm drains. The damaged drains have become an increasingly problematic and burdensome issue for city officials.

The proposal sparked anger and dissent among many Belmont resi-

dent who felt the council was ignoring Proposition 13 provisions against raising taxes.

The council drew more criticism from homeowners for allegedly wasting public funds when it ordered a study of the storm drains at a cost of \$100,000.

Subsequently, a group of residents known as the Alert Belmont Citizens began collecting signatures in favor of recalling all councilmen except Robert Hoffman.

The organization also charged that the councilmen ignored dominant community feelings against the construction of a mixed-use housing and commercial development east of the Bayshore Freeway. A recall election became imminent after the citizens' group gathered more than 2,700 signatures for the recall of each councilman.

Hardwick read a prepared statement at Tuesday's meeting that criticized the recall organizers and led many people in the audience to stand and applaud.

"The charges made by these people are totally unfounded and totally without substance," Hardwick said. "No matter how we respond, this group won't be satisfied."

In other business, the recent turmoil between the council and mechanics on Old County Road subsidized with the announcement that an association of shop owners was being formed to help clean up the area.

Recall Charges Answered By Belmont Mayor

CARL ENO 7/18/84

Belmont residents will be asked to recall or retain four of five of their city councilmen on November 6 it was confirmed last Tuesday night, while Mayor William Hardwick, one of those under attack, gave what he had described earlier as "a formal response to the charges made in the recall petitions."

"I find it very difficult to understand the hostility that some people hold towards members of this City Council," Hardwick said, reading from an 11 - page prepared statement.

More than 20 percent of the registered voters in the city have signed the recall petitions; the election has been set in November to coincide with the general election, thereby saving Belmont money that a special election would cost. Facing the recall are, besides Hardwick, Councilmen Joseph Green, William Moore and Donald Heiman. Councilman Robert Hoffman was not targeted for recall by the citizen's group, Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC).

Hardwick went on to say that, "This council is an extremely dedicated, honest group of men who have worked diligently to resolve issues which are in the best interest of the community, by listening to the citizens and by attempting to be responsible in every situation."

Hardwick said it was appropriate to make a formal response to the recall group because, "this election will place the voter of our community in the position of determining who to believe."

Hardwick stated the targeted councilmen did not circumvent Proposition 13, as charged, to finance the proposed but nixed storm drain assessment district. Hardwick said the proposed assessment was a benefit assessment, as allowed by proposition 13.

As to the charges the council wasted \$100,000 in public funds for consultant fees to address the storm drain problems in the city, Hardwick asked, "can you imagine the reaction of the property owners if we asked them to respond to a recommended project but told them we did not know what the cost would be or the scope of the work proposed?"

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Hardwick said the information in the engineer's report "will be used when corrective work is undertaken."

Hardwick said the council would be "derelict in our duty if we did not propose some method to correct the existing conditions. Money spent because we won't correct a decaying (storm) system is a waste."

To charges the council publicly supported a special election at the request of and for the benefit of the Kumam Corp. development plan for east of the Bayshore Freeway, Hardwick stated there never has been a vote held for the proposal. A referendum passed by the citizens exempting the properties east of Highway 101 from the 56 dwelling unit per year limit is the only binding law in effect at the site, Hardwick said.

To the charge that the council has ignored the mandate of the people expressed in 1979 to control future residential growth by refusing to enact any long term measures to prevent over-development, Hardwick stated council has "implemented every aspect of this ordinance."

CITIZEN CONTROL

To the charge that council has removed areas of the city from citizen control by forming a Redevelopment Agency, Hardwick stated, "It is my opinion that the Council would be derelict in its responsibilities if it did not take advantage of the opportunity to retain needed revenues within its own community rather than allow them to continue to be directed to other portions of the county."

Hardwick called the potential revenues from the Agency "a Godsend" due to the budgetary problems faced by the city when it was formed. Possible projects financed by the agency, in which revenues are raised through taxes on new developments, include a senior citizens center, Twin Pines Park improvements, a youth sports complex, low interest loans for maintenance and repairs for homes in the redevelopment area, and street traffic improvements, Hardwick

Belmont may see election

Voters submit petition
to recall four councilmen

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

PHENIX 5/19/84
The city of Belmont, which has

seen bitter political infighting for the past several years, appears headed for its first recall election, one that could result in the removal of four of the bedroom community's five councilmen.

A small group of disaffected citizens, for years angered by council policies, Friday turned in about 2,900 signatures of Belmont voters, about 200 more than needed to force a recall election. Organizers say a new City Council would result in more responsive city government.

Opponents of the recall contend it is a hate campaign that will do nothing less than tear broader, and possibly irreparable, rifts in the city's political fabric.

The Alert Belmont Citizens, a group led by council gadfly Lida Paetzke, turned the petitions in to City Clerk James McLaughlin at Belmont City Hall at 4 p.m. Friday.

The petitions demand that the City Council within four months hold a special election to recall Mayor William Hardwick and Councilmen Joseph Green, Donald Heiman and William Moore, for mismanaging city funds.

If the signatures are verified, a process expected to take about 30 days, the city would hold two special elections, one to recall the councilmen and one to elect their replacements. The elections would cost the city an estimated \$24,000.

The terms of Green and Moore, both first-term councilman, expire next year. Hardwick, a councilman since 1970, and Heiman, a first-term councilman, are due to leave office in 1987.

Paetzke's group began the recall campaign in December after 3,000 angry city residents gathered at a community meeting to protest a council-proposed assessment district to fund \$15 million in repairs to the city's dilapidated storm drain system.

The council, bowing to the community pressure, eventually abandoned plans for the assessment district. But that did appease many citizens, who saw the proposal as an attempt to circumvent Proposition 13 and raise taxes. They also were angry that the council had spent \$100,000 to create an assessment district the public ultimately rejected.

Alert Belmont Citizens, seeking to capitalize on the outcry, began the recall effort the same night councilmen dropped the assessment plan.

The recall effort is the third controversy Belmont residents have faced in recent years. In 1979, the Citizens for Orderly Growth succeeded in placing on the ballot a measure restricting the number of houses that could be built annually. The measure was approved.

Three years later, the same group petitioned to force the council to rescind its approval of the Kumam Corporation's Island Park Development, a housing and commercial venture planned for a large parcel east of the Bayshore Freeway near Ralston Avenue. A

ment district proposal was only the latest example of council insensitivity to citizens' wishes.

"I have been concerned for a long time that they have not been listening to what we've been saying. They didn't listen with Island Park. Now maybe they will listen," Bomberger said.

"The people we approached said they were happy that someone finally was doing something about the council," said recall supporter Elsbeth Padia. "It was easy to get signatures. The people will go and vote just like they signed."

But Joseph Zucca, a former councilman who began a campaign to counter the recall effort, said the effort can only hurt the city.

"It's these kinds of things that tear a city apart," said Zucca,

whose group is called Citizens Against the Recall Election.

The councilmen targeted for recall all say they have served the city well. They argue that the recall is inappropriate because it is an attempt by a group to exert more power over city politics, not an effort to remove corrupt officials.

Heiman said the recall already has hurt his political career, as well as his personal and professional life.

"My daughter has been subjected to people at school saying I am a crook. My wife has been subjected to shopkeepers saying I am a crook. People have called me a crook to my face. I must fight this. My personal life, my professional life and my integrity are at stake," he said.

judge eventually ruled that petition invalid and the project has been revived, despite the group's objections.

Many members of the group now are behind the recall effort.

"I wanted to do it (recall councilmen) after they approved the Kumam project, but there weren't enough people who wanted to do it," Coralin Feierbach said. "I am in favor of controlled growth and spending and this council does neither," she said.

David Bomberger, an initiator of the recall drive, said the assess-

Belmont recall remains

S.M. TIMES 5/31/84
By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — There may be a recall election here, but then again there may not.

City Clerk James McLaughlin says it's far too early to determine whether at least 2,727 signatures are valid on the stacks of petitions turned into his office two weeks ago.

Members of Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC) turned in petitions with fewer than 2,900 signatures seeking

the recall of Mayor William Hardwick and Councilmen Donald Heiman, William Moore and Joseph Green.

Had the group managed to gather only 100 more names, for a total of 3,000 signatures, McLaughlin says he could use random sampling methods for validating the recall petitions.

Since there weren't enough signatures, each one must now be checked to make sure it's from a valid, registered voter, the clerk adds.

Each name on a petition must be checked with affidavits of registration in the San Mateo County Clerk's Office.

McLaughlin says he's hired five people who are checking the signatures. The staff will be expanded to seven next week.

Even with the additional staffing, McLaughlin says, "It's going to take the full 30 days" to go through all of the signatures on petitions.

uncertain

By law, the city clerk has 30 days to check recall petitions and declare if there are enough valid signatures to schedule a special election.

"I don't expect to know until the last minute," the city clerk notes. "We may have to request to work Saturdays or Sundays" to complete the process.

Lida Paetzke, spokeswoman for ABC, says she's surprised that McLaughlin is checking each signature on the recall petitions.

The recall group had assumed that McLaughlin would use random samples from the petitions for the validation process.

ABC charges the four councilmen with "mismanagement of our community resources and erosion of the democratic process." The group began circulating recall petitions four months ago.

The Belmont councilmen say they haven't done anything wrong and

charge that the recall drive is only serving to split the politically volatile community even more.

When the recall petitions were turned into McLaughlin May 18 (the last day for the recall group to do so), Mayor Hardwick was not surprised.

"We knew it was a determined group," he said. "All we can do is wait for the city clerk's office to check and verify" the signatures.

Recall of four officials makes Belmont ballot

S.M. TIMES 6/15/84
By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

BELMONT — There definitely will be a recall election here, City Clerk James McLaughlin announced this morning.

There were "more than enough valid signatures" on petitions seeking the recall of Mayor William Hardwick and Councilmen Donald Heiman, William Moore and Joseph Green, the clerk added.

For the past several weeks workers have been tediously checking each signature on the recall petitions.

At least 2,727 valid signatures were needed on petitions to recall each councilman, and McLaughlin said each petition had at least one dozen extra valid signatures.

A group called Alert Belmont Citizens (ABC) began circulating the petitions several months ago, charging the four councilmen with "mismanagement of our community resources and erosion of the democratic process."

The Belmont councilmen responded that they did nothing wrong and they further charged that the recall drive is only serving to split the community.

McLaughlin said the recall group was obviously very thorough in their petition circulating, taking care that nearly all signatures were those of registered voters.

The City Clerk will submit an official report on the recall to the City Council at the next regular council meeting June 26. "Then they (the council) have 14 days to call an election," McLaughlin said.

Since the council must schedule the special election within 125 days, McLaughlin said, "it's conceivable that it could be combined with the November 6 (general election) ballot."

"It could probably save the city about \$6,000" if a special election can be avoided, McLaughlin said.

Recall voting decision at least two weeks off, Belmont city clerk says

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

DEB. TIMES 6/4/84
Belmont residents will have to wait until at least June 15 to find out whether they will be voting on a recall drive to remove four of the city's five councilmen.

City Clerk James McLaughlin said he needs at least until that date to determine whether 2,900 signatures on petitions demanding a special election are those of registered voters.

The petitions to recall Councilmen Joseph Green, William Hardwick, Donald Heiman and William Moore were filed May 18.

By law, McLaughlin has until June 17 to verify that recall proponents got the necessary 2,727 voter signatures to force an election. He hopes to complete the task two days earlier.

By Friday, McLaughlin and five helpers had checked between 25 to 50 percent of the signatures against San Mateo County voter registration rolls.

If the signatures are valid, the city would hold two special elections, one on whether to recall the councilmen and one to elect replacements, should any of them lose office. The elections would cost the city a total of about \$24,000.

If there are too few valid signatures, the petitions will be returned to the recall campaign, and another recall effort could begin immediately, McLaughlin said.

The recall drive began in December, when a small group of disaffected residents, who later named themselves the Alert Belmont Citizens, targeted the four councilmen for recall.

The campaign, led by council critic Lida Paetzke, evolved from the group's longstanding displeasure with council policies.

The recall move, however, was sparked by the council's proposal to establish a \$15 million assessment district to finance repairs and improvements to the city's run-down storm drain system.

The council bowed to community pressure and eventually abandoned plans for the assessment district. But that did not appease the Alert Belmont Citizens, who saw the proposal as an attempt to circumvent Proposition 13 and raise taxes.

The group also was angry that the council had spent \$100,000 on a proposal the public ultimately rejected.

The Alert Belmont Citizens, seeking to capitalize on the outcry, began the recall effort on the same night the council dropped plans to form the assessment district.

The councilmen have maintained throughout the controversy that they are innocent of any wrongdoing.

They say the recall is misdirected because it is not an attempt to remove corrupt officials, but a campaign by a small group of citizens to take over city affairs.

Belmont will have recall vote

Enough valid signatures collected on petitions

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

PHEN. TIMES 6/16/84
A small group of chronically disaffected community activists has succeeded in a campaign to force an election to recall four of five Belmont city councilmen. The campaign promises to escalate the suburb's endemic political infighting to full-scale war.

Alert Belmont Citizens has gathered enough valid signatures on petitions to demand a recall of Mayor William Hardwick and Councilmen Joseph Green, Donald Heiman and William Moore, City Clerk James McLaughlin said Friday.

The council must act on the demand and set a date for Belmont's first recall election within two weeks of the June 26 council meeting, where the results of the petition drive will be presented.

The election must be held within four months of the meeting. It could be held during the November general election, which would be half as expensive as a \$12,000 special election.

It will take a simple majority vote to remove the councilmen. The terms of first-term councilmen Moore and Green will expire in November 1985. The terms of Hardwick and Heiman expire in November 1987.

ABC leader Lida Paetzke congratulated those who worked on the petition drive and who now will try to unseat the four councilmen.

"We are rather proud of the way

the campaign was conducted. Now we must plan our strategy. We have a lot of work ahead yet," Paetzke said Friday.

The targeted councilmen aren't surprised at having to defend their seats, and they will fight the recall effort they said is founded on a wish to take control of the city.

"Whatever they say their reasons are, they are trying to take over City Hall. I am confident all four councilmen will retain their seats," Heiman said.

Paetzke's group began the recall campaign in December after 3,000 angry citizens gathered at a community meeting to protest a council-proposed assessment district to fund \$15 million in repairs to the city's dilapidated storm-drain system.

The council, bowing to community pressure, eventually abandoned the plans. But that did not appease many citizens, who saw the proposed assessment district as an attempt to circumvent Proposition 13 and raise taxes. They also were angry the council had spent \$100,000 on a study of the aborted district.

The Alert Belmont Citizens, seeking to capitalize on the furor, started the recall effort the same night the council dropped the plan.

The group claims the assessment district was only the latest council action insensitive to citizens' wishes, Paetzke said.

ABC members are outraged the city continues to negotiate with the Kumam Corp., which wants to build a mixed housing, office, park and hotel complex on 65 acres east of Bayshore Freeway.

"The electorate really voted down the Kumam project, they said no to it. The council shouldn't be negotiating at all," Paetzke said.

She referred to the June 1982 advisory referendum in which the Kumam Corp. asked voters to waive a Belmont law that prohibits



Lida Paetzke
... "lot of work ahead."

construction of more than 56 housing units per year. Kumam wants to build more than 200 condominiums.

The Citizens for Orderly Growth, which Paetzke also led, fought hard to defeat the initiative, and it eventually was rejected by the voters.

Councilman Moore said the city has done nothing to violate that vote. He said the vote was not a repudiation of the Kumam project itself.

"Bear in mind, Kumam has not even submitted plans to the city yet. When the plans are submitted, they will go through a total and complete public hearing process before the Planning Commission and City Council. The process will be completely open to the public," Moore said.

The city agreed in September 1982 to approve rezoning of the land east of the freeway for construction of the project only if the developer presents the city with a development plan and a development agreement that meets with its approval.

The Citizens for Orderly Growth in October 1982 petitioned to overturn the council decision to conditionally rezone the land. That petition was ruled invalid by the courts.

Citizens for Orderly Growth endorse 'B'

CARL ENO 10/31/84
Editor:

Citizens For Orderly Growth (COG) has endorsed Measure B. It must gain approval of two thirds of the voters voting on it in the Nov. 6 election in order to take effect.

If approved, Measure B would mandate a one-time-only special tax of \$160 on our county tax bills, payable during the 1985-1986 fiscal year in two installments with our regular payments.

This money could only be used for City of Belmont acquisition of Belmont School District property for park, open space and recreation purposes.

This property would include the turfed and open space areas of McDougal and Cipriani Schools presently in use for athletic and park activities, and all of the real property and improvements at Barrett School. (The Naylor Act permits cities, counties and the state to acquire closed and for sale school properties on a one time only basis at well below their market value).

If Measure B fails, with the existing city council Barrett School would most probably be rezoned high-density residential and/or commercial.

This would result in traffic problem increases and other serious impacts. In fact, due to the services that high-density in that neighborhood would require, it would result in a financial burden on the taxpayers.

Belmont lags behind most mid-peninsula cities in developed park land acreage. We need more, not less land where children can play and interact safely in areas within easy walking distance of their homes.

The Kumam regional ball-field complex would not compensate the people of all ages who use and enjoy the turf and open space of the three schools if we lose this land. The Kumam complex is planned entirely for organized competition soccer and baseball/softball playing fields, plus some auxiliary structures, and both Belmonters and out-of-towners will have to line up in turn for scheduling and permits in order to use these.

Barrett's buildings should be particularly desirable. They would help to relieve the heavy pressures on the Twin Pines Park buildings, and Barrett's wooden-floored multi-purpose room could even add

sports programming, such as basketball, for citizens of all ages.

We urge a YES vote on Measure B.

Citizens For Orderly Growth
Steering Committee:

David Bomberger	Lida Paetzke
George Cockshott	Eve Sterry
Doug DeYoung	Jim Wheeler
Gary Orton	Faye Younger

"I must stay neutral..."

CARL ENO 10/31/84
Editor:

I have just received some materials from the Belmont Committee Against Recall Election (BCARE) and was shocked to see that I was listed as one of their endorsers.

I have never given that organization permission to use my name in any of its literature or in connection with any of its activities. I deeply resent the fact that they have included me as one of their endorsers without my consent and have asked them to remove my name from their literature.

I am a member of the Belmont Citizen's Storm Drainage Task Force. We have been working steadily for the last six months to try to help solve Belmont's storm drainage problems. As a member I feel that I must remain publicly neutral on the issue of the recall.

Very truly yours,
Helen Chernicoff
Belmont

Letters

Wadsworth replies

CARL ENO 10/31/84

Editor

Please note that Pittman's rental of the Wadsworth warehouse occurred in 1970, not after Pittman withdrew from the school district lease as stated in Rose Ozwirk's letter of October 17.

Sincerely,
Lynn Levy
Communications Specialist
for Wadsworth, Inc.

Negative core

CARL ENO 10/31/84
From page 9

Their literature, usually anonymous, is artfully composed but lacking in substance. The thread that runs through all of it is—we don't agree with anything. The next time you read their newsletter or handouts, search for some positive suggestion on how they might do the job better. There won't be any, there never is!

Please don't let the malcontents fool you. Vote NO on the Recall of Hardwick, Green, Heiman and Moore.

Sincerely,
Jean Zucca
Belmont City Treasurer

thinking people who are trying to shape this community in their image. They spend all their time finding fault with the Council and its' Commissions. Some of their negativism even "leaks" over into the School District.

No one seems to be immune. They attend meetings not to add constructive input, but to discourage and negate. They are the ones who are trying to recall the Councilmen.

Negative core

Editor: CARL ENO 10/31/84

Ordinarily I remain neutral on matters concerning the City Council. I watch over the Treasury while Councilmen make laws and determine policy. I am elected as they are. When I see a matter as serious as the recall of four Councilmen on the ballot, I feel must speak out.

The charges leveled against these men are fabricated and without substance. The men in question are excellent Councilmen and sensitive to our community's needs.

Unfortunately for the Councilmen, and our City, we have a hard core group of negativists.

Name-calling won't help

CALL EVE 101 31184

Editor:
The name-calling personal attacks against widely respected Belmont citizens in the Rose Ozwirk Oct. 17 letter will certainly not help solve Belmont's many problems.

These problems include serious drainage deficiencies which are largely due to neglectful development policies of city government members, some of whom are still in office); traffic problems that would seem as nothing, compared to the 20,000 cars per day (based on the Human Environmental Impact Report) that would be added by the Kumam development, and problems such as the lack of children's playing field and park facilities in neighborhood areas

within easy walking distance of their homes.

While Mrs. Feierbach did respond in the *Carlton Enquirer-Bulletin* with the citizen participation credentials of other citizens attacked by Mrs. Ozwirk, she did not mention any of her own. Actually, there are no two people in Belmont more caring of environmental protection measures than Mrs. Feierbach and her husband, both of whom helped

launch Belmont's Citizens' Initiative Growth Control Ordinance.

Mrs. Feierbach attended San Francisco State University and University of California at Berkeley; earned a B.A. in mathematics; has lived in Belmont 11 years; was one of the moving forces in the Belmont contingent in opposition to irresponsible development of Sugarloaf Mountain; is primarily responsible for the replacement of the San Jaun canyon sewer facility which had been polluting the creek and land area, and has actively supported many other environmental and quality of life issues.

If Belmont had always had more caring people like all those attacked by Mrs. Ozwirk, how many less problems there might now be needing solutions.

Sincerely,
Eve S. Sterry

'Here we go ...'

Editor:

By borrowing a popular phrase, "here we go again", referring to the letter in the Oct. 17 issue of this newspaper, "Recall a damaging, devisive, negative action" by Rose Ozwirk, another letter written by Rose Ozwirk comes to mind.

In the February 22, 1978,

issue of the Belmont Courier-Bulletin, Rose Ozwirk, wrote the following: "This is part of the formula for the revolutionary, third world, human, new global citizen concept that, two candidates for the Belmont City Council, brought to Belmont when

they promoted the Town Meeting in October 1976. A new political, social, cultural type of government".

By chance I ran across a flyer put out by the community, advertising this event, and a partial list of sponsors made

a very impressive list of business and community organizations.

Just to name a few, Belmont City Council, Belmont Rotary Club, Cipriani Hills Homeowners Assoc., Belmont Park Boosters, Bank of America, Belmont Heights Civic Improvements Association, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce, College of Notre Dame, Belmont Seniors, Boys Scouts, Belmont 4-H, Belmont Faculty Association, Newcomers Club, Hibernia Bank and numerous others.

Would all these names listed above be a part of a "formula for a revolutionary, third

world, etc." because they sponsored, and their members attended the Town Meeting. Certainly not!

Nor should the group of citizens, named in Rose Ozwirks letter of October 1984, be acused of causing "damaging, devisive, and negative action", because they dare to exercise their Constitutional right by iniating a Recall.

Faye T. Younger
Belmont

Recall try fails by slim margin in Belmont

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

VEN. TIMES 11/1/84
Four Belmont City Council members targeted for recall narrowly succeeded in retaining their jobs Tuesday in a campaign that could leave the city bitterly divided.

Mayor William Hardwick and Councilmen William Moore, Donald Heiman and Joseph Green held their offices with 53 percent of the voters in their favor.

Though pleased at the result, the four were discouraged at the slim vote margin. The election clearly was not a mandate on their running of City Hall.

The councilmen were targeted by the Alert Belmont Citizens group for their pro-development policies. Longtime support of a massive mixed-use development proposed for land east of Bayshore Freeway was a key campaign issue.

ABC also asserted that a council attempt to form an unpopular \$15 million assessment district showed the four were out of step with the wishes of the community — though Robert Hoffman was exempt from the effort.

The councilmen and their supporters, Committee Against the Recall Election, said the campaign was a misuse of the recall and an attempt by a vocal minority to con-

trol City Hall.

ABC called the election results an indication its position is held by more than a small minority. It will fuel their efforts to unseat the council members up for re-election in 1985.

The councilmen said they will



continue to try to do the best they can for the city — despite their detractors' efforts to discredit them.

Voter turnout was heavy, with two-thirds of Belmont's 15,000 voters attending the polls. In the recall election, citizens voted on whether each individual councilman should retain his seat.

The votes in favor and against each councilmen were as follows:

- With 100 percent of the votes tallied, 5,056 voters cast their ballots to remove Hardwick from office, while 5,760 voted he should retain his seat. Hardwick, who has served on the council since 1970, is up for re-election in November

1987.

- Some 5,021 voters marked their ballots to remove Heiman from office, while 5,747 decided he should remain in office. Heiman, elected in 1982, is up for re-election in November 1987.

- Moore had 4,953 detractors and 5,724 supporters. He was elected in 1980 and is up for re-election in November 1985.

Green had 5,069 opponents and 5,657 supporters. He was elected in 1980 and is up for re-election in November 1985.

Green said candidly that he was "unhappy" that the voters had not given the councilmen a clearer statement of support.

"I'm not happy. I'm sorry, really sorry we haven't pleased more people. I don't feel that it is right to have that close a vote," Green said at his victory celebration.

Green complimented the determination of the recall campaigners, who targeted the council-

men for defeat in December 1983.

"They are a very dedicated group. They have the time to work harder and to campaign harder to get what they want," Green said.

Councilman William Moore was more optimistic about the voting results.

"I feel the citizens of Belmont are intelligent voters who looked at the facts and made the correct decision," Moore said at his victory celebration.

ABC member Lida Paetzke disagreed.

"I think the vote means that this council does not have an entire mandate. The people who voted 'yes' would like a change in council policy in the direction of controlled growth and greater council accountability," Paetzke said.

Paetzke said ABC, formed for the recall effort, will remain intact, and push next to unseat councilmen Moore and Green.

The sentiments expressed in the recall campaign will have impacts that will extend to the 1985 election and beyond, Hardwick said.

"It think it has been and will be completely divisive. It will take a long time to heal," Hardwick said.



Jalonen leaves Arts Council after six years as director

CALL ENDS 12/19/84
MORE THAN 200 FRIENDS and well-wishers gathered at the Arts Council gallery recently to honor retiring Executive Director Nancy Jalonen at the opening of the exhibit 'Nothing Neo Under the Sun'. Paying tribute to her six years as director, Board President Robert Arrington presented her with a plaque for distinguished achievement and a large painting by Larry Miller from the board and staff. Belmont Mayor William H. Hardwick read a proclamation stating that Nov. 30 was designated as 'Nancy Lee Jalonen Day' in the City of Belmont. Supervisor elect Tom Nolan also paid tribute to her work with the county. Jalonen expressed deep appreciation for the tributes, and thanked the many board, staff and volunteers who had worked with her over the years. She plans to devote her time to arts advocacy, consulting and writing. Pictured above are Hardwick and Jalonen.

Belmont's flag flies high

PEN. TIMES 11/11/84

Times Tribune staff

The flag of the city of Belmont may have been the first of any city in the nation to fly atop a mountain in the Himalayas, a distinction for which the city can thank resident Maria Althofer.

Althofer is a longtime mountain climber, having scaled the peaks of the Swiss Alps when she was a young girl. When Althofer learned that City Manager Edward Everett planned to scale Mount Nun, she took the initiative and made sure the city was represented on his journey.

Althofer devised a pocket-sized flag for the trek, perfect for attaching to the end of an ice ax and waving proudly from the top of the snowy peak.

"It is little, just big enough to fit on the end of an ice ax, about eight inches by five inches," Everett said.

Althofer's flag did indeed fly at the top of Mount Nun, Everett said.

But it did not remain there. Everett brought it back and will present it to the City Council for a memento in a meeting Tuesday.

New Belmont planning chief to face

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

PHYSIS TRIB 12/28/84
A high-ranking San Mateo County planner who was named Thursday as director of planning and community development in Belmont will face a number of crucial city problems when she takes office in February.

Elaine Costello, 37, will leave her current job as director of the county's long-range planning division to take the city's top planning post, the Times Tribune has learned.

Costello was chosen for the job from among several applicants from throughout the state. She will be paid \$43,500 a year, City Manager Edward Everett said.

Costello will be Belmont's first female department head. Everett said he selected her for the position

Elaine Costello to be city's first female department head

because "she is incredibly bright, very articulate, has lots of energy and exceptional technical skills."

"I am absolutely excited. The efforts of a new director of planning will be an important part of my objective to get Belmont citizens talking to one another," he said.

Everett was referring to the bitter political squabbles that have become commonplace in the community.

Costello said this morning that she was unaware that she will become the first female department head in Belmont history.

"I'm surprised — it amazes me that it took this long

(for a woman to get this kind of position)," she said. "This is a job I've been working toward."

The new position of director of planning and community development for the city will entail overseeing all city planning and the activities of Belmont's redevelopment agency. Costello will be aided in the task by Senior Planner Jerome Podesta, who currently functions as the city's head planner. The city will drop a half-time position in the Planning Department.

The job of city planner is an important one in any community, but it will be especially important in Belmont, where disputes over development have divided citizens for decades.

crucial issues

"Planning has been the origin of most of the conflict. Infusing a high degree of professionalism into the area of planning will keep it from being an area of bitter battles," Everett said.

Citizens were divided for about three years over whether the Kumam Corp. should be allowed to build Island Park, a mixed-use development only this month approved for 67.5 acres east of the Bayshore Freeway.

Next year the city faces a number of potentially volatile planning issues, including the development of a senior citizens center in Twin Pines Park, the construction of the Kumam project and decisions on the fate of the San Juan Canyon residential area.

Decisions on how much development should be allowed for the 90-acre canyon area have hung in limbo for several decades.

A plea for peace in Belmont

City manager asks for end of bickering

By Phyllis Brown

Times Tribune staff

TIMES TRIB 12/30/84

In a letter mailed to each Belmont household, the manager of one of the Peninsula's most politically contentious cities has asked that its warring factions end their bickering.

The New Year's wish from Belmont City Manager Edward Everett is printed on the back cover of the city Parks and Recreation Department brochure mailed to all residents.

With the November effort to recall four of five city councilmen in the past, Belmont residents should "let go of their hard feelings" and work together for the city's betterment.

"There is something to learn from every experience. If both sides of the recall learned from this experience, then Belmont benefits," Everett says in the letter.

As Everett notes in the letter, the recent history of Belmont has been one of frequent bitter conflict.

One fight was the slow-growth versus development battle over the Island Park project. After more than three years of debate the 67.5-acre mixed use development was approved for construction east of the Bayshore Freeway.

Citizens have frequently disagreed with other council policies. Often those disagreements are bitter and violent.

"Belmont has a history and reputation of being a divided and contentious community. Residents versus business, homeowners associations versus homeowners associations, neighbor versus neighbor," the letter reads. "My vision and hope for Belmont is for active and involved citizens who, while disagreeing, still respect other people's viewpoints."

"It is now time for Belmont to move on to a different phase in its life ... a phase that encompasses compromise, concern and respect as hallmarks of our inevitable opposing views."

Everett said in an interview that he does not have an antidote for the ills that beset the city. However, one way to improve citizens' relationships would be to make sure all sides of various issues are heard, he said.

"I think it will be helpful for Belmont if over the coming years we insure that both or all sides of issues are represented on our various boards and commissions," Everett said. "The majority should make sure that there is minority representation."

"Belmont will change only when each of us has the courage to bury the hatchet and try once again to trust one another. Belmont will change only when the majority of you really want a change."