



Belvedere E-Newsletter July 14, 2023



Traveling Wilburys Revue Headlines Concerts in the Park – Sunday, July 16

Rock out in Belvedere Park with tribute band The Traveling Wilburys Revue, this Sunday, July 16 at 4pm. The Revue will entertain the crowd with tunes made famous by members of the original Traveling Wilburys – the short-lived

super group created in 1988 by George Harrison with his musical mates Bob Dylan, Jeff Lynne, Roy Orbison and Tom Petty. Come dance and sing along to Here Comes the Sun, Like a Rolling Stone, Pretty Woman, The End of the Line and much more!

Don't miss opening act Small Plates, a local trio with Belvederean Marshall Butler at the helm.

We hope to see you there! But if you can't make it, please support Belvedere's free Concerts in the Park – a Belvedere tradition for 26 years. Donate to [Concerts in the Park](#) and see below for details about the August 13 Concert in the Park.



Bring Your Comments & Questions to City Council Chat - July 20 at 5pm

Mayor Jim Lynch and Councilmember Jane Cooper invite you to share your comments, questions and concerns at City Council Chat – an informal conversation about current topics in Belvedere.

Whether you're interested in housing issues, safety and emergency preparedness, the Council's strategic objectives or any other topic, Jim and Jane want to hear your input, and provide all the updates and answers they can. This informal, one-hour session starts at 5pm on Thursday, July 20, at the Belvedere Community Center.

**We Want to Hear from You - Please Take
City Survey**



The City is conducting an important survey of Belvedere voters regarding issues that affect the quality of life in our community, including funding fire protection and emergency medical services. To ensure the anonymity and reliability of the survey results, the City has contracted with True North Research – an independent survey research firm – to conduct the survey, manage the interviews, and summarize the results. Your responses to the survey will be completely confidential and at no time will the City see individual survey responses. If you receive an invitation to take the survey via mail, text message, email, or telephone, please take the time to complete the survey so that we have the broadest representation of community opinion possible.



City Council Requests Improvements to Mills Act Program & Tree Ordinance

At its July 10 meeting, the City Council decided to pause Belvedere's Mills Act Program, which is intended to provide property tax relief to homeowners who actively restore and maintain

their historic properties in accordance with specified restoration standards. Among other shortcomings, our current program does not include a review of plans or proof of satisfactory restoration. The Council asked staff to develop a more precise program, including a review of homes currently in the program, and bring it back for Council consideration. For further details, read the [staff report](#).

And on appeal, the Council affirmed a Planning Commission decision denying a request to remove a grove of eucalyptus trees near Five Corners. The Council noted that Belvedere's tree ordinance could be improved to clarify criteria and procedures for the removal of hazardous trees. A subcommittee will be formed to recommend specific changes to the Municipal Code and appropriate policies to address this issue.



Housing Element Update

The Housing Element is one of nine elements in the Belvedere General Plan. Our General Plan provides a vision for the City with a framework for how Belvedere will meet its goals for housing and the other elements, such as noise, environmental impacts and transportation. To comply with the

State's requirement for cities to revise their housing elements every eight years, Belvedere submitted the 6th Housing Element Update to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in January 2023.

In its May 1 response, HCD noted that in order for our Housing Element to become fully certified, we need to expand on some sections and revise others. Although disappointing, we have begun to address each item with the help of Dyett & Bhatia, a leading California planning firm with proven results in attaining compliance by HCD. Before we resubmit Belvedere's Housing Element to HCD, we will hold public meetings to discuss proposed changes and to share the revised document with our residents. Stay tuned.



Update on Improving Communications Between Belvedere & Residents

A key priority the City Council set for 2023 is improving communications between the City and our residents. A task force was formed in April to do this work. Since then, this team has surveyed residents, conducted focus groups and met with City staff to better understand where improvements are needed. All agreed that the Belvedere website and newsletter should be central to any new communications approach.

We are pleased to report that new and improved versions the website and newsletter are well underway - along with some exciting work to refresh Belvedere's overall communications. After some testing and finessing over the summer, we plan to go live in September.



Summer Coyote Strategies

Coyote sightings and encounters may increase during the summer. Here are some tips for how to haze a coyote you may encounter. And please report all sightings and encounters using our [online reporting form](#).

- **When driving - stop and haze.** Don't expect a coyote to respond to honking or flashing lights. If safe, pull over and get out of your car. Look big, make noise, and wave your arms.
- **Walking without a dog – haze.** Stand tall and make yourself look bigger by waving your arms, a stick or article of clothing, or by snapping open a large garbage bag. Maintain eye contact and advance toward the coyote until it retreats. If it stops, keep advancing, if you feel safe. If necessary, throw a projectile in its direction.
- **Walking with a dog – make a safe retreat.** Be sure to have your dog on a leash no longer than 6 feet. If you encounter a coyote, keep your dog close and use your voice or a prop (scare stick, shaker-can) to create distance between you and the coyote(s) as you move out of the area. Don't run.

For more information on hazing, also called aversion conditioning, read our [aversion conditioning and humane hazing information](#).



Residents Learn to Outsmart Scammers – You Can Too!

Twenty Belvedere residents mastered the art of scam avoidance at a recent Fraud Prevention Workshop at City Hall. “The Belvedere Police Department wanted to host this presentation for our community because anyone, especially older adults, can become a victim of fraud or other financial abuse and exploitation,” says Chief Jason Wu. “The best defense is to arm ourselves with the knowledge of what scams, frauds and identity theft may look like, and how to avoid them.”

If you didn't attend the workshop, you can still learn to outsmart scammers. Learn about [preventing identity theft](#) and [avoiding phone scams](#).



Concerts in the Park Featuring Steel ‘N’ Chicago – Sunday, August 13

Nothing says summer fun quite like the music of Chicago and Steely Dan. Bring the family to Belvedere Park on Sunday, August 13 at 4pm for a power-house performance by Steel ‘N’ Chicago – a rock ‘n’ roll group with an awesome horn section. This eight-member

tribute band is the “real deal” - lead by San Francisco native Andy Morales, who has played with Santana and Sly Stone, and opened for the Temptations and Kenny Loggins.

Opening for Steel ‘N’ Chicago is Zero Sum – an East Bay youth jazz trio, featuring Jacob Egan, Qiana Hester and Lucas Holmes.

Concerts in the Park is funded by individual and community donations. Please help us continue this Belvedere tradition by making a tax-deductible donation to [Concerts in the Park](#).

Upcoming City Council, Committee Meetings and Events

Concerts in the Park

July 14, 2023, 4:00 PM
Belvedere Community Park

City Council Chat

July 20, 2023, 5:00 PM
Belvedere Community Center

Regular Planning Commission Meeting

July 18, 2023, 6:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Regular City Council Meeting

August 14, 2023, 6:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

For more information on meetings and agendas please visit the [City Website](#).



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