

Opinion

Letters

Editor

Apparently Mr. David Brown takes every thing the wrong way when some one says something about new comers and Students or renters.

As a long time resident of Marina, 49 years, I or we old timers have more invested in this City then a person just moving here or a renter or student that will be here only for awhile and they move on to greener pastor.

On the other hand, We are here to stay. What ever that persons needs is different from ours as a home owner. A renter does not have to worry about repairs the landlord takes care of that, a student is the same way. There fore a home owner has more to worry about then the other two. What ever happens in this City for the ones that live here for ever it has a much bigger impact then some one that is here only for a short time. That is the way I took it what Mr. McCall said. In my opinion he is right. The same way a new comer does not know what the City needs and its residents want. They may have other wants or needs. I rather have some one

on a Commission that knows the history of the City and most of its residents.

I would not say that because someone makes a statement that he or she is a BIGOT. It seem like Mr. Brown likes to twist words to please him and rally some folks for his candidate for the upcoming elections.

This council and Mayor have in my eyes accomplished nothing since they took office, they can't even finish one agenda in one night. The City is going to the Dumps, just to please some people. It seems to me that they just stroke their own ego and the heck with the rest of us. Tell me what did they accomplish in one year? NOTHING. All they want to do is cut, and cut again. and cut some more, we are at the bone already. I feel sorry for the City Staff being kept there till 10:30 PM every meeting night and still have to be at work in the morning. The People that come to do business with the City have to wait for hours like at the last meeting and now they have to come back after sitting there for 4 1/2 hours.

Another thing the people have spoken before we DO NOT WANT TO ANNEX with any other Fire Department in no shape and form. Listen to the right people not just the ones that stroke your feathers and give you warm fuzzies.

We have a very efficient Fire Chief and Department also our Police are great but you want to cut.

Mrs. Elisabeth Billingsley

The Most Dangerous Thing for Our City

The most dangerous thing happening in our City right now is actually not what most people might think. The increase in violence is but a symptom. The two devastating fires while painfully tragic are not the result of malicious intent. The ever building backlog of projects and work orders for our City are not for lack of trying by a depleted and over worked staff. The fear of some of our citizens is reason-

able but exasperated by those who would portray to be their champions.

The most pressing danger for our City is the inability to address for the last year generating revenues needed to sustain programs, preserve essential services, and provide for the public safety. Instead some members of the Council have deferred decisions in the name of public participation, insisted on talking about further cuts to the general purpose fund which can only mean a reduction in personnel making the situation even worse, and, frankly speaking, demonstrated their inability and unwillingness to make a decision or propose anything consequential (but you can talk for four minutes). The endless game of ring-around-the-rosie needs to stop. In that game the last line is "ashes, ashes, and we all fall down." Please attend the budget work shop on March 20 and demand action. It is time to quit talking and do something. You can do more talking with your vote in November.

*Dan Amadeo
Marina Citizen*

McCall In Marina

by
Council Member
Dave McCall



Our city is currently operating with 30% less staff, which is affecting the level of service that the Council has set for our city.

During 2009 our Council has been unwilling or unable to produce the required revenues.

In 2010, Council continues to study the issue without making progress. Council is also considering the formation of an Ad-Hoc committee to review the current budget.

Meanwhile, our City is suffering. With gang activity on the rise, major crimes on the rise, graffiti and road repair needed, city programs being cut back or eliminated, our Mayor continues to suggest that the council consider annexation of CSUMB East Housing, that we also consider the possibility of merging the Fire Department with Monterey and Seaside and that we install solar panels on city buildings. These are great issues to debate, but what we lack from our Mayor is direction and guidance.

What we truly lack is the solution to our 2.9 million annual shortfalls in revenues. What we need is the proactive approach to solving our revenue stream for the next few years until the economy turns around and people can go back to work.

As I mentioned above, our departments are short on staff. For example our Police Department is short 7 officers, which are not currently funded by Council, and 2 additional positions, which are funded and are currently being recruited. Of the 7 officers not funded, 6 are patrol officers and investigators.

So far in 2010, we have had two homicides or deaths, several attempted vehicle thefts, and just last week a drive by shooting on Vista Del Camino. With lower than normal police en-

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what is going on in Marina. Finding time to write is still a challenge, but the need to alert my fellow citizens to an approaching crisis is to great ignore.

Marina once again is at a cross roads, but this cross road is not simply a matter of choosing between moving forward with jobs and developments, or choosing between a local high school or always bussing our children out of

Business Matters

by
Nancy Amadeo



Hello readers! Local businesses and their owners have been profiled in this column for about 3 months. It is time to thank those who have participated for their time and comments about the positive impact their participation has had on their businesses. It would be appropriate to periodically share with you what I've learned about these community members and share those observations before profiling other businesses. We've met sole proprietors and major employers; service providers, restaurateurs, artists, and educators. Some live in Marina, some do not, but they have one thing in common. They all believe that being part of a community is more than just where you live or work, it is how you contribute.

Some contribute by being unique, offering you a service or product you can't get without driving long distances. You save gas thereby reducing our carbon footprint and time, something none of us seems to have enough of these days. They bring additional customers from outside Marina who contribute tax dollars to Marina's coffers to help provide for essential city services. Others contribute their time by volunteering within Marina through a large variety of service groups and other local nonprofits. Still others donate space or goods and services to support nonprofits in Marina.

As we grow we will want to be business friendly to attract the kind of business professionals who are community minded, who see themselves as community members not just employers. By doing this Marina maintains it's small town character, that sense of belonging, "where everybody knows your name".

Those businesses must also bring economic diversity, something understood by previous councils as essential to a healthy community. We see the beginnings of that with the CHOMP and SVMH medical complexes going in along Imjin Parkway. We have huge opportunities at the airport with aviation related businesses. Plus there are several business parks planned both at the airport and in South Marina. Over the next 6 months to a year we will see our downtown vitalization plan fleshed out and how our Cypress Knowles senior community will integrate businesses that continue to enhance the quality of life of our seniors and the city at large. We will also want to attract businesses that bring fun and affordable activities into the community so our teens and young families do not have to leave Marina to recreate.

Businesses bring jobs at every level from entry to executive. They also bring direct services and products. Through the taxes and fees they pay they also help provide for the services we expect and the sustainable revenue required by our City Charter. So when we use local businesses we are supporting our needs and those of our neighbors. Together residents and businesses are part of the team that make a city great.

Whether providing goods and services or volunteering time, product, or space for the community - Business Matters.

Contact me at nancyamadeo310@gmail.com.

Marina Point of View

By
Gary Wilmot

Hello Marina, it's been awhile since I have had the opportunity to write about

town. We have met those challenges and to previous leadership made the decision to secure our economic future and our children's education.

The cross road we are now facing is more challenging and more dangerous. This challenge is whether we will continue to be a safe and secure city that takes care of its youth and senior citizens or if we are going to continue this

downward spiral into insecurity, maintain essential services, cutting more from our youth and senior services, and allowing our public facilities to deteriorate.

Our Finance Director has issued many financial reports which state that the cuts to our Police, Fire and other City Departments cannot be sustained. She stated that **MPOV on page B3**