

Opinion

Letters

Investing in Marina's Future

Like most cities, Marina is struggling with the challenge of expenditures exceeding revenues. Despite the excellent job done by the City Staff, the millions of dollars in savings over the last several years could not keep pace with the decline of anticipated revenues driven by the current economic downturn. Therefore it is time, as the citizens of our City have always done, to help ourselves to build a bridge to our future.

Assuming our community is not denied the right to vote by the Mayor and Mr. O'Connell, you will be asked in November to approve two temporary tax measures which will provide a badly needed influx of dollars into the City's General Purpose Funds. Both these interim financing measures have an automatic five year sunset and, in fact, can be reviewed in three years to see if they are still needed.

The people who oppose these measures think that we can cut our way out of this. They are wrong. What is needed is revenue. The minor cuts which might be made cannot balance the budget. Unless the people are willing to accept significant decreases in service levels across all areas we need to start requiring our City Council to focus on revenue generation as outlined in the City Charter until stalled

development can start generating sustainable revenue streams.

Your vote in November will have far more to do with deciding our Cities future than any elected official. It will provide direction to the Council on where we want the City to go or so tie their hands that any discretion they may have had is removed. Think long and hard Marina. What you are being asked to do is pay one dollar extra in temporary tax for every one hundred dollars you spend. Shall we adopt a strategy of "back to the future" as some members of our Council continue to suggest or moving forward to make our City whole and once again build a bridge to our future. What will your answer be?

*Dan Amadeo
Marina*

Getting Motivated for A Cure

This past year I decided to make a difference in not only my own life but in others, as well. I was no stranger to lacing up my running shoes for a cause and I was up for a new challenge.

In 2007 I participated in Heart & Sole 5k Run/Walk & 10k Run and in 2008 I participated in Relay for Life. This year I was searching for a cause to motivate

me and to get into shape while donating time. Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), Team In Training (TNT) was just the motivation. I knew this would be a chance to make a difference.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education and patient services. TNT is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's endurance sports training program. The Monterey Bay/Silicon Valley chapter is just one of many TNT programs.

TNT has over 22 years of expertise from coaches, mentors, and trainees who have and still participate in endurance events and fundraising. Everyone who's involved is here to help motivate and stretch you outside of your comfort zone. I decided to take on a challenge of running a half or marathon with TNT.

Since the first funding in 1954, LLS has awarded more than \$680 million in research funding. The mission statement of LLS is to cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and Myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS have dedicated themselves to being one of the top-rated voluntary health agencies in terms of dollars that directly fund their mission. They stand by their word. Only 25% of all

fundraising from each participant goes to their training and travel arrangements. The rest will go to LLS.

Running has always been a favorite sport of mine since I was 18. But what motivates me is the mission of LLS. Running for your health is one thing but running for a cause becomes an adventure. It's not about you and your health anymore. It's about the bigger picture. Joining TNT has been a life changing event for me.

Once I signed up with TNT I vowed to raise \$2,500 by September 1, 2010. I will be running a half marathon in the Nike Women's Marathon and Half Marathon on October 17, 2010. It's far more than I have ever dreamed of running in one day but knowing all those who I will be running in honor of will be there cheering me on is all the encouragement I need.

To learn more about how you can get involved with TNT visit the website www.teamintraining.org. To donate directly to the cause and to help me with fundraising you can visit the website at <http://pages.teamintraining.org/sj/nikesf10/mmorson>. Thank you in advance for your support and efforts. GO TEAM!! Marie Morson

Marie Morson

Marina Point of View

By
Gary Wilmot



Hello Marina, I hope everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July, I know I did, the weather was perfect and I spent time at the beach just watching the waves and the people. We are so lucky to live here, within walking distance of the last giant sand dunes in the state and miles of pristine beach. We should also feel proud because it is us, the citizens of Marina that made much of what is here possible.

We are the ones who decided that we did not want to build on the beach and wanted to have it become a State Beach. We are the ones that decided that we did not want to have any development on the beach when we passed the 2020 Urban Growth Boundary. There are many things that happened in Marina, where we the people decided what we wanted, took action and got something done.

We wanted a library; we passed a bond and paid for a library. We wanted to have our own High School;

it was we the people of Marina that got organized, showed up at School Districted Board Meetings and got it done.

Well it is time once again for the people of Marina to get organized and get it done. The City of Marina is once again at a cross road. The choices are very simple, keep moving forward or turn around and retreat. Do we continue moving forward with the plan of becoming a world class city with movie theaters, restaurants, trendy shops, a university city, like Palo Alto with it's technology and business parks. A city which take the inventions of the university and turns them into products to be sold all over the world, or do we retreat and become a step child of Monterey and Carmel. Providing them with their work force, giving them our labor but not getting any of the benefits. A university town like Santa Cruz with it's homeless encampments, its counter culture ethos and rabble rousing anarchist throwing stones at pedes-

trians.

For me the Choice is simple, move forward embrace what we the citizens agreed to November 2000. We wanted university villages, a place where the knowledge and inventiveness of the university joined with the economic drive of the city to provide higher paying career track jobs for the universities graduates, our children and the hard working citizens of Marina. A sustainable economy which provides goods and services to the world, good wages, and careers for our workers. An economy that is not depended on tourists driving in for the weekend or a week, but depends on business people and scientists meeting at symposiums to work out deals for the latest and greatest product developments from the University Villages Research Park. An economy that has Central Marina full of busy shops and restaurants filled with Marina Citizens living the good life because they live and work in Marina.

I guess what I am getting at is that there is a difference in the vision for what it means to embrace the university. One vision is to embrace the knowledge and economic benefits a univer-

sity brings. By developing research parks and bringing high tech employers that can hire the graduates from the university. The other is to entertain the students while they make their way through school and then wave goodbye as they leave for careers in other cities.

One model is the Palo Alto / Stanford University. The other model is the Santa Cruz / UCSC.

One is moving forward, the other is going back too when we simply entertained the Troops on their weekend pass.

Lets not repeat the past, we know it didn't work, let's keep moving forward we are better off now than we have ever been before; We have a library, we have a High School, We have a Teen Center, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula is building here,, MPC is building here, The Movie Theater is moving forward,. Things are going well, we just need to stay the course and get passed this economic downturn without panicking and retreating into the past.

Thank you for reading the whole article.

Gary