

## Officials denounce 'All Lives Matter,' Gadsden flag scrawls on Main Street

Phrase, symbol have been used to dismiss, deny Black Lives Matter movement, racism

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**  
*dmccrohan@thearknewspaper.com*

Tiburon police say they're investigating a weekend incident in which someone scrawled "All Lives Matter" and "Don't Tread on Me" — slogans associ-

ated with groups opposed to the Black Lives Matter movement and increasingly with extreme-right sentiment — in chalk on Main Street.

Town officials have denounced  
 See **CHALK, PAGE 18**



'All Lives Matter,' a phrase commonly used to dismiss the goals and concerns of the Black Lives Matter movement, is seen written in chalk on Tiburon's Main Street on July 12. Three Black Lives Matter protests have recently been held in town.

PROVIDED BY MARIO VALENTE

## Salons, offices and malls are shut down in Marin

County remains on state's coronavirus watch list

Tiburon cases grow to 20

By **KEVIN HESSEL**  
*editor@thearknewspaper.com*

Gov. Gavin Newsom on July 13 ordered more than 30 counties, including Marin, to shut down indoor businesses amid a surge in coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

Marin has been on the state's watch list since July 3, which started a three-day clock that triggered the closure of indoor dining when case numbers didn't improve by July 5.

As cases and hospitalizations grew across the state last week and more coun-

See **ROUNDUP, PAGE 19**

## Tiburon companies get millions in bailout program

333 loans approved, affecting 2,400 workers

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**  
*dmccrohan@thearknewspaper.com*

More than 300 Tiburon and Belvedere businesses and nonprofits combined to receive up to \$52.3 million to cover rent, utilities and the payroll of nearly 2,400 workers under the federal Paycheck Protection Program, the forgivable-loan initiative designed to help businesses retain staff amid the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By far the largest local recipient was Tiburon resident Allan H. Rappaport's NES America Inc., the parent company for many emergency- and health-care-staffing companies scattered throughout the world, whose headquarters are at 39 Main St. Its three Tiburon entities were approved for loans of as much as \$16 million, according to data released last week by

See **LOANS, PAGE 16**



ELLIOT KARLAN / FOR THE ARK

Potholes and cracks are seen on the Old Rail Trail, a multiuse path that runs from Blackie's Pasture to downtown Tiburon. The path will be rehabilitated over the coming weeks, and some of the work could close portions for up to three days at a time.

## Old Rail Trail facelift starts this month, could require closures

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**  
*dmccrohan@thearknewspaper.com*

A \$722,000 project to rehabilitate both the paved and decomposed granite lanes of the Old Rail Trail is expected to begin this month, work that could close segments of the trail for up to three days at a time.

The project will cover the entire trail

from Blackie's Pasture to Lagoon Road, opposite the library, with construction taking place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, though hours and traffic-control measures could change as the start date approaches, Tiburon Public Works Superintendent Steve Palmer said.

See **TRAIL, PAGE 23**

## Belvedere cops can now issue fines to enforce mask rules

By **KEVIN HESSEL**  
*editor@thearknewspaper.com*

Belvedere is giving police new flexibility to issue citations for violations of face-covering mandates amid the coronavirus pandemic, allowing for a sting to the pocketbook without handing residents a rap sheet.

In his capacity as the city's director

See **FINES, PAGE 20**



**Chalk**, *continued from page 1*

the drawings, which stretched between Luna Blu restaurant and Waters Edge Hotel and appear to have been done sometime between Saturday night and Sunday morning. The messages were surrounded by drawings of hearts and rainbows and other phrases including “Wear a mask” and “Shop local,” as well as “Vote out Gavin,” an apparent reference to California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

“As far as we know, all of it was put on the pavement in the middle of the night,” said Tiburon Town Manager Greg Chanis. “As of 10 or 11 p.m. Saturday night, it was not there.”

While Chanis declined to comment on the content of the drawings, several town leaders issued strong statements against the slogans, with Town Councilmember Jack Ryan saying they “comprise an unmistakably racist message.”

“I think the message is reprehensible, the way they delivered it cowardly, and I think it’s disheartening that someone would use our community space this way — especially on Main Street where we want to have events that bring people together,” Ryan said on July 13.

Chanis said he was alerted to the drawings the morning of July 12 after receiving a phone call from Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Executive Director DeAnn Biss.

However, it wasn’t able to be power-washed away by Public Works until about 7:30 a.m. July 13. Chanis said by the time he arrived on Main Street to view the drawings the prior morning, the street was filled with tables and residents enjoying the town’s summer weekend street closure, intended to facilitate physically distant dining and shopping amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“I was all set to have Public Works wash it off really quickly when I saw it, but there were already too many tables out and people filling the space,” he said.

Tiburon Police Chief Michael Cronin said he only learned of the graffiti after he was contacted for comment the morning of July 13 by The Ark; he noted the Police Department had not received any calls about the drawings over the weekend.

“Technically, this is an act of vandalism,” Cronin said. “We have some imagery of the drawings, so we will be investigating to find out who did this.” He noted vandalism is a misdemeanor.

“All Lives Matter” has become a popular rebuke of Black Lives Matter, a national movement that advocates for nonviolent civil disobedience to protest incidents of police brutality against Black people. Black Lives Matter rallies have been occurring across the country — including three in Tiburon — for nearly two months, spurred by the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd at the hands of a white Minneapolis police officer. Protesters have decried racial injustice and demanded systemic police reforms.

Activists and supporters of the Black Lives Matter movement have noted the phrase “All Lives Matter” is intended to delegitimize the movement and minimize the systemic disenfranchisement of Black Americans.

Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza, a former Tiburon resident, addressed the “All Lives Matter” narrative in a 2016 talk at Portland State University.

“We do believe that all lives matter,” Garza said, as reported by Portland TV station KATU. “But we don’t live in a world where all lives matter, so that kind of response really puts on display the very issues we’re trying to address.

“There are a whole bunch of people saying ... It’s about the fact that my community’s infrastructure is crumbling. It’s about the fact I can’t drive down the street without being harassed or targeted by law enforcement,” she said.

Meanwhile, the “Don’t Tread on Me” slogan chalked onto Main Street appeared with an image of a coiled snake, representing the

**We as a community need to stand up and say, ‘No, we stand against racism. Period.’”**

— DeAnn Biss, Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce executive director

Gadsden flag. The yellow flag is named for its designer, Christopher Gadsden, a brigadier general in the American army during the Revolutionary War, and features the phrase below a rattlesnake coiled on a patch of grass ready to strike. It was created in 1775 to express anti-British, pro-revolution sentiment, and its origins are broadly accepted as having no intended connection to slavery or racism.

In the 1970s it became associated with libertarianism, but since the Obama administration has been used among right-wing and anti-government groups, such as the Tea Party, and increasingly among extreme-right nationalist and white-supremacist groups.

In 2014, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission noted the flag has been “interpreted to convey racially tinged messages in some contexts.” The commission noted that the same year, a Las Vegas couple associated with white-supremacist groups murdered two police officers and draped their bodies with the flag, leaving a note that included swastikas. It was also displayed at a Connecticut firehouse, which was met with protests by Black firefighters. The commission issued the opinion after a Black postal worker complained the flag was a “historical indicator of white resentment against blacks stemming largely from the Tea Party” and that a white colleague was racially harassing him by repeatedly wearing a ballcap featuring the flag.

Like Ryan, Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Executive Director DeAnn Biss denounced the graffiti as racist and said she

supported the police investigation.

While she said she understands there might be some “lack of education” about the slogans, “I would be very saddened to see us start to distance ourselves from these things as, ‘People don’t know better,’” Biss said. “We as a community need to stand up and say, ‘No, we stand against racism. Period.’ Let’s take this opportunity to come together as a community. We all can participate in educating ourselves in racial inequity and symbols of racism.”

Mayor Alice Fredericks noted the drawings “certainly don’t reflect the heart or the priorities of our community.”

The drawings also drew the ire of at least one pair of locals. Belvedere residents Mario and Marcia Valente said they saw the chalk messages on a Sunday morning walk around town that took them down Main Street.

“I was extremely angry, because not only did these drawings reflect insidious sentiment among community members, but I felt like these drawings, that the people who did them felt like they could use Main Street as a forum for these insidious sentiments,” Mario Valente said.

Valente said he doesn’t believe the drawings represent a majority of the feelings of the community.

“But it only takes something like this to paint the community in a really poor light,” he said.

Chanis said the town’s fiscal 2020-2021 budget contained funding for security cameras for the waterfront and Fountain Plaza area of downtown that the town is currently working to install.

“I’m not sure they were actually recording over the weekend,” he said, but he added the cameras would be checked out as part of the investigation.

*Deirdre McCrohan has reported on Tiburon local government and community issues for more than 30 years. Reach her at 415-944-4634.*

**Election**, *continued from page 5*

they plan to run to retain their positions on the five-member board. Jacobs was appointed to the board in December 2018 to replace Susan Lambe Peitz, who resigned, and Webb was appointed last January to replace Dana Linker Steele, who resigned with one year left on an extended five-year term.

- **Tamalpais Union High School District board:**

The two four-year seats belonging to board President Leslie Lundgren Harlander and Karen Loebakka will be up for election, and both have said they will run again. Lundgren Harlander was first elected to the five-member board in November 2015, while Loebakka was appointed to an interim seat on the board in August 2019 to replace Barbara Owens, who resigned.

- **Tiburon Fire Protection District board:** The terms of Robert Miller and Steve Sears are both expiring on the five-member board; both indicated at a May Tiburon fire board meeting they plan to run for new four-year terms. Miller has served on the board since 2006, and Sears has served since 2010.

- **Southern Marin Fire Protection District board:** Four of the seven seats on the board — currently held by Cathryn Hilliard, Dan St. John, Stephen Willis and Cristine Soto Deberry — are up for election for new four-year terms. Hilliard and St. John have served on the board since 2010, while Willis and Soto Deberry have served since 2012 and 2019, respectively. Willis and Soto Deberry said they plan to run; their fellow incumbents did not respond to requests for comment about their plans.

- **Strawberry Recreation District:** Two four-year seats, currently held by Pam Bohner and Cale Nichols, and one two-year seat, currently held by Marc Lieberman, will be up for election. All three incumbents said they plan to run to retain their positions. Bohner has served on the board since 2011, when she was appointed to replace the resigning Kelly Reade; she was re-elected in 2016. Nichols ran uncontested for a four-year term in 2012 and was re-elected alongside Bohner in 2016. Meanwhile, Lieberman was appointed to the board in November 2019 to fill the seat of Sylvia Marino, who resigned after moving out of Strawberry. Lieberman and any challengers for his seat will be running to fill the

remainder of Marino’s term, which runs through 2022.

- **Sanitary District No. 5 of Marin board:** There are three four-year seats opening up on the five-member board. Incumbent Richard Snyder, who has served since 2014, said he will run again, while John Carapiet, who has served since 2013, said he’s currently undecided. Michael Lasky, who has served since 2013, did not respond to a request for comment about his plans.

- **Richardson Bay Sanitary District board:** The four-year seats currently held by Jeff Slavitz and David Eklund are up for re-election, as is the interim seat held by Patrick Walravens. All three said they will run in November. Slavitz and Eklund were elected to the five-member board in 2016, while Walravens was appointed in June to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Ron Kosciusko. The winner of Walravens’ seat in November will serve the remainder of Kosciusko’s term, through November 2022.

- **Marin Municipal Water District board:** Larry Russell has represented the Tiburon Peninsula on the board since 2004. Russell did not respond to an inquiry about whether he planned to run again.

Tiburon Town Council candidates must pick up their nomination papers from and file them with the Town Clerk’s office at Tiburon Town Hall, 1501 Tiburon Blvd., while Belvedere candidates must do the same with the City Clerk’s office at Belvedere City Hall, 450 San Rafael Ave.

Candidates for all other offices must go to the Marin Elections Office at the Marin Civic Center in San Rafael.

For more information, visit [marinvotes.org](http://marinvotes.org).

*Deirdre McCrohan has reported on Tiburon local government and community issues for more than 30 years. Reach her at 415-944-4634.*

# PC HELP!

Win and Mac for Tiburon & Belvedere

- All Software, Hardware & Internet (Mac & Win)
- Troubleshooting, Advice, Installation & Training
- Office Productivity & Networking Specialists
- 24/7 Security for Internet, LAN & Remote Access
- Wireless & Mobile Technologies
- On-site or Telephone, Home or Business
- Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Call the Professionals 24/7:

415-435-8510 | 415-577-9494

PCMarin.com

