

Reed district backs phased-in approach to classroom return

Board, public appear split on whether to pursue waiver for earlier in-person instruction

By **EMILY LAVIN**
 elavin@thearknewspaper.com

The Reed Union School District is moving forward with a five-phase plan designed to safely bring students back to campus amid the COVID-19 pandemic — and a majority of the district board has now encouraged the district to apply for a waiver that would allow in-person

Parents will get long-term distance-learning option despite concerns about academic rigor, page 5

classes to resume even as Marin remains on the state's coronavirus watch list.

The board at its Aug. 6 teleconference meeting voted unanimously to approve the phased-in approach to the 2020-2021 school year, which is now set to begin

Aug. 24, four days later than originally planned, after the board also unanimously approved a change to the school calendar. The change will move two professional development days scheduled for March and October to August instead, allowing teachers more time to prepare for the start of the year.

See **SCHOOL, PAGE 19**

PG&E: New microgrids may prevent shutoffs on peninsula

Preemptive power outages seek to keep equipment from sparking wildfires

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
 hweikel@thearknewspaper.com

As part of an effort to reduce the impacts of forced power outages on customers in low fire-risk areas, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. is setting up temporary microgrid systems at eight power substations in Marin, including a substation that feeds electricity to the Tiburon Peninsula.

PG&E officials said the temporary microgrids, powered by mobile megawatt generators, will be ready for "rapid interconnection" by Sept. 1 and could reduce — or even eliminate — the so-called public-safety power shutoffs in Tiburon, Belvedere and Strawberry. The preemptive shutoffs were first instituted last

See **POWER, PAGE 24**



ELLIOT KARLAN / FOR THE ARK

Beach Road retaining-wall project to wrap up next week

Crews are seen Aug. 8 working on the final stages of a monthlong project to rebuild and reinforce a concrete retaining wall on Beach Road on Belvedere Island, which is set for completion Aug. 20.

The work has included a new 30-foot section of retaining wall and soil-nail reinforcements in an existing wall adjacent to the site, as well as installation of drainage components throughout.

During a heavy winter storm in 2018, a section of the slope near 150 Beach Road — south of the San Francisco Yacht Club marina near Lower Cedar Lane — slid down into the street, damaging the retaining wall and destabilizing the hillside, according to Belve-

dere Public Works Director Robert Zadnik.

The following summer, Belvedere hired a geotechnical consultant to inspect the hillside and retaining wall, and design a permanent repair. The slope was also seeded at that time to prevent further erosion. The project was publicly bid and awarded to Maloney Construction in May for \$135,817.

A complete road closure is scheduled Aug. 13, with traffic detours down Bayview and Bella Vista avenues, Zadnik said. Throughout the project, Beach Road has been open to uphill traffic only weekdays. Some traffic control will be left at the site as the new retaining wall cures, but it will be removed by Aug. 20.

— *Hannah Weikel*

election 2020

Challenger jumps in to guarantee race for Belvedere council seats

Several races have de-facto winners, others don't have enough candidates; final deadline is today

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

A challenger has emerged for one of three seats on the Belvedere City Council, making it a four-way race that includes three newcomers and the incumbent mayor. However, in the Reed Union School District and several other races, at least one incumbent decided to bow out, leaving a pending vacancy with no candidates at The Ark's press deadline. Meanwhile, incumbents on several boards, including the Tiburon Town Council and both local fire districts, are the de-facto winners after avoiding a challenge on the Nov. 3 ballot.

In Belvedere, construction industry executive

See **ELECTION, PAGE 22**

Belvedere will reopen Artist's View survey after methods criticized

Neighbors say they didn't weigh in on lane initiative to turn open space into a park

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
 hweikel@thearknewspaper.com

A survey that sought feedback on Belvedere's plans to build a pathway in Artist's View open space — a strip of city-owned land on the island's southernmost tip — will be reopened for additional input from residents after criticism of the survey's methods.

At a July 16 teleconference meeting of the Belvedere Parks and Open Space Committee, several Belvedere

See **SURVEY, PAGE 23**



HIGH-END REMODELS & NEW CONSTRUCTION



Power, *continued from page 1*

fall in an attempt to prevent wildfires from being started by electrical equipment during strong and dry winds and affected some 3 million Californians.

“For this fire season — although we can never be entirely sure — the likelihood (of an outage) is low,” said PG&E Public Safety Specialist Jim Wickham, a former Mill Valley mayor and current city councilmember. “If I was a betting person, I would say the Tiburon Peninsula would not have a (shutoff) this year.”

The temporary microgrid would act as backup power for peninsula residents in the event of a shutoff amid extremely hot, dry and windy weather in the region.

The power company is setting up dozens of microgrids in areas where the likelihood of a shutoff is high but the risk for a wildfire is very low.

“We will only utilize the (microgrid) generation if it’s safe to do so,” PG&E spokeswoman Deanna Contreras said by email.

Some 48 temporary microgrids are slated across PG&E’s service area, including substations in San Rafael, Sausalito, Bolinas, Corte Madera, Inverness and Novato. In total, the electric company said it has spent about \$175 million on the 450 megawatts of diesel generators to be used during fire-prevention power-downs.

Ahead of a power shutoff, which is typically announced 24 to 48 hours in advance, the megawatt generators would be towed in on trailers and hooked up by a PG&E crew. The generators are fueled by renewable biodiesel made from hydrogenated vegetable oil.

Wickham said it takes up to two or three hours to switch power from the main grid to a generator, and the amount of electricity generated will be estimated using historic power-usage data collected by smart meters

on homes and businesses.

According to Wickham, the microgrids can only be used during wildfire-related outages, meaning they’re not permitted for use during winter storms or other events that knock out power. That’s because the state closely regulates the company’s use of generators and their impact on the environment.

PG&E has come under intense scrutiny in the past two years after its equipment was found responsible for the 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County that burned more than 153,000 acres and killed 85 people, becoming the state’s deadliest and most destructive fire. The company was fined \$2 billion by the California Public Utilities Commission for that fire and others in 2017 and 2018.

After reaching settlements amounting to \$25.5 billion for the Camp Fire victims, the company filed for bankruptcy in January 2019, which reduced the settlements to \$13.5 billion. In a plea deal entered two months ago, the company admitted to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter — the 85th was ruled a suicide and not included in the charges — and one count of unlawfully starting a fire, leading to a \$3.5 million fine and \$500,000 to cover the cost of the investigation. The company was already under probation after being found guilty in 2016 on six counts of safety violations and obstructing the investigation into the 2010 gas-pipeline explosion that killed eight in San Bruno.

In the meantime, last spring PG&E announced plans to expand efforts to prevent its equipment from igniting wildfires during extremely dry and windy weather, and warned the shutoffs could last up to five days. The company’s power-downs also began to include 5,520 miles of transmission lines, which carry electricity over long distances and disperse it to customers through substations and distribution lines. Shutting off a transmission line has a ripple effect, causing outages in less fire-prone areas nearby.

Last October, a massive 37-county power-down affected nearly 3 million Californians during the Kincadee Fire in Sonoma County, which state investigators said was caused by a PG&E transmission line. The outage caused Tiburon Peninsula residents to lose power for up to three days in some neighborhoods — marking the first time the peninsula was impacted by PG&E’s shutoffs.

PG&E’s handling of the widespread outage in October was met with heavy criticism, with many asking what the company would do to improve communication with local governments and customers and reduce the impact of future outages.

Since then, PG&E said it has started making improvements to its management and infrastructure with the goal of making this year’s shutoffs “smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for customers.”

In addition to microgrids, PG&E is also installing more than 600 sectionalizing devices, which separate the distribution grid into smaller sections, allowing power to be shut off in fire-prone areas near the edges of the grid while power stays on farther up the line.

Dozens of sectionalizing devices have been installed in Marin, including in Mill Valley, where high fire-threat neighborhoods at the base of Mount Tamalpais may need to be de-energized, while the downtown area and business districts along Miller Avenue and East Blithedale Avenue can stay energized.

The company has also pledged to improve communication with customers during a forced outage, as well as increase its line-inspection capabilities so electricity can be restored more quickly systemwide.

Before power can be restored following an extreme wind event, PG&E crews are required to inspect power lines mile-by-mile for damage or debris. Previously, this work was mostly done on foot or by vehicle, but this year the company doubled its helicopter

fleet and added two airplanes that can inspect the lines using infrared cameras that are capable of inspecting transmission lines at night.

Last fall, PG&E inspectors in Tiburon missed a wind-damaged line that ended up sparking a tree fire on Hacienda Drive when the line was re-energized. Fire crews reported the line was sparking wildly and the fire had spread to fully engulf several trees just feet from a home, which was evacuated while the fire was put out.

Even with these additional measures, the likelihood of forced outages this year is high, including in Marin, where a huge swath of the county between Highway 101 and Highway 1 is considered fire-prone.

Marin has 155 miles of overhead transmission lines, of which 64 miles travel through fire-prone areas, as well as 1,024 miles of overhead distribution lines, of which 528 miles run through high-risk areas, according to PG&E.

According to a California Public Utilities Commission fire-threat map, the transmission lines that carry electricity into Southern Marin along Highway 101 largely skirt the county’s high fire-threat areas like Mount Tamalpais, Muir Woods National Monument and along Highway 1. However, those transmission lines may still need to be de-energized during extreme weather conditions, which would have a ripple effect that causes outages in Tiburon and Belvedere.

But this year, Wickham said PG&E is prepared to keep lights on across the peninsula.

“All we have to do is turn on the microgrid,” he said.

Reporter Hannah Weikel covers the city of Belvedere, as well as crime, courts and public safety issues on the Tiburon Peninsula. Reach her at 415-944-4627.

Legal Notices

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149232

Notice: This statement expires on 7/9/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

BAY AREA MARINE SERVICES
420 DONAHUE ST.
SAUSALITO, CA 94965
LUIS A. MARTINEZ
420 DONAHUE ST.
SAUSALITO, CA 94965
ALISON E. HEALY
420 DONAHUE ST.
SAUSALITO, CA 94965

This business is conducted by a married couple

/s/Alison Healy, Co-Owner
420 Donahue St.
Sausalito, CA 94965
FILED: July 9, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: J. Mannion
Ark Legal 3581 Jul 22, 29, Aug 5, 12, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149107

Notice: This statement expires on 6/16/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

SUMMER HOUSE
238 EAST BLITHEDALE
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
SUMMER HOUSE
57 THROCKMORTON AVE.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
ROBERT ADAMS
13 ETHEL LANE
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
JANE WALTER
13 ETHEL LANE
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941

This business is conducted by a married couple

/s/Jane Walter/Robert Adams, Owner
238 East Blithedale Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
FILED: June 16, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149306

Notice: This statement expires on 7/21/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

MOBILE NOTARY OF MARIN
MARIN MOBILE NOTARY
EMCLARA
4 ESMEYER DRIVE
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
MARK ALAN PETRUS
4 ESMEYER DRIVE
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

This business is conducted by an individual

/s/Mark A. Petrus
4 Esmeyer Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903
FILED: July 21, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: O. Lobato
Ark Legal 3586 Jul 29, Aug 5, 12, 19, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149382

Notice: This statement expires on 7/29/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

CHIMINA'S BEAUTY SHOP
1001 GREEN OAK DR. #12
NOVATO, CA 94949
ALMA PAOLA HERNANDEZ LOZANO
1001 GREEN OAK DR. #12
NOVATO, CA 94949
ERVIN PORTILLO
1001 GREEN OAK DR. #12
NOVATO, CA 94949

This business is conducted by a married couple

/s/Alma Paola Hernandez Loazano
1001 Green Oak Dr. #12
Novato, CA 94949
FILED: July 29, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149212

Notice: This statement expires on 7/6/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

HALO BENCH SERVICES
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
SCOTT MARCHAND
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941

This business is conducted by an individual

/s/Scott Marchand
410 Viewpark Ct.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
FILED: July 6, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: L. Vawter
Ark Legal 3590 Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149333

Notice: This statement expires on 7/24/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

AM/PM TOW
2822 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WAY
OAKLAND, CA 94612
AYUB YUSUF AZAM
2822 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WAY
OAKLAND, CA 94612

This business is conducted by an individual

/s/Ayub Yusuf Azam, Owner
P.O. Box 1414
Mill Valley, CA 94942
FILED: July 24, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: J. Mannion
Ark Legal 3592 Aug 12, 19, 26, Sept 2, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149218

Notice: This statement expires on 7/7/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

MONARCH DIGITAL
COMMUNICATION
1050 NORTHGATE DRIVE SUITE 200
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149212

Notice: This statement expires on 7/6/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

HALO BENCH SERVICES
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
SCOTT MARCHAND
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941

This business is conducted by an individual

/s/Scott Marchand
410 Viewpark Ct.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
FILED: July 6, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: L. Vawter
Ark Legal 3590 Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149212

Notice: This statement expires on 7/6/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

HALO BENCH SERVICES
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
SCOTT MARCHAND
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941

This business is conducted by an individual

/s/Scott Marchand
410 Viewpark Ct.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
FILED: July 6, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: L. Vawter
Ark Legal 3590 Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149212

Notice: This statement expires on 7/6/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:

HALO BENCH SERVICES
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
SCOTT MARCHAND
410 VIEWPARK CT.
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941

This business is conducted by an individual

/s/Scott Marchand
410 Viewpark Ct.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
FILED: July 6, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: L. Vawter
Ark Legal 3590 Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISING RATES

Fictitious business name statements are \$65 for one business and one registrant, \$5 each additional name, for four weeks; name changes are \$120. Trustee sales start at \$170. **The deadline for the next issue is 3 p.m. Thursday.**

Call **415-435-2652** or email **legals@thearknewspaper.com** for additional pricing and to place your notice today!