

**inside**

**RESIDENTS APPEAL LATEST STEP OF PLANS AT SEMINARY SITE**

Page 5

**POLICE TRY TO CONNECT WITH RESIDENTS WITH E-BIKE PATROLS**

Page 10

**BOOST FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH ITEMS FROM THE HOME**

Garden Plot, page 25

## Servino's to move, paving way for new farm-to-table spot



ELLIOT KARLAN / FOR THE ARK

The Servino family, owner of Servino Ristorante at 9 Main St., and building owner ACV Argo Tiburon LP separately announced Oct. 1 that the restaurant would return to its original location on lower Ark Row next spring and that a farm-to-table retail-restaurant space, Malibu Farm, would take its place.

Downtown landlord also says Michael Mina restaurant to open in early 2021, Shark's Deli to be developed into bistro

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**  
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Popular Italian eatery Servino Ristorante will move back to its original home on lower Ark Row next spring, paving the way for an organic farm-to-table retail-and-restaurant chain to take its place on lower Main Street.

In an exclusive announcement to The Ark, landlord ACV Argo Tiburon LP said Oct. 1 that Malibu Farm — which has eight loca-

**also downtown**

Tiburon is reviewing plans for Green Taste Vegan Goods market to open on Main Street, page 7

tions across Southern California, Hawaii, New York, Miami, Mexico and Tokyo — will open at Servino's longtime home at 9 Main St. in 2021 or 2022 after renovations and a redesign of the two-story building.

See **RESTAURANTS, PAGE 24**

## Landlord says it has no takers for Tiburon Playhouse, will redevelop theater building

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**  
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Apparently dashing hopes of residents seeking to preserve Tiburon's downtown movie theater, landlord ACV Argo said it has made several unsuccessful attempts to bring in a new operator and instead is looking at the building with an eye toward

redevelopment.

The owner of the three-screen Tiburon Playhouse, David Corkill of the Cinema West theater chain, announced last month the theater, which had been closed since March amid the coronavirus pandemic, would be shutting down permanently after

See **THEATER, PAGE 22**

**election 2020**

## Hopefuls for council and school board square off in forums



Block



Kemnitzer



Lynch



Schlunt

## Belvedere council candidates discuss seawall, disaster prep

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**  
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Racial equality, disaster readiness and the COVID-19 pandemic were among the issues at the forefront of a discussion between the four candidates competing for three open seats on the Belvedere City

Council at a Sept. 29 virtual forum hosted by The Ark and moderated by the League of Women Voters of Marin County.

On the rapidly approaching Nov. 3 presidential election ballot, incumbent Nancy Kemnitzer is seeking a second term on the

See **BELVEDERE, PAGE 18**



Emerson



Hornbrook



Jaffee



Webb

## Reed district board candidates talk about pandemic, inclusion

By **EMILY LAVIN**  
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The four candidates vying for two seats on the Reed Union School District board of trustees generally found common ground on key issues facing the district at a Sept.

30 virtual forum hosted by The Ark and moderated by the Marin League of Women Voters of Marin County.

Those on the ballot in the upcoming Nov. 3 Presidential Election include appointed

See **REED, PAGE 20**



HIGH-END REMODELS & NEW CONSTRUCTION



An artist's rendering shows conceptual plans for the old Shark's Deli site, a former Mobil gas station at Tiburon Boulevard and Beach Road that landlord ACV Argo Tiburon LP hopes to turn into an indoor-outdoor bistro. The company doesn't have a tenant but says it has submitted the plans to Tiburon for design review.



VIA ACV ARGO TIBURON LP

**Restaurants, from page 1**

ACV Argo also confirmed it has submitted to Tiburon its development plans for the former Shark's Deli site at the corner of Tiburon Boulevard and Beach Road, a planned indoor-outdoor bistro concept that would pay tribute to the site's history as a former Mobil service station with "retro-garage doors, a large outdoor trellis-covered dining patio and a recreational lawn area."

Shark's has been closed since 2014, and recently its parking lot has been used as a staging area for the landlord's downtown construction projects.

The ACV Argo restaurant projects would join two already in the works.

The first is the ongoing renovation of the old Guaymas Mexican restaurant site at 5 Main St. for a new project from Michelin-star celebrity chef Michael Mina, which is now slated to open in the first quarter of 2021.

It so far is unnamed but internally has been referred to as Bungalow Kitchen and publicly described as a "Bohemian" "beatnik poets bungalow." The references have caused speculation the restaurant may be connected to a concept from DJ and businessman Brent Bolthouse, who previously teamed up with Mina for three restaurants called The Bungalow across Southern California that feature similar styling as the planned Tiburon restaurant.

The Mina Group and Bolthouse have not responded to requests for comment on whether they're expanding their collaboration to Tiburon.

Mina lives in Nicasio and his restaurant company, the Mina Group, owns 40 restaurants in the U.S., including eight in San Francisco, such as Michael Mina, Mina Family Kitchen, International Smoke and Trailblazer Tavern.

"I have always loved Tiburon, and this is my home turf," Mina said in the Oct. 1 ACV Argo release.

The second is the nearby former New



VIA ACV ARGO TIBURON LP

Malibu Farm, an international chain of farm-to-table retail-and-restaurant spaces, is slated to move to 9 Main St. in downtown Tiburon in 2021 or 2022. It would replace longtime tenant Servino Ristorante, which will return to its original home on lower Ark Row.

Morning Cafe site on downtown Tiburon Boulevard, which will become a mixed-use 2½-story building with a restaurant space on the ground floor and condo space above.

ACV Argo did not provide a timeline on when that project would be completed.

The Servino family — which will keep Caffè Acri at 1 Main St. and expand its menu there to include dinner service and signature dishes — has had its namesake Italian restaurant on lower Main Street since 1992, but it will move back to its original location on lower Ark Row in spring.

It first opened in 1978 at the 114 Main St. site, which most recently was home to Don

Antonio Trattoria. Don Antonio's closed in late March, an early victim of the coronavirus pandemic, though its Larkspur location remains open.

"We have been fortunate to enjoy the amazing Tiburon waterfront for 21 years. We now look forward to returning to our roots," manager Natale Servino said in a press release Oct. 1. Servino and brother Vittorio operate the restaurant on behalf of their founder parents, Angelo and Kathryn. "Our family and our team have received an immeasurable amount of support from our community and we are very excited to continue to serve our neighbors."

Malibu Farm is a retail-and-restaurant complex owned by chef Helene Henderson and her husband, John Stockwell. It opened its first location on the Malibu Pier in 2014.

The front half of the lower level will be devoted to retail, according to SG Ellison, president of A&C Ventures, the Sonoma-based parent company of landlord ACV Argo. The existing bar would be moved to the back, where it would share space with tables. The upper level also will have dining tables.

"To have a location on the San Francisco Bay overlooking Angel Island and the city is a dream," Anderson said in the ACV Argo release.

ACV Argo has not found an operator for the new bistro planned for 1600 Tiburon Blvd., in the space formerly occupied by Shark's.

"This corner location has amazing potential, and we want to make it an inviting place for families to gather on a regular basis," Ellison said.

A&C Ventures Founder and Chief Executive Officer David Grieve said the new changes were "aimed at further elevating Tiburon as a top shopping and culinary destination" and at "enhancing the downtown Tiburon landscape for generations to come."

Grieve is also the owner of Grieve Family Vineyards, which recently received approval to open a tasting room — Squalo Vino, Italian for shark wine — at another ACV Argo site on 34 Main St.

ACV Argo is also the owner of the Tiburon Playhouse movie theater building at 40 Main St., which the company is planning to redevelop for other use. Theater owner David Corkill has been in talks with ACV Argo since at least April but announced publicly in mid-September he would not renew the theater's lease. Ellison said ACV Argo in the meantime has spoken with other Bay Area theater owners who have not expressed interest in taking over the site.

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

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**ArkBeat**

October 7, 2020

**Garden Plot**

Everyday household items can enhance floral arrangements

By DIANE LYNCH  
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My garden club kicked off the year with the book "Just Add Water: Easy Techniques & Everyday Ideas for Inspiring Flower Arrangements" and a Zoom presentation by its author, Cynthia Bigony. She encourages her readers to use simple techniques such as foraging in the garden as well as at the grocery store as opposed to making the bigger commitment to go to the flower mart or a florist. There's a lot that can be done close to home.

For instance, anything that will hold water can become a vessel for an arrangement. Think beyond the vases sitting in your garage. Teapots, pitchers, mugs and small deep casseroles can all do double duty. A pretty bowl is great for floating flowers such as roses or camellias. That old glass milk bottle you can't bring yourself to throw out could be beautiful with a single bloom. There are even jars out there pretty enough to display flowers. If you're a packrat like me, you'll find a lot of flower-worthy items in the kitchen cabinets. I have vases I've never used as such, like the beautiful Japanese cloisonné vases my father brought back from his Korean War duty in the Pacific, along with several sake pitchers.

Grouping in threes is always a winning combination, both when planting in the garden and making a tableau of arrangements. Most of us have white or clear things around the house that could be used as flower containers. I have a matching coffee pot and teapot which, combined with a large cream pitcher, could work. My three cloisonné vases are different sizes but have colors in common, so they work. Even three different wine glasses could work.

Then head out to the garden and see what's there. I found alstroemeria, hydrangeas, osmanthus — which looks like variegated holly — Japanese maple foliage turning fall colors, variegated hydrangea foliage, fuchsia and ferns. I don't have tons of flowers in the garden but right now my hydrangeas are beautiful as they start their march toward winter. Interesting different foliage types can combine to make a stunning arrangement too; no flowers needed, especially in the fall months. Ask a friend who has a beautiful garden if you can clip some things, and make them an arrangement also. Tucking in some mint, lemon or rose-scented geranium would add a fragrant surprise to your bouquet.

Some of Bigony's tips included dipping stems of hydran-



DIANE LYNCH / FOR THE ARK

Most people have things around the house that could be used as flower containers. Here, two Italian pitchers and a tiny teapot share a similar palette to unite three bouquets.

gens bloom in aluminum potassium sulfate, which is used in pickling, to make them last longer. Hydrangeas absorb water through their blooms, so soak the flower end in water for a few minutes before re-cutting the stalk under water. Clear hair ties are great for bunching flowers, as they will be invisible. To change up a straight-sided clear vase, line it with a season-appropriate waterproof wide ribbon — blue for Hanukkah, red for Christmas, pastels for Easter or your child's favorite color for their birthday.

Above all else, enjoy assembling a flower arrangement. A few years ago, I walked into Trader Joe's the day before my book group was coming for lunch. It was my lucky day because they had the most beautiful array of double tulips in several vibrant colors. My bouquets practically made themselves. Do you know a virus was responsible for "bro-

ken" or Rembrandt tulips, which during a year in the 1600s were so valuable that a single bulb could cost what a house in Amsterdam went for? There were some good viruses, at least for some businessmen during that brief period, but such viruses are heavily regulated in Holland today.

Even foraging in your own back yard can reveal plants that can be cut and combined with a small bouquet from the market to yield something beautiful. Now I'm anxiously awaiting tulip season next spring and wondering if the coronavirus will be subdued with a vaccine by then. We can only hope!

*Contributing columnist Diane Lynch has gardened in Tiburon for more than 25 years and has contributed to The Ark since 2002.*

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