



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

October 2012

City of San Mateo Finances: Dave Culver

TUESDAY, October 16th
7:30 PM

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

note: member votes may be taken

October General Meeting – City of San Mateo Finances

The October general meeting will feature Dave Culver, the Finance Director for San Mateo, with a lively discussion of San Mateo's finances. He will compare San Mateo's finances with that of other California cities, and discuss key revenue trends in San Mateo and how the current post-recession environment impacts these trends. He will explain the city's budget balancing strategy and the plan to build up our emergency reserves. Dave will also describe the effects of actions the state government has imposed on San Mateo, as well as the impact the expiration of temporary ¼ cent sales tax will have.

You will leave the discussion with valuable information about the current and future state of our city's finances and how San Mateo is doing relative to other cities.

BHNA general membership meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm-9pm

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

November 20th – Health services for our community: San Mateo County Health Center and Mills Health Center

December – No meeting (Winter break)

January 15th, 2013 – SM Deputy Mayor David Lim, plus the election of directors and officers

February 19th, 2013 – History of the Peninsula Golf and Country Club

September Meeting Recap

Have you ever wondered how the San Mateo County Elections Office gets the vote out so quickly on Election night? Greta McElroy, County Election Specialist, shared that "secret", and so much more at the September Meeting. Out of a registered voter population of over 340,000, over half (184,905) will receive vote by mail ballots starting Oct 10th. In a light turnout, about 70% of the ballots are cast by mail. But how do they count them so quickly? Mailed ballots will be verified for signatures starting Oct. 22nd, and opened to stack the ballots in trays starting Oct. 26th. Nothing will be counted until the polls close Nov 6th at 8 PM, when the trays of ballots will be fed into computers. In about *5 minutes*, most of those votes are counted, and the first tally will be released to the public!

Remember, Oct 22nd is the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming elections, held on November 6th. There is a wealth of information at the County Elections website, shapethefuture.org, or you can call 650.312.5222.

BHNA Position on Leaf Blower Regulations

The BHNA Board has been following the City's discussion about updating its leaf blower ordinances for commercial users. The Board recommends that the City Council ban all gas powered devices and allow the more environment-friendly electric models; reduce hours of operation to M-F 9 to 5; limit devices to 65 dB which should be certified every 2 years; and to create a sliding scale of fines for repeat offenders. Since a quorum was not present at the September general meeting, the group could not vote, so the Board position stands. It can be revisited October 16th.

The City Council will hold a study on this issue on Monday, October 15th. Contact Cindy Gilmore at 650.522.7191 for the time of the study and with any comments or questions on this issue.

Have You Invited Your Neighbors to Join BHNA?

It is not too late to speak with your neighbors about joining BHNA. It is likely that they received our September newsletter last month, encouraging them to join the group. Many new members have already responded. Are you sharing your newsletters with neighbors? Now is the time to encourage them to become a part of BHNA, too. Together we make our neighborhood stronger.

SM Police Advice

Police officers who visited our September meeting reminded us to be alert for activities in our neighborhood that seem "unusual", and call SMPD Dispatch at 650.522.7700 right away. Catalytic converters are being stolen from vehicles that are left on the street late at night. Also, cars are broken into for anything of value that is left visible - laptops, cell phones, even small change on the console. Don't make your car a target. Put items out of sight and lock your car every single time!

Upcoming Events

In the next few months, there is an architectural lecture series at the San Mateo Main Library. Also check out the Annual Active San Mateo County Conference!

October 5th: 7-9 PM. Donald MacDonald, lead architect of the Bay Bridge.

October 10th: 4th Annual Active San Mateo County Conference at San Mateo Main Library. Attend workshops and learn about how the county helps create desirable public places. Registration is free. Call 650.363.4568.

November 2nd: 7-9 PM. Sim Van Der Ryn, architect and author, former State Architect under Jerry Brown, specializes in "sustainable design."

December 7th: 7-9 PM. Peter Calthorpe, urban designer, specializes in innovative ways to further regional planning.

Tips from Ken White – Peninsula Humane Society

At our June meeting, Ken White spoke to us about services for injured or potentially dangerous animals. The PHS/SPCA will help any animal that seems to be sick, injured, or dangerous to people. However, the PHS/SPCA does not remove or kill healthy wild animals that live in or around your yard. They will give you advice about how to make your yard or home less attractive to animals and how to coexist more amicably with animals. Healthy wild animals like raccoons, skunks, and opossums are not dangerous unless startled or protecting their young. If an animal is behaving oddly, disease may be a factor, and the SPCA will come out to help. They make a similar response for an injured wild animal. To contact the PHS, call 650.340.7022.

Our Senior Center – "Services Link"

Many know that the Senior Center, at 2625 Alameda, offers classes, movies, lunches, speakers and recreation activities. Did you know that you can also connect with HICAP (Health Insurance and Counseling Advocacy Program) and SASH (Shopping Assistance for Seniors who are Homebound)? The Senior Center provides many services such as access to a medical equipment loan closet and answers to questions about emergency food or shelter, in-home services, transportation, and much more. If you or a senior you know needs help, this is the place to start. Office hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays, and no is appointment necessary. To contact the Services Link, call 650.522.7494.

Recyclable vs. Compostable

We use many "green" products each time we get takeout, buy biodegradable plastic utensils, or eat off of disposable plates. But did you know that "compostable" items belong in the green bin, with your garden waste, not the blue recycling cart? In fact, putting them in the blue cart can make the plastic and paper in the product less valuable for recycling. Please check labels carefully, so that you can complete the circle and have a minimal impact on our environment. Call Recology at 650.595.3900 with any questions you may have.

Support our Neighborhood Merchants

The Water Lounge, located on 25th Ave. and El Camino, is newly opened and a wonderful place for anyone looking to have a relaxing spa day! They offer many different skin care treatments and massages. A fabulous way to relax, soothe those stressed muscles, and improve your complexion. Susan C, Sylvan Avenue.

If you have a favorite shop or business in our neighborhood, let us know. Call or email the newsletter editor (see below).

2012 BHNA Officers & Directors

President	Susan Rowinski	650.522.8584	president@beresfordhilldale.org
Vice President	Kitty Van Beckum	650.573.6242	vicepresident@beresfordhilldale.org
Treasurer	Karen Herrel	650.578.8597	treasurer@beresfordhilldale.org
Secretary	Stan Shogren		secretary@beresfordhilldale.org
Newsletter	Karen Herrel (interim)	Claire Jensen, Intern	newsletter@beresfordhilldale.org
Directors: Diana Mongini, Juliette Najjar, Heinz Plischke, Kaye Sharma			

If you picked up this newsletter at one of our neighborhood locations, or a member shared this with you, we invite you to contact an officer to join our association.