



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

September 2012

September General Meeting – Protecting Your Vote

The September meeting will feature Greta McElroy, speaking about how your votes are safeguarded, from the ballot to the final tally. Greta has been working for San Mateo County Elections for the past 10 years. She has the know-how in the Vote-By-Mail section, watching that everything is correctly accounted for, and shares the responsibility for re-counting the votes to ensure accuracy of the final tally.

**Greta McElroy, SM County
Elections Office**

How Your Vote Counts!

**TUESDAY, September 18th
7:30 PM**

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

note: member votes may be taken

Greta will give us the estimate of the expected voter turnout for November and the number of absentee votes compared to those cast at the polls. Who better to explain how absentee votes are processed and what the "1% Tally" is and why it is important.

Come, and bring your neighbors, for a behind the scenes look at how the voting process works, and how Elections officials strive to make sure your vote is protected during the entire operation.

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

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

October 16th – City of San Mateo Finances

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 BHNA elections.

July Meeting Recap

Summer Social time is always fun. Members enjoyed "Kathy's Creative" cake and "Romolo's" ice cream, as they got to know each other better. Then, the very talented Tarabytes entertained us with songs of the 60's. Drummer (and longtime BHNA member) Mike Germano topped off each song with a trivia question. Who knew we could remember so much about the music of our past!

BHNA in Action

Each fall we look back to what we have accomplished on your behalf. In response to many members' concerns, we have participated in the City's discussions about restricting leaf blowers, eliminating harmful plastic bags and containers in retail use and controlling how oversize vehicles park in residential neighborhoods. We took a formal position against moving Peninsula High School onto the Hillsdale High campus, due to lack of surplus land. We toured new Fire Station 23 on Edison, and learned valuable tips about emergency safety in our community. Our speakers spread the word about successes at Hillsdale High School, a new City program for cost saving sewer lateral repair and the construction outlook for Bay Meadows and El Camino Real improvements. We hosted Council Members Maureen Freschet and Jack Matthews, and Assembly Member Jerry Hill. We also kept members up to date on all the changes going on at Hillsdale Mall and with many Public Works projects.

It has been a busy 12 months. Our goal is to serve and advocate for our hundreds of member households. As part of BHNA, you help make that happen.

Outreach to Our Neighborhood

This month BHNA is mailing our newsletter to many residents in the area who are not members, letting them know about our group and inviting them to join. This is a good time to talk with your neighbors about joining BHNA, since our ability to accomplish things for our area depends on our continued membership strength.

BHNA Website Solution

In July, we asked members to help with maintaining the BHNA website. Many thanks to member Monika Lee, who stepped up to help. The postings are now up to date, and members who want their newsletters by email will continue to get them.

Mark Your Calendar

September 15th – 28th Anniversary Bay Front Cleanup at Ryder Park (1803 J. Hart Clinton Drive.) 8 AM to noon. Registration starts at 7:30 AM. Wear your old clothes and sturdy shoes to help clean up our bay. Food, entertainment, and prizes! Call 650.522.7300 for more information.

September 15th – 10 AM to 4 PM Fall Festival at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way. Orchid, Bonsai and other demonstrations, plus a plant sale.

September 21–23 – Friends of the Library Book Sale at the SM Main Library. Books, videos, CDs and DVDs at bargain prices. All proceeds support the San Mateo Public Library Foundation. Call 650.522.7800 for hours.

September 22nd – Senior Health and Wellness Fair, 10AM – 2 PM, at the Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas. Free resource information, screenings and demonstrations. Call 650.522.7490 for more info.

Tips from Ken White – Peninsula Humane Society

At our June meeting, Ken White spoke to us about living with animals. Have you ever wondered what problems the Peninsula Humane Society doesn't handle? The PHS does not handle barking dogs because they are a code enforcement issue, so check the city website (www.cityofsanmateo.org) or call the SMPD. If a neighbor has too many pets, it is considered a health hazard. The County Health Department investigates these cases. Beekeepers handle the relocation of bees, and State Fish and Game has jurisdiction over mountain lions. Of course, for an imminent threat, call the SMPD. State law also prohibits the trapping and relocation of raccoons, skunks, etc. – once trapped, they must be killed, or released - right where they were caught. You can contact the PHS at 650.340.7022 for more information.

More Tips for Emergencies

Here's another safety tip from Captain Robert Cook, who spoke to our members in May. By signing up for SMC Alert, you can get information about crimes in the area, traffic alerts, new laws or regulations in San Mateo, and events. To sign up for SM County alerts, or to get more information, go to www.smcalert.info.

Are You Our Next Newsletter Editor?

We continue to look for a newsletter editor to work with our "ace" intern, Claire Jensen. Karen Herrel's time as interim editor is ending. Will you volunteer to keep this essential BHNA service going? Please contact any officer to explore this opportunity.

City is Considering Updating Leaf Blower Laws

Because of complaints from citizens regarding the operation of leaf blowers, the city is considering updating leaf blower laws for residential and commercial neighborhoods. The current law was written in 1997. It allows leaf blower use M-F 8-5, Sat 9-5 and requires a blower nozzle extension that operates at low speed.

We encourage BHNA members to contact the city and share your feelings on this matter. Should the city ban all leaf blowers? Allow the quieter and cleaner electric blowers? Reduce available hours of operation? Allow leaf vacuums, which are quieter and do not blow around matter? Send comments and questions to Cindy Gilmore at cgilmore@cityofsanmateo.org or call 650.522.7191.

The Board position on leaf blower regulation, introduced at the July general meeting, will be presented to the membership at the September meeting. Come and be a part of the decision.

Support our Neighborhood Merchants

BHNA's area includes opportunities for neighborhood shopping in the Laurelwood Center, 37th Ave. and Bel Mateo (41st, 42nd and 43rd Ave.) retail areas. The 25th Ave. shops are also popular with our members. We encourage residents to "shop local" to keep small merchants a successful part of our neighborhood.

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@beresfordhillssdale.org
Vice President	Kitty Van Beckum	650.573.6242	vicepresident@beresfordhillssdale.org
Treasurer	Karen Herrel	650.578.8597	treasurer@beresfordhillssdale.org
Secretary	Stan Shogren		secretary@beresfordhillssdale.org
Newsletter	Karen Herrel (interim)	Claire Jensen, Intern	newsletter@beresfordhillssdale.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.