



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

April 2013

April General Meeting – BYOB and San Mateo Garden Center

Reusable Bag Ordinance
Sheri Costa-Batis
San Mateo Garden Center
Linda Burnside

Tuesday, April 16th
7:30 PM

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

note: member votes may be taken

Our April meeting will continue the “green” theme and will be in two parts. The first presenter will be Sheri Costa-Batis from the San Mateo City Department of Public Works. She will update us on the Reusable Bag Ordinance, which is designed to encourage you to “BYOB,” which stands for “Bring Your Own Bag.” The City Council has this topic on the agenda for its April 15th meeting, and the ordinance is expected to go into effect on Thursday, June 6th.

The second half of the meeting will be a slide show given by Linda Burnside, a San Mateo resident with great love for, and knowledge of, the history of the San Mateo Garden Center. You will be amazed at the “before and after” views of that plot of city

landscape on the corner of Alameda and Parkside Way.

Bring your friends, your neighbors, and your questions for an informative evening about the Reusable Bag Ordinance and the San Mateo Garden Center.

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

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

May 21st, 2013 – Larry Ivich, General Manager at Hillsdale Shopping Center, on the “Plans for the North Block at Hillsdale Shopping Center.”

June 18th, 2013 – Donna Mollenhauer, Filoli Docent, on the home, garden and exciting programs and activities at Filoli.

July 16th, 2013 – BHNA’s Annual Summer Social

March Meeting Recap

At the March General meeting, Darcy Forsell, the San Mateo Assistant Planner, updated us on many different development projects in our area. The Bay Meadows development is set up to have residences on the east side, and offices, retail, and restaurants to the west. Model homes are under construction and will be opened in May. There will be three new public parks, one of which will have a large pond that will act as a storm water retention facility. Nueva School will open a campus for 450 students. The project is transit oriented, and residents, office personnel, and students are expected to use Caltrain and other public transportation.

Updates on other projects: The first of two affordable housing apartment buildings at the site of the old police station on Delaware Street is fast nearing completion; financing for the second structure next door is being arranged. The El Camino Real project, between 28th and 31st, will include a landscaped median and upgraded pedestrian crosswalk. The plan to move the Hillsdale Caltrain Station one block north for better access to the Bay Meadows development, and to build underpasses at 28th and 31st Avenues presently is on hold, due to a lack of financing. The latest new development: the Sears store at Hillsdale Mall has one year left on its lease, and is not planning to renew it. The owners of the mall are looking at bringing in a Target store, a restaurant, and a smaller, upscale movie theater. Improvements to the parking lots also are planned. At our May general meeting you will have an opportunity to hear more about the project, and get answers to your questions.

Hacienda Street Sidewalk Project

Last year we reported that the city is working with the Hacienda Street neighborhood, between Louise Lane and 31st, to address safety issues raised by the lack of sidewalks in front of eight homes. The city has secured funding for the project, and has drawn the plans. Review of these plans will be one of the topics at an Open House at City Hall on April 10, starting at 6:00 PM. Contact Public Works at 650.522.7300 or check the city website (www.cityofsanmateo.org) for details.

Can You Imagine Our City Without Trees?

Trees help to create a neighborhood and provide benefits to many people in addition to the owners of the land on which they are planted. Street and heritage trees, therefore, may not be cut or pruned without a permit from the City Arborists. Heritage trees are defined in two ways: they are either Bay, Buckeye, Oak, Cedar, or Redwood trees (California natives) with at least a 10 inch diameter, or any other trees that have a diameter of 16 inches or more. In both cases, the measure is taken at 4 ft above the ground.

Street trees include all trees planted in the public right-of-way. In San Mateo, more than 19,000 trees are protected as street trees. The City prunes these trees, and will remove them if they are believed to be dead, dying, or dangerous. If you think that a street tree is not healthy, needs pruning, or is a safety issue, or if you would like a street tree planted in front of your house, contact the City Arborist Dennis Paul at 650.522.7422 or trees@cityofsanmateo.org.

Update on Caltrain's Electrification Project

In March, both the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and the California High Speed Rail Authority approved new agreements regarding the planning and development of the Caltrain Corridor Electrification Project and the high-speed train system from San Francisco and San Jose. The new agreements focus exclusively on the "Blended System," which is the sharing of two tracks by Caltrain freight, high speed, and commuter trains. The agreements replace and terminate plans for building two additional tracks that would have required seizure of private property along the corridor.

The Local Policy Maker Group for Caltrain Modernization, composed primarily of Peninsula city council members, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 PM at the Sam Trans Administrative Offices in San Carlos. The public is welcome to attend the meeting. Check the website in case of cancellations and updates (www.caltrain.com/projectsplans).

Trustees Say "No" to Peninsula High on Hillsdale High Campus

At the March 7th meeting of the San Mateo High School District Board of Trustees, the administration presented a strong case for the removal of Hillsdale High School from the list of possible future locations for Peninsula High School. The district is looking for a better setting for the alternative high school, which is currently located at Crestmoor in San Bruno. BHNA took the position that Hillsdale was not a good choice because it has no surplus land, and the trustees agreed, citing projected increased enrollment at Hillsdale High.

The trustees authorized a search to acquire land to build a new Peninsula High School campus, and a search to find separate land and facilities for the district headquarters and bus maintenance facility, both of which are currently located at San Mateo High School. If that fails, the administration proposes a relocation of Peninsula High School to San Mateo High. This plan is vigorously opposed by San Mateo High School and its neighborhood. Many residents encourage the district to find creative ways to continue to use the existing Crestmoor site. BHNA will continue to follow this important community issue, as the land search continues into the fall.

Outstanding Home Maintenance Awards

The appearance and maintenance of a home and its yard are considered in making these annual awards. If you would like BHNA to consider an outstanding home in your neighborhood for the award please let us know at newsletter@beresfordhillsdale.org.

Upcoming Events

April 28th: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Beresford Park parking lot - Free E-Waste & Paper Shred Recycling Event

May 11th: 10 AM – 4 PM. The San Mateo Garden Center will hold a plant sale, just in time for Mother's Day! Many different garden clubs will be featured.

Favorite Merchant

Dance Vita Ballroom studio, 85 West 43rd Ave, is THE place to go for partner dance on the peninsula. Check them out if your wedding is approaching and you need a brush-up on your dance skills, if you want to have fun learning to Salsa or Tango, or get in shape doing Zumba. It is also the destination for top-level competitive ballroom dancers and is especially friendly to aspiring youth competitive dancers. Jessica, Hacienda Street.

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

2013 BHNA Officers & Directors

President	Susan Rowinski	650.522.8584	president@beresfordhillsdale.org
Treasurer	Ellen Wang	650.773.3053	treasurer@beresfordhillsdale.org
Secretary	Stan Shogren		secretary@beresfordhillsdale.org
Newsletter Ed.	Monika Lee	650.572.0821	newsletter@beresfordhillsdale.org
Newsletter	Claire Jensen	Intern	newsletter@beresfordhillsdale.org
Directors: Stephanie Alley, Monika Lee, 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.