



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

October 2013

City Council Candidates

**Tuesday, October 15th, 2013
7:30 PM**

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

note: member votes may be taken

October General Meeting – Meet the City Council Candidates!

BHNA has a proud history of hosting City Council Candidate's Night. This venue provides BHNA members with an opportunity to get to know the candidates running for City Council this year. This year, there are five candidates running for the three open seats. The candidates are Karen Schmidt (San Mateo based business woman), Joshua Hugg (San Mateo City Planning Commission), and Joe Goethals (San Mateo Public Works), who are joined by incumbents David Lim (Mayor) and Robert Ross (Deputy Mayor).

All have graciously agreed to speak to BHNA members. Take advantage of this opportunity meet the candidates before Election Day on November 5.

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

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

November 19th – Nicole Sandkulla, San Francisco Regional Water System; Holiday Drawing

December – Winter Break

Upcoming Events

October 16th: Community Needs Assessment Public Hearing, 7 – 9 PM in Conference Room C at the City Hall. Residents will be able to share their ideas about federally funded services that could improve our neighborhoods.

November 1st: Save the date for a retirement celebration for Susan Loftus, our City Manager, at the San Mateo City Hall Atrium from 5 to 7 PM.

September Meeting Recap

At our September Meeting, Casey Fromson from Samtrans spoke about the Caltrain Modernization Program. Caltrain, together with Southern Pacific, has been providing train service to the Peninsula for 150 years. Plans for an upgrade to electrification have been in the works for long time, but Caltrain did not have the necessary funding. California High Speed Rail does have funds, but no right of way on the Peninsula. The two organizations formed a partnership, which initially planned a 4-track system. Due to significant opposition by area property owners the partners eventually decided to go to a blended system, running Caltrain and HSR on the same tracks. During peak commute hours, Caltrain will have six trains, and HSR will have four trains per hour in each direction.

Electrification will allow Caltrain to provide better service by running trains closer together. It will also

make Caltrain's operations more economical. There are no plans to electrify Caltrain south of San Jose because Union Pacific owns the right of way in that area. Caltrain electrification will hopefully be completed, with new electric trains running, by 2019. HSR plans to be running on the Peninsula by 2029 if additional funding becomes available. If you would like to receive the CalMod E-Newsletter, contact Casey Fromson at fromsonc@samtrans.com or by phone at (650) 506-6493.

Measure P on the November 5, 2013 Ballot

A Proponent's View (Audrey Ng - Member, Board of Trustees, SMFC School District): Measure P renovates San Mateo's Knolls Elementary and rebuilds Foster City's Bowditch Middle School to eliminate overcrowding. It provides the technology needed to prepare students for new computerized statewide exams. Measure P will improve energy efficiency, saving nearly \$1 million annually to support academic programs and retain teachers. It requires citizen oversight and annual audits and makes our schools eligible for millions in state matching funds. Vote Yes on P: a community-driven solution that ensures that students in our neighborhood schools stay ahead of the curve.

An Opponent's View (Ellen Mallory Ulrich - Member, Board of Trustees, SMFC School District): Measure P, the \$130 million San Mateo-Foster City School District bond measure, is NOT a good choice for San Mateo. Solar Panels (\$15 million) and Technology devices (\$30 million) should not be purchased through facilities bonds. Partnering with solar companies and leasing technology devices, rather than paying interest on borrowed funds, is smart and fiscally prudent. This measure will tear down and rebuild an \$80 million Foster City middle school, while San Mateo middle schools remain in need of updating and renovation. Vote No on P. Make sure your tax money is being well spent and equitably distributed.

BHNA at the 29th Annual Bayfront Cleanup

The 29th Annual Bayfront Cleanup was held on Saturday, September 21, where the San Mateo Creek meets the San Francisco Bay. Participating BHNA members report that the event was well attended despite the rain, which was not expected so early in the season. A barbecue lunch was the reward for the participants' hard work and dedication. The BHNA area includes some major creeks that empty into the Bay. Help to keep them clean by respecting and protecting our environment.

Fifth Annual Active San Mateo County Conference

Join former San Mateo City Council Member and current County Supervisor, Carol Groom, on **October 15**, from 8 AM to noon, in exploring strategies, techniques, and programs to make our public places desirable destinations that promote healthy living by creating safe streets that make walking, biking, skateboarding and scooting an easy choice. Scheduled sessions include "San Mateo County Bike Share Debut" and "Scenic San Mateo County: Trail by Trail." The event will take place at the Belmont Sports Complex, 550 Island Parkway, Belmont. For more information contact Carol at district2supervisorcarolegroom@co.sanmateo.ca.us or (650) 363-4568.

Support Laurel Elementary!

Did you know that Laurel Elementary School is having a Fun Run on Sunday **October 13**? Join the 5K race as it takes you on a tour of the neighborhood. Registration and Check-in starts at 7:00 AM, Race at 8:00 AM. \$25 per person for participants 9 and over. Laurel Elementary is located at 316 36th Ave, San Mateo. Corporate Sponsorships are available. Contact Chelsea@laurelpta.org or register at www.laurelpta.org/fun-run.

Sugarloaf Mountain Open Space

At their September 10th meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed potential projects for the open space on Sugarloaf Mountain, using the \$50,000 Jane Baker Family Gift. Jane Baker, a five-time mayor of San Mateo, was active in the preservation of Sugarloaf in its natural state. The Sugarloaf Mountain open space is adjacent to Laurelwood Park and a great resource for our community.

The Commission decided to focus on further propagation of the Silver Bush Lupine and the restoration back to native grasslands of old fire breaks and trails because these projects will enhance the natural state of the park. Next, the City staff will develop cost estimates and define the specific scope of work.

Hillsdale Mall Renovation Update

The second public comment period will begin after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report, which is expected in late October. The City will schedule and host a public meeting to discuss and review the report. Check <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?NID=1176> for updates on the project, or contact Tricia Schimpp, the Project Planner, at tschimpp@cityofsanmateo.org or (650) 522-7244 to be added to the City's Interested Parties list.

Favorite Merchant

The holidays are coming! Reach and Teach at 144 W. 25th Avenue is a charming place to shop for unique gifts for all ages. It's a rare pleasure to deal with such knowledgeable owners as Craig and Derrick. They offer a variety of books, games, food, and gifts themed around peace, equality, and sustainable living. Karen, W. Hillsdale Blvd.

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

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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.