



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

November 2014

**San Mateo County Ombudsman
Program
and
HIP Housing
Plus Holiday Drawing**

**Tuesday, November 18th, 2014
7:30 PM**

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

November General Meeting

At our November General Meeting, you will have an opportunity to learn more about two issues important to those interested in the welfare and housing of elders in our community. Tippy Irwin, the executive director of Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, will speak about long term care facilities in the area and the valuable services OSSMC provides in advocating for the comfort and care of their residents.

Our second speaker is Lena Potts, the Outreach Specialist for HIP Housing, an organization that

assists residents in making home sharing arrangements that provide huge benefits for both homeowners and those who no longer can, or want to, live alone. The HIP Home Sharing program provides a safe, comfortable process for matching homeowners and potential housemates, making it possible for both parties to save on the high cost of housing in our neighborhood, with the added bonus of companionship and support.

Please join us for this informative meeting, and bring your questions for both Tippy and Lena!

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

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

December 2014 – No meeting - Enjoy the holidays!

January 2015 – San Mateo's new mayor will present the plans for the upcoming year. Check our January newsletter for the exact date (it will not be the 3rd Tuesday because the City Council has a meeting on that day).

October General Meeting Recap

At the October General Meeting, State Assembly Member Kevin Mullin spoke to BHNA members about the state government and answered numerous questions. Kevin mentioned some changes to the state assembly: there are currently 42 first term representatives, and the newly revised term limit laws allow 12 years of services rather than the previous six. Kevin then mentioned that a civil and cooperative tone exists between Democrats and Republicans in the assembly, as evidenced by the fact that there is bipartisan support on various pieces of

legislation. Despite this progress, we have still not fixed the volatility of budget and taxes. This volatility stems from the fact that California's government relies heavily on wealthy residents for tax revenue. The Rainy Day Fund (Prop 2) aims to help ride out future recessions, Kevin said. Kevin also discussed the Vote By Mail pilot, which will increase the percentage of votes cast and save Californians money. Over 70% of San Mateo County residents already vote by mail.

San Mateo County Fun Facts!

Over the past ten years, San Mateo grew by 5% to 97,000 people. Age structure has shifted slightly upward, with the median age increased from 38 to 39, which is above the statewide average of 35 years of age. Educational attainment in San Mateo is also higher than the California average. Just 11% of adults in the area have not completed high school, compared to a 20% statewide, and 43% of residents have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. San Mateo has a large foreign-born population as well. 34% of the total residents were born in another country, and of this population, 43% are from Asia. The median income in San Mateo is a relatively high \$82,000 a year. Look out for more facts in the next newsletter.

Membership Renewal Time

We are mailing this November newsletter to every BHNA member household whose dues expire next month. If this applies to you, a membership slip and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed. Please return the slip and your \$12 check (per household) now, before this gets lost in the holiday rush. We invite you to renew for multiple years, which may be more convenient for you. The "paid thru" date on your address label tells you whether you need to renew this year. If it says 2015 or later, you are paid up for next year, so no action is necessary.

BHNA Holiday Drawing

It is a tradition to hold a drawing for prizes donated by our local merchants during the November General Meeting. This year's prizes include gift certificates from Piazza's in the Laurelwood Shopping Center and from Reach and Teach on 25th Ave.

Opening of Michael's Arts and Crafts Store

Michael's Arts and Crafts Store opened at 2925 El Camino on October 24th. The store is a great place to get art supplies and holiday gifts. The store includes a community room which is available Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 9 PM and on Sundays from 10 AM to 7 PM. There is no charge, but reservations are required.

Thank You!

As autumn leaves begin to fall and thoughts turn to what we are thankful for, the BHNA Board wants to thank you for supporting our organization and our neighborhood. It is a long-standing tradition for the Board to send a donation to organizations that help those in need. Second Harvest Food Bank, Pets in Need, Samaritan House, and Unity Cares (an organization that assists young people who age out of foster care) all have previously received donations from the Board. If you have a special organization you would like us to consider, please email Ellen at treasurer@beresfordhillsdale.org.

Keep Informed About the City's Plans for Accommodating Growth

The BHNA has learned much this year about plans for new construction and buildings in San Mateo. In January, Mayor Ross told us that 10,000 additional residences are slated to be completed in the next few years. The San Mateo Housing Element lays out the framework for the City's housing goals and policies. A copy is available at <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?nid=1675>. You can find out details about the six

residential projects (1540 units) that are under construction or were recently completed, and the eight approved projects (800 units) that are presently in the planning pipeline at <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?NID=1176>.

Ken Chin from our Public Works Department spoke to BHNA in February about the City's Sustainable Streets Project. This is part of the Public Works department's preparation for the anticipated population changes, and entails plans for street improvements to balance the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists with those of automobiles, and to make streets safer and more environmentally friendly.

The planned growth raises many other questions that deserve our study and attention. To name just a few: How are our schools impacted? Will our public transportation system be adequate? Is there going to be sufficient water?

How our City deals with the expected growth will impact all BHNA neighbors. Well informed citizens who make their views known to their elected representatives will be a big factor in assuring that San Mateo grows efficiently and gracefully. BHNA will continue to try to keep you informed and engaged. Let us know your concerns, come to our meetings and, if you want closer involvement, join the BHNA board.

Upcoming Events

November 12th: San Mateo Dishcrawl, Downtown San Mateo, 7 PM to 9:30 PM. San Mateo was recently named the Best Small Town for Food, so you are in for a treat. See <http://dishcrawl.com/peninsula/> for more information.

November 16th: Laurel Elementary School holds its annual Fun Run, which begins at 8 AM. There is also a kid's run at 9 AM. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.laurelpta.org/fun-run.html>.

November 25th: At 7:30 PM, the Planning Commission holds a public hearing on the Housing Element at City Hall Council Chambers, 330 West 20th Avenue.

Favorite Merchant

J&C One Hour Cleaners at 111 W. 25th Ave is the place for friendly and efficient cleaning services. The owners will also help with hemming, buttons, and other small fixes. J&C is open early in the morning, so you can drop off your clothes before going to work. Andrea, Arbor Lane.

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

2014 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.