



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

October 2015

Meet the Candidates for City Council

**Tuesday, October 20, 2015
7:30 PM**

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

note: member votes may be taken

October General Meeting

It's our tradition: in the October before we elect our members for City Council the candidates join us at our General Meeting, where we can get to know them and their platforms and qualifications.

This year there will be five candidates on the ballot: Rick Bonilla, Maureen Freschet, Thomas Morgan, Diane Papan, and Karen Schmidt. Some, like Maureen Freschet, the current mayor, already are well known to our members; others are new to most of us. You can find out more about each of the candidates by checking the City's website at

<http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?nid=2352>.

BHNA members will want to know from each candidate how he or she plans to deal with the many issues that face our community in these times of growth. At the October meeting you will have an opportunity to find out and to ask questions about the issues that most concern you. Don't miss this chance to become a better informed voter – and invite your neighbors so they, too, can meet the candidates.

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

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

November 17th – Caltrain's Government Affairs Officer, Casey Fromson, will discuss the need for changes in transportation to serve our growing population, with focus on San Mateo, and Bob Webster of Bohannon Companies will provide an update on Hillsdale Mall plans.

December – No meeting. Enjoy the holiday season.

September General Meeting Recap

The speakers at the September Meeting were Audrey Ng, Ed Coady and Dr. Joan Rosas, who discussed Measure X, and Maureen Freschet and Larry Patterson, who presented the City's views on Measure S.

Dr. Rosas informed us that SMFCSD now supports 12,500 students and is projected to add 200 students per year; existing facilities cannot accommodate these numbers. If approved, Measure X would generate \$148 million in locally controlled funds to address the needs of the schools. It will levy a tax equal to approximately \$14 per \$100,000 of assessed property value (not market value) and will last for as long as the bonds are outstanding, i.e., 30 years. Measure X requires 55% approval.

To determine how best to meet the expected capacity needs, the Next Steps Advisory Committee was formed 18 months ago. Audrey and Ed reviewed the committee's outreach to the community and the results of their efforts. The committee conducted 121 different group meetings with a large variety of stakeholders. It found consensus to build new capacity where the student growth is expected. In our area, gyms and classrooms are needed at Abbott and Borel. There was discussion about selling district properties not presently being used, including the "Knolls" campus, as well as alternative uses, such as building housing for teachers. Members inquired why new developments do not include new schools. Dr. Rosas explained that the required environmental impact reports do include impact on schools, and that developer fees are assessed. However, the fees are set by the state and not by the city, and they are inadequate to finance the needed additional capacity.

Mayor Freschet discussed the history of Measure S, which is a continuation of Measure L, passed in 2009 to help San Mateo recover its financial strength. That was successful, and the City now has a three month budget reserve. However, Measure L sunsets in 2017. The proposed Measure S will replace it.

City Manager Larry Patterson explained that we need this dedicated funding source because we don't have enough dollars to cover what needs to be done, and delays will result in increased costs down the road. Measure S funds mainly will be used for: (1) Failed Street Program: \$1.5 M per mile is the current cost for failed street reconstruction. 19 miles of streets currently are classified as failed in San Mateo, but the available budget is only \$4.5 million; (2) Flood map: San Mateo needs to implement improvements in flood zones at a current cost of \$23.5 million; and (3) Public Safety such as dealing with gangs, homelessness and property crimes. A Citizens Advisory Committee will be created to oversee this 30 year measure.

BHNA Still Needs You

Please consider joining the BHNA Board to help us be more effective in representing your interests. If you would like to learn more contact Lisa Taner at president@beresfordhillsdale.org, or call or email any Board member.

All-Mail November Ballot

The upcoming November 3, 2015, elections will be the first time that San Mateo voters cannot go down to their local polling place to cast their ballot. This year, it is "vote by mail" only, although you also may drop off your ballot at the Ballot Drop Box at San Mateo City Hall during regular business hours from October 6 through November 2, and until 8 p.m. on November 3, Election Day.

Ballots were mailed to every voter on October 5, 2015. If you don't receive your ballot by October 16, you can request a replacement ballot by calling (650) 312-5222 or emailing registrar@smcare.org. For more information about the upcoming elections go to <https://www.shapethefuture.org/>.

Happy Follow Up to BHNA Cal Water Presentation on Water Conservation

The seriousness of California's drought is ringing loud and clear throughout San Mateo. Residents and businesses are making great strides to reduce water usage. San Mateo achieved a 29.1% reduction in water use from August 2013 to August 2015 – well exceeding the State mandate of 16%.

Conserving water does take a little getting used to. While many residents adapted early to the drought by taking shorter showers, flushing toilets less, installing water efficient appliances and converting lawns to drought tolerant landscaping, it didn't really resonate until Cal Water enacted a water allotment for residential and business customers. The monetary incentive it provides to stay within the allocation speaks to many residents and forces them to think about their overall usage.

Local businesses are stepping up too. For instance, the San Mateo Marriott is listed as a certified 2015 Green Leaders Partner through Trip Advisor, and Ducky's Car Wash has implemented several innovative water conservation practices, reclaiming and reusing 80% of the water needed for washing cars, using a computerized system that uses 50% less water than hand washing cars at home, and capturing run-off and disposing of it in an environmentally friendly manner.

The City has taken significant strides to reduce water usage and meet the State mandate. To date the City Parks Division has reduced irrigation over 20% by yellowing or browning out passive turf areas, limiting watering of shrubs, and using only overhead spray irrigation from 6 pm to 8 am. Parks and Recreation has shut off water features, allocated water to areas of higher priority such as sports fields that must be maintained for health and safety reasons, and requested that pool patrons take shorter showers. Please visit www.cityofsanmateo.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

October 20th: "Team Up to Clean Up" Kick Off Meeting, San Mateo Main Library Oak Room, 6:30–8:00 pm. See <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?nid=3009>

October 25th: Hillsdale H.S. "Flea Market and Holiday Craft Faire," 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact lwhite@smuhdsd.org or call 650-558-2601 if you'd like to set up a stall at this event.

Favorite Merchant

Romolo's Cannoli and Spumoni Factory at 81 37th Ave is the place for outstanding Italian desserts. Started in 1968, this family business is now run by Joey, the founders' grandson, who continues the tradition of fresh ingredients and great taste. Tiramisu, Cassatta, Amaretti cookies and other Italian treats can be ordered. Check out the website at <http://romoloscannoli.com/>. Anne, Leona Street.

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

2015 BHNA Officers & Directors

President	Lisa Taner	(650) 504-8181	president@beresfordhillsdale.org
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Directors: Andrea McCutchin, Jan Prisco, Robert Sellers, Lisa Taner, Anne Wilson; Directors Emeritus: Monika Lee, Ellen Wang			

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 or visit our website at http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org/?page_id=15 to join our association.