



## Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

[www.beresfordhillsdale.org](http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org)

April 2015

### Living With Mountain Lions

Ian Hanley

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

7:30 PM

Beresford Recreation Center  
(28<sup>th</sup> & Alameda)

*note: member votes may be taken*

### April General Meeting

Drought conditions and other influences have brought mountain lions into our neighborhood, and residents have seen these mountain lions with alarming regularity. It is important that we understand how to live with, and to protect ourselves, from mountain lions. Ian Hanley, Puma Project Operations and Field Technician of Felidae Conservation Fund, will address these issues at our April General Meeting. The Felidae Conservation Fund is a non-profit organization that aims to advance conservation of wild cats through research, education, and technology. Ian will focus on the organization's flagship project, the

Bay Area Puma Project, and will discuss mountain lion ecology and history and offer tips about living without fear in the habitat we share with pumas.

*BHNA general membership meetings are every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm-9pm*

### Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

**May 19, 2015** – Michael Hurley from Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation and Julie Montanari from Master Gardeners will speak about drought issues

**June 16, 2015** – Flood zones, rising seas, and how to save the Bay

### New BHNA Feature

In this newsletter, we publish a Letter to the Editor from a BHMA member. We would like to provide a forum for our members to exchange thoughts and ideas pertinent to our community, and invite your comments. We plan to set up an idea exchange on our website, and we may publish other letters to the editor in the newsletter. Please join this conversation and let us know your concerns and what interests you.

### March General Meeting Recap

At the March meeting, City Planner Darcy Forsell presented a progress update on the larger development projects close to the BHNA area. She reported that, at Bay Meadows, 200 townhomes have been sold and 180 more are under construction. In addition, 108 apartments have been completed. Nueva School began classes last fall. The soccer and ball fields in the 12 acre Bay Meadows Park, and the playground at Paddock Park, are very popular. The Hillsdale Mall redesign proposal is moving through the review process. At 2090 S. Delaware, 111 new market rate rentals

are now occupied. Phase I of the affordable units at 1990-2000 S. Delaware (old police station site) is a great success, and construction of phase II is progressing well.

Councilman David Lim discussed RHNA, the Regional Housing Unit Assessment, and clarified that RHNA contains no requirement to build, and does not dictate what type of housing should be constructed. These decisions are in the hands of the elected and appointed local officials, not Sacramento bureaucrats. David pointed out that RHNA has been around for more than two decades, during which time the City set its own housing goals and construction did not reach the RHNA numbers. David explained that RHNA is used in land use planning and in prioritizing local resource allocation, and that it allows smaller communities to compete for federal funds as part of a more powerful area-wide group.

### **Letter to the Editor**

As a parent, neighbor, and BHNA resident I see comprehensive city planning as the means of protecting and supporting the reason I live here – “the quality of life”. I am concerned that quality of life is NOT being factored into the City’s planning exercises. Most public presentations talk about how “on-track” individual projects are, or plan for more traffic to flow more efficiently. At a recent public forum I heard how residents will benefit from the new shops, green space, and wide sidewalks at Bay Meadows. But I see a “disconnect:” the west side of El Camino does not effectively connect through to Bay Meadows without getting in your car. My questions about a comprehensive plan that would focus on pedestrian walkways across the highway of death they call El Camino were dismissed. In my opinion, the City of San Mateo – although well-intended – does not embrace a quality of life comprehensive vision. We need to ask: “how will the current and future projects come together to ensure our quality of life standards, which include the safety of our residents and putting pedestrian flows ahead of traffic flows?” *Robert Sellers.*

### **School District Community Meetings**

The SMFC School District has scheduled another round of Town Hall Meetings to obtain public input in anticipation of the influx of students due to residential expansion. Funding will most likely go to schools surrounding developing areas, but the school district would like input from all community members. The first meeting will be from 6:00-8:00 PM on April 7<sup>th</sup> at Laurel Elementary School’s Gym. See [http://www.smfc.k12.ca.us/cms/page\\_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1409651270638](http://www.smfc.k12.ca.us/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1409651270638) for additional meetings throughout April at various locations.

### **Caltrain Modernization Project Update**

In January 2015, the Caltrain Board adopted and certified the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Final Environmental Impact Report. Caltrain worked closely with local jurisdictions to address their concerns, but the town of Atherton and two groups opposed to high speed rail are suing Caltrain. While the lawsuit proceeds Caltrain will move forward to meet the projected 2020 completion date. The Electrification Design Build RFP was issued in February. Seven firms responded and were found qualified to perform the work; each may submit a proposal. Installation of fiber optics for the Communications Based Overlay Signal Positive Train Control is complete on the southern section, and work will now head north.

### **You Are Invited To Hillsdale High School’s First Hall of Fame!**

Hillsdale High School invites all community members to its first Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. It will induct four accomplished graduates and faculty members: NFL Coach Dick Vermeil, senior presidential adviser John Holdren, past presidential health adviser Michael McGinnis, and past principal and leader of the national small community classroom model Don Leydig. For more information and to register see <http://hillsdalehsalumni.org/> or call (650) 558-2618.

## Fruit and Vegetable Donations Wanted!

Picking for Hunger is a joint high school network for Hillsdale and Aragon High. Students are looking for neighbors with fruit trees or vegetable plants from which to pick surplus produce. Donations will be transported to CALL Primrose in Burlingame, where the produce is then distributed to those in need. <http://www.callprimrose.org/> If you have an abundant crop, email Eve at [pickingforhunger@gmail.com](mailto:pickingforhunger@gmail.com).

## How Does The Central Park Master Plan Affect the BHNA Neighborhood?

The tennis courts in Central Park have served our City for decades. Current proposals for the new Central Park Master Plan no longer include tennis courts. Eliminating the courts would limit access to tennis courts for all San Mateo residents and will increase the demand for play times at the tennis courts in the BHNA area. Check out <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?nid=2735> to learn more about the Master Plan, and consider the petition to keep the courts at [https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keep-our-tennis-courts-in-san-mateo-central-park?source\\_location=petition\\_footer&algorithm=promoted](https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keep-our-tennis-courts-in-san-mateo-central-park?source_location=petition_footer&algorithm=promoted).

## 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Update

Neighbors and business owners along 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue met for the second time on March 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss concerns and strategies to improve the two-block business area. The majority wish to return the street to a family friendly, diverse shopping and dining destination with adequate parking. The City has approved a beautification program, but funding is not yet available. Meeting notification will continue via Nextdoor.com.

## Upcoming Events

**April 6<sup>th</sup>:** The SMUHSD will hold a study session on stadium lights at 5:30 PM at Aragon High School.

## Favorite Merchant

Manager Sorrell of the Starbucks at 3790 El Camino Real oversees a talented group of baristas. Starbucks not only sells always fresh coffee and food items, but also provides complimentary coffee grounds, which home gardeners can add as nutritional additives to their soil. Ask your barista for details. 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).**

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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 or visit our website at [http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org/?page\\_id=15](http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org/?page_id=15) to join our association.***