



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

February 2016

**San Mateo County:
An Extraordinary Place to Live,
Extraordinary Challenges
Joshua Hugg
and
SMPD Officer**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016
7:30 PM**

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)
note: member votes may be taken

February General Meeting

We all know that it has become very expensive to rent or buy a house in San Mateo. Long-time renters find they no longer can afford to live here; non-profit organizations, schools and many other employers have trouble filling vacancies because of the high cost of housing; commuting times and distances are getting longer. Housing all the people that are attracted to our county by the booming economy is a formidable challenge.

At our February General meeting Joshua Hugg will discuss the local, regional and statewide forces that have made San Mateo County such an expensive place to live. Joshua has been involved in local

housing issues for more than a decade, advocating for affordable housing through the Housing Leadership Council and as a member of several San Mateo City Commissions. He presently serves on the San Mateo Sustainability Commission and on the boards of the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center and the Home Association of North Central San Mateo.

In addition to Joshua, we will also welcome a representative of the San Mateo Police Department who will update us on recent developments and answer your questions.

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

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

March 2016 – To be announced. Check the March newsletter for details.

Follow Up Thoughts on January General Meeting

The BHNA hosted new Mayor Joe Goethals at the January General Meeting. In his presentation Mayor Goethals touched on many of the issues that will challenge us this year, including flood zone concerns, traffic and housing issues, use of Measure S funds, a \$900 million investment in our wastewater treatment plant, and the importance of recreation in our city.

Many of these topics generate more questions in the minds of residents. In regard to the wastewater treatment plant upgrades, how will we come up with the remaining \$300 million to pair with the state's investment of \$600 million? And is the 13 million gallons daily figure (to be recycled) actually attainable?

Mayor Goethals named about a half dozen agencies related to traffic. But how well are those agencies communicating and working together? The answer to that question will very well determine much of our city's future. Traffic forums currently being held in our community offer residents a voice to say what their local woes are and how they wish to solve them. Goethals pointed out that people have many ideas about specific mitigations they would like to see. However, some ideas may not be approved by Public Works – such as speed bumps or islands, which won't be placed on streets designated as a 'main use' for emergency vehicles. Don't miss the opportunity to contribute your thoughts at your local forum.

Goethals had many positive reflections on renewable energy, traffic calming via grade separations at 25th, 28th and 31st Avenues respectively, train electrification, our low unemployment rate and increasing job growth. The Mayor took note of additional audience concerns, including the cost of CalTrain and whether neighboring cities communicate regarding their development plans. We hope to learn more about many of these follow-up questions as the year progresses.

Ice Rink Update

The news of the upcoming April closure of the Belmont Ice Rink was both stunning and devastating to locals, according to media reports in mid-January. Serving as many as 10,000 people each month, this loss only magnifies the on-going battle regarding San Mateo's Bridgepoint Ice Rink. On January 23rd, representatives of the Save the Bridgepoint Ice Rink movement met with a group representing the Belmont Ice Rink, exploring how the groups can coordinate their efforts to save San Mateo's recreational asset that still exists – even in its closed state.

The San Mateo City Council will decide on March 21st (at 7 p.m.) whether to accept or reject the recommendation by our Planning Commissioners to deny the developer's request to change the designated use of the ice rink property. A change of designation would allow the developer to go forward with retail renovation or sale of the space at a good profit, since recreational use restrictions would no longer exist. See <http://savesanmateorink.wix.com/savebridgepointe> for more information.

Peninsula Clean Energy – an Alternative Source of Electricity

Peninsula Clean Energy is a Community Choice Energy (CCE) program that will provide electricity to all participating cities in San Mateo County, as well as the unincorporated areas. A CCE buys and/or develops power on behalf of residents, business, and government electricity users in its jurisdiction. In San Mateo, the electricity will continue to be distributed and delivered over the existing electricity lines by PG&E.

CCEs allow customers to choose between electricity providers and power options, each with a different amount of renewable energy content, at a competitive or even lower rates than those they pay now. CCEs in the Bay Area are run as non-profit organizations; they are accountable not to shareholders seeking profit but to the communities they serve. CCEs also can accelerate the development of local renewable energy projects and facilitate other energy innovations such as energy efficiency retrofits, home area networks, battery storage and EV charging stations. Go to <http://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/> for the whole story.

Thank You to Our Merchant Supporters

At our traditional year-end drawing, four lucky BHNA members took home prizes donated by Starbucks, Piazza's, Reach and Teach, and Togs for Dogs. Thank you to our local merchants for these generous contributions.

Have you Renewed Your Membership Yet?

You will find a reminder slip enclosed in this month's newsletter if you have not yet renewed your membership. Or go to <http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org/> for online renewal. Every member makes us more effective for our neighborhood. Please consider supporting BHNA with a multi-year membership.

The First Residents of Beresford Hillsdale

The first inhabitants of what is now the City of San Mateo were Sslasones, members a tribe of Ohlone Indians, also called Coastanoans. They lived in the area from South San Francisco to Belmont for at least 4000 years before explorers first arrived on the Peninsula. San Mateo's mild climate and fresh water creeks made this area ideal for its first inhabitants.

Upcoming Events

February 9th: Hillsdale Shopping Center North Block Reconfiguration Project, Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM at City Hall Council Chambers

February 13th: Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, 9 AM-1 PM, California State Parks Work Day, sign up at <http://www.calparks.org/help/park-champions/>

February 25th: Neighborhood Traffic Forum #4 (study area: Aragon, Baywood, Parrot Park) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Oak Room, San Mateo Main Library

Favorite Merchant

Your dog or cat will be happy at Jeffrey's Pet and Dog Grooming on 24th Avenue. Jeff carefully schedules his appointments so that there is never a crowd, and he will call you as soon as your pet is ready for pick up. His prices are very gentle, and so is Jeff. 10 24th Ave, phone 345-1412. Monika, Hacienda Street

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

2016 BHNA Officers & Directors

President	Robert Sellers	president@beresfordhillsdale.org
Vice President	Lisa Taner	vicepresident@beresfordhillsdale.org
Treasurer	Belinda Chlouber	treasurer@beresfordhillsdale.org
Secretary	Andrea McCutchin & Monika Lee	secretary@beresfordhillsdale.org
Newsletter Editor	Monika Lee	newsletter@beresfordhillsdale.org
Directors: Rod Linhares, Anne Wilson; Directors Emeritus: Jan Prisco, 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/> to join our association.