

April Newsletter from:
 Beresford/Hillsdale
 Neighborhood Association
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Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

April 2016

Date Night in the Neighborhood

Hillsdale High School's KNIGHT MOVES XVIII is the hottest ticket in town! The HHS Dance Ensemble puts all their hard work into a beautiful and breath-taking compilation worthy of any audience. Be wowed April 28, 29, and 30th at 7:30pm in the HHS Auditorium Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for students/seniors; children under 6 years free. Purchase tickets online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2521558>. They're going fast! (For a sneak peek at this talented group: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WYbFI1nP4o>)

2016 BHNA Officers & Directors

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| President | Robert Sellers | president@beresfordhillsdale.org |
| Vice President | Lisa Taner | vicepresident@beresfordhillsdale.org |
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| Newsletter Editor | Board | 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.

April General Meeting

Happy Earth Month! Let's talk dirt and climate. Did you know soil is alive? Most of the life that lives in the soil is extremely beneficial and so tiny we can't see them. Learn what lives in the soil, why it's so important, and how to grow and protect it. The BHNA welcomes Theresa Lyngso from Lyngso Garden Materials to understand how simple changes to our gardens can make a huge impact. Also speaking is new Boardmember Belinda Chlouber, a trained Climate Reality Leader via Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. Belinda traveled to France last year for the Paris Climate Conference, and will share her knowledge about Global Warming, including its impacts and solutions specific to our area. Belinda will also share some of her artwork dedicated to the subject.

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

May 2016 – Summer is right around the bend! Come learn about many upcoming events in our area, including what San Mateo's Parks and Recreation Department has to offer.

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

BHNA Speaker Series

Tuesday, April 18, 2016
 7:30 PM

-Earth Month- Impacts to Your Garden and Our Planet

Beresford Recreation Center
 (28th & Alameda)

Recap of March General Meeting

We had two speakers discuss water topics at our March General meeting. City Manager Larry Patterson gave us details about San Mateo's \$1 billion investment in our waste water treatment plant. Our wastewater overflows are problematic, and many drainage pipes need to be fixed. The timeline for this upgrade was going to be 20 – 30 years, but it is less costly if we do it in 10 years. This will require a sewer tax increase of 9% each year to help fund. A Master Plan will soon be on the City's website.

Our second speaker was certified greywater expert and Bay Maples Wild California Gardens owner, Alan Hackler. He discussed and showed the ease of installing a 'laundry-to-landscape' greywater system, which doesn't require a permit.

(Biocompatible detergents should then be used in your washing machine.) However, going further with shower/tub greywater systems require permits and are more expensive and complex. Alan stressed that requiring greywater systems in new development would be a huge benefit, both in reducing the cost and in water-savings. Building on the 9% annual sewer tax increase discussed earlier in the evening, Alan mentioned that perhaps residents who implement a greywater system could seek a reduced tax, or be incentivized with a reduced tax. Regardless of our recent rains, water consumption is still a priority concern, and lawns are huge water-suckers. Reduce your demand, get rid of your lawn, and consider a simple laundry-to-landscape greywater system.

NOTE: Larry Patterson also discussed a number of non-water topics, including plans to hire more traffic police officers, fixing our 17 miles of failed streets, putting together a committee to oversee spending of Measure S funds (contact him at citymanager@cityofsanmateo.org if you are interested), and the fact that funding our retirement system is still the City's greatest challenge.

April 18th is a V.I.D! Very Important Date!

After numerous date changes by our city, the Bridgepointe Rink Citizens Group urges area residents to join them in attending the April 18th San Mateo City Council meeting, to show your support for the Council to vote **against** the land use change put forth by the real estate development firm which owns the property (and seeks to replace the rink with retail). The building owner closed the rink June 1, 2013, leaving hundreds of young athletes out in the cold.

This Council decision is to come on the heels of Belmont Iceland's announcement that it will close its doors, leaving Bridgepointe as one of the last rinks on the peninsula. The San Mateo Planning Commission already voted unanimously 5-0 to deny the developer's request, and now it's up to the City Council. Community activists are calling for local politicians to uphold the community benefit of an operating ice rink where Olympians Kristi Yamaguchi, Brian Boitano and Debi Thomas once trained. Plan to attend: **San Mateo City Hall, 330 W. 20th Street, San Mateo, CA on Monday, April 18th at 7:00 P.M.**

What's Happening on 30th Avenue?

With the new north-end Hillsdale Mall development, residents living on and around 30th Avenue expressed concern over impacts where that street meets the mall property. They went so far as to submit a petition to the City Council asking that this end of 30th be closed to through traffic.

BHNA contacted mall reps and were supplied with a "Condition of Approval" for the project addressing this item. Here is how it reads:

"The 30th Avenue driveway shall be closed to vehicular traffic at 6 pm each business day and shall be opened at the start of business hours the following day...Six months after occupancy of 90% of the project's square footage, a traffic report detailing 30th Avenues traffic counts and resultant traffic impacts shall be prepared by the City's traffic consultant. This study may be initiated earlier if traffic conditions so warrant...This report shall be published and made public. Notices of the report's availability shall be mailed to those within the same mailing radius as the shopping center application, and to all interested parties. A City Council Member, within 10 days of the publication of the report, may call for review of the report at a City Council public hearing. Based on the report's findings and the City Council's review, additional traffic control measures may be taken, including, but not limited to closure of the 30th Avenue driveway."

Downtown Parking Help

Do you ever avoid going to downtown San Mateo because it is so hard to find a spot to park in our quickly growing city? Help is here! SanMateo.ParkingGuide.com provides downtown customers with information they need to find that elusive parking spot! It also features a portal to pay for parking tickets and will soon accommodate online sales of monthly downtown parking permits. Further, it highlights the city's nine public parking garages and surface lots, and provides other info including locations of electric vehicle (EV) chargers, downtown parking zones, weekend parking, holiday parking schedules, and a how-to-guide for using downtown pay stations.

Talking About Traffic

Public Works is continuing their bi-weekly neighborhood traffic forums to gather suggestions from the community. The neighborhood west of Alameda de las Pulgas will have its meeting on April 14th from 7-9 p.m. at Hillsdale High School. The neighborhood east of Alameda met on March 10th. Their concerns were speeding, spill-over parking from the Medical Center (on 39th Avenue), and backups on Hwys. 92 and 101 (causing cars to cut through the neighborhood). You can also send in your concerns using this link: https://www.peakdemocracy.com/portals/237/Forum_682/Issue_3455.

Submit newsletter articles, comments or questions to
the BHNA Board at board@beresfordhillsdale.org