



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

October 2011

**State Assemblyman
Jerry Hill**

**TUESDAY, October 18th,
7:30 PM**

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

BHNA general membership meetings are
every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm-9pm
note: member votes may be taken

October General Meeting - The View From Sacramento

More than a year past the loss of life in the San Bruno gas explosion, are we any safer? Are there potentially dangerous gas transmission lines running through our neighborhoods, here in San Mateo? Is high speed rail really coming to California? To San Mateo? And where do we stand with the State budget that was passed earlier this year? Are lower than projected revenues going to trigger even deeper cuts?

State Assemblyman Jerry Hill will be BHNA's guest at our October 18th meeting, to talk about these issues, and more. Learn about the bills he has introduced recently. Hear his take on what's up in Sacramento. Bring your neighbors, your friends and your questions for a lively and informative evening.

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

November 15th – Mitch Postel, San Mateo County Historical Society. Holiday raffle

December – No meeting. Happy holidays!

January 17th – Election of Directors and Officers

September Meeting Recap

BHNA hosted two guests in September. Mayor Jack Matthews is slated to start his third term on the City Council in December. Current Planning Commissioner, Maureen Freschet, will take office for the first time. Since there are two candidates for two seats, the City Council election this November is uncontested. Maureen, a native San Matean, spoke warmly about the small town feeling and charm of San Mateo, which needs to be preserved as we continue the development needed for our economy. Jack said he wants to serve a third term for all that is left to do – high speed rail, the "Grand Boulevard" concept to revitalize El Camino Real, his commitment to affordable housing. The city budget continues to experience a structural deficit because of the lagging economy, now expected to continue through 2015.

Measure G on the November 8th ballot

The City Council election may be uncontested, but there is an important measure to vote on, this November. Measure G is the city's response to a recent court ruling, which has overturned affordable rental housing programs statewide. San Mateo is proposing modifications to its program, which was originally enacted by the voters as part of Measure H in 1991, and reaffirmed in Measure P in 2004. At the time, both Measures H and P were strongly endorsed by BHNA, and many members worked hard to ensure their passage. Please review your ballot materials carefully, and remember to vote on this important issue.

Newsletter Editor

The monthly BHNA newsletter is the strong link between our association and many of our members, and a big reason they renew their membership each year. Since early 2010, BHNA has been fortunate to have Board member, Margaret Edwards, editing our newsletter. September was her last publication. Many thanks, Margaret, for your dedication to making the newsletter so successful!

Volunteers are needed - by year's end - to keep this newsletter going. Although we have always had one editor, an editorial "team" could make this a shared effort. Please contact Karen Herrel (interim editor through November 2011), or any of the other Board members, or email newsletter@beresfordhillsdale.org to find out more about how you can help.

Boats, RVs and trucks

Thanks to those of you who told us about commercial vehicles, RVs and boats on trailers that are parked near your home. The City now has that information, and staff is working on new ways to deal with the safety, and other impacts these parked vehicles have on neighborhoods all over town. We'll keep you informed.

What's up with all the street paving?

Members want to know. "Why has there been so much street paving the past two summers?" "When will my street be paved?" We went to the source, Susanna Chan, Deputy Director of Public Works, for answers.

Q. Budgets are tight. How can San Mateo afford this paving?

A. Summer 2010 we received Federal stimulus money. This year it was a Federal grant from the Surface Transportation program. The money had to be spent within a fairly short time limit, and would have gone to another city if we did not use it. We can always put grants to good use because our street improvement needs are significant.

Q. Why were these streets chosen?

A. Federal grants can only be used on the Federal Aid Routes (generally arterials and collector streets). These specific streets were chosen based on that Federal classification, and their pavement conditions. The Federal money supplements our usual street maintenance program, which uses general funds.

Q. People say, "But my street needs repaving". How does the city deal with the rest of the residential streets?

A. We prioritize our work using the computerized Pavement Management Program (PMP). PMP focuses on preventive maintenance to extend the life of a pavement, instead of more costly repair work. We have been using PMP since 2001, and the city's overall pavement conditions have improved significantly.

Thanks, Susanna, for this information.

Want to know more? Still concerned about your street?

In July we told you about www.cityofsanmateo.info/mystreet, which was still "under construction". The site is up and running, and has information specific to your address, plus links to descriptions of Public Works programs. Check it out, or call 522-7300 for street sweeping schedules, plans for sidewalk repair, paving, etc.

Did you get a postcard from the City?

As of October 3rd, the city rescheduled over half of its street sweeping routes to avoid conflicts with Recology's service days. Hard to keep the street edges clean when the carts are sitting in them! If your street is one of those affected, you recently received a postcard with your new day and time. This improvement should make the street

sweeping more efficient; so that we can manage the leaves and debris that need to be cleared before the rainy season starts. You can help by keeping vehicles off the streets on your scheduled day and time. Not sure when that is for your home? Dig that postcard out of the recycling, call 522-7379 or go to www.cityofsanmateo.info/mystreet, for that information.

Thanks, volunteers!

BHNA has a regular team of newsletter preparation volunteers. Sally Bernstein, Susan Burkett, Cora Jean Kleppe, Diana Mongini, and Barbara Plane get your newsletter into the mail each month. Last month, joined by Kitty Van Beckum and Karen Herrel, they assembled, folded and sealed the thousands of newsletters we mailed, as outreach, to residents of our area. Well done!

Favorite Neighborhood Merchants

Do you have a favorite shop or business that you would like to share with us? Write and tell us what makes it your favorite, so others can check it out. email: newsletter@beresfordhillsdale.org or BHNA, P.O. Box 6764, San Mateo, CA 94403

2011 BHNA Officers & Directors

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| Treasurer | Karen Herrel | 650-578-8597 | Treasurer@beresfordhillsdale.org |
| Secretary | Susan Rowinski | 650-522-8584 | secretary@beresfordhillsdale.org |
| Newsletter | | | newsletter@beresfordhillsdale.org |
| Directors: Margaret Edwards, Juliette Najjar, Annie Schlossman, Stan Shogren & Kitty Van Beckum | | | |
| Director Emeritus: Mike Germano, Bruce Klafter and Suki Martin | | | |