

August 2023 Member Newsletter from:
Beresford/Hillsdale
Neighborhood Association
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Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

August 2023

ARE YOU READY?

Whenever you have a big event on the horizon, you certainly want to be prepared. Weddings, welcoming a new baby, throwing a huge party – preparation is key! Right now, we the residents of San Mateo are kind of having a baby all our own, and we want to do more than count fingers and toes once its birthed. So, this month, we are hosting Zachary Dahl on August 15th at 7 p.m. since City staff is counting on all of us as they map out our future to 2040.

Staff has spent an inordinate amount of time making detailed plans (with community input) for our path here in San Mateo – and these ideas and changes will take form in everything you see and do here. It really couldn't be more important. In fact, it's SO important, each district area is getting its own presentation. (Ours will be August 31st!) Don't come unprepared. Take advantage of this personal time with Zachary, who has headed up this project as the Deputy Director of Community Development.

Another huge event impacting so many residents is the forthcoming El Nino. We've had El Nino winters before, but this time, there are grave concerns regarding flooding. The last big New Year's Eve storm was a real wake-up call for neighborhoods all around San Mateo. Some residents had \$50k of damage, some waded in sewage for days trying to clean up their streets, and at least one person died in the flood waters, trapped in her vehicle. We'll hear from Danielle Cwirko-Godycki, a resident and now community leader, as to why we flooded, what has been done or not done since to prepare us for El Nino, and what YOU can do to make a difference. Those of us unscathed from the last storm may not be so lucky next time.

Zoom Info: Aug 15, 2023 07:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85395801133?pwd=Y09WdINDMldOdkErVmd2ROwrS05rdz09> / Meeting ID: 853 9580 1133 / Passcode: 125820

**ZOOM Member Meeting
August 15th - 7:00 p.m.**

**IMPORTANT BIG IDEAS:
Get Prepared for Your
Future with 2 Speakers -
Zachary
& Danielle
(Zoom Meeting ONLY)**

COME ABOARD!

Let's work together to make the BHNA even better! Your neighborhood truly benefits from the things BHNA does, and your energy and ideas are welcome. Chat with us about ways to help, including board member positions for 2024. (Especially if you have a talent for treasurer and secretary functions!) Become part of a great group of volunteers and let's make the most of all things wonderful in our Beresford Hillsdale region. Contact us at board@beresfordhillsdale.org or 1-650-504-8181.

August 31st – It's EVERYTHING - We mentioned earlier just how important it will be for YOU to attend the City's presentation on August 31st at the Senior Center (2645 Alameda de las Pulgas). You will hear about the proposed changes and vision for San Mateo, now through 2040. Your opinions on these matters are critical RIGHT NOW. The meeting runs 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.:

“Doors open at 5:30 pm and City Staff will be available to answer questions about the Draft General Plan 2040, as well as other projects related to roadway safety, transportation improvements and stormwater protection. Council member Adam Loraine will be there to listen as well. The presentation and discussion will begin at 7:00 pm and end at 8:30 pm.” Do NOT miss this chance to create your future – or choices will be made for you. Come early, rear on-site parking is limited – overflow parking is on and across the street.

Highlighting Local Sports Superstars - What do these folks have in common? Bill Walsh, Barry Bonds, Lynn Swann, Dick Vermeil, Maureen Brady, Alonzo Emery, Steve Sell, Patrick Walsh, Malakai Rango, Debi Thomas, John Madden, Tom Brady, Wayne Fujito, Archie Williams...and too many more to list! They are all home-grown sports stars, from the Peninsula and San Mateo County, captured in a brand-new book by John Horgan. “Cradle of Champions.” Horgan is a career journalist, who has spent 60 years writing about the county's competitive sports on the Peninsula and San Mateo County. Local sports fans, meet John and pick up a copy of his book at a FREE event, **Friday, August 4th at 1 p.m. at the San Mateo County History Museum (Courtroom A).** www.historysmc.org

Witnessing Crime - Recently, in our area, we've had a couple of theft incidents at Hillsdale Mall. One, at the Ulta shop, ended in thieves dropping their bags and fleeing at the sight of officers. The other, at the DSW store ended with officers tracking the criminals all the way to San Francisco – and they the SMPD won't give up there. We're lucky to have a department with a tenacious reputation.

In the DSW case, a witness tried to block the thieves from leaving and a fight ensued. So, the question becomes, what do you do when you are a witness to crime? In this age of cameras, let the security systems do their job – but you can help by calling 911 right away. When every minute counts, don't assume someone else is making the call. Pay attention to details the cameras may not pick up. What did the thieves sound like? What did they say? What were they wearing? Pay special attention to shoes. Criminals will often change clothing, but not footwear. And if you can note a vehicle and license plate, that is helpful, especially if they are out of camera range. Crime will never go away, but we can partner with our police department to let criminals know San Mateo is not the place for their illegal activities!

Nice to See You!/Membership Drive Soon - While we didn't have BHNA meetings in June or July, it was great to see our members at the BHNA Donuts in the Park summer event. We all caught up and had some new concerns brought to our attention. Chief Barberini attended as did Councilmember Loraine, so residents were able to spend some time bending their ears, too. Thanks to the BHNA Board members who made this happen! On another note, some of you may hear from us soon if your membership has lapsed. We want you

to stay in the know with BHNA if that's your desire!!

New in Town - San Mateo will soon welcome its new City Manager, Alex Khojikian. From the City of San Mateo's Community News Release: “...This important position is responsible for overseeing an organization with a \$317 million annual budget and over 600 City staff. Alex has over 20 years of public sector experience and a strong track record of addressing complex policy issues while prioritizing public input. He will begin on Aug. 21, 2023. Alex currently serves as Redwood City's Assistant City Manager...” We happen to know that active RWC community members have great things to say about Alex and look forward to introducing him at an upcoming BHNA meeting. (It's noteworthy that soon there will be other open positions to be filled at City Hall, too. This includes the Public Works Director, the Director of Finance and the Assistant City Manager, who will be appointed by Khojikian.)

High School News - The San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) Board of Trustees will meet in person on Thursday, August 10. Members of the public may attend in person or via Zoom. The agenda will be posted the Friday prior to the meeting. Time, location and Zoom info details are noted here: <https://www.smuhsd.org/Page/2235>.

Bus passes are now on sale at EZSchoolPay.com. The SMUHSD strongly encourages parents to purchase bus passes online once you receive your student's class schedule. Beginning Tuesday, August 1, 2023, in-person bus pass purchases will be available at the transportation department. Learn more at: www.smuhsd.org/bus-pass.

Senior News - San Mateo residents age 60+ have access to programs to make it easier to obtain low-cost, nutritious food and help reduce isolation. After a Covid hiatus, San Mateo's lunch program will once again serve hot meals at the Senior Center (2645 Alameda de las Pulgas) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for \$7, but income-based fee assistance is available. Check out the menu at www.cityofsanmateo.org/639/Bay-Tree-Bistro. Call (650) 522-7490 as reservations are required. For homebound seniors, the City of San Mateo operates S.A.S.H. – Shopping Assistance for Seniors who are Homebound. For more info: www.cityofsanmateo.org/640/Senior-Services or call (650) 522-7494. Meals on Wheels is a program operated by the County for homebound persons who are unable to cook for themselves. Check <https://1pvi.org/mealsonwheels/> or call 650-272-5041.

This information is brought to you by the City of San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force. Contact agefriendlysanmateo@gmail.com if you would like to learn more about our work.

Slowing It Down - This summer, in conjunction with Traffic Action Plans citywide, and the call for more pedestrian safety, you may have noticed **15 mile-per-hour** signs going up around our schools. It began with the grade schools and will end with the high schools and area private schools. School start dates are just around the corner, so we'll all have a chance to get into a new “slow down” habit to keep our kids as safe as possible!