

April 2023 Member Newsletter from:
Beresford/Hillsdale
Neighborhood Association
Box 6764 San Mateo CA 94403

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Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

April 2023

Special BHNA April 6th Hillsdale Mall Redevelopment Mtg., 7:30 PM

Last month, Hillsdale Mall held two public sessions showing three ‘Reimagine’ redevelopment options for their property. Now they are inviting BHNA members and we urge you to attend: *As part of the Reimagine process, the outreach team is hosting the BHNA at the Reimagine storefront* for a special conversation with David Bohannon, demonstrating examples of how development may occur on the site, including a height & density discussion. This offers a chance for BHNA members to participate in the engagement exercises of the last workshop & for conversations & discussion with ownership & project managers on what the future of Hillsdale could be.* ***Reimagine Storefront is on the mall’s ground level (between Nordstrom & Macy’s) next to Innovation Luggage.**

SEE YOU IN PERSON!
BHNA Member Meeting
April 18th at 7 p.m.
Beresford Rec Center
Conference Room

Also, DON'T MISS APRIL 6th
A BHNA Special Hillsdale Mall Mtg.
7:30pm at Mall

Have you paid your 2023 BHNA Dues? It’s just \$12 to stay informed all year long! Your dues keep the BHNA going! You may have signed up for an automatic renewal on our website, but otherwise, BHNA Membership renewals were due in January for the year. Please renew (or join) by sending this form and your check, payable to “The BHNA” to: BHNA, P.O. Box 6764, San Mateo CA 94403, or pay online TODAY at: www.beresfordhillsdale.org.

BHNA 2023 MEMBERSHIP

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send newsletter by () US Mail Only or () Email Only

April 18th BHNA Member Mtg. at 7pm - Pests, Pests, Pests! - Come to our first in-person meeting of the year at the Beresford Rec Center Conference Room at 7 p.m. and let’s talk pests! Copious amounts of rain will translate to loads of mosquitoes this year. From biting pests to those who sting (hornets) or carry diseases (rodents, ticks, etc.), you might need a hero! Welcome Rachael Curtis with the San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control. Your tax dollars fund them, so what can they do for you? More than you think! Learn more about their mission to safeguard your health and comfort at the meeting and note the earlier start time of 7 p.m. See you there!

Follow Up on Our Traffic Action Plan - Thanks to BHNA President Mike Ragan for meeting with City staff, Hillsdale High School Principal Jeff Gilbert & Councilmember Loraine to view & discuss some of the defunct traffic slowing devices installed in our BHNA area. Ragan knew Public Works was meant to review these installations over

time for optimization, but that hadn't happened. After this recent meeting, City Manager Drew Corbett indicated he was committed to progress & Principal Gilbert stated he wanted to also meet with leadership from Abbott Middle School, since their pedestrian student population should also be considered. Stay tuned.

HIP Housing to the Rescue - Let HIP be the bridge that helps house someone in need! In March, their home sharing program had housing available in San Mateo, Redwood Shores, Redwood City and more. HIP also has a Self Sufficiency Program (SSP) which provides housing assistance and support services to low-income parents or emancipated foster youth who are in school to increase their earning power and become financially self-sufficient. Participants receive subsidized rent while they complete an education or job training program and find employment in their field. Check <https://hiphousing.org/> for current info.

Lee Recall Spokesperson Lists More Reasons – We previously reported the effort to Recall Councilmember Lee was underway, along with the www.RecallAmoLee.com site to learn more. Recall resident spokesperson Michael Weinbauer reports additional reasons for resident petition signatures (9,000 required to place a recall on the November 2024 ballot). “At the first March Council meeting, Lee was asked by residents if she'd recuse herself from dais discussions on Measure Y since she vowed to fight it just after residents passed it (in 2020), but she never gave the courtesy of a response. Then at the March 20th Council meeting Lee pushed to re-open matters already decided by Council earlier in the month in regard to building heights to study - since they'd voted against the highest heights option. She did this by stating the previous meeting Minutes were 'confusing.' It seems between these meetings Lee determined she didn't like what the Council majority had decided and her solution is a rehash.”

What Does it Mean to Revisit the Building Height Decision? – With much resident input, Council had made the decision of the building height maximums they wanted staff to study & incorporate into our new General Plan for future developments. (Those approved heights were still taller than what voter-approved Measure Y dictated, which is why the City must now put a measure on the ballot so residents can decide whether they wish to keep Measure Y in force). With Mayor Lee's confusion over this decision, even after the Minutes which detailed it were approved, the subject can now be completely re-opened and changed for even more heights. This will be taken up at the April 3rd Council meeting. Emails on the subject may be sent to citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org.

Deadline for Storm \$\$ - Residents with damage/losses from the New Year's storms can now apply for local assistance through Samaritan House, now through April 21, 2023. <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/4705/Winter-Storm-Damage-Relief-Fund>

Countywide Approval to Eliminate Gas Furnaces & Hot Water Heaters

On March 15th the Bay Area Air Quality Management District made the decision to eliminate gas water heaters & furnaces (for compliance between 2027 and 2031).

They say: *The Air District Board of Directors adopted amendments to eliminate emissions*

of nitrogen oxides, or NOx, from residential & commercial natural gas furnaces & water heaters in the Bay Area by requiring new appliances to be zero-NOx.

Note: Zero-NOx = electric

They say: *Emissions from natural gas building appliances account for a similar amount of NOx pollution as passenger vehicles in the Bay Area. As a group, they are one of the largest emitters of nitrogen oxides of all stationary sources of air pollution.*

Unclear: Are they talking about residential homes, commercial or industrial buildings, or a combination?

They say: *The rule amendments would apply only to new appliances and do not mandate the immediate change out of existing appliances, nor will they apply to gas stoves. NOx-emitting natural gas furnaces and water heaters will be phased out over time, beginning with water heaters in 2027. Exposure to NOx has been linked to asthma/respiratory problems, etc. The new amendments will safeguard public health & prevent an estimated 85 premature deaths, as well as dozens of new asthma cases, in the Bay Area each year.*

Unclear: Are the health conditions referenced associated with gas appliances that are properly placed and well ventilated?

They say: *The rule amendments will improve overall regional air quality (lowering exposure to particulate matter).*

Not mentioned: Our region already requires ultra-low NOx appliances. What is the anticipated improvement in particulate exposure with the change from ultra-low NOx to zero NOx for residential homes in the larger equation? Why was there no discussion about various carbon capture technologies, which can remove/recycle NOx gases?

For a balanced discussion on this gas elimination subject – go to KCBS link <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6fOjvGNw098BMgzXWTZib4>

Refer Your San Mateo Neighbors/Friends or Volunteer! - Rebuilding Together Peninsula recently made a presentation to San Mateo United and said they are looking to help more people right here in San Mateo! You may recall from a previous BHNA meeting that RTP helps lower income folks with repairs to keep them living independently. It's been of great help to elderly, veterans, those with disabilities, etc. RTP understands the importance of providing a safe shelter and allowing residents to age in place and retain generational wealth.

Rebuilding Together volunteers tackle home modification for fall prevention, do electrical, plumbing, landscaping and more, including cleaning gutters and changing smoke detectors.

The application requirements for assistance are simply that the homeowner lives in the home, owns no other real estate, intends to stay in the home at least 2 more years and (if a single homeowner) makes less than \$104k annually. For more info go to

<https://www.rebuildingtogetherpeninsula.org>.

Want to volunteer for this wonderful organization? While you can do so year-around, their National Rebuilding Day event is **APRIL 28th!** You don't have to have handyman skills to help. Check out <https://www.rebuildingtogetherpeninsula.org/volunteer/>.