

March Member Newsletter from:
Beresford/Hillsdale
Neighborhood Association
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Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

www.beresfordhillsdale.org

March 2021

BHNA March 16th Member Zoom Meeting (Link below!)

When will the new train station open? Isn't the 28th Avenue grade separation work done now? What is that big, ugly metal structure by the tracks just south of Hillsdale Boulevard? What sidewalks are closed? When does the 31st Avenue grade separation work start? When work is finished, will the trains still have to blow their horns?

For these and many other questions surrounding all the work happening in and around the train tracks, we invite you to attend our March Zoom meeting. Lori Low, the Government and Community Affairs Officer for the San Mateo County Transit District, will give us an update on the status of these on-going projects. (Note: Additional audience questions may be typed to the BHNA Zoom host during the meeting.)

Who's New in Town? We'll also take a moment at the March meeting to introduce a new, local small business owner or two to our members! One has a specialty business, the Mosaic Market, which recently opened at 9 37th Avenue and has been getting rave reviews on social media.

Zoom Meeting Info Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84949478280?pwd=K2ttZ1pUc2VzMDFoQXBqMXQxQlZOZz09> Meeting ID: 849 4947 8280 Passcode: 782805

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ZOOM MEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, March 16th @ 7:30

**What's Happening: New Train Station,
Track Road Construction & More**

Also: Meet New Local Business Owner

Here to Serve You!

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR BHNA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021!

Your membership keeps the BHNA going! If you have already renewed – thank you! If not, you can renew today for just \$12 for the entire year online at www.beresfordhillsdale.org, or **via USPS** by filling out the form below with a check made payable to “The BHNA” to: BHNA, P.O. Box 6764, San Mateo CA 94403.

2021 - BHNA RENEWAL/MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

What "Red" Looks Like - By the time you read this, we're certain the cities in San Mateo County will have graduated from a Covid-19 purple status to a red status due to a decrease in virus cases and hospitalizations. So, what does red mean for us?

As long as the virus cases remain low, a red status would mean indoor dining, places of worship, movie theaters, museums, zoos and aquariums would be permitted to open at 25% capacity. Our malls will be allowed a 50% capacity limit, along with small retailers, and gyms would also be allowed to open indoors at 10% capacity.

Small businesses have especially suffered. As things begin to open up, continue to be careful to protect yourself, but remember that these businesses need customers and can only stay open to serve us if we consciously choose to spend our dollars with them. Otherwise, that favorite dining spot, quaint small place you get a haircut, buy pet food, get a massage, etc., may be forced to forever close their doors. (We hope to have an update from County Health at our March meeting.)

Upgrades to the BHNA Website

Our website will be under construction soon! The BHNA Board met last month to discuss and approve an expenditure to address website issues. Some members have notified us that the online link to renew membership can be problematic. (Don't let that stop you from renewing - we also accept checks via the mail!) Further, while there is a lot of information on the site, it is overdue for a good clean-up. We're looking forward to these site improvements!

"HLC-Gate" - No Violations by City Council, Says City Attorney

Just days after the December formal announcement that Measure Y had passed, the Housing Leadership Council (HLC), the home of the "No on Y" campaign, hosted Councilmembers Goethals, Bonilla & Lee as main speakers at their post-election decompression meeting. A resident complaint was lodged with the City Attorney voicing concerns about Brown Act violations at this meeting. (The Brown Act prohibits a majority of the Council from participating in meetings where city matters are discussed and that are not public and not publicly announced.) In answer to the complaint, Mayor Eric Rodriguez asked City staff to look into the matter.

Residents and the San Mateo Daily Journal requested the recording of the HLC meeting and were denied by the organization. Finally, under pressure, the video was released to the public - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Myfw6AnY6II>. While it showed that the General Plan update process was brought up multiple times, and while the complainant and another resident stated that they were excluded from the meeting as members of the public, the City Attorney found there were no Brown Act violation. The public accepted this finding, but were still surprised at the comments within the video by the three speaking council members. Goethals, Bonilla and Lee explained themselves at the January 19th Council meeting, but also acknowledged that a loss of public trust should have been considered prior to their participating in the meeting.

Members of the public also spoke, and voiced concerns over how the Council's major undertaking, the General Plan Update, could go forward in shaping the future of our city given this loss of trust.

Comments by the City Attorney, members of the public and City Council may be found starting at hour 4:54 on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxT7ivAvLco>.

The General Plan Update - It's Everything!

Regardless of *how* it will go forward, the General Plan Update (GPU) will kickstart again, effective ASAP! Our Mayor has already attended numerous neighborhood association meetings since the first of the year to underscore how important it will be for residents to participate in the process. If residents fail to participate, their desires for the future will go unheard. So, tune in to social media, sign up for email notifications at <https://strivesanmateo.org/>, and BHNA will also work to keep you in the loop (website, newsletter, email blasts). LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

6,700+ New Homes for San Mateo

A large part of the General Plan Update involves the planning to meet housing goals. These goals are set by the Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG), and doled out to cities via the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Councilmember Rick Bonilla is our ABAG representative.

This RHNA cycle doubles San Mateo's housing mandate from last time to approximately 6,700 new homes for a 7-year period. The Council heard housing planning options from staff on January 19th and tried to determine if they should be planning for just the current RHNA mandate or into the next cycle.

Here are the 3 options staff presented:

Alternative A, the least aggressive growth scenario, can meet our current cycle of RHNA requirements (through 2031).

Alternative B would accommodate the City's current and next RHNA cycles (through the year 2038), but would require voter approval of increased height and density in some targeted areas in Study Areas 1, 3 and 4.

Alternative C, the most aggressive growth scenario "would require voters to eliminate Measure Y height and density limits in several of the Study Areas during the life of the General Plan."

The presentation to Council, and discussion by Council on these alternatives may be viewed at hour 2:43 on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxT7ivAvLco>.

BHNA Board Members Return for 2021

A shout out to our 2020 Board Members, who have recommitted and are continuing their good work for 2021. BHNA Members have expressed their appreciation for their dedication and resulting efforts. Your 2021 Board is as follows:
Andrea McCutchin, Don Leydig, Frances Boscacci, Kurt Ricci, Tom Lease, Genel Morgan and Lisa Taner.

If you'd like to support the Board, you are welcome any time!
Email us at board@beresfordhillsdale.org.