



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

and welcome to our end-of-year newsletter! Our primary mission is to protect and improve San Mateo Park’s distinctly beautiful neighborhood.

At last month’s annual meeting, we hosted these guests who spoke about San Mateo issues that affect us in The Park:

- Lisa Diaz Nash** - Mayor
- Ed Barberini** - Police Chief
- Jerry Hill** - Park neighbor & former State Senator

A condensed summary of their discussions is on **page 2**.

Your supporting donations fund our substantial programs for Park trees and islands. Updates on those efforts are below and continue on **page 3**.

We’ve been thrilled by the number of neighbors who have recently added their names to our Volunteer Committee rosters and for Board consideration. THANK YOU Park residents! Learn more on **page 3**.

Special thanks go to neighbors Kolja Schluetter and Binguen Zhang. Their generous donation underwrote a major grounds cleanup and renewal for an island on Hurlingham.



»» Circa 1901 ««
San Mateo Park
Neighborhood Assn.

Your Volunteer SMPNA Board:

President:	David Long	W. Poplar Ave.
Secretary:	Virginia McIsaac	Crescent Ave.
Treasurer:	Dave Pearson	W. Poplar Ave.
Director:	Linda Bogue	Clark Drive

Lighting the way for Santa on Pinecrest Terrace



STREET TREES & ISLANDS UPDATE

This year we marked 30 years of planting street trees and islands under our Park Master Plan, which was developed through a City / SMPNA partnership. Our aims, then and now, are to:

- a. Restore single species for street trees within each block and on islands
- b. Retain original species suggested by John McLaren where possible, or at least maintain the ‘feel’ he created by favoring majestically sized trees
- c. Diversify within that framework for adaptability and aesthetic interest.

During this time, 20 of our 62 islands have been comprehensively replanted and almost all have received some new trees. All this was made possible by our stalwart members’ contributions and by the City.

This year alone, we completed refurbishing two islands – one on Hurlingham, one on Occidental. In addition, we completed the following:

- Watering our younger island trees throughout six months of dry weather
- Inventory dead street and island trees for City removal
- Identifying tree planting opportunities that should yield 30 or so new trees planted by the City this winter
- Funding extra island grounds maintenance, over and above the quarterly service the City provides.

Thank you for your ongoing support for these programs!

GENERAL MEETING RECAP

At our November General meeting, newly installed Mayor (and our own District 1 City Councilmember) Lisa Diaz Nash, spoke about the Council’s 2024 priorities. She sorted these into initiatives aimed at keeping San Mateans safe, and initiatives that make our city a happy place to live. She emphasized transparency and accountability for Council operations and encouraged constituents to communicate our priorities, questions or concerns with her at: Idi-aznash@cityofsanmateo.org

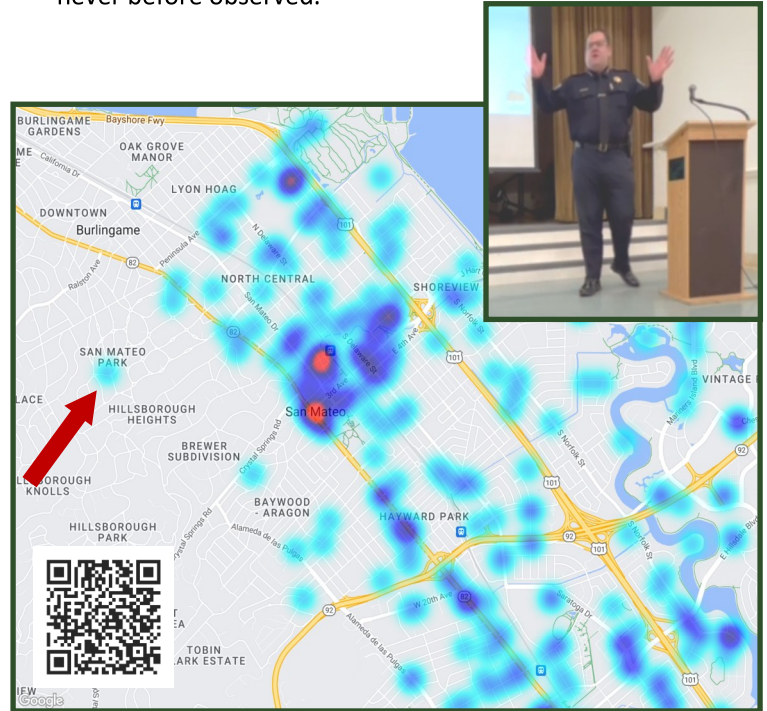
Storm water management and flood protection is one of the safety priorities of the City. Mayor Diaz Nash outlined measures Public Works is taking in preparation for this winter’s storms. After 50 years of deferred maintenance, the City’s flood protection infrastructure requires substantial capital investment. Lisa discussed and supported the ballot initiative (recently mailed to property owners) that would attach a monthly parcel fee, in perpetuity, dedicated exclusively to storm water management.

An informative and constructive “Point / Counterpoint” discussion followed with Park neighbor, former San Mateo Mayor, and former State Senator, Jerry Hill. Both Lisa and Jerry agree that substantial infrastructure repair and upgrades are urgently needed. They disagree on the Ballot measure’s imposition of a dedicated property tax that would fund the work.

For details about Jerry Hill’s argument please refer to the San Mateo Daily Journal article using the **red QR Code at left** in the photo. For City information on the Ballot initiative scan the **green QR Code at right** in the photo.

Ballots must be **received** (not postmarked) at City Hall by 5pm on December 17!

Police Chief Barberini and his two Lieutenants, Lt. Glen Teixeira (who oversees our neighborhood) and Lt. Shannon Hagan (who oversees all neighborhood patrol functions) affirmed that we live in an extraordinarily safe neighborhood. They reported that household burglaries, which dropped significantly during Covid, have not rebounded (scan the QR Code in attached Heat Map for details). Meanwhile, organized retail crime is up significantly and is affecting Hillsdale and Bridgepoint shopping areas in ways never before observed.



City of San Mateo Crime Heat Map: 12/1/22 through 12/1/23



A collegial discussion of different approaches to funding San Mateo’s Storm Water challenges

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total donations through November 30, 2023	\$	15,255
Expenses through November:		
Trees and Islands:		
Watering of new trees:	\$	8,326
Maintenance and Improvements	\$	39,110
Total Trees and Islands	\$	47,436
Administrative Expenses		
Meetings, CA filings, Infrastructure	\$	3,352
Newsletters printing and mailing	\$	5,960
Total 2023 Expenses	\$	56,748
2023 YTD Operating results	\$	(41,493)
Available cash 12/1 2023	\$	92,706

Notes: Our 2023 donation goal is to match 2022 level of \$50,000; a level that allows us to plan significant island/tree improvements during 2024 and beyond. 2023 fundraising got off to a slow start - we did not solicit donations during Q1/Q2.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

At our November meeting we asked for volunteers to help us complete projects in four areas. We have been thrilled by the number of volunteers! Here are our areas of focus for 2024:

New Neighbor Welcome

This committee will develop and deliver a welcome packet to our newest neighbors that introduces them to San Mateo Park and City information they can use. Key City contacts plus some detailed San Mateo Park information and hopefully some freshly baked treats.

Social Committee

This committee supports neighborhood get togethers - block parties, coffee klatches, and a variety of informal gatherings. Ideally we want neighbors to have more opportunities to meet one another. This committee will help plan, host and invite. The SMPNA can provide refreshments. Let's bring our neighbors together!

San Mateo Park History

This committee will build on past efforts to gather San Mateo Park history and stories reaching back to its inception in the early 1900's. Photos, maps, stories, famous former residents, notable architecture etc. are all of interest for this effort. We hope to have a bird's eye view into how The Park was first conceived and how it influenced generations of San Mateo residents thru the decades.

Young Family Outreach

We have many families with young children here in The Park. Some attend Park School. But many more attend a variety of local private schools - making it necessary to "cross-pollinate" if kids are to meet and develop friendships with nearby kids from other schools. This

committee will develop events for children so that they can meet and socialize with other neighborhood children. We would love to see more neighborhood children meeting for activities and utilizing Park School.



We still have openings for the History and Young Family Outreach committees. We were fortunate to fill Social and New Neighbor committees rosters, but let us know if you'd still like to join them. We have many opportunities for volunteers to improve and to beautify our neighborhood. If you have free time and want to pitch in, please contact us.

SAN MATEO PARK 2023 DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Use QR code below or go to: www.sanmateopark.org/contribute for PayPal. Prefer a check? Mail this form with a check payable to SMPNA to: **San Mateo Park Neighborhood Assn., P.O Box 1271, San Mateo, CA 94401**



My name and address on address label (reverse) are correct. Or, please indicate any changes below:

Name (s): _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email (s): _____

First, please select your **Annual Membership**. Considering helping out more this year? The **Park Tree Fund** needs support.

↓

ANNUAL DONATION LEVEL (check one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 McLaren Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 McLaren	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter

↓

TREE FUND (check one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Thank you for your generosity! Donations are voluntary, are not a condition of membership, and are tax deductible (Fed EIN 56-2631949) in the calendar year they are received.

Comments/Suggestions - email us at board@sanmateopark.org or mail in your comments below:

If your address label on this mailer is incorrect, please send us a correction

These donors have generously contributed their 2023 dues:

**McLaren Park Patrons
\$200**

John & Melinda Adams
Linda & Don Bogue
Aaron & Jennifer Barulich
Laura Bryant
David & Mary Balestrieri
Marianne & Alden Briscoe
Marilee Brooks & Greg Beall
David & Alexis Colker
Sumita & Michael Fleming
Robert & Barbara Gilmartin
Mark & Martha Greenough
Sergei & Marina Gryaznov
Jerry & Sky Hill
Frans Op den Kamp
Steve & Patty Mayer,
Virginia & Peter Mclsaac
Timothy & Christina McMorrow
Julie Montanari & Dave Pearson
Scott & Lane Poms
Catherine & Paul Richards
David Long & Rue Richey
Allen Soong
Zoe & Dan Scheinman
Ron & Faye Star
Philip Rathle & Amadee Vongthongsri
Kolja Schluetter & Binguang Zhang
Eleanor L Yuen

**McLaren Members
\$100**

Thomas Ames
Nancy Baleix
Ron & Marilyn Chiappari
Anna Cronin
Tor Schoenmeyr & Hong Hong
Hartmut Koeppen & Alexandra Gillen
Linda & Leo Gotelli
Tom Heaton
Lynnie & Larry Laks
Sumant Pal & Alpna Seth
Cathleen & Chad Thomas
Brad & Lynn Tuthill
Paul & Eugenia Watermulder
Joseph & Megan Winters
Sonya Xu

**Park Supporters
\$50**

Modell Marlow Andersen
David & Kimberly Bottoms
Timothy & Karen Catlin
Maria & Neil Healy
Connie Larios & James Lynch
McLain Family
Stephanie & D'Arcy Roche
Patricia Tremba & Matthew Schroth

**Park Conservators
\$1000+**

Aaron & Jennifer Barulich
Catherine & Paul Richards
Kolja Schluetter & Binguang Zhang
Zoe and Dan Scheinman
Ron & Faye Star
Eleanor L Yuen

*It's not too late to send your
2023 pledges in TODAY.*

Special thanks to those who have already donated!

email: info@sanmateopark.org

website: www.sanmateopark.org



Important Cell Towers info and December 17th City meeting. Don't miss it! Details here:

