



**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 Bingyuan Zhang. Their generous donation underwrote a major grounds cleanup and renewal for an island on Hurlingham.

**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



»» Circa 1901 ««

**San Mateo Park  
Neighborhood Assn.**

*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](mailto:Idi-aznash@cityofsanmateo.org)

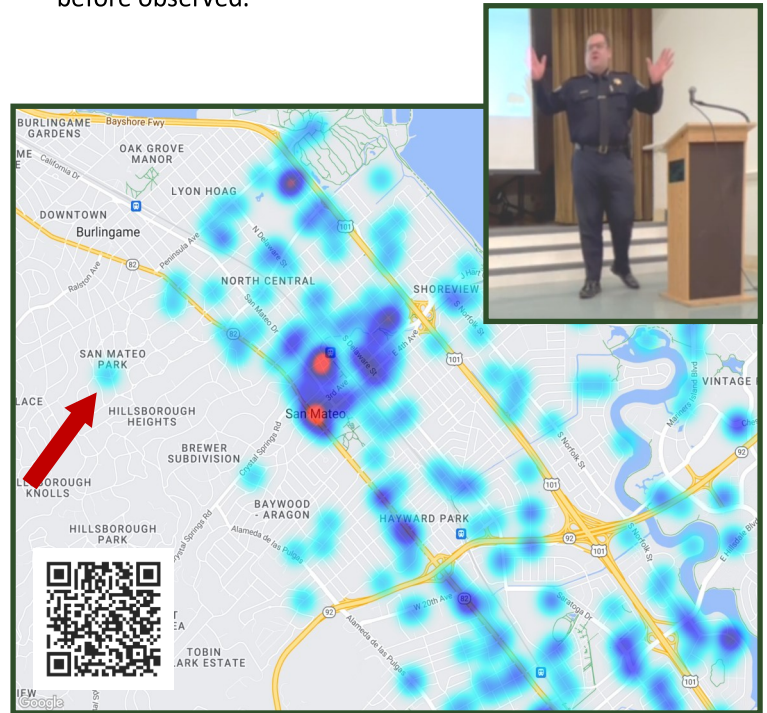
Storm water management and flood protection is one of the safety priorities of the City. Mayor Diaz Nash outlined measures Public Works is taking in preparation for this winter’s storms. After 50 years of deferred maintenance, the City’s flood protection infrastructure requires substantial capital investment. 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 a particularly 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

Expenses through November:

Trees and Islands:

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

*Notes: 2023 donation goal is to the match 2022 level of \$50,000; allowing us to continue ongoing programs, such as those reported here, to improve the neighborhood during 2024 and beyond.*

## 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

Welcoming new residents, this committee will develop a folder introducing new neighbors to our unique San Mateo Park, including important things to know, and perhaps other welcoming initiatives.

### Social Committee

This group aims to bring neighbors together, providing opportunities for us get to know each other better. The group will plan and launch a variety of block and neighborhood gatherings.

### San Mateo Park History

This committee will help document the development of The Park from its inception in the early 1900s to today. They'll be unearthing our story, from old records and photos to neighbors' recollections.

### Young Family Outreach

Many families here have young children who attend schools outside The Park. This committee would develop events where neighborhood children could meet one another and make new neighborhood friends.

We were fortunate to fill the first two committees. (Stay tuned for the results of their projects!) We're still looking for volunteers interested in young family outreach, and we have other volunteer opportunities as well. If you have some time to spare and want to pitch in, please contact us at:

[board@sanmateopark.org](mailto:board@sanmateopark.org)



*Little known fact: Neighborhood volunteering makes us all more youthful and beautiful. No? Well, at least it can't hurt...*

## CELL TOWERS – URGENT

As of 12/4/23, six applications to install small cell towers in The Park have been approved; four more are currently pending. An advocacy group comprised of Park residents, No Cell Outs, contends that our City's ordinance is weak and is pressing the Council to review and revise it. The City Council has yet to decide whether to take up this matter.

If, like us, you have questions or concerns about new cell tower installation, you should attend the Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission meeting on 12/13 at 7pm in City Hall. The City has engaged an outside, telecom-specializing attorney to help educate our

Commissioners on the status of cell tower law and regulation. Meanwhile, the No Cell Outs group has hired a telecom-independent law firm who has helped other cities craft protective ordinances, and this firm will also be speaking to the Commission. This should make for an interesting and informative meeting!

A letter to San Mateo Park neighbors from No Cell Outs can be found by following this red QR Code:



### SAN MATEO PARK 2023 DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Use QR code below or go to: [www.sanmateopark.org/contribute](http://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)

\$200 McLaren Patron  \$100 McLaren  \$50 Supporter

**TREE FUND** (check one)

\$5,000  \$2,500  \$1,000  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](mailto: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:**

**and TREE FUND:**

**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  
Maria & Neil Healy  
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  
Hartmut Koeppen & Alexandra Gillen  
Linda & Leo Gotelli  
Tor Schoenmeyr & Hong Hong  
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. Please send in  
your 2023 pledge TODAY.*

**Special thanks to those who have already donated!**

*email:* [info@sanmateopark.org](mailto:info@sanmateopark.org)

*website:* [www.sanmateopark.org](http://www.sanmateopark.org)



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

San Mateo Park  
Neighborhood Assn.  
PO Box 1271  
San Mateo, CA 94402

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