

The Highlands lowdown

January 2011

The Highlands Community Association Newsletter

Volume 57, Number 1

www.highlandscommunity.org

San Francisco PUC Staff Will Answer Our Questions About Area Water Construction Projects at the January 25 HCA Meeting

Do you want to find out what's happening on Skyline Blvd. and on Polhemus Road? San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) staff members will be on hand at our Highlands Community Association meeting on Tuesday, January 25, to answer our questions about the Water System Improvement Program construction projects in the Crystal Springs area in 2011. The SFPUC is upgrading the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System to be ready for the next major earthquake.

Our guests will also address any concerns or questions we may have about the new Crystal Springs Bypass Tunnel project near Polhemus Road. Starting on or around



approximately three weeks.

News is also available directly from the project website devoted to the Sawyer Camp Trail area: www.sfwater.org/SCT; or via Twitter at [Twitter.com/SawyerCampTrail](https://twitter.com/SawyerCampTrail) or the toll-free 24 hour answerline, (866) 973-1476. Come to the January meeting and get the facts!

Caroling Comes to the Highlands

by Dianne Weitzel



Fourteen people and one dog left the Rec Center shortly after 5:30 Sunday, Dec 12, armed with warm coats, flashlights, and songbooks. Most were members of

our community and included a few choir members from Crystal Springs United Methodist Church. We knocked on doors to alert residents, who in turn alerted others within to come listen. Residents seemed delighted by the presentation of old favorite Christmas carols. Most joined in singing, and upon an invitation to grab a warm coat and join us, several did just that. Our group became 20 people and 2 dogs.

A highlight of the evening was the resident who appeared on the sidewalk playing "We wish you a Merry Christmas" on her violin! At 8 p.m. we returned to the Rec for cookies and hot cocoa. We wish we could have visited every Highlands home. Maybe if we start planning now, we can cover more ground next year.

HRD Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 7 p.m.
Rec Center Social Room

lowdown Deadline

Friday, January 28

HCA Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.
Rec Center Social Room

FROM THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Rick Priola
HCA President

Happy New Year to everyone!

We're beginning 2011 with a heavy snowpack, which is good news for our gardens if the winter rains (and snow in the mountains) continue. Let's hope they do.

Questions about the Tunnel? Staff members of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will be at the HCA meeting on January 25 to answer our questions about the various construction projects in our area related to the water supply. It should be an interesting meeting. See the article on page 1 for details.

Don Horsley's Election: I need to correct an error in my November message about the election of Don Horsley. Don was elected to fill the District 1 seat previously held by Rich Gordon, whose term had expired, not the District 3 seat which became vacant when District 3 Supervisor Mark Church was elected to be County Chief Elections Officer/Assessor/County Clerk/Recorder last November. Mark was in the middle of his four-year term, and the Board of Supervisors has called a special all-mail election for May 3 to fill the vacant seat for those two years. I'm sure it won't take long before we begin hearing from potential candidates.

Sad News: The Highlands lost a longtime resident and active community member, and I lost a neighbor and friend when Marimae McDonald died suddenly in late December. Marimae and Ted McDonald were Highlands pioneers, having been one of the original owners here. Ted was one of the committee chairs of the first 4th of July celebration in 1960. Their volunteer activities continued through the years, and on July 4, 2002, they were honored as the Grand Marshals of the parade. Marimae will be sorely missed.

Landscaping and the Berm: When he spoke at our October HCA meeting, San Mateo County Chief Probation Officer Stuart Forrest (a Highlands resident who grew up here) emphasized that he wanted input from Highlands neighbors about the Youth Services Center. I'm glad to say that he's followed up on his pledge. Meetings have been going on between Allegheny Drive residents, other interested neighbors, and county Probation and Public Works staff about the berm behind Allegheny and other landscaping related issues at the center. If you're interested in participating in these meetings, let me know.

As always, I look forward to meeting you and seeing you at the HCA meetings. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at hcapres@gmail.com.

HCA Meeting January 25, 7:30 p.m. Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review and Approval of the Minutes
- III. Sheriff's Dept/CHP/CDR Cal Fire
- IV. Reports
 - A. First Vice President
 - B. Second Vice President
 - C. Treasurer
 - D. Membership
 - E. *lowdown*
 - F. Public Utilities Committee
 - G. Emergency Services Committee
 - H. Land Committee
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business/Announcements: SF PUC Staff
- VII. Adjournment

HCA Board Officers for 2011

President:	Rick Priola	574-8313
First VP:	Jean-Pierre Bernard	357-7644
Second VP:	Gene McKenna	346-7348
Treasurer:	David Krakower	(415) 398-1100
Secretary:	Denise Haas	372-0373
lowdown Editor:	Dorothy Greene	341-1752

HCA Committee Chairs for 2011

Land:	Sam Naifeh	572-8787
Public Utilities:	Wil Pinney	345-2546
Emergency Services:	Pam Merkadeau	280-9046
Membership:	Liesje Nicolas	773-7805
lowdown Co-Editor and Technology:	Beverley Madden	574-1593

HCA MINUTES

by Denise Haas, Secretary

HCA Meeting

November 23, 2010

I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by President Rick Priola.

II. Review and Approval of the Minutes – The review and approval of the minutes were deferred until the January 2011 meeting because residents had not yet received the October *lowdown*.

III. Sheriff’s Department/ California Highway Patrol/CDF - Members of the Highway Patrol, Sheriff’s Department and Cal Fire reported on the month’s activities in their areas.

IV. Reports

A. First Vice President –JP Bernard invited Margaret Glomstad to report on the Highlands Recreation District’s projects. She reported that the deck replacement was almost complete, hillside repair has begun, and invitations for bids for constructing the childcare center are to go out on November 30, 2010.

B. Second Vice President – No report.

C. Treasurer – David Krakower reported a stable budget.

D. Membership – No report

E. lowdown – Dorothy Greene announced that the new submission deadline for the *lowdown* will be one week earlier than usual because the post office has informed her to

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expect it to take 10 days after the *lowdown* goes to the post office for delivery.

F. Public Utilities Committee – No report.

G. Emergency Services Committee – No report.

H. Land Committee – Sam Naifeh reported that the land proj-

ect on Ascension Drive has launched.

V. Old Business – Sam Naifeh moved to approve the slate for the 2011 HCA Board of Directors proposed at the October meeting; James Goodman seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. The following were elected: President, Rick Priola; 1st Vice President, J.P. Bernard; 2nd Vice President, Gene McKenna; Treasurer, David Krakower; Secretary, Denise Haas; *lowdown* Editor, Dorothy Greene; Co-*lowdown* Editor and Technology Chair, Beverley Madden; Membership, Liesje Nicolas; Emergency Services, Pam Merkadeau; Land Committee, Sam Naifeh; Public Utilities, Wil Pinney.

VI. New Business/ Announcements – None.

VII. Adjournment –The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



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HIGHLANDS RECREATION CENTER



**Community
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Training (CERT)
Wed. 2/2-3/9 6-9 p.m.
Simulation Day 3/13
9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Join the Highlands Team. The first step is the free CERT program which trains you in basic disaster-response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Location: Cal Fire Station 17, 320 Paul Scannell Dr. San Mateo.

Highlands Hoopsters 2011

Highlands Hoopsters is right around the corner. This co-ed instructional basketball league will run 7 weeks from January 22-March 12. Three divisions include: K-1st Grades, 2nd-3rd Grades, and 4th-5th Grades. Sign-ups have started, so call us today!

Winter Registration Begins

The Winter Activity Guide class registration is in full swing. If you have misplaced your brochure, don't worry, you can also look at it online at highlandsrec.ca.gov. Please call the office at (650) 341-4251 with any questions you may have regarding the schedule.

Highlands Rec on Twitter

Please follow the Highlands Rec Center Aquatics Department on our new Twitter account: <http://twitter.com/HRCaquatics>. Updates will be sent regarding pool closures and Aquatics special events.

**WANTED Lifeguards and
Swim Instructors**

The Highlands Rec Center is hiring lifeguards and swim instructors. If you are interested in becoming a lifeguard or swim instructor at



Highlands Holiday Event

Santa led the way to our annual holiday event on Dec. 4. The Highlands Recreation Center would like to thank our volunteers, the Highlands Band, and CALFire for their support of the event.

the HRC, call Bryce at (650) 341-4251 or email bryce@highlandsrec.ca.gov.

(650) 341-4251 or email her at rebeccah@highlandsrec.ca.gov for more details.

**Early Education Program
M-F 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Spaces are available for our Preschool Program, which runs from September to June for children ages 2.5-5 years who are potty-trained. Call Rebecca at

**Kids Night Out
\$25/child,**

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Take advantage of an evening out while your kids are having a fun-filled night at the Rec. Pizza

► **Rec Programs: to page 10**



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My very best wishes to you and your family for a New Year filled with good health, great joy, and peace!
Sylvia



"Expect the Best"

January 2011

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rec Center Breaks Ground for Childcare Center and Multipurpose Room Project

by Margaret Glomstad



**HRD board members
Brigitte Shearer, and
Jim Sell flank Rec
Center General
Manager Margaret
Glomstad**

The Rec Center has begun construction of its Early Education Center and Multipurpose Room project. At its December meeting, the Highlands Recreation District Board of Directors awarded the publicly bid contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Gonsalves and Stronck, for \$2,147,000.

The new LEED-certified facility will be located on Rec Center grounds behind the sports court area. It will include a state-licensed childcare center for children ages three months through pre-school that will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

To accommodate the program, there will be three classrooms and two separate playground areas. In addition, the facility will include a multipurpose room that includes a kitchenette which will be available for classes, meetings, and rentals.

The Rec expects the facility to be completed in the fall of 2011 and will begin taking registrations for the Early Education Center in February. Call Rebecca Hitchcock at 341-4251 for enrollment information.

2011 HCA Board of Directors

The following are the members of the 2011 HCA Board of Directors elected at the November 23 meeting:

President: Rick Priola

1st Vice President: J.P. Bernard

2nd Vice President: Gene McKenna

Treasurer: David Krakower

Secretary: Denise Haas

lowdown Editor: Dorothy Greene

Co-lowdown Editor and Technology: Beverley Madden

Membership: Liesje Nicolas

Emergency Services: Pam Merkadeau

Land Committee: Sam Naifeh

Public Utilities: Wil Pinney

Volunteers are welcome and needed on all the committees. You can find the board members' phone numbers on page 2 of every *lowdown*. Participate, meet your neighbors, and make new friends!


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COMMUNITY NEWS

CSM's Spring Semester Offers Hundreds of Opportunities

by Valerie Anderson and Beverley Madden

CSM's spring semester begins on January 18, and there is still time to register for classes. Our spring Schedule of Classes, which you probably received in the mail, includes hundreds of classes in a wide variety of subject areas. In scheduling classes, the college takes into consideration that many of our students are working adults and need flexibility in order to attend classes. In addition to day classes, the college also offers evening classes, which generally meet once or twice a week, Saturday classes, short courses that begin at various times during the semester, and online courses. The enrollment fee of \$26 a unit for California Community Colleges continues to provide the best value in a college education anywhere in the nation. We encourage you to take a look at our spring Schedule of Classes, which is also available at www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/schedule.

Upcoming Events: CSM events that are open to the community are posted on the Event Calendar on the college website. This is the place to find out about athletic events, theatrical programs, musical performances, guest speakers, and much more. Some upcoming events include: free tax preparation for members of the community provided by students in our Tax Preparation program during February and March; free Planetarium and star shows offered by the Astronomy Department almost

every month during the academic year; and San Mateo Farmer's Market, regarded as one of the best on the Peninsula, held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine, in CSM's Beethoven Parking Lot. For details about these events and much more, go to www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/calendar/events.

If you have questions about this information or need more information about CSM, visit collegeof-sanmateo.edu/contactesm or call (650) 574-6231.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands Book Group

by Jo Nassutti



The Book Club usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month, at 10:15 a.m., in the Exercise Room at the Rec Center.

For **February 1**, we will read ***Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese**, an unforgettable story of two orphaned brothers who come of age as Ethiopia moves toward revolution. Adopted by the two prime doctors at a poor mission hospital, they grow into outstanding doctors themselves, but pursue completely different goals.

On **March 1**, we will discuss ***The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman**. After their zoo was bombed, Polish zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabibski managed to save 300 people from the Nazis by hiding refugees in the empty animal cages.

Questions? call Jo Nassutti at 650-345-8915. **Curious?** come by and observe.

Senior Network News

by Cliff Donley



Forty of us were able to crowd into the Donley home for our holiday potluck.

Fortunately the weather cooperated and we were able to go out on the deck. Potlucks always seem to work well for us.

In February we plan to explore the Peninsula Jewish Community Center in Foster City. A tour of the facility and a look at their programs will be followed by lunch. We intend to arrive at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 17. Contact me

if you would like transportation.

Speaking of transportation, several would-be passengers have asked if we could arrange local rides to such things as doctor and dentist appointments or the shopping mall. There is a foundation that will pay a driver, not related to the passenger, fifty-two cents per mile and provide liability coverage on trips up to one million dollars for the driver. Some passengers have their own cars but can't drive. If you are willing to drive using this program, please let me know by e-mail, or phone me at 349-5290.

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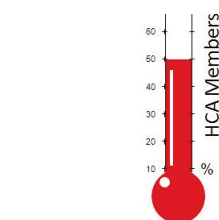
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HIGHLANDS RESIDENT



The annual HCA Membership Drive will kick-off in February. Look for the flyer and envelope in the February lowdown, send in your dues, and watch our temperature rise!

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Turkey Bowl: A New Highlands Tradition

by Linda Siguenza



The second annual Highlands Turkey Bowl soccer game was a great success. This group of about 35 adults representing all ability levels from first timers to ex-college athletes played hard for three hours. They played anywhere from 8 on 8 to 11 on 11, with a few 10- to 13-year-olds filling in as well. The game never stops, as players on the sideline feed in to switch out tired players.

While this goes on, the kids become the fans and enjoy playing at the school while their parents wake up muscles that have been hibernating.

The group also had the second annual New Year's Day soccer game and plans to play a few more times this winter and spring.

If you would like to join in and receive emails announcing the games, contact Linda Siguenza at lin3@comcast.net. It is a lot of fun, and not competitive--okay it gets a little competitive, but is still lots and lots of fun. As two-time competitor, Shannon Dobbs said last year when asked by a fan what the score was, "In U-50, we don't keep score."

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Highlands lowdown

Editor and Business Manager:

*Dorothy Greene
phone: 650-341-1752
email: lowdowneditor@gmail.com
mailing address: 1879 Lexington
Ave., San Mateo, CA 94402*

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HIGHLANDS SCHOOL, UMC, AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands School News*by Mary Tsao*

The Highlands Party Book has started and is already proving to be a great success. Parents and teachers have put together lots of fun events, which are open to all. Some examples include Indian Folk Dance and Food Party, Men's Poker Night, Mom's Cocktail Party, Highlands Pizza and Movie Night, Around the World Wine Tasting, Tiny Treks Party, Children's Spring Music Recital, and so much more. Contact Linda Siguenza at 571-9252 or lin3@comcast.net for a complete list of available parties.

The PTA would like to highlight one upcoming party that should appeal to both Highlands School parents as well as the Highlands community as a whole.

Introducing the Highlands Gourmet Multicultural Food Tasting & Art Show to be held on March 19! Compete in the event for a chance to show off your most excellent cooking and presentation skills. The categories of the competition are North American Continental Bistro, Central and South American, Asia Fusion, European, Dessert, and Mixology. Prizes will be awarded. There will also be a Grand Gourmet winner for favorite overall entry.

Attend the event to enjoy the tastes of gourmet food creations from the community's best amateur chefs. As an added visual feast, guests can enjoy an exhibit of works by local artists. Admission to the tasting costs \$50 and includes two drink tickets (additional drinks may be purchased at the event) as well as free babysitting for one child aged four and above. Additional children will be \$5 apiece. Babysitting at Highlands

School will include a double feature movie and board game night.

Participate as a registered chef competitor and receive your admission ticket free -- a \$50 value! For a registration form, tickets, or more information, contact Linda Siguenza at 571-9252 or lin3@comcast.net. Registration is due by March 1.

Dates for Your Calendar

Jan. 17 Martin Luther King Day (no school)

Jan. 25 PTA Board Meeting

Jan. 26 Family Dinner Night at TGI Friday (tell them you're from Highlands!)

Jan. 28 Staff Work Day (no school)

Feb. 18 Teacher Professional Development Day (no school)

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Crystal Springs UMC Church*by Steven Schlichter***Crystal Springs Players**

The Crystal Springs Players are attempting to put together the actors and crew to put on a production of *Memory of Water* this spring. Given our serious depletion of people to do all the jobs, this is a daunting task. Therefore we need help with set-building, costumes, gala coordination, and of course, actors. If you have any thoughts about getting involved in theater, now would be a good time. Call the office, 345-2381, if you have any interest and leave your contact information.

Church Activities

Regular worship takes place every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday School takes place every Sunday at the same time, except the first Sunday of the month. Come join us. There is also a Samoan language service at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. For more information call 345-2381.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

► **Rec Programs:** from page 4
dinner and movie will be provided.

ASP/In Crowd CLOSED Jan 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

ASP/In Crowd

OPEN ALL DAY @ REC

Jan 28 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Full day drop-in \$60/65

No extra charge for regular
scheduled day

2010-2011 School Year**Enrollment Start Dates**

- 1) Priority enrollment for current child care families (Jan 28)
- 2) Highlands residents (Jan 31)
- 3) CSAI residents (Feb 7)
- 4) Non-Highlands/Non-CSAI residents (Feb 14)

Pool Reopened

The pool reopened Friday, December 10, after being resurfaced and retiled. We are currently in dome season--come check us out. Enrollment is now open for all winter 2011 swimming classes, including group and private lessons, swim team, Aqua Track, and Aqua Fit.

Energizer Deep H2O

In this class we will work all parts of our body. We will tone, stretch, and shape. We will use water weights and water floats. We use flotation belts. Join us for a fun way to exercise. Bring water, enjoy fun music and a good time. This class is in deep water. You do not need to know how to swim for this class, however you will need to be water-friendly.

Private Swim Lessons

**Private: \$30/31 -Semi-Private:
\$24/25**

Highlands Swim School is scheduling private (1 student/1 instructor) and semi-private (2 stu-

dents/1 instructor) lessons. Lesson times are set to meet the needs of the student. Fee is for one single 28-minute lesson. Call the private lesson coordinator at 341-4251 to schedule. Payment for each lesson must be made prior to the lesson.

Adapted Aquatics

\$30/31/session. 28 min lessons.

Our adapted aquatics program focuses on water safety, self confidence, and the physical developmental skills of each student. Classes are geared for individuals with special needs, and each individual is encouraged to progress at his or her own pace. Lesson times are coordinated between the student and instructor. Fee is for single half-hour lessons. Call the private lesson coordinator to schedule.

Collection Correction

by Dorothy Greene

I thought I had trained myself--under the sink: compost to the left bin, garbage to the right; wine corks: genuine to compost, artificial to garbage; and everything out by 6 a.m! Imagine my surprise when my stuffed-to-the-gills compost cart was still full eight hours later, and hanging from it was a "correction." It reminded me that carts must be placed 24 inches apart with wheels against the curb and arrows pointing to the street.

I wasn't the only offender. A nearby neighbor and I commiserated as we wondered if we'd have to live another week with our overfed carts. Happily, a truck returned early the next morning and collected our wayward compost, but I've learned my lesson. From now on I'll measure to keep my compost and garbage carts from getting too close. Heaven forbid!

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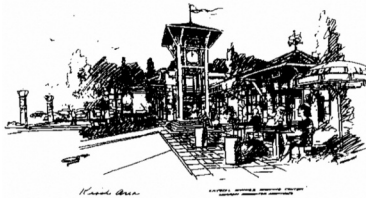
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A VIEW FROM THE HIGHLANDS

New Year Means More Involvement, Conversation

by Florence Beier

Highlands has a history of both controversy and cooperation. Longtime residents may remember all the way back to the battle over bomb shelters. Then there was the fight over joining the city of San Mateo. Perhaps the most intense controversy was about allowing Chamberlain to build on our hill-sides. This led to a contested election for HCA officers, even for *lowdown* editor, with voters having to show membership cards at the polling place in the Rec Center gym. Still simmering is the fight about two-story additions.

However, this year – 2011 – is scheduled to be the year of civil discourse, of dialogue, of speaking up for conflict resolution, of listening. For the last few weeks I have heard and read over and over again about programs that will promote these ideas for the next 12 months.

The skills needed to talk with people whose ideas and beliefs are different from ours were the topic

of an all-day program on December 13 to kick off the “Year of Civil Discourse Initiative” (YCD). Over 200 Jews of every persuasion came together in San Francisco for intensive dialogue, education, and inspiration

The “No Labels” movement says, “We may disagree on issues, but we do so with civility and mutual respect. We believe in the vital civil center — a place where ideas are judged on their merits. We believe that together we can make the future better and brighter — and give us what we all deserve — a government and a political system that works — one driven by shared purpose and common sense.”

The Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center’s Civic Engagement Initiative (CEI), founded in 1997 and expanding this year, is designed to increase residents’ active involvement in issues that concern their lives. It

builds a sense of ownership and inter-connectedness in communities and helps individuals realize that their participation matters. Civic Engagement can take many forms, including volunteering, voting, community organizing, mentoring, running for public office, or dialogue.

It’s time to talk about issues where we disagree. Speaking up for your own ideas can be followed by listening. It’s time for new, newly retired, and newly motivated Highlanders to step up so HCA meetings can have better attendance and suggestions for topics that draw in residents. Committee chairs are needed for the 4th of July, emergency planning, and bylaw revision. Serving as an HCA officer or an Area Rep pays big dividends.

Let’s make this year here the beginning of a new era of involvement and conversation.