

The Highlands lowdown

The Highlands Community Association Newsletter

Volume 58, Number 3

www.highlandscmmunity.org

Sewer Projects and Costs are in Our Future

by James Goodman, Co-Chair, HCA Public Utilities Committee

After meeting with the San Mateo Public Works Department on January 23, there is important news to report. Our sewer district, the Crystal Springs County Sewer District, or CSCSD, has aging sewer lines, many of which are over 50 years old. For our district, the 1999 Master Plan Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) include approximately 10,650 feet of sewer pipe replacement by 2013 at a cost of \$2.3 million and is mandated by the state. Another nine projects totaling about 17,000 feet of sewer pipe at a cost of approximately \$3 million were identified by closed circuit TV inspections in 2011. These repairs are scheduled to begin next year and should be completed by 2022. These inspections have also revealed 42 urgent point repairs that need to be done by 2013 at a cost of about \$130,000.

The county is applying for a 20-year loan of up to \$2.4 million at 2.5% to help pay for some of these improvements. Our current sewer fees of \$1,200 per household should cover these projects (including servic-

ing the loan), with the major exception of the Crystal Springs/El Cerrito Relief line projects.

The Town of Hillsborough and the City of San Mateo recently informed the Department of Public Works (DPW) that the costs for the Crystal Springs Trunk Line and the El Cerrito Relief Line are \$11 million (up from \$8.5 million) and \$19 million (up from \$15 million), respectively.

Our district's share of these costs will run into the millions of dollars. The DPW is asking the Town and City for data on the new cost estimates and justifications for the increases. The impact on our future sewer service fees is still undetermined, but increases to the current rate are very likely if our district is to cover these costs. Options for dealing with these additional costs include another loan, making rates partially based on household water usage (as is done in many other communities), and merging our district with bigger sewer district(s) to help spread costs.

Because our rates are determined by a four-party

► **Sewer Projects:** to page 7

4th of July Planning is Off and Running--It's Time to Volunteer!

by Gordon Strause

Planning for the 4th of July celebration is in full swing. A leadership team has formed, headed by 4th of July Chair Randy Griggi and Liesje Nicolas (with able assistance from 4th of July Chairmen Emeriti Rick Priola and Gene McKenna). Committee chairs include Bruce and Diana Heiman (July 3rd



Fireworks), Dianne Weitzel (Parade), Gordon Strause (Food Booth), and Stacy Clark (Midway Games).

"Back to the Future" will be this year's theme, so start planning your floats and costumes! And please take a moment as well to

► **4th of July:** to page 6

HRD Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m.
Multipurpose Room

lowdown Deadline

Friday, March 30, 2012

HCA Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Room

FROM THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Rick Priola
HCA President

By the time you read this, we will have turned our clocks ahead, and winter will be about over, at least according to the calendar. But it's been a winter and rainy season with a lot of warm days and very little rain. Maybe spring will be unusual too and bring some rain. Our gardens could certainly use that.

HCA meeting: At our February HCA meeting we had an interesting presentation by Nicole Ziman of the San Francisco Public Utility Commission updating us on nearby projects to upgrade the delivery of water from the Hetch Hetchy system. The work on the dam has been completed, and San Mateo County will be rebuilding the road over the dam that has been closed for more than a year. It should be completed in late 2013, and we will again be able to drive on Skyline Blvd. to the Sawyer Camp Trail. At this month's meeting on March 27, we will have a presentation about solar panels on our homes. It also should be very interesting.

4th of July: Planning for the 3rd and 4th of July has begun, led by Randy Griggi, and things are in good shape. As always, volunteers for all the activities of the celebration are very important. Whether it's for the fireworks or the food booth, the midway, the parade, cleanup, etc. on the 3rd and 4th, community participation is the key to the success of our event. There's a Jooners page to sign up to volunteer on the HCA website, www.highlandscommunity.org, and there's also an email address address, Highlands4th@gmail.com, which you can use to offer your help. Look for more information about plans for the 4th on pages 1 and 6 of this *lowdown*.

Also, this year we're going back to our old custom of using cars in the parade, so if you have a convertible that you're willing to have in the parade, please call me or email me at hcapres@gmail.com.

Egg Hunt: Highlands kids always look forward to the Rec Center's annual Eggstravaganza and Underwater Easter Egg Hunts. This year they will take place on Saturday, April 7. Check out the information on page 4 of the *lowdown* about these events. You can call the Rec at 341-4251 with any questions.

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 March 27 2012, 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
- VII. Adjournment

HCA Board Officers for 2012

President:	Rick Priola	574-8313
Co-First VPs:	Beverley Madden	574-1593
	Liesje Nicolas	773-7805
Co-Second VPs:	Randy Griggi	222-9785
	Gordon Strause	863-4570
Treasurer:	David Krakower	415-398-1100
Secretary:	Denise Haas	372-0373
<i>lowdown</i> Editor:	Dorothy Greene	341-1752

HCA Committee Chairs for 2012

Land:	Sam Naifeh	572-8787
Public Utilities Co-Chairs:	James Goodman	372-0986
	Wil Pinney	345-2546
Emergency Services:	Pam Merkadeau	280-9046
Membership Co-Chairs:	Trelly Krakower	578-1328
	Kim Nations	415-505-3866

HCA MINUTES

by Dorothy Greene for Denise Haas

HCA Meeting February 28, 2012

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Rick Priola at 7:40 p.m.

II. Review and Approval of the Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2012, was moved by Aleth Reilley, seconded by Liesje Nicolas, and carried unanimously.

III. Sheriff’s Department/ California Highway Patrol/CDF

Deputy Keith O’Dell reported that there had been a residential burglary in the Highlands in February and encouraged residents to call 911 if they see suspicious individuals or cars in the neighborhood.

Neighbors are encouraged to sign up for the county’s Emergency Alert system, SMC Alert, to receive information about possible emergencies or road closures, etc.

CalFire officer reported that the Highlands has 130 CERT-trained volunteers.

IV. Reports

A. First Vice President – Liesje Nicolas reported on the HRD board meeting. No replacement has yet been selected to fill the general manager’s position. Jeff Schwartz continues as the acting manager.

B. Second Vice President – Randy Griggi reported that preparation has begun for the 2012 celebra-

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tion. He emphasized the need for volunteers. There will be a website for volunteers to sign up for various tasks.

C. Treasurer – David Krakower reported that our finances are doing well.

D. Membership – Kim Nations met with the Area Reps before the HCA meeting to brainstorm the 2012 membership campaign which

kicks off this month. Checks are already coming in in the envelopes included in the February *lowdown*.

E. lowdown – Dorothy Greene announced that the March deadline is March 2, 2012.

F. Public Utilities Committee – There will be an update of our sewer issues in the next *lowdown*.

G. Emergency Services Committee – No report

H. Land Committee – No report

V. Old Business – None

VI. New Business/ Announcements – Nicole Ziman, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Region Public Outreach representative, gave us an interesting thorough update on the projects to upgrade elements of the Hetch Hetchy water storage and distribution center projects near the Highlands.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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HIGHLANDS RECREATION CENTER NEWS



Highlands Early Education Program

Register NOW for our half-day preschool program. The Toucan class is located in the Social Room and is for potty-trained children ages 2.5-5-years. Classes are held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Toucan class closes for winter, spring, and summer breaks. Call now to register for September! A non-refundable fee of \$105 reserves your space. Questions? Email Rebecca Hitchcock, Early Education Director, at: rebeccah@highlandsrec.ca.gov

Thank You!

We would like to thank all the families who have kindly donated to our Early Education Center and Program. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thanks go to the following families: **Cogswell, Dal Porto, Errington, Flynn, Higgins, Hitchcock, Jarrett, Lowe, Margolin, Michaels-Russell, Nagle, Nations-Palmer, Peel, Persson, Schroeter, Teys, Tobin, and Weitzel.**

If we've neglected to include your name, we apologize for the oversight. Please let Rebecca know so that we can correct our records and thank you properly.

Eggstravaganza and Underwater Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7

Our annual Eggstravaganza begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes a pancake breakfast, egg hunt, and jump houses. The entrance fee is \$5 per person. The Underwater Egg Hunt begins at 11:30 a.m. There's a \$6 per person entrance fee. Call 341-4251 for more information.

Kids Nite Out
Fri. 4/13/12 6-10 p.m.
\$25/child with \$5 sibling discount

Take advantage of an evening out while your kids have a fun-filled night at the Rec. Pizza dinner and movie will be provided.

Spring Camp 2012 (April 2-9)
K-8th Grades, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Daily fee: \$60/65
Field Trip Day Rate: \$70/75
Weekly Rate: \$255/260

Have you enrolled your children in Spring Camp yet? Send them to the Rec. for a week of WOW! Our Spring Camp will be filled with engaging activities and a memorable field trip to keep your child entertained all week long.

Weekly themes include Artful Antics, Treasure Hunters, Imaginarium, Adventureland, and Hawaiian Luau. Our field trip will be to Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on April 5.

Summer Fun Zone Registration
Weekly fee: \$255/260
(Weeks 1, 2, 4 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10)
Week 3 fee: \$210/215
Drop In: \$65/70
(M, T, W, F only)

Registration for summer camp began March 5. It's only 10 weeks, so act fast, because spaces are filling!

Highlands CERT Updates

facebook.com/highlandscert
Twitter.com/highlandscert

Check out Highlands CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) on Facebook and Twitter for live updates, news, and upcoming class times, including continuing education opportunities.

Pre-Engineering with LEGOs
Tues. 4/17-6/5 4-5:30 p.m.
\$200/205 Gym

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Beginning Tap & Ballet
W 3/28-6/1 1:30-2:15 p.m. \$75/80
Gym

This class is for your young dancer with little or no dance experi-

► **Rec Programs:** to page 10



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Network News

by Barbra Cohn



The year rolls on, and it is time for a spring potluck. This time we will be using the new multipurpose room at the Recreation Center. That way we don't have to pray for nice weather (especially considering our need for rain), and there is plenty of room for all. As usual, bring what you want, knowing that somehow there always seems to be plenty for all. The date is Thursday, April 19, at noon. Do plan to come. It's a ball!

Now that the Senior Net has been in operation for a few years, it seems time to start formalizing it, and so we have proposed to the Rec Board that we might join forces so that we can provide better services for more people. Of course all this takes time, so everyone can provide input about just what those services (aside from social) should be. Ideas anyone? We are forming a committee to research what might be useful. If you'd like to be included, now is the time to call Cliff at 349-5290.

Highlands Book Club

by Jo Nassutti



We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. Our new location is in Multi-purpose Room B in the new child care center, south of the main Rec Center building. Visitors are always welcome.

Our book for April 3 is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The *New York Times* said, "Skloot narrates the science lucidly, tracks the racial politics of medicine thoughtfully, and tells the Lacks family's often painful history with grace... Made my hair stand on end." Henrietta's blood cells, taken without her knowledge in 1951, became an important tool for medicine.

On May 1 we will discuss *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. The narrator of this story is the family dog named Enzo who is near the end of his life. He tells of the trials and tribulations of his family with patience and sympathy.

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

Join the HCA with PayPal

Did you know that you can pay your \$30 HCA dues by going to our website, <http://highlandscommunity.org/> and clicking on ONLINE PAYMENTS? It's quick and easy!



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Scams That Target The Elderly

By Alma Zamora, Lieutenant



Senior citizens are often the targets of financial scam crimes and fraud. Among the reasons: Some older people have built substantial assets (including their own home and large savings accounts); they're easy to find at home, and they can be swayed by fears of losing their financial independence. Over the past few years, San Mateo County has experienced an increase in financial scams. The most common scams that have victimized some San Mateo County residents include:

• **“You’re a Sweepstakes Winner!” Scam** - Victim gets a call or letter saying they have just won a big “prize” but must first send money for “taxes” before getting

their prize. Victim receives a telephone call requesting verification of either credit card number or social security number. This information is then used for fraudulent purposes.

• **“You hit my car in the parking lot!” Scam** – Crooks smear victim’s parked car with tar while victim is shopping. When victim returns and drives off, crooks follow, and accuse victim of Hit & Run, pointing to the tar as evidence of “damage.” Crooks demand cash to keep from calling the police.

• **Magazine Solicitors Scam:** “Magazine Solicitors” come to victim’s home. One asks to use the restroom while the other solicitor distracts the victim and burglarizes the home.

Please be aware of these scams and remember to call the Sheriff at 650-363 -4911 to report a crime or any suspicious activity.

► **4th of July:** from page 1

visit the 4th of July page on the HCA site (<http://www.highland-community.org>) to sign up to volunteer. About 200 people are needed to make the 4th of July celebration a success, which means we need volunteers from many, many Highlands households. We particularly encourage new Highlands residents to get involved. Becoming part of the 4th of July team is one of the fastest ways to truly become a part of the Highlands community.

Want to join the leadership team--they’re looking for co-chairs for each of the main jobs--or just ask them a question? Email highlands4th@gmail.com to contact them.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

What's New at College of San Mateo?

by Valerie Anderson, President's Office Coordinator

CSM'S Summer Schedule Is Now Available

CSM is offering a full range of courses this summer, including six-seven- and eight-week sessions. You can view the summer 2012 Schedule of Classes online at collegeofsanmateo.edu/schedule/. As a resident of San Mateo, you will also be receiving a copy of the schedule delivered to your mailbox in mid-March.

To begin the process, go to collegeofsanmateo.edu/admissions to submit your application. Once you are admitted, you will be given a date for registration. General registration begins on April 30; summer classes begin on June 18.

Free Presentation of Art & Science

On Friday April 20, at 7:30 p.m., CSM Professor Mohsen Janatpour will present a free lecture and art exhibition, "Do we need art?" in CSM's Theatre. Professor Janatpour will explore the question, "Is the core of art a historical accident or a pre-historical necessity?" A reception will follow the presentation.

Telescopes will be set up in the courtyard for viewing the night sky, weather permitting. Visitors may park in Beethoven Parking Lot 2, closest to the event. For more information visit mohsensart.com. This event is sponsored by the Associated Students of CSM and the Math/Science Division of CSM; it is open to the public.

Study Abroad Destination for Fall 2012: Barcelona, Spain

In fall 2012, CSM's Study Abroad program will offer the Semester in Barcelona, which will run from September 8 through December 7. The priority registration date is April 13. For more infor-

mation, go to collegeofsanmateo.edu/studyabroad/barcelona2012.asp.

Bulldog Baseball Is Underway

CSM's baseball season is in full-swing, and the bulldogs are off to a strong start! Spend an afternoon watching bulldog baseball in CSM's newly renovated baseball facility. The games are open to the public. For the schedule of home games, see collegeofsanmateo.edu/baseball/schedule/

Nextdoor News

by Gordon Strause

More than 250 people have now joined the Highlands new Nextdoor website to connect with their neighbors. Activity has included recommendations of local services (everything from painters to dentists to baby sitters to window repairmen), give-away offers (strollers, iPhones, clothes, and more), plans to organize the burying of local electric lines, tales of life in the Highlands in the 50s and 60s, and discussions of potential neighborhood crime threats from molotov cocktails to rogue door-to-door salad salesmen (no joke!).

To join the conversation, contact me, (gordonst@yahoo.com) to ask for an invitation or go to <http://thehighlands.nextdoor.com>.

►Sewer Projects: from page 1

agreement with the City of San Mateo, the Town of Hillsborough, San Mateo County, and the CSCSD, none of these options are quick or easy to implement, but discussions are underway. By way of comparison with other unincorporated areas, the Fair Oaks District (which is much larger than ours) pays \$470/year, while Burlingame Hills (about one-third our size) is paying \$1,500/year. Most of the other unincorporated residential districts pay between \$800-\$1,100/year.

There is yet another looming issue that the Highlands will need to address over time--our sewer laterals (the sewer lines from our houses to the sewer mains). These are not included in the projects discussed above. Their repair, from the home to the sewer main, is the responsibility of the homeowner. Many of them are old and in disrepair, and can allow rainwater into the sewer system. Also, roof downspouts should never be connected to sewer pipes. This can cause wet weather sewage overflows and run the risk of incurring heavy fines. Our district may be at risk until these inflows into the system are reduced by replacement of many of these leaky laterals. However, the scheduled urgent point repairs, along with the other projects, should help reduce the chances of wet weather sewage overflows.

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

CRYSTAL SPRINGS UMC ACTIVITIES

by Steve Schlichter

Lenten Schedule

March 25 at 10 a.m. "Bring a Friend Sunday." The sermon will be given through drama. There'll be good music.

April 1 at 10 a.m. - Palm Sunday - Traditional service assisted by the kids.

April 5 at 6:30 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Seder dinner

April 6 - Good Friday - Sanctuary open for reflection Noon-9 p.m.

April 8 at 10 a.m. - The Easter Story celebrated in music, drama, puppets and sermon.

Vacation Bible School: Our VBS will be held this summer from June 18- 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the church. Dinner will be served and kids of all ages are invited. There will be singing, games, and other activities for the kids. All are welcome. Call 650-345-2381 for more information.

Caretaker Support Group: If you are currently caring for an aging parent, spouse or anyone, or have in the past, this is a good group to help you cope with the stresses involved. Highlander Dianne Weitzel was instrumental in starting this group. It meets from 5 to 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month. in our Fireside Room.

Crystal Springs Players: The Crystal Springs Players have come to a crossroads. We have had an increasingly hard time trying to put together the actors and backstage workers to put on a major play. Unfortunately, we've had attrition in our ranks from people moving, having families, deaths, and just plain getting old, and we've been unable to find a cast for what was to be our spring production of *The Best Man*. We have reluctantly canceled the show, and future shows are in doubt. We will now concentrate on Chancel Dramas for our services until we ascertain what our future will be.

Highlands Rec Courses: Check the newest edition of the Highlands Rec summer course catalog for two offered by the church. Our Pastor, Hee-Soon Kwon, will be offering a course on meditation probably in June and August.

The Crystal Springs Players will offer two courses on drama for kids who have completed 1st- 5th grades. Each course lasts for four weeks. The first starts in late June and the second in late July. Each course culminates with the presentation of a short play for the public.

Other Activities: Ongoing Meditation Sessions - Every Monday night in the Sanctuary at 7-8 p.m.



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Highlands lowdown

Editor and Business Manager

Dorothy Greene

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Neither the lowdown nor the HCA is responsible for the accuracy of any information in the display or want ads. Readers are encouraged to check that licenses are current and to get references.

Subscriptions for non-residents of the Highlands are \$25 per year.

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS

Highlands School News

by Mary Tsao

: A Message from Highlands School Principal Majka.

On Saturday February 25, 2012, more than 150 educators, parents, teachers, and community members gathered in the Abbott Middle School gymnasium to discuss our wishes for the students of the San Mateo-Foster City School District, as a kick-off for our upcoming district Strategic Plan. We were greeted by the Borel Middle School Jazz Band, which set an "upbeat tone" for the day. The gym was decorated with paper cut outs of students, one from each school, and each principal shared their wish/vision for their students.

The Highlands' staff and site council all provided input. Our "student" taken from a lacrosse player drawn by Matthew Phua was donned with the words, "We envision Highlands students being well rounded individuals academically, socially, and emotionally. Each stu-

dent is a flower with layers of petals making him/her complex, unique and ready to blossom. We want students to live out loud and be running the school by 5th grade."

Academically, students will:

- Be problem solvers and critical thinkers - Think outside the box!
- Be challenged
- Be engaged and involved
- Be curious
- Work on projects
- Have "being there" experiences
- Obtain skills that will give them choices and opportunities in life to follow their hearts
- Reach academic success

Socially, students will:

- Work in groups
- Create a safe and caring environment for each other and themselves
- Give back to the community
- Treat each other with respect and friendship

Emotionally, students will:

- Be confident
- Be inspired
- Build independence

- Be creative
- Live the LIFESKILLS for themselves
- Be happy, smiling, laughing, and joyful
- Want to be at school
- Live their dreams!"

We spent the morning discussing what we feel the future will hold for our children. We reflected on inspirational quotes; discussed aspects of Tony Wagner's book, *The Global Achievement Gap*, and watched an interesting video, *Ken Robinson: Changing Education Paradigms*. The morning ended with each participant writing a letter to a future student and our wishes for him/her. Highlands was well represented. Thank you to Jeff Gilbert, Murrah McCoy, and Janet Koe for attending.

Upcoming Highlands School Calendar Dates

**.March 30 Minimum Day
April 2 - 9 Spring Break
(School resumes
Tuesday, April 10.)**



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COMMUNITY NEWS

►**Rec Programs:** from page 4
ence. We will work on basic tap skills and ballet technique all while having fun. Please have your dancers wear clothes they can dance in. Tap shoes are required, while ballet shoes are highly recommended. We will be working on a dance that we will perform at the end of the session. If your child would like to be part of the performance, please bring \$35 to cover the cost of the costume to the first class. (Checks should be made payable to Amy Floro.) Date/Time/ Location of performance TBD. Friends and family are always welcome to watch. Ages 4-7. No Class: 4/4.

FUNDamental Hoops

Sat. 4/14-6/9 9:15 a.m.-1:10 p.m.

Highlands Rec Gym

Ages	Times	Price
4	9:15-9:40 a.m.	\$75/80
5 & 6	9:45-10:10 a.m.	\$75/80
7 & 8	10:15-11:10 a.m.	\$105/110
9 & 10	11:15 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	\$105/110
11 & 12	12:15-1:10 p.m.	\$105/110

FUNDamental HOOPS is an instructional basketball class for boys and girls. It emphasizes proper basketball technique through FUN drills and games to establish good basketball-playing habits. Your children will learn the FUNDamentals of basketball in a supportive, relaxed environment and work on shooting, dribbling, and footwork basics with Coach Tony Ciardella and Coach Mike Ciardella.

We group the children by age and gender to best serve their developmental needs. Coach Tony and Coach Mike have more than 40 years of coaching experience between them and want to share their love of the game with your children. All participants will receive a t-shirt and a basketball.

No Class: 4/28, 5/26

Join Us for Highlands Walk A Jog 2012

by Dennis Shiao



On Sunday, May 6, Highlands Elementary School will host Walk A Jog 2012, along with a companion 5K road race. Under the theme "Kids keep our school running!," students will walk and jog on the school grounds to raise funds for the school and the Highlands PTA. Walk A Jog is a fabulous community event that's open to one and all. Whether or not you have kids in Highlands Elementary, join us to cheer on our kids, grab a bite to eat, or play some fun and exciting games.

Schedule of Activities

- 9 a.m.** 5K Warm-up for adults, middle, and high school students.
- 9:30 a.m.** 5K Race begins.
- 10 a.m.** Walk A Jog festival opens.
- 11 a.m.-Noon** Walk A Jog for grades K through 2.
- 1- 2 p.m.** Walk A Jog for grades 3 through 5.
- 3 p.m.** Event ends.

If you're interested in running the 5K or volunteering to help with the event, please contact Jewel Drexler (jdrexler@hornblower.com) or Christine Tam (ctamsm@gmail.com). We hope to see you on May 6th .



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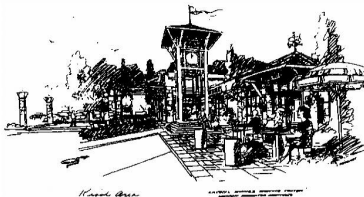
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Crystal Springs Chiropractic, Dr. Jordan Savara	574-1456	Neal's Coffee Shop (Coming Soon)	692-4281
Crystal Cleaning Center	342-6978	Rainbow Pizza (Home Delivery)	571-1848
Crystal Springs Fish & Poultry	212-7921	Realty World, Martinelli Properties	578-1300
Crystal Springs Pet Hospital	341-3438	Renew Laser Clinic, Dr. Adele Makow, Laser Skin Care	341-3600
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A VIEW FROM THE HIGHLANDS

Choosing Where to Live, Plus Saving Vinyl Records

by Florence Beier

Bend, Oregon, where our daughter and family have lived for over 25 years, is often named the best place in the U.S. to live. We visited them there last week and agree that it is very attractive. However, for us Bend is the best place to visit and the Highlands is the best place to live. The biggest plus for Bend is that we can be with our daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters there. But the granddaughters are grown up and rarely in Bend. The Cascades, wonderful mountains to look at and enjoy both summer and winter are not nicer than the Sierras, but they are a lot closer. The sky is blue and the air is crisp in Bend, but the roads are often icy in winter and the air can be smoky in forest fire season. The growing season for flowers and vegetables is from June 15 to September 15.

What would we miss if we moved to Bend? First of all our unique neighborhood, with its diversity and cohesiveness. When

we visit friends or relatives in other parts of the country, they are amazed at the support network we have here. We'd miss the Rec Center, especially the pool, within walking distance from our house. We'd miss the Senior Network and the new Nextdoor Highlands online communication, and our July Fourth celebration!

The Bay and the ocean are extremely important to us. It's only 20 minutes to the beach, where I can stroll on the sand and watch the waves. For me that's a spiritual experience. Buying a fresh crab right off the boat from the fisherman is a special treat. Or in ten minutes I can walk along the Bay, entertained by shore birds. Stanford, where both Rolf and I graduated, beckons with lectures and campus tours. Life without the San Francisco Symphony would be dreary. That's enough about that!

Different topic: In an effort to clean out unused objects around

the house, we sorted through our collection of vinyl records. We've been on the CD/DVD track for a long time and only use audio tapes in the car. When we bought a Bose CD player, we eliminated our broken turntable and the whole sound system that was wired throughout the house and even outdoors. Last month we took most of the records to the Vinyl Solution Records store on 25th Avenue in San Mateo.

Some they will try to sell, others give to the library to sell, and some must be recycled because no one wants them (sob!). We kept all our records of the original casts of Broadway shows, but realized we have no record player. Neighbor to the rescue – Ted McDonald said he had an old one from college days stored up over his atrium. So now we can play our 50 year-old records on a machine of the same vintage. The sound is just fine. What fun!