



Newsletter
January
2020

Love where you live

Belmont Heights Beautification Your Membership Dues at Work Belcrest Tahoe median and Upper Hallmark Beautification Projects Completed

BHCIA initiated and partnered with the City of Belmont on two beautification projects that were completed in 2019.

BHCIA worked with the City to create a “parklet” overlooking the open space near the end of Hallmark Drive, featuring a path with two benches oriented toward the beautiful bay views (above). Neighbors can take a rest and enjoy the gorgeous views!

In addition, the Belcrest Gardens median strip at Tahoe Drive and Ralston Ave was beautifully redone to match the Hallmark Drive median. BHCIA purchased four matching planters while Belmont’s Park and Recreation Department provided new trees, plants and hardscape for a clean, low maintenance look (*continued on back*).

Security Camera Update

In response to the rash of home break-ins in our neighborhood and after an exhaustive two-year process of gathering neighborhood input, BHCIA formally requested the City of Belmont work with us to install two cameras at the Hallmark Drive entrance. BHCIA met with Belmont’s new Police Chief Tony Psaila who outlined the City requirements to place the cameras on City light poles: 1) safety study for attaching the cameras to the poles, 2) metering of the electricity usage, and 3) privacy policy for video. We will provide updates as this project moves forward.

WILDFIRE: Are You Prepared?



Santa Rosa 2017 aerial photo shows open space unburned with homes burned to the ground.

Wildfire has devastated neighborhoods similar to Belmont Heights. At BHCIA’s November meeting, Belmont Fire Marshal Robert Marshall outlined wildfire risks to Belmont Heights and made specific recommendations to help residents prepare their homes for survival. He also reported:

- His recommendation that the barrier at the end of Hallmark be widened to accommodate fire-fighting equipment and to facilitate emergency evacuation.
- Belmont, like other cities, will be taking preventative measures on Red Flag Days (high wildfire risk days), which may include unlocking the barrier gate at the end of Hallmark. BHCIA is requesting that Belmont City Council adopt an ordinance with a stiff \$1,000 fine for anyone using the gate in a non-emergency.
- The Fire Department assessed Belmont Heights to be at “high risk” for wildfire in their own study-which is lower than the 2008 CALFire assessment of “very high risk.”



BHCIA Fire Marshal Q&A, Nov 2019

Tips from Belmont Fire Marshal to Make Your Home Fire Safe:

- Keep tree limbs and leaves away from roofs.
- Install FireSafe vents in attics to prevent embers from entering.

Additional details and tips to Be Fire Safe are available at BHCIA.org/news/wildfire.

The Fire Marshal offers complimentary home safety evaluations. 650.522.7940.

More Traffic on Ralston?



Belmont is pursuing a proposal to build a four-story, 77,000 square foot office building at the corner of Davis Drive and Ralston, which could bring in 300 employees. The parcel has always been zoned for a two-story or smaller building but the developer is seeking special exemptions to build a taller building. The Belmont City Council voted in February 2019 to begin the review process for this building, signaling their openness to this proposal. The property is visible from Belmont Heights next to Crystal Springs Upland School. The developer has offered to give 1/3 acre of adjoining property to Belmont for a new fire station. BHCIA will keep residents updated on this proposal.

BHCIA's New Guest Speaker Program

BHCIA has initiated a Guest Speaker program hosting City officials and community leaders to speak at our bimonthly Board meetings. This is a great way to stay informed and meet your neighbors. Past speakers include the Police Chief, City Council members, Fire Battalion Chief, and recently our Fire Marshal. Our January 15 speaker will be our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Milliken who will update us on our School District issues.

Beautification *(continued from front)*



Belcrest Median on Tahoe Drive

Special thanks to Barbara Posch and Lynn Olson for working with Belmont Parks Manager Daniel Ourtiague, on these projects to improve our property values!

BHCIA depends on your membership dues to work on projects that benefit the entire Belmont Heights community. Please renew your membership by check using the enclosed membership form or online at BHCIA.ORG. Thank YOU for your continued support!

This newsletter is published by the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association, Inc.

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