

December 22, 2023

Dear Hills Members,

It's hard to remember, even hard to believe, but New Year's day of this 2023 year began with a monsoon. We were pummeled by storm after storm (even light snow in February!), throughout the Bay Area, as well as many other parts of the state, flooding an unfortunate and extreme amount of homes and businesses. We were fortunate to not experience any drastic flooding or fallen trees here and for that I am forever grateful, but our sister club, Avila Bay Athletic Club, was under feet of water for multiple days. Thankfully, their resilience shined through all of the rain, as did ours at The Hills. It's worth noting that part of the reason we were so fortunate had to do with the preparedness of the club by our staff. We had sandbags in place in necessary areas, drains and gutters cleared, and miraculously did not have to close due to any of last year's winter storms.

I want to address something unfortunate that happened last week. Three vehicles parked in our upper parking lot were broken into. A few break-ins happened earlier this year as well. In an effort to deter crime, we have a pair of video surveillance cameras in both the upper and lower lots and we plan to install an additional camera in the upper lot early in 2024. We are exploring other options of how to prevent these incidents from continuing. For now, I cannot stress it enough, please make sure you do not leave ANY items exposed in your vehicles. From what I've been told by law enforcement, many "smash and grab" thieves now possess and are using technology that lets them know if there are any devices such as cell phones or laptops in vehicles, even if those items are hidden or locked in a trunk. We have been in contact with Oakland police about the break-ins, but unfortunately this issue is out of control in Oakland and other parts of the Bay Area. Lastly, if anyone witnesses this type of incident, the most important thing is the safety of our members. **Do not put yourself or others in harm's way trying to prevent a theft from happening. IT IS NOT WORTH IT. This is echoed by law enforcement.**

This past October we executed the installation of our new, gas-efficient Lap Pool heater. Thus far, the feedback from members has been overwhelmingly positive on not only the set temperature of the pool, but the efficiency to keep the temperature consistent throughout. We ended up installing new heaters for the Family Pool, Family Hot Tub and Adult Hot Tub as well in 2023. Needless to say, we should have plenty of warm water to enjoy throughout 2024 and beyond.



Other 2023 improvements to the club included tennis court resurfacing for both Manzanita and Diablo tennis courts. We also refinished the clubhouse floor where a majority of the group fitness classes are held. We've had the good fortune of hiring an "on staff" landscaper (shout out to Mat Borawski!!!) who has really transformed the beautiful scenery around the club. The hiring of Mike Walker as our new Maintenance Manager has been nothing short of a perfect fit. Chef Andrea Scott returned to The Hills and the cafe menu expanded throughout the summer and beyond. Our cafe is currently offering Friday and Saturday pre-ordered dinners for either dine-in or pick up so please give Chef Andrea's menu items a try while they last. You will not regret it—and you'll get a night off from cooking 😊.

Beginning January 1st, dues for Family memberships will be \$360 per month and Single memberships will be \$220 per month. The rise in dues reflects the increase in operational costs. Members still have the option to prepay club dues for the year in the month of January and receive a 3% discount. And members 65 years old and above are eligible for a senior discount of 15% off monthly dues. Please note that in order to receive this discount, you must submit proof of age (ie. driver's license or passport). If you would like to change anything regarding your account for 2024, please contact Accounting Manager, Stefani McDermott (hillsaccounting@caclubs.com). **She will not be sending out the 2024 club due payment options form as she has done in the past**, so please email her with any billing changes (ie. switching from monthly to annual or vice versa) or if you have a question about how your account is set to bill in 2024 (EFT, ACH or manual bill pay by the end of each month). If Stefani doesn't hear from you by Friday, December 29, your billing will remain as is for the January billing cycle.

Your dues help support a number of projects we have planned around the club including:

- Group Fitness "Clubhouse" remodel
- Locker room enhancements
- Additional fitness equipment

- Parking lot improvements
- Café improvements
- Aquatics equipment

A lot to look forward to as we head into the new year! The spirit of the club continues to be the people that make it such a warm and friendly community. The heartbeat of the club continues to be the phenomenal staff I have the privilege to be a part of. The views, the ambiance, the natural authenticity of the club is all icing on the cake. I'm so very grateful to be here and I hope you are too! The Hills is a club unlike any other in the world.



Here's to a safe, healthy, happy, and FUN 2024!

-Nick

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