

HILLSBOROUGH

WINTER 2005



The courtly and impeccably dressed Mario Bona lived by the rules and came to symbolize the Burlingame Club.

Italian Immigrant Established Tone of Burlingame Club



Bona's wife, the former Juliette Bichon, and daughter Laurette, on the lawn of the family home at 701 Walnut Avenue in Burlingame.

By Michael Svanevik & Shirley Burgett

That an Italian boy, son of an Old World farmer, who finished formal schooling at the age of 12 and came to America in 1906 aboard an immigrant ship, would rise to a position of extraordinary influence in the Burlingame Country Club is by itself a story.

Mario Bona possessed brains, charm and, in modern parlance, would be described as "borderline cool." He began life in America as a waiter at the Ritz Hotel in New York. But drawn by the romance of the West, Bona found his way to San Francisco and was employed as a valet for George Pope, son of the millionaire lumber tycoon.

Impressed by Bona's imperturbable and impeccable continental suave, Pope offered him a position as assistant manager of the Burlingame Country Club, then occupying its fourth club house, located on Floribunda Avenue between Pepper and Sharon avenues in Hillsborough. Bona accepted, and a few years later, in 1917, he was elevated to manager.

Until the 1950s, Bona set the demeanor of the Club and maintained the rules from which he never deviated. Even during the era of National Prohibition in the 1920s, when a few of the "old rich boys" wanted to engage in illegal wine sales, Bona steadfastly refused to allow them to create "a speakeasy atmosphere" at the Burlingame Club. And his edict prevailed.

Never personally opposed to drinking and well known for his educated palate, upon repeal of the despised law in 1933, Bona eagerly built the Club's wine cellar, soon the envy of every country club in the nation.

Throughout his tenure, Bona spoke English with a refined Italian accent and was celebrated for his unique managerial style. He was genuinely conservative and always eminently discrete. While friendly with members, most who regarded him as something of a

Renaissance man, he never allowed himself the luxury of chatting or drinking with them even when invited. Those wishing to speak with the manager found him behind a huge oak counter adjacent to the Club's massive front door. Though omnipresent, his was an invisible presence. He never fraternized and steadfastly refused to be photographed with members.

Bona coordinated a staff that, over the years, varied between 50 and 60, including gardeners. He supervised a cavernous basement kitchen where his chefs became renowned for gourmet meals.

On the Club's second floor, Bona ran a hotel operation with 20 overnight rooms available to members and guests.

Preparations for Club parties went on for days prior to the events; with uniformity, Bona was the very last to leave. When revelers were in no shape to navigate Hillsborough's narrow lanes, he arranged to have them driven. Seldom were his decisions disputed.

Under Bona's leadership, the Club catered some of the grandest private parties in the history of the Peninsula. Whether working for the Bourn or Roth families at the Filoli estate or for Harriett Carolan at the Carolands, Bona supervised with relish.

The manager became a legend. Always respected by members, he was especially revered by youthful delivery boys and Hillsborough policemen who were never allowed to leave the premises with empty stomachs. With his wife and one daughter, Bona lived at 701 Walnut Avenue in Burlingame. There, a five-room cottage was built especially for him by the Club.

Upon his retirement in 1954, after more than 40 years of overall service, officers of the organization made it possible for him to purchase the house for a munificent \$1,000.

Bona died in 1968 at the age of 90.

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CALENDAR

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
2nd Monday
6 p.m. - Town Hall

◆
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Study Sessions are held as needed at Town Hall.

◆
ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MEETING
1st and 3rd Monday
4 p.m. - Town Hall

◆
DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONERS
Mayor Tom Kasten, Ex officio Commissioner
John Fannon, Community Services
D. Paul Regan, Administration
Vice Mayor Catherine U. Mullooly, Fire Department
Mayor Thomas M. Kasten, Police Department

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
John Fannon, Commissioner
Richard C. Reisman, Chairman
Walter Heyman, Jennifer Werbe,
George Jewett, Kathleen Benoit

COMMITTEES

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
D. Paul Regan, Commissioner
Jess "Jay" Benton, Chairman
J. Lawrence Onderdonk, John Lockton, Al Clark,
Al Royse, Josh Cooperman, Larree Renda

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Catherine U. Mullooly, Commissioner
Diana Witzel, Chairwoman
Candace Lyche,
Janet MacGregor, BeBe Trinkner

◆
HILLSBOROUGH RECREATION
342-5439
D. Paul Regan, Commissioner
Christine Krolik, Commissioner

HILLSBOROUGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Marilyn Loushin Miller, Superintendent: 342-5193

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Business: 375-7470
Emergency: 911
Alarm Specialists: 375-7472

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Business: 375-7422
Emergency: 911

NUMBERS

TOWN HALL
Administration: (650) 375-7400
Website: www.hillsborough.net

Town Hall Hours:
Mon. – Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Emergency after hours and weekends: 375-7470

◆
City Council: 375-7400
Finance Department: 375-7400
Water (service and billing):
Mon. – Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 375-7402
Building, Planning, and City Engineer: 375-7444

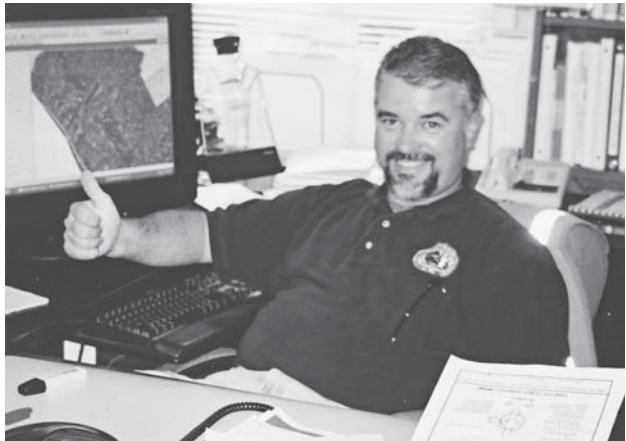
CITY MANAGER
Anthony Constantouros: 375-7400

Comcast
Customer Service: 1-800-945-2288

PG&E (24 hrs.)
Outage Information: 1-800-743-5002
Customer Service: 1-800-743-5000

BFI
Main Number: (650) 592-2411,
Hazardous Material: (650) 363-4718





Assistant City Engineer Dave Bishop gives a “thumbs-up” to the Town’s new Geographic Information System.

HIGH-TECH MAP SYSTEM A BOON

Assistant City Engineer Dave Bishop recently demonstrated the Town’s hi-tech map system. Paid for with grant money, the new Geographic Information System (GIS) is becoming an ever-increasingly integral part of the Town’s tool box.

Here’s how it works. Public Works receives a call about a broken water main. Without the new system, crews had to pull out a large book of maps, thumb through the pages and locate information. Now they can quickly type in an address and immediately receive a picture of the affected area, see the main and instantly know the location of the valves that need to be shut off.

Given the links to related information the GIS can store, public works crews can determine what kind of pipe they are dealing with, when recent repairs were made and other pertinent information. Just recently,

crews dug up a pipe, photographed the problem, repaired it and photographed the patch, then re-buried the pipe. That photograph became part of the record for that pipe and can be viewed by several clicks of a computer mouse.

At the Town’s Public Works Department, Bishop pointed to a closet full of bulky stacks of engineering maps and file drawers filled with flat maps, all of which will eventually be copied into the system. The map retrieval portion of the system will save hours of time now spent searching for the correct documents.

The GIS begins with a basic map of Hillsborough that shows property parcels, streets and property lines. The system contains information from the county assessor’s office that provides street addresses, the owner’s name and the owner’s address if different from the property address. From there the system is built up with overlays that show details like topography and contours, the water system, the sewer and storm drain systems, which in turn show inlets, outlets, sizes and locations of pipes, and manhole elevations.

The information is used every day in Public Works. Additionally, the system can be used by the Police Department when they receive a call regarding a hazardous situation. Emergency personnel can pinpoint the location of the problem and can take immediate action.

The speed of updating is one of the strongest advantages of the GIS, Bishop said. The Town is hooked into the County which constantly updates their information, and in-house changes can be made immediately instead of relying on different public works crews to pencil in changes on their individual sets of maps.

“The amount of up-to-date information that can be accessed regarding any one pipe or property is astounding,” Bishop said. “The new tool is now in service, is being expanded all the time and will change as the future changes. It’s really endless what we can do,” Bishop said.

CITY ADOPTS A NEW CHAPTER ON HOME DESIGN

“It’s difficult to legislate quality,” states Richard Reisman, chairman of Hillsborough’s Architecture and Design Review Board (ADRB). Yet that is what he and his committee, and many committees before them, have tried to do – using an archaic document with redundancies, contradictions and confusing detail.

The task has now become easier. City Council recently approved the Town’s new “Residential Design Guidelines,” a project that has been in the works for more than a year. Triggered by the frustration of officials who had little precise information to back up their rulings, the document is the culmination of work by the ADRB, City Council, the public and Planning Department.

The Guidelines are an invaluable tool for anyone who is building a house, remodeling a home or is in any way concerned about the development philosophy of Hillsborough.

The document is not a book of rules. It is what it calls itself – “Guidelines.” It is an effort by those involved in the planning process to put on paper what the homes of Hillsborough are all about, what architecture is acceptable, what the ADRB is looking for, and what kinds of treatments and style raise red flags. “It is to provide design guidelines for private residential development undertaken in Town,” the booklet states.

The architecture of Hillsborough is really a “state

of mind,” Reisman said. “The Guidelines define our priorities, providing the philosophy behind the policy that we implement. They give more reason for why we implement the policy.”

“Individuality, craftsmanship and quality design have remained the hallmarks of Hillsborough homes,” the booklet states. “The Guidelines contained in this document are intended to assist in the manifestation of those community values.”

The goals of future development, as stated, are to reinforce Hillsborough’s image, facilitate contemporary life, encourage town-wide diversity and foster creativity.

The document covers basic principles of design, such as consistency of style; architectural styles; site planning; building mass in relation to the surrounding vicinity; materials and finishes; facades; roofs, windows and doors; accessories, such as antennae and solar panels; and landscape design. The final chapter spells out the steps in the design review process. The document is easy to read, has descriptive pictures and drawings, and contains entertaining quotes.

“I feel it’s a terrific document and will be valuable for anyone building or remodeling,” Reisman said.

“Residential Design Guidelines” is available on the Town’s Web site (www.hillsborough.net) or at Town Hall in the Planning Department.

NEW FINANCIAL INVESTMENT POLICY INCREASES RETURNS

Hillsborough City Council recently adopted a new investment policy that the Town anticipates will result in increased revenues.

Because the Town’s investments have produced low yields of return during the past few years, Finance Director Edna Masbad and the Town’s Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) reviewed the investment policy last fall and presented a revised plan to Council that could increase returns by as much as 30 percent. The Town’s fund balances totaled \$22.6 million as of June 30, 2004.

To date, Hillsborough’s funds have been invested in a local agency pool (Local Agency Investment Fund, or LAIF). “That was producing modest returns and we felt we could do better,” said Al Clark, who along with Al Royse forms the Investment Policy Task Force for the FAC.

The Task Force looked at investment strategies that meet the Town’s guidelines of safety, liquidity and appropriate return on investment. As a result, the FAC recommended to Council that the Town expand its investment policy from the low-yield, virtually risk-free agency pool to a more diversified range of low-risk investments including US Treasuries, certificates of deposit, commercial paper and money market and

mutual funds, with varying maturity dates up to a maximum of five years. Council unanimously approved the recommendations.

One of the responsibilities of the Town’s FAC is to make recommendations to the City Council regarding financial matters, including the investment policy. A more diligent review was instigated this year because Hillsborough, like all other communities, is being forced to revise its financial situation as a result of the State and local budget crises, and because of the low LAIF returns. The updated policy defines more clearly how much, how long and in what investment vehicles the Town can invest.

“While the new investment strategy remains conservative with safety of principal and liquidity paramount, it will result in an increased annual rate of return,” Clark said.

The FAC oversees the investment policy for all funds under the direct authority of the Town of Hillsborough, excluding employee retirement funds and the reserve requirements of certain debt issues. The funds include the general fund, special revenue funds, capital project funds, enterprise funds and the internal service funds.

Members of the FAC, in addition to Clark and Royse, are Chairman Jess “Jay” Benton, J. Lawrence Onderdonk, John Lockton, Josh Cooperman, and Larree Renda.

I WILL . . .



Promising to uphold the laws of the land and serve their community are new Mayor Tom Kasten and Vice Mayor Catherine Mullooly, sworn in December 13 by State Senator Jackie Speier.

ONLY ONE ROADBLOCK TO TRAFFIC LIGHT IMPROVEMENT

The stoplight at the Floribunda Avenue/El Camino Real intersection is about to change. After years of listening to the screech of tires, witnessing dozens of accidents and hundreds of near-misses, Hillsborough’s officials are nearing a solution. Money – a \$35,873 price tag – is the current roadblock. While Burlingame and Hillsborough are giving the project a green light, they are waiting for the signal from CalTrans to proceed because El Camino, or State Highway 82, is under CalTrans’ jurisdiction.

Improvements to the intersection, designed to reduce collisions from drivers making hasty left-hand-turns and running red lights, include cosmetic changes and a left-turn arrow for cars traveling northbound on El Camino to westbound on Floribunda. Plans are to make the stoplights more visible by adding black plates as a background to the lights and increasing the size of the lenses. The visibility of the lights from a distance would also be programmed so that cars will be forced to slow down to determine the color, a method proven effective in reducing red-light running. The intersection would also be repainted and re-stripped to clearly mark the turn-lanes.

Costs would be divided between Hillsborough (one-fourth), Burlingame (one-fourth) and CalTrans (one-half).

Suggestions for improvements came from an engineering study paid for by a multi-jurisdictional state traffic grant. The application was prepared jointly. The study was conducted over a period of months in mid-2004.

The grant request was based on 10 years of historical data showing a disproportionate number of accidents at this particular intersection. A camera placed in a tree by the Hillsborough Police Department for the entire past year showed that accidents are caused almost equally by cars making left-hand turns from El Camino onto Floribunda without yielding the right-of-way to cars traveling southbound on El Camino, and from drivers running red lights.

“The whole survey has shown that the accidents are due to motorists’ impatience and not observing defensive driving rules,” Hillsborough Police Chief Matt O’Connor said.

The HPD and City Council have been searching for solutions to the danger for several years.

Chief O’Connor said he would eventually like to install a “red light runner” camera that would take pictures of cars violating red light signals – a more expensive proposition, costing close to \$250,000.

TOWN'S FINANCIAL PICTURE MIXED

Hillsborough Financial Director Edna Masbad's latest report on the Town's finances contains a mixture of unexpected good news and anticipated negative factors.

Revenues from property taxes are up 12 percent – or \$1 million – over last year, according to the fall quarterly report. (Due to coinciding deadlines for the Town's quarterly financial reports and the Town's quarterly newsletter, financial information in this publication is delayed by a quarter).

The increase will help close the gap between revenues and expenditures that is a result of increases in health insurance and employee retirement costs. There was also a healthy increase in the overall fund balance for the past fiscal year which Masbad attributes to efficient planning

on the part of the City Council and the Financial Advisory Committee and staff.

On the other side of the coin, expenditures are up slightly, and anticipated revenue from construction permits and business licenses is down more than 20 percent.

While water operations were on target during the past fiscal year, requiring no raise in water rates, sewer operations call for a five percent increase to maintain debt service coverage required by the bond covenants.

Masbad and the FAC warn that the financial picture remains challenging for the future. Retirement costs are projected to triple this year – up by approximately \$1million over last year. Health insurance costs, originally budgeted to increase by 10 percent, are increasing by 20 percent instead.

FLOOD ZONE HOMES TAKE NOTE

There are approximately 66 homes in Hillsborough that are subject to updated FEMA flood requirements. Owners of those properties need to be aware that remodeling more than 50 percent of the value of the home triggers all the new FEMA codes. It is best to be aware of the requirements before any plans are prepared, advises Chief Building Official John Milke. "If people have been living in their home a long time, they might not realize they are in a flood zone, and we don't want to surprise anyone," he said.

Flood zone homes are primarily in the San Mateo Creek area near El Cerrito Avenue. Flood zone homes are on the following streets, although not all homes on

the streets are in the flood zone: Baywood Avenue, Bridge Road, Creekwood Way, Crystal Springs Road, De Sabla Road, El Cerrito Avenue, Homs Court, Laureldale Road, Rockridge Road, Sierra Drive and Stonehedge Road.

If your house is in close proximity to the San Mateo Creek, you may be in the 100 year flood zone. There are many regulations related to construction in the flood zone. There is a list of addresses in the "standard conditions of approval." This list can be found at the Building Department and on the Town's Web site under Planning Department handouts. If you have any questions, call the Building Department and ask for the Flood Plain Administrator.

NO BARKING HERE – And other rules of the road for dog owners

Owning a dog in Hillsborough comes with its responsibilities, according to city code. And violation of city code comes with its citations and penalties.

Canine code is fairly uncomplicated. The rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Dogs must be licensed.
- Dogs on public property must be on a leash.
- Dogs are not allowed on private property other than that of the owner.
- Owners must not allow their dogs to bark habitually or otherwise disturb the peace.
- Owners must provide their dogs with

proper and adequate food, water, shelter, care and attention.

- Owners or dog walkers, when walking a dog, must carry a container suitable for the removal and disposal of dog feces. Those walking dogs must also clean up after their dogs immediately.

- Owners must prohibit their dogs from biting or physically injuring others.

- Dogs may not constitute a nuisance by reason of smell, noise, annoyance or endangerment of public health.

The complete code governing animals is in Chapter 6.28 of the city code, available on the Town's Web site, www.hillsborough.net.

TOWN BRIEFS

Blue Ribbon for Crocker

William H. Crocker School was recently handed a plaque and flag by United States Secretary of Education Rod Paige signifying Crocker's selection as a No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon School. Crocker is one of only 250 schools out of the nation's 100,000 public and private schools to receive the prestigious honor. Crocker was previously honored as a National Blue Ribbon School in 1983, 1989 and 1996.



Corporal Ronald Gilbert

Corporal Ronald Gilbert retires

Ron Gilbert, who has been with the Hillsborough Police Department since 1988, recently retired. He was hired as an officer and was promoted in 1993 to corporal, taking on the added responsibilities of acting watch commander and field training officer.

"His enthusiasm and dedication to his profession inspired others to strive for similar heights, and his positive outlook and easy smile contributed to the high morale of his coworkers and supervisors," said Police Captain Nick Gottuso.

Now that he is retired, he intends to spend more time riding his Ducati and Harley Davidson motorcycles and spending more time with his family.

Nelson Corteway promoted to corporal

Nelson Corteway was sworn in as HPD's newest patrol corporal on January 4, following the retirement of Corporal Ron Gilbert. He has assumed his new duties on the night shift where he will serve as acting watch commander, field training officer, SWAT team operator and crime scene investigator.

Nelson was hired as a rookie patrol officer nine years ago. He has served as the chemical weapons instructor, evidence technician/crime scene investigator, Alarm Services Bureau supervisor, hostage negotiator, SWAT team operator, police inspector, and acting watch commander. During his tenure as Inspector, Nelson earned a well-deserved reputation throughout the county as an excellent identity theft/credit card fraud detective, solving many cases in

Hillsborough as well as joint cases involving multiple jurisdictions. His expertise led to invitations to speak to citizen groups on how to avoid becoming a victim of this growing category of crime.

Corteway earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from University of the Pacific in 1996, followed by a masters of public administration from Notre Dame de Namur University in 2002. His wife Kelly is a teacher, and they have two children.



Corporal Nelson Corteway

Giving thanks

The eighth annual Town of Hillsborough Holiday Giving Tree was another success. This year ornaments offering a "Gift of Shelter for a Homeless Child" were displayed on the tree in Town Hall. In excess of \$1,300 was donated by employees and residents as an expression of holiday spirit to those less fortunate.

Reminder

Don't forget to use the Town's new Web site, www.hillsborough.net. It contains valuable information about the Town and its functions.

TOWN SETS TIME LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION

Hillsborough is setting time limits for home construction or remodeling projects.

The new rulings were prompted by building projects that have lingered for several years, prolonging by more than a reasonable time limit the noise, dust, debris and traffic that disrupts neighbors and passersby.

The ordinance, due to take effect this spring, sets construction time limits based on the valuation of the project and calls for penalties for noncompliance ranging from \$200 per day for projects more than a month behind to \$1,000 per day for projects more than four months behind.

Time limits (from issuance of a building permit) for new construction range from 9 months for a \$50,000 to \$500,000 project to 36 months for a project over \$6 million.

The proposed ordinance also requires that a qualified superintendent is on site during the construction process for all projects with a value in excess of \$750,000, and that prior to construction, the owner, contractor and architects (in some cases) meet with the Town's Chief Building Official and City Engineer to discuss concerns and compliance.

Based on similar and successful ordinances in Ross and Belvedere, Hillsborough's proposed ordinance sets slightly longer time limits and provides for an appeal process for delays beyond the property owner's control. Delays do not include

the winter rainy season, the use of custom and/or imported materials, numerous or late design changes or project financing.

Before a building permit is issued, the owner will be required to make a refundable construction completion deposit in the amount of two percent of the estimated value of the work or \$500, whichever is greater, as determined by the Chief Building Official.

With the specified time limits, Chief Building Official John Milke said he expects the ordinance to considerably reduce the aggravation experienced by residents located near a seemingly endless remodeling or building project. The time limits, he said, are ample to finish exterior construction and clear and clean the site.

One of the key components of the ordinance, according to Milke, is the requirement of an onsite qualified superintendent. "You need a coordinator," Milke said. "The jobs I've seen that have run successfully are managed well and have someone who is willing to work with people." For instance, a superintendent would be the first contact for a neighbor with a problem, Milke said, allowing better use of staff time. He added that most good contractors have an on-site superintendent.

The overall purpose of the ordinance, Milke said, is to allow people to evaluate a project and begin and end it with the least amount of difficulty for all concerned. "We want people to succeed," he said.



IN MEMORY JEAN AUER

One of Hillsborough's "great ladies" passed away January 8. Jean Auer, 68, died unexpectedly while on a cruise ship off the coast of South America. City Council paused for a moment of silence in her memory at their January 10 meeting.

Auer joined the City Council in 1985 as the Town's first woman councilmember and served until 2000. She was vice mayor from 1990 to 1992 and mayor from 1992 to 1994.

"It was a pleasure and honor to have served with her on City Council," said cur-

rent Vice Mayor Kitty Mullooly. "I truly admired Jean. She was intelligent, articulate, dedicated to the Town and staff of Hillsborough, and greatly appreciated for her ongoing commitment to this community."

Auer began her local civic volunteer work as a member of the Town's Financial Advisory Committee. While on Council, she served as commissioner for the police, fire, public works, and finance departments.

She was recognized and admired most for her battle for water conservation, on both the local and state levels. She was commissioner for the Hillsborough Water Conservation Advisory Committee. She served from 1972 to 1977 as a public member, and the first female member, of the California Water Resources Control Board. She was chair of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and was involved with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality board and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council of the EPA.

In 1991, she also was elected president of the San Francisco Commonwealth Club – and was the second female to hold the post.

Auer was predeceased by her husband Carl "Ty" Auer who died last year of kidney cancer. The Auers had three sons, Lance, Brad and Grant. They had lived in Hillsborough since 1973.

"Jean was a great lady and will be sorely missed," Mullooly said.

EXCELLENCE IN 2005

“There’s nothing more remarkable than seeing an individual change the world,” State Senator Jackie Speier said at a recent awards ceremony. She was referring to two special individuals who have enhanced the lives of hundreds of Hillsborough children and adults: Nettie Ramsay, 2005 Citizen of the Year, and Donna Hower, recipient of the 2005 Community Care Award. Both awards are presented annually by the Associated Parents’ Group of Hillsborough.

Both Nettie and Donna also received Jefferson Awards which honor “unsung heroes who perform extraordinary things without expectation of reward.”



Nettie Ramsay

Vinette “Nettie” Ramsay – For Nettie, volunteer work began with the simple serving of a hot lunch 17 years ago. As a young mother, she was assisting with the school’s hot lunch program. “One day, the pasta man called and said he couldn’t make the spaghetti that day,” Nettie said, “so we made it.” Hot lunch led to Con-cours BBQ, then Parent Group president, then to a list of volunteer positions.

Holding a Dr. P.H., R.D. in nutrition from UCLA, Nettie has lectured on food and proper eating habits to seventh grade science students for 11 years.

“Nettie is known for her enthusiasm, energy, caring, generous spirit and devotion to others. She is always there to help and encourage others, both as a leader and behind the scenes,” reads the proclamation presented to her by Senator Speier.

In addressing the group gathered for the November ceremony, Nettie explained that working with volunteers created life-long friendships and thanked the school district for the “gift of family.”

Nettie grew up in Mill Valley, attended San Domenico High School, UC Berkeley and UCLA. Her career in dietetics and nutrition grew from clinical program coordinator in Southern California to a private practice in nutrition counseling in the Bay Area. Nettie and her

husband, Dr. Beatty “Chip” Ramsay, Jr., have three children who attended Hillsborough schools.



Photo credit: Doerr Studios

Donna Wilson Hower

Donna Wilson Hower – Donna, who has been infusing Hillsborough students with calculating ability for 31 years, said she is fortunate to have a job that allows her to “fall in love every year” - with a new class of middle schoolers.

Donna began teaching in 1970, went to West School in 1974 and began at Crocker Middle School in 1976. She founded and coached the successful Crocker Math Team, participated in NASA’s “Teacher in Space Program,” taking the first group of Crocker students to Space Camp. She developed the first computer lab at Crocker and taught adult computer education as well, and has been involved in several regional and state math programs.

San Mateo County and the State of California have recognized Donna for excellence in mathematics and problem-solving curriculum. Donna has also served as president of the Hillsborough Teachers Association.

Speier lauded Donna’s extraordinary career as “unparalleled” across the state in science and math and applauded her quiet leadership, intellectual curiosity, generosity and ability to spark the love of learning.

Donna thanked the parents of Hillsborough who “send me motivated kids, the supportive principals, fellow teachers who believe in team work and an administration who puts children first.”

Donna was raised in San Diego. She graduated from United States International University in San Diego, where she also earned her teaching credential. She has dozens of post-graduate units, including certificates in computer education and teacher training. She and her husband, John, have a daughter who attends Crocker School.

FINAL INSPECTION PERMITS IMPERATIVE

Did you complete a remodeling project and not obtain a final inspection and permit?

If there was a fire in your new kitchen and you did not get a final inspection, would insurance cover the damage?

If you were selling your home, could you produce the final permits?

There are a number of permits in the Town that have been issued and never finalized. These include everything from water heaters to major additions to landscaping permits.

The Building Department is working with the community to finalize these permits. If you have a permit that was issued in the last five years, please check to see that it has been signed off by the

Building Department.

It the permit has not been signed off, please write to the Building Department and let them know what happened and help bring closure to the project.

Many hazards are found at the final inspection. If a permit has not been signed off, it may present a nuisance to the Town and be routed to code enforcement for closure.

Please give us a chance to help you make this a safer Town by following the permit process through to a final sign-off.

If you are in doubt, call the Building Department. Hillsborough has outstanding permits on file and can clear the record for you. It’s the safe and prudent thing to do. Call 650-375-7411.

LOCK YOUR CARS

Hillsborough police are noticing a higher number of thefts from residents’ cars parked in driveways or in front of homes. The thefts occur because residents leave their cars unlocked with valuables inside. In some cases, persons commit robberies by breaking into a locked car. But in most cases, the crime is a simple theft.

“Even though Hillsborough is the safest city in the state, there are still people prowling around looking for an easy target,” said Police Captain Nick Gottuso.

“Don’t leave valuables in your car in plain sight, and lock your car,” he said.

COOL FIREBIRD . . .



Photo credit: Doug Oakley Inset: Mark O'Connor

Crocker Middle School students and Officer Steve Gonzalez gather around the Hillsborough Police Department’s 1968 Pontiac Firebird, suped up for community outreach service. The car was made possible by the generous donations of residents and businesses. A list of donors is posted on a plaque in the Police Department lobby.

HILLSBOROUGH CELEBRATES 49th ANNUAL CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Sunday May 1, 2005

Featuring English classics Aston Martin and Bentley
The car show runs in conjunction with the Family Carnival

Other events:

March 12, 2005 -- Dinner Dance and Auction

May 22, 2005 -- Family Fun Run/Walk

For more information: 650-344-2272 or www.hsf.org



Dr. Daniel Huie (second from left) was sworn in as a reserve officer late last year. Attending the ceremony were, from left, Captain Mark O'Connor, Huie, Chief Matt O'Connor and Captain Nick Gottuso.

SHOT IN THE ARM FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

In a double dose of good fortune, the Hillsborough Police Department’s waning reserve program and North San Mateo County’s SWAT team recently acquired a talented recruit. With a medical degree and an active family practice in San Mateo, Dr. Daniel Huie was sworn in as a new reserve officer in November and has affectionately become known as the “SWAT Doc.”

“We are so pleased to have Dr. Huie on board,” said Captain Nick Gottuso of the HPD and county SWAT team. “He greatly benefits the safety of team members as they deploy on tactical missions to protect the public.”

Huie is not only a strong addition to the SWAT team, but he is Hillsborough’s first reserve officer in 14 years. The Town’s police reserve program was strong from the mid-1970s through 1990 when the law changed, requiring Level 1 reserve officers to undergo six months of training, the same as a regular officer, at their own expense. As a result, Hillsborough’s program dwindled as reserve officers retired. It was difficult to recruit for the unpaid position, even at levels 2 and 3 that

require less training. Reserve officers ride with regular police officers, work weekends, special events and other times when needed. Huie is a reserve officer with specialized tactical medic training.

Dr. Huie was born in Canada and raised in Chicago. He graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Loyola University in 1986. He then went on to earn not only a medical degree from Loyola but a law degree from Stanford. He did his post-graduate residency at Stanford University and San Jose Medical Center. As a physician in San Mateo, he is on the staff at Mills Hospital. He is certified in advanced trauma life support.

A roomful of family and friends gave Dr. Huie a standing ovation as he was sworn in at the November City Council meeting.

“It’s an honor to be with the Hillsborough Police Department and to be able to provide medical care to officers during critical times,” Huie said. “I feel it’s important to serve your community, and I felt my academic background in law enforcement, law and medicine would dovetail well with the position.”