

# HILLSBOROUGH

## 2ND QUARTER 2008



## GROWING UP IN HILLSBOROUGH

By Michael Svanevik & Shirley Burgett

The year was 1914 when Hillsborough's first public school opened. Located in a tranquil setting, it was nestled among the trees on the hill at Roehampton and Richmond roads. Appropriately, at least for this Town, the school was located in El Cerrito, the one-time estate house of pioneer residents George and Agnes Howard. One of the showplaces of the community, El Cerrito, erected during the late 1850s, had been the region's first large residence. Then, it had been located at the junction of De Sabla Road and Sherwood Court. After Hillsborough's incorporation in 1910, the sprawling home had been moved to the new location. All grades met in a single room with one teacher. Other parts of the building were used for Town offices.

A landmark in the community's history was reached in 1917 when Hillsborough School, an elegant stuccoed building remembered for its heavy, Spanish-style tile roof, was completed and opened on El Cerrito Avenue. With separate classrooms for kindergarten through the eighth grades, it became the pride of the Town.

No provision was made for advanced schooling of the Hillsborough youngsters because it was assumed that, after the eighth grade, at least the boys would attend strict East Coast boarding institutions to prepare them for the academic rigors of Ivy League colleges that they were expected to attend.

Over a decade, however, many parents became disenchanted with Hillsborough School, believing that day-to-day discipline was inadequate and the academic foundations their children were receiving were weak. This led, in 1929, to the creation of what was called Country School, a private tuition-supported institution. An elaborate new structure, still extant, was erected in San Mateo on land near Crystal Springs Road and Alameda de las Pulgas.

Progressive teachers were hired in Winnetka, Illinois, and charged with providing strict no-nonsense education, assuring that charges would be adequately prepared to compete with the eastern elite. Emphasis was on acting, music and a general classical education.

Boys and girls who attended Country School remember it warmly. Parents, insistent

that their children be shielded from unpleasant realities of the Depression, sent them in chauffeur-driven limousines. The school staff included a butler and cook. Snacks were cucumber and lettuce sandwiches. Elegant lunches were served daily. During the national paranoia, after the 1932 kidnapping in New Jersey of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., many were accompanied to Country School by bodyguards who spent their days in hallways outside classrooms.

Although despised mostly by the boys, instruction in ballroom dancing was considered essential for refined children. After-school lessons were scheduled on Wednesday

afternoons. Young ladies wore white gloves and the young gentlemen, neckties. Boys took golf lessons at the country club. Others went to the new Gymkhana Club on 20th Avenue in San Mateo where an emphasis was on building "the next generation of polo players and expert horsewomen."

Country School closed in the late 1930s. The 1917 Hillsborough School was dismantled in 1969 to make way for the present South Hillsborough School. North Hillsborough School opened in 1950, followed by West Hillsborough School in 1954. William H. Crocker Middle School dates from 1972.

The authors may be reached at (650) 574-6371.



PHOTOS: MS&SB COLLECTION



For Hillsborough youngsters, instruction in manners, etiquette and ballroom dance were considered essential to a cultured upbringing. This photo was taken in 1916.

At left, curriculum emphasis at the private, tuition-supported Country School was on acting, music and the classics in general. Pictured (1935) are Laurie Wurmbrandt, Bob Henderson, Dale Cowgill and Lin Miller.



## TOWN SEES INCREASE IN ELDER ABUSE CASES

The Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) is becoming increasingly concerned about what it sees as a growing problem of elder financial abuse in the community.

"It's not an epidemic, but it's consistent," said Lieutenant Caroline Serrato. "We are seeing eight to 12 cases a year now." But it could be more.

The HPD offers one-on-one counseling, or if the interest exists community-wide, they are considering holding a Town Hall meeting on the subject. Interested residents may send an email to Serrato at [cserrato@hillsborough.net](mailto:cserrato@hillsborough.net), or they may call the HPD at 650-375-7470.

Elder abuse occurs in varying degrees of severity, according to Serrato. Some cases are criminal and involve theft of money or unauthorized use of credit cards or cash. Other cases are more grey and are difficult to prosecute yet are of great concern to the families. For instance, a situation develops when the family of an elderly person who needs care hires a caregiver or nurse to help take care of the older person either on a part-time or full-time, live-in basis. As the lonely, elderly person becomes better acquainted with the caretaker, the older person begins to overpay the caretaker or purchase expensive gifts for him or her. Serrato has seen a case where the caretaker was paid \$130,000, plus a car, for four to five hours a day of care, five days a week.

If the elderly person is incompetent, bestowing extra cash or gifts on the caretaker, or even marrying the caretaker, it may give rise to a civil action lawsuit involving undue influence, according to Nora Fasshauer, inspector with the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

"It is hard to determine the cognitive state of a person," Fasshauer said. She warns against individuals who get into people's homes, earn the trust of the resident and begin to take over, in an abusive way, often financially. The County is also beginning to see a new wrinkle in abuse – adult adoptions.

"Additionally, a lot of elder and dependent fraud is simply not reported," she said, "and, if it is, it is often very difficult to prove." Regardless, it is extremely important to report any suspected abuse. Persons may place a call to an anonymous hotline to report any suspicion. The number is 1-800-675-8437.

"Elder abuse is something the family needs to be aware of," Serrato said. "It is key for the family to be involved, to know who is there and how often. These people are very lonely and relish having someone who pays attention to them, and so they easily fall victim to abuse."

In Hillsborough, 18.6 percent of the population is over 65. That is 65 percent higher than the national average. In an elderly population, 80 percent have one chronic condition and 50 percent have two chronic conditions. Older, lonely, ill people with a high net worth are perfect targets for individuals seeking to gain favor and take advantage.

"Not only do we see more cases of elder abuse than child abuse in Hillsborough, we see a disproportionate number of domestic violence cases among seniors," Serrato said. She attributes the violence to prescription drugs, depression and drinking, and points out that domestic violence injuries are usually more severe in the elderly. "The highest rate of suicide is among elder males," she said. "These problems will only increase as the Baby Boomers age," she added.

For information on elder abuse, check the website [http://sanmateo.networkofcare.org/aging/elder\\_abuse.cfm](http://sanmateo.networkofcare.org/aging/elder_abuse.cfm). The hotline for elder abuse or financial exploitation is 1-888-436-3600.

### *Tips on selecting a caregiver:*

- Discuss with your parent concerns about protecting them from financial harm, seek their participation, have them let you know if they suspect a problem, and tell them not to sign any document that their caregiver asks them to sign.
- Visit frequently, unannounced, at different times of the day.
- Keep all important documents (deeds, wills, trusts, etc.) and valuable jewelry in a safe deposit box.
- Notify the elder's financial institution and ask to be notified if there is any unusual activity.
- Monitor checkbooks, credit card statements, etc.
- Never give an ATM P.I.N. to a caregiver, or alternatively, limit the amount of money in an account that the caretaker has permission to use.
- Don't give the caretaker financial power of attorney.
- Don't keep cash around the house.
- Keep the checkbook, ID and credit cards in a locked box, with the key in the elder's pocket – or keep the key out of the house.
- Look for other signs of abuse – weight loss, bruising.
- When hiring a caregiver, don't hurry. If the matter is urgent, solicit help from friends and relatives while searching for a caretaker.
- Home care and home health care differ. Health care workers are credentialed. Hire only from an insured or bonded home care agency and make sure caregivers are employees of the company, not independent contractors.
- Get references and insist on alcohol and drug testing.
- Make sure the caretaker is a legal resident and know where he or she works and lives.
- Make sure the caretaker has a valid driver's license.

## TOWN APPOINTS TWO TO FAC

### KATHY CEREMSAK

When Kathy Ceremsak decided to take a break from her career to raise children, she vowed not to give up her vocation. The Stanford University economics graduate volunteered to use her skills, first with the Hillsborough Schools Foundation where she was treasurer for four years. Recently she has begun serving on Hillsborough's Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). She is the Committee's newest member and said she is looking forward to learning more about the Town and assisting in the finance area.

Ceremsak grew up in Watsonville and after graduating from college, worked first as an auditor for Price Waterhouse in Los Angeles and then as a tax manager for the same company in San Francisco. Before having children, she was engaged as a financial professional, primarily handling individual trust and estate tax issues. She and her husband Bob moved to Hillsborough in late 1999. Their children, now 16 and 18, attended South, North and Crocker schools. The teens are now at Sacred Heart High School where Ceremsak serves on the Finance Committee.



Kathy Ceremsak

"I think we have a great Town," Ceremsak said. "It's amazing how well organized the FAC and Finance Department are. It's not difficult for me to understand finances and accounts, but I don't know much about how a Town works and I am looking forward to learning."

### DAVID STEIRMAN

For David Steirman, serving on Hillsborough's Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) strikes a balance between his financial investment background and his interest in civic activities.

David works at an investment management firm in San Mateo and is not new to public service. His volunteer work was noticed by Councilmember Tom Kasten who suggested he apply for the FAC.

David sees uncertain revenues and ever-increasing expenses as the financial challenge for Hillsborough, as well as for most municipalities, and hopes to be instrumental in developing efficient solutions. He cites the merger of the Hillsborough and Burlingame fire departments as a stellar example of a creative solution that not only saves money for both cities but enhances services.

"Every year, each department in Town makes a case for needed funds, and I see it as the FAC's duty to analyze the requests, placing priorities on annual expenditures," he said.

David, his wife and two children, ages 7 and 4, are fairly new residents to Hillsborough. David grew up in Chicago, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and earned an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago. He moved to California in 1985.



David Steirman

## CERT CLASSES COMING

The next session of Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes are scheduled for Wednesdays, May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11 and June 18, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, June 21, 2008, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. To register, contact former CCFD Chief Bill Reilly at 558-7601 or 740-7400. Cost of the session, free; training, priceless.

## GREENING HILLSBOROUGH: EIGHT EFFECTIVE WAYS RESIDENTS CAN SAVE ENERGY, MONEY, ENVIRONMENT

What are some of the best ways Hillsborough residents can save energy, money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? How can residents reduce their carbon footprint? The Sustainable Hillsborough Task Force, chaired by Councilmember Paul Regan and comprised of Hillsborough residents, architects, contractors and Councilmember Christine Krolak, considered these and other important questions at their first meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. The newly formed Task Force will meet regularly to discuss a wide range of best sustainable practices and programs in order to consolidate them into a 'Sustainable Hillsborough Plan' for City Council consideration later this year.

What is clear is that energy efficiency is the cornerstone to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Since about half of Hillsborough's greenhouse gas emissions come from residential electric and natural gas usage, programs that increase energy efficiency in homes, pools and landscaping will be a key focus of the Task Force. According to the 2007 Sustainable San Mateo Indicator's Report (<http://www.sustainablesanmateo.org>), Hillsborough homes use three times more energy than other cities in the county. The good news is that there are a number of things Hillsborough residents can do to reduce energy consumption despite their larger, older homes. Task Force members discussed ways they've successfully reduced their own energy consumption, and these ideas and others are shared in the following recommendations:

1. **Furnaces:** Replace your older, inefficient furnace with an Energy Star qualified model and take advantage of \$200-\$300 utility rebates and save up to 20 percent in energy costs. Visit [www.fypower.org](http://www.fypower.org).

2. **Swimming pool pumps:** Upgrade older swimming pool pumps with a high efficiency pool pump and save up to 30 percent in energy costs. Use timers to control

pump usage. Visit [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov) or the Sustainable Hillsborough website ([www.hillsborough.net](http://www.hillsborough.net)) for more information.

3. **Solar water heaters:** Install a solar water heater for swimming pools. They significantly reduce heating costs and have a quick payback for their investment. See the Sustainable Hillsborough website for more information.

4. **Home energy audit:** Get a home energy and water audit by a certified professional to learn the best ways to increase energy and water efficiency in your home. See the Sustainable Hillsborough website for more information.

5. **Irrigation:** Regularly adjust and maintain your existing irrigation system, replace your outdated system with a high efficiency or "SMART" irrigation system and hire a certified irrigation professional in order to conserve water, save money and keep your landscape and garden looking beautiful. Visit [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org), [www.watersavinghero.com](http://www.watersavinghero.com) or the Sustainable Hillsborough website for more information.

6. **Insulate and weather seal:** Install a programmable Energy Star thermostat; insulate attic, ceiling and walls; and weather strip doors and windows to save up to 25 percent in energy costs. Visit [fypower.org](http://fypower.org) for more information.

7. **Lighting:** Replace all incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs and save up to 75 percent on lighting costs. Visit [fypower.org](http://fypower.org) for more information.

8. **Visit the Sustainable Hillsborough website:** The Sustainable Hillsborough website is regularly updated to include new ideas on how Hillsborough residents can increase energy and water efficiency. The site will also highlight upcoming solar energy and energy efficiency workshops. Please visit [www.hillsborough.net](http://www.hillsborough.net) for more information.



# POLICE BLOTTER

A typical monthly Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) report during the past quarter shows two adult DUI arrests and three juvenile arrests, one for violating his terms of probation for a residential burglary and two for possession of marijuana. There were 634 total calls for service, almost 200 more than the same month last year. During the month, there were four residential burglaries, five grand theft cases, two petty theft cases two identity theft cases and six credit card fraud cases. Dispatch received notice of 242 alarm calls, 96 of which were cancelled before officers were sent to the scene; there were five false alarm citations.

Burglars stole a safe with jewelry from a residence on Lombardi where the loss was estimated at \$121,900. A loss of \$7,800 occurred when jewelry and other items were taken from a home on Wedgewood. Three laptop computers, worth \$1,200 each, were lifted from Nueva School.

HPD investigators, working on an elder abuse case, discovered a bank account in the suspect’s name containing more than \$300,000. They were working on obtaining a search warrant for the account. In another case, Inspector Dave Agee collaborated with the Fairfield Police Department and found property stolen from Hillsborough victims on a male arrested for a strong-armed robbery in Fairfield. The man had used a stolen government vehicle to commit two residential burglaries in Hillsborough earlier. Investigators are continuing to try to determine if the same man is responsible for several additional burglaries in Town.

From a typical monthly log:

- Man argues with 19-year-old son who wants to move back home after being kicked out two months ago and father does not want him to move back in. Police advised father to obtain restraining order in future and advised son to request civil standby to pick up any of his property still at residence.
- Resident reports unknown subject attempting to open credit cards in resident’s wife’s name.
- Doctor’s medical bag found in middle of roadway at Ralston and Remillard.
- Dog on Barbara Way barking for 45 minutes. Owner on way home to put dog inside.
- Male subject wearing bandana seen sleeping in car on New Place. Was personal trainer for neighbor waiting for appointment.
- Man seen hitch-hiking near Crystal Springs Reservoir. Located and advised not to hitch-hike.
- Several reports of trees and branches down and blocking roadways.
- Several reports of violations of city ordinance – seven real estate signs illegally placed, man putting flyers on doors.
- Resident worried about parent driving on suspended license. Will be calling next week for civil standby while attempt is made to take away car keys.
- Subjects dumped blue leather sofa in front of property on Macadamia.
- Jewelry valued at \$50,000 taken from home on Chateau during birthday party hosted by son.
- Three medium-sized dogs came into neighbor’s yard on Barbara Way and reportedly attack resident. SPCA responded and returned dogs to owner.
- Motorist called to report seeing two children, about 6 years old, in pajamas standing outside house near Uplands close to midnight.
- Resident on Pinehill reports man who lives on Skyfarm walks past his residence and harasses his dogs, probably in retaliation for earlier dog bite.
- Man rings doorbell of home on Wedgewood and says from San Mateo Times and wants to interview regarding fire hazards in county. Police to watch for man’s lime green car.
- Juveniles accidentally locked inside bedroom on Homeplace. Fire responds.
- Subject locked inside bathroom on Forest View. Fire responds.
- Unknowns entered home on Oakdale and ransacked master bedroom.
- Unknowns entered open garage on Glengarry during night and stole purse from garage, entered car and cut wires to satellite radio, all while resident was home.
- Unknowns ransacked glove compartment of unlocked vehicle parked in driveway on Live Oak.
- Unknown suspects threw eggs at beige Toyota on Moseley during night.
- Woman at station to report ongoing physical abuse by husband.
- Request for civil standby while person picks up personal belongings at residence on Moseley where person was formerly employed and was let go.

## BEWARE OF SUMMER THIEVES

There are bands of thieves that love warm weather, open windows and sparkling jewelry. They spot an open window, head straight for the master bedroom, grab baubles and beads, toss the loot in a pillowcase and take off, all in the bright light of day.

The best advice is to use an alarm, even when you are home. Keep jewelry locked up, inside a secured safe that is bolted to the wall and has a personal (not generic) combination. An alarm system can be set up to trigger if the safe is removed; have this active at all times. Don’t keep valuable jewels in a jewelry box on the dresser; that’s the first place the thieves look.

# RESIDENTS BROUGHT TO TASK TO FOCUS ON TOWN’S FUTURE

A number of Hillsborough residents, representing a cross-section of the Town, have been asked to serve on two new task force committees to help set policies that encourage a “green” Hillsborough and a town that meets state standards for affordable housing.

### Housing Element Steering Committee

State law requires an updating of the Town’s current Housing Element by June 30, 2009. New mandates require that Hillsborough provide for (but not necessarily build) 86 affordable units between 2009 and 2014. The purpose of the steering committee is to help develop ways for the Town to meet the housing unit goal while preserving the character of the community. Individuals have been selected for their collegial body of knowledge that broadly represents the Town at large.

Committee members are: Chair Councilmember Tom Kasten, Councilmember John Fannon, Shawn Christianson, Larry May, Richard Reisman, Janice Woods, Jim Boyar, Steve Benjian, Jack Ken, Jennifer Werbe, Roger Mertz, Val Vaden, Dr. Lin Ho, and Dr. Lionel Foster.

During the course of the next year, task force members will review the regional and local housing needs; identify any new issues, goals, policies and/or programs; and review recommendations from the Town staff and Housing Element consultant. They will be studying updated statistics of categories such as the Town’s growing elderly population, income levels and land availability. They will be looking at everything from creating more second unit homes in Town, to permitting housing on school or country club property, to working with the countywide subregion created to help Peninsula cities meet housing needs.

Near the beginning of September 2008, there will be a community meeting to gather input from all residents on the

draft update of the Housing Element. The draft is scheduled to come before City Council in November 2008.

### Sustainable Hillsborough Task Force

As with the Housing Element Committee, the Sustainable Task Force is composed of individuals representing a cross-section of the community. Their charge is to set goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to develop policies and specific programs to meet those goals.

Task Force members are: Chair Paul Regan, councilmember; Councilmember Christine Krolak; Charlie Barnett, Marie Chuang, Julie Borden, Farro Essalat, Randy Grange, Wally Baldwin, and Elizabeth Jackson. The committee’s work, and its consultant, Kathleen Gallagher from CSG Consultants on Environment and Sustainability, are funded by a \$69,620 grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management Board – money that will be paid as the climate protection program is put together.

Because of its voluntary green building program, recycling rates and the formation of the task force, Hillsborough is already ahead of other Bay Area cities, according to Gallagher. Challenges include reducing the Town’s above-average residential use of electricity, natural gas, and GHG emissions from transportation. The committee will look at the baseline analysis, establish a reduction goal, set goals and policies for reduction, implement the programs and then measure program performance. Ideas for reduction range from using energy-efficient light bulbs to requiring new construction to use a number of green measures.

“With all the new solar products, new paints and carpets that emit less toxics, and with the addition of health and cost-saving benefits, there is just an incredible amount of excitement about this topic,” said Assistant City Manager Kathy Leroux, advisor to the task force.

# NEW FIRE CODE ADDRESSES HIGH LOCAL FIRE DANGER

The canyons, crevasses and dense flora that have attracted people to the Peninsula, and Hillsborough in particular, are the very factors that are a major concern during fire season. The latest computer hyper-spectral maps place most of Hillsborough in a mid- to very high fire hazard zone. The Tobin-Clark open space area, because it is adjacent to state forest land, is considered a “very high” fire hazard zone. Central County Fire Department (CCFD), in response to the mapping, recently upgraded and adopted new fire codes that further address construction, emergency response tactical coordination and consistency of standards.

The California Fire Code and corresponding Hillsborough Municipal Code amendment, adopted by City Council in December 2007, primarily create consistency between state and local agencies. Ahead of its time, Hillsborough adopted strict local standards following the 1993 Oakland Hills fire. The new expanded code covers Burlingame and dovetails with surrounding fire agencies.

For the Town of Hillsborough as a whole, the new codes mean that, should a fire erupt, CCFD and other responding agencies will all be fully coordinated, with identical tactics, sprinkler hookups and home address recognition. For individual Hillsborough residences, the new code continues to require roofing, decking and home exterior material standards, but with clarification and flexibility. In some cases, prices of building or remodeling could increase because of the costs of fire-resistant building materials.

CCFD has been active in addressing

the dangers of urban-wildland severity zones, and the 2007 Fire Code is a continuation of that action.

### “VEGETATION MANAGEMENT” FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Since most of Hillsborough is densely vegetated with areas considered a “very high fire hazard zone,” there are measures you can take to protect your home and your neighborhood. The most commonly used term in fire prevention is “defensible space.” This refers to practices aimed at reducing wildfire threat to homes. Vegetation can be modified to reduce the threat, as well as provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend your house in the event of a wildfire. Some practices you can employ on your property are:

- Cut back dry and overgrown vegetation around your home, removing all dead brush.
- Remove tree limbs that are less than 6 feet from the ground.
- Integrate some fire-resistive plants and trees in your landscape.
- Water plants regularly but wisely.
- Plan your landscape to provide significant space between plants and trees.
- Remove dry leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- Store firewood at least 30 feet away from your house.
- Clear all vegetation from around and under your deck.
- Use fire-resistive construction materials for your deck.

For more information, check the Town website, [www.hillsborough.net](http://www.hillsborough.net).



# The Associated Parents Group Awards

## Citizens of the Year

Hillsborough residents Angela Nomellini and Ken Olivier have been named 2008 Associated Parents' Group (APG) Citizens of the Year for their significant contributions to the education and well-being of children.

The couple moved to Hillsborough in 1987. Nomellini began volunteering at North School in 1994 when their oldest son started kindergarten. Nomellini took on many jobs, from library volunteer to APG president. In February 2001, she was appointed to the board of trustees and worked to present a bond measure to reduce class size. She served on the board for seven years, holding the position of president twice.

Olivier co-chaired the Scholars' Circle for three years and was president of Hillsborough Schools Foundation during the merger with Concours. Both Nomellini and Olivier have been generous donors to the local schools.



Angela Nomellini and Ken Olivier

## Community Care Award

Robyn Chamness, South School kindergarten teacher, was named recipient of the 2008 Community Care Award, typically given to a salaried member of the school district community. Chamness received a double major in elementary and special education from Purdue University and began her teaching career in Baltimore's inner city district. She moved to San Mateo County and taught mentally handicapped, autistic, learning disabled and severe behavior disordered children. She worked to have her special education students integrated into classes at North, South and Crocker. She received a Kent Award from San Mateo County for Community Programming for students with special needs.

Fifteen years ago, Chamness began teaching kindergarten at South School. She is married to Steven Oshita, a teacher at Crocker School and past recipient of the same Community Service award.



Robyn Chamness

PHOTOS COURTESY BOB DOERR

## SEWER UPDATE

Recent events have focused attention on the aging sewer systems that discharge treated wastewater into the San Francisco Bay. All Bay Area cities and their residents need to maintain and upgrade sewer laterals, mains, and treatment plants to protect precious water resources. The Town of Hillsborough is committed to doing its part.

The Town maintains more than 90 miles of sewer mains, and much of that system is more than 40 years old. Many components are located in difficult-to-reach easements on hilly terrain, which is subject to root intrusion and soils movement. Maintaining a secure system under these conditions is a real challenge for the Public Works Department.

Hillsborough is committed to keeping the system in good working order. Residential sewer rates, which are among the highest in the Bay Area, fund an extensive capital improvement program. Over the past 12 years, the City Council has authorized four bonds and \$19 million to repair and upgrade system components. Another \$13 million in capital improvements is proposed over the next five years.

To have an effective system, Hillsborough must work in cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions, including San Mateo and Burlingame (which operate the treatment plants that accept our sewage) and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County that feed sewage into mains running through the Town. One particular area of concern is the sewer trunk line running along Crystal Springs Road and El Cerrito Avenue, which is prone to overflows during heavy rains. Hillsborough has proposed \$4 million to increase the size of this line, but the project needs an equivalent commitment from the San Mateo Highlands community that also uses this line.

### Do Your Part

Residents can help as well. Many smaller overflows are caused by blockages that occur when household paper products are flushed into the sewer system. Proper disposal of this waste will help the pipes function properly. And, when a home is sold in Hillsborough, the Municipal Code requires that the sewer lateral be inspected and replaced if necessary.

# TOWN, SCHOOL DISTRICT, PG&E ADDRESS TRAFFIC INCONVENIENCES

Beginning June 16 Measure B funds will be hard at work. The Hillsborough City School District has been involved in renovations and rehabilitation since the passage of Measure B six years ago, but this summer is the beginning of a large building project that will put new structures on each of the four campuses -- and trucks on the roadways.

The school district and Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) have been collaborating on the project for several months to develop plans to minimize the impact on residents. "The district is reaching out and asking what they can do to help the situation, and we are looking forward to a successful project," said HPD Captain Mark O'Connor, liaison to the district for the project.

The project consists of multi-purpose rooms at both South and North schools, a four-classroom wing at West School and a lecture hall/tech/band room at Crocker.

Duration of the project is estimated at 12 to 18 months. "We are going to try to do most of the dirty work during the summer and get the entire project completed with as little disruption as possible," said school district Assistant Superintendent Larry Raffo.

The initial phase of the project will require moving a fair amount of dirt. Some of the dirt will be kept on-site (especially at South School), some of the staging will be on-site (primarily at West, Crocker and North), but a degree of dirt will need to be hauled out of town. At South School, trucks will travel on El Cerrito Avenue straight to El Camino Real; at West, trucks will travel from Barbara Way to Hayne Road to Highway 280; at Crocker, trucks will travel on Ralston Avenue to El Camino Real. "We think these are the most efficient routes," O'Connor said.

Additionally, during the summer, PG&E will begin a project to underground power lines on Ralston Avenue between

Crocker School and Eucalyptus and on Eucalyptus between Ralston and New Place Road. This may require single lane closure on Ralston during construction. The Town, the School District and PG&E are working together to minimize traffic disruptions during the summer and fall.

O'Connor is also working to develop off-street parking options for construction vehicles and carpools for workers. He added that the trucks are not extraordinarily large, will not travel slower than the flow of traffic and will not hinder other vehicles.

Work hours, by city ordinance, are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; no working hours on Sunday.

"We will be working with the school district all during development," O'Connor said.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Larry Raffo at 650-342-5193 or lraffo@hcsd.k12.ca.us.

## TOWN BRIEFS

During the past quarter, City Council:

- Approved several contracts with various companies and accepted completions for storm drain repairs:
  1. \$40,271 contract for areas at the intersections of Castle Court and Remillard Drive, West Santa Inez Avenue and Arden Road, and Eucalyptus Avenue and Willow Road, to prevent flooding and increase pedestrian safety.
  2. \$30,306 contract to line two deteriorated storm drains at 380 Arden Road and 25 Inverness Way, where there was structural failure due to root intrusion and aging. Lining was chosen because the pipes are located in the environmentally sensitive riparian areas near a creek and the desire was to minimize trenching.
  3. Completion of a \$37,300, under-budget pipe installation project from San Raymundo to Jewell Place, undertaken to eliminate an historic flooding issue.
  4. Completion of a \$8,500, under-budget pipe replacement project at the intersection of Pepper Avenue and Bellevue Avenue, which also eliminated a sinkhole problem that caused a street hazard.
  5. \$93,000 contract (after the fact, due to emergency) for the repair of the storm drain line in the Macadamia Open Space area where a big log became wedged inside a pipe, causing a large pond of water (12 feet deep and 500 feet wide) during a storm on January 26, 2008. Public Works crews were on site 24 hours a day from Saturday until Tuesday afternoon managing the problem.
- Approved participation in Phase 2 of a study to regionalize (involving Millbrae and San Bruno departments) fire services in Central San Mateo County. The study will compare current operations and develop a list of merger options, analyzing costs for fire and emergency care.
- Authorized mailing of notices outlining rate increase options for trash collection to cover a deficit. A 2.6 percent across-the-board increase was approved with additional fees for side/rear yard and pup truck pick-ups.
- Approved the expenditure of \$47,617 from the Police Vehicle Replacement Fund for two new black and white 2008 Crown Victoria cars.
- Approved an extra \$70,000 in costs for a \$1.5 million water main replacement project (Phase V) due primarily to unforeseen problems encountered in areas of high groundwater where material beneath the asphalt had failed.
- Approved spending up to \$63,000 to install manhole monitoring systems that

can detect when a sewer main or storm drain may overflow.

- Adopted a resolution endorsing the Guiding Principles of the Grand Boulevard Initiative (GBI). The GBI is a collaboration of 19 cities, two counties, local and regional agencies, private businesses, labor and environmental organizations united to improve safety and aesthetics of El Camino Real, from Daly City to San Jose.
- Approved the expenditure of \$54,726 to build a fuel tank, concrete pad and perimeter wall in the rear of the police parking lot adjacent to the Town Water Conservation Park. The tank would provide fuel for police vehicles, Town Hall pool vehicles and related department vehicles.

### People/Awards

- The Hillsborough Police Department has an officer in training. Geoffrey Alexander Chenier, 24, born in San Mateo, served for three years in the US Army and was deployed in Iraq. Prior to the Police Academy (from which he graduated February 27, 2008), he worked for TSA as a security screener.
- Kevin Sarro was hired as the newest Public Works Maintenance Worker in the Water Department. He served in the U.S. Navy as a flight operations petty officer prior to working as a temporary employee since 2007.
- The Public Works Department staff was recognized by the mayor at the February 2008 City Council meeting for their response to a storm drain obstruction in the Macadamia Open Space area that kept workers on the scene 24 hours a day from January 26, 2008 to January 29, 2008.
- Nueva School Hillside Learning Complex in Hillsborough has won several awards for their innovative, environmentally responsible, sustainably designed educational facilities: 2008 Green Building Awards, commercial winner; National American Institute of Architects Committee on Architecture for Education, Award of Excellence; and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold Certification by U.S. Green Building Council. The complex incorporates a new library, student center and classroom building that feature a living roof, energy efficient heating and lighting, natural ventilation and solar power.



Geoffrey Chenier

## 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

John Fannon, Community Services  
D. Paul Regan, Administration  
Catherine U. Mullooly, Fire Department  
Thomas M. Kasten, Police Department  
Christine Krolik, Public Works

### ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

John Fannon, Commissioner  
Jennifer Werbe, Chairwoman  
Charlie Barnett, Mark Heine,  
Bruce Herman, George Jewett



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## COMMITTEES

### FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

D. Paul Regan, Commissioner  
John Lockton, Chairman  
Jess "Jay" Benton, Kathy Ceremsak, Al Clark,  
Josh Cooperman, Al Royse, David Steirman

### CITIZENS COMMUNICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Catherine U. Mullooly, Commissioner  
Diana Witzel, Chairwoman  
Marie Chuang, Candace Lyche,  
Janet MacGregor, BeBe Trinkner



### CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE BOARD

Catherine U. Mullooly, Chairman; D. Paul Regan

### 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  
Alarm Specialists: 375-7472

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Business: 558-7600

## NUMBERS

### TOWN HALL

Administration: (650) 375-7400  
Website: [www.hillsborough.net](http://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

Main and Finance Department: 375-7400

Water (service and billing):

Mon. – Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Fri. 7:30 - 12:30 p.m. 375-7402

Building and Planning: 375-7411

Public Works 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

### Allied Waste

Main Number: (650) 592-2411

Hazardous Material: (650) 363-4718

*The Hillsborough Newsletter is published on a regular basis by the Town of Hillsborough to keep residents informed of local and Town news.  
Editor: Barbara Backer • Design: Larry Zientarski*



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