



1600 Floribunda Ave.
Hillsborough, CA 94010

HILLSBOROUGH

4TH QUARTER 2009



THE DAY OF FIRE

The treasured rural settings of Hillsborough's lovely homes are both desired and dangerous. The fire, building and public works departments try to protect beauty and maintain safety, often conflicting goals. Thirty-nine years ago, flames erupted, and the story remains as a warning. Below is a shortened version of an article by publisher Gene E. Malott that ran in the Hillsborough Boutique on July 25, 1972.

The heat had lingered for almost a week. Around the Bay Area, thousands of acres of woodlands stood ready to burn. The statistics were stacked like kindling – 105 degrees, humidity at 22 percent.

Thursday, July 13, was a Day of Fire. At 3:45 p.m. it started, and before it was over, more than 200 men from eight county fire departments were on the lines; 51 acres of thick woodlands had been laid bare; and a Hillsborough fireman was hospitalized.

But it could have been worse, accord-

ing to Hillsborough Fire Chief William Stremme. It could have moved north, racing into Hillsborough's residential areas and through the Tobin Clark Estate, uncontrollable, and threatening Polo Terrace. It could have wiped out the 20 or so homes along the 1100 block of Parrott Drive, instead of leaping over them.

The difference was organization...luck...the right weather conditions...and guts.

The first call came to the State Division of Forestry reporting a small brush fire in the Quarry on Crystal Springs Road near Merner Road. But the real fire was a mile south, on the other side of Crystal Springs Road, and by the time Hillsborough Captain Robert Sheehan and his first unit arrived at 3:49 p.m., "It was well beyond us," Sheehan said. The pillar of smoke was visible from the Bayshore Freeway and more than 170 calls poured into the fire department switchboard before dispatchers quit counting.

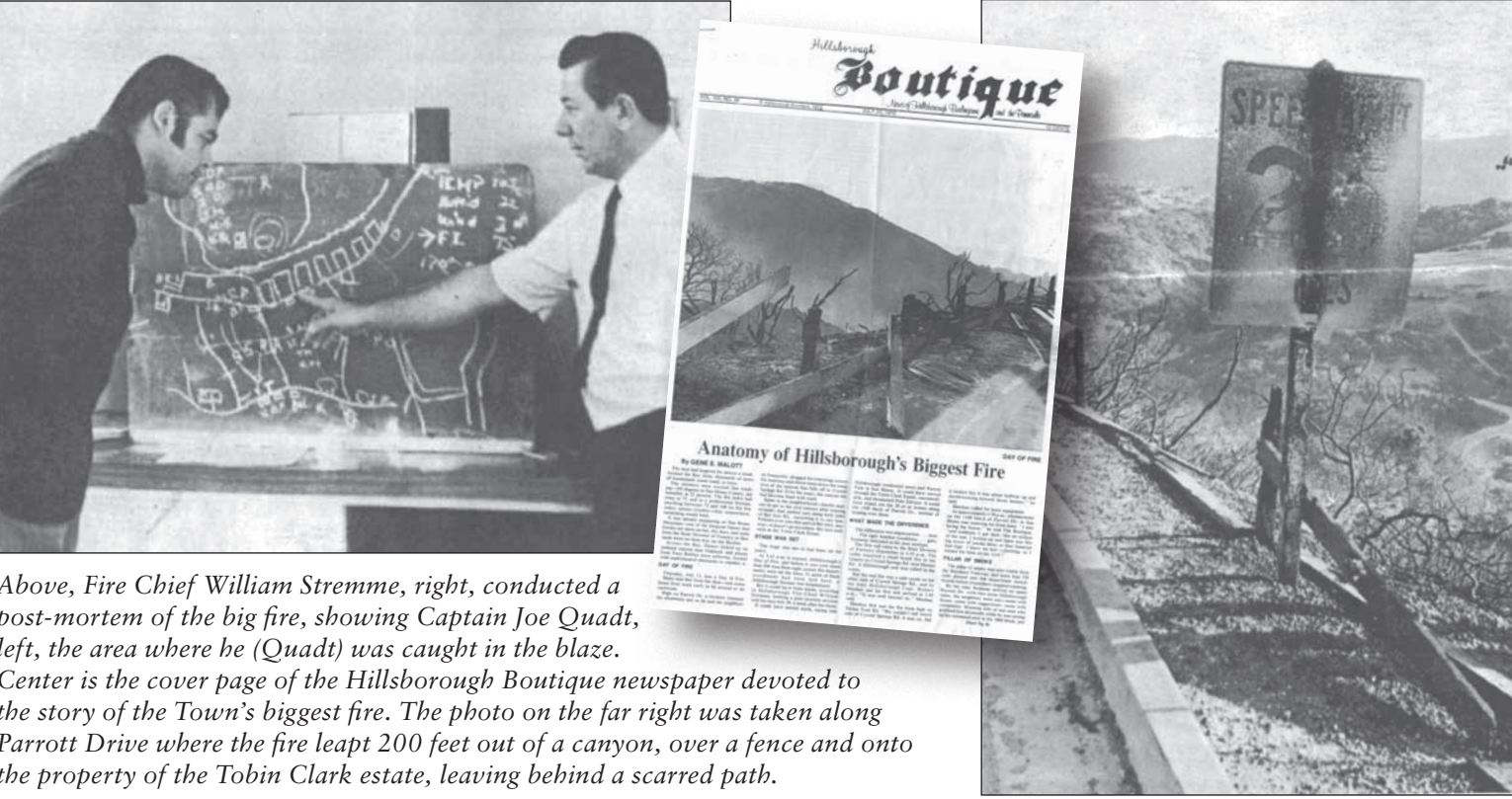
Stremme set up firelines on two flanks of the fire. The northern flank, guarded by firemen from Hillsborough and the Forestry

Division, was most critical, Stremme said, because if the fire had broken through there it would have raged into Hillsborough. Three times it had broken through the north flank before it was finally halted.

Hillsborough Fire Engineer Boyd Plane describes how he and Captain Joseph Quadt, clearing people from an area, spied two youngsters on a rooftop and went to get them down. Suddenly the fire across Parrott Drive exploded, leapt 22 feet over the roadway, across rooftops, gulping every atom of oxygen. Plane rolled into a ball on the ground; Quadt jumped a picket fence, then collapsed. Quadt had suffered second degree burns and smoke inhalation. All night at Mills Hospital, his condition was listed as "fair, but under intensive care."

Stremme at the command post had his forces marshaled and moved the units like chessmen. Temperatures rose to 190 degrees in places. Nine firefighters were treated for burns after their clothing caught fire.

Stremme worries that Hillsborough's first Day of Fire may not be its last.



Above, Fire Chief William Stremme, right, conducted a post-mortem of the big fire, showing Captain Joe Quadt, left, the area where he (Quadt) was caught in the blaze.

Center is the cover page of the Hillsborough Boutique newspaper devoted to the story of the Town's biggest fire. The photo on the far right was taken along Parrott Drive where the fire leapt 200 feet out of a canyon, over a fence and onto the property of the Tobin Clark estate, leaving behind a scarred path.

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/or 3rd Monday
4 p.m. - Town Hall

DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONERS
John Fannon, Community Services
D. Paul Regan, Administration
Jess "Jay" Benton, Fire Department
Thomas M. Kasten, Police Department
Christine Krolik, Public Works

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
John Fannon, Commissioner
Mark Heine, Chair
Carl Goldstone, Lin Ho,
George Jewett, Jennifer Werbe
Eric Nyhus, Alternate



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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 • Photography: LeAnn Thornton • Contributing writer: Carol Hunter

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Business: 375-7470, Alarm Specialists: 375-7472

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Business: 558-7600

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
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

WWW.HILLSBOROUGH.NET

BEST OFFENSE: GOOD DEFENSE

In an effort to be proactive against wildfires affecting Hillsborough, the Central County Fire Department and Town of Hillsborough have designated specific areas of most severe threat and developed tactics to protect those areas.

Officially, these areas are called “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones” (VHFH-SZ) or “Wildland-Urban Interface Areas.” In layman terms, the imposing titles mean areas that are susceptible to the spread of wildfire from either state lands or Town open space. Approximately 60 percent of the Town’s acreage falls within these areas, most in the southern portion of the Town and some to the north. Of the Town’s 3,871 properties, 1,777 lie within a designated VHFHSZ. To determine if your property is within one of these zones, drop by the Building Department and view the map.

What does this mean for your home?

If your home is in a designated VHFHSZ, you need to follow regulations limiting the types of materials to be utilized in a substantial remodel and in new construction and you need to establish a defensible open space around your home.

For more than 15 years, the Town has required “defensible space” and limited the use of wood products in new construction. The State of California, partnering with the Building Manufacturer’s Industry, has

developed a set of regulations limiting the types of materials to be utilized in new construction if you choose to build in a VHFHSZ. These materials were developed with a scientific approach focusing on the contributors of fire spread with building materials. In many cases, these new regulations are considerably less restrictive than simply prohibiting the use of wood products in construction. The Building Department can spell out the options.

What is “defensible space?”

“Defensible space” refers to an area, either natural or man-made, where material capable of allowing a fire to spread has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildfire and to create an area for firefighters to effectively defend a house. The area should run 100 feet from your house or to your property line, whichever comes first. If your neighbor’s house falls within that 100 feet, you are not held accountable for the conditions on neighboring property. Enforcement is limited to combustible vegetation within 100 feet of habitable buildings on the same property.

If your house is within 100 feet of Town Open Space, the Town will begin to take measures to clear the area. Hillsborough was awarded a FEMA grant to reduce the underbrush and dry vegetative waste in the Town’s open spaces.

BUMPY RIDE FOR STREET PROJECT

Hillsborough’s 2009 street-paving project is underway. The project encompasses resurfacing 10 miles of roadway and reconfiguring the Black Mountain and Hayne Road intersection.

The cost of the project is \$809,000. By using a variety of resurfacing techniques, the Town was able to stretch the budget to cover more territory. The use of the various techniques, as opposed to traditional asphalt overlay, garnered the Town an award from the Metropolitan Transportation Committee last year. The Metropolitan Transportation Committee is a regional organization that assists local agencies with managing their streets and highways.

While the streets being resurfaced

are smoother than before, the process of repaving has had a few bumps, according to Public Works Director Martha DeBry. Street sweeping equipment failures, inaccurate scheduling and some defects in products caused several problems. The Department of Public Works continues to monitor every aspect of this project and has responded quickly to all resident concerns. Additionally, residents of cul-de-sacs complained about the appearance of the non-traditional material used on their streets, which was subsequently redone using more traditional materials and methods.

DeBry thanks residents for their patience in riding out the yearly street project.



Owl barns are being installed throughout Town to help control destructive rodents, thanks to a civic-minded scout. A single family of barn owls can consume about 1,300 rats per year.

NATURAL PREDATORS TO AID HILLSBOROUGH RODENT REDUCTION

Barn owls will soon find some cozy new residences in the Town of Hillsborough, thanks to the Public Works Department, a dedicated Eagle Scout, and the Hungry Owl Project, a Marin-based non-profit organization that encourages natural predators. Mayor Christine Krolik first heard about the project through the president of the Golden Gate Raptor Society and thought it would be a great way to encourage ecologically friendly rodent control in the Town since a single family of barn owls can consume about 1,300 rats per year.

“It looked like other municipalities had pursued this method of rodent control with success,” said Krolik. “I thought it would make a good Eagle Scout project.”

Corey Sullivan agreed. The 17-year-old scout from San Mateo had been looking for a good community project to earn his Eagle rank, and this one fit the bill.

Using plans from the Hungry Owl Project and scout volunteers, Sullivan constructed 12 owl boxes that will be placed around Hillsborough. Materials were donated by San Mateo Lumber, Wisnom’s Hardware, Bayside Lumber, and a private donor. Sullivan has been working closely with Public Works Supervisor Dave Ballestrasse who is overseeing the installation of the boxes.

“Eagle Scout Corey Sullivan and fellow scouts have done an outstanding job on constructing and painting the 12 owl houses,” said Ballestrasse. “This project will help rid the Town of those pesky little rodents which can chew through wires as well as wood fences, burrow holes in the

ground, and damage residents’ fruit and vegetable gardens while leaving behind waste and feces.”

“Corey has not asked the Town for a dime,” added Krolik. “He was very conscientious, and the finished boxes are beautifully made.”

The boxes will be placed throughout Hillsborough on Town-owned property, such as tank sites and pump stations. Once they have been colonized by nesting barn owls, they will be an effective rodent deterrent. For this method of rodent control to be successful, it is important not to inadvertently poison the owls by using rat poison.

Don’t poison the owls

Rat poisons often end up killing more than just rats, including owls, hawks and other raptors, dogs and cats. If you have a rat problem, consider trying these non-chemical methods first:

- Remove piles of yard debris, trash, construction waste, etc. where rats or mice could make homes.
- Eliminate food sources. Don’t leave pet food outside. Keep wild birdseed and other materials rats or mice may eat (such as some organic fertilizers) in rodent-proof containers. Collect and remove fallen fruit from fruit trees in the yard.
- Exclude rodents from your home. Rodents can squeeze through amazingly small holes - 1/4 inch for mice and 1/2 inch for rats. Go around the outside of your house looking for openings and seal them with metal, hardware cloth, mortar, or concrete.

TOWN BRIEFS

During the past quarter, City Council:

- Authorized an agreement to share crime report data statewide, over a secure and encrypted law enforcement telecommunication network called CopLink. The agreement formalizes the records management system data sharing agreements through the West Bay Information Sharing System comprised of law enforcement agencies in San Mateo and San Francisco counties. The data connection node will be installed and hosted by the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office with Federal Homeland Security grant funds that were approved by the Board of Supervisors in July.
- Awarded a contract for the 2009 Asphalt Overlay Project in the amount of \$460,917 and allocated \$392,000 from the Federal ARRA fund and the remaining \$68,917 from Measure A and Gas Tax funds. The work affects various streets within the Town limits, including Ralston Avenue, Black Mountain Road and Tartan Trail Road.
- Allocated \$75,000 from the Water Fund for the purchase of a portable standby emergency generator for the Public Works Department as back-up for the Town’s 14 water pump stations and three sewer lift stations.
- Heard a presentation on the status of the intersection at Floribunda Avenue and El Camino Real. CalTrans has identified the intersection as worthy of their funding. However, Burlingame, which shares the intersection, opposed removal of trees to widen the road to add a left-hand-turn lane. Hillsborough City Engineer Cyrus Kianpour is arranging a meeting to discuss mitigation for removal of the trees. The area that would be affected is along El Camino from Bellevue to Floribunda.
- Awarded a contract for \$50,333 for an environmental review that will enable the Town to receive a \$624,210 grant for a wildfire mitigation project that will reduce fire fuels in the Town’s nine open space areas.
- Awarded a contract for \$154,440 to landscape a Town entry point at Golf Course Drive, once the road widening project is completed. The project is being fully funded by the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation, which will oversee the long-term maintenance of the project.
- Held a public hearing on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan was developed by staff and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). The plan is a requirement to receive disaster mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

People

- Two of Hillsborough’s Little League All-Star Teams were declared 2009 District 52 Champions. Members of the 9-10-year-old team were Michael Adams, Dylan Goldman, Gray Goodman, Henry James, William Lambson, Garrett Moore, Justin Moore, Hayden Pegley, Elliot Schaeffer, Ben Somorjai, Joshua Tan, Miles Todzo and Jared Wong. Members of the 12-year-old team were Brent Arimoto, Brenden Barrows, Gordon Barrows, Jacob Battat, Justin Foster, Nick Franco, Billy Funkhouser, Emmet Hiemstra, Ryan Kammuller, Brandon Liu, Mark Anthony Vogel, Ryan Ward, and Eric Whitfield.

FYI

- Hillsborough Neighborhood Network (HNN) is a new committee working to organize Hillsborough residents, with the end goal of emergency preparedness at the individual, neighborhood, and community level. Organizing your neighborhood is easy and fun! If you would like to participate, please contact HNN at HNN@hillsborough.net or attend the next meeting at 10 a.m. on November 19, 2009 at Town Hall.
- The Hillsborough Concours d’Elegance will indeed carry on, and a new date of September 12, 2010 has been set for the event. The car show will be under the leadership of Chair Rob Fisher, assisted by Ted Dobos. More information about the “new” Concours will be in the next newsletter. We are looking for people to help support the new leadership’s efforts and are asking for any interested people, particularly with prior Concours experience, to contact Assistant City Manager Kathy LeRoux at KLeRoux@hillsborough.net or 650-375-7407.

Adopt-A-Unit Program Needs Your Help

The Town of Hillsborough’s adopted Special Forces Army Unit is in Afghanistan and is anxiously awaiting a new shipment of items from our generous citizens. Unfortunately, donations have been rather sparse for the past few months. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution of cash so that we can buy the needed items and pay for postage, or drop off some of the wish-list goodies from the list posted on www.hillsborough.net to the Police Department when possible. Our troops truly appreciate all the support the Town provides them as they continue to pursue Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists in the harsh Afghan environment. Thank you for your help!

DR. HO'S R_x FOR TOWN

Dr. Lin Ho may be the newest member of Hillsborough's Architectural & Design Review Board (ADRB), but he is no stranger to public service. Besides serving as an alternate on the ADRB for the past year, he and his wife Jennifer were also active with the Hillsborough Concours for nine years while his two daughters, now college graduates, attended the local schools.

Ho was born in San Francisco, but grew up on the East Coast. He graduated in electrical engineering from Swarthmore in 1966, then went on to medical school at the University of Maryland. After his general surgical residency at Mt. Zion, Ho was drafted and served as a combat surgeon during the Vietnam War. Upon returning to the States, Ho completed a second residency in orthopedic surgery at UCSF and has been in private practice in that field for 31 years.

Although Ho pursued medicine as a

career, he dabbled in architecture in his undergraduate days and has always been interested in the field. He also experienced firsthand the ADRB as a homeowner when he and his wife remodeled their current home 22 years ago. This experience piqued his interest in the review process and also gave him understanding and sympathy for the issues facing homeowners.

In his new role on the ADRB, Ho plans to encourage elegant and creative new architecture that integrates well with the existing community, maintaining the sense of quiet and privacy that have become some of the Town's hallmark characteristics. He also hopes to increase transparency, helping the community better understand the review process.

After living in Hillsborough for 28 years, Ho says he knows, loves and respects the community and is passionate about preserving its elegance and character. "I am doing this because I really believe that it is important to help serve the community," Ho said. "I appreciate the Town's unique history and feel it is very important that we continue to pursue excellence in design."



Dr. Lin Ho

GRAND JURY REPORT ON LOWERING EMPLOYEE COSTS

The San Mateo County Grand Jury report recently issued a report urging cities to reverse the upward trajectory of employee wages and compensation packages as it outpaces revenue. Hillsborough has been actively tackling these issues for quite some time, having recognized a number of years ago the threat these compensation packages present to the Town's budget.

According to the Grand Jury report, "Personnel costs typically comprise 70 percent of the operating budgets in the cities of San Mateo County, and any cost-containment measures must halt and reverse the escalation of employee costs." The report proceeds to recommend a 24-point action plan to address the problem.

"Steps to implement many of the findings in the report have already begun, and are continuing with the cooperation of employees and labor groups," Hillsborough stated in its formal, required response to the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury report states that cities should implement not only stop-gap measures, such as wage freezes and furloughs, but that municipalities should develop long-term solutions such as new labor union contracts and containment of salary increases, days off and vacation pay. It recommends ending the practice of basing salaries and benefits on those of nearby cities and including competition with the private sector. It suggests cooperating with other cities to reduce overlapping functions. Additionally, it recommends increasing opportunity for public review and discussion of proposed labor agreements.

The Grand Jury suggests cities hold a public session devoted to exploring ways to control employee costs and create a task force and action plan. Hillsborough already has such a task force in its Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), which is made up of citizens. The FAC has been studying ways to fight future financial problems related to employee costs and benefits.

To date, the Town has established health savings plans (instead of retirement health insurance) with three out of five labor groups for employees hired since 2002. Discussion continues with the remaining two labor groups. Hillsborough is also involved in developing a larger labor pool, has joined with other cities for training and cross-training, uses technology to streamline services, contracts out for some services, has consolidated services with other cities, and posts negotiated labor agreements on the Town's website for public perusal – all recommended by the Grand Jury.

In response to the report, the City Council agrees that other Grand Jury recommendations have conceptual merit, such as increasing employee contributions to pension plans; renegotiating current benefits; lowering the cap on converting accumulated sick leave to cash; reducing vacation time; increasing employee contributions to health, vision and dental insurance; and extending the length of time between automatic salary increases. The Council also responded that it would consider: employing more market-oriented compensation practices, the number of job applicants when negotiating salaries, soliciting public input with respect to labor agreements prior to closed session negotiations, and placing agreements on the agenda to invite public discussion.

The Grand Jury recommended increasing the age at which employees can start receiving benefits from age 50 or 55 to 60 and broadening the compensation horizon by considering comparable jobs in both private and public sectors. State law prohibits the Town from reducing retirement benefits for current employees. Discussion with labor groups regarding reducing retirement benefits for future hires has already begun.

The Grand Jury undertook the study of rising city employee costs because the upward trajectory continues, requiring cities to increase user fees, raise taxes, issue bonds, transfer funds from reserves and postpone needed critical infrastructure, maintenance and improvement projects. Problems began during the dot-com boom, from 1995-2001, when the labor market was tight and cities had to offer enhanced salaries and benefit packages to attract qualified workers. The stock market was booming and pensions were inexpensive to fund. City services and staff expanded. Salaries and benefits were written in stone in labor contracts. When the bubble burst, cities found themselves saddled with obligations they could no longer afford.

The economic downturn that began in 2008 made the problem worse. Due to property and sales tax decreases and reduced state contributions to municipalities, cities will need to contribute more to the state retirement plan, yet personnel costs are scheduled to increase.

In Hillsborough, the anticipated retirement costs continue to threaten the future structural balance of the budget in the next several years, according to Town financial officials. The city is working toward reversing the trend both in its own way and in ways recommended by the San Mateo County Grand Jury.

"We value our employees, so we want to be sure that we are committed to benefits that are sustainable in the future. We appreciate their cooperation during these difficult times," said City Manager Anthony Constantouros.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS HELP

Residents who are participating in the Town's landscape water audit program are showing, on average, a 10 percent reduction in water use, which is a positive outcome, according to the Public Works Department.

Because landscaping uses the greatest amounts of water, the Town and the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency developed a program to target residents who use large amounts of water for their landscaping by requesting them to participate in new water budgeting and audit programs. Officials reviewed water use records, parcel information, visited the sites and recommended ways to decrease water use and develop water budgets. There were 152 participants. The conservation program has generally had the desired effect of reducing water consumption, both in Hillsborough and other cities where the program was adopted.

The water audit program is funded through the water operations budget. Funding is \$30,000 for two years. If you would like to participate in the water audits, contact Public Works at 375-7444. Heavy water users are eligible for the on-site audits.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP

Signing up for e-announcements is easy! Just fill out the form on the back of the payment stub of your water bill and mail it with your payment, or sign up at Town Hall or on-line via the Town's website (www.hillsborough.net).

POLICE BLOTTER

The Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) responded to approximately 3,079 calls for service in the third quarter of 2009. During that time period, HPD arrested 21 adults and three juveniles, responded to and investigated 13 non-injury and seven injury vehicle collisions, and completed 196 police reports. A sample of calls for service that occurred during this time period are:

- An HPD officer saw a subject walking next to a moving vehicle on El Cerrito Avenue late one evening. The subject was steering the vehicle with his hand while walking along the street. Further investigation revealed that the subject was intoxicated and he was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- At midnight one evening, HPD officers responded to the area of Butternut and Skyline on a report of a female walking in the area wearing only a bikini. Upon arrival, the officers determined that the subject wearing the bikini was a male and was in need of psychiatric care.
- Officers responded to a residential burglar alarm activation and discovered that the rear sliding door had been pried open and a suspect(s) had gained entry into the home. A check was conducted and it was determined that the suspect fled the scene without being able to steal anything due to the activation of the alarm. The response time from the police department was three minutes.
- A resident dialed 9-1-1 because he believed someone was swimming in his pool at night. Responding officers determined that raccoons were the suspects in this case.
- Officers responded to a report of a large juvenile party with alcohol involved on Clydesdale. Further investigation revealed that adults at the party were allowing under-age drinking. The party was shut down by HPD and a report was forwarded to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office for prosecution of some of the adults for contributing to the delinquency of minors.

Want to Know What is Going on in Hillsborough? Stay Connected With Twitter and SMC Alert:

In an effort to share as much information with the public as possible regarding public safety news and events that impact the Town of Hillsborough, the HPD is utilizing Twitter.

You can view our updates at any time with or without a Twitter account by checking the website www.twitter.com/hillsboroughhpd. Check it out!

SMC ALERT is an alert notification system used to contact you during urgent or emergency situations with useful information and updates by sending text messages to your email accounts, cell phones, pagers, or Smart phones/hand-held devices.

The system is administered by the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services. Messages sent out through this system are broadcast through police departments, fire departments, and other agencies that deal directly with public safety matters.

The link for this website is www.smcalert.info. Signing up for this service is simple and free. Just follow the instructions on the website.

If any Hillsborough resident has any questions about Twitter or SMC ALERT or needs assistance with signing up for either service, contact Sergeant Nelson Corteway at ncorteway@hillsborough.net or by telephone at (650) 375-7552.

MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

Dec.	no matinee
Jan. 6	10 am and 12:30 Dan in Real Life
Feb. 3	10 am and 12:30 O Brother Where Art Thou
Mar. 3	10 am and 12:30 Stranger than Fiction

TOWN’S OLD SEWER PIPES CAUSE SPILL INTO LEGAL SYSTEM

Hillsborough has been battling sewer pipe problems on two fronts. The Public Works Department is not only involved in a multi-million-dollar, on-going project to replace and repair the city’s aging pipes, but the Town has had to contend with a legal order and a lawsuit over sewage spills that occurred because of under-sized and over-aged pipes here and in neighboring communities.

Hillsborough’s system shows the strain of being old and traveling over difficult terrain. The Town has been working on improving its sewer and water system for several years, has \$19 million in bond funds to upgrade and replace pipes and has scheduled in the next three years \$10 million more in capital improvements.

Nonetheless, in the summer of 2008, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board imposed a Cease and Desist Order against Hillsborough, the City of San Mateo and the Crystal Springs Sanitary Sewer District, which serves the San Mateo Highlands area. The entities involved are serviced in part by a pipeline that runs along Crystal Springs and El Cerrito. Because the pipe is too small to handle the load, back-ups occur and bubble up into Hillsborough, even though 40 percent of the flow is coming from the Crystal Springs area. Before the Cease and Desist Order, Hillsborough had already designed a pipe replacement project to cure the problem and had its funding in place, but they could not secure a commitment from the Crystal Springs Sanitary Sewer District for their share of the project. While the events that led to the order were not entirely the fault of the Town, the resulting agreement will help force the various parties to pay their share.

The agreement covered capital improvement projects that were already on board, financing, inspection, maintenance and a requirement to inspect every pipe in Town. “Additionally, this really helped the city to move forward with replacing the pipeline because it forced the partners to act and San Mateo to increase the size of the pipe,” City Attorney Mark Hudak said. “It is a benefit

SEWER LATERAL PROGRAM CONTINUES

There is still time to take advantage of the Town’s free video inspection program for sewer laterals, the pipe that connects a home to the Town’s sewer main. If your home was built before 1960, chances are your lateral needs to be fixed or replaced. A video inspection will determine the status of your pipe. A \$500 rebate to go towards the cost of the lateral replacement is available from the Town. To participate in this program, contact Public Works at pw@hillsborough.net or download an application from www.hillsborough.net/depts/pw/sewer/rebate_program.

because the Town was stalled and frustrated until the Board stepped in.”

A suit filed by Baykeeper, a pollution watchdog organization for the San Francisco Bay, targeted the Burlingame section of the city’s sewer system, where another set of pipes takes sewage into the Burlingame treatment plant. Baykeeper sued Burlingame and Hillsborough. Hudak explained that the suit was a puzzle because Hillsborough’s contribution to the entire flow into the Burlingame plant is only 10 percent. However, Baykeeper sued Burlingame and Burlingame pointed to Hillsborough, Hudak said.

Because the agreement with the Regional Water Board covered so much territory, little was left to accomplish in the Baykeeper settlement, Hudak said. “So we committed to the on-going goal of reducing the number of spills until they are eliminated in 2014.”

The Town paid a penalty of \$400,000 to the Regional Board, \$250,000 of which was returned to help deal with sewer lateral issues. The Baykeeper suit resulted in a payment of \$200,000 in attorney fees and \$25,000 to a Baykeeper-sponsored non-profit organization.

“The cost of litigation is high in these suits and the chance of defending is low because every time there is a spill, the Town is in violation of state and federal law,” Hudak said.

While the legal settlements add an extra burden to the Town’s already precarious budget, the result will be a better sewer system more quickly repaired, Hudak stressed. In the meantime, the process will require the cooperation of Mother Nature and residents. “Even a 10-gallon spill can put us in breach of the settlement,” said Hudak. Residents need to have strong and clear laterals and need to keep grease and destructive products like disposable cleaning cloths, baby wipes and greasy foods out of the sewer system. If residents do their part and Mother Nature holds back on downpours, perhaps the Town can survive without penalty until the pipe work is done.

HILLSBOROUGH’S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATES
Birthday Celebration of a Century
Wednesday, May 5, 2010
Hillsborough Historic Home Tour
Friday, May 14, 2010
Memorial Day Centennial Parade
Monday, May 31, 2010

For questions or if you want to volunteer, please email Hillsborough-centennial@gmail.com.

DON’T TRASH THE TOWN

Trash pick-up can be a nuisance, but it is a necessary part of life. Here is the information on keeping those unsightly garbage cans and recycle bins off the curb and out of sight. These ordinances are strictly enforced to keep Hillsborough a beautiful place to live.

Storage

All garbage receptacles, including yard waste receptacles, recycle bins, and regular garbage cans, must be stored out of view from the public street. Storage areas most frequently used are behind a fence, in rear yards, storage sheds and garages. Your yard waste must be stored in the Allied Waste yard waste receptacles in order for you to participate in the garbage collection program. Storing any garbage containers in public view after your scheduled pick-up is a

violation of the Town’s Nuisance Ordinance and will be enforced by the Code Enforcement Division.

Pick-up

Every residence in the Town of Hillsborough is required to have Allied Waste garbage service. Garbage pick-up must occur a minimum of once a week. Garbage containers, including yard waste receptacles, should not be placed at the curb any earlier than the night before pick-up, and should be removed and properly stored within 24 hours after pick-up. For more information about yard waste receptacles, contact Allied Waste at (650) 592-2411. If you wish to report a garbage or garbage receptacle violation, contact the Town of Hillsborough Code Enforcement Division at (650) 375-7572.

GREEN CORNER REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS AND SAVE MONEY AT THE SAME TIME

The homes in Hillsborough produce more than 45,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year. The startling fact is that our homes produce more greenhouse gas than our cars. These emissions are produced through the lighting, heating, cooling, appliances and water use in our homes. The good news is that one of the fastest and most effective ways to reduce climate change warming pollution is energy efficiency— and this efficiency saves us money.

What are the best ideas that Hillsborough residents can use to save money and energy — and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

1. Schedule a professional home energy audit to provide you with a list of the best ways to reduce energy and save money. A professional home energy audit provides residents with a custom home energy report that prioritizes the best steps to take to reduce energy and save money. Several Hillsborough residents have already completed these home energy audits and report more comfortable homes with lower energy costs every month. Visit the Residential Energy Services Network for a list of certified energy audit professionals (www.natresnet.org/directory/). This list includes several professional home energy companies that provide professional home energy audits. Once you receive your audit, don’t forget to obtain competitive bids for suggested measures.
2. Since pool pumps and motors can

- account for 20 percent of your home’s energy costs, pool owners can save energy and money by doing the following:
- Replace pool pump and motors with energy efficient equipment and qualify for \$100 rebate at www.pge.com/myhome/.
 - Consider solar for pools. Visit www.norcalsolar.org for more information.
 - Switch pool filter operations to off-peak hours.
 - Consider a pool cover to save water and conserve heat.
3. Go Solar- join the many Hillsborough residents who have recently purchased solar installations for these reasons:
 - Low-energy bills and protection from ever-rising energy costs.
 - New federal tax credits and California solar incentives available for solar installations.
 - Solar installations have dropped significantly in price. Lower material costs, additional purchase and lease alternatives are now available for every budget and any size project. Go to www.norcalsolar.org for additional information.
 4. Complete a free online Home Energy Analysis that tells you the best and easiest ways to save energy in your home. Visit: www.pge.com/myhome/savingenergymoney/analizer/.
 5. Visit Sustainable Hillsborough for more energy and water conservation information and resources: www.hillsborough.net/about/sustainable_hillsborough/.

DEARBORN REFLECTS ON 31 YEARS OF POLICE WORK, HILLSBOROUGH STYLE

Most police work isn’t chasing after robbers. It includes the everyday services that make communities better and safer. And that is exactly the service retired Sergeant Mike Dearborn brought to the Hillsborough Police Department for the past 31 years.

Dearborn entered the force as a reserve in 1978. He was hired full time the next year and proudly served until his retirement in June.

“Hillsborough allows you to spend more time with victims and to handle your calls all the way through,” he said. “You can really take the time to resolve a particular issue, even if it’s as simple as a barking dog.”

In his career, Dearborn has served in many different positions on the force. As corporal, he took great pride in training new officers, many of whom are still serving on the Town’s police force.

“That is a very important part of the job,” he said. “Laying that foundation has a major impact on the kind of officer these recruits will be in the future. I found that very rewarding.”

Dearborn also served as a K9 officer from 1991 to 2004, with two German shepherd partners, first Puma and then Max. “That was absolutely the best thing I did in police work,” he said.



Mike Dearborn

The dogs were trained to assist in protection and apprehension, but their secret weapon was public relations. Dearborn has many happy memories of visiting the local schools with his canine partners just to play.

“It’s a way to break down the barriers,” he said. “By getting to know the dog and the officer, the kids become more comfortable. Later, when they see that officer on the street, they feel that, yes, these guys are here to help.”

After 31 years of working swing shifts and graveyard and almost every single weekend, Dearborn is looking forward to spending some uninterrupted time with his family and having time for other diversions as well, including cheering on his beloved Oakland Raiders and visiting the Baseball Hall of Fame.

FIRE BLOTTER

- During the past quarter, the Central Country Fire Department responded to 1018 calls, as follows:
- Fire calls: 43
 - Explosions: 2
 - EMS/Rescue: 670
 - Hazardous conditions: 76 (wires or trees down, unidentified spills)
 - Public Assistance: 109 (lock-out, water problem, smoke or odor investigation)
 - False Alarms: 118