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HILLSBOROUGH

4TH QUARTER 2010



HC 2010 AlfaGroup

Crystal Springs Golf Course transformed



Classic Success

More than 2,500 people gathered under perfect skies this past September to enjoy the new Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance, which had the largest field of new, vintage and super cars ever. Chair Rob Fisher and his management team of 25 volunteers pronounced the event a huge success, with proceeds going to the Hillsborough Schools Foundation, plus two other local charities. Participants strolled the grounds at Crystal Springs Golf Course, partaking of gourmet food and fine wines while viewing the classic display that celebrated the Town's 100th anniversary and featured automobiles from Alfa Romeo and Thunderbird. Next year's Concours will be held August 27 and 28. Save the dates! *Photos: Ron Kimball Studios*



Best of Show winner Jay and Christina Moore in their 1933 Rolls Royce



A T-Bird for everyone



Chair Rob Fisher, Ted Dobos, Jay Moore



Jim and Sheila Burke in their 1959 XK 150



2010 Concours Committee



John and Leslie Wilson



10th Annual Tour d'Elegance group



Dick and Joy Jeffery



Some of the 50 vintage cars lined up



Gorgeous machines



Hillsborough native Scott McClenahan



Future Concours judges



Something for everyone!

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

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Mark Heine, Chair
Lin Ho, Christian Huebner,
George Jewett, Eric Nyhus
Julie Tenenbaum, Alternate

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Julie Borden, Candace Lyche, Paul Saffo
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CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE BOARD
Jess "Jay" Benton, D. Paul Regan

HILLSBOROUGH RECREATION
342-5439

D. Paul Regan, Commissioner
Christine Krolik, Commissioner

HILLSBOROUGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Anthony Ranii, 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

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 • Photography: LeAnn Thornton*

WWW.HILLSBOROUGH.NET

RESIDENTS GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY

Hillsborough is growing in ways you probably didn't expect. It's sprouting tomatoes, squash, eggplants, beans, broccoli and more, depending on the season.

About six months ago, the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation (HBF) received permission from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to pick up their shovels and make something worthwhile out of a weed-infested, vacant lot tucked in between homes near Town Hall. Thus began HBF's Harvest Garden, which by mid-September had already produced more than 150 pounds of produce that were donated to local charities.

"We wanted to have a community garden that would teach adults and children about growing produce in the suburbs," said Lennie Gotcher, the HBF member who is spearheading the project. "Community gardens, like Victory Gardens from times past, are part of a movement spreading across the United States," Gotcher said. "Now Hillsborough is part of that movement."

About 20 adults and 14 teenagers currently volunteer in the garden. The Town provides the water. The produce is donated to the CALL Primrose Center in Burlingame and St. Anthony's Dining Room in Redwood City.

The idea for the Harvest Garden

began when Gotcher and her son were helping out at St. Anthony's earlier this year and noticed that many people who came in were given a bag of produce to take home. "HBF knew about this vacant lot, so we presented the idea of a garden to the project chairs and they were very excited," said Gotcher.

Local companies were glad to dig in and donated plants, soil and bark chips. The funding was provided by HBF.

The garden consists of 18 raised beds in various sizes. The workers are all residents, ranging in age from 10 years to 70-plus. The volunteer force began with members of HBF and grew as members called friends to help out. Many, but not all, of the teens are fulfilling community service hours required for graduation. The junior committee of teens named the lot the Harvest Garden. "We hope to keep going, growing and bringing in more volunteers," Gotcher said, adding that anyone interested may call her at 650-344-7205.

"We're having fun," Gotcher added. "It's nice to be in a peaceful place with no phones. It's very hands-on and it's all about digging in the dirt and helping others. It's surprising, too, how much we are all learning. Hopefully our volunteers will be inspired to go home and start their own vegetable gardens."



PHOTO: KATHERINE WESTERMAN

All ages of volunteers pitch in to help at Hillsborough's new Harvest Garden. Above, from left, are Will Gotcher, Will Runckel, Gray Gotcher, and Neal Buncke. Left, raised beds produce pounds of fruits and vegetables for local charities.

NEW GARBAGE WAYS – YOU CAN DO THIS

Time to toss out the old garbage collection methods. Starting January 3, 2011, there will be a new way of doing things: new cans; garbage and recyclables pick-up WEEKLY; and composting of food scraps. Recology, the new collection company, will be sending each residence a colorful brochure that describes in detail the items that can go in each can – be sure to save this information so you can refer to it during the transition period.

December is transition month

- The BLACK can: You will receive a black garbage can. This is for garbage – not yard clippings and not recyclables. If you would like to get rid of the can you are currently using for garbage, place it on the curb on a pick-up day during December with a "TAKE ME" tag pro-

vided by Recology. You may keep it, if you want, but don't use it for garbage pick-up. You can begin using your new black can when you receive it.

- The BLUE can: You will receive a blue recyclables can. This will make life easier for you because you will no longer have to separate your cans, bottles, newspapers, etc. Put all recyclable material in this can – plastic containers, glass bottles, metal cans, aluminum foil, newspaper, junk mail, and so on. You can begin using your new blue can when you receive it. As for the small bins that you have been using for recyclables – you can keep them or place them on the curb for pick-up, during December, upside down next to the large can.
- The GREEN can: You will continue

to use your green waste can. Some cities are receiving new green cans, but Hillsborough opted to reuse the current cans to save money. The green waste can holds yard clippings, but starting in January it will also be used to hold food scraps. During December, you will receive new compost pails, which are about the size of a lunch pail, to be used for the collection of food scraps beginning in January.

New garbage collection methods begin on January 3

Starting in January, garbage and recyclables pick-up will be WEEKLY and you can begin composting.

Place your new compost pail in your kitchen and begin to collect food scraps. Don't use a plastic liner in the pail. Just throw in food scraps from food preparation (without plastic or foil wrappings), from plates after dinner, or from refrigerator clean out. Also add food-soiled paper goods such as used paper plates or cups, and paper napkins. Add the contents of the pail to the large green can.

Place all three of your cans – black, blue and green – at the curb for pick-up on your designated day. The wheels should be placed against the curb, the handles away from the street. Set the cans about 24 inches apart. The purpose of the placement is to enable mechanical pick-up from new automated trucks. Residents who have opted for backyard pick-up will still receive that service for a premium cost based on the distance from the street.

If your cans are not picked up during the week of January 3, call Recology directly right away (650-595-3900). The same drivers will be collecting, but some of the routes are new and there may be some schedule changes (Recology will be sending a postcard/letter in December notifying residents of any changes in schedule).

Residents will discover that they have much less black-can garbage than before. If you would like to reduce the size of your can, you may do so by calling Recology (650-595-3900). Most residents subscribe to a 32-gallon can; the minimum size for a black can is 20 gallons. Blue cans come in 64- and 96-gallon sizes, and green cans are all 96-gallon.

Why do this?
The purpose of the transition in trash collection is "all about saving both money and our environment," according to Public Works Director Martha DeBry. The new system will drastically reduce the amount of trash that needs to be hauled to a landfill. DeBry anticipates increasing the Town's waste diversion rate up to 70 percent. Land is becoming more scarce and thus the price of hauling to landfills that are increasingly farther away is escalating rapidly. Bottom line is that it costs more to process a ton of garbage than a ton of recyclables. While an initial trash collection rate increase is expected, the new system will result in a stabilization of rates in the long run.

Beyond the cart

Programs for recycling of hazardous material or bulky items will continue. Old prescription medicines can still be dropped off at the Police Department lobby (it is important not to flush drugs down the toilet as it contaminates the water supply). Bags with batteries and cell phones can be placed on the lid of the blue cans. Also, for information about the new Household Hazardous Waste Door-to-Door Collection program started in May, call Curbside at 800-HHW-PKUP (800-449-7587) or email hotline@curbsideinc.com.

"Beginning in January, Hillsborough will have as complete a set of recycling programs as any place in California," DeBry said.

SEWER LATERAL CAUSING RAW SEWAGE SPILLS?

Hillsborough must eliminate the conditions in its sewer system that cause raw sewage spills by 2018. That is the mandate, to comply with both the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Cease and Desist Order and the outcome of a lawsuit brought against the Town by San Francisco Baykeeper. In 2009, the Town reported 30 sewer overflows that reflected a total volume of over 38,000 gallons spilled. For 2014, the Town has agreed to a goal of reducing sewer overflows to six. To accomplish this goal, cooperation between the Town and the residents is needed.

The sanitary sewer system, which is separate from the storm sewer system, is comprised of two parts: the Town's sewer main lines and the homeowners' laterals, which are the connections between residences and the main line.

The Town has been working for some time to clean and repair its 116-mile system of sewer mains. Because the problem of raw sewage overflows cannot be solved by cleaning and repairing the public sewer mains only, the Town is exploring the option of an ordinance that would require all homeowners to certify that their laterals are root-free and water-tight.

Residential laterals feed into the city's main sewer pipes. If they are broken, they allow excessive storm water infiltration during storms, which leads to overflows of the main system. Root infiltration is the primary cause of breakage. "If you need to have your lateral cleaned as often as once a year, the lateral is probably broken and needs replacement," Public Works Director Martha DeBry said. "Laterals are a part of the infrastructure of the home, just like a roof, and both need to be replaced over time," DeBry pointed out.

To meet the goal of certifying that a lateral is root-free and water-tight, some homeowners may need to repair, rehabilitate or replace their sewer lateral. If a lateral has been replaced within the past 10 years, it is probably fine. Laterals older than 10 years may need to be inspected and possibly repaired or replaced. Hillsborough currently offers a free video lateral inspection program.

The Town is looking for feedback regarding how best to assist residents with this process in the future. Please send any comments or questions to the Town of Hillsborough Public Works Department at (650 375-7444) or e-mail pw@hillsborough.net.

LIGHT UP THE TOWN

The Hillsborough Beautification Foundation (HBF) invites you to attend their annual Light Up The Town event on Thursday, December 2, 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at Town Hall.

The evening includes pictures with Santa, entertainment, children's crafts, and an opportunity to write a letter to Santa, as we anxiously await the tree lighting ceremony. Hot chocolate, specialty coffees, and treats will be served.

YOUNG BRINGS 'REAL LIFE' TO POLICE TRAINING

Corporal Dave Young, police training instructor, believes in stepping outside the box—and the textbook—to present his young recruits with real-life situations.

In a typical scenario, some recruits out in the training field are approached by a couple posing as people who have found a severely disabled girl wandering around by herself. The recruits are told they need to locate her parents. The 10-year-old girl functions at the level of a one-year-old. She cannot communicate clearly. She darts off into the street. The recruits have to learn how to handle her, to be gentle and protective, but personal enough to find some sort of identification. Eventually, via medical bracelets, they locate her father's phone number and enter it. Corporal Young's phone rings. The recruits freeze. The disabled girl is Young's daughter and the couple with her are Young's parents.

The recruits never forget the experience, or the multi-layered lesson on working with many kinds of individuals that can only be learned from real-life experiences.

About three years ago, Young was asked to represent the Hillsborough Police



Gordon Sievert, program coordinator for the San Mateo Police Academy, congratulates Corporal Dave Young on his exemplary training techniques.

Department (HPD) in recruit training. During the six-month assignment, he found he had been "bitten by the training bug" and was asked to become an instructor during his free time. Because many instructors are retired police personnel, he felt he could bring an active patrol perspective to his classes, and he wanted to make his lessons come alive. "Real-life experiences are important. You can't get those in a book,"

Young said.

Bringing his daughter Jillian to some of his classes is one of many ways he teaches his students those important real-life lessons. "My wife Jenny and I talked about it and felt that if it helps officers handle a situation better, we were glad to do it," Young said. "Jillian is a great assistant," he said, with obvious pride.

Young has also reached out to personnel at Bridge School, the facility located on the North School campus that is dedicated to teaching children with severe physical and speech impairments, to create more training lessons. "Working with people at Bridge School, officers can learn how individuals feel when contacted by police and how to be sensitive," Young said. "They can also learn how to handle disabled individuals who may pose a threat."

Young is also working with Chief Building Official John Mullins to find empty homes ready for demolition that can be used for searches. "Searching a real home is entirely different from searching a classroom," Young explained. "There are closets and stairs, and twists and turns in a real

home that don't exist in a classroom."

Young's unusual and extremely effective method of training recruits led to his receiving the Police Advisory Committee's Award for Instructional Excellence this past spring. "We don't give this award casually," said Gordon Sievert, program coordinator for the San Mateo Police Academy. "Young showed a great affinity for teaching and continues to grow in his talent. He has spent energy above and beyond the call, and his people skills are fantastic. He has impressed both his students and staff."

Young teaches primarily at the College of San Mateo. He grew up in Burlingame, attended Burlingame High School and, after graduating from California State University at Sacramento, worked as a sales representative in both the grocery and pharmaceutical industries for 10 years. Young's wife grew up in Hillsborough and attended West and Crocker schools. In 2002, Young's good friend and fellow HPD officer Dave Agee talked him into joining the HPD. "Second to proposing to my wife, it's the best decision I ever made," Young said.

POLICE BLOTTER

For the four-month period of June, July, August, and September 2010, the Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) responded to 3,838 calls for service. In those four months, HPD arrested 22 adults and five juveniles, responded to and investigated 22 non-injury and four injury vehicle collisions, and completed 190 police reports. Samples of some of the calls for service that occurred during this period are:

- HPD received a call of a disturbance at a residence on Skyfarm Drive. Investigating officers determined that an assault and battery had occurred and one adult male was taken into custody.
- An HPD officer conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Barroilhet and Brewer drives. The officer located a pipe used to smoke methamphetamine inside of the vehicle and the driver was arrested.
- HPD received a call of a disturbance in the area of Ridgeway and Vista roads. One adult male was taken into custody for assaulting peace officers and causing injury, vandalism, and making criminal/terrorist threats.
- HPD assisted the San Bruno Police Department immediately after a major gas line explosion on September 9. During the week following the explosion, HPD members assisted San Bruno PD with scene security and management.
- An HPD officer conducted a traffic stop in the area of Hillsborough Blvd. and Edgewood Road. The driver was intoxicated and was arrested for driving under the influence. An additional charge of obstruction of justice was added when the driver refused to properly identify himself during the booking process.
- HPD received a call of a solo vehicle accident on Skyline Blvd. The driver had sustained injuries and was transported to San Francisco General Hospital. Investigating officers responded to the hospital and determined that the driver was intoxicated at the time of the crash. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence and was issued a promise to appear.
- An HPD officer noticed a vehicle in the intersection of Bridge Road and Redwood Drive that was not moving. The investigating officer made contact with the driver and determined that she was intoxicated. The driver was arrested and it was determined that her blood alcohol content was 3 times the legal limit.

HPD responded to and investigated 17 thefts from vehicles during this four-month period. Please remember to lock your vehicle, and remove all valuables and electronic devices.

HPD arrested 11 people for DUI-related offenses during this time period. Please remember to drive responsibly.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

Hillsborough's narrow streets and lack of sidewalks can create challenges for pedestrians, as well as for drivers. Pedestrians should always walk or jog closest to the left side edge of the roadway (facing oncoming traffic). This is not only the safest practice, but it is also the law. If out with your dog, please keep it on a leash (also a law) and close to you to avoid creating a hazard in the roadway. Following these simple rules can help to avoid potential conflict between pedestrians and vehicles.

If you have any questions regarding traffic safety, please contact Hillsborough Police Corporal Peter Scatena at pscatena@hillsborough.net or 650-375-7598.

Receive text alerts

Want a simple way to receive text alerts from the Hillsborough Police Department? Simply text "follow hillsboroughpd" to the number 40404 and you will receive crime alerts, traffic advisories, and other public safety news that impacts the Town of Hillsborough.

Feedback

Please submit any feedback about the Police Blotter or ideas for future publications to Sergeant Nelson Corteway at ncorteway@hillsborough.net. Your suggestions are welcome and appreciated!

BORDEN, SAFFO JOIN CCAC

Julie Borden – believes in being involved in one's community. Since moving to Hillsborough in 1995, she has served on the Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees, she has been president of the Hillsborough Schools Foundation and she has been on the Town's Sustainable Task Force. Now that her three children are in high school and college, she has moved on to the Board of Directors of the San Mateo High School Foundation and the National Charity League. Most recently, she was named to the Town's Citizens Communications Advisory Committee (CCAC).



Julie Borden

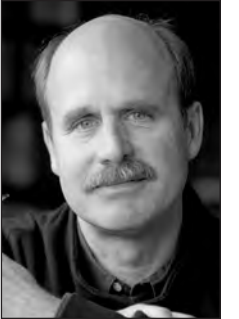
"I feel that the more informed people are, the smarter they will be about the decisions they make and the more understanding they will have about the decisions the Town makes," Borden said, explaining her interest in joining the committee. "I also want to be informed myself and help out in the Town."

Borden grew up in Menlo Park and graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a degree in geography. For many years she worked creating software for geographic information systems.

Paul Saffo – says that he joined the

CCAC because he has "always enjoyed the newsletter, especially the Police Blotter, and it's the least I could do to help continue it."

Saffo grew up in Rolling Hills in Southern California and moved to Hillsborough in 1996. He holds degrees from Harvard, Cambridge and Stanford universities and calls himself a "quasi-academic." His business is long-range forecasting in emerging technologies, and his interests are human and natural history. He is a consulting associate professor in the Engineering Department of Stanford University and occasionally writes for ABCnews.com, Harvard Business Review and other publications.



Paul Saffo

On the committee, Saffo said he plans to focus on digital media. "In the long term, almost all communication will be via cyberspace. Hillsborough has made a good start in that direction and my focus will be to do more," he said.

"Given the disappearance of robust local newspapers," Saffo continued, "the Town newsletter and cyberspace communication are more important than ever for informing residents and maintaining the identity of Hillsborough."

CONTACT SYSTEM SAVES WOMAN

Hillsborough may be a town of revered tradition, but when it comes to modern-day communication technology, it rides the Silicon Valley waves. On August 27, 2010, when an elderly woman was reported missing, the Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) launched into its emergency communication mode. Due to one of the new systems, "Reverse 911," the woman was located.

The woman's caretaker reported her client missing on the morning of August 27. Upon receiving the call, HPD reported the situation on Facebook, Twitter, SMCAAlert and Reverse 911. Reverse 911 identifies whatever area of Town is critical and places an automatic phone call to each home in the area, stating the problem. "It's extremely effective," said Lieutenant Caroline Serrato.

Police immediately began a search of the nearby area, but were unsuccessful. They then broadened the search and

sent out another Reverse 911 call. In the late afternoon, search and rescue teams, which included some Hillsborough residents, were called in and worked from a command post at West School. Eventually, a resident on Mosswood Road, having received the Reverse 911 call, reported to police that he had seen a woman matching the description in the area. As the rescue teams were just about to halt their search, they intensified the mission and discovered the woman at the bottom of a canyon in a dry creek bed. She was tired and dehydrated and was taken to a nearby hospital. But she had been found, due to the communication system and an alert resident.

The woman was located in a hidden and relatively inaccessible area. Serrato said that without Facebook, Twitter and Reverse 911, the result could have been much worse.

MURPHY SPARKS INTEREST IN CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Unfortunately, the conventional way of meeting your local firefighter is a result of a 911 call. “That’s usually a pretty bad day,” said Patrick Murphy, a firefighter/paramedic with Central County Fire Department (CCFD), who has devoted a portion of his career to introducing the public to its Fire Department in a positive way.

Consequently, if you see firefighters in front of the grocery store conducting blood pressure checks, Murphy is probably behind that effort. When you stop at a firefighter booth at Burlingame’s Art in the Park, Murphy most likely arranged for the firefighters to be there.

“I think it’s important for the people to get to know us and what we do,” he said. “The people pay our salaries and we are here for them. So they should know what we are doing for them in their neighborhoods.”

Hillsborough city staff feels the same way and recognized Murphy’s public rela-

tion effort by presenting him with the latest Employee Excellence Award.

Murphy seizes upon each opportunity to acquaint all members of the community with firefighters and their work. During the summer, he conducts the Junior Fire Academy, for children ages nine through twelve. He took over the Academy in 2009 and conducts two sessions between June and August. The students are given lessons in fire prevention and fire fighting, which consist of exercises such as running obstacle courses, pulling hose lines and squeezing through tight spaces, all based on actual firefighter exercises. Murphy said the Academy is fun for both the kids and



Patrick Murphy

him, but also promotes understanding of a firefighting career.

Becoming – and staying – fit is essential to a profession that requires physical strength and endurance. To that end, Murphy and several of his colleagues started CCFD’s Wellness Program, which is part of the International Association of Fire Fighters’ program, with curriculum adapted for the local department. Murphy is one of the team members who does personal training and health checks, and works to equip the various stations with used machinery for training.

Physical training is a natural fit for Murphy, who majored in kinesiology at San Diego State University. Upon graduation, he was not sure what he wanted to do with his degree until one of his friends, who was working toward a career in fire service, invited him to ride along for a day. “I found that fire service was everything I’ve ever wanted to do,” Murphy said. He attended the fire academy in San Diego, decided he wanted to become a paramedic as well, and attended paramedic school in Burlingame. At that time, he was also serving as an intern with Hillsborough and was hired after his graduation in 2001.

Murphy grew up in Half Moon Bay and attended Serra High School and the College of San Mateo before going to San Diego State. He lives with his family in Folsom and enjoys cycling, mountain biking, snowboarding and fishing.

“I’m as happy as a clam,” he said.

WINTER RECREATION ACTIVITIES AT TOWN HALL

Yoga Classes (all levels):

Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

November 16, 23, 30

December 7, 14

January 4, 11, 18, 25 and February 1

Bridge Classes:

Beginner Bridge:

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Intermediate Bridge:

Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

January 11, 18, 25

February 1, 8, 15, 22

March 1, 8, 15

All classes are \$100 for a 10-week session or \$15 drop-in. Register online at www.hillsboroughrecreation.org or at class.

LAST CHANCE FOR CENTENNIAL MEMORABILIA!

Still available:

Historic maps of Hillsborough, \$10 each
Centennial holiday ornaments, \$7 each, or 4 for \$20

Centennial fleece blankets, \$10 each

Also: Concours d’Elegance baseball caps and T-shirts, \$10 each

Available at the Finance Department.

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Hillsborough Neighborhood Network has divided the Town into 88 neighborhoods for the purpose of organizing to prepare for an emergency. More than half of those neighborhoods have Neighborhood Lead volunteers in place, who are currently contacting neighbors. If you have not yet enrolled your household into the preparedness program, please provide

your name, address and email to hnn@hillsborough.net or call 650-375-7554.

The next town-wide HNN meeting will be in the spring. Watch for details in the February newsletter or via E-announce (contact mbernardo@hillsborough.net if you haven’t enrolled with HNN but wish to be added to the Town’s E-announce list).

EMOTIONS HIGH FOR CHIEF AT SAN BRUNO FIRE

Don Dornell, fire chief of the Central County Fire Department (CCFD), has strong and mixed emotions about the San Bruno fire on September 9, 2010. On the one hand, there was the shock, devastation, frustration and fear. But on the other hand, there was glowing pride in his department and the neighboring county units.

When the call came in and rapidly escalated to six alarms (three is average; eight is capacity), CCFD firefighters didn’t even call in – they just showed up, no questions asked. They knew they would be needed to staff the stations while all available on-duty personnel went to the battle.

“What that shows is a real commitment to the department,” Dornell said. “It says a lot about the heart of the department.”

About 30 trucks and engines -- about 60 percent of San Mateo County’s resources -- responded to the fire. (It was necessary to leave behind in each community a certain amount of equipment and staffing to respond to any other emergencies). The force was augmented by 10 engines from San Francisco, 10 from Alameda County and 10 from the California Fire Department.

“This was definitely something no one in the county had ever experienced before,” Dornell said – “the incredible heat, the roar of the fire, the chaos, the magnitude.”

The chaos, Dornell explained, was attributed to the fact that there was either no water or not enough pressure in many of the hydrants. The explosion had ruptured the water main in the area. “We saw fire progressing down the street, taking home after home, and we were helpless to stop it,” Dornell said. “We train on a daily basis, but all our training starts with hooking up to a (working) hydrant.”

Dornell heard the call just as he and his wife were headed out to dinner. Personal plans were dropped and he responded to the scene. Dornell, along with others, evaluated the situation and took action. He directed personnel to working hydrants. They laid more than 1000 feet of hose and defended what homes they could. “You can’t put out a gas fire,” he said. “You just have to let it burn out.

“The heat was so intense. As firefighters stepped off a truck, they got the equivalent of a bad sunburn, it was that hot. Firefighters could not enter homes due to the heat and lack of water; there was loss of life before the first firefighters arrived.

“It was heart-wrenching,” Dornell said. But the Chief added that San Mateo County’s seamless system (that is based on fire departments crossing jurisdictional boundaries) and years of cooperation and joint training allowed for the best possible handling of the overwhelming event. While the departments train to fight up to three- and four-alarm fires in tall office buildings and know how to handle gas main breaks, “we do not train for a 30-inch gas main break, with fire, in the middle of a residential area, with no water,” Dornell emphasized.

Firefighters, however, put their expertise to work, they laid hose and connected it until they found water, they used water from trucks, they found where to take a stand, they fought valiantly and saved much. They worked through the night and into the following days, assisting families with medical problems and logistics.

“I’m just so proud of the way people in our department stepped up,” Dornell said.

TOWN BRIEFS

During the past quarter, City Council:

- Awarded a 2009-2010 sanitary sewer cleaning and video inspection project for \$157,670 to be in compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Cease and Desist Order (CDO) requiring the Town to video inspect all 116 miles of its sewer system. A contingency of 20 percent was added to the cost due to the potential for unforeseen circumstances.
- Awarded a contract for seven water pump motors in the amount of \$94,184. Part of the amount consists of \$51,000 in grant funding.
- Approved a proposal by the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation (HBF) to rehabilitate the New Place Island located at the corner of Eucalyptus Avenue and New Place Road in front of North School. A committee consisting of Lori Marquardt, Maryellie Johnson, Leslie Wilson and Donna Abrahamson are working with Landscape Architect John Northmore Roberts to redesign the island to conform to crosswalk improvements developed by the city engineer. About 24 cherry trees and a variety of hedges and plants will be installed. HBF is also contemplating two complementary projects in the coming year that will enhance the general area.
- Allocated \$59,000 in funds for the installation of connections between the California Water Company’s potable water mains and the Town’s mains. The Town entered into an agreement with the California Water Company to allow for the transfer of water between its water system and the Town’s. This provides both agencies with a backup source of water in the areas that border Hillsborough and San Mateo. California Water committed to installing four connections and sharing the costs equally for the installation at Parrott Drive and Edgewood Road. The Parrott connection is particularly valuable to the Town as it is the first time the Town has had a means of obtaining water from an alternate source in that remote area.
- Authorized a \$37,813 California Energy Commission energy efficiency loan and the expenditure of an additional not-to-exceed \$15,000 of water enterprise funds to cover the costs of replacing an inefficient water motor and pump and retrofitting lighting at the Police Department and Town Hall parking lot. The loan will be paid off in annual installments using the realized energy savings.

People

City Council:

- Recognized the Town’s Centennial Co-chair Letty Callinan for memorable and successful events commemorating the Town’s 100th anniversary.
- Awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Tedra Wrede and Geraldine Le-Mais for their work on the Hillsborough Neighborhood Network.
- Recognized the Town’s Mayors for a Day, Clement Chen and Patti Chen, auction winners of an item that benefited Hillsborough Schools Foundation.
- Presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Police Corporal Anne Crittenden Dickson, upon her retirement, for 20 years of service in the Hillsborough Police Department.
- Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to George and Anna Hsu for their very generous donation to the Carolands Gatehouse project to preserve one of Hillsborough’s most charming and beloved treasures.

FIRE BLOTTER

During the past quarter, Central County Fire Department received 1,024 calls. Calls included:

- Rupture/explosion: 5
- EMS/rescue: 621
- Public assistance: 114
- Hazardous condition: 69 (wires or trees down, unidentified spills, etc.)
- False alarms: 119
- Severe weather: 0
- Good intent: 65 (no merit – report of smoke that turned out to be steam, etc.)