

1600 Floribunda Ave.  
Hillsborough, CA 94010

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hillsborough,  
CA 94010  
Permit No. 34

# HILLSBOROUGH

## 1ST QUARTER 2011



# JUMP INTO HNN HILLSBOROUGH'S SAFETY NET

### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

## Second Annual Hillsborough Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 30, 2011, 10 a.m.  
Town Hall To North School

To Participate, Email Parade@hillsborough.net  
Or Call Marie Bernardo At 650-375-7406  
Or 375-7400.

### CALENDAR COMMITTEES NUMBERS

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

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

**DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONERS**  
Mayor Thomas M. Kasten, Police Department  
Vice Mayor Jess "Jay" Benton, Finance  
Christine Krolik, Public Works  
Laurence M. May, Building & Planning  
Marie Chuang, Fire Department

**ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**  
Laurence M. May, Commissioner  
Mark Heine, Chair  
Lin Ho, Christian Huebner, Eric Nyhus,  
Julie Tenenbaum  
Nan Ryan, Alternate

**FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Vice Mayor Jess "Jay" Benton, Commissioner  
Al Royle, Chair  
David Brooks, Kathy Ceremsak,  
Josh Cooperman, Maryellie Johnson,  
Richard Kuersteiner, David Steirman  
Paul Regan, Emeritus Advisor

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

**CITIZENS COMMUNICATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Christine Krolik, Commissioner  
Julie Borden, Chair, Suzanne Boutin, Vice Chair  
Donna Abrahamson, Joyce Love, Paul Saffo,  
Diana Witzel, Advisor

**CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE BOARD**  
Marie Chuang, Commissioner  
Vice Mayor Jess "Jay" Benton

**HILLSBOROUGH RECREATION**  
342-5439  
Christine Krolik, Town Commissioner  
Laurence M. May, Town Commissioner  
Lynne Esselstein, HCSD Commissioner  
Steven Koury, HCSD Commissioner  
Michele Bosschart, Member at Large

**HILLSBOROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK**  
Christine Krolik, Chair  
Lia Turk, Administrator, Steven Gans, Sue Johnston  
and Diane Kounalakis, Area Leads

**HILLSBOROUGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Anthony Ranii, Superintendent: 342-5193

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Business: 375-7470, Alarm Specialists: 375-7472

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Business: 558-7600

**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

**RECOLOGY**  
Main Number: (650) 595-3900  
Hazardous Material: (800) 449-7587

To date, more than 1,000 households have signed on for the Hillsborough Neighborhood Network (HNN) effort to mobilize the entire Town into a network of self-sufficient teams who can help each other in times of disaster.

"Our objective is to prepare and organize all neighborhoods for emergency preparedness at the individual, neighborhood and community levels. The end goals are self-sufficiency for 72 hours in case of disaster and to promote communication within neighborhoods and the Town," said Lt. Caroline Serrato of the Hillsborough Police Department.

Enrolling in HNN is easy. Click onto the Town's website, www.hillsborough.net; then click onto the Neighborhood Network button at the bottom of the home page. There is a directory form that enables you to become a part of the safety network and/or express interest in becoming a neighborhood leader.

Becoming involved with HNN does not require a large time commitment. A 12-month task list has been developed to provide leaders and residents with knowledge, skills and tools needed to aid each other in times of disaster. January's task recommends signing up for one or all of the alert systems: San Mateo County Alert, eNotify, Twitter or Facebook. In February, residents should assemble emergency kit items. Please refer to the website for links.

"We know people are busy, so we are keeping the obligation to only one hour per month," Serrato said.

Should any emergency strike, it is essential that residents be able to take care of their own needs for at least 72 hours, as police and fire will be stretched too thin by the size of the catastrophe to take care of minor emergencies. Through the program, seniors and individuals with special needs can make themselves known to the

neighborhood group, which will be able to respond and offer help. Vital to the program are neighborhood leaders who are, or will be, trained in emergency methods and communication.

To implement the safety network, organizers of HNN have divided Hillsborough into 85 "neighborhoods" of 25 to 50 homes each. So far, more than half of the neighborhoods have leaders. There are three Area Leads for the Town: west (Diane Kounalakis; hnn-west@hillsborough.net), south (Steven Gans; hnn-south@hillsborough.net) and north (Sue Johnston; hnn-north@hillsborough.net). A current effort is underway to find leaders and co-leaders for each neighborhood.

Leaders will hold an information session or block party so that neighbors can get to know one another and learn about emergency preparation. So far, about 15 sessions have been held throughout the Town.

"The most important thing is to sign up and get involved," said HNN coordinator and Town resident Lia Turk.

"Hillsborough Neighborhood Network is an essential effort for the safety and well being of our residents, and I encourage everyone in Town to be involved in this critical program. The benefits could save lives, and have the added advantage of being an enjoyable way to get to know your neighbors," said Councilmember Christine Krolik, who initiated the program a year ago when serving as mayor.

The next Town-wide HNN meeting, open to any interested residents, will be held on Monday, February 28 at 9 a.m. at Town Hall. An orientation will follow at 10 a.m. for anyone interested in serving as a Neighborhood Lead or Co-Lead. Any questions on HNN efforts can be directed to hnn@hillsborough.net or call 375-7554 and leave a message. Also, there are still limited spots available for the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training. If interested, please contact Lisa Bartolo: lbartolo@centralcountyfd.org.



Above from left, HNN coordinator Lia Turk, Lt. Caroline Serrato, West Area lead Diane Kounalakis and North Area lead Sue Johnston. Left, residents at HNN block party.

WWW.HILLSBOROUGH.NET



## RETIRING COUNCILMEMBERS LOOK BACK ON SERVICE

This past December, both John Fannon and Paul Regan retired from the Hillsborough City Council. The Town bids farewell to two valuable – in truth, invaluable – city leaders. During their 12 years of service, they have witnessed many changes and challenges.

Both Fannon and Regan see the biggest challenge, past and future, as financial stability. Revenues are almost flat while costs are going up significantly. “The rising costs are largely contractual and outside of Hillsborough’s control,” Regan said. “The future is very challenging and is in need of a structural change. To meet this challenge, we can make some changes that will help, but the most significant help will have to come from Sacramento and, unfortunately, from the financial failure of other cities in the state, which might bring about the types of major changes to our cost structure that are needed. Hillsborough currently is in a strong financial position but that may not last.”

“It is of utmost importance to continue to be fiscally responsible,” Fannon agreed.

Back in 1998, both men responded to requests from fellow citizens to serve on the City Council, saying that involvement in their Town was important to them. In 1998, Fannon was retiring as president of Simpson Paper Company. “My wife had been doing all the volunteer work,” he said. “I hadn’t done much and it was time to give back.” Fannon lists the highlights of his time on Council as serving as mayor for two years, being involved in the Town’s 100th anniversary and serving as chair of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA).

“I was chair of BAWSCA for two years,” Fannon said. “The agency oversees a \$4.5 billion upgrade of the Hetch Hetchy water system which delivers water to 27 Bay Area agencies.”

Another highlight cited by Fannon was being commissioner of the Architecture & Design Review Board (ADRB). Looking back, Fannon said he saw maintaining the ambiance of the Town’s architecture and instituting guidelines for building and remodeling as some of the most important challenges he encountered.

Regan, who had been active on the Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees and the Town’s Financial Advisory Committee, wanted to increase his involvement with the Town. Regan points to six major highlights of his time in office: starting and implementing the Central County Fire Department; maintaining a



John Fannon



Paul Regan

sound financial condition for the Town; having a role in founding and growing the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation (HBF); growing the Hillsborough Recreation Commission and improving its fields and facilities; maintaining great leadership and productivity in all of the Town’s departments; and nurturing and maintaining a very effective and hard-working Town Council.

“Highlights also include working with and getting to know the great people of the Town,” Regan added. “From the citizens to the employees, there are so many good, bright, caring and able people that make Hillsborough a great place. It’s very satisfying to be associated with such good people in a Town that works so well.”

Merging Hillsborough’s and Burlingame’s fire departments is seen by Fannon as one of the primary changes in Town during his terms. Regan agrees that the Fire Department merger was a big change and symbolic of the overall change of having to protect revenues and conserve resources more than ever before. “Our revenue sources are almost flat and our structural expenses for health care and retirement are rapidly increasing, which is putting pressure on the Town’s finances much more so today than in the past,” Regan said.

Other changes cited by Regan were the improvement of the Town’s physical appearance due to the founding and growing of HBF and the growth of the Recreation Commission. “The Recreation Commission is in a much better position financially and its fields are super now versus very poor when I started on the Council,” Regan stated.

“I am thankful and honored to have been able to represent this great Town and its people,” Regan said. “It has been a very enjoyable and memorable experience.”

“It was a rewarding experience to work 12 years with an outstanding city manager and such a capable staff,” Fannon said. “The Town is in good hands.”

The Town thanks Regan and Fannon for their many years of dedicated service.

## CITY SEWER PROJECT HAS LONG WAY TO GO

Normally, the Town would be proud to be ranked fifth out of 1,091 in the state. But the top one-half percent is not where Hillsborough wants to be when it comes to the most sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Yet, that is the ranking published in the 2010 Annual Report of the Statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program.

“It’s an improvement over last year when we were ranked third,” Public Works Director Martha DeBry said of the two-place improvement. The top four spots for 2010 belong to Richmond City, Carlsbad, San Mateo and Angels Camp.

In actuality, the improvement represents the large and expensive effort on the part of the city to repair and replace its aging, 116-mile sewer pipe system. 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, Hillsborough is mandated to eliminate the conditions in its

sewer system that cause raw sewage spills by 2018.

Repairing and replacing city pipes is only part of the answer. An integral part of the project is ensuring that individual residents’ lateral pipes are also in good shape. Laterals are the connections between residences and the main lines, which, if broken, allow excessive storm water infiltration during storms, which leads to overflows of the main system.

To that end, 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. Hillsborough currently offers a free video lateral inspection program. The Town is also looking for feedback regarding how best to assist residents with this process in the future. Send any comments or questions to the Town of Hillsborough Public Works Department at 650-375-7444 or email pw@hillsborough.net.

## TOWN BRIEFS

During the last quarter of 2010, City Council:

- Approved filing a test claim to be reimbursed for approximately \$122,000 in annual costs for new regulations mandated by the state to deal with storm water quality. The cost recovery process is lengthy, complicated and not guaranteed.
- Heard a past-year review from Hillsborough City School District officials. Hillsborough Schools Foundation Co-President Julia Davidson reported that the Foundation raised approximately 15 percent of the school budget last year and that there was 80 percent parent participation. She pointed out that only 17 percent of the property tax dollar goes to schools. Superintendent Anthony Ranii reported that Hillsborough schools’ test scores are improved over last year and are some of the highest in the state. Three goals for next year are: 1) Making sure each child has what he needs to be successful, 2) Revision of the progress reports, and 3) Improvement of social and emotional learning. The District has 1504 students, more than ever before.
- Approved sending letters to Congress members Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo requesting assistance in securing additional federal funds to help ensure that the high-speed rail project is built through the communities of San Mateo, Burlingame and Millbrae (those close to Hillsborough) in a manner that is consistent with their General and Specific Plans and the character and quality of the neighborhoods. Specifically, these jurisdictions are supportive of trenching versus elevated rail solutions which they feel would have the least impact on their communities. Trenching solutions would involve substantially greater funding amounts than elevated solutions and state and local funding opportunities are not sufficient for respective implementation.
- Awarded a contract for \$18,000 to repair the area near 720 Chateau Drive. In 2007, a water main break near 720 Chateau Drive caused substantial damage to the roadway and slope adjacent to the road. This repair project is designed to secure the roadway and prevent a slope failure and future damage to Chateau Drive by installing six piers and erosion protection on the adjacent slopes.
- Approved a contract for the installation of a new system that is vital to the operation and maintenance of the Town’s sewer and water facilities, at a cost of \$1.4 million. The new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system project has been under study for months in order to analyze options (from retaining the original to purchasing some new parts) to keep costs as low as possible. The Town secured a loan in the amount of \$688,000 from the California Energy Commission which allows the debt to be serviced through energy savings resulting from efficient operation of the system and off-peak hour pumping.
- Authorized the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Hillsborough and the Teamsters Union Local 856 (Police Unit). The MOU provides a wage and benefit structure for the next three years. Notable changes include additional employee contributions to retirement, reductions in holiday and sick leave accruals and a salary freeze for 2011. The contract represents approximately a 4.5 percent reduction in cost from the previous contract.

### People

- Sally and Jim Meakin were recognized by City Council for their efforts in preserving one of Hillsborough’s most charming and beloved treasures and for their very generous donation to the Carolands Gatehouse Project.
- Certificates of Recognition were given to two Little League teams. The 10-Year-Old All-Star Team and the 12-Year-Old All-Star Team both won their age-group divisions for the 2010 District 52 Championships. Members of the 10-Year-Old team were Dylan Cravalho, Trevor Peay, Charlie Sinclair, Paulie Ferrari, Connor Fay, Jake Richardson, Henry Heimstra, Jeffrey Ward, Josh Tan, Elliot Schaffer, Jr., Robert Uhrich and Spencer Bock. Members of the 12-Year-Old team were George Delegans, Jon Hall, Adam Jancsek, Joe Klein, Riley Krook, Caelan Lietz, Timmy Lynch, Blake Marcus, Nick Pratt, Spencer Sinclair, Shane Snow, Jacob Tan and Alex Waldsmith.
- Certificates of Appreciation were given to George Jewett, who served on the Architecture and Design Review Board from January 2003 through November 2010, and to Carl Goldstone who served on the same board from March 2008 through October 2010.
- City Council recognized Rob Fisher and Ted Dobos, co-chairs of the Hillsborough Concours d’Elegance, for their incredible effort to create a memorable 54th annual event.
- City Council recognized and congratulated residents who are members of the San Francisco Giants owners group for the San Francisco Giants winning the 2010 World Series Championship.
- Marie Chuang and Laurence M. May were sworn in as the newest members of the City Council, upon the retirement of Paul Regan and John Fannon.
- Council elected Tom Kasten as the new mayor and Jay Benton as vice-mayor.

### Save These Dates!!

Second Annual Hillsborough Memorial Day Parade  
Monday, May 30, 2011, 11 a.m.

To volunteer or participate, please email  
parade@hillsborough.net or call 650-375-7508  
Veterans, please sign up to appear in the parade!

The 55th annual Hillsborough Concours d’Elegance  
Sunday, Aug. 28, Crystal Springs Golf Course  
To volunteer, participate, or for more information, please call  
650-375-7426 or go to [www.hillsboroughconcours.org](http://www.hillsboroughconcours.org)

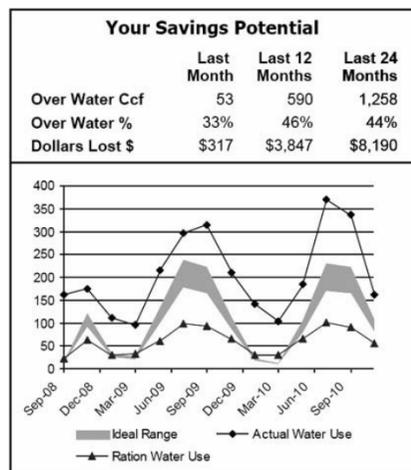
## NEW WATER USE REPORTS ILLUSTRATE ACTUAL VS IDEAL CONSUMPTION

In an effort to reduce outdoor water use, the Town of Hillsborough will provide detailed Water Use Reports to all of its 4,000 residential water customers beginning Spring 2011. The reports will be mailed every other month and will compare actual water use to ideal water use. The reports will also show each customer the amount of money they may save by meeting their water use goal.

A pilot test of the Water Use Reports on 150 Hillsborough residents in 2009 achieved a 24 percent reduction in their overall water use.

**The Report:** Each customer's ideal water use is based on an estimate of their property's irrigated turf, shrubs and other water elements areas. These "land use areas" were calculated for every Hillsborough parcel using GIS satellite technology. Actual water use is based on actual meter reads.

**Drought Ready:** The report will also



show residents their estimated water allocation in the event of a mandatory drought rationing event. Allowing residents to compare actual water use to the amount of water they can expect to receive during

a drought will help them become drought smart and drought ready. (Note: Drought rationing amounts would not be based on current use, so there is no benefit in NOT conserving water now).

**Outdoor Water Use Surveys:** In conjunction with the Water Use Reports, Hillsborough residents may receive low- or no-cost water use surveys. The water use surveys will be performed by a water conservation professional who will identify outdoor water conservation opportunities such as irrigation system maintenance and repair, irrigation scheduling and system upgrades. The Town's Building and Planning Department will provide information and guidance on low-water using plants, landscaping and locating water conservation professionals. For more information on this innovative new program, contact Ed Cooney or the Department of Public Works at (650) 375-7444.

## PG&E, TOWN ON TOP OF SAFETY CONCERNS

Since the September 9, 2010 explosion of the natural gas pipeline in San Bruno, Hillsborough City Council and staff have been in close contact with PG&E to ensure, to the best of abilities, that the pipelines running next to Town are in safe, working order.

There are two natural gas pipelines that affect Hillsborough. Pipelines 132 and 109 run almost parallel to each other and to the Town border on the western-most edge of the city. They cross back and forth under Highway 280, along Skyline Boulevard, and through a residential area near Windermere Road and Oak Rim Drive.

The lines are monitored and inspected continually because the lines are in a "High Consequence Area" (where the consequences would affect people and workers), according to PG&E Government Relations spokesperson Ashlie Simpson.

At the deadline for this newsletter on

January 5, 2011, lines 132 and 109 in and around Hillsborough had been aurally inspected on December 23. Line 109 was inspected on foot and by vehicle on December 24 and line 132 was similarly inspected on December 27. Leak surveys were conducted on line 109 from September 10 through October 7 and on line 132 from September 10 through October 9. Integrity tests were run on both lines near Hillsborough in 2007, 2009 and 2010.

"From the monthly tests that have been done before and since the San Bruno incident, we feel that the system is safe," Simpson said. "If we do find anything, it will be fixed immediately."

The San Bruno explosion is still under investigation and questions remain unanswered. Simpson said that, when the cause of the explosion is known, more testing of pipelines targeted at the cause will be con-

ducted. The investigation, involving detailed CFI-type testing, is expected to take up to 12 months to complete.

"San Bruno was very atypical," Simpson said. "It's very rare to not figure out the cause and even more rare when it's not obvious from the initial view of the site."

Most natural gas pipeline ruptures are caused by excavation near the pipe. PG&E asks anyone planning to dig in the ground, even to plant a tree, to call 811 two days in advance. PG&E will come out and mark the locations of transmission or distribution lines. Transmission lines (the larger lines that carry natural gas to areas) run about three to four feet under the ground and distribution lines (those that connect from the transmission lines) are in more shallow ground.

Three human senses can also help PG&E detect problems. The smell of gas which is fairly pungent and has the odor of rotten eggs, the sight of dirt blowing up in the air or standing water that is bubbling persistently, dead vegetation around a pipeline area, or the sound of hissing or roaring that is unusual can all indicate a possible leak. Should you have any concern, call 1-800-PGE(743)-5000 at any time. You may call 1-888-743-7431 and give your account number to find your proximity to a pipeline within 500 feet to one-quarter of a mile.

Simpson said she wants to clarify a common misperception. "It did not take an explosion in San Bruno to instigate inspections and surveys of PG&E lines. PG&E is constantly monitoring and inspecting its lines," she said. "We accelerated a leak survey after San Bruno, but we are always checking."

"Also," she added, "don't be concerned if you see a PG&E truck in the area. We are always out there doing our normal work, trimming trees, etc. Since San Bruno, people often call when they see a truck, but it's normal."

## POLICE BLOTTER

For the calendar year 2010, the Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) responded to 11,835 calls for service. During 2010, HPD arrested 65 adults and 15 juveniles, responded to and investigated 64 non-injury and five injury vehicle collisions, and completed 545 police reports. Samples of some of the calls for service during the fourth quarter of 2010 are:

- While on routine patrol near South School one evening, an HPD officer was approached by a motorist who was asking for directions. The officer immediately recognized that the driver was intoxicated and ordered the driver to shut off the vehicle and exit. The driver refused and attempted to reverse the car and flee. The officer was able to place his hand inside the vehicle to shut off the ignition, and prevent the driver from escaping. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and resisting arrest. The driver's blood alcohol level was later determined to be almost three times the legal limit at .224 percent.
- HPD received notification of a possible sexual abuse case of an elderly person by a trusted family friend. An immediate investigation was begun, an arrest warrant was issued, the suspect was arrested, and the appropriate charges are being pursued by the District Attorney's Office.
- HPD received a report of an assault that occurred between two mobile food vendors. Responding patrol officers determined that an assault had occurred. One of the food vendors was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, vandalism, and making terrorist/criminal threats.
- HPD officers received a report of a sexual battery that occurred to an adult who was jogging through Town. The report indicated that an unknown male on a bicycle inappropriately touched the victim and left the area. Investigating officers located the suspect in Burlingame. The juvenile suspect was arrested and booked into Hillcrest Juvenile Detention facility. Charges are pending in this case.

### Feedback

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

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 impact the Town of Hillsborough.

## SERVING AS "MAYOR FOR A DAY" A REAL EDUCATION

Hillsborough resident Clement Chen knows a lot of things – he is president of a hotel development and management firm, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, with distinction, from Stanford University, and he received an M.B.A. with first and second-year honors and graduated with distinction from Harvard Business School in 1979.



Clement Chen

But, on September 13, 2010, Chen learned things he never knew before when he spent a day as the Mayor of Hillsborough as the beneficiary of his wife's bid on a Hillsborough Schools Foundation auction item. To sum it up, Chen said, "Wow, I had no idea." As Chen drives around Town now, he will never look at a Public Works employee or a patrol officer in the same way.

"I have a lot of respect for the employees in Town now," he said, "Public Works in particular – mostly the guys who are out in the rain trying to clear our storm drains. Chen said he got a real education about the challenges that Public Works has to address due to the aging water and sewer systems and about the importance of the home sewer lateral pipe project. "I haven't signed up for that video inspection yet, but I'm certainly considering it," he said.

Chen patrolled the streets with Officer Scott Fritz. "He's a member of SWAT and he is a sharp shooter. Interesting - I've never fired a gun in my life!" Chen said, musing the difference between his life and that of a police officer. When school let out, Fritz and Chen picked up Chen's third-grade daughter at South School. "We patrolled the Town and pulled over a few people with expired licenses or who were talking on cell phones. That's the most time I've ever spent with someone in law enforcement, and it's fascinating seeing the world from his perspective. When you are in a marked car, everyone looks at you differently," Chen laughed.

Chen's day ended at a City Council meeting where his daughter called the meeting to order with a bang of the mayor's gavel, and Chen participated in the presentation of recognition awards.

"I met a lot of staff; everyone works hard," Chen said. "We have a great town and everyone seems to really enjoy working for it."

There was another interesting fact that the businessman learned – that he earned as much pay serving as Mayor for the Day as the City Councilmembers earn during their entire terms – \$0.

Chen, his wife, An, and their two children have lived in Hillsborough for 11 years. An grew up in the Bay Area, lived in Hillsborough and attended West and Crocker schools. An is active in the South School Parents Group. Both children have attended South School and their older son graduated from Crocker last year. Chen, who was born in Redwood City, took over the hotel management business from his father, who was born in Shanghai.

## FIRE BLOTTER

During the past quarter, October 2010 through December 2010, Central County Fire Department received the following calls:

- Fire: 25
- Rupture/explosion: 3
- EMS/rescue: 640
- Public assistance: 127
- Hazardous conditions: 103 (wires or trees down, unidentified spills, etc.)
- False alarms: 107

# SFPUC RESPONDS TO DAM CONCERNS

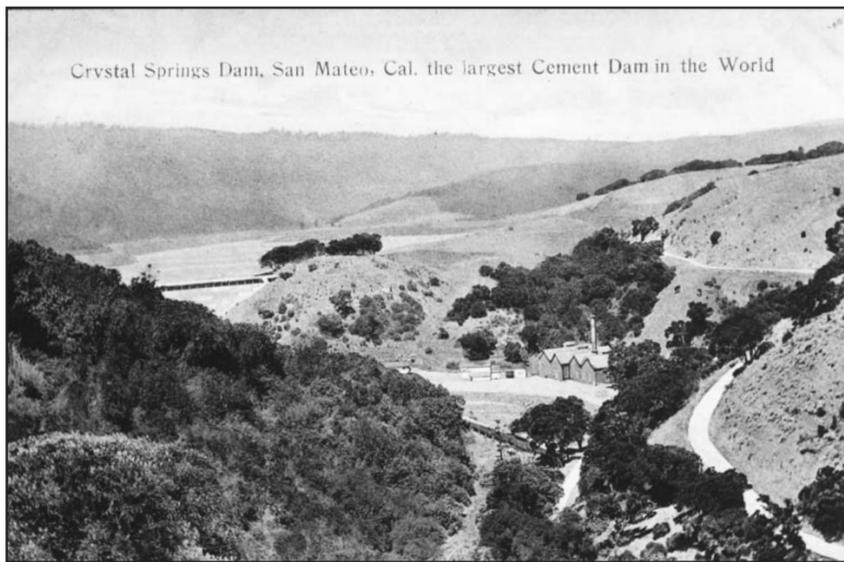
As reported in an earlier Town newsletter, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is planning to modify Crystal Springs Dam so that it can bring the regional water supply to its original levels by creating more storage at the dam. Hillsborough supports the idea but has expressed concerns about the overall safety of the dam.

The SFPUC has committed to conducting an additional study of the seismic performance of the dam and has submitted the following comments in response to the concerns voiced by the Town.

Though construction of the Lower Crystal Springs Dam was begun in the late 1880s, records confirm that due to well-planned design and construction methods, today it is a structurally sound and seismically sufficient dam.

#### Structural Facts

- The dam is keyed into bedrock at the north and south sides (abutments).
- The gravity-arch design provides added structural strength against the load of the water behind the dam.
- The dam was constructed of a highly-controlled and monitored concrete mixture, which results in a very consistent and structurally strong concrete. High quality concrete mixtures have been proven to strengthen over time.
- The dam is constructed of interlocking concrete blocks staggered in depth, resulting in no continuous joints horizontally or vertically in the structure.
- The dam is wider at its base (176 feet) than it is tall (140 feet), making it a massive structure with considerable



Crystal Springs Dam was constructed in the 1880s (as pictured) and, despite its close proximity to the San Andreas Fault, no seismic fault traces or shear zones have been found under the dam.

- ability to withstand seismic events.
- Despite its close proximity to the San Andreas Fault, no seismic fault traces or shear zones have been found under the dam.
- The dam survived both the 1906 San Andreas and 1989 Loma Prieta earthquakes with no damage or loss of structural integrity.
- Stress measurement instruments, which are consistently monitored, have been installed at the dam. The SFPUC and State of California Division of Safety of Dams also routinely inspect the dam visually for any signs of stress.

The purpose of the proposed project is to make the dam better able to handle flooding and to increase the current water supply in the reservoir back to its historic levels. The project will not increase flood risk downstream, nor affect the structural integrity of the dam. Increasing the capacity of the reservoir will occur over time, one foot per year during the three years following construction.

In addressing the Town's concerns, the SFPUC has further agreed to the following commitments to the Town:

- To conduct routine dam monitoring and evaluation.

- To hold a public information meeting (was held Nov. 16).
- To present information regarding the dam when requested.
- To perform more in-depth seismic evaluations routinely – about every 15 years.
- To ensure work is transparent for the community to see, question and understand.

The SFPUC and San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinate closely on emergency preparedness planning. This includes an Emergency Response Plan that provides response guidelines should a structural failure occur at Lower Crystal Springs Dam.

In the event of an emergency affecting the integrity of the dam, the SFPUC has an emergency plan to reduce water loading against the dam structure. Any emergency will include immediate OES notification and, through OES, notification to the community.

For more information, note the following sources:

For project questions or updates:

(866) 973-1476

[www.sfwater.org/SCT](http://www.sfwater.org/SCT)  
[peninsula@sfwater.org](mailto:peninsula@sfwater.org)

For emergency preparedness information: San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services

650-363-4790

[www.smcready.org](http://www.smcready.org)

If you would like to receive emergency text messages via phone or e-mail, visit the [www.smcalert.info](http://www.smcalert.info) for additional information.

## IMPROVED GARBAGE COLLECTION TRANSLATES TO HIGHER RATES

*But monthly bills could go down if less waste picked up*

Hillsborough's new garbage collection services could allow residents to reduce their bills despite a scheduled increase in rates. While rates are scheduled to increase 25 percent, by diverting more waste to recycling, residents may be able to reduce the number or size of their black garbage carts which dictate the rates they are charged. For residents who subscribe to the 32-gallon service (one standard-size trash cart), the rate hike translates to a monthly increase of a little more than \$6. However, if the new recycling options cause residents to reduce the amount of trash that goes into the black cart, then their total garbage bills could go down even as the per gallon rate increases.

The increase is due to several factors. About half the cost is associated with the December 2009 adoption of the weekly organics program. The remaining costs are associated with initiation of the new automated service, including the purchase of trash and recyclables carts, the continuation of the curbside household hazardous waste collection program, and changes in labor costs and landfill fees. There is also a cost to reconcile the account with Allied Waste as they end their service to the Town.

Currently, about 60 percent of Town residences use two or more trash carts. If more of that trash is diverted into the blue recycling cart (easier now that the Town has "single-stream" recycling, which means that recyclables don't need to be separated) and if food waste and other compostables such as pizza boxes, paper plates and paper towels go into the green waste/yard clipping cart, then many residents should be able to downsize their black trash cart waste. That change can result in a smaller monthly bill, even with the higher per-gallon rates.

"A family of four or five should be able to use just one 32-gallon trash cart, and households of just one or two residents should be able to get by with a 20-gallon cart. Rates are paid just on what goes to the landfill from the black trash cart, so the more that we can divert to recycling and compost, the better for the planet and for our wallets," states Councilmember Christine Krolik. For those whose carts remain the same size, their monthly bills will increase. But despite paying the higher rates for the enhanced new waste diversion services, all ratepayers are still saving money in the long run by helping the local Ox Mountain landfill to stay open years longer.

"The longer we can keep the landfill open, the longer we can continue to control costs, because when it is full we'll have to pay to ship our trash a longer distance," she noted.

Public Works Director Martha DeBry

said this year's unusually high rate increase reflects numerous transition costs, which will continue albeit to a much smaller degree next year. DeBry stressed that residents are receiving a much better service for the higher costs, including a reasonable rate for side- and rear-yard pick-up. Residents who wish to reduce the number or size of their trash cans should call 650-595-3900 or go to [www.recologysanmateocounty.com](http://www.recologysanmateocounty.com).

Mandated notices of the increase were sent out by January 26, 2011, giving residents a chance to protest the increase.

Tips on the new organic waste collection and trash service:

- The small "kitchen buddy" buckets can be lined with a biodegradable bag, available at some local grocery stores, or online. Don't tie or close the bag when you put it in the large green cart, but as long as the bag is biodegradable, it can be thrown into the green cart with the compostable garbage (this is a change just confirmed by Recology).

- Extra trash tags can be pre-ordered for those weeks when you have more garbage than will fit into your black cart. Overage tags are proposed to cost \$8 and are available from Recology. The Town will soon have a supply of tags at the Finance Department for residents to use.

- Decreasing use of the garbage disposal saves water and prevents damage to both private and public sewer pipes, another cost saving feature of the program.

- Remember to put all of the new carts two feet apart when set out by the curb.

- Rear/side yard service now includes the collection of all three carts from rear or side yards. The cost for this service begins at \$21 per month and varies based on the length of the driveway and the number of black carts to which a resident subscribes. Go to [www.recologysanmateo.com](http://www.recologysanmateo.com) and click on "Backyard Service" for more information.

## MULTI-VICTIM CRIMES SOLVED

Due to some thorough investigative work on the part of the Hillsborough Police Department (HPD), not only were several local Town burglaries solved, but also burglaries in dozens of towns throughout California. When police finally unlocked the crime, they found that at least 173 people had fallen victim to the burglary ring.

The unraveling of the ring began in August when the Ascot Road home of recently deceased resident Lee Simpson Kavanaugh was burglarized while relatives were attending her memorial service and the house was not occupied. The home was ransacked; among valuable items taken was a painting of a Paris street scene by Édouard Leon Cortès, which triggered the involvement of the FBI Art Crime Team. Also stolen was Kavanaugh's (the deceased's) car.

Over a period of several months, Police Investigator Nick Chinca monitored the records of the car. He discovered that the title had been changed at the Department of Motor Vehicles and the car had then been sold using a false identity to an unsuspecting buyer. When the seller was located, it triggered a SWAT raid on MacArthur Boulevard in Oakland in November that led to the arrests of two suspects.

According to Police Chief Matt O'Connor, the Oakland home was filled with stolen property from multiple victims, at least two of whom were from Hillsborough.

The suspects were involved with methamphetamine, and one suspect had a lengthy criminal record and was found to be the girlfriend of a known Norteño gang member serving time in jail.

Records were also found in the Oakland home showing research of homes that were for sale or homes where residents were or would be out of town or attending funerals.

### SAVE THE DATES!

#### Hillsborough Neighborhood Network

Emergency Preparedness Effort

Monday, Feb. 28

Town Hall

9 a.m. Informational Meeting &

Program Update

10 a.m. New Neighborhood Lead

Orientation

#### Behind the Scenes with HPD

Wednesday, March 9

10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Town Hall

How is a homicide investigated?

How do our detectives track down burglars?

What can we best do to keep our family and neighborhood safe?