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# HILLSBOROUGH

## 4TH QUARTER 2014



## NEW TECHNOLOGY BENEFITS TOWN POLICE AIDED BY NEW RECORDING DEVICE

You may have seen a Hillsborough police officer wearing what looks like a small camera. The small object is the new digital recording device purchased this spring to replace the outdated cameras that were on the dashboards of police vehicles.

The new devices are an improvement over the older video recording systems and remain a vital tool for law enforcement. Police officers are allowed to make a recording when acting in the scope of their authority and in places where they have a lawful right to be. They will use the devices when there is any contact that should be recorded, including when they stop a vehicle, detain a person, or find themselves in an incident that involves officer safety.

Since inception, the recording devices have proved to be valuable tools. Recordings can be used as evidence and have resulted in convictions, they serve as training tools, they provide a means to expedite or resolve citizen complaints, and, in the worst-case scenario, they can be relied upon when an officer cannot speak for himself/herself. They add to the transparency of an organization.

A study completed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police found that, in 93 percent of the incidents when a complaint is filed regarding police conduct and there is video evidence available, the officer is exonerated. This will reduce liability for the Town.

The new “body-worn” devices have more flexibility than those that were mounted on the police vehicle. For instance, they allow for documentation of vehicle stops made by a motorcycle officer or an officer in an unmarked car. The new system will also allow for increased efficiency for media storage, housing of the information off-site and making the video available for viewing at any time via an online link.

The camera system was purchased for an initial one-time cost of \$12,000 which came from funds and grants designated for the purpose.

The system is supported by four diverse organizations: The International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Hillsborough Police Officers’ Association, the Police Executive Research Firm and the American Civil Liberties Union.



*Hillsborough police are now wearing new technology — a shoulder camera that allows them to record action while on duty. According to studies, the small camera will prove a valuable tool for the Town. Top: Officer Geoff Chenier wearing the new device. Bottom: A close-up of the new device.*



### TOWN INFORMATION

**HILLSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**  
(650) 375-7400  
council@hillsborough.net

Mayor Jess “Jay” Benton  
Vice Mayor Laurence M. May  
Marie Chuang  
Shawn Christianson  
Alvin Royse

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
2nd Mondays  
6 p.m. at Town Hall, 1600 Floribunda Avenue

**TOWN HALL**  
Randy A. Schwartz, City Manager  
rschwartz@hillsborough.net  
Administration: (650) 375-7400  
Town Hall & Water Department Hours:  
Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Building and Planning: (650) 375-7411  
Finance Department: (650) 375-7400  
Public Works and City Engineer: (650) 375-7444  
Water (service and billing): (650) 375-7402  
After-hours, Urgent Service (650) 375-7470

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Mark O’Connor, Chief  
Non-emergency/24 hours (650) 375-7470  
Code Enforcement Hotline: (650) 375-7572

**CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Mark Ladas, Chief (650) 558-7600

**CENTRAL COUNTY FIRE BOARD**  
Marie Chuang, Commissioner  
Mayor Jess “Jay” Benton

**ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (ADRB)**  
Board Meeting 1st and/or 3rd Mondays  
4 p.m. – Town Hall  
Laurence M. May, Commissioner  
Eric Nyhus, Chair  
Lionel Foster, Christian Huebner, Julie Tenenbaum,  
Jerry Winges, Nan Ryan, Alternate

**CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARING PANEL**  
Wallace Baldwin, Catherine Lee,  
Leonard Mezhvinsky

**FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Alvin Royse, Commissioner  
David Steirman, Chair  
Jeffrey Baxter, David Brooks, Kathy Ceremsak,  
Josh Cooperman, Maryellie Johnson  
Richard Kuersteiner, Paul Regan, Emeritus Advisor

**CITIZENS COMMUNICATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Shawn Christianson, Commissioner  
Julie Borden, Chair  
Suzanne Boutin, Vice Chair  
Paul Saffo, Lia Turk, Ann Malouf  
Diana Witzel, Advisor

**HILLSBOROUGH  
NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK (HNN)  
EMERGENCY PREP**  
hnn@hillsborough.net  
Marie Chuang and  
Shawn Christianson,  
City Council liaisons

**HILLSBOROUGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
(650) 342-5193  
Anthony Ranii, Superintendent  
Lynne Esselstein, School Board President

**HILLSBOROUGH RECREATION**  
(650) 342-5439  
Tony Giacomazzi, Director  
tgiacomazzi@hcsd.k12.ca.us  
Jess “Jay” Benton, Town Commissioner  
Laurence M. May, Town Commissioner  
Lynne Esselstein, HCSO Commissioner  
Michele Bosschart, Member at Large

**UTILITIES**  
COMCAST (800) 945-2288

PG&E (24 hours) (800) 743-5000  
PG&E Outage Info: (800) 743-5002

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

*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 • Contributing writer: Carina Woudenberg*



### HILLSBOROUGH LAUNCHES MOBILE APP

Hillsborough may be steeped in history and tradition, but it doesn’t shy away from new, useful technology. The two newest technology acquisitions are a mobile phone application and an upgraded 911 telephone system, both of which will strengthen communication ties with the Town.

With its handsome look, the new mobile “app” connects to numerous Town departments. You will be able to access the Town calendar, find current news, learn about recreation programs, connect

to an online payment system, and/or find a member of the staff — and even more icons are coming your way. The mobile app works on both IOS (Apple) and Android mobile devices and is fully integrated with the Town’s new main website contents. To access this free app, simply do a search for “Hillsborough CA” in your Google Play Store or Apple iTunes.

Additionally, you can feel safer than ever before. The improved 911 system acquired by the Hillsborough Police De-

partment (HPD) has many enhanced features, not the least of which is an ability to determine your location from a cell phone call to HPD. The new system also allows HPD to connect with other dispatch sites should the switchboard be overwhelmed. The cost of the system will be funded by state monies which cover the total purchase of the system.

Two new communication improvements — and two more ways to be connected.

[www.hillsborough.net](http://www.hillsborough.net)

## DON'T ENCOURAGE COYOTES

*Drought brings wildlife in closer contact with humans*

As California's drought worsens, wildlife are venturing out of their natural habitat in search of food and water which are becoming scarce. One animal that's been getting some attention lately is the coyote.

Hillsborough Police Chief Mark O'Connor says trail cameras have spotted many of the dog-size canids around Town recently, with some coyotes crawling under fences and entering private properties, presumably in search of something to eat.

"Some of our residents are putting out cat food and that's like a delicacy for a coyote," O'Connor said. "If they can find food and shelter, that's where they're going to be, and unfortunately this is a perfect coyote habitat."

Patrick Hogan, wildlife supervisor for the Peninsula Humane Society, said he can't speak statistically on whether there have been more coyotes in the area, but he said the Humane Society has brought many into the shelter lately, several of whom had been hit by cars.

"When this happens, they are looking for road kill," Hogan said. "With the drought, they are more opportunistic."



Coyotes, like the one caught on the trail camera left, come closer to homes during times of drought looking for food and water. Don't encourage them, officials say.

Hogan warned against throwing any garbage—including apple cores or other food waste—out a car window, as that can attract coyotes to the streets and neighborhoods as well.

While Hogan and O'Connor both stress the importance of avoiding any inadvertent feeding by keeping trash well covered and eliminating water sources on personal property, they discourage the well-meaning intentional feeding of the wildlife as well.

"Leaving food and water out for the animals may seem like a compassionate act, but it will only draw more wildlife—wildlife that will start to grow accustomed to the hand-outs, providing "false hope" to the animals when the household ultimately

stops providing for them," Hogan said. "Leaving food out can also potentially lead to territory disputes when the animals start fighting for the provisions," he added.

Coyotes have a natural fear of humans and will tend to avoid conflict. However, Hogan pointed out that when they're in search of food, they'll be a little more aggressive. If you see a coyote do not run away; instead, face the animal, make a lot of noise and throw whatever you can find.

Hogan and O'Connor also strongly recommend bringing pets inside in the evenings as the coyotes are known to attack house pets. Hogan encourages residents to call the Humane Society's wildlife hotline at (650) 340-7022, if they see an animal they think might be in distress.

## SAFEST TOWN IN CALIFORNIA

In June 2014, a national online real estate brokerage recognized for its unique approach to city-based research by major news organizations around the world such as Forbes, CBS News, and The New York Times, named Hillsborough as the #1 safest place in California. This determination was made after examining FBI crime statistics in four categories (murder, violent crimes, property crimes and total crimes), from 365 places in California with populations of 10,000 or more. The statistics were then ranked and measured for population.

Their research showed that "not only is Hillsborough one of the wealthiest towns in the U.S., but according to our numbers, it's also one of the safest in the country, let alone in California. As you'll quickly notice, none of the places in our top 10 had any murders reported in 2012, so while Hillsborough excelled in this category, this wasn't exactly where it stood out. No, what put Hillsborough above the rest was its nearly nonexistent violent crime."

The Hillsborough Police Department

(HPD) also recently conducted a study of the Town's crime statistics which showed a significant decrease in crime during the past few years (see Hillsborough Newsletter 2nd Quarter 2014, "Social Media, Society Push Down Crime Stats"). Hillsborough Police Chief Mark O'Connor credits much of the success in reducing crime to the community's partnership with the Police Department. "Our high profile patrol is complemented by residents who regularly call in suspicious people and activities. As an example, in two recent burglary cases, it was information from residents who called the HPD dispatch center that led directly to the arrest of the suspects."

While the awareness of crime might be on the rise due to the postings on social media sites, the actual crime numbers are down, thanks to the Police Department and residents working together.

## CCFD BOLSTERED BY THREE NEW HIRES

Central County Fire Department (CCFD), serving Hillsborough and Burlingame, has recently acquired two new firefighters, who graduated with flying colors from the San Mateo County Fire Academy in December, 2013.



Kevin Hinsch



Vincent Ryan



Mark Goodman

Kevin Hinsch and Vincent Ryan both grew up in San Carlos, both completed the Fire Technology program at the College of San Mateo and both interned with CCFD.

Ryan attended Serra High School and has a bachelor's degree in sociology from Sonoma State University. While becoming a paramedic, he worked as an EMT on an ambulance for four years. He likes to travel, as well as hike and backpack.

Hinsch attended St. Francis High School. He is an avid San Francisco Giants fan and also enjoys golf and spending time with his family.

"It has been seven years since we have hired new firefighters," said CCFD Chief Mark Ladas. "Hiring new, young, energetic employees is healthy for any organization. Kevin and Vinnie were both cadets at CCFD for many years, which lessened the feel and impact of the hiring gap. We couldn't be happier with who they are professionally and personally."

In January of this year, another new recruit, Mark Goodman, joined CCFD

as a full-time fire mechanic. In his role as lead mechanic, Goodman oversees the operations of the CCFD mechanic shop which maintains and repairs fire engines and vehicles for seven San Mateo County fire agencies.

From 1984 through 2013, Goodman was a mechanic/technician for Four Star Truck where he serviced diesel trucks and equipment. He has been an active member of the Colma Fire Protection District for 18 years, currently serving as lieutenant and training officer. For eight years he was president of the Colma Firemen's Social Club and was responsible for the coordination of fundraising activities and mustering. Goodman also lends his time as a director for the California Firemen's Muster Association and travels throughout the state to participate in the tradition of fire musters. A fire muster is a gathering of devoted comrades and antique equipment for the purpose of competition and friendship.

Hillsborough welcomes Hinsch, Ryan and Goodman to CCFD!

## BUSINESSES YOU HIRE NEED A VALID BUSINESS LICENSE

If you see the words "Hillsborough" and "business" in the same sentence, you will probably also see the word "license." As the Hillsborough Municipal Code states, anyone conducting business in Town must hold a valid Hillsborough business license and pay the business tax and administrative fee.

If a company is hired to mow your lawn, that company should have a valid business license for Hillsborough. If you hire a contractor to work on your house, that person also needs to have a valid business license for the Town. Real estate agents, dry cleaning delivery services, alarm installation services, taxicabs — any business or person who is serving the residents of Hillsborough for building projects, maintenance services and other services, such as consulting, should maintain a valid business license with the Town. Furthermore, any resident doing business in Town is required to have a home business permit.

The administration fee for a business license for most businesses in Town is usually \$100 for the year. For most categories of business, the business tax is based on gross receipts. The current rate is \$.50 tax per \$100 gross receipts. Any person conducting business is required to carry the license when doing business, and each vehicle used by the licensee for business in the Town must have a sticker showing that the fee has been paid for the year.

The license is issued by the Finance Department. It is good for one year and has to be renewed annually. Renewal notices are sent in May and June and, when renewed, are good for the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

While the law applies to those who rent property, it does not apply to second units. Also, minors who work and make less than \$1,000 need not worry about a license.

Failure to obtain a valid license is a violation of the Municipal Code and may result in penalties.

Residents who wish to verify if someone they hire has a valid license may check with the "List of Licensed Businesses," found on the Town's website ([www.hillsborough.net](http://www.hillsborough.net)) under Departments, Finance, Business and Residential Services.

## HNN'S NEW INFORMATION SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS

Hillsborough Neighborhood Network (HNN) is expanding its program to offer information sessions for all residents throughout the year. New topics of interest to the general public are being added, while the specialized emergency preparedness and response topics for HNN members will still occur.

The September information session

focused on landscape alternatives for the Town's long-standing drought status, while the November session covered wildfire, evacuations, and mountain lions. For information on future events, visit [www.hillsborough.net/HNN](http://www.hillsborough.net/HNN). If you have topics you would like to see offered, contact Terri Cruce at [tcruce@hillsborough.net](mailto:tcruce@hillsborough.net) or call 375-7454.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### Light Up The Town

Join your neighbors for the annual "Light Up The Town" holiday event on Thursday, December 4, from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at Town Hall. This complimentary event is the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation's thank you to the community and has become a highly anticipated family tradition. See the HBF website at [www.HillsboroughBeautificationFoundation.org](http://www.HillsboroughBeautificationFoundation.org) for more information.

### Hillsborough Rec Program

For details on classes offered, check [www.hillsboroughrecreation.org](http://www.hillsboroughrecreation.org) or call 650-342-5439.

### Hillsborough Beautification Foundation Daffodil Planting

Sunday, November 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hillsborough Beautification Foundation (HBF) will be planting daffodil bulbs at North School, South School and West School, and at Hillsborough's parks. Students, parents and residents of all ages are welcome to join in the fun...and it's easy. For more information, please contact HBF at [www.HillsboroughBeautificationFoundation.org/contact](http://www.HillsboroughBeautificationFoundation.org/contact).



## AWARD WINNING SICCHIO IN TUNE WITH WORK

When Cindy Sicchio is not performing her job as an account clerk in Hillsborough's Finance Department, she is playing the drums in a rock band. "It's a stripped-down rock and roll band, with a little bit of southern influence, and it's a lot of fun," she said. When in high school, Sicchio was in all the musicals. She sang and tap danced. She loved the rhythm of it all.

Now, she said, she feels equally in sync with her work at Town Hall. While much of her work involves handling water billing, the majority of her job is customer service. On stage as a band member and drama student she enjoyed the interaction with people, so it's not surprising that customer service is her favorite part of her job with the Town. Once while cross-training at the Finance Department, she found herself in a back room doing strictly billing and realized how much she missed having personal interactions.

Her personal communication skills have not gone unnoticed at Town Hall. She was recently singled out for the Town's Employee Excellence Award, with Assistant City Manager Kathy Leroux saying, "Her

customer service skills are superb." Sicchio is more modest about her work. "I over-explain everything," she said, laughing. "But maybe that works well in this position."

Leroux added, "Cindy always goes the extra mile to help when dealing with residents, contractors and other employees. She is one of those employees who you know you can always go to for assistance and she volunteers to help out in many areas."

Sicchio confirmed that she is involved in many projects. She helped with the Town's new website design and has been named one of the administrators of the site. Currently, she serves on two employee teams. One is studying options for potential facility improvements and the other focuses on employee satisfaction.

Sicchio grew up in Daly City and graduated from El Camino High School in South San Francisco. When she heard about the job opening in Hillsborough, she looked at the job skills needed and they fit perfectly. She has been in the Finance Department for 10 good years. "I thank all of my co-workers," she said, "especially Jan (Cooke), Marie (Bernardo), Verlayne (Cave) and Catherine (Hobbs). I think we excel in what we do because of the dynamic team we have here."

Leroux said Sicchio "always has a friendly smile." Receiving the award surprised Sicchio, but it would not surprise her to hear that someone commented on her smile. She loves her work. "I am in such a good place right now," she said. "When you are happy, it shows."



Cindy Sicchio

## AS THE CROWS FLY

Hillsborough residents have remarked that there seem to be more ravens in Town than ever before. It's difficult to say if that is true, according to the Sequoia Audubon Society.

One fact is that the black birds are not ravens, but American Crows. They are slightly smaller than Common Ravens, have a smaller bill, are more likely to fly in large flocks and have a fan-shaped tail. Ravens have a wedge shaped tail, a heavy bill and a deeper call. The tail shape is best observed in flight. Crows are usually 16 to 20 inches long. Each wing is about 11 to 14 inches long. They are omnivorous and will prey on mice or frogs; in winter they will forage for nuts and acorns. They nest in a large variety of trees and like large conifers and oaks.

One cannot know for sure why there are more in Hillsborough than before, or even if there are more. There seems to be an increase in the number of crows in general, according to Sue Cossins of the Audubon Society. They are a very social bird and tend to congregate, so they could be more noticeable for that reason. If there is an area with fewer trees, there would be fewer roosting sites and so there would be larger groups in some places. During the spring, they are raising their young and would need more food, so they would be busier and noisier, thus more noticeable. Crows tend to have large families and stay together. Birds from the prior nesting season help raise young birds from the current season.

"Crows adapt well to cities because of their habits of scavenging, and will be drawn to any property offering them food, shelter or water," says Brian Weber, assistant manager of the San Mateo County Mosquito Vector Control District. To discourage them from making their homes on your property, remove food and water sources by keeping

garbage cans covered, as well as any fruits or vegetables that may be growing in your yard. You can also treat your lawn for grubs and try some of the deterrents geared for keeping crows at bay. Weber warns, however, that it is likely crows will quickly grow too smart for the motion activated sprinkler systems, shiny streamers, decoy predators and sprays that are sold for this purpose. For these measures to have any success, Weber recommends rotating the use of these products to prevent the crows from becoming complacent about any one preventative measure.

## ROUTE TO HWY 101 TO BECOME 'STRAIGHT SHOT'

In the foreseeable future, Hillsborough residents will have an easier path to Highway 101. Long buried on Burlingame's lengthy to-do list, renovation of the Broadway/101 interchange—an \$83 million project—finally broke ground in mid-September.

"Through the years, it moved higher on the list," said Terry Nagel, Burlingame's current vice mayor who helped champion the necessary, though costly, repair as a member of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority.

Funding for the project was secured through a variety of sources with \$5 million coming from the city of Burlingame and \$19 million from the state through the City/County Association of Governments. A majority of the funds came from Measure A, the half-cent sales tax that funds transportation projects.

The complex on/off ramp configuration has long confused visitors and locals alike with its impractical "loop-to-loop features," Nagel said. Now, one of the oldest interchanges in the state will be transformed to a wider and much simplified "straight shot" across the freeway, from Airport Boulevard to Broadway Avenue, and will benefit from a few aesthetic modifications as well.

"Our council really went to bat to make sure it will be as beautiful as possible," Nagel said.

Visual appeal will be brought in with landscaping elements, including a variety of plants on the Broadway side and tree sculptures decorating the retaining walls that face the freeway. In addition, the bridge will feature LED lights.

Caltrans workers will be replacing the four-lane overpass with a new seven-lane bridge nearly 200 feet north of the existing structure. The existing bike and pedestrian way will be retained. To see where the renovated interchange will be located, use the link at the end of this article.

Nagel says disruption to drivers during the process will be minimal and traffic will be rerouted in a way that drivers can get on and off the freeway at all times with very few nighttime shutdowns.

Stage 1 of this three-year project began with the removal of trees and shrubs from the area. After that, Caltrans demolished a vacant building at the northeast corner of Rollins Road and Broadway Avenue as the space will be needed for the new, larger overpass.

"We're going to make a huge effort to keep the public informed about every step of the project," Nagel said.

More information about the project can be found on the Department of Transportation's website: [www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/projects/broadwayrecon](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/projects/broadwayrecon).

## FIRE BLOTTER

During the third quarter of 2014, Central County Fire Department responded to 1,129 incidents, as follows:

- Fire calls: 47
- Explosions: 2
- EMS/rescue: 658
- Hazardous conditions: 91
- Public assistance: 182
- False alarms: 146
- Other: 3

## POLICE BLOTTER

During the third quarter of 2014, the Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) responded to 3,326 calls for service. In those three months, HPD arrested 17 adults and three juveniles, responded to and investigated one injury and 10 non-injury vehicle collisions, and completed 119 police reports. They also conducted 928 vehicle checks, 190 traffic stops, checked on 3,309 watch list homes, performed 824 security checks at the schools and other facilities, and investigated 179 suspicious persons and vehicles.

A sample of some of the notable calls for service that occurred during this period is listed below:

- An adult female walked into the HPD lobby to report that her husband had hit her. Officers responded to the home and through their investigation, determined that the husband had committed an assault. The husband was arrested and then complained of a medical emergency. He was transported to the hospital by AMR where he was arrested and released on a citation by the investigating officer. The husband was also served with a restraining order and was ordered not to return to his residence until a court appearance.
- HPD received a report from a male caller that his wife was at his home in violation of a restraining order. Officers responded and determined that she was in violation of a valid restraining order and was intoxicated (an additional violation of a court order). After refusing to leave, she resisted arrest and committed an assault and battery on two officers. She was arrested and booked into the San Mateo County Jail.
- An observant patrol officer noted a work van that had an expired registration for more than one year. The officer then saw an adult male get into the van and attempt to move it from the street to a private driveway. The male was contacted, found to be on probation for narcotics offenses, and found to be under the influence of a controlled substance. A search of the vehicle found heroin and drug smoking paraphernalia. The male was arrested and booked into the San Mateo County Jail.
- An officer in an unmarked police unit observed a suspicious vehicle parked in front of a home. The vehicle was occupied by one male driver. After making a u-turn to further investigate the vehicle, the officer noted that the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed and now had three males on board. A pursuit was initiated with marked police units onto HWY 280. The suspect vehicle pulled over on Bunker Hill and the officers detained the three subjects. A search of the vehicle yielded stolen items from within a home in Hillsborough. All three male juveniles were arrested and booked into the San Mateo County Juvenile Detention Facility.
- HPD is investigating a reported sexual assault at an unsupervised juvenile gathering at a private residence where alcohol was involved. HPD is seeking an arrest warrant in this case. In addition, HPD investigated a number of juvenile parties this summer where theft, vandalism, and alcohol-related medical emergencies were reported.

## TWO JOIN HPD

The Hillsborough Police Department has welcomed two new officers during the past year.

Dominic Javellana joined the Police Department as a patrol officer in February 2014. However, he is not new to police work. He served with the Brisbane Police Department for 10 years in a variety of capacities. He is an instructor in defensive tactics, impact weapons and tasers, and shooting. He has worked with schools and gang task forces and has been a member of the North Central Regional SWAT team.

Javellana was born in the Philippines and grew up in South San Francisco. He is married and has a daughter. He likes sports, cars and martial arts.

Joey Williamson has been one of the voices in the Dispatch Center for almost one year. After serving in Monterey County at their regional communications center for 13 years, Williamson learned the intricacies of the Town dispatch center and achieved the status of full time and solo communications officer. He began his career upon graduating from college when he started working as a dispatcher.

Williamson grew up in Pacific Grove. He likes to travel, go to the beach and visit museums.

The community is pleased to welcome Javellana and Williamson to the Hillsborough Police Department!



Dominic Javellana



Joey Williamson

# ONE OF HILLSBOROUGH'S FINEST RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR WORLDWIDE SERVICE

Not too long ago, 94 U.S. Marines on their way to an overseas mission found themselves stranded at San Francisco International Airport for more than 16 hours. Two weeks later, 88 U.S. Marines returned home to the United States and spent 29 hours at SFO. Helping such large groups would be an overwhelming task for most people. However, LeAnn Thornton, who is the full-time executive assistant to the chief of police at the Hillsborough Police Department and a United Service Organizations (USO) volunteer, took it all in stride. For the largest Marine group, she stepped in and arranged for home-cooked meals by the National Charity League Crystal Springs Chapter and local active duty military families. Delta and United Airlines donated pillows and blankets, local Marine bases donated cots, AT&T donated tickets to that day's SF Giants game, and the Marines Memorial Club donated BART tickets to the game. Additional volunteers were recruited to help offer the Marines a comfortable, warm sense of hospitality.



LeAnn Thornton

The 94 Marines may be one of the largest groups she has helped, but certainly they have not been the only ones at the receiving end of Thornton's gracious and dedicated service. Nor are the Marines the only ones who recognize and appreciate what Thornton does.

Recently, Thornton was singled out to receive the 2014 USO Volunteer of the Year Award for the Continental U.S. Region after being previously selected for the USO Volunteer of the Quarter Award. She

was selected among volunteers from more than 100 service centers in the continental United States.

"LeAnn exemplifies the pride the Bay Area community has in our troops and their families," USO Bay Area Director Jeff Herndon said. "She brings that pride to life with a level of enthusiasm and commitment that creates a warm and comfortable environment that makes our military members feel like they're right at home. The attention she gives to ensuring all details have been adequately handled is reflected in the smiles on the faces of those she is supporting."

Thornton began volunteering with the USO five years ago. She puts in 25 to 30 hours a month as a regular center volunteer, a member of the welcome home team and as a representative of the USO at numerous functions around Northern California. Most importantly, she is a member of the Families of the Fallen Response Team, an emotionally difficult and crucial support to relatives of our military who have lost their lives. She carries the title of Family Support Specialist.

Thornton follows in her father's footsteps. He was a U.S. Army combat infantry medic in the Korean War, then a police officer with South San Francisco. He passed away two years after she began her USO work. When comforting a family, she says she thinks of her father helping others and it keeps her strong.

There are heart-warming, as well as heart-wrenching, times for Thornton. She regularly whips up cupcakes, cookies and brownies for the USO Center's guests and takes pictures for families welcoming home troops that have been away far too long. She offers hugs, words of encouragement and thousands of thank yous to troops coming from and going to lands far away.

"LeAnn is multi-faceted, and that is reflected in the wide variety of USO programs and services she participates in," Herndon said. "One day she is providing care and comfort for a family of a fallen warrior, the next day she is putting together a spirited welcome home for a small unit of troops, and the next day she is at a formal function with dignitaries from around the area. It is very challenging to find a person who not only has the energy and dedication to pull all those off but also the emotional stabil-

ity to go from one to the next to the next."

Thornton is also the driving force behind the effort to supply Hillsborough's adopted 101st Airborne Division with boxes of treats, necessities and letters during their deployments.

"It is all really nothing," she says humbly. "These men and women have volunteered to defend our country. They're paying the ultimate price. What I do is simple—serving those who serve us. It is an honor to do so. It fills my heart," she said.

## TOWN BRIEFS

During the past quarter, City Council:

- Awarded a contract for \$95,000 for the chemical treatment of root intrusion in 66,000 linear feet of sewer mains. The process is referred to as "foaming" and involves the use of specialized equipment that fills sewer mains with a thick herbicide coating that expands as it is dispensed. The foam kills the tree roots that have entered into the sewer system. The roots, after contact with the foam, decay and naturally slough off. The foam is reapplied every two to three years. Tree roots are a primary cause of sanitary sewer overflows.
- Approved a two-year agreement for outside professional engineering services, including staff augmentation (approximately \$650,000 per year), as needed engineering services (approximately \$340,000 per year) and as needed building and structural plan check and building inspection services. Council also approved two additional two-year agreements for outside design services for as needed Capital Improvement Program design and construction management on a project-by-project basis, not to exceed \$250,000 each.
- Authorized the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to initiate, defend and settle arbitration related to the water supply agreement with the City and County of San Francisco. This action will allow BAWSCA to protect the financial interests of the wholesale customers by ensuring they pay no more than their fair share of the Regional Water Systems costs.
- Confirmed weed abatement charges and ordered their collection. By Municipal Code, the Central County Fire Department must abate seasonal and recurrent brush, grass, debris, weeds, dead or dying trees and other accumulations that pose a fire hazard to privately owned vacant lot properties in the Town.
- Authorized execution of a \$48,000 contract to conduct a storm drain, sewer and water rate study that will determine the revenue and rate requirements that will adequately fund these systems for the next five to 10 years.
- Approved the purchase of a vehicle for the Public Works Department for \$40,000 to be allocated from the Asset Replacement Fund. A 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee equipped with four-wheel drive was chosen, which will allow access to unpaved easements maintained by the Town.
- Authorized spending an additional \$114,000 (beyond the original \$244,000 budget) for the Black Mountain Road stabilization project. Extra funds were needed to cover the costs of two unexpected incidents. PG&E was unable to relocate an existing gas line from the work area within the time frame requested, and the Town instead had to protect and keep the gas line in place, which prevented gas interruption to the neighborhood during the winter. Also, during excavation of the existing roadway soils, the contractor encountered an unmarked, active water line which significantly delayed construction as the waterline had to be braced and supported in place as crews excavated around the utility.
- Passed an urgency ordinance prohibiting water waste and limiting irrigation in compliance with the California Water Board emergency regulation for statewide urban water conservation. Council modified the twice-weekly landscape watering limit to be less restrictive but to require the overall same commitment to conservation, added the word "excessive" to a prohibition of water runoff, and, to afford the Town some discretion, changed the penalty of \$500 per day to "up to \$500 per day." Town residents were notified of the ordinance by special mailing in August and by the Town's e-announcements.
- Authorized the Hillsborough Police Department to purge all obsolete records for the years 2002, 2003, and 2004. The records have been retained for at least the minimum legal retention period.
- Amended the agreements for consultant services associated with construction management and support services for the Crystal Springs/El Cerrito sewer improvement project in the amount of \$573,000. The purpose of the proposed project is to enlarge the remaining undersized segments of the Town's trunk sewer in that area in response to a 2009 Cease and Desist Order issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Costs will also be proportionally distributed to the joint users of the trunk sewer, which include the Crystal Springs County Sewer District (37 percent), the County of San Mateo (six percent) and the City of San Mateo (6 percent) and will result in a total of \$281,000 being reimbursed to the Town.
- Amended the Municipal Code regarding smoking regulations to incorporate electronic cigarettes and to add the use of them to the list of prohibited conduct in the Town's parks and public spaces. The use of e-cigarettes is a relatively recent trend, and to date there are no federal regulations on their use.

## HILLSBOROUGH A BENEFICIARY OF C/CAG

Each of the towns or cities that make up San Mateo County, Hillsborough included, has its own personality and needs. However, there is an overriding agency that is looking out for the county as a whole—the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) of San Mateo County. Created 18 years ago, this unique forum serves the cities and towns in its jurisdiction by allocating an average of \$20 million annually toward projects that benefit its county's citizens and Hillsborough residents are among the fortunate recipients.

Funding for C/CAG comes from a variety of local, state and federal sources. Locally-sourced Measure M, which collects \$10 on every registered vehicle in San Mateo County, brings in approximately \$6.7 million while state programs such as the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and federal programs such as the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program bring in the lion's share. Funding is then dispersed among the four functions of the organization—traffic congestion, water pollution prevention, airport land use management and the San Mateo County Energy Watch Program.

C/CAG was formed to handle state-mandated issues. Much of what the organization focuses on is aimed at air pollution, with the elimination of traffic congestion a big priority.

For example, C/CAG played an important role in the Smart Corridor program, which uses traffic data collected on a large stretch of El Camino Real to keep traffic running more smoothly from

San Bruno to Menlo Park—a project that benefits multiple cities as the stretch of road goes through a majority of them. This year alone C/CAG provided about \$6 million toward the ongoing costs of the program.

C/CAG also allocated \$19 million from STIP funds toward the 101/Broadway interchange reconstruction, which just broke ground in Burlingame in September (see article on page 3).

The Town of Hillsborough, in particular, benefits from C/CAG-sponsored Measure M. Allocation of these funds is based on each city's population and lane miles of streets, and Hillsborough receives roughly \$90,000 per year for street improvements and/or storm water runoff pollution management.

Hillsborough also benefits from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Twelve percent of Measure M funds is diverted to the NPDES and is spent on countywide storm water pollution management programs and projects. For example, the funds support education and outreach regarding litter/trash control, illicit dumping, as well as testing and monitoring the pollution levels of creeks and other bodies of water.

C/CAG also assisted 21 jurisdictions in the county, including Hillsborough, in complying with the state mandated Housing Element update. By helping to fund a consultant contract, the Housing Element was done more efficiently with the consultant handling some of the common requirements instead of each jurisdiction being required to meet these requirements on its own.