Bob St. Claire — a leader on the field and in the community ... 49er Hall of Famer was also Daly City councilman and mayor

Bob St. Claire is one of the most colorful characters from Daly City’s past. His term as Mayor in 1961-1962 overlapped his playing days with the San Francisco 49ers. St. Claire, a San Francisco native, played for the 49ers from 1953-1963, serving as the team’s captain in the 1957, 1958, and 1959 seasons. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1990.

To say St. Claire seems larger than life may be an understatement. At 6’9” and 265 pounds, he had an intimidating presence both on and off the field. His stellar play at offensive tackle earned him five Pro Bowl starts. Known primarily as an offensive lineman, St. Claire also excelled on goal line defense. He was credited with 10 blocked field goals during the 1956 season.

St. Claire had the unique experience of playing high school, college, and professional football at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco. Kezar was the home field of the San Francisco 49ers, and St. Claire played for the team from 1953-1963.

100th Anniversary Gala Dinner

A gala dinner to celebrate Daly City’s 100th anniversary of incorporation is scheduled for Saturday, September 24 at the Lake Merced Golf Club. Seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. Reservations may be made by calling (650) 991-8127.
Library and Recreation Services

New department merges Libraries and Recreation.

Daly City’s Library and Recreation Departments merged on July 1. The newly formed department is called Library and Recreation Services. Earlier this year, the Parks Division joined the Public Works Department. Consolidation of City departments is becoming more common as California’s local governments seek operational efficiency improvements to cut costs. As the nation continues to suffer through fiscal challenges, cities are seeking innovative approaches to preserve locally delivered programs and services.

In the fall of 2009, Daly City hosted community engagement workshops to give residents an opportunity to provide the City with cost-saving ideas to address ever-widening budget shortfalls. One recurring suggestion was the reduction of executive-level management positions. The merger of the Library and Recreation departments allows the City to utilize one executive position instead of three, thereby eliminating two management positions.

In addition to reducing duplication in administration, staff at all levels of the new organization will be working much more collaboratively. Opportunities are being identified across the divisions (Library, Recreation, and Senior/Neighborhood Services) to identify better ways to serve the public with the resources currently available. One example of improved service includes better access to recreation facilities and classes through coordination by staff at library facilities. Another example is sharing of expertise from one division to another, such as children’s programming.

Prior to the merger of the Library and Recreation Departments, the City’s Parks Maintenance Division was seamlessly transferred to the Public Works Department because at its core, it is a division that performs maintenance functions. Daly City’s Public Works Department already encompassed Building Maintenance, Streets Maintenance, and Vehicle Maintenance. Now all four divisions operate out of the same facility and are under the same functional department. The Parks Division will continue to perform the same maintenance functions as it has for many, many years.

Cities across California are undergoing major changes – mainly driven by diminishing resources and increasing costs of providing traditional local government services. While no other major changes have been identified in Daly City, every service and function the City provides and performs will be reviewed for opportunities to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

FogCutter

The FogCutter is the community newsletter of the City of Daly City. Please address inquiries to:

Community Information Office
CITY OF DALY CITY
333-90th Street, Daly City, CA 94015

For information about Daly City activities and programs, please check our website: www.dalycity.org

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How to legally dump and recycle household waste ...

City programs and services encourage safe and proper disposal.

OVERALL, Daly City has made incredible progress in recycling more and disposing less. In fact, Daly City has one of the lowest pounds per person daily disposal rates in California at just 2.8 pounds, compared to the state average of 4.5 pounds. However, illegal dumping and improper recycling continue to be a community-wide concern. Here are a few reminders to help you navigate the sometimes complex rules of recycling and garbage:

It is illegal to dump anything on public property – including sidewalks, roads, and parks. Dumping your old sofa, mattress, or television on the sidewalk is a crime. It’s unsightly and disrespectful to your neighbors. Placing a “free” sign on your unwanted items doesn’t make it okay. If your items are gently used and have some value, arrange to have them picked up by a charitable organization, such as the Goodwill, Salvation Army, or St. Vincent De Paul. If the items are junk and need to be hauled away, call Allied Waste at (650) 756-1130 for a special collection. Every single-family residence in Daly City is entitled to one FREE bulky item collection a year — which is much better than a costly fine for illegal dumping.

Curbside electronic waste collections are almost always conducted by unlicensed companies. You’ve undoubtedly received a flyer in your mailbox announcing a curbside e-waste collection. Disregard the notices. There is no licensed e-waste collector operating in Daly City. If you have e-waste (old computers, televisions, phones, etc.), bring them to an authorized collection center – or to one of the City sponsored collection events. The next one is Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It’s FREE, no appointment is necessary, and we won’t ask for your name, address, or phone number.

To be continued in the next FogCutter with information you need about:

- Stockpiling expired pharmaceuticals in your medicine cabinet — a bad idea.
- Throwing away batteries and fluorescent lights in your garbage — it’s illegal.

49er and community leader … from page 1

of Bob’s Polytechnic High School team (class of 1948). It was also used by the University of San Francisco, including the undefeated 1951 team that featured the towering St. Claire. The Dons earned an invitation to the Orange Bowl that year, but declined when organizers stipulated that USF’s two African American players, Ollie Matson and Burl Toler, were not welcome. USF didn’t comply with the condition and elected to stay home. The following year USF dropped its football program due to lack of funding. St. Claire finished his collegiate career at Tulsa and was the 49er’s third round pick of the 1953 draft.

Teammates nicknamed St. Claire “The Geek” – possibly for his unusual eating habits. When he was inducted into the Daly City Sports Hall of Fame in March 2000, St. Claire attracted a few stares as he consumed a raw steak during the dinner. Although it has been nearly fifty years since St. Claire served as mayor, he is still the center of attention when he visits Daly City.

St. Claire served on the City Council from 1958-1964. He was elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1966 and served until 1974. He was also a local businessman. He owned and ran St. Claire’s Liquors in Westlake until he sold the business in 1978. One of St. Claire’s greatest honors came when the City of San Francisco named the playing field at Kezar Stadium “Bob St. Claire Field” on January 19, 2001 – a lasting testament to one of Daly City’s most memorable residents.
Self-check machines debut at Westlake and Serramonte libraries ...

... to provide better service to all library users.

FREQUENT library users know that the Daly City Library always has something new on the shelf, but have you noticed the new machines at the Serramonte and Westlake libraries? That’s right: Daly City’s two largest branches now have their own self-check stations. For people with simple transactions, checking out your own books mean less waiting in line and more time reading.

Naturally, staff will still be available at the Circulation Desk to check out items, settle fees, or just say hello. In fact, the new self-service option means they’ll have more time available to help users with the things that are most important to them.

Installing the self-check stations at Serramonte and Westlake is the first step in a plan to upgrade library technology to better meet public demand. In the future, the library plans to transition to RFID (Radio Frequency ID) technology that will make self-service even easier: visitors simply choose a stack of books and DVDs to borrow and place it on the scanning bed. Moments later a receipt is printed, and they’re out the door!

These and other upgrades are part of Daly City’s plan to help the library work for you, keeping staff available to focus on answering questions, supporting research, and conducting learning activities -- including story time reading, author visits, and simply helping someone find that perfect something to read (or watch) next.