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# HILLSBOROUGH

## 3RD QUARTER 2011



# INCREASE IN NUMBER OF HOME BURGLARIES

Several Hillsborough residents, along with others in San Mateo County, fell victim to a rash of home burglaries this past spring. As soon as the crimes were reported, the Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) saturated the area daily with marked and unmarked patrol vehicles, called meetings with the police departments of other cities and alerted U.S. Postal workers and Public Works employees, who are familiar with the area, to report any suspicious activity. In late June, Hillsborough officers responded to a break-in in progress and arrested five men who are suspected of committing many of the crimes.



Hillsborough police officers arrested five men who are suspects in a rash of burglaries that hit the Town this spring. Residents still need to take precautions.

While the burglaries have decreased since the arrest, police said residents need to be more cautious. The HPD warns residents to activate their home alarm systems when leaving their home during the day. Among seven homes burglarized this spring, thieves left with no items from the two homes where the alarm was set. The burglars were no doubt scared away, police say. Residents should also install locks on the sliding portion of glass sliding doors and place rods in the slide tracks as the burglars have often gained entry via sliding doors. Keep gates to the backyard closed and locked.

It is also wise, police say, to record the serial numbers of any large items, including electronics and computers, and to photograph expensive jewelry or items of value that do not contain serial numbers, which will help police recover belongings.

These bands of thieves have a pattern, police say. They ring the doorbell, often of a home that either looks vacant or that belongs to a more vulnerable elderly person. If no one answers, they move around to the back of the home and break in. If someone does answer, they have a litany of reasons for ringing the bell, ranging from looking for a lost dog to asking if the resident wants the lawn mowed, the driveway sealed or the home power-washed. While they are talking, they look into the home and case it out.

Do not, police warn, agree to any work being done in or around a home without obtaining written estimates, asking for the

required Hillsborough business license and the required city permits.

Items commonly taken during the spring burglaries were cash, jewelry and cameras. Home locations made no difference as the houses were located on both main roads and in secluded areas. The majority of the crimes occurred during the day while homes were unoccupied.

Should you see anyone suspicious in the area, call the HPD immediately at 650-375-7470. Report crimes in progress to 911.

If you have any questions about the burglary cases, call the HPD Investigations Division at 650-375-7455.

## 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  
Christian Huebner, Eric Nyhus,  
Julie Tenenbaum, Jerry Wings  
Nan Ryan, Alternate

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

**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](http://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

## HILLSBOROUGH POLICE OFFICERS RISE THROUGH RANKS



Cheryl Bower, wife of Caroline Serrato, pins a badge on the Hillsborough Police Department's newest captain. Serrato began her service with the HPD in 1996 and has risen to the rank of captain. She supervises civilian employees, training and facilities management and is in charge of purchasing and the department's budget.



Kari Pechetti's son Tyler pins on Kari's badge in recognition of her promotion to Records Clerk II. Kari is in charge of the daily court runs, filing complaints, preparing subpoenas, police reports and a variety of other jobs in the department. Kari and Caroline's promotions took place at a ceremony on July 19, 2011.

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

Printed on recycled paper

[WWW.HILLSBOROUGH.NET](http://WWW.HILLSBOROUGH.NET)

# WATER COSTS A DRAIN ON BUDGET

Hillsborough's 2011/12 budget of \$43 million is balanced. However, a 62 percent increase in capital expenditures, requiring the use of reserve monies, made for a difficult balancing act.

Additionally, in the spring, after City Council had set water rates for the year, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) unexpectedly raised wholesale water rates by 38 percent and forced the Town to dip further into its reserves to cover a \$670,000 shortfall.

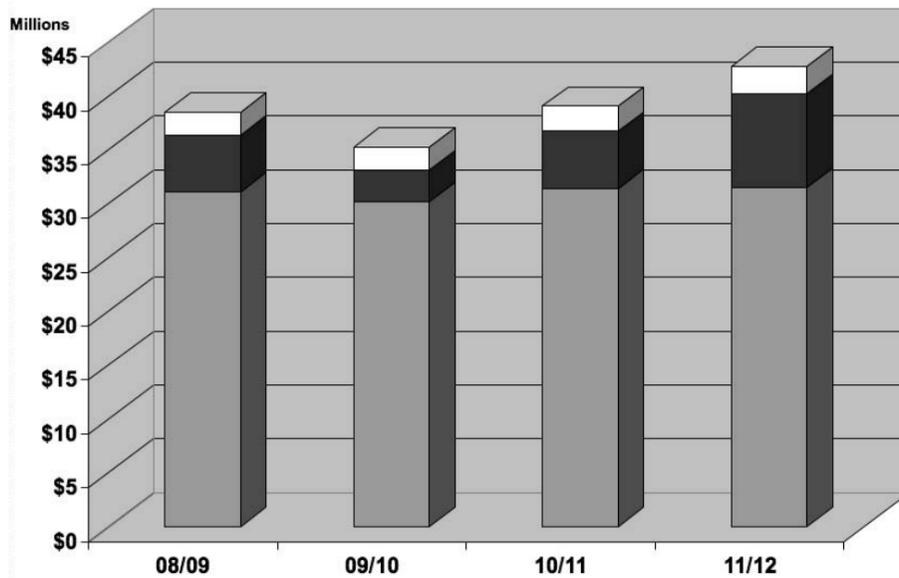
Josh Cooperman, who serves on the Town's Financial Advisory Committee which is instrumental in developing budget policy and the budget itself, called the SFPUC's rate hike "unfair."

"The Town tries to plan ahead so that rate increases do not have to be so steep, and the SFPUC itself is not doing that," he said.

The wholesale cost hike comes on top of the fact that there is a downward trend in water consumption by California residents. This reduction in water use means less water sold, which results in decreased water revenues available for maintenance of the infrastructure. "The frustrating side effect of conscientious water conservation has been the need to increase the per-unit cost of water," notes councilmember Christine Krolik, "but without conservation we could face a major water supply crisis."

Fortunately, the Town was able to draw on reserves to cover the shortfall in water revenues, making it possible to balance the capital budget for the current fiscal year.

The Operating Budget was balanced



The above chart shows a 62 percent increase in capital expenditures (dark bar) for Fiscal Year 2011-12 over the prior year and in relation to operational costs (grey bar) and debt expenses (white bar) for prior years.

through the diligent and difficult work of cost-cutting in various city departments. Noteworthy among the cuts are: a savings of \$590,000 in the Police Department by not filling positions that had been vacated by recent retirements, a \$680,000 savings in the Fire Department by closing a fire station, a \$438,000 savings city-wide achieved in part by decreases in workers compensation and labor concessions in police and management groups. Total savings amount to \$1.7 million.

"The Police Department has not filled a number of positions during the past several

years and has still served the Town well, with no degradation in service to our residents. That speaks to the talent and dedication of our police force and their willingness to collaborate with the Town to help balance the budget," Mayor Tom Kasten said.

The City Council sets goals and priorities for each annual budget. On-going priorities include health and safety, continued improvement of infrastructure, improved efficiency in delivering services through use of modern technology, long-term fiscal health, and continued exploration of ways to cut costs.

## DIEMER STEPS IN AT CRUCIAL TIME

In mid-March of this year, Hillsborough City Council members and Town officials were not happy. They were looking at a proposed rate hike of 47 percent for wholesale water rates from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The increase was two weeks away from being finalized and, despite concerns, officials felt their hands were tied.

At that time, Hillsborough brought on board water expert Dennis Diemer, who had retired in February from a 30-year career with the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD). He listened to Council's concerns and took a close look at the details of the proposed hike, determining

there were some major flaws. He formed a coalition of several cities, approached the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), which represents the interests of 24 cities and water districts that purchase water wholesale from the SFPUC, went to the SFPUC and was ultimately successful in saving Hillsborough \$250,000.

"He was here less than four weeks,



Dennis Diemer

and he nailed it," said acting Public Works Director John Mullins.

Diemer argued that two points in the SFPUC's rate proposal needed to be revisited. He felt the agency underestimated the amount of water they would be selling to its customers, and that they would most likely be reaping more revenue than they anticipated. Secondly, the agency had decided that they needed to recoup – in one year -- revenues lost over the past several years due to selling less water. Diemer said that revenue should be spread out over several years to lessen the hardship on water customers. They agreed and the rate increase was lowered to 38 percent.

It is this type of analysis that Diemer will be working on while on the payroll at Hillsborough.

"I am here to help out with reviewing the capital improvement program, to review the water and sewer plans, to assess and identify priorities, to do informational analysis and cost estimation, to increase efficiency and to figure ways to lower costs," Diemer said.

"The kinds of problems and issues the Town is facing with the capital improvements and water and sewer projects are directly related to my experience, so it is interesting and challenging to be helping out," Diemer said.

Diemer has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Loyola University, Los Angeles, and a master's in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford University. He has 36 years of water and waste-water utility management experience with both public agencies and private consulting firms. He was the general manager of EBMUD for 15 years and before that held a number of engineering and construction positions, which give him both executive management and technical experience.

In today's difficult economic environment, it is likewise beneficial to have someone who will be looking at cost-cutting, improving efficiency and long-term strategies – not to mention saving \$250,000.

## BUDGET 101 AN EXPLANATION OF THE TOWN'S BUDGET

### The Budget in General

The Town, just like a family that plans for food, clothing, housing, etc., has to operate within a budget. Decisions have to be made as to how much to spend on each of many items, such as public safety (police and fire), maintenance or major work on infrastructure and community services.

The Town government prepares its budget for each fiscal year, which is the 12-month period that runs from July 1 to June 30. The process begins in early January when senior staff meets to discuss Council goals and objectives. In February, the Finance Department gathers data to project income (revenues) and the Town departments' projected costs for operations (expenses). In March, the departments develop preliminary budgets and present them to City Council in a workshop. In April, the preliminary budget is presented to the Financial Advisory Committee (a group of resident volunteers who advise Council on fiscal matters) for discussion before making a recommendation to Council. During May and June, Council holds public hearings and then votes on the budget for implementation on July 1.

### Revenues

Because Hillsborough is an entirely residential community, its main source of revenues comes from property taxes. Unlike its neighbors, the Town does not collect other major taxes such as hotel tax and utility users' tax.

### Expenses

The Town's budget contains both mandatory and discretionary spending elements. Mandatory expenses include items such as contractual obligations (for example, cost of wholesale water, sewer disposal contracts with San Mateo and Burlingame, or compensation of those employees belonging in a labor group). Discretionary spending includes items such as capital projects, new equipment or vehicles, staffing levels, training and community programs.

### Major funds

The Town has three major funds.

**General Fund** – accounts for governmental activities such as police, fire, streets, community development (building and planning) and community services.

**Water Fund** – accounts for the activities associated with the distribution and transmission of potable water to the residents. There is a 10-year capital program necessary to maintain the quality of water delivered that will provide a level annual funding of approximately \$2.4 million from a combination of reserves and rate increases in future years.

**Sewer Fund** – accounts for activities associated with the treatment and transmission of sewage. This year the Town budgeted for a seven percent increase in rates to implement sewer's mandated five-year capital program – a \$35 million program, half of which is funded from borrowing and the other half from the combination of rates and reserves.

Both the water and sewer aging infrastructure continues to require major maintenance and rehabilitation.

### Revenues versus Expenses

For this coming 2011/12 year, operating and capital expenses outpace revenues by more than \$7 million. The budget is balanced by utilizing prior year reserves to fund the capital program in the water and sewer operations. "The purpose of the reserve fund is to get the Town through difficult economic situations such as these, but obviously reserves cannot be relied on year after year," notes the Town's Finance Director Edna Masbad.

## GREEN NOT ALWAYS GOOD

Hillsborough and Northern California experienced an above average amount of rain this year that has resulted in vigorous growth of trees and shrubs. Overgrown vegetation adjacent to roadways can cause a visual or physical obstruction resulting in a serious hazard or nuisance to motorists, bicyclist and pedestrians. The Town City Code (8.16.030 (K)) declares, "... hedges or dense, thorny shrubs extending

into a street or public right-of-way to be a nuisance adversely affecting the public peace and safety." Not only is residential pruning of shrubbery and tree limbs that extend into the right-of-way and streets a requirement but the pruning will greatly improve roadway safety for Hillsborough residents. Routine care of plants will also result in a healthier landscape for your home.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### Concours d'Elegance

Tours d'Elegance  
Saturday, August 27, 2011

Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance

Sunday, August 28, 2011  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crystal Springs Golf Course

### Family Outdoor Movie Night

Friday, September 2, 2011

7 p.m. musical entertainment

8 p.m. Pixar's "The Incredibles" with special guest, producer John Walker  
Town Hall

### Hillsborough Neighborhood Network (Hnn)

Disaster Preparation and Safety Training

Monday, September 19, 2011

(New date – changed from August 29)  
9 a.m.

Town Hall

Still need Neighborhood Lead Volunteers for the following neighborhoods: Avondale, Bella Vista, Buckingham, Churchill (lower), Fagan, Falkirk, Hayne (lower)/Brentwood, Irwin, Lakeview (east), Marlborough (upper), Skyfarm (mid), Tournament (lower), Woodridge.



## PARADE HONORS SERVICE TO COUNTRY, PRIDE OF COMMUNITY

The troops – townsfolk and veterans alike – turned out for Hillsborough's second annual Memorial Day parade on May 30. Lilli Rey, co-chair of the event along with Councilmember Christine Krolik, proclaimed the day a huge success, and they are already looking forward to next year.

"People came out from all venues to walk the streets of Hillsborough," Rey said, "and it was really fun. It revisited that wonderful community feeling we all enjoyed at last year's parade."

While the purpose of last year's parade was to celebrate Hillsborough's Centennial, this year's event provided the community celebration with a focus on the veterans and paid tribute to those who have served in the military and given their lives for their country. On the field following the parade, there was a ceremony for the veterans, the Boy Scout color guard was present, tables were manned by the USO and Adopt-a-Unit and residents were able to sign a banner that

will be sent to the Town's adopted military unit stationed in Afghanistan, thanking them for their service.

Joining the veterans in the parade were over 500 celebrants. Mayor Tom Kasten served as the Grand Marshal. North School was represented by a Giants "Spirit" float and the San Mateo High School Band marched. The route was reconfigured this year to be less taxing on the vintage cars. Children were treated to a small carnival this year at which prizes were books or crafts. Recology was on board with a booth. A variety of food trucks were on site to meet the needs of hungry marchers.

"None of this could have happened without the ever-helpful Police and Public Works departments who do so much behind the scenes," Rey said. She also extended a thank you to the many volunteers who are crucial to the success of the event.

"This is a wonderful community," Rey said.



Residents from all over Hillsborough, including Mayor Tom Kasten and his wife Kendra (middle picture on left) came out for the 2nd Annual Memorial Day Parade. The Parade honored veterans and paid respect to those who have given their lives for our country.

## CONCOURS RIGHT AROUND CORNER

In 1956, Elvis Presley roared onto U.S. music charts with his hit single "Heartbreak Hotel," actress Grace Kelly married Rainier III, Prince of Monaco, Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the United States, and the Hillsborough Concours D'Elegance made its debut. Fast forward 55 years and there are new pop icons, politicians and even a royal wedding, but the proud tradition of the Hillsborough Concours D'Elegance carries on with its focus of honoring and celebrating automotive design and engineering.

This year's event returns to the picturesque Crystal Springs Golf Course on Sunday, August 28, 2011. With more than 300 cars on display, everyone from the novel enthusiast to the serious collector can enjoy

the cars, the gourmet food and wines, and the opportunity to spend a perfect summer day with friends.

This year's featured marques are Bugatti and Packard. The collection of French Bugattis will be a rare sight of one of the fastest and most exclusive sports cars in the world. Packard, one of the most celebrated U.S. pre-war luxury cars, will showcase the spectrum of styles as it evolved over 60 years.

Beneficiaries of the event include the Hillsborough Schools Foundation and two other local charities.

Tickets are on sale and can also be purchased the day of the event for \$25. To buy tickets and for more information, check [www.hillsboroughconcours.org](http://www.hillsboroughconcours.org).

## TOWN BRIEFS

During the past quarter, the City Council:

- Approved the purchase of a water leak detection system device for \$16,400, \$4,300 of which will come from State grant money and the remainder from the Water Enterprise Fund. Over time, the cost of the water and property saved by the use of this equipment will more than pay for the original purchase price of the device.
- Approved an agreement between the Hillsborough Recreation Department and the Town for the Vista Park sports field turf maintenance. The Hillsborough Recreation Department has been maintaining the sports turf at Vista Park for recreational play since the park was reopened in August 2006. This agreement makes the arrangement formal. The Town presently contributes to Hillsborough Recreation annually for field maintenance, which involves six locations, including Vista Park and the cost will remain the same.
- Authorized water service rates and meter service charges for the year 2011, effective April 12, 2011. Water rates were increased by 14 percent due to needed maintenance of the infrastructure and increased rates by SFPUC. Rates are scheduled to increase 13 percent annually from 2012 through 2015.
- Approved an amendment to the agreement for animal control services. The 20 incorporated cities and towns of San Mateo County contract with the County to operate a county-wide animal control program. The County, in turn, contracts with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, a private, non-profit organization, to deliver control services. Hillsborough's estimated share of the costs for fiscal year 2011/2012 is approximately 1.45 percent of the total costs or \$66,300.
- Authorized the city manager to enter into an agreement for professional contract landscape architectural services for \$25,000 for the 2011/2012 fiscal year, the same amount as budgeted for the past year.
- Awarded a bid for the 2011 weed abatement project for \$10,485, which will save the Town approximately \$3,000 to \$6,000 in General Fund expenditures.

### Presentations

- San Bruno Councilmember Irene O'Connell expressed San Bruno City Council's gratitude for the Town of Hillsborough's support received during the San Bruno disaster.
- City Council congratulated Finance Director Edna Masbad on receiving another Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Town also received a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

## FIRE MERGER PLANS HEAT UP

In a continuing effort to trim city budgets, the Central County Fire Department (CCFD, which is a merger of the former Burlingame and Hillsborough fire departments) is studying a merger with the fire departments of Millbrae and San Bruno. The move could potentially save \$1.8 million annually for the four cities, according to CCFD Chief Don Dornell.

Discussions regarding a possible merger have been going on for quite a long while. "We were trying to get a feel for how much would be saved and how it would all work," Dornell said.

The fire merger subcommittee will be meeting soon to consider whether to move forward with the first step which is to temporarily close one station in Burlingame and one in Millbrae and open a temporary station near the border of Burlingame and Millbrae near Skyline Boulevard. This temporary station will serve both cities until it can be demonstrated that the reduction of one fire station will not impact the service level. Fire officials feel

that replacing two closed stations with a new temporary station will reduce staffing without reducing service levels. "We have to demonstrate that that will work," Dornell said.

The bulk of the savings would be realized through the closure of the stations, Dornell pointed out. Only a small savings would result from merging of administration. San Bruno and Millbrae have already merged administratively, but the departments are not otherwise merged.

Given positive results of the test, the participating fire departments would need to work with labor to figure out details and would also need to develop plans for a permanent fire station to replace the temporary one. "Even if it all worked perfectly right now, it would still be at least six months down the road before we could implement everything," Dornell said.

"If this all works, I think CCFD would consist of four cities instead of two – it would be an extension of CCFD," Dornell said.

## PUBLIC WORKS CREWS SAVE HILL

For those who might wonder how the city would respond during one of those "50-year" storm events, the Woodridge Road slide in March offers a glimpse of quick reaction and expedited work.

The storm that hit on March 24, 2011, was a 25- to 50-year event, according to John Mullins, acting director of the Public Works Department (PWD). Public Works employees noticed the ground beginning to slip along Woodridge Road. They monitored the movement. By March 26, the road had slid four feet down the hill, taking with it a road sign. It also threatened whatever was beneath the soil, which turned out to be a mid-pressure PG&E line, a six-inch water line, a sewer main and a high-voltage line. But due to quick action on the part of many, residents lost no service and repairs were done in record time.

"When we saw what was happening, we rallied the troops," said Hillsborough Police Department Captain Mark O'Connor. PWD personnel were called in, but in addition, the PWD supervisors all showed up without being called. On hand to help out were Supervisors Terry Dahl, Dave Ballstrasse, Carlos Castro and Craig West, plus O'Connor, Assistant City Engineer David Bishop, City Engineer Cyrus Kianpour and Mullins.

"Underground utility lines were becoming exposed, while you could hear trees snapping and you could actually watch the dirt moving," O'Connor said.

Plans were made to shore up the earth

and suspend or support the utilities lines so that service would not be interrupted while allowing the water to travel down the hill. The Town called in a contractor that worked a 25-hour shift. Town officials then put together a competitive bid package which normally takes four to six months but was completed in three weeks.

The bid was approved by City Council in June and the repair to Woodridge Road is complete.

## BEWARE OF TICKS

Earlier this year, the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District conducted a survey of the tick population in Hillsborough and collected ticks around Spencer Lake and the fire trail on the opposite side of the road (between Macadamia and Forest View). Among the ticks collected were Western Black-legged ticks. In San Mateo, one to three percent of Western Black Legged Ticks are infected with Lyme Disease.

If you are in these areas where ticks are found:

- Regularly examine yourself for ticks
- Wear light colored clothing, long sleeves and tuck pants in boots
- Apply a tick repellent to clothing and always follow label directions
- Stay on trails
- Inspect your pets for ticks

## RED CROSS RECOGNIZES YOUNG HERO

Matthew Bernardo was one of eight recipients of the American Red Cross 2011 Bay Area Chapter's Community Youth Life-saving Hero Award. Bernardo, the son of Marie Bernardo, Assistant Finance Director for Hillsborough, and Teddy Bernardo III, saved the life of his six-year-old sister, Isabel, during the San Bruno disaster last year.

Matthew was at home when a terrible rumbling began to shake his house. He said it felt like an earthquake that didn't stop. As he ran downstairs, the pipeline exploded and he saw debris coming in through the window. He ran toward his sister's bedroom and saw her walking slowly down the hall with her hands over her ears. He grabbed her and ran outside away from the intense heat. Isabel had at first hidden under her blankets, and was frightened and confused. Matthew's actions saved his sister's life.

The Bernardo's home was completely destroyed in the ensuing fire. The structure reportedly burned for 30 minutes. Their family is intact, thanks to the quick work of Matthew. "I was grateful Matthew had the immediate sense to call me within minutes after the explosion or I would've been a total wreck," Marie said. It took the family two and a half hours to find each other and there was much hugging, according to Marie.

Six of the eight people who died as a result of the explosion lived on Claremont, the Bernardo's street.



Mayor Tom Kasten, right, recognizes Matthew Bernardo for his quick thinking that saved the life of his little sister Isabel.

"Needless to say, I feel so blessed my children's lives were spared, yet I feel sad for those families who lost their loved ones," Marie said. "We are rebuilding our home on the same lot. We just want to get our lives back to normal, to feel safe at home after a hard day's work. We'll see how it goes."

"We are really proud of you and the action you took," Mayor Tom Kasten told Matthew. "You set a marvelous example for a lot of people."

## FIRE BLOTTER

During the most recent quarter, April 2011 through June 2011, Central County Fire Department received the following calls:

- Fire Calls: 25
- Explosions: 1
- EMS/Rescue: 590
- Hazardous Conditions: 82
- Public Assistance: 121
- False Alarms: 101

### Carbon monoxide safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is often referred to as "the silent killer". CO is a colorless, tasteless and odorless gas which can derive from sources such as gas stoves, water heaters, fireplaces, gas or oil furnaces, and car exhaust fumes. The effects of CO poisoning can be deadly, so detection of this poisonous gas is extremely important.

As of July 1, 2011, it is a state requirement that all existing single family homes must be equipped with a CO detector. Contact your local building department for more information.

### Important tips

CO alarms must be installed outside every bedroom, on every level, and in basements. They

should NOT be placed in very humid rooms, garages, kitchens, or too close to fuel-burning appliances. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home: when one sounds, they all sound.

CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified State Fire Marshal listing and approval requirements. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement, mounting height, and maintenance.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move outside to fresh air and call 911. DO NOT reenter the premises until the emergency services responders have given you permission.

Ensure you purchase a product that the State Fire Marshal listed and approved. Also, take the following features into consideration: test button, "end of life" warning, digital display, and special lighted features for the hearing impaired.

Treat your CO alarms as you would your smoke alarm: perform monthly tests, replace the batteries when low, and replace the entire unit after its lifespan.

## POLICE BLOTTER

For the three-month period of April, May, and June 2011, The Hillsborough Police Department (HPD) responded to 3,401 calls for service. In those three months, HPD arrested 13 adults and one juvenile, responded to and investigated one injury and five non-injury vehicle collisions, and completed 128 police reports. A sample of some of the notable calls for service that occurred during this period is listed below:

- HPD responded to a call regarding a dog sitter who was intoxicated and was seen drinking in her vehicle. Upon arrival, the adult female suspect assaulted the arriving officers and resisted arrest. She was arrested and booked into the San Mateo County Jail for being drunk in public and assaulting a police officer.
- During a traffic stop on El Cerrito Avenue, HPD officers discovered Zanax and Oxycontin during a vehicle search. The driver admitted to illegally purchasing the pills from a drug dealer and said he did not have a prescription for either medication. The driver was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and was booked into the San Mateo County Jail.
- HPD investigators arrested one adult female during a sexual assault case. The suspect had the HIV virus and knowingly engaged in sexual intercourse with one victim, with whom she had a casual dating relationship. An arrest warrant was obtained, the suspect was booked into the San Mateo County Jail and the case was forwarded to the San Mateo District Attorney for prosecution.
- HPD officers responded to a 911 call from a residence where the caller was reporting a family dispute and assault. Arriving officers investigated the case and determined that a domestic battery and sexual assault had occurred. One male adult was arrested for spousal rape and domestic violence/assault and was booked into the San Mateo County Jail. The case was forwarded to the San Mateo District Attorney for prosecution.
- During a hit and run investigation, Hillsborough officers located the suspect and discovered that the adult female was on probation and had a warrant for her arrest for domestic violence. She was arrested on the warrant and was held responsible for the damage caused in the hit and run.
- During a traffic stop, an officer discovered that the driver had possession of a pipe used for smoking methamphetamine/crack cocaine. The driver was arrested and released on a citation.
- A number of drivers were arrested this quarter for driving under the influence of alcohol. Please remember to drive responsibly, call a cab for a ride, or designate a sober driver.

### Crimes on the elderly

Police inspectors Peter Gould and Nick Chinca warn elderly residents and families of elderly residents of criminals who prey on the most vulnerable members of the community. Beware of individuals who ring doorbells and offer to do work, perhaps for what appears to be a reduced amount.

"These could be unscrupulous contractors who are over-charging, stating that they were not paid or not paid in full when they were (hoping the resident will be confused or will have forgotten), or workers who get paid, do part of the work and promise to return to complete the job but don't," Gould said.

Gould warns that residents should ask for written estimates, a contractor's license number, a Hillsborough business license which is required, and a city permit.

Elderly tend to fall victim to this type of crime because they are used to an era when helpful and honest handymen worked in neighborhoods and because, if they do feel suspicious, they hesitate to call and ask advice for fear of appearing dependent.

Any suspicious unsolicited work requests should be reported to the police. Get as much information as possible – a license plate number or a vehicle description, for instance. Call dispatch, 650-375-7470, at any time; call 911 for crimes in progress; or call Gould at 650-375-7455 or Chinca at 650-375-7456.

### Update your contact information

It could be an alarm response, a broken pipe flooding your home or some other kind of emergency. It is important that the HPD has your most up-to-date contact information in the Residence File Database. When there is a change in your contact information, or if you just want to add additional information, the procedure is simple. Just contact the HPD in person or by telephone. The Department can provide you with a contact update form at the PD, or can mail it if that is more convenient. Return the completed update form to the PD. HPD can quickly and efficiently contact you if the need arises. Rest assured that your contact information is treated as confidential and is not shared with the public. If you have any questions, contact the HPD at 650-375-7470.

### Rattlesnake advisory

Earlier this season, the HPD received information about a rattlesnake sighting that occurred in the southern part of Town. It is not unusual for rattlesnakes to be in this area, and we do receive a few calls a year about rattlesnake sightings. Some general information about these snakes can be found below:

Rattlesnakes are fairly common in this part of California and are important members of the natural community. Helping to keep the rodent population under control, they feed on small rodents, rabbits, birds, and almost anything alive that can be swallowed. Rattlesnakes are venomous snakes with movable front fangs and typically have a rattle at the end of their tail. The rattle sound is a warning by the snake, which it uses to make its presence known. They will not attack, but if disturbed or cornered, they will defend themselves. Rattlesnakes are found around rocks and are usually out when the weather is warm.

If you encounter a rattlesnake:

- Do not pick up the snake.
- Do not disturb or corner the snake.
- Move away and the snake will flee most of the time.

Snakes are nocturnal creatures, meaning they sleep during the day and hunt for food at night. One must be particularly cautious and aware around dusk because snakes often lay themselves on rocks and asphalt pathways that are still warm from the sun. Also:

- Rattlesnake season is from May-October.
- Baby snakes don't have control over how much venom they inject into you, making them even more dangerous than full-grown snakes.
- Bull snakes are often confused for rattlesnakes, look similar, but have a slightly different pattern and no rattle.
- Snakes are extremely important in controlling the rodent population.
- Snakes hibernate during the winter, like bears.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the HPD at 650-375-7470.

