



# FOCUS

FALL 2012

REPORT FROM CITY HALL

## Two-Year Remembrance

On September 9th, approximately 150 people gathered in City Park to remember the tragic explosion and fire that occurred exactly two years earlier. At the event, the Mayor and City Council unveiled a plaque on the City's recently installed Community Recognition Sculpture. The sculpture, commissioned by the City four years ago, will be used to honor those who have given years of service to the community. This plaque, the first to be placed on the sculpture, reads "As we gather here, we remember the humanity of our community and thirst for the words that will soothe our emotions." The plaque also lists the names of the eight individuals who died in the fire and states "**We will never forget**".



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## El Camino Real's 100th Anniversary August 7, 1912 to 2012

The first paving of the California State Highway System occurred on El Camino Real in San Bruno on August 7, 1912. Exactly 100 years later, the City of San Bruno, the County of San Mateo, and Caltrans celebrated El Camino's history and future.

On that day, approximately 150 people and 75 vintage cars gathered on El Camino Real at the steps of San Bruno City Hall to remember the past 100 years. Following a series of speeches by state and local officials, a procession of historic cars moved from San Bruno to Burlingame where a picnic was held in Burlingame's Washington Park. The California Department of Transportation, the City of San Bruno, the Grand Boulevard Initiative, the Mid-Peninsula Old Time Auto

*(continued on page 5)*

## Street Medians and Grand Boulevard Improvements Project

The work on the El Camino Real medians is nearly over. The project, using Federal grant funds for 90% of the improvements, began in 2009 with the remodeling of six medians. The third phase was just completed and included planting of new landscaping and installation of a new water efficient irrigation system on six of the El Camino Real medians.



A final phase of construction, which will include renovation work on the remaining four medians on El Camino Real and one on San Bruno Avenue near El Camino Real, will begin soon. Once completed, there will be a comprehensive landscape design along the entire stretch of El Camino Real within San Bruno. The fresh new landscape design will continue from El Camino Real up the first block of San Bruno Avenue.

Until construction is complete, motorists may see some traffic impacts. Lane closures will be kept to a minimum and everyone is still reminded to **“Slow for the Cone Zone”**.

## Climate Action Plan

A Climate Action Plan identifies actions, policies and procedures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, both from City operations and the community at large. The Plan is required by State legislation and must meet requirements established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the California Air Quality Act.

The City of San Bruno is in the process of creating its first Climate Action Plan. The Plan, funded through a Federal grant, will outline specific actions that can be taken by City operations, and individual residents to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

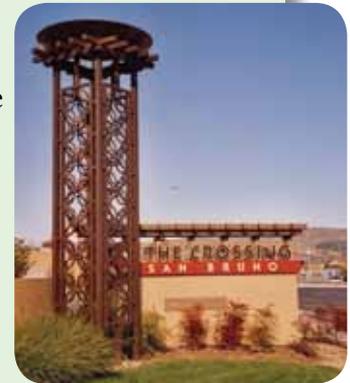
Examples of specific actions include the use of solar panels on private and public facilities, the use of shuttle buses from transportation sites by local employers, and compliance with LEED green building standards in new construction.

If you would like to learn more about the Climate Action Plan, a draft copy is available online at [www.planbruno.org](http://www.planbruno.org). If you have specific questions or would like more information, please email the City's Planning Division at [planning@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:planning@sanbruno.ca.gov) or call **650-616-7074**.

## Future Hotel at the Crossing?

In August, the City purchased a 1.5-acre development site at the Crossing designated for a hotel. Development of a hotel within the 20-acre Crossing area has long been a high priority of the community. Funds for the purchase of the site came from development impact fees generated from the Crossing development and other projects. No General Fund money was used.

Ownership of the property gives the City full control to better realize its community and financial goals. This also allows the City to take full advantage of the improving hotel market. Recent data suggests that the regional hotel market is gaining momentum, driven by a strong economic recovery in the San Francisco region. The City will distribute a Request For Qualifications/Proposals to select a qualified Developer Team to design, fund, and build a high quality hotel.



The City's goal is to attain a high-quality, select-service hotel, with at least 120 rooms and meeting/conference space capable of accommodating larger events, such as business conferences, weddings, and other functions. The project would produce many benefits for the City, including job opportunities for City residents, new hotel tax revenues, and support for the mixed-use district along the El Camino Real corridor.

# The Transit Corridors Plan Update

On October 10, 2012, the City Council held a televised study session at the Senior Center to review the Transit Corridors Plan and associated environmental impact report. About 45 members of the public attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Plan and to solicit comments and questions from the City Council and members of the public.

The goal of the Transit Corridors Plan is to promote the revitalization of important commercial corridors in the older parts of the City surrounding the relocated Caltrain Station. These corridors- El Camino Real, San Bruno Avenue, San Mateo Avenue, and Huntington Avenue- provide pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile connections to public transit, including SamTrans bus routes, and the BART and Caltrain stations.

## Grade Separation Update

Construction of the San Bruno Grade Separation Project is reaching halfway point and significant progress has been made over the last several months. The pile driving for foundations has been completed and the steel grade-separation bridges have been erected at Angus, San Mateo and San Bruno Avenues. Residents can now envision the final height and appearance of the structures.

Crews are currently installing the retaining wall panels that will provide the elevated structure that will separate traffic and pedestrians from the trains. Over the next several months the retaining walls, station and the new Posy Park will be taking shape.



Updates on the Grade Separation Project are available on-line at [http://sanbruno.ca.gov/pw\\_proj\\_current.html](http://sanbruno.ca.gov/pw_proj_current.html)

The Plan envisions revitalized corridors with exciting architecture, pedestrian-friendly streets, more housing and office space, and new businesses to bolster economic development. The Plan establishes design guidelines and standards for high quality private development and public improvements with appropriate transitions to surrounding residential neighborhoods. The Plan proposes to allow buildings up to five stories on El Camino Real and San Bruno Avenue, four stories in the Downtown, and seven stories near the Caltrain Station between the railroad tracks and San Mateo Avenue.

The Plan focuses new development in the commercial corridors and preserves the residential character of the vast majority of the City. The Plan includes measures to provide appropriate transitions between new, taller buildings and existing single family residential properties. It requires new development to be set back from the rear property line of single family homes and to use architectural techniques to protect views and a sense of open space.

The Plan does not provide the City with the authority to use eminent domain to acquire any residential property, nor does it require property owners to redevelop their properties. The Plan simply allows for more diverse types of development.

Over the next several months, the Planning Commission and City Council will be reviewing the Plan in public meetings. Public notices will be published and mailed to property owners and residents with 500 feet of the Plan area 10 days before those hearings and posted on the City's website. If the City Council approves the Plan, the zoning recommendations must then be adopted as part of the City's comprehensive zoning code update, which is currently underway. A citywide election is also required by City Ordinance 1284 to approve the proposed increased building heights, parking structures, and increase in the number of residential units allowed on certain parcels in the plan area.

***Have questions or want to get involved?***  
Please call us at (650) 616-7074, visit the website at [www.PlanBruno.org](http://www.PlanBruno.org) or email us at [planning@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:planning@sanbruno.ca.gov).

# CRESTMoor RECON

The reconstruction efforts within the Crestmoor Neighborhood continue to proceed with both home rebuilding and infrastructure replacement. Additionally, the permanent abandonment of PG&E's Line 132 through the neighborhood has begun with portions of the pipe already filled with concrete. The following is a brief summary of the status of the various activities within the neighborhood:

**Home Reconstruction** – Of the 38 homes that were completely destroyed in the fire, nine (9) homes have been reconstructed and are now occupied. Eleven (11) homes are currently under construction and occupancy of these homes will occur over the next several months. Building permits are expected for two (2) more properties that are currently finalizing their building plans. PG&E currently owns 4 vacant lots and two damaged homes that they are repairing for resale. The City owns five vacant lots in the neighborhood. The City is currently in discussion with PG&E regarding the ultimate plans for their vacant lots, which remain undetermined.

**Infrastructure** – The Phase II Utility replacement Project is currently nearing completion of construction. This project involves the replacement of sewer, water, and storm drainage facilities within the fire damaged portion of the neighborhood. Construction is expected to be completed by early November. The next phase of work will be the replacement of similar utilities within the remainder of the neighborhood. This phase of work is expected to start in early 2013 and last through mid-summer. Subsequent phases will include the replacement of sidewalks, street reconstruction, streetlight replacement, landscaping/traffic calming measures, and rebuilding of the Earl/Glenview Park. These latter phases of work will occur in mid to late 2014 following consultation with residents about specifics of the design plans and should be completed by late Spring 2014.

**PG&E Line 132 Pipeline Abandonment** – The City continues to work with PG&E to ensure that Line 132 will be fully abandoned by filling it with concrete. In September, portions of Line 132 were filled with cement slurry. The pipe was filled from 1121

Glenview Drive south to the blast location at the Earl Avenue/Glenview Drive intersection. Additionally, the previously abandoned deep portion of Line 132 installed in 1948 was filled. It had previously been abandoned without concrete filling. The City is awaiting chemical residue test results from PG&E for the remaining sections of Line 132 before allowing these portions to be filled. The City and PG&E want to make certain that no residual hazardous materials are present in or on the pipe to be abandoned.

## El Camino Real's 100th Anniversary



Approximately 75 vintage cars participated in El Camino Real's 100th Anniversary celebration.



# STRUCTION UPDATE

Similar tests were performed on the pipeline sections already filled.

**Air Quality/Dust/Soil Testing** – Responding to concerns raised by residents and the City Council, testing of air, dust, and soils has begun within the neighborhood. The construction activity for both the home building and infrastructure replacement has resulted in increased dust in the area and given rise to neighborhood concerns. San Mateo County

performed extensive cleanup and testing of the soils in the neighborhood after the fire and these tests indicated that any potentially hazardous materials that were present were at negligible levels that are well below recognized standards for human health and habitation. The City will be performing additional testing, however, and will share the test results with the public as soon as they are available.

Updates regarding the status of home rebuilding, the infrastructure replacement projects, PG&E Line 132 abandonment & filling, and the status of any testing occurring in the neighborhood can be found on the Rebuild Crestmoor website at [www.RebuildCrestmoor.org](http://www.RebuildCrestmoor.org)

## nniversary - (continued from page 1)

Club, and the San Mateo County Historical Association sponsored the event.

As part of the celebration, State officials and Caltrans representatives were on hand at the Farmers' Market in Tanforan to discuss the Grand Boulevard Initiative. The event included information and displays regarding the multi-modal theme of walking, biking and driving safely on El Camino Real. The Grand Boulevard Initiative seeks to transform the auto-oriented El Camino Real throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties into a multimodal, livable corridor through coordinated land use and transportation planning. More information on the Grand Boulevard Initiative is available at [www.grandboulevard.net](http://www.grandboulevard.net).

*This photo of the original ground breaking ceremony was taken by Frank Beltramo and was a gift of Una Beltramo to the San Bruno Library.*



*Participants in period outfits recreated the 1912 ground breaking ceremony.*

## Formation of a Non-Profit Agency

The City's settlement agreement with PG&E after the 2010 explosion and fire requires the City to establish a non-profit organization to manage the financial settlement of approximately \$68.75 million. On Wednesday, October 3rd, the City Council held the first in a series of meetings to discuss the formation of the non-profit organization. These meetings will continue to focus strictly on the initial establishment of the non-profit. No decisions regarding specific use of the funds will be considered or made until the non-profit is established and after additional public meetings are held to solicit input.

At the October 3rd meeting, the City Council discussed the State laws regarding non-profits, the purpose and mission of the non-profit, options for composition of the non-profit board, how the non-profit will be staffed, and future steps necessary to form the non-profit.

Residents interested in attending future City Council meetings regarding the formation of the non-profit are encouraged to watch the City's website for announcements on the home page at [www.sanbruno.ca.gov](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov). If you would like to be notified of future meeting dates, please send an email to [communitynonprofit@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:communitynonprofit@sanbruno.ca.gov) requesting such notification.

# WEST NILE VIRUS: A Growing Problem in the U.S.

## Mosquito and Vector Control Districts Working to Fight It

West Nile, a disease carried by birds and spread by mosquitoes, first made inroads in the U.S. in 1999, in New York. By 2003, it had reached California. In 2004 and 2005, there were hundreds of human cases; in those two years combined, 48 people in California died.

According to William Reisen, head of UC Davis' Center for Vectorborne Diseases, "A lot of folks have forgotten what it's like to have mosquito-borne diseases." Reisen and his team test thousands of mosquitoes and dead birds for the virus, and work with the California Department of Public Health and mosquito control districts around the State to track where the virus is flaring up.

Still, Reisen is surprised by West Nile's success in North America. "If you had to think of a Ugandan virus taking up shop someplace, certainly Saskatchewan wouldn't be the first place you'd look," he says, referring to recent outbreaks on the Canadian plains. "We never would have suspected that it would have successfully spread now from



Canada to Argentina and from ocean to ocean."

In addition to West Nile there are several other vector-borne diseases carried by mosquitoes. The State has a lot of experience with mosquito control. California's network of mosquito control districts dates back to 1917. In 2011, the program tested nearly 150,000

mosquitoes for disease.

The San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control District, in place since 1916, reminds all residents to take the following actions:

- ◆ Dump all standing water
- ◆ Report freshly killed birds or squirrels to **1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473)**
- ◆ Reports can also be made on-line at <http://westnile.ca.gov>

County residents with additional questions are encouraged to contact the San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control District at **650-344-8592** or visit their website at [www.smcmaad.org](http://www.smcmaad.org).

## Traffic Safety Around School Zones

Traffic safety around school zones is a critical component in keeping our children safe. Nationwide, thousands of children are killed or injured each year in pedestrian related accidents. Drivers, parents, and students can follow a few simple rules that will prevent injuries and save lives.

- ◆ Talk to your children about pedestrian safety. Teach them to use crosswalks and where possible, and select a path that provides traffic signals, especially on busy streets. Remind your child to cross only at intersections and to look in all directions before crossing the street.
- ◆ Reduce your speed when approaching school zones. Be mindful of students walking and riding bikes.
- ◆ Obey all parking regulations and follow the instructions of crossing guards and school personnel. These measures are put in place to provide a safe drop-off and pick-up of students.
- ◆ Be sure to drop-off your student on the curbside. Don't allow students to exit a vehicle into moving

traffic. Make sure any additional passengers also use the curbside to exit.

- ◆ Avoid calling your student back to your car after they have left. Many times children will be focused on getting back to the car and not pay attention to surrounding traffic.
- ◆ Avoid backing up whenever possible; small children are hard to see when they are behind vehicles.
- ◆ Loading zones are for drop off and pick-ups only. Have your student ready to exit your car when you have reached a safe location to let them out. Double-parking, parking in a fire lane, blocking intersections, crosswalks and driveways is illegal and creates hazardous situations for pedestrians. These actions also create unnecessary congestion around schools.

Adhering to traffic regulations, talking to your children about pedestrian safety, and following courteous and safe driving practices will enhance traffic and pedestrian safety, especially around our schools.

# Breaking Your Bag Habits - Reusable Bag Ordinances

Twenty billion single-use plastic grocery bags are used every year in California, and most end up in landfills, or as litter on land and in water. Researchers have documented the harmful impact to our environment and wildlife caused by single-use plastic bags. Plastic never biodegrades; it breaks down into smaller and smaller particles that seep into our soil and water and endanger wildlife. Paper bags aren't much better. While recycling has helped, studies have found that only 4.3 percent of bags end up being recycled and a single-use paper bag has an even larger greenhouse gas emission than plastic bags.



The City of San Bruno has joined San Mateo County and other cities up and down the Peninsula to encourage the use of reusable bags with a vision of a world with less plastic.

To help cities decide whether to ban paper and plastic bags, San Mateo County prepared an Environmental Impact Report which concluded that

the use of reusable bags would have a positive benefit to the environment. In addition to the environmental benefit, there will be a reduced cost associated with litter control by each of the cities if a regionally consistent approach is implemented.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors is considering adoption of an ordinance that will ban single use plastic bags throughout the County and require all retail stores to charge a minimum of 10 cents for each paper bag. The ordinance will not apply to restaurants or to plastic bags needed to protect certain products, such as produce bags and bags to protect meat.

Once San Mateo County adopts the ordinance (planned for October 23, 2012), the City of San Bruno will consider adopting a similar ordinance. The County's Reusable Bag Ordinance is anticipated to go into effect on April 22, 2013. To get more information please visit: [www.smchealth.org/bagban](http://www.smchealth.org/bagban). For tips on living litter-free visit: [http://www.flowstobay.org/cs\\_litter\\_reduction.php](http://www.flowstobay.org/cs_litter_reduction.php).

## BE WHERE THE ACTION IS ... GET INVOLVED!

Help make San Bruno better! Volunteer to serve on a Citizen Advisory Commission.

- ♦ Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- ♦ Citizens Crime Prevention Committee
- ♦ Community Preparedness Committee
- ♦ Culture & Arts Commission
- ♦ Parks & Recreation Commission
- ♦ Personnel Board
- ♦ Planning Commission
- ♦ Traffic Safety & Parking Committee

### Ten Fire Safety Tips

As winter approaches and we prepare to change our clocks back to Pacific Standard Time, it is a good time to replace the batteries in your smoke detector. Below are some additional fire safety tips from the San Bruno Fire Department.

1. **Install Smoke Alarms.**
2. **Plan Your Escape From Fire.**
3. **Keep An Eye On Smokers.**
4. **Cook Carefully.**
5. **Give Space Heaters Space.**
6. **Remember: Matches And Lighters Are Tools, Not Toys.**
7. **Cool a Burn.**
8. **Use Electricity Safely.**
9. **Crawl Low Under Smoke.**
10. **Stop, Drop and Roll.**

Interested residents of San Bruno at least 18 years of age are eligible to apply for appointment by the City Council. Committees generally meet once per month in the evening and members serve staggered four-year terms that expire October 31st of every even year. At the end of their term, members may seek re-appointment for another term.

#### *A list of current opportunities can be found:*

- ♦ On the home page of the City of San Bruno's website at [www.sanbruno.ca.gov](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov)
- ♦ On San Bruno Cable T.V. Channel 1
- ♦ On the bulletin boards at the front and back doors of City Hall at 567 El Camino Real
- ♦ On the bulletin board at the San Bruno Library
- ♦ By calling the City Clerk's Office at **616-7058**.

Applications are available in the City Clerk's office in City Hall, located at 567 El Camino Real. Interested persons may call (650) 616-7058 or email [cityclerk@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@sanbruno.ca.gov) and we will be happy to mail or email you an application. You may apply any time. Applications are kept on file for two years. When vacancies occur, City staff contacts applicants to confirm continued interest.

## CITY OF SAN BRUNO

567 El Camino Real  
San Bruno, CA 94066

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### SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

#### Mayor

Jim Ruane

#### Vice Mayor

Ken Ibarra

#### Councilmembers

Rico E. Medina  
Irene O'Connell  
Michael Salazar

#### City Manager

Connie Jackson

#### City Clerk

Carol Bonner

#### City Treasurer

John Marty

#### Website:

[www.sanbruno.ca.gov](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov)

We welcome your comments.  
Please call Randy Schwartz at  
(650) 616-7181, or email him at  
[rschwartz@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:rschwartz@sanbruno.ca.gov).

Postal Customer

## Pac-12 Bay Area Sports on San Bruno Cable!

The Pac-12 Bay Area channel, part of the new Pac-12 Network, has been added to San Bruno Municipal Cable TV as part of the expanded basic service. This 24-hour a day, 7-day a week channel focuses on Stanford and Cal sports, as well as news of all Pac-12 teams, national sports news, and special features. The channel will feature all football and men's basketball games, while also including coverage of baseball, cross-country, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, rowing, rugby, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling.

Pac-12 Bay Area can be found on channel 36 in standard definition and is also offered in high definition on channel 455. To add high definition channels that complement many of your current standard definition channels, you will need an HD converter for only \$8.35/month.



Look for Pac-12 National games coming soon and enjoy local Pac-12 college sports with San Bruno Cable TV!

### Frequently Called Numbers (Area Code 650)

Building Permits	616-7076
Business Taxes & Licenses	616-7083
Cable TV	616-3100
City Clerk	616-7058
City Council	616-7060
City Manager	616-7056
Code Enforcement	616-7074
Finance	616-7080
Fire - Business	616-7096
Graffiti Hotline	616-7141
Human Resources	616-7055
Library	616-7078
Recreation	616-7180
Parks	616-7195
Planning	616-7074
Police - Business	616-7100
Public Works/Corp. Yard	616-7160
Public Works/Engineering	616-7065
Senior Center	616-7150
Streets	616-7161
Utility Billing	616-7086
EMERGENCY	9 1 1