



# Estudillo Homeowners Association Newsletter

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

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

It's never too late to join your homeowners association for 2004. Just fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and return to Denice Ballas.

## EHOA TO SPONSOR BOARD MEMBER TO ATTEND LEADERSHIP SAN LEANDRO

In an effort to encourage and support community members becoming active within San Leandro, the EHOA board has voted to send one of our members to Leadership San Leandro. The San Leandro Chamber of Commerce has put together this year long course to teach citizens about all aspects of local government, from the school district to city council. The program has been a proven success and graduates rave about what they have learned. Deborah Cox will represent the EHOA when the program starts in the Fall and every month she will briefly recap what she has learned at our monthly homeowner meetings. If this program sounds interesting to you, become involved in your homeowners association.

## UPCOMING BONE MARROW DONOR AND BLOOD DRIVES

On Saturday August 21st, there will be a bone marrow registration drive at Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, 14235 Bancroft Avenue. The church is across from Jefferson Elementary School and the drive will

last from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The drive is in support of Ashlee Esperson of Hayward. Ashlee is 19, has leukemia and needs a marrow transplant to survive.

Like thousands of persons with leukemia, Ashlee is counting on the National Marrow Donor Program to connect her with a donor. Registering with the Marrow Program is straightforward. You must be between the ages of 18 and 60 and in general good health. All you provide is a small blood sample.

What happens if you match a patient? Congratulations, you get to save that person's life. The procedure for donating marrow is not invasive. Marrow is removed through a surgical needle inserted into pelvic bone. Marrow constantly regenerates itself. If you are a match, all medical expenses are covered by the leukemia patient's insurance. To learn more about marrow donation, please visit

[www.marrows.org](http://www.marrows.org) To sign up for the marrow drive on August 21st, please email your name and address to Stephen Cassidy at [shcassidy@yahoo.com](mailto:shcassidy@yahoo.com) or call 667-0860.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, September 4th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bethel Church will also host a blood drive for the American

**AUGUST 2004**

Red Cross. You can also register with Stephen Cassidy.

## LETTER FROM COUNCIL MEMBER STEPHENS REGARDING ALAMEDA GASIFICATION

The city of San Leandro had been advised that the Alameda Public Utilities Board will accept the report from the consultant regarding the gasification program and file it away for future reference. It appears the project will not go forward due to cost and the availability of other power alternatives they have identified to meet their energy needs for the next 10 or more years.

City manager John Jermanis told the Alameda Power & Telecom staff it was a mistake to mention Oakland and San Leandro as possible site location to be evaluated by the consultant looking at the feasibility of gasification to create energy. Instead of focusing on whether or not the process even works (which is questionable), too much attention has been given to the communities that might be asked to host the facility. City leaders, Mayor Young, Tony Santos, and myself are in complete opposition to this program as presented and are on record as such.

Mayor Young and I plan on attending a meeting with the Alameda Public Utilities Board. Mayor Young has said, "I will be making an appearance at the Alameda PUB meeting and making a very strong statement on behalf of San Leandro. It is our strong opinion that this is a dead issue but rather than just filing a letter in some document somewhere, buried, and the public cannot hear or see, I will make that statement publicly and hopefully put an end tot his issue."

As always, if you would like to discuss any city-related matter with me, call me at 577-6000 ext. 9005 or [bstephens@council.ci.san-landro.ca.us](mailto:bstephens@council.ci.san-landro.ca.us)

## IF I WERE MAYOR OF SAN LEANDRO

- by Genevieve Ennis (Genevieve was one of four winners of the EHOA scholarships for 2004. This essay was part of the scholarship.)

Diversity in a city makes a city what it is and is what makes cities like Oakland and San Francisco great. The problem with San Leandro is that the diversity that our city has and holds is not shown, other than the people of the city themselves. In our town festivals, such as the Sausage and Suds Festival and the Cherry Festival, our city's diversity is celebrated and shines on each and every face, however, once the festivals are over, it is hard to see what this city is truly made of. San Leandro has such a diverse population and I would love to see

**Page 1**

more of it working for this city to make it successful.

If I were mayor of San Leandro, I would make our downtown bigger and better with restaurants and stores that really show what this city is all about, work on the roads to make it easier and faster to get wherever it is needed at whatever time, and make our city a place where people from all different cultures and backgrounds could come and unite. If San Leandro is going to grow and become better, it has to have something to offer both it's own citizens and it's visitors. A better downtown, mall, roads, schools, and public facilities would be a good start, and it will take time, but after those are improved, they will allow for more, and better changes and improvements to occur in our city's future.

As our city has grown, construction has occurred to accommodate the population, however, many streets are often crowded because of schools and stores. If I were mayor of San Leandro, I would propose two lane roads on streets that are often busy and even those that the city sees as a possible main street in the future. Also, as the

**Next Homeowners  
Meeting-  
Tuesday August 17th 7pm  
Main Library, Conf. B  
All are Welcome!**

streets get bigger and more neighborhoods begin to grow, parks and public facilities are becoming few and far between. I think an additional number of parks would help to improve the city's overall climate. In addition to parks, I believe that our city's youth are in control of our future, and for this reason I would put a lot more effort in making our schools the best they can be.

As mayor of San Leandro I would like to make many changes to our city, just as mayors in the past have done. The city of San Leandro has come a long way since its days as a cherry orchard. It has grown over the years both for better and for worse, and I would like to see it grow and become the best it can be. I would focus on our diversity and allow it to shine through everything it touches, including our downtown, mall, public places, schools, and more. Watching this city grow even in the past years has been inspirational and I know our city has the potential to succeed and thrive.

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## **IF I WERE MAYOR OF SAN LEANDRO**

*-by Marshall Benson (Marshall was also one of four EHOA scholarship winners for 2004. This essay was part of Marshall's scholarship application)*

If I were mayor of San Leandro, I would work to improve the city in the following ways. The issue of the budget would be at the forefront of my agenda; I feel that the past four years have seen rather dubious spending habits.

Two examples that come to mind are the unnecessary road renovations, and the expensive remodeling of the public library. In both cases, the citizens of San Leandro had little to do with the decision regarding the street renovations. Take a look out of the window and you will see that there are very few bikers who are actually using the bike lanes; and when there is a bike on the road, either it is on the sidewalk, or it is going in the opposite direction of the lane. Instead of using taxpayer's money for this little more than useless renovation, we could have saved that money, and let the lanes stay the way they were, thus allowing for a more free flow of traffic in San Leandro's main streets.

Regarding the library, too many millions were spent on this renovation. Granted, the renovation was indeed needed to an extent, the San Leandro budget does not need to spend so much time and money on having the best library. Well, you might ask, what would I do with all that saved money? Let's take a look at our situation. Currently, our neighbor Oakland has a new murder reported on average every three or four days. Instead of preserving our ever so sparse biker's safety, we ought to be providing every citizen's everyday safety with a fresh, new stock of police officers and safety workers.

Additionally, though the brand new, expensive and beautiful library that we have was a well-intentioned gesture by our government to improve education, some of that money could have been used to improve public school facilities and learning materials. Maybe teacher salary

## **AUGUST 2004**

could be increased, or the money could go to hiring additional (warranted by merit of course) teachers.

These improvements (especially the educational system improvements) are very often talked about by politicians, but for some political reasons, the system is never actually improved; and when it is, it's not enough. California's high school students generally fetch the worst scores out of all the states on standardized tests; to me and many others the issue is clear.

San Leandro is a microcosm of the larger problem that California is faced with: the budget is not allocated correctly, especially with such obvious needs. As political leaders, we should be trying to foster a safe city for our citizens; second most, we should be providing the best education to our young ones that we can given our budget. It looks as though the previous administrations have done too little to carry out these duties in the face of threats against them. Other, less pressing issues include the changing demographic of San Leandro; this city is aging, and new, young families are moving in rapidly, and the market for houses is hot.

What this tells me is there is a need for a fully equipped, fully functioning San Leandro Hospital. Currently, nearly all of our citizens who are in desperate need of medical attention are sent to Castro Valley or Oakland Children's Hospital. While these are great and valuable institutions, San Leandro's growing population and economy calls for its own such institution; and, with budget cuts and smart planning, San Leandro can improve easily in all the areas I have outlined.

## **SENIOR SERVICES FOUNDATION OFFERS FRIENDLY VISITING PROGRAM**

Did you know that there are volunteers that provide isolated San Leandro seniors with ongoing visits. Each volunteer goes through an extensive interview and training process. This program encourages dignity and independent living for homebound seniors by providing companionship and the following services: Friendly visiting; help

## **Page 2**

connecting with community resources; help preparing meals; help with correspondence; light gardening; transportation to a personal physician and a house of worship, sharing a hobby and telephone reassurance.

This Friendly Visitor Program is supported by the Senior Services Foundation of San Leandro. The Senior Services Foundation was formed for the purpose of improving the quality of life for San Leandro Seniors.

This program is open to all San Leandro residents at no charge. Non- San Leandro residents are also welcome to volunteer. If you would like to, receive a Friendly visitor, refer an isolated senior, volunteer to visit or provide financial support please call 347-4620 ext. 180. Or e-mail [seniorservices@davistreet.org](mailto:seniorservices@davistreet.org)

## **EHOA 2004 BOARD**

Do you have ideas and suggestions? We want to hear from you.

- 1) Deborah Cox -President  
857 Bridge Rd. 895-8481  
[cox857@comcast.net](mailto:cox857@comcast.net)
  - 2) Tracy Ellis -Vice President & Editor 980 Brid  
[ellisfamily980@msn.com](mailto:ellisfamily980@msn.com)
  - 3) Denice Ballas - Treasurer &  
Membership Chair  
1198 Begier Ave. 636-9991  
[pinelakefun@aol.com](mailto:pinelakefun@aol.com)
- Todd Parsnick, Corey Anderson, Gene Bryant, Nestor Cuellas, Bob Jones, Stephen Cassidy, Bryan Magers and Lanz Camacho.

## **INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE 2005 EHOA BOARD?**

According to our bylaws, 3 of the 9 board seats should rotate every year. That means that at the October semi-annual meeting, all homeowners will be asked to vote for 3 new board members. Which means we are looking for interested homeowners to volunteer to serve. If you are interested, please start attending the monthly meetings, held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the main library, conference room B.

----- PLEASE CUT OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES -----

**\_\_\_\_ YES, I WANT TO BE ON THE MEMBERS ROSTER OF THE ESTUDILLO HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION. Enclosed is my 2004 Dues Payment of \$10 made payable to EHOA. Membership is valid January 2004 - December 2004.**

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to: **Denice Ballas 1198 Begier Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577,**  
with your check for \$10 payable to "EHOA" - Questions? Call 636-9991 or [pinelakefun@aol.com](mailto:pinelakefun@aol.com)

