



A Touching Vigil for Fallen Officer

by Bill Stephens, City Councilmember

On Tuesday evening, July 25, the City Council and I were honored to be part of a very moving event. It was the vigil hosted by the San Leandro Police Officers Association for the first anniversary of the death of San Leandro Police Officer Nels "Dan" Niemi. It is hard to imagine that it has already been a year since that tragedy struck this community. I still vividly remember the outpouring of support and compassion we saw a year ago from San Leandrans for the Niemi family and for the San Leandro Police Department. It had been 40 years since a tragedy of this magnitude had hit our community, and we can only hope decades will pass before we have to experience that again.

The vigil this July was a celebration of Officer Niemi's life and his service to a career he loved. A number of things that evening touched me. We saw once again the community of San Leandro coming together as one to remember a fallen officer. But we also saw the fully extended family of the San Leandro Police Department – the wives, husbands and children of the officers and support personnel that serve us day-in and day-out. We so often see the blue uniforms of our police department and fire department, but all too rarely have a chance to look beyond that symbol of authority and see the person behind the badge or shield.

I was also touched by the how deeply the members of the San Leandro Police Department and the Niemi family had been moved by this community. Officer Niemi's brother spoke during the vigil on behalf of the Niemi family. He recalled seeing hundreds of San Leandrans lining the streets of the funeral procession route, people with tears in their eyes, holding American flags, sharing the family's sorrow. And he recalled Officer Niemi's young daughter's comment as she saw the community lining the streets. She asked "Did they all love Daddy too?"

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Next Homeowners Meeting

The next EHOA meeting will be held
Tuesday, August 15
6:30 p.m.

Come to see what the EHOA Board is working on, and make your opinion heard.

Main Library, Conference Room B

School Construction Bond Placed on November 2006 Ballot

by Stephen Cassidy

Recently, the school board voted to place a \$109 million school construction bond on the November 7, 2006, general election ballot. This action followed numerous workshops on the district's facilities needs, two well-attended community forums to solicit public input and answer questions, and many meetings with civic leaders and representatives of the business community.

The bond will continue the renovation and improvements at each of the schools in San Leandro and address the overcrowding at San Leandro High School. Most of the schools in San Leandro are between 50 and 90 years of age. These schools are in need of major renovations and repairs if they are to continue to serve this and future generations of students.

Passage of the bond will:

- *Reduce overcrowding at San Leandro High School.
- *Improve and expand the San Leandro High School library, increasing student access to computers and technology.
- *Build new, permanent classrooms and remove obsolete, portable classrooms.
- *Construct an Arts Education Center at San Leandro High School, including a theater for school and community use.

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School Bond, continued from Page 1

If You Love 'Em, You'll Leash 'Em

By Anne Pinkowski

The first thing you have to realize as a dog owner is that **a dog off leash is a dog in danger.**

·Dogs can run into traffic, be hit by cars, or cause a serious accident.

·Dogs can get into fights with other animals, including properly leashed dogs being walked nearby.

·Dogs can intimidate neighbors who may be fearful of them. Dog owners must be aware of the very real fear many people have of dogs.

The fact is, no matter how well you know your dog; you can't predict his or her actions when startled. Unless your dog is on a leash, he or she could run into a dangerous situation in a fraction of a second.

Keep in mind, owners walking less sociable dogs on a leash can suddenly be put in a difficult position trying to protect your dog from their leashed dog.

If you are interested in off leash dog play in or around San Leandro, there are numerous dog parks in the area: Union City's Drigon Dog park, Alameda Dog Park, and a NEW dog play area is set to open in late summer in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park.

Be a responsible dog owner and a respectful neighbor and leash your dog if you plan for him/her to be in front of your house.



Estudillo Estates Ice Cream Social!

Saturday August 26th
2-4 p.m. at Java Gym
(behind Zocalo Coffeehouse)

Free! All are welcome!

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Real Estate Report

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As you can see from this month's report, there are many active homes on the market in our neighborhood. It appears that the housing market is currently striving for balance as it transitions from the hot seller's market we saw over the last couple of years. Homes in this market tend to sit longer than before and there is more competition from other homes for sale. For this reason, if you are selling your home, strategic marketing and pricing are imperative.

Active/Asking Price

733 St Marys	2/1	\$515,000
701 St Marys	2/1+	\$579,900
801 Chetland	2/1	\$599,999
566 Begier	3/1+	\$627,000
520 Pala	5/2	\$729,000
561 Joaquin	3/2	\$749,000
581 Begier	3/3	\$789,000
726 Cary	3/2	\$849,500
917 Bridge	4/2	\$859,000
739 Bridge	5/2+	\$875,000
816 Cary	4/3	\$925,000
802 Superior	5/3+	\$968,818

Pending/Asking Price

1127 Oakes	2/1	\$600,000
1272 Begier	2/1+	\$625,000

Sold/Asking Price/Sold Price

636 Juana	2/1	\$519,976/\$525,000
661 Lee	2/1+	\$629,000/\$629,000
972 Estudillo	3/2	\$648,000/\$648,000

- *Refurbish the industrial arts shop classes at San Leandro High School.
- *Upgrade heating, ventilation, electrical and plumbing systems at elementary and middle schools to improve energy efficiency.
- *Replace aging and deteriorating roofs.
- *Improve access to classroom computers and technology for students.
- *Renovate and modernize classrooms and restrooms.

The bond measure provides for strict accountability. None of the money will be used for school administrator or teacher salaries. Instead, all of the money generated by the bond will pay for school improvements and upgrades as listed in the resolution and must be independently audited each year.

In addition, the school district is required to appoint an Independent Citizens Oversight Committee to monitor and review all bond expenditures. This volunteer committee of local residents and taxpayers will make sure that all bond funds are spent as planned for the benefit of local students. The average yearly cost to property owners will be \$39 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation (not market value).

With a state school construction bond on the November 2006 ballot as well, a local bond will allow our district to tap into funds from Sacramento that otherwise would be spent to improve schools elsewhere. To retain and attract families and businesses to San Leandro, we must continue to invest in our schools. We all benefit when our public schools succeed.

Officer Vigil, continued from Page 2

You didn't know Officer Niemi personally, most of you had probably never seen him or met him. But you knew that he was part of this community - that he had given his life for your safety and the safety of your loved ones. And you stood on the street or sent flowers or sympathy cards to the Police Department because that is the kind of community you are. You truly care about San Leandro. You care about those who work to keep San Leandro the wonderful community it is, and you share the pain when our family suffers a loss.

It is that attitude, compassion, pride, and respect that you have for this community that makes me proud to be your elected representative, and equally proud to be able to call myself a San Leandran.

As always, if you would like to discuss any City related matter with me, I welcome you to call me on my City voicemail box - 577-6000, ext. 9005 - or e-mail me at bstephens@ci.san-leandro.ca.us



Announcements & Events

**FREE CLASSIC MOVIE -
Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 7:00 PM - San Leandro Main Library**
Free tickets will be available at the Information Desk.

**August 6 - September 3
A Comedy of Errors at Casa Peralta**
www.sanleandroplayers.org

Saturday, August 26 - Estudillo Estates Neighborhood Ice Cream Social. 2-4 p.m. at the Java Gym (behind Zocalo) This will be a fun, family-friendly event you won't want to miss!



Recycle your paper, bottles, cans, and food waste. It's good for our neighborhood and the environment!



Estudillo Homeowners' Association