



NEWSLETTER

<http://www.estudilloestates.org>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/estudillohomes>

A Year in Review

Deborah Cox, President EHOA

January is always the month when we take a look back at the previous year and review the activities of the EHOA. Before I begin, however, I want to say a great big thank you to everyone who lives in our neighborhood and who cares enough to help out a neighbor in need, or report something suspicious which helps avert a potential crime, or who lets the city know when there is something amiss, or those who produce a magnificent National Night Out, or have a 4th of July block party. I could go on and on, because we know that all of us working together make the Estudillo Homeowners Association and consequently the area, a truly great place to live.

As a volunteer, non-mandatory membership organization, we are really pleased that over 350 homeowners continued to join the EHOA. Here are some of the things we did last year with those dollars:

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MEETING WITH MAYOR TO DISCUSS CRIME

The Mayor sent a letter inviting everyone to a meeting on January 15, 2008 at 7:00pm in Conference Room C at the main Library to hear comments and concerns we have regarding crime and safety in our community. This is what his letter said:

Dear Homeowner Association President:

Recently I have been hearing concerns from the community about safety in the City of San Leandro. While there is a perception that crime is on the increase in San Leandro, statistics show this is not the case.

I would like to invite you to a meeting on January 15, 2008 at 7:00pm in Conf. Room C at the San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Ave, to hear comments and concerns you have regarding crime and safety in our community. I would also welcome the opportunity to walk with you through your neighborhoods at any time of the day or night to discuss specific areas of concern.

Please call my assistant, Denice Moughon, at 577-3356 and let her know whether or not you will be able to attend this very important meeting. I look forward to seeing you on January 15.

*Sincerely,
Mayor Tony Santos*

This is a very important issue for our community, and we encourage everyone to RSVP and attend this meeting.

Next EHOA Meeting

Tuesday, January 15th, 2008

Main Library, Conference Room C

CRIME MEETING WITH MAYOR

7:00pm

RSVP Required:

Denice Moughon, at 577-3356

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By John Sherwood, EHOA Treasurer

A big THANK YOU to everyone who have sent in their 2008 EHOA membership dues. As of 12/24, 116 households have pledged their support to our neighborhood. Leading the way is Begier Ave, with 16 members and bringing up the rear is Cary Dr, with 1 (c'mon Cary, I know you're out there). If you haven't yet sent in your 2008 dues, please do so soon, as this will be your last newsletter. You can use the form located on page 5.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADDRESSES RECENT CRIME

Full Text of Council Member Bill Stephens comments to the City Council on Monday December 3, 2007.

At the last meeting I suggested as a topic for our January retreat, the issue of the environment and creating a policy regarding plastic bags, Styrofoam and Solar Panels.

This week I am submitting another topic which I consider important and growing in significance.

I wish to also preface my comments with my profound admiration and uncompromising respect for our safety agencies an the San Leandro Police Department specifically. I am proud of our police department and frequently brag of their competence in other communities.

However, in the past few months several high profile events have occurred which have created a perception of a shift in public safety. Perception, as we know is reality. I am talking of:

- A robbery in which a prominent restaurant owner was wounded.
- Robberies at two downtown establishments during a time when patrons were present
- Strong arm robberies of children on their home street
- Vandalism – Broken windows at a restaurant, barber shop and hardware store in my neighborhood
- Auto thefts
- Increased vagrancy and pan-handling
- Traffic violations

Now I recognize that statistics may support the fact that the city is safer, but I submit that we need to evaluate this and confirm. I think we need to both ensure and assure our citizens of their individual safety. We need to both project protection and promote an image of a safe community. We need to make San Leandro synonymous with that of being the safest city in the East Bay. We can do this.

First, I would ask that we receive a report of crimes over the past five years. These should be broad categories such as auto theft, robberies, etc.

I ask that this report be provided to the Council prior to its January retreat.

I also ask that the police provide their view on what they need to combat crime. I would like to hear how they may use community assistance, technology, lighting, communications, new deployment and tactics to advance crime prevention.

With this information, the city council can take strong and appropriate action to enhance community safety. I am not talking of symbolism, but action that will result in quantifiable reduction in crime in one year. I do not have all the answers. None of us on the council have all the answers. But together, all of us – the community, the staff, and the police have the need solutions.

TREE UPDATE

By John Sherwood, EHOA Treasurer and Newsletter Editor

It's the BIG trees! When you think of a tree lined street, what comes to mind? Rows of towering Elms, Maples or Ash, majestically spanning across the roads? Streets like Superior and Chetland between Begier and Glen? THAT is what makes our neighborhood so beautiful and inviting to walk through. Compare Superior on each side of Dutton, they both have trees and beautiful homes, but I think you'll agree that the North side trees can't compare to the sight of the big trees on the South side. Sure these trees can be a bit messy for a few weeks in the autumn, but I bet if you asked every single homeowner with one of them, they would tell you it was worth it. And, with the

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DISCOVER WONDERFUL BUSINESSES IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

By Johanne Dictor, EHOA Welcoming Chair

I recently began to think that San Leandro is really coming into its own and we should take advantage of the many places that we have here right here in our neighborhood and in other San Leandro surrounding areas.

Let's start with MacArthur Blvd.

Pick up fresh crabs, lots of different fish, fabulous gravlax (salmon packed with dill) or a container of fresh crab meat (leave the work to someone else!). Or perhaps, pick out your favorite selection of chicken, beef, pork or lamb at Galvan's. Galvan's also has a delicatessen and some wonderful products from Spain. Galvan's located is at 1275 MacArthur Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577-3902, Phone: (510) 351-5707.

Across the street, Estudillo Produce is perfect for local grown or organic produce. They also have delicious sandwiches. Estudillo Produce offers a number of specialty items such as hummus, antipasti, wines, cheeses and prepared foods for those nights when you don't feel like cooking. Estudillo Produce, 1305 Mac Arthur, Phone Number: 510-352-1010.

Pick up a coffee at Sabino's to start your morning off or for an afternoon treat. Sabino's is reported to have the best black and white mochas around town. What more can we expect from Sabino's? What about a story teller every Wednesday, from 3:00 to 4:00pm. The storyteller is Mr. George Brown and he intrigues the young and old with his brilliant story telling at Sabino's. Sabino's, 1273 MacArthur Blvd; Phone (510) 357-5282.

Jan, the owner of Sabino's, also owns the great nail salon nearby called Vista Nails, which specializes in pedicures, manicures, and waxing. The manicures and pedicures come with a mini massage which is very relaxing and comforting. Vista Nails is one of the best nail salons in the area. By the way, many men are taking advantage of Vista Nails, too. Vista Nails, 1245 MacArthur Blvd, Phone: (510) 577-0860.

Perhaps after all of the holiday stresses you will want to take advantage of Urban Oasis for a wonderful SPA Treatment. Urban Oasis offers Swedish, deep tissue, Shiatsu and various other types of body work. Urban

Oasis also has a wonderful selection of natural body products. The setting is tranquil and peaceful and will help you to relax and reduce your stress levels. Urban Oasis, 1097 Mac Arthur Blvd.; Phone: (510)635-1883.

After all this visiting and shopping along MacArthur Boulevard, then enjoy a wonderful dinner at Villa Cereja. Villa Cereja's menu ranges from small plates to soups & salads to fish, meats, poultry and pastas. They have an excellent wine list and wonderful mixed drinks. Try a Mojito, s one of the house specialty drinks.. Villa Cereja, 1045 Mac Arthur Blvd.; Phone (510) 562-3916.

There are other businesses on Mac Arthur that are excellent as well and will be addressed in future columns.

If you're headed Downtown, I encourage you to give Joaquin Deli a try. Joaquin Deli was recently bought a year ago by the Chen's. Mrs. Chen previously worked for Williams Sonoma and Mr. Chen presently works for The Sharper Image. They both participate in running the Deli. The Chen's have kept many of the same specialties from the previous owner on the menu along with new items. The Joaquin Deli is home to great gourmet sandwiches made with the finest ingredients. They offer unique and hard to find European beers, wines, and deli meats for your friends and families, all served in a charming and inviting environment. Joaquin Deli caters business luncheons and special events as well. The ambiance is wonderful inside and has free internet access, but better yet is the outside café where you can have a delicious lunch on the porch in a quiet environment. My favorite sandwiches are the pulled pork and the vegetarian portabella sandwiches, both served on Ciabiatta bread along with tasty cole slaw or yummy potato salad. Give it try - they are delicious. Joaquin Deli,, 275 A. Joaquin Ave. Phone (510) 895-3234. The web site is www.joquindeli.com.

If you want to comment on the businesses above and have access to a computer please put your comments on "yelp.com". This is the way to spread the word about our up and coming community.

Next time, Bancroft Ave!

DOWNTOWN SUMMER WEEKNIGHT FARMER'S MARKET

By John Sherwood, EHOA Treasurer and Newsletter Editor

In July of 2007 I contacted council members Michael Gregory and Bill Stephens to inquire about bringing a weeknight Farmer's Market into Downtown during the summer. I think bringing people into the downtown area is key to it's revitalization, and a farmer's market on a weeknight, during the extended daylight hours, would be a great way to bring people there. Cities, such as San Rafael, have similar markets which have live music and other activities that bring people into the area (almost like a festival). What better way to bring our community together than a street party each week? The idea is that after attending, people could then wander over to downtown restaurant such as the Tequila Grill, Luke's or Tsuru Sushi, or shops such as Anguiano's Fine Papers. Michael Gregory put me in touch with Ryan Evans, Development Planner for the City of San Leandro.

Ryan Evans recently met with both the California Farmer's Market Association and the Pacific Coast Farmer's Market Association regarding their organization's interest in implementing a farmer's market in Downtown San Leandro. He spoke to both associations about several topics including, possible locations in San Leandro, market themes and special events, dates/times for the market, etc. Both associations told him that they intend to complete feasibility studies to determine the extent to which a new market would be viable in the downtown area. He anticipates that both studies will be completed within the next few weeks.

Of course, community support for projects such as these, will help get them off the ground. If you are interested in a Downtown summer evening Farmer's Market, please contact your representatives, Michael Gregory (mgregory@ci.san-leandro.ca.us) or Bill Stephens (bstephens@ci.san-leandro.ca.us) to let them know of your support. Also, if you have any ideas for the market, please contact me at john@estudilloestates.org, and I will compile and relay them to the city.

CITIZENS FOR A SAFER SAN LEANDRO: CALL TO ACTION

by Connie Stephens, EHOA Resident

With the many reports in the newspapers and on the e-mail list groups about some of the serious crimes in our neighborhoods and downtown, some residents are getting very concerned and wonder if there is anything that can be done to take back our communities and keep them safe.

If you, too, feel this is a concern, will you support Citizens for a Safer San Leandro?

This is a local, grassroots community effort to "tip" the direction we seem to be heading.

The first goal is to have a meeting in January and invite Senator Corbett, a representative from the police department with 2007 crime statistics, representatives from downtown businesses and neighborhood businesses and brainstorm about ideas/suggestions for improved safety. After gathering a list of ideas, we can research to see

how effective these ideas have been for other communities. We can research to see if these ideas have been tried in our City. If not, why not? We can take these ideas to our City Council and Mayor.

An idea that has already surfaced is better lighting for the downtown shopping plaza. Another idea is slowing traffic on some of the cross streets like Haas, Oakes, and Dutton.

Here is what you can do. Contact Connie Stephens at 638-2207 or e-mail Connie at wstephens@aol.com with your ideas or suggestions. If you know of things that have worked for other communities, send those ideas to Connie, along with your name and address, telephone or e-mail. Try to attend the meeting in January with your ideas.

Year in Review, continued from page 1

- Installation of the EHOA Monument on MacArthur
- Awarded scholarships to four EHOA students for a total of \$1,000
- Donated \$250 to the Toys for Tots Program
- Donated \$200 to the Greg Ballard fund (slain San Leandro High School Football Player)
- EHOA fed 40 seniors at the city's annual Thanksgiving Meal
- Threw one EHOA Social at Zocolo's
- Continued to produce this newsletter

Behind the scenes, the EHOA was involved in a lot of issues concerning the neighborhood and city in general. We do this by talking with our city officials, partnering with other homeowner associations and others on a regular basis. Some of the significant topics this past year were the sound wall project, discussions of the potential old Albertson's site, the updating of the Bancroft Field, beautification projects, concerns about crime, the downtown development (TOD) and marina dredging, welcoming new homeowners to the area, planting trees, driving the idea of a downtown farmer's market, expressing concerns over constant dumpster diving, and continuing to conduct our membership drive while also providing an email and website forum.

We've invited guest speakers to some of our meetings in the past and this year was no exception. We heard from the San Leandro Police Department and had presentations about the sound wall, the TOD and from the group called Urban Ecology.

No, we can't make your neighbor stop parking in front of your house, or enforce any rules regarding how our homes or yards look. But, we continue to help inform folks on how to work with the city on these issues, and we'll make an additional call on your behalf. The city has heard from us on the state of the downtown mall (both panhandlers and filth), concerns over increasing crime as well as many other issues.

During 2008 we will continue to be an active voice in this community. Some topics of note are the potential dog park, continuing concern about crime, and most of all our desire to attract and support more businesses that will, in turn, help attract more and more vibrant families to live in our community.

I think we had a pretty good 2007. It does take a village, and if you would like to be an active part of the EHOA board, we welcome you with open arms.

2008 Estudillo Estates Homeowners' Association Membership Form

Please enclose check payable to EHOA for \$20.

Mail to: EHOA c/o John Sherwood 1064 Glen Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED, STILL!

We are still in search of few people to join the EHOA board. Current open positions are Newsletter Editor and Vice President. Committing just few hours a month to our neighborhood can have a big impact on our community. If you are interested in helping this volunteer organization to represent our neighborhood, please contact Deborah Cox at deborah@estudilloestates.org or the EHOA board at board@estudilloestates.org

JOIN OUR YAHOO! GROUP

By far, the best way to keep up with neighborhood news is to join our Yahoo! Group. Think of it as an email list for our neighborhood. You can post and receive email updates from fellow residents, such as information about recent crime, contractor references, lost and found pets, and much more! If you already have a Yahoo account, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/estudillohomes/> and click "Join This Group!". If you do not have a Yahoo account, just send an email to: estudillohomes-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "Subscribe" in the subject. You will then receive a confirmation email which you will need to 'reply' to.

Tree Update, continued from page 2

monthly city street sweeping (<http://www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us/pw/StreetSweepSched.pdf>), it's actually not that bad.

The good news! The city does offer a couple of big trees, the Raywood and Arizona Ash (<http://www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us/PWTreeVarieties.asp>). I have heard that you may need to specifically request these, but they have recently put these in our neighborhood, so don't let them talk you into one of those small, spindly trees. If you have thought about putting in a new tree, or need to replace your existing one, please consider the Ash. And don't forget, these are free to you. Just call the Tree Maintenance department at (510) 577-3448 to request your new tree!

EHOA Board board@estudilloestates.org

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