

The BNA Board of Directors Needs YOU!

At the March 16 Neighborhood Meeting, The BNA will be electing a new Board of Directors.

These are the people who will set the tone and define the character of The Broadmoor.

Got suggestions? Got complaints? Please share your enthusiasm, expertise, and intelligence with us.

The BNA is only as effective and as strong as its leadership, so be sure to attend the general meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, at All Saints Episcopal Church (911 Dowling at E. Merle).

Neighborhood Meeting

7 pm, Wed., March 16

Creekside Community Church, 951 MacArthur

Guest Speakers:

Mayor Stephen Cassidy

Police Chief Sandra Spagnoli

Come Elect New Board of Directors

From The BNA President

Melinda Rieboldt

Happy 2011 to all of you – hope you had a pleasant holiday. 2011 is the year for our biennial General Membership meeting and election of the new Board. I'm reaching out and asking you to consider participating in your neighborhood.

If you are looking to volunteer, The BNA is a great place to start and your neighborhood needs you. We welcome your resources and innovative ideas. From updating our

website to community functions there is a niche for everyone. The website might be a terrific project for a resident or student with the expertise to redesign our website with a new look going forward.

There are many other opportunities. Chair a clean-up day, serve at the ice cream social, volunteer at the Home and Garden Tour ... The BNA needs you, and we need

– continued on page 3

Upcoming Meetings of The BNA Board

February 2 ■ 7:00 p.m.
Zocalo Coffeehouse, 645 Bancroft
General Meeting March 16 ■ 7 p.m.
Creekside Church, 951 MacArthur

Join The BNA

and get this newsletter bi-monthly
See Back Page for Details

New City Council Has Major Work Ahead

Community Input Needed for Sustainable Budget & New City Manager

by Pauline Cutter, District 5 City Councilmember

Despite our current economic challenges, this is a time of great opportunity to grow and improve our city in many ways. Our decisions must support a sustainable future both in our finances and our footprint on the earth. We must plan and prioritize to make sure the availability of city services, the quality of schools, and the mix of businesses meet our needs.

As a new member of the City Council, I am committed to bringing my experience in education and public office, a deep appreciation of diverse perspectives, and a desire to listen to bring about important change.

At its final meeting of the year, the former City Council took action to renew two employee contracts for two years. This means that by the time the contracts are next scheduled to expire, we will have had to make some serious and thoughtful decisions about city facilities and the level of services we expect the city to maintain within

the limits of a sustainable budget.

San Leandrans should be educated about these choices and come together to help the Council decide. These decisions will reach far into the future and all stakeholders should have input and a clear understanding of the outcomes.

As your representative, I will be an advocate for community involvement and public input in shaping our budget.

At the end of January, the new City Council, will hold its yearly retreat – a day-long meeting in San Leandro – to discuss the visions we each have for our city in the next year and in the long term. It will be important to get a realistic accounting of our budget and anticipated funding for these future decisions. I encourage you to share your priorities for San Leandro's future by calling, emailing, or speaking at the next City Council meeting.

I will keep you informed as we go through our budgeting process.

Additionally, the new Council will have to replace Steve Holister, who's resignation as City Manager will be effective June 30. The City Manager is effectively San Leandro's "chief executive officer," responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of local government per the direction set by the City Council.

During the next few Council meetings we will be discussing the search criteria, process, and timeline to hire. Community input will be important in shaping the type of process and identifying the qualities necessary in our new City Manager.

I will always be available to hear your ideas or concerns, including topics of interest I can cover in future Beacon columns.

I can be reached via mail at pcutter@sanleandro.org or by calling 569-7797.

Please accept my warmest regards for a successful new year and beyond!



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Drink Beer to Benefit Schools & Nonprofits

First Friday of the Month at Drake's Brewing

by Mia Ousley, Editor

For \$20 you can enjoy some great local ale and support our local schools and nonprofits at the same time.

Drake's Brewing Company holds beer tasting fundraisers on the first Friday of every month, from 4:00-8:00 p.m., to benefit local schools and nonprofits.

- February 4 will benefit the San Leandro High School PTA

- March 4 will benefit James Madison Elementary School

The event is for adults aged

21 and over, with a \$5 voluntary donation to the nonprofit, although children may attend free of charge with their parents.

At Drake's Fridays, \$15 will get you a Drake's tasting glass and three tokens for three full pours. Additional tokens can be purchased for \$3.50, with net proceeds going to the nonprofit.

Eight Drake beers will be available, including their present seasonal when available.

Food is also available for pur-

chase.

Drake's is an urban craft brewery established in 1989 and operating from the former powerhouse of a long-gone Caterpillar plant in San Leandro. Drake's can be found ... but it's not easy. Head to WalMart in Westgate Shopping Center (off Davis just past I-880). Park in the lot in front of Walmart and Sports Authority, and walk between the two stores to get to the brewery. Look for the grain silo and Drake's sign.

Visit drinkdrakes.com/site/?page_id=24 for details.

From the President – continued

- continued from Front Page

you now.

Several Board positions will be open in 2011. Now is the time for you to step up and be counted. Please consider volunteering for a board position and getting involved in your community.

The 2011 Board members will be elected at the March 16 General meeting. (See front page.)

Feel free to email any of the Board members for information on how to volunteer.

Whether or not you volunteer, please come to the March 16 General Meeting to vote for new Board members and meet some of our newly elected officials.

On behalf of the Board, I would personally like to extend my sincere thanks to all volunteers in 2010 who took the time and effort to participate and keep things running in order to help make The Broadmoor

such a great place to live.

Feel free to email president@thebna.org with any questions you have about the neighborhood or upcoming March election.

"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." —Lily Tomlin

Mark Your Calendars!

FEBRUARY

4 – Benefit for San Leandro High PTA, 4-8, Drake's Brewing

5 – Chinese New Year Festival, 11-3, Main Library

19 – Environmental Forum, 10-12, Marina Community Center

26 – Chinese New Year Mother/Daughter Fashion Show, 12-3, Main Library

MARCH

4 – Benefit for James Madison Elementary, 4-8, Drake's Brewing

16 – Neighborhood Meeting, 7-9, Creekside Community Church

APRIL

16 – Earth Day tour of Davis Street Transfer Center

30 – San Leandro Creek Watershed Festival, 12-4, Root Park

MAY

15 – Neighborhood Cleanup & Citywide Garage Sale (reg. by May 6)

JUNE 12

– Home & Garden Tour, 12-4, benefit George Mark Children's House

The Dogwalk Chronicles – January 6th

Insights Into The Broadmoor on Any Given Day

by Tracy C. Baker, Member of The BNA

Buffy's New Year Resolutions

Okay ... who stole 2010? It was just here and then, *wham!* ... it's 2011!

Anyway, as we were walking along the other day, both of us pondering the new year ahead of us, Buffy imparted to me her New Year resolutions;

1. I promise, regardless of the new toys I get, that I will remain loyal to my play ball!

2. I promise, as Mommy and Daddy are watching DVDs, I won't pester them to play with the aforementioned ball until the movie is over.

3. I promise that on my daily walks I will try not to get too excited, jump all over, and widdle on someone's shoes when a wonderful, new person says "Hi!" to me! (Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! Like that's ever going to happen.)

4. I promise not to demand too many belly rubs this year, but I reserve the right to define "too many."



5. I promise that I will try to reset my potty schedule to not include 3:00 a.m.

6. I promise to give my Mommy, my Daddy, and all my

wonderful friends a lot of kisses all year long!

Time to hang up the leash.

Anon

See you in The Broadmoor!

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Maintained Properties Benefit Everyone

Community Compliance, Crime Prevention, and Property Values

by Carol Kennedy, The BNA Board of Directors

What do Community Compliance, Crime Prevention, and Property Values have in common?

Is your lawn mowed? Are your weeds trimmed? Do you park your car on your lawn or sidewalk? Do you have vehicles that never move? Is there litter in front of your home, your business, your street?

All of these things may seem small to you, but they add up. That is why they are against Community Compliance Regulations. Be part of the solution not the problem. Please help by keeping your property in check and reporting those that don't to 577-3260 – it's anonymous.

Properties not maintained breed trouble. Criminals look for easy targets. If our neighborhood is well maintained, criminals know that we care about our neighborhood and that we are watching them. Let them know we are watching. Walk to your window or door and watch a stranger walk by. Do you think they are going to kick in a back door or hop a fence if you are watching

them walk through the neighborhood? Do you think they are going to rob a pedestrian if they are being watched?

Allowing recyclers in the neighborhood is a problem as well. There has been a recycler caught with car radios in his shopping cart. There has been attempted car jackings and robberies because homeowners thought the culprits were recyclers. Who can tell the difference? Don't allow them in your recycle bins. Call the police at 577-3248.

It all adds up to property values and quality of life. When you were

a home buyer, what was it that you were looking for? A well maintained home is number one. Schools are number two. Then comes people walking around the neighborhood with children and dogs, restaurants, coffee houses, grocery stores, and other conveniences as well.

The Broadmoor has all of this but it takes everyone to preserve it. Our homes and our families are our biggest investments; let's all work together to maintain them.

I also want to stress the importance of reporting graffiti. Unincor-

– continued on page 7

Your Home on the Silver Screen

by Michael Greenslade, The BNA Board of Directors

Did you know you can list your home with movie location scouts to be used in commercials, television, and in the movies?

I had my previous house listed before I sold it. I just listed the historic 200-year-old house I bought in Indiana. A \$50 fee is charged.

Here's how to do it.

1. Go to www.goforfilming.com.

2. Follow the instructions.

3. Submit your photographs or request a photographer.

The more homes we have in The Broadmoor as possible locations, the more film friendly a neighborhood we become!

CreAsian

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LicenseLook – Watching Out for Criminals

Free Website Tracks Suspicious People, Vehicles & Incidents, Helps SLPD

by Gayle Hudson, The BNA Board of Directors

Last October at The BNA Crime Prevention Meeting held at the library, local real estate broker Wayne Gregori of Bay-O-Vista gave a presentation on www.LicenseLook.com, a free neighborhood watch website and software he created and is offering to the community.

The program launched in August 2010, allows residents to alert their neighbors and the police to license plate numbers for suspicious vehicles, questionable solicitors, or other persons or incidents that raise concern. The site also serves as a space to post crime alerts and send community messages.

Gregori reviews website submissions and compiles them into a weekly e-mail, which is sent out to any resident who signs up for the newsletter.

Gregori has workshops planned to introduce people to this new service:

- February 3, 10, 17, and
- March 3

Officer Tim DeGrano of the SLPD said LicenseLook gives the community the ability to help the police solve crimes, since the SLPD uses data found at LicenseLook.

LicenseLook uses email, the web, and neighborhood signage that serves as a visible reminder that residents are watching out for unfamiliar vehicles and taking action."

Using the website is free, and yard signs are now available for



\$5 at locations across San Leandro, including Zocalo Coffeehouse, Evergreen Nursery., and the Bal Theatre.

The signs were designed to be welcoming to residents and their visitors, while at the same time deter criminals by sending a message that the community is organized

and neighbors are watching out for each other.

Gregori says that more than 75% of Bay-O-Vista homeowners association members are displaying the signs in their front yards.

"When a crime takes place," says Gregori's website, "the police can easily review the last few weeks of records to see if any known criminals have been plying the area. By matching up the residents' timed vehicle sightings with the vehicle's proximity to a crime scene, the police have a much better chance to apprehend a criminal."

You can find information about LicenseLook at licenselook.com/explanation_written.cfm and a video presentation at licenselook.com/explanation.cfm.

'George Mark' Founder Kathy Hull Honored as 'Classic Woman'

by Patti Silva, Member of The BNA

Traditional Home magazine has chosen Kathy Hull as one of the recipients of its Classic Woman Awards this year. Kathy is the founder of George Mark Children's House.

George Mark is the only hospice facility for terminally ill children in the United States. It is a wonderful facility here in San Leandro, located up by Fairmont Hospital.

The article on Kathy Hull is in the November issue of *Traditional Home* or you can find it online at www.TraditionalHome.com.

While you're online you should also check out www.GeorgeMark.org.

The proceeds from the San Leandro Home and Garden Tour are donated to George Mark. I hope all of you will come to the 2011 Tour on Sunday, June 12, and help support George Mark and the children and families who are experiencing the most difficult challenge of life.

For more info on the Home & Garden Tour, contact me at 636-4137 or pattyattlc@aol.com.

Viva Portofino Gets a Rousing 'Thumbs Up'

Reincarnated Italian-American Restaurant May Have 'Found Its Niche'

by Carol Buchalter, Member of The BNA

I am happy to say that the restaurant on the corner of Dutton and Bancroft which we have all watched as it lay empty, incarnated as a Mexican restaurant, lay empty, incarnated as an Italian restaurant, lay empty, and now has incarnated as Viva Portofino, seems finally to have found its niche.

My husband & I ate at Viva Portofino twice in December and I have been very happy with it. The first time we went, Dan and I had a lovely, quiet dinner there. The service was good. The wait staff seemed to be somewhat new to the job, but they made up for it by being attentive and willing.

For starters, we were served some of the house-made focaccia. It was perfect, richly flavored, and light in texture.

I ordered a glass of the house red and was pleased by the generous amount of wine in my glass, but that was nothing compared to how very pleased I was with the wine itself. The owner came by

our table for a chat later in the meal and I mentioned how much I had enjoyed the wine. He told us that it is important to him to be pouring fine Italian wines to go with his fine Italian food.

For dinner, I had the *osso bucco* – braised lamb shank is one of my favorites – and I was not disappointed by this dish. The lamb was tender and flavorful. My husband had chicken fettucini and he was delighted with the pasta. They hand make the breads and pasta on site and this had all the best aspects of fresh pasta: the flavor and texture were good and it had just the right amount of resistance when bitten into. And, the food was not drowned in salt as it was under old management.

Our second visit was the night of their "Inagurati" on December 10. The owner and staff seemed to be completely astonished by how large the crowd was at the restaurant. They were happy about it, but they were also overwhelmed. The

service that night, not surprisingly, was slow and disorganized, but still cheerful and willing.


The focaccia, the meals, and the house red were just as good as on our first visit. We had a very pretty and tasty carpaccio as our appetizer, and progressed to pasta for me, and a vegetable calzone for Dan. We will definitely be going there again.

Report Graffiti

— Continued from Page 5

porated San Leandro (150th Avenue and south) is having a horrible problem with graffiti; gangs are trying to establish their territories. Two cities in Marin County are also having the same problem.


We are very lucky to have a graffiti hotline and a public works department that gets on it the very next day, so please use it. If you see graffiti within San Leandro city limits, call 577-3400. If you see it on I-580, call 614-5997.



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Beverly, Dowling, Orchids and Local History —

Sale of Cummins/Wilson Home at 490 Beverly Inspired Memories of Local Charm

by Carol Kennedy, The BNA Board of Directors

Editor's Note: The BNA email list was chatty in July 2003 over the sale of 490 Beverly (on the corner of Dowling). The worries of potential buyers subdividing the plot spawned others to examine the possibility of granting the home historical status. With that in mind, Carol Kennedy provided this historical look at the property and its owners.

* * * * *

Charles E. Wilson worked as a chuck wagon cook in the wilds of Nevada in the late 19th century. By virtue of having a pair of pliers, a bottle of whiskey, and steely nerves, he became the *de facto* dentist for the cowboys and local Native Americans.

Mary Alice Cummins, a recent westward immigrant to San Francisco from Chicago, answered an ad for a seamstress needed in the Nevada town of Elko. There she met Charles, and they married.

Eventually, Dr. Wilson's dental skill and ambition took him to set

up his dental practice at 450 Sutter Street in San Francisco, then, as now, a very desirable medical office locale.

Immediately after the 1906 birth of Charles Jr., known as Jack, the Great Quake shook. With their home town hard hit, the Wilsons followed many others of this era and moved to Oakland. Charles commuted to his work via the Red Train, whose last stop was Victoria Circle in San Leandro, where their search for property ended. Charles only had to walk two blocks and catch the train to San Francisco.

Charles had an idea for a house and the lots were a good buy, so he purchased two for a modest price at the corner of Beverly and Dowling, totaling about one acre. With a vision for an elegant home in the newly-popular Mediterranean style, he contacted the prestigious architectural firm of Bernard Maybeck.

Everything in the home was custom designed and constructed. Charles and architectural apprentice

A.D. Janssen teamed up to design and select chandeliers, wall sconces, bookcases, moldings, arches, the fireplace mantle, a unique plant atrium, and shadow painting on the ceilings, to name a few. The home began on paper in 1920 and took several years to complete. An award-winning master craftsman named José constructed most of the house and custom furniture single handedly.

Charles grew prize begonias in a greenhouse on the property. When one of his patients paid for her dental work with her prize orchids, the Wilson's Orchids were born. First there was one greenhouse, then two, three, four, and five, each with its own separate type of flower. Not only did Charles grow orchids, but he also created new varieties by hybridizing, often named after friends and relatives. There is still a Dr. C.E. Wilson trophy awarded for the best new breed by the Orchid Society of California.

— continued on next page



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— A Century-Old Story of Local Color and San Leandro's Earlier Years (Reprinted from August 2003)

— continued from previous page

Mary Alice became active in women's organizations, becoming president of the Alta Mira Club.

The Wilson's son, Jack, was a local golf champion during the 1920s and 1930s, but the economic times called for a more profitable occupation, so Jack started working in the orchid nursery, where he started writing articles on orchid culture for *Sunset Magazine*. He also attended Orchid Society of California meetings in Oakland.

Jack didn't type, so he asked Orchid Society member Elaine Johnson to type his articles. Jack and Elaine began dating on New Year's Eve in 1945, became engaged the next Valentine's Day, and married later that year.

They moved into the staff apartment over his parents' garage at 490 Beverly. The birth of their children, Faye and Charles III, and death of Jack's parents, allowed for the family to move into the main house. Jack and Elaine successfully

ran Wilson's orchids from home until the 1980s. Jack and Elaine passed away in 1986 and 1988, respectively.

Charles III is now a local landscape architect. He moved out of 490 Beverly in the 1980s. Faye, executive director of a charitable San Francisco foundation, continued living in the house until its sale in September 2005. She commuted on BART, not the Red Trains.

Both Faye and Charles loved

this home and were sorry to sell it, but they just couldn't give it the love and attention that it needed.

The property was acquired by Fred Shull in September 2005 for \$850,000. Fred is also an avid orchid grower and travels around the world to acquire and sell the flowers. He and his family have lovingly restored the home, greenhouses, and gardens to their current grandeur but are always finding something else they want to do.

Dunsmuir Fends Off Creditors

by Michael Greenslade, The BNA Board of Directors

It is with a sad heart that I report this from the Dunsmuir-Hellman estate. I have volunteered as a docent at the mansion for 24 years now. The Oakland Parks & Recreation Dept., which "owns" the property, has held a coup d'état diminishing the volunteer corps and volunteer management role.

Since the early 1970s the volunteer organization has been maintaining the city property, known as

Dunsmuir House & Gardens and, most recently, Dunsmuir-Hellman Historic Estate. Loans have been taken out in order to maintain that city building.

Creditors are now at bay and the furnishings and collections within the mansion are at risk of being foreclosed upon.

Dunsmuir-Hellman can really use your donations. 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605.

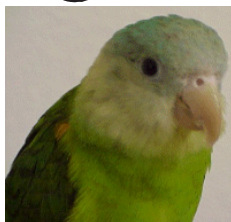
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Free Course on Being More Energy Efficient

Federal Grant Funds Course; Attendees Receive Free In-Home Testing

by Keith Weiner, City of San Leandro Supervising Building Inspector

The City of San Leandro Community Development Department has developed a class on how to make your home more energy efficient. The two-hour class is free (due to funding from a federal grant) and provides a wealth of information on energy production, environmental impact, consumption, and how to reduce the amount of money you spend on utilities.

The class stresses simple things

that the typical homeowner can do at minimal cost.

As a bonus, everyone who attends the class can have City building inspectors come to their house and perform a blower door test which will show exactly where the house is leaking and cold air is coming in – *and it's free!*

The inspectors will also use an infrared camera to identify where you may need to add insulation, and

use a “duct blaster” to see if you are losing heat from your heating ducts. (The average heating system in California leaks about 33%!)

The City's goal is to test 200 homes in three years, so save money, and the environment as well, and contact me to schedule a class date for a group from your neighborhood

You can reach me at 555-3344 or kweiner@sanleandro.org.

Join The BNA in 2011

The Broadmoor. You live here, so do we.

Your membership in The Broadmoor Neighborhood Association helps us improve and ensure the quality of life in our neighborhood. Our board members act as your collective voice in the City, coordinating with the police to help keep our neighborhood safe. With your help, we proudly promote the common good and general welfare of our community. The BNA exists to serve its residents. Over 200 families and businesses joined each year. Become a member today.

Yes, I will join The Broadmoor Neighborhood Association

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership.....\$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Donation.....\$_____ |

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Second Household Member _____

Email Address (if you want to join the e-list) _____

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