

The BNA – www.thebna.org – September/October 2011

#### **Coffee With the Cops – See It on YouTube** New Chief Spagnoli and Her Crew Address What's on Our Minds by Mia Ousley, Editor

About two dozen folks were on hand to question their cops at San Leandro's first "Coffee with the Cops," and you can view the whole discussion on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNhu6YRtUYs, thanks to San Leandro Bytes (www. slbytes.com).

Can medical marijuana be smoked in an apartment building with children, or folks who don't want to breathe the second-hand smoke?

How do we improve school safety in light of guns being brought onto campus, and at least one being used?

Can we make parents stop jaywalking when they're taking or

picking up their kids from school?

What gangs are known in our community and what should we know about them?

And what is with the SLPD's "phone tree" now in service rather than getting a live person on the line?

All of these and more were addressed by Chief Sandra Spagnoli and about a dozen of her officers the morning of September 13 at Main Street Bagels on MacArthur Blvd.

And in response to one question, yes, criminals are getting more brazen – after all these are tough economic times. With the price of gold at an all-time high, and many homes having gold jewelry easily

# **From The BNA President**

Dear Broadmoor Residents,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

I'd like to thank Barba Hartje, for her service on The BNA Board – she needed to resign mid-term.

Recently, the Board filled The BNA Treasurer opening by electing Michelle Blumstein. We also have a new board member, Shelley Martin. Shelley has offered to coordinate clean-up days in The Broadmoor with our resident Dogwalk Chronicler, Tracy Baker.

# **Melinda Rieboldt**

A big thank you to our new board members.

We do have other board seats available, so please feel free to contact any of the current board members if you are interested in joining the board. We welcome all members of The Broadmoor Neighborhood Association.

In the works for The BNA is a newly "refurbished" website, which when completed will be a useful tool for learning about the *– continued on back page*  accessible, burglars are making the best of it.

But the perpetrators themselves tell police that they'll avoid the trouble of an alarm, a barking dog, neighbors on active lookout, etc. That kind of protection really will make most of them go away to somewhere where their criminal activity can be carried out much more easily.

This was just the first of monthly planned events. You can talk to your cops again on Tuesday, Oct. 11, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at Dick's Restaurant, 3188 Alvarado Street.

## Trivia Bee Coming!

Help support Project Literacy's efforts to teach adults to read by sponsoring a 3-player team for San Leandro's 18th Annual Trivia Bee on Friday, Oct. 21.

\$350 will sponsor a team, or you can pay \$25 to attend the fun, where dinner will be provided.(And 1st prize in the raffle is an i-Pad!)

Forms and information are available now in the Main Library. Or call 577-3944 for more info.



### **Single-Use Bag Ban Coming Before Council** Additionally, Town Hall Meeting for Districts 5 and 6 Coming October 6 by Pauline Cutter, District 5 City Councilmember

StopWaste.Org, the public agency responsible for reducing the waste stream in Alameda County, is planning to bring forward a proposed single-use bag reduction ordinance for adoption by its board, and as the City's representative I will be voting on it later this year.

The draft environmental documentation for the ordinance has just been released and is available at *www.StopWaste.org/DraftEIR*. This is a 269-page document and it is from this data that the resolution will be based. I welcome any comments and ideas about this important matter.

Despite significant gains in recycling over the years, approximately 60% of materials going to landfill in Alameda County could be put to a better use – either recycled or composted.

These materials have value, and in the case of San Leandro, residents and businesses are burying \$2 million worth of material in the landfill each year by not properly sorting their trash.

Recycling these materials in-

stead has multiple benefits:

reducing our need for new raw materials;

reducing harmful greenhouse gases; and

• creating demand for dozens of new jobs needed to process the materials.

Who can help us become better recyclers? StopWaste.Org is a great place to start.

It educates residents and businesses on how to reduce waste, and it institutes sustainable gardening and building practices throughout the county. StopWaste's recent "Ready Set Recycle" contest resulted in three San Leandro residents winning \$50 each for their excellent recycling skills.

I encourage you to visit *www. StopWaste.org* for information, ideas, and inspiration on how to reduce waste. There is something there for everyone!

On another note, I would like to invite you to a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, October 6, for Districts 5 and 6. The meeting is still in the planning stages now but most likely will include an update from Police Chief Sandra Spagnoli and a short presentation by the Engineering Department about upcoming roads and streets improvements. The Mayor will also speak about the City budget status.

If you have questions or concerns please come to the meeting and share your opinions. The meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and ideas for San Leandro and can be reached at *pcutter@ sanleandro.org* or 577-3357.

## Cooling Centers On Hot Days

The Senior Community Center and Marina Community Center will open as Cooling Centers whenever the temperature reaches 95° – seven days a week, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., as needed.

Please keep an eye on elderly neighbors and suggest they go to just check out the new facility, bring a book, and relax.



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### **San Leandro Keeps Trash Out of the Bay** City Awarded Grant for Pilot Program to Modify Storm Drain Catch Basins by Mia Ousley, Editor

San Leandro has taken the lead in Alameda County in saving the San Francisco Bay from trash.

Having received more than \$110,000 in federal and state funding, San Leandro modified 250 (out of about 2300) storm drain pipes to capture trash that would otherwise flow through the storm drain system to the shoreline and the bay – and on to the Pacific Ocean.

Work started in June and ended in August.

In most Bay Area communities, curbside storm drain inlets ("catch basins") are the entry points to the storm drain system – separate from the sewer system that flows to a wastewater treatment plant. Urban runoff carries trash and debris into the storm drain system, which discharges to a creek or the Bay.

San Leandro modified its catch basins with metal screens that block trash before it passes into the system. Runoff will still get through, but trash is captured in the inlets which staff will clean out semiannually.

Multiple commercial/retail



areas were selected for most of the newly-retrofitted storm drains, since most "gutter trash" occurs near fast food restaurants, malls, and other commercial locales.

Research shows that commercial/industrial areas generate much of the trash that pollutes local waters. According to Ray Busch, San Leandro's assistant water pollution control manager, San Leandro is a perfect demonstration spot because our city's significantly larger industrial base means we also have by far the highest volume of sludge – and litter – in our wastewater compared with other Bay Area communities.

Because The Broadmoor is primarily residential, only one storm drain was replaced within our boundaries – at the corner of

Dutton and MacArthur. A number of catch basins were replaced farther south on MacArthur, along the commercial corridor that goes down to Estudillo.

Current law requires San Leandro (and other municipalities) to reduce trash in local creeks and trash "hotspots" by 40% by 2014, and the city is hoping this will make a significant dent.

.Funding for this effort was provided by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Bay Area-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project – a collaboration of local, state, and federal agencies – which was awarded a total of \$5 million from the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (stimulus bill) and California's Coastal Nonpoint Source Program (administered by the State Water Resources Control Board).

The Estuary Partnership allocated the money among 66 participating towns, cities, and counties around the San Francisco Bay.

For more information, call Ray Busch at 577-3437.







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## **SLPD Online Report Filing Now in Use** Report Non-Emergencies Online, or Check What Others Have Reported by Mia Ousley, Editor

The San Leandro Police Department has launched an online service to let residents report nonviolent crimes – which do not require immediate police attention – by logging on to the city's home page at *www.sanleandro.org*, selecting "Police Department" from the "Departments" tab, then clicking on "File a Police Report" from the list of links on the left-hand column.

(Or you can go directly to the website at *www.sleservices.ci.sanleandro.ca.us/coplogic/start-report.html* – your choice!)

The online reporting system can be used for the following types of incidents, and only if they occurred inside the San Leandro city boundaries and not on a freeway or state highway:

• custody order violations (<u>not</u> child concealment)

harassing or annoying phone calls

• hit-and-run vehicle collisions

- identity theft
- Iost property
- theft or burglary (from home,

vehicle, yard, locker, etc.)

 unauthorized charges to credit card

• vandalism – vehicles and other property

Using this system will allow you to file a police report at your convenience, print a temporary report immediately, and receive a free copy of the report via email once the report has been reviewed and approved. (This reporting system is not continuously monitored by police personnel.) If further investigation is needed, you may be contacted by police personnel.

This page is *not* for emergency situations (call 9-1-1) or situations requiring immediate police attention (call 577-2740). Immediate police attention is called for when you or someone you've spoken to knows who committed a crime, when there is potential evidence that can be collected, or when something was left behind by a suspect.

The website has a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) site with additional information as well.

#### Daily Activity Log

If you don't have a crime to report but want to see what other folks are reporting, you can check the City's new "Daily Activity Log," available by link from the Police Department home page or directly at *www.sanleandro.org/depts/pd/calls/calls.asp.* 

This web application allows the public to view the SLPD's Computer Aided Dispatch system of reported incidents. The incidents are based upon preliminary information supplied to the dispatcher by the reporting parties and is not verified. Therefore, the department does not guarantee the accuracy or timeliness of the information.

By law certain types of incidents cannot be disclosed, including medial and psychiatric calls, and sex crimes.

The "Daily Activity Log" is updated hourly to show the date, time, incident type, general location, and disposition. Previously it had shown the time police responded and the actions taken, but that info was no longer available at press time.



# The Dog Walk Chronicles Insights Into The Broadmoor on Any Given Day

by Tracy C. Baker, Member of The BNA

#### The End of the Garden Path

Fall is in the air ... which means our "summer" is just beginning ... which means my tomatoes and peppers are finally ripening! (These cool summers are playing heck on parts of my garden.) In the meanwhile, my ever-producing zucchini (thanks to my neighbors and friends for helping us eat them all) are beginning to die back, ready to be mulched, and make room for the winter veggies.

I finally accomplished the transition of my front yard from lava rock and weeds to some nice plants and mulch. Hopefully the small plants will fill in with the winter rains and next spring will bring a nice little drought-tolerant garden.

Buffy and I sure enjoyed our walk among the neighborhood this summer. Many folks have planted small gardens in their front yards and we have watched the veggies and the flowers grow. It is one of the reasons we love The Broadmoor so much

All the gardening done and garden watching done, it was definitely time for a summer vacation

#### What I did on My Summer Vacation, & Other Adventures

And we could sure use a vacation! Our friends obliged, offering a trip to their family house on Lake Shastina for a quick night (What a gorgeous view of Mt. Shasta they have from their living room!), then on to Crater Lake National Park.

I have driven by the park, but had never been to the rim itself. Winnie went many moons ago in the 1960s so didn't really remember it, and our traveling companions had never been but had always talked of going when they went to Lake Shastina.

It is a fabulous and unique geologic landscape to be sure, such a deep blue color and one of the deepest lakes in the world. It has no inlet except rain and melting snow (something it gets a lot of at an average of 7,000 feet) and a permeable zone that allows water to seep out. If I remember right, the ranger told us it gains about 30 billion gallons of water a year, and loses (through evaporation and said seepage) about the same, so the lake level remains pretty much constant.

But enough about us, Buffy also went on a vacation of her own. She went to my brother and sister-inlaw's home in Nevada and swam almost daily in Lake Tahoe and Lake Topaz. I still can't believe how much of a water dog she is. Whenever it rains or even if the back lawn is wet from dew, she gets very picky about putting her little precious paws on it to go potty!



Let the Good Times Roll! We all returned home satisfied

and exhausted, looking forward to our next adventures.

Hope you all have a wonderful autumn Time to hang up the leash. Anon

See you in The Broadmoor!



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# 'San Leandro Is Where My Heart Is'

City's Centennial Song – With Sheet Music for PDF Recipients by Mia Ousley, Editor

San Leandro Bytes – *www. slbytes.com* – originally brought this to my attention, so I went seeking information from Mary Lee Barr of the San Leandro Library.

With lyrics by George Reynolds and music by Louis Palange, San Leandro's official centennial song was copyrighted in 1972 by Sassano Music Publishing in North Hollywood.

But Sassano no longer exists and has faded from memory for most folks, and try as I could, I found no other holder of the copyright. So I bring to you here the words and music (for PDF recipients) commissioned by San Leandro's 1972 Historical-Centennial Committee.

According to a document provided by Mary Lee Barr, in 1772 Spanish soldiers led by Lt. Pedro Fages and accompanied by Father Juan Crespi explored what is now the San Leandro area. And 100 years later, in 1872, the city was officially incorporated.

Then four years before our city's 100th birthday, the Historical-

San Leandro Is where my heart is And I'd love to Return again Where peaceful days went by in sunshine And flowers bloomed to blend with The soft bay winds and clear blue skies when we began to know San Leandro The hills are calling With the sounds of The days gone by Friends started To last a lifetime as we follow Our path leading home again Mem'ries' path leads us home again.

Centennial committee, chaired by William Suerstedt, began planning activities to celebrate these two anniversaries.

"It is an exciting year for all of us as these plans become reality," Mr. Suerstedt wrote, "exciting because of the many special events and also because it will be a time for San Leandrans to get together to honor their heritage and San Leandro's rich cultural and historical background."

[Ed. Note: PDF recipients of the Beacon will get the actual sheet music on the next three pages. We'll try to get it up on The BNA website for others.]

If you want to hear how the song sounds, you can listen to the St. Felicitas Choir singing it in 2007 by going to YouTube at *www.youtube*. *com/watch?v=z5eWFfZLBY0*, again thanks to San Leandro Bytes.



# San Leandro Is Where My Heart Is

Words by GEORGE REYNOLDS

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Music by LOUIS PALANGE



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## **The Beacon's Tribute to Halloween 2011** Don't Let Rationality Get in the Way of Your Paranormal Fun! by Resident Ghosts & Spirits of The Broadmoor

Perhaps you've seen us orbs – those unexpected, anomalous spots that sometimes appear in your digital photographs? You might have thought the camera was faulty, or the house dusty, but don't be fooled. It's just our way of saying "boo"!

Call us ghosts, angels, energy fields, whatever. It's really just those of us who have transcended the physical world making contact with it once again.

TV's Ghost Hunters may say our photos are evidence only of dust, insects, water droplets, or dirty camera lenses. And Ghost-Gadgets.com may say we're airborn particles directly in front of the camera lens. And members of the Trans Atlantic Paranormal Society (I know, you think I'm joking) may even agree with them.

But we know better, and now you do, too. The odds of capturing an orb in a photo are rare, and if dust is everywhere, wouldn't orbs show up in <u>every</u> photograph? However, as our favorite television shows point out, orbs are rare in general but are seen regularly in homes with "paranormal" (think *Twilight Zone*) activity – our favorite haunts.

Ghost Hunters and others in the field ask you to discount the claims of paranormal activity in said homes, yet at the same time expect you to believe them when they declare a home haunted. Puhleez, where's the logic in that?

One of our favorite shows, Ghost Adventurers, more rightfully gives us orbs the validity we deserve, and even offers explanations for our existence. We revel in the Ghost Adventurer's gadgets-a-plenty accompanied by overly dramatic and entertaining presentations; auras and spirits are never boring on their show.

We poo-poo Wikipedia's rational attempt to dismiss our existence. "Near-camera reflection"? "Retroreflection of light off solid particles"? It's like Alice's Restaurant with all the 8-x-10 glossy photos with circles and arrows and a paragraph on the back of each one.

Others who say they believe in ghosts still try to discredit us by saying "orbs aren't dust shaped because they're 'circles of confusion'." Now that's just plain weird!

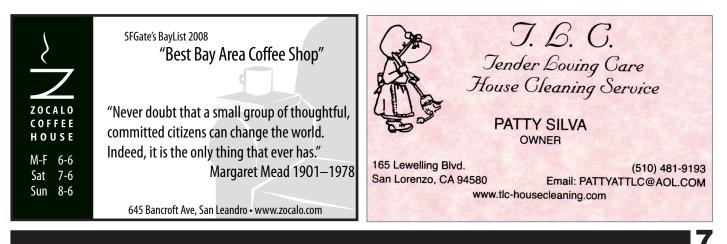
Even Silicon Valley experimental physicist Klaus Heinemann has no doubt that orbs "may be among the most significant outside-of-this reality phenomena man has witnessed." (Well, woman, too, but it's not worth our precious paranormal time dwelling on his sexism.)

Mr. Heinemann is the founder of Eloret Corporation, which is under contract to NASA. Ask yourself, would NASA hire a madman? You can read about him in the Sunday Times (London, not New York) by going to its "A Life in the Day" segment at www.timesonline.co.uk/ tol/news/science/article4619391. ece. (And no, it's not "A Day in the Life.")

We know that for you naysayers no proof is enough, but for we who comprise the psycho-energetic, no proof is necessary.

Remember to come by *our* homes on Halloween and we'll introduce you to our orb-producing ghosts and spirits.

See you trick-or-treating – or at Safe Treats/Safe Streeets!



# From the President

Broadmoor - stay tuned!

As always, please continue to quickly report any suspicious or unusual activity or persons to the police.

Many of your recent calls have resulted in arrests. Calls to 9-1-1 go directly to the San Leandro Police Department when called within city limits.

Since the next newsletter won't be published until near the end of November, please allow me to extend to all of you (on behalf of everyone in The BNA) a happy holiday season!

Sincerely, Melinda Rieboldt

### **Speaking of Halloween** Drop Irrational Fears; Halloween Is Fun <u>AND</u> Safe by Mia Ousley, Editor

In last year's October issue of the *Beacon*, I debunked the myths about poisoned and booby-trapped Halloween candy, so let me just say this.

According to several studies by independent and law enforcement agencies for the last 20 years, no child has ever died or been seriously harmed by candy picked up while trick-or-treating or other horrible Halloween deed.

So please . . . let your kids have fun this Halloween!



- 1 Street Sweeping, E. 14th to Bancroft in The Broadmoor
- 2 "Sausage & Suds" Festival, 10a-6p Downtown, Parrott St.
- 6 Street Sweeping, Bancroft to MacArthur in The Broadmoor
- 11 "Coffee With The Cops," 8a-9a Dick's Restaurant, 3188 Alvarado
- 15 Roosevelt Fall Festival, 11-4
- 31 Halloween & "Safe Treats/Safe Streets," 3-5p Bancroft @ Dutton



Board of Directors - www.thebna.org

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