

## **What You Can Do to Save Our Statue**

### **Proposed Bus Rapid Transit Will Likely Cause Its Removal**

**by Melinda Rieboldt, President of The BNA**

So ... one morning you're on your way to work, waiting at the light on Broadmoor Blvd. to make a left turn onto East 14th. That's when you realize that you now have to make a right turn onto East 14th, to make a u-turn at Durant, to get to Dutton, so you can reach the freeway.

As you make that u-turn at Durant, you don't see our beautiful statue, but instead a center lane with a crowd of people waiting for a 65-foot bus moving up and down the middle of East 14th. And on top of that, there is much more traffic that you now have to maneuver around.

What's going to happen to the statue if the proposed bus routes are changed? Is it going to be torn down? Removed? Moved? Recycled? What's next for our statue?

The monument dedicated on June 6, 1992, was built with federal funding and is located at East 14<sup>th</sup> at Broadmoor Blvd. Known as the "North Area Arch," the monument is a symbol of civic pride and depicts a family reaching for a cherry branch. (San Leandro is known as "The Cherry City.") The monument symbolizes San Leandro's heritage as the City reaches toward its future. Some of the design elements of the arch emulate some of the

classical architectural features of San Leandro's historic downtown buildings.

– continued on back page



Photo by Tim Holmes

## **From The BNA President**

### **Melinda Rieboldt**

Happy New Year and Greetings. Welcome to this free issue of the *Broadmoor Beacon*, which is being distributed to all homes in The Broadmoor neighborhood.

Future newsletters will be available to you as a PDF (or by U.S. Postal Service if you prefer) after you become a member or renew by sending in the membership form (see page 5) with your payment.

Please take this opportunity to

join your neighborhood association now in order to receive the *Beacon* throughout 2012. The annual membership fee entitles you to online access to the bimonthly *Beacon* or hard copy *Beacon* plus two email addresses which allow access to The BNA Email Discussion Forum. The email forum is a fantastic way to see and know what's really going on in our neighborhood in real time. It's a place to post a lost or found

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### **BNA Board Meetings**

#### **New Location**

**All Saints Church, 911 Dowling**

**Wed., February 8 • 7:00 p.m.**

**Wed., March 14 • 7:00 p.m.**

**Wed., April 11 • 7:00 p.m.**

# Overview of Issues Underway for 2012 As Well as a Lookback on Accomplishments for 2011

by **Pauline Russo Cutter, District 5 City Councilmember**

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and are already enjoying 2012. I want to look back on some accomplishments from the past 12 months and give a sample of issues already underway.

The most exciting news is we have hired a new City Manager. Chris Zapata comes to us with over 25 years' experience in city administration. His first few months will be a busy time as he gets to know community members and staff. I look forward to working with Chris and getting him familiar with District 5.

One issue I'll let him know about is how District 5 led the way for a positive change to a policy about sewer laterals, which will affect the whole city. When the sewer main was found to be irreparable under nine properties in the "Beverly-Dowling Triangle," the city built a new main on Beverly Avenue. The property owners were told that they would have to pay for the upper lateral which would connect from the street to their homes

– even if their "sewer laterals" had not failed in the first place.

After many meetings, letters, and planning, I helped put this issue on a ballot for the whole city to weigh in. We were successful in changing the policy so that homeowners are not responsible for the laterals that need to be replaced when they haven't failed.

Three issues I continue to work on are the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route on East 14th Street, the perceived decline of the Bancroft Avenue area near Victoria Circle, and the debate over a property owner's right to keep chickens and bees. In response to concerns from my neighbors, I am investigating these issues, educating fellow residents, and seeking community input on the best steps forward. Please look for updates in future *Beacons* and on The BNA's email list.

San Leandro is poised for some major improvements coming in the near future. We will break ground in late summer 2012 on the Village

Marketplace, which will help transform the downtown area. Kaiser Hospital is on schedule to begin operations at Marina Blvd. and Merced Drive in 2014. Plans for the shoreline marina are progressing with the conclusion of 2.5 years' work of the Citizens Advisory Committee, which provided recommendations in 2011 for an eventual transition to an Aquatic Park.

The most exciting project on the horizon is "Lit San Leandro," which will bring an approximate 10-mile loop of fiber optics building capacity for expanding broadband connectivity in our city. This will build upon San Leandro's strong industrial infrastructure and position the city to be a major player in the high- and clean-technology economies, drawing new business to San Leandro.

Thank you for your continued involvement and participation in shaping the direction of our city.

As always, I welcome your questions or concerns at 577-3357 or [pcutter@sanleandro.org](mailto:pcutter@sanleandro.org).



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# Reduce Crime With Neighborhood Watch

## Your Eyes & Ears Have Made a Tangible Difference

by Gayle Hudson, Citizens for a Safer San Leandro

The recent decision by the Federal Court instructing California to reduce prison overcrowding will result in the early probation of 848 non-violent felons over the next three years in Alameda County. [“Crime Increase Likely Police Chief Tells Council,” San Leandro Patch, December 2, 2011 – <http://sanleandro.patch.com/articles/crime-increase-likely-police-chief-tells-council>]. This is troubling news for cities already dealing with strained police department budgets and is worrisome for residents living with crime in their communities.

One of the most effective tools residents have in their power, and which police departments depend on to help them deter crime, is Neighborhood Watch. Last summer, calls from residents on Victoria Avenue led to the arrest of an unregistered sex offender as well as the two women “suitcase burglars” who walked through neighborhoods with a roller bag and entered unoccupied homes. The two women

were wanted for a string of burglaries and had managed to stay just a step ahead of the police until a resident of Victoria witnessed them breaking into a neighbor’s home.

In addition, residents took down the license number of a young man speeding down Victoria who repeatedly returned to lay down tire marks on Melven Court. He received a visit from the police at his home in Oakland, where his father was notified of his son’s activities.

At a Town Hall meeting for Districts 5 and 6 last October, SLPD Officer Tim DeGrano asked for a raise of hands to indicate how many residents were involved in a neighborhood watch program. In the main library’s lecture hall, filled nearly to capacity, I counted only seven hands raised. While residents were asking the police what the department was doing about crime, they were missing one of the most effective methods for deterrence – watchful residents alerting police to suspicious activity and individuals in their neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Watch begins with a meeting hosted in a resident’s home or a public meeting place. A police officer will attend to help organize the group, distribute materials, and update residents on crime statistics in their area.

An effective way to keep Neighborhood Watch strong is by building community. Each September, *Broadmoor Beacon* Editor Mia Ousley organizes a block party, where the street is shut off to traffic, neighbors bring potluck, children play, and everyone enjoys a relaxing afternoon visiting with friends and getting to know new neighbors. On my block, we hold the annual National Night Out on the first Tuesday in August, when neighbors are encouraged to participate in sidewalk potlucks, exchange contact information, and receive visits by the fire and police departments. Target is a national sponsor of National Night Out and our local Target provides free paper goods and toys to those hosting a potluck

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# A Dog's Ultimate Best Friend – Trees

## Part 1 of Claus “Whitey” Harder and his dog, Tammy

by Melinda Rieboldt, President of The BNA

The year was 1967. Claus “Whitey” Harder, a local carpenter, wanted to do something nice for the furry canine residents of The Broadmoor neighborhood so they wouldn't

have to walk far to do their business. He arranged to have blocks of Magnolia trees planted (“Comfort Stations”) for the “doggies”

residing in The Broadmoor neighborhood.

Harder petitioned the city with his plan and on September 7, 1967, Whitey and his wife, Stevie, donated \$2,000 of their own money to the City of San Leandro. This enabled the city to purchase Russet Magnolia trees on behalf of the beloved Harder family dog, a Manchester Terrier named Tammy, and his old canine friends.

The Harders affectionately named the project “Tammy’s Trees.” Formal dedication was made the following month on October 12. Harder was so happy with his project that he hired a 15-piece band to entertain everyone after the trees were planted.

He decided to keep planting and continued within the rest of The Broadmoor, where the trees remain to this day.

The City and Mayor commended the Harders for their contribution toward improving the appearance of the neighborhood and expressed the sentiment of wishing there

were more citizens like them with vision and generosity. The display of citizenship by the Harders’ personal dedication to the beautification of

The Broadmoor was applauded by the San Leandro Chamber of Com-

merce.

The City Council received a plaque which was presented to them by Harder in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to San Leandro citizens. Part of the plaque read, “Goodness of Man’s Deeds be told in the years to come in the growth and beauty of the Magnolia trees and that their wonderful fragrant flowers would always be a constant reminder, that Man is never so Tall as when he gives a tender loving helping hand. – signed Tammy and his canine friends.”

Whitey Harder and his family continued to head other projects in the neighborhood. More on Whitey’s neighborhood projects in Part Two ... next issue!



## San Leandro History Room

The San Leandro History Room has an impressive collection of more than 7,000 books, maps, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and City of San Leandro documents including:

- Hayward/San Leandro city directories dating from 1925, which can provide clues for tracing the history of your house.

- The *San Leandro Historical Photograph and Document collection* (yes, this is an active link!), which consists of many images dating from the late 1800s and provides a fascinating glimpse into San Leandro’s past. Digital versions of the photos can also be seen by clicking [here](#). (To log into

the database, username = ptf and password = ptf.)

- An extensive collection of yearbooks from San Leandro, Marina, Pacific, and San Lorenzo High School, as well as Bancroft and John Muir Middle Schools, which can help you find old classmates.

The San Leandro History Room is now open Wed. and Thu. from 1:00-3:00 p.m., provided staff is available. When it’s closed, please visit the Main Library’s Information Desk. Materials in the History Room are for Library use only and cannot be checked out.

For more information, call the Library Information Desk at 577-3971.

The Broadmoor Neighborhood Association  
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Annual Membership Application

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# **The (Longest Ever) Dogwalk Chronicles – Insights Into The Broadmoor on Any Given Day**

by Tracy C. Baker, Member of The BNA

## **Home**

I just finished a fantastically fun read called *At Home – A Short History of Private Life*, by Bill Bryson. Readers may remember his delightful, informative, and funny book called *A Short History of Nearly Everything*.

In “At Home,” Bryson takes you through his home, a former rectory in England, room-by-room with a history of how this or that room or object came to be.

Well, that got me to thinking about our humble abode. So, for the New Year, I would like to present to you a very short observation on our home.

It isn't much really ... just a little stucco bungalow (okay, not so bungalow like; maybe a bungalet!) not unlike the hundreds of others that dot our neighborhood. It was built in 1927 as part of the expansion of The Broadmoor east toward the foothills. At a little over 1,000 sq. feet, it is tiny compared to most homes, but for the three of us, it is just fine.

## **The Front Yard**

The front yard was a disaster for most of the 30 years we have been here. Funny, since it was one of the first things I set my sites on when we moved in.

Full of junipers, weeds, and lava rock, I really hated it. Yet time

ting put off until a couple years ago when I began the job of getting rid of said rock, pulling up most of the junipers, yanking out the weeds, etc.

I like our front yard now. It seems to fit us and is drought tolerant with flowering bushes, some



and money and other projects kept cropping up and the yard kept get-

ting nicely bonsai-trimmed junipers, and a watering system that doesn't



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## #66 (dated 31 December 2011)

### – No Matter How Many Days It Takes You to Read

require dragging a hose all over the place.

I think it could be a yard easily envisioned by those who first moved in here, but maybe that is just my whimsy.

#### *The Garage*

Ours is the original garage although it has been added to in the back and lifted onto a foundation at one time or another. Now, it is nearing the end of its life. One wall is leaning precariously inward as the badly poured foundation is leaning outward. It has never held a car during our occupation, and in fact the “floor” is simply gravel and wood planks.

When we moved in we dumped several boxes of things in there and they haven’t been opened since. Over the decades, we have added this, that, and the other things until there is barely room to move. Not that I haven’t tried to clean it up. I have held four garage sales since we moved in here, but it seems that every time I hold a garage sale, there

is less room than before. I am not sure what causes this phenomenon, but it has now infected my home office as well.

#### *The Back Yard*

The back yard isn’t much to speak of. I do not have a farmer lot like many of our neighbors do. It is somewhat small, but not nearly as small as others I have seen in newer homes. It is, as Goldilocks intones – just right! I mow my little lawn, tend to my two trees, plant my small garden, and shovel up the Buff’s poop. We have a wonderful back yard furniture set all ready for the patio we plan on building ... someday ...

#### *The Exterior*

Stucco and wood-framed windows, a small amount of Spanish tile, a flat roof with parapets; and that pretty much describes our little rectangle. Many of the windows were replaced at sometime in the early 1960s with aluminum windows, but I still have a few of the

wonderful old double hung – the ones with the cotton rope and lead weights inside the frames. One year, I even tackled removing all the paint so I could actually open them, top and bottom! Yet they are aging terribly and it may be time to replace them all.


This, too, is on our long list of “to do’s” that goes along with owning a home originally built in 1927.

#### *The Living Room*

One of the first things you may notice about our living room is the small wood-burning fireplace with the built in redwood mantle and bookcases. We don’t use it much anymore. It is tough with Spare-the-Air bans that last most of the winter.

I was told by one of my earlier neighbors that many people burned coal until the 1950s in the fireplace ...

*The rest of “Living Room”  
... and more, next issue!*



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# **Real Estate Market Still Unpredictable**

## **Sales Prices Up, Prices Down, Lenders Backed Up**

by Carol Kennedy, The BNA Board of Directors

The dysfunctional mortgage system is making things worse than they need to be. Foreclosures and short sales seem to be declining, but that is only because the lenders are so backed up they can't process them. There has been some new hiring, but obviously not enough.

I have personally talked to processors where I was their very first transaction. Some lenders are working though a third-party website, where you must upload your listings and sales contracts. I have waited up to 93 days for a response.

Interest rates are historically low, but qualifying is much more difficult. First time buyers have been given a great opportunity in this economy, but are having a very tough time competing with the all cash buyers, who are presumed to be investors.

Lower end or real estate is moving pretty good; the high end of real estate is sluggish.

Online auction houses have taken the place of many court steps

transactions. The banks can't get rid of their inventory fast enough the old-fashioned way. Some of these properties are being listed on the MLS, but many are not.

I called on one last week whose answering service was out of the

United States.

Distressed sales account for almost half of the market place. Sales volume is up by about 5%, but prices are down about 6.5%. Let's hope 2012 will be a more productive year.

## **Neighborhood Watch**

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for National Night Out.

Last year, Patricia Minnis of Estudillo Estates and Citizens For a Safer San Leandro, City Councilmember Pauline Cutter, and I took turns walking the Bancroft/Dutton business district with SLPD Officer Kerry Kovach. We met with area business owners and found them to be welcoming of our visit, committed to our community, and responsive to the Business Watch information Officer Kovach provided. We will continue to visit these businesses this year to assist them in resolving issues while encouraging them to maintain a strong Business Watch.

Neighborhood Watch, together

with Business Watch, is the best way residents can assist local police in preventing and deterring crime. The San Leandro Police Department and Citizens For a Safer San Leandro are available to help neighborhoods establish Neighborhood Watch. Please contact Officers Kerry Kovach (577-3252 or [kkovach@sanleandro.org](mailto:kkovach@sanleandro.org)) or Officer Tim Degrano (577-3248 or [tdegrano@sanleandro.org](mailto:tdegrano@sanleandro.org)).

Citizens For a Safer San Leandro is available to assist with Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out and also Disaster Preparedness; contact Gayle Hudson at [mailtogayle@yahoo.com](mailto:mailtogayle@yahoo.com) or 562-5011.

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## From the President

- continued from Front Page

pet, report suspicious behavior to other neighbors, and advertise items to give away. For bargain hunters, it's a great way to get a jump start on where The Broadmoor weekend neighborhood garage sales are happening as well as viewing upcoming events, such as the annual Home and Garden Tour.

For The BNA to thrive, we need your membership support. What do you want to see from The BNA? Let us know by sending your ideas to [board@thebna.org](mailto:board@thebna.org).

This year The BNA board plans to help create a citywide nuisance ordinance, continue donations to local schools, and continue ongoing efforts to keep the neighborhood free of blight and other nuisance matters. I encourage your involvement in this community endeavor. When *you* get involved, we *all* can help create more dynamic neighborhood organizations.

Often, an organization can accomplish more easily what an individual would have more difficulty doing. As an example, read my article on The Broadmoor's former resident Claus "Whitey" Harder

(see page 4), whose individual efforts combined with the City of San Leandro brought the beautiful Magnolia trees to the streets along The Broadmoor.

Whitey is a shining example of

The Broadmoor's community involvement. I invite everyone to step up and do something to improve our community, each in your own way, and to continue to make The Broadmoor a better place to live.

The BNA is 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 participating in community functions, there is niche for everyone. Consider chairing a clean-up day, or volunteering



at the annual Home and Garden Tour benefiting the George Mark House. The BNA needs you, and now.

Now is the time to step up and be counted. Please consider volunteering for a

board position and getting involved in our community. Feel free to email [board@thebna.org](mailto:board@thebna.org) for information on how to volunteer. Or better yet, come to the next board meeting.

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# Save Our Statue – Stop the BRT

- continued from Front Page

According to the AC Transit website the AC Transit's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, scheduled to start construction in 2012, is a dedicated buses-only center lane which will run from Berkeley to downtown Oakland, down East14th through San Leandro, and end at Sunnyside Drive. Maps and photos of the proposed project can be found at the AC Transit website under "planning focus" ([www.actransit.org/planning-focus/your-guide-to-bus-rapid-transit/](http://www.actransit.org/planning-focus/your-guide-to-bus-rapid-transit/)).

As you will notice in these pictures on AC's website, there is only one traffic lane on either side of the center bus lane, which leaves many questions concerning the plan of traffic flow and logistics of our

north area statue in San Leandro.

How will cars turn off and on onto East14th?

Will traffic be forced through neighborhoods to get to a major east/west turning street? And what will happen to the statue which honors our history and serves as a gateway into the north area of San Leandro? This statue is currently in the path of the new proposed center lane dedicated to buses only.

Don't let AC Transit run over San Leandro – just say no to the BRT.

Save our statue and The Broadmoor neighborhood. Time is of the essence. Contact your city representative now!



Photo by Tim Holmes



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at 635-3029 or [editor@thebna.org](mailto:editor@thebna.org)*



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The BNA

## Schools, Seniors Helped

Normally the BNA funds are restricted to The Broadmoor neighborhood, but this year and for the last couple of years we have donated to the Senior Center's Thanksgiving Dinner. Seniors with no place else to go flock to the Center for their traditional Thanksgiving Day meal and The BNA is proud to say we have helped in some small way.

Others helped this year by The BNA generosity are Roosevelt and Washington elementary schools, both within The Broadmoor. Roosevelt's HERO program (playground activity equipment and instruction) got a big boost from The BNA's donation of \$1,000. Washington, on the other hand, used its donations for music appreciation classes by purchasing a new stereo. With the money left over from their \$1,000, a new laptop was chosen. You may remember seeing the thank you notes in the last Beacon.

We will again ask for their wish list in 2012. Way to go, The BNA.