



JANUARY 2012

## CITY MANAGER MESSAGE

Happy New Year! The organization is excited to welcome new City Manager Chris Zapata to the City family. This is a time of changes and challenges, and also a great time to consider the many possibilities and opportunities for our community's future. Looking forward to 2012 and continuing to work together with families, neighborhoods, businesses and schools to build on the strong efforts that have begun!

- Jacqui Diaz, Interim Assistant City Manager

## CITY COUNCIL NAMES CHRIS ZAPATA NEW CITY MANAGER

Mayor Stephen Cassidy announced last week that the San Leandro City Council voted and selected Mr. Chris Zapata as the City's new City Manager. The selection follows a thorough nationwide search in which 51 candidates applied for the position. Zapata currently serves as City Manager in National City, California. He plans to begin his new job on January 30 and relocate to San Leandro.



A 25-year local government professional, Zapata has served as City Manager in National City since 2004. During his leadership in National City, a diverse urban coastal community of 60,000 in South San Diego County, the municipality has proactively responded to the fiscal challenges facing all cities in California through numerous strategies including organizational efficiency measures and passage of a temporary sales tax measure. National City successfully expanded and diversified its business base and bay front under his guidance.

Prior to his tenure in National City, Zapata served as Glendale, Arizona's Deputy City Manager after serving as that city's Utilities Director. Born and raised in Arizona, he has also served as City Manager in Eloy and Town Administrator for Superior in the Grand Canyon State. Zapata holds a Bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University. No stranger to the Bay Area, Zapata's daughter is a San Francisco psychiatrist and his son is a recent Stanford graduate. View full [press release](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✦ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday – Monday, January 16.** City offices and libraries will be closed. Regular business hours will resume January 17.
  - ✦ **Lunar New Year Celebration – Saturday, February 4, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue.** Welcome the Year of the Dragon with exciting music, beautiful dance and bright costumes.
  - ✦ **Coffee with the Cops – Tuesday, Feb. 7, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., Creekside Bistro, 500 Davis Street (entrance on San Leandro Boulevard).** View the flyer [here](#).
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- ✦ **Environmental Forum – Saturday, Feb. 18, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Boulevard.** Come and listen to a forum on different environmental issues in San Leandro and the Bay Area region. Call 577-6069 or go to [www.fslc.org](http://www.fslc.org) for more information.
  - ✦ **Screening of Unchained Memories at San Leandro Main Library – Friday, February 24, 7:00 pm, Main Library.** In recognition of African American History Month, a screening of a powerful film of the African American experience prior to the Civil War.

## WELCOME THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON AT THE SAN LEANDRO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The San Leandro Public Library invites you to a very special Lunar New Year celebration on Saturday, **February 4**, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Main Library, located at 300 Estudillo Avenue. The admission is free. "The Library's Lunar New Year programs are always outstanding," said Mayor Stephen Cassidy. "I strongly encourage everyone to attend this great cultural event celebrating San Leandro's Asian community."



Welcome the Year of the Dragon with exciting music, beautiful dance, and bright costumes! The amazing performances scheduled for this celebration will delight guests of all ages and include: the lion dancers, Vietnamese folk dancers and martial arts demonstrators of Vovinam Viet-Do-Dao of San Jose, Dale Chung's magic act, the Great Wall Youth Orchestra of Oakland, Ms. Wei's Chinese Children Dancers of the San Leandro Marina Community Center, the Thai Classical Dancers of the Thai Cultural Center in Berkeley and the Korean performers from the Korean Culture Center in San Jose.

Free Asian arts and crafts sessions for children will be hosted by the Asian Community Cultural Association of San Leandro. Beverages, as well as Asian cuisine food plates, will be available for purchase.

The Children's Department at the Main Library is also hosting a Lunar New Year Fun Night event on Wednesday, **January 25**, at 7:00 pm and includes the Magic of Tamaka and the Empress followed by a lion dance group! For more information on this event, please call the Library's Information Desk at (510) 577-3971.

## SCREENING OF *UNCHAINED MEMORIES* AT THE SAN LEANDRO MAIN LIBRARY

In recognition of African American History Month, a screening of *Unchained Memories*, a powerful film of the African American experience prior to the Civil War will be shown at the San Leandro Main Library, located at 300 Estudillo Avenue in downtown San Leandro, on Friday, February 24, 2012. The event will run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Free tickets available at 12 noon on January 24 at the Information Desk.



In the 1930's, the memories of over 2,000 slave-era survivors were carefully preserved by the Library of Congress. These interviews were transcribed as spoken, in the vernacular of the time, to form a unique record. Their stories are as vital today as when they were first recorded over a half century ago. These first-person accounts, ranging from the brutal to the bittersweet, have been brought to vivid life with voice-over readings of highly acclaimed notables, such as Whoopi Goldberg, Angela Bassett, Samuel L. Jackson, and many others. Note: this film is not rated. For more information, please call the Information Desk at (510) 577-3971.

## UPDATE ON AB1X 26 – ELIMINATION OF REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Redevelopment was dealt a devastating blow on December 29, 2011 when the State Supreme Court upheld AB1X 26, which dissolves Redevelopment Agencies (Agencies), and struck down AB1X 27, a bill that would have allowed Agencies to pay ransom to the State in order to continue limited redevelopment activities. Agencies will be dissolved as of February 1, 2012 at which time all assets, properties, contracts, and leases of the former Agencies will be transferred to a Successor Agency.

The City of San Leandro will assume the responsibilities of the Successor Agency of the City of San Leandro Redevelopment Agency. Successor Agencies' responsibilities include preparation of administrative budgets and Recognized Obligation Payment Schedules, payment of Enforceable Obligations (such as bonds, loans, payments required by court judgments and settlements, legal contracts and agreements and contracts necessary for continued administration), maintenance of reserves, and disposal of assets and property. Successor Agencies are entitled to a small administrative allowance and are overseen by a seven member Oversight Board which approves actions of the Successor Agency and the Recognized Payment Obligation Payment Schedule.

A City Council Work Session has been scheduled for January 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the impact of the elimination of Redevelopment Agencies on the City, including details regarding the loss of revenue and impacts on business development and affordable/workforce housing programs and services.

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## STREET SWEEPING AND FALL/WINTER LEAF BAG PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Street Services Section of the Public Works Department sweeps residential streets on a monthly basis. During heavy fall and winter leaf season, sweepers must make several passes over a street throughout the day and dump their trucks more frequently in order to accommodate extra leaves. View an informational flyer [here](#).

In order to ensure that streets are cleaned properly during fall/winter leaf season, residents should:

- Remove cars from the curb on sweeping days. A street sweeping schedule is available online at: [www.sanleandro.org/depts/pw](http://www.sanleandro.org/depts/pw).
- Refrain from sweeping leaves and debris from their property into the street.
- Refrain from piling or stacking leaves in the street. If possible, remove leaves from the curb line and place in green waste carts or paper fall leaf bags.
- Remove leaves and debris from storm inlets prior to rain storms.

For more information about the Fall Leaf Bag Program, go to [www.recyclesanleandro.org](http://www.recyclesanleandro.org).



## SAN LEANDRO PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORIAL FEATURED

Last month, the San Leandro Public Safety Memorial was featured in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, a National Magazine distributed by the U.S. Department of Justice/ FBI. View the article [here](#).

## ENGINEERING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT STAFF OUTREACH TO SAN LEANDRO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Engineering and Transportation Department staff recently engaged in outreach efforts to encourage students to consider a future in engineering. Staff presented an interactive session to over 700 freshman students during two days at San Leandro High School and received enthusiastic feedback.

Uche Udemezue, the City's Engineering and Transportation Director, along with City Engineer Ken Joseph, Principal Engineer Keith Cooke, and staff engineers Kyle Lei and Nicole Castelino presented multiple interactive 45-minute sessions to over 700 freshman students from San Leandro High's Fred Korematsu campus. The presentations were held at the new Arts Education Center at the high school.



In a 2007 magazine article written and published in the APWA Reporter, Uche discussed the need for diversity in the public works field and the need to prepare students early for a career in engineering. Uche identified a number of insightful suggestions, including classroom outreach as a step to solving the looming shortage of civil engineers qualified to maintain and serve communities like ours. The presentations at the high school included: 1) a review of the multitude of engineering disciplines; 2) how to prepare oneself for engineering by goal setting and obtaining the necessary education; 3) what it is like to be a young engineer; and 4) highlights of the benefits and opportunities for engineering internships at the City and elsewhere.

While the basic premise of the presentations is to provide insight into a future in engineering, the department offers tools for success in high school and college and goal setting techniques that help students to select future careers. Since the inception of this outreach effort about six years ago, staff has made presentations at many local high schools, including Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, San Lorenzo High School, Castro Valley High School and Arroyo High School.

The feedback from these presentations has been inspiring. Julie Nicholas, a science teacher at San Leandro High, recently wrote, "I was tickled to have you emphasize some of the points I have been trying to make with my students: teamwork, importance of report writing, problem solving and taking on responsibility for their own learning".

A number of students have expressed an interest in pursuing engineering as a result of the outreach, and a number of them have participated in the Engineering and Transportation Department internship program. Staff looks forward to continuing their outreach program and hopes to positively impact as many students as they can.



## BUSINESSES IN THE NEWS

### Lit San Leandro Featured in Cal State East Bay's Pioneer Newspaper

- Lit San Leandro, the proposal to install a fiber optic loop through a large portion of the City, was recently featured favorably in Cal State East Bay's Pioneer Online. Read the entire article [here](#).
- The article provides an overview of the project and examples of the types of businesses that could benefit from access to the loop. Those industries include teleconference studios, genomic services, cloud computing, gaming, architects, design firms and video editing.

### San Leandro Senior Community Center Highlighted

- A stunning and informative brochure highlighting the San Leandro's Senior Community Center's contemporary design and green features has been developed by Group 4, the project architect.
- The brochure is available online [here](#).

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## WEEKLY UPDATE

If you would like to review weekly information from the Interim City Manager, please check out the *Weekly Update* on the City's website at [www.sanleandro.org/depts/cityhall/city\\_manager.asp](http://www.sanleandro.org/depts/cityhall/city_manager.asp).

Also, for more information on the City of San Leandro and its programs and services, visit the City's website at [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org). To register to automatically receive press releases, meeting agendas or other electronic notifications, go to e-Notify at <http://www.sanleandro.org/portal/default.asp>.

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meeting dates, times and location are subject to change. Please confirm meetings by visiting [www.sanleandro.org](http://www.sanleandro.org).

- 1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday, City Offices and Libraries Closed**
- 1/17 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- 1/19 CC/San Leandro Unified School District Liaison Committee Meeting – POSTPONED
- 1/20 Finance Committee Meeting, 8:15 a.m., Sister Cities Gallery
- 1/23 City Council Work Session, 5:00 p.m., Location TBD
- 1/26 Rules and Communications Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Sister Cities Gallery
- 1/30 Ethics Training for City Council and City Boards/Commissions, 6:00 p.m., Main Library/Dave Karp Room
- 2/3 Finance Committee Meeting, 8:15 a.m., Sister Cities Gallery
- 2/6 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- 2/7 Shoreline-Marina Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Sister Cities Gallery
- 2/9 Business and Housing Development Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Sister Cities Gallery
- 2/13 Lincoln's Birthday Holiday, City Offices and Libraries Closed**
- 2/14 City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m., Location TBD
- 2/20 Washington's Birthday Holiday, City Offices and Libraries Closed**
- 2/21 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- 2/25 City Council Retreat, Time and Location TBD
- 2/27 City Council Work Session – Public Officials Communications Training, 7:00 p.m., Main Library