

Bay-O-Vista Improvement Association (BOVIA) is dedicated to fostering a stronger community, promoting safety, and enhancing the overall quality of life for all Bay-O-Vista residents. We strive to create an environment where neighbors come together, share experiences and work collaboratively to make our community the best place to call home.

Spotlight



Catharine Ralph, MSW

I'm pleased to share that **Catharine (Cathy) Ralph, a long-time Bay-O-Vista resident**, will be recognized as one of the 2026 inductees into the **California Social Work Hall of Distinction** through the California Social Welfare Archives in partnership with the National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter. This honor celebrates individuals whose leadership, service, and lasting contributions have advanced the social work profession and positively impacted communities throughout California. The Ceremony will take place on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**.

Cathy is a distinguished social worker, educator, and advocate whose career has advanced social justice and strengthened communities for over five decades. A graduate of the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare, she has dedicated her professional life to championing families, mentoring future social workers, and improving child welfare systems.

For 25 years, Cathy served as a Field Consultant, Lecturer, and Title IV-E Project Coordinator at UC Berkeley, where she mentored hundreds of MSW and undergraduate social work students and developed public child welfare internship partnerships across 11 Bay Area counties. She also pioneered the Bay Area Symposium on the Indian Child Welfare Act to elevate awareness of culturally responsive practices.

A dedicated leader within the National Association of Social Workers for over 30 years, Cathy served as a Regional Director, California Chapter President, and member of the National Board of Directors. Her professional contributions have earned her numerous honors, including NASW-CA Region C Social Worker of the Year.

Beyond academia, Cathy has championed equity through community advocacy, notably leading efforts to eliminate racist restrictive housing covenants in Alameda County. In retirement, she continues to vigorously support unhoused individuals and promote expanded housing opportunities for all residents, efforts recognized by an Alameda County G.G. Greenhouse Public Health Hero award. Through decades of public service, Cathy has consistently promoted opportunity and human dignity.

Please extend a hearty congratulations and thank you to Cathy for all that you have and continue to do for our community.

SOCIAL EVENTS

BOVIA Garden Tour

Saturday, Sept 19th @ 10:00 a.m.

The Garden Tours continue to be a BOVIA event favorite! See recent photos of the beautiful gardens by clicking [HERE](#). You won't want to miss the September tour. Email Kat at katwellman54@gmail.com if you would like to join.

Save the Date

NEIGHBORHOOD INTEREST GROUPS

STAY SAFE, STAY SECURE – CRIME PREVENTION TIPS WITH SAN LEANDRO POLICE DEPARTMENT:

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 9th @ 7:00 p.m.

(via Zoom - link emailed to BOVIA members)

This is a special meeting to discuss safety and how to protect ourselves and our homes from crime.

BOVIA GARDEN CLUB:

THURSDAY, SEPT 17th @ 7:00 p.m.

(via Zoom - link will be emailed to interested parties)

These are monthly meetings to discuss gardening issues, tips and challenges. We also plan Garden Tours. Novices are more than welcome!

To join and get the Zoom links - email Kat katwellman54@gmail.com

2026 RIDES AND READERS 5TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW:

SATURDAY, SEPT 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(Located at the San Leandro Main Library - 300 Estudillo Ave.)

Enjoy classic and vintage cars (especially a few from our own Bay-O-Vista residents), explore library resources, and take part in this fun community event. Admission is free for all spectators.

BREAKFAST / LUNCH CLUB:

FRIDAY, SEPT 25th @ 1:00 p.m.

HORATIO'S – 60 Monarch Bay Dr., San Leandro. Come join us by the Bay for great conversation, a wonderful view and a delicious meal.

RSVP – to ensure seating contact Kat at (510) 427-3173

Last minute attendees are also welcome!

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR SL MAYOR:

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 30th @ 7:00 p.m.

(via Zoom - link will be emailed to BOVIA members)

This is a special meeting to learn more about the candidates, their priorities for the City, etc.

BOVIA BOOK CLUB:

TUESDAY, OCT 6th @ 7:00 p.m.

(via Zoom - link will be emailed to interested parties)

The book we are reading is *"The Women on Platform Two"* by **Laura Anthony**.

BOVIA WOMEN'S WALKING GROUP (New):

MONDAY'S AND WEDNESDAY'S @ 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the intersection of Lonaview Drive and Skvview Drive.

Please check the BOVIA.org website – [Event Calendar](#) – for the dates of the meetings to learn about the candidates running for **Director for Ward 7 of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and San Leandro Council Member – District 1.**



IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

THANK YOU TO OUR BAY-O-VISTA RESIDENTS

A number of Bay-O-Vista homeowners have been actively removing junipers from their gardens and BOVIA would like to extend a big thank you! Junipers, nicknamed “gasoline plants” by firefighters, were a common staple of most original landscapes up on the hill. Due to their highly combustible nature, removal helps with wildfire safety to protect our homes and those of our neighbors.

SIGN PETITION TO STOP TRUCKS ON I-580

Click on the **Link to Sign the Petition:** <https://www.nobigrigs580.org/petition/>

CalTrans is conducting a Study to determine if it should lobby the State Legislature to allow trucks on I-580. ***Allowing trucks on I-580 would be devastating for our community - greatly increasing traffic, noise, pollution, accidents, etc.***

Please see further information and meeting dates on the BOVIA.org website – “Important Matters” by clicking [HERE](#).

The No Big Rigs on I-580 flyer below is available for downloading on their website by clicking [HERE](#). For your convenience, there are also versions in Chinese and Spanish available.



Stand Against Big Rig Trucks on I-580 and Highway 13

Caltrans has initiated a study to evaluate the effects of overturning the decades-old ban on big rig heavy trucks on Interstate 580. The California Trucking Association (CTA), a freight industry lobbying group, has a longstanding interest in allowing 80,000lb big rigs on I-580, which will also allow them to access Highway 13 and other East Bay highways and streets.

Keep the I-580 truck ban to help preserve and protect our communities and travel corridors

These corridors are essential to maintaining safe routes to our schools, health care facilities, emergency services, and local businesses.

The truck ban, which has been in place since I-580 was opened in 1963, keeps heavy trucks off of I-580 and Highway 13 and most of our neighborhood streets and connecting corridors.

Please sign the petition and share with other community members to:

- Keep the truck ban fully in place.
- Protect **ALL** East Bay neighborhoods from increased noise, pollution, and safety hazards.
- Prioritize community health and sustainability over corporate freight interests.
- Invest in clean transportation and environmental improvements instead of dismantling proven protections.
- Ensure all future decisions include meaningful community input.

Visit www.NoBigRigs580.org to:

- Learn more.
- Volunteer to get the word out!

