

LookSmart
FIND ARTICLES | 10,000,000 Articles
 Where To Look For What You Need.™



Explore Publications in:

All	Arts	Autos	Business	Health	Home & Garden	News	Reference	Sports	Technology
---------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------

FIND IN [Advanced Search](#)

Library, pools get fun flowing in the Manor

[Oakland Tribune](#), [Dec 4, 2006](#) by [Martin Ricard](#)

SAN LEANDRO -- The Washington Manor neighborhood got some major upgrades Saturday when two long-anticipated city facilities opened their doors.

The Manor Branch Library, which after 44 years outgrew its facility, has replaced the original library building built there in 1962.

The San Leandro Family Aquatics Center was totally rebuilt and will now be open year-round with several pools, a two-story waterslide and other improved amenities.

Residents are anticipating that the two facilities will offer new opportunities to enjoy San Leandro without having to look outside the city for recreation, fun and better quality of life. "The Manor has been part of the community since the '50s, and we've done very little improvement in that area," Mayor Shelia Young said last week. "So it's a huge investment and huge improvement for the Manor."

Most Popular Articles in News

- [Black Women White ...](#)
- [Naked boys vs. naked ...](#)
- [Weddings of the year](#)
- [Tisha Campbell-Martin ...](#)
- [The gangs behind bars ...](#)

Most Popular Publications in News

- [Ebony](#)
- [Advocate, The](#)
- [Jet](#)
- [Independent, The \(London\)](#)
- [Insight on the News](#)

Washington Manor, commonly known as "the Manor," was annexed to San Leandro in 1957, increasing the city by

1,900 acres. At the time it was built, the Manor was one of the largest housing tracts in the Bay Area, according to the city's general plan. Today it is home to about one in every six San Leandro residents.

The expansion of the neighborhood also has attracted a growing interest in giving certain areas of the city a makeover. Although budget cuts have stalled some city projects, the Manor received the luck of the draw when it was selected for improvements to both the library and aquatics center.

The library received a

ADVERTISEMENT



[Swan Pools](#)

The most extensive warranty program in the Bay Area.
[www.swanpools.com](#)

[500 Swimming Pool Photos](#)

Over 500 photos of in-ground pools for great design ideas.
[GetDecorating.com/Pools](#)

[Pools Houston](#)

Install a Beautiful Pool in Houston for summer! Inground. Best prices.
[www.leadslocal.com](#)

[Swimming Pool Supplies](#)

Save 30-50%, Free Shipping Your Pool Expert Since 1967
[www.waterwarehouse.com](#)

[Custom Pools & Landscape](#)

Create a backyard oasis: Pool, Spa, Outdoor Kitchen & BBQ, Waterfalls
[www.artisanhomeresorts.com](#)



- [Custom Pools & Landscape](#)
Create a backyard oasis: Pool, S
Waterfalls
www.artisanhomeresorts.com
- [Chlorine Free Pool](#)
Have A Non Chlorine-Zero Salt F
ECOsmarte
www.ecosmarteflorida.com
- [Local Recreation Centers](#)
Find a Recreation Center Near Y
Recommendations
www.Wellsphere.com
- [Lewis Aquatech Pools](#)
Design/Construction/Consulting
www.Lewis-Aquatech.com

\$5.9 million facelift with the help of Proposition 14, which provided major funding for construction at libraries throughout the state.

Serving 28,000 residents and nine area schools, the branch library has now quadrupled in size with 30 new computers, an expanded children's area and even a fireplace for families to read around.

The new facade also was intended to draw people inside, said Library Services Director David Bohne.

"We wanted people to know it's a library, not just a public building where you don't know who's inside," he said.

The aquatics center will probably be the neighborhood's biggest attraction. Although it won't be open for swimming until late spring, the city is hoping it will bring kids back to the Manor to play by providing a recreation center not seen in other neighborhoods.

In 2000, a task force made up of city staff, recreation and park commissioners, school district staff and residents decided to completely reconstruct the pool formerly at Washington Manor Park.

In addition to the pool and water slide, the aquatics center now has a squirt gun area, waterfall and zero-depth entrance. The center still will not have a competitive pool.

"It's going to be huge, not just for San Leandro," City Councilwoman Joyce Starosciak -- whose district includes the Manor -- said, "but for the San Lorenzo School District and all the surrounding communities."

Both the library and aquatics center were dedicated on Saturday with appearances by Young, Bohne, state Sen.-elect Ellen Corbett, D- San Leandro, state librarian Susan Hildreth and other City Council members.

Still, while both facilities received high praise Saturday, City Councilwoman-elect Diana Souza feels they hold even more potential.

She has been championing installation of a competitive pool at the aquatics center. When that is done, she said, the Manor will have everything it needs. "My continued goal is to get the competitive pool added back into that facility. But I'm very happy the aquatics center is making the progress that it is. ... Now kids will definitely have something more to do than just splash around."

©2006 ANG Newspapers. Cannot be used or repurposed without prior written permission.

Provided by ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights Reserved.

Content provided in partnership with

