



NEWS RELEASE March 21, 2013

Blood Donors are Needed; Sign Up to Donate on April 3

The public is encouraged to join the first of three blood drives hosted by the City this year, from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3rd in the parking lot between the lawn bowling green and the Paul Nelson Aquatics Center along South McClelland Street. City and County employees also will be donating blood to United Blood Services. Look for the big white bus.

While donations of all blood types are encouraged, donors with Type O-negative blood are especially needed, because local supplies are presently low. O-negative red cells can be transfused to anyone. O-negative red blood cells are often used to help patients when there is no time to determine the patient's own blood type.

Also, donors with Type AB (positive or negative) are needed. Likewise, Type AB plasma can be given to all patients, and is the only plasma used for trauma patients and neonatal babies. There is always a special need for AB plasma.

Blood donation is a community responsibility. Donated blood can help a family member, a friend, a surgery patient, someone with cancer, a burn victim, or a newborn. Donating only takes a short time and is well worth it. Consider the need for blood:

- About 1 in 7 people entering a hospital need blood.
- More than 95 percent of Americans will have a relative or friend who will need blood.
- More than 75 percent of Americans reaching age 72 will require a blood transfusion sometime in their lifetimes.
- Blood is needed every three seconds (nation-wide).

To sign up as a donor with a reserved time, please contact City blood drive coordinator Mark van de Kamp at 925-0951 ext. 372.

Department:	City Manager's Office
Contact Person:	Mark van de Kamp, Management Analyst II
Telephone Number:	(805) 925-0951 ext. 372
E-mail Address:	mvandekamp@ci.santa-maria.ca.us