



# CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 29

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

NO. 14

## INSIDE YOUR FORUM

### NEWS



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PHONE: (510) 537-1792



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The 34-space Tra-Tel park, next to the Castro Valley Library, will likely be sold this year.

## CV Trailer Park To Be Sold

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A Castro Valley Boulevard trailer park will likely be sold this year, forcing residents to find a new place to call home.

The Tra-Tel park, adjacent to the library parking lot at 3765 Castro Valley Boulevard, has been owned by Michael and Shelia Cooper since the 1970s, and some residents of the park have been around just as long.

But the Coopers feel it's time to sell the park – which has 34 spaces for mobile homes and RVs – according to the park's on-site manager, who declined to be named in this story. The Coopers did not

return calls in time for publication.

The residents have been notified that the park is being sold, but the timeline is still vague – though it's unlikely the sale and reconstruction of the lot will happen this year.

"We've got some time, but it's going to be hard to find a place to go because there aren't vacancies around here," said one man who lives at the park.

The man, who also did not want to give his name, said that his home would not be able to be moved and towed elsewhere and he'd have to find other accommodations. He said he'd likely leave the Bay Area.

Once the park is gone, there will likely be a mixed-use development at the site, with a blend of

commercial and residential space.

The Castro Valley General Plan shows the area is zoned for a high-density, mixed-use space and encourages a pedestrian and bicycle friendly area surrounding the "library district" which includes Tra-Tel.

According to the county, the owners have not yet submitted any formal paperwork on the sale, but once they do, the development process will begin and that process must include relocation help for the displaced residents.

The plans for any new development would also have to go before the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) and the county Planning Commission.



PHOTO BY COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

## Major Rupture Occurs Along Redwood Road

This gaping 50-foot-long rupture closed Redwood Road last week, the result of saturated soil from the winter's record rainfall. The collapse of the roadway occurred about a mile north of the exit to Redwood Canyon Golf Course. The Alameda County Public Works Agency will be putting the repairs out to bid as soon as design work has been completed. Meantime, Redwood Road is expected to remain closed for at least three months, according to John Medlock, Jr., deputy director of the agency's maintenance department.



PHOTO BY GARY BOSLEY

## Major BART Disruptions This Weekend

BART maintenance and repair crews will begin rebuilding tracks between Lake Merritt and Fruitvale stations this weekend. The tracks will be closed from the end of service on Friday night until 4 a.m. on Monday.

No trains will run between Fruitvale and Lake Merritt stations while this work is being done, but a free local shuttle bus will run between the two stations. Passengers should expect delays of 20 to 40 minutes, according to BART officials.

Trains will also not be running between West Oakland and Lake

Merritt, or between 12th Street and Lake Merritt. During those times, Lake Merritt station will be closed. Fruitvale will remain open.

BART will also provide a free bus bridge to 19th Street station for passengers traveling north beyond Fruitvale from the Dublin/Pleasanton (Castro Valley) and Fremont lines.

BART will provide extra staff at its stations as well as signs to help guide passengers to their destinations.

Normally, BART carries out track maintenance and repair during the late-night hours when

trains aren't running. However, the scale of the needed repairs through this stretch of track is too great to accomplish in only a few hours.

Similar track closures between Lake Merritt and Fruitvale stations will recur on the weekends of April 29-30, May 13-14, May 27-29, June 10-11 and July 1-2.

These track repairs are the first of many capital improvement projects to be paid for with money from last year's voter-approved Measure RR which partially funds BART's ongoing multibillion-dollar capital improvement efforts.



### Castro Valley Weather April 5 - 9, 2017

Wednesday  
Partly Sunny  
High 72° Low 54°

Thursday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 67° Low 49°

Friday  
Thunder Storms  
High 71° Low 50°

Saturday  
Rainy  
High 75° Low 51°

Sunday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 69° Low 49°

### Almanac

Past Week's Rain: 00.00  
Season To Date: 33.32  
Normal To Date: 20.99  
Season Average: 21.22

### Moon Phases

Apr 10

Apr 19

Apr 29

May 2

Sun sets at 7:37 p.m. today, rises at 6:44 a.m. Thursday.

### Michele Markovich Antiques

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michele.estatesales@gmail.com

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## Realtors Group Scholarships for Students Continuing Education

The Bay East Foundation, the nonprofit charitable arm of the Bay East Association of Realtors, is accepting applications for scholarships for students who are entering or continuing their education at any accredited college or university.

The scholarships, in amounts of \$1,000 or more, will be awarded based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

To qualify, applicants must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, must be enrolled in a qualified educational institution with programs acceptable for credit towards a bachelor's (or higher) degree, and have primary residence in Alameda or Contra Costa counties.

To apply online, visit [www.cognitiforms.com/BayEastAssociationOfRealtors/BayEastFoundation2017ScholarshipApplication](http://www.cognitiforms.com/BayEastAssociationOfRealtors/BayEastFoundation2017ScholarshipApplication). Deadline to apply is Fri., May 5.

## Cigarette Tax Jumps by \$2

The cost for smoking went up dramatically on Saturday. Under voter-approved California Prop. 56, the excise tax rate increased from 87 cents per pack of 20 cigarettes to \$2.87.

The new law also expanded the definition of "tobacco products" to include any type of tobacco, nicotine, little cigars, and electronic cigarettes sold in combination with nicotine. That includes devices like electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, e-pipes, vape pens, and e-hookahs that are sold in combination with substances containing nicotine.

Products approved by the FDA as tobacco cessation products (nicotine patches, etc.) are not be subject to the excise tax.

## New Law for Battery Fees

Sales of lead-acid batteries are now subject to two \$1 fees. Manufacturers will pay a \$1 fee for every lead-acid battery they sell, and consumers will pay a \$1 fee on each purchase of a replacement lead-acid battery.

A new California law became effective Saturday that requires the collection of fees, which are expected to generate \$26 million annually to investigate and cleanup areas that have been contaminated by lead-acid battery facilities.



## Stevens Named 2017 Rowell Rodeo Queen

Megan Stevens, 22, of San Leandro was crowned Rowell Ranch Rodeo Queen Saturday night in a competition based on poise, personality, interview skills and horsemanship. A graduate of Dublin High School, she attended Cal State East Bay. Stevens will receive more than \$1,000 in scholarships and prizes, and will reign over the 2017 Rodeo, which runs May 19-21.



BY ROBERT ROSAS

**IF YOU suffer from low back pain, according to National Institutes of Health, you are among**

**four out of five Americans who will suffer from disabling back pain during their lifetimes.**

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

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Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery.

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# Breakthrough Relief for Back Pain and Sciatica

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Dr. Hsieh and his team have helped numerous patients find relief from their agonizing back pain and sciatica.

According to Dr. Hsieh, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in the Tri-Valley Area, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a unique program for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, many patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and evaluation to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

Pleasanton Weekly has teamed up with the spine therapy specialists at Intero Chiropractic, to help readers find relief from their

persistent back and sciatic pain.

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Mention this article (CODE: BOS37SCID5) and Dr. Jerry Hsieh will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of \$100 to just \$20. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Dr. Jerry Hsieh and his team now by calling (925)255-5805, they are waiting to take your call today.

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Call them now and get a full and thorough evaluation to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$20, the normal cost of such an exam is \$100 so you will save \$80!

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delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up right away, please leave a message.

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PHOTO BY FRED ZEHNDRER

More than 400 people were on hand for Thursday's Chamber-sponsored "Taste of Castro Valley & Business Expo" at the Moose Lodge.

## Big Crowd for 'Taste of Town'

Hundreds of hungry visitors showed up for last Thursday's "Taste of Castro Valley & Business Expo" at the Moose Lodge. And there was plenty for them to munch on – everything from braised short ribs and Hawaiian poke to cupcakes and ice cream.

Some three dozen businesses participated, with the goal of bringing together the town's cuisine, culture and commerce in a first-of-its-kind event hosted by the Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce.

Fifteen local restaurants, caterers and home-based food busi-

nesses were joined by a number of other businesses and non-profit groups that were there to showcase their products and services.

The winners of the "People's Choice Awards" – chosen by attendees who voted by placing tickets at favorite tables – were (1st) Aurora Catering, (2nd) El Rancho Supermercado and (3rd) Aroma Cuisine of India. "Best Bite of the Night" went to Pokeatery at Lake Chabot Public Market.

The event was an opportunity for Castro Valley residents to sample foods that they may not have known were available in their home town.

The evening was capped off by the announcement from Michael Tacconi, President of the Chamber's Board of Directors, that Ashley Strasburg had been named Executive Director of the CV/EA Chamber of Commerce after serving as interim for the past several months.

The Chamber's next event will take place on Tuesday, April 25, with the kick-off of "Castro Valley Street Eats" in partnership with Food Truck Mafia and Hayward Area Recreation District. The recurring Tuesday night event will take place at the Adobe Art Park located at 20395 San Miguel Ave.

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



### Caught Trespassing

Sunday, April 2: at 4:48 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 54-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of trespassing behind a business on Jamison Way near Redwood Road. The man was spotted on surveillance cameras trying to access a restricted area. Deputies took the man into custody.

### Drug Paraphernalia

Sunday, April 2: at 12:16 p.m., a 51-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the man for questioning on Carnation Lane and Somerset Avenue when they discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

### Two Wanted Men

Saturday, April 1: at 2:50 p.m., deputies arrested two men from Oakland with outstanding warrants issued for their capture. A 54-year-old man and a 64-year-old man were stopped at a gas station on Castro Valley Boulevard near Wisteria Street when deputies verified their warrants. The younger man was previously charged with breaking and entering and violating the terms of his parole. The older gentleman was previously charged with driving with an expired license, violating the terms of his parole and resisting arrest.

Deputies transported the men to Santa Rita Jail where they were held without bail.

### Illegal Stun-Gun and Drug Paraphernalia was No Joke

Saturday, April 1: at 10:22 a.m., a 34-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics, illegal drug paraphernalia, and illegal possession of a stun gun. The woman was hanging outside a trailer park on Castro Valley Boulevard near Forest Avenue when deputies arrived and discovered her stash. The woman was taken into custody.

### Business Burglar

Sunday, April 2: at 4:33 a.m., deputies arrested a 45-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of breaking and entering with intent to burgle a business

on Grove Way near Center Street. The man was lurking around the back of a building when deputies spotted him and handcuffed him. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his arrest. Deputies took him to Santa Rita Jail pending \$50,000 in bail.

### Graffiti Artist Arrested After Refusing to Leave

Thursday, March 30: at 2:16 p.m., a 37-year-old man with no permanent residence was arrested on suspicion of graffiti vandalism and refusing to leave a property even after asked by a manager. Deputies were called to a business on Redwood Road and Jamison Avenue to investigate a complaint about the man. The man also was wanted as part of a warrant issued for his arrest. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$5,000 in bail.

see REPORTS on back page

## Eden Medical Center Offering Medical-Related Scholarships

Eden Medical Center Auxiliary in Castro Valley is offering scholarships to eligible students who are currently enrolled in – or have been accepted into – medical-related programs (including Dental Hygiene), at the university/college level for the following academic school year.

Applicants must reside in Eden Township, which includes Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Cherryland and Ashland districts. Applications are available at Eden Medical Center concierge desk, 20103 Lake Chabot Road in CV. The application deadline is May 31st, 2017.

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## The Week Ahead

### ● Thursday, April 6: Parkinson's Support Group

The San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group will hold its next meeting with an open discussion tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the San Lorenzo Community Church, 945 Paseo Grande in San Lorenzo. For information call Lona White at 510-276-3119.

### ● Thursday, April 6: Annual Fly Fishing Auction

Tri-Valley Fly Fishers will hold its Annual Fly Fishing Auction tomorrow with a preview at 6 p.m. and auction at 7, at the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club, 4000 Dagnino Road, Livermore. Included will be rods, reels, lines, hand-tied flies, plus wine, olive oil, jewelry and gift certificates. For more info, contact President@Tri-valleyflyfishers.org

### ● Friday-Sunday, April 7-9: Spring Book Sale

Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold the Spring Book Sale this weekend with over 300 boxes of books including fiction, children's, and many non-fiction books. Also CDs and DVDs. Member's Night is 6-8 p.m. this Friday, April 7 (memberships available at the door). The sale continues from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and concludes with the Bag Sale from 1 to 4 Sunday afternoon – \$3 per bag, provided by the Friends. Proceeds provide financial support for library programs.

### ● Friday, April 7: Eden Area Village

Eden Area Village is developing a non-profit membership based neighborhood "Village" that will help people in the Castro Valley, Hayward, and the San Lorenzo areas stay in their homes as they age. Public outreach meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at Hayward City Hall. Next meeting is this Friday.

### ● Saturday, April 8: Boy Scout Garage Sale

Boy Scout Troop 722 will hold a fundraising sale from 8 a.m. to noon this Saturday at Castro Valley High School in the Redwood Road Parking Lot by the swimming pool. For more information, email John at jk4peace@gmail.com

### ● Saturday, April 8: American Legion Flea Market

The American Legion Auxiliary will host a Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans Building, 22737 Main St. in Hayward.

### ● Saturday, April 8: Hearing Loss Association Meeting

Stanford Medical Center's Chief of Audiology Dr. Matthew Fitzgerald, will discuss Cochlear Implants this Saturday at our next meeting when we will honor our most generous donor and member, Patricia Cross. Refreshments at 9:30 a.m., program at 10, at the Oakland Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., Lower Level, Room G26. Park free on Saturday in the garage across Howe St. For more info, email athos.artist@att.net or call Kay at 510-886-4717.

### ● Saturday, April 8: A Taste of Nature's Salad

Savor, taste and discover some of nature's freshest salad ingredients and wild veggies that grow along the East Bay hills, and take a walk along Sulphur Creek Nature Center's trail to experience spring's edible plants, this Saturday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at 1801 D St. in Hayward. Wear your walking shoes for this \$20 adults-only program. Register (required) at www.HaywardRec.org or call 510-881-6700.

### ● Saturday & Sunday, April 8-9: Bake Sale & Raffle

St. Gerard Women's Club of St. John's Church, 264 E. Lewelling Blvd., San Lorenzo is having its annual Easter Bake Sale and Raffle this weekend, starting after the 4:30 p.m. Mass this Saturday and again on Sunday. A continental breakfast will be offered after all the Masses on Sunday. Celebrate with lots of baked goods, prizes and a "trinkets & treasures" booth, with all proceeds going to St. John's Church.

### ● Monday, April 10: Eagles' Bingo Luncheon

Eagles Auxiliary 1139 will serve a ham and scalloped potatoes lunch at noon on April 10 at Eagles Hall, 24106 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. Bring a friend and enjoy an afternoon of food and bingo. A donation of \$8 includes one bingo card. Call 510-584-1568 for further details.

### ● Tuesday, April 11: Booklegger Orientation Meeting

An Orientation Meeting will take place from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on April 11 when volunteer "Bookleggers" will meet library staff, get a demonstration of Booklegging, learn about the training program, and understand the commitment necessary to be an outstanding Booklegger who introduces books to kids in grades K to 5th. RSVP for the meeting by emailing cselig@aclibrary.org. For more information, call 510-667-7900.

### ● Wednesday, April 12: Sons In Retirement meeting

SIRs, an organization of retired men, meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Wedgewood Center at the Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Drive in Oakland. Happy Hour at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Great guest speakers, neither religious nor political. Guests are welcome. Come and meet new friends. For more information call Mel at 510-357-0601.

### ● Wednesday, April 19: East Bay Rose Society

Learn how to do show-stopping rose displays for home or exhibition with demonstrations and tips at the next meeting of the Society at 7:30 p.m. on April 19 at Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue in Oakland. Com enjoy snacks and meet people who talk roses. For more info, visit www.eastbayroses.org

## Arts & Entertainment

### CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Tickets for Center for the Arts events listed below are available online at [www.cvartsfoundation.org](http://www.cvartsfoundation.org); or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. phone 889-8961; or at the CV Adult School, 4430 Alma Ave.

● **Concerto Concert** will be presented by the Castro Valley High School Orchestra at 7 p.m. this Friday, April 7, featuring six of CVHS's outstanding instrumental music students performing solos. For tickets (\$5-\$10), see above.

### THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"Wait Until Dark,"** a psychological thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat, opens this Friday, April 7 and runs through April 30 at Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on April 9, 23, and 30. Opening Night Gala on April 7 includes complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres. For tickets (general \$25, seniors and students \$20), visit [chanticleers.org](http://chanticleers.org) or call 510-733-5483. Bargain night is this Saturday, April 8, when all seats are just \$20.

● **"Side by Side by Sondheim,"** a musical revue featuring the songs of the incomparable Stephen Sondheim, will be presented by the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North 3rd St. in Hayward, opening this Friday, April 7 and running thru the 23rd. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and Thursday, April 20. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays and on Saturday, April 15. For tickets (\$10-\$29), visit [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org) or call 510-881-6777.

● **"The Taming of the Shrew,"** the controversial Shakespeare comedy, will be presented by the Castro Valley Dramatic Arts Academy at 6:30 p.m. on April 6 and 7, and at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on April 8, in the Canyon Middle School Little Theatre (also known as Room D-11).

### ART GALLERIES & EVENTS

● **Watercolor Painting Demonstration** will be presented by well-known artist Carolyn Lord, a signature member of both the National Watercolor Society and the California Art Club, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue. To see examples of her work go to [carolynlord.com](http://carolynlord.com).

● **"Unmentionable: The Indiscreet Stories of Artifacts,"** an original exhibition exploring topics and artifacts that we, as a society, find uncomfortable to talk about, including race, lifestyle, politics and personal adornment, will be on exhibit from April 5 to July 30 at the HAHS Museum, 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward.

● **Art IS Education**, sponsored by Hayward Arts Council, features the works of Hayward students at the John O'Lague Galleria in Hayward City Hall thru May 25. Meet and greet the artists from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28. Gallery hours: M-F 9-5. For more exhibits and events, visit [www.haywardartscouncil.org/](http://www.haywardartscouncil.org/)

● **The Artist Within 2**, the works of Sorensdale Recreation Center featuring a variety of media including two and three-dimensional pieces, will be on exhibit at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley until April 29.

● **Hayward Chinese School Art** featuring Chinese calligraphy, brush painting, mixed media and crafts by the art students of the Multicultural Education Research Center will be on display until April 26 at The Alameda County Law Library, 125 12th St. in Oakland.

● **"Getting to Know the Map,"** an exhibition of 40 years of photography by Geir and Kate Jordahl, featuring the images shaped by 40 years of exploring, studying, traveling and teaching, is now on display at PhotoCentral Gallery, 1099 E Street in Hayward. A book release and signing will be on April 13 from 7-9 p.m.

## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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### Submissions to The Forum

To submit Calendar listings or news stories for possible publication, send information by the prior Friday in an email, or attach a document with photos to: [fredz@ebpublishing.com](mailto:fredz@ebpublishing.com), or fax information to 510-814-9691.

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**Randy McFarland**

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

• Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) usually meets on land-use issues on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, and holds general purpose meetings on most 3rd Mondays. Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library 3600 Norbridge Avenue.

• Castro Valley School Board usually meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4400 Alma Ave.

• Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at 21040 Marshall St.

• Alameda County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers at 1221 Oak St. in Oakland.

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SENIORS

# Choosing a Medical Alert System

By Jim Miller  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A GOOD MEDICAL ALERT system is an affordable and effective tool that can help keep seniors safe, but with all the choices available today choosing one can be quite confusing. Here are some tips that can help.

## How They Work

Medical alert systems, which have been around for about 40 years, are popular products for elderly seniors who live alone.

Leased for about \$1 a day, these basic systems provide a wearable help button – usually in the form of a neck pendant or wristband – and a base station that connects to the home phone line, or to a cellular network if no landline is present.

At the press of a button, you could call and talk to a trained operator through the system's base station receiver, which works like a powerful speakerphone. The operator will find out what's wrong, and will notify family members, a

friend, neighbor or emergency services as needed.

In addition to the basic home systems, many companies today (for an additional fee) are also offering motion sensitive pendants that can detect a fall and automatically call for help if your mom is unable to push the button.

And mobile medical alerts that work when your away from home. Mobile alerts work like cell phones with GPS tracking capabilities. They allow you to talk and listen to the operator directly through the pendant button, and because of the GPS, your general location would be known in order for help to be sent.

## What to Consider

When shopping for a home medical alert system, here are some things to look for to help you choose a quality system:

- Extra help buttons: Most companies offer waterproof neck pendant and wristband help buttons, but some also offer wall-mounted buttons that can be placed near the floor in high fall risk areas like the

bathroom or kitchen, in the event your loved one isn't wearing their pendant.

- Range: The base station should have a range of at least 400 feet so it can be activated from anywhere on your mom's property – even in the yard.

- Backup: Make sure the system has a battery backup in case of a power failure.

- Monitoring: Make sure the response center is staffed with trained emergency operators located in the U.S., are available on a 24-hour basis, and responds to calls promptly.

- Contacts: Choose a company that provides multiple contact choices – from emergency services, to a friend or family member who lives nearby – that they can contact if your mom needs help.

- Certification: Find out if the monitoring center has been certified by Underwriters Laboratories, a nonprofit safety and consulting company.

see ALERT on page 7



PHOTO BY LINDA SANDSMARK

Youngsters at Palomares Elementary School's Bike Rodeo practiced hand signals and safe bicycle riding skills.

# Learning the Rules of the Road: Youngsters Attend 'Bike Rodeo'

By Linda Sandmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Castro Valley is known for its Rowell Ranch Rodeo in May, but a rodeo of a very different kind took place at Palomares Elementary School last Friday.

Palomares' first "Bike Rodeo" was held on campus after school, with the goal of teaching kids bicycle skills, street safety, and accident avoidance.

"This is our first Bike Safety Rodeo," said Principal Jennifer Tomita. "We're holding it as a result of our partnership with Safe Routes to School. Although we don't have many students who bike or walk to school here, we still think it's important because our students will be out in the community, whether as bikers or pedestrians."

Members of Cycles of Change, an organization that promotes bicycle programs for East Bay youth, assisted parent volunteers as they set up several learning stations.

A pedestrian safety area (Safe Moves) demonstrated the importance of pedestrian behavior, especially using crosswalks and observing traffic lights, signs and signals. Students also learned the dangers presented by jaywalking, distractions, and bad drivers.

Cycles of Change helped show students how to make sure their own helmets and bikes fit properly. The children learned hand signals and practiced riding single file in simulated street conditions, observing yield, stop and safety signs. Any student who didn't bring his or her own bike used a

loaner from the program.

Another popular station featured "Rock the Bike" stationary bicycle-powered blenders, where students pedaled their way to fresh fruit smoothies on the spot.

Officer Dan Jacowitz of the California Highway Patrol presented a safety movie, and students decorated helmets and bicycles at an arts and crafts station. The Alameda County Fire Department also brought a truck for kids to check out.

"We'd like to thank our parents, our coordinators Jay Benson and Katie Bennett, the California Highway Patrol, and Stephanie Jim from Safe Routes to School," said Tomita.

Grants from Alameda County helped fund the Safe Routes to School activities.

## CVSAN PUMP STATION 4 FORCEMAIN PROJECT



This spring Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) will replace a degraded forcemain located near the intersection of Camino Alta Mira and Redwood Rd, as well as redesign the flume hatch located at CVSan's outfall near the Hayward Area Senior Center. The forcemain pipe will be relocated to allow easier access for maintenance and the flume hatch redesign will reduce odors in the surrounding area.

This \$376,000 project will be completed by TerraCon Constructors, Inc., and construction could begin as early as April 2017. This project is scheduled to be completed by mid-July 2017.

Visit [cvsan.org/projects](http://cvsan.org/projects) for more information on this and other upcoming projects.

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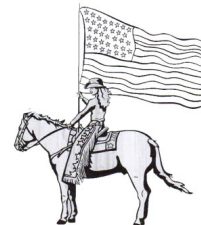
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## Chili Cook-Off

Friday, May 12—5pm

[CVChiliCookoff.com](http://CVChiliCookoff.com)

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Rowell Ranch Rodeo

## Parade

Saturday, May 13—10am

[RowellRanchRodeoParade.com](http://RowellRanchRodeoParade.com)

Buy Tickets

## Rowell Ranch Rodeo

May 13-21

[RowellRanchRodeo.com](http://RowellRanchRodeo.com)



\*Parade Theme: Join the Parade and celebrate your Local Hero - (A hero could be an individual, group, organization, or animal!)



## Getting Old Has Benefits

By Jim Miller  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

One of the great perks of growing older in America is the many discounts available to boomers and seniors.

There are literally thousands of discounts on a wide variety of products and services including restaurants, grocery stores, travel and lodging, entertainment, retail and apparel, health and beauty, automotive services and much more.

These discounts – typically ranging between 5 and 25 percent off – can add up to save you hundreds of dollars each year.

So, if you don't mind admitting your age, here are some tips and tools to help you find the discounts you may be eligible for.

### Always Ask

The first thing to know is most businesses don't advertise them, but many give senior discounts just for asking, so don't be shy.

You also need to know that while some discounts are available as soon as you turn 50, many others may not kick in until you turn 55, 60, 62 or 65.

### Search Online

Because senior discounts frequently change and can vary depending on where you live and the time of the year, the Internet is the easiest way to help you locate them.

To do a search, start by visiting SeniorDiscounts.com, which lists thousands of discounts that you can search for by city and state, and by the category you're interested in, for free.

You can also look for discounts at TheSeniorList.com, which provides a large list of national and regional business chains that offer them, or you can Google them individually. Just go to Google.



com and type in the business or organization you're curious about, followed by "senior discount" or "senior discount tickets."

If you use a smartphone, another tool is the Sciddy app (see Sciddy.com) that lets you search for senior discounts and can send you alerts when you're at an establishment that offers them.

### Join a Club

Another good avenue to senior discounts is through membership organizations like AARP, which offers its 50 and older members a wide variety of discounts through affiliate businesses (see AARPdiscounts.com).

If, however, you're not the AARP type, there are other alternative organizations you can join that also provide discounts such as The Seniors Coalition or the American Seniors Association. Or, for federal workers, there's the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

### Types of Discounts

Here's an abbreviated rundown of some of the different types of discounts you can expect to find.

**Restaurants:** Senior discounts are common at restaurants and fast

food establishments – like Burger King, Chick-fil-A, Subway, Wendy's, Applebee's and Golden Corral – ranging from free/discounted drinks, to discounts off total order.

**Retailers:** Many thrift stores like Goodwill, and certain retailers like Banana Republic, Kohl's, Michaels and Ross stores offer a break to seniors on certain days of the week.

see **BENEFITS** on back page

## Work and Collect Retirement?

By Jim Miller  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

You can collect Social Security retirement benefits and work at the same time, but depending on how old you are and how much you earn, some or all of your benefits could be temporarily withheld. Here's what you should know.

### Working Rules

Social Security says that if you're under your full retirement age – which is 66 if you were born between 1943 and 1954, or 66 and 2 months if you were born in 1955 – and are collecting benefits, then you can earn up to \$16,920 in 2017 without jeopardizing any of your Social Security if you don't reach your full retirement age this year.

But if you earn more than the \$16,920 limit, you'll lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over that amount.

In the year you reach your full retirement age, a less stringent rule applies. If that happens in 2017, you can earn up to \$44,880 from January to the month of your birthday with no penalty. But if you earn more than \$44,880 during that time, you'll lose \$1 in benefits for every \$3 over that limit. And

once your birthday passes, you can earn any amount by working without your benefits being reduced at all.

Wages, bonuses, commissions, and vacation pay all count toward the income limits, but pensions, annuities, investment earnings, interest, capital gains and government or military retirement benefits do not. To figure out how much your specific earnings will affect your benefits, see the Social Security Retirement Earnings Test Calculator at [SSA.gov/OACT/COLA/REffect.html](http://SSA.gov/OACT/COLA/REffect.html).

It's also important to know that if you do lose some or all of your Social Security benefits because of the earning limits, they aren't lost forever. When you reach full retirement age, your benefits will be recalculated to a higher amount to make up for what was withheld.

For details and examples of how this is calculated, see [SSA.gov/planners/retire/whileworking2.html](http://SSA.gov/planners/retire/whileworking2.html).

For more information on how working can affect your Social Security benefits see [SSA.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html](http://SSA.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html), or call the Social Security at 410-965-2039 and ask to receive a free copy of publication number

05-10069, "How Work Affects Your Benefits."

### Tax Factor

In addition to the Social Security rules, you need to factor in Uncle Sam too. Because working increases your income, it might make your Social Security benefits taxable.

Here's how it works. If the sum of your adjusted gross income, nontaxable interest, and half of your Social Security benefits is between \$25,000 and \$34,000 for individuals (\$32,000 and \$44,000 for couples), you have to pay tax on up to 50 percent of benefits.

Above \$34,000 (\$44,000 for couples), you could pay on up to 85 percent, which is the highest portion of Social Security that is taxable. About a third of all people who get Social Security have to pay income taxes on their benefits.

For information, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of publication 915 "Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits," or you can see it online at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf](http://IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf).

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org).

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## Alert: Medical Systems

continued from previous page  
**Top Rated Companies**

While there are dozens of companies that offer medical alert systems, here are some top options that offer both home and mobile alerts: Bay Alarm Medical (fees start at \$30/month for a home landline system, [bayalarmmedical.com](http://bayalarmmedical.com), 877-522-9633); Life Station (\$30/month, [lifestation.com](http://lifestation.com), 800-554-4600); Medical Alert (\$33/month, [medicalalert.com](http://medicalalert.com), 800-800-2537); MobileHelp (\$30/month, [mobilehelpnow.com](http://mobilehelpnow.com), 800-992-0616); and Phillips Lifeline (\$30/month plus a \$50 activation fee, [lifelinesys.com](http://lifelinesys.com), 855-681-5351).

Most of these companies offer discounts if you pay three to 12 months in advance.

For mobile medical alerts only, you should also see GreatCall's Lively Mobile and Wearable (these cost \$50 plus a \$20 to \$35 monthly service fee, [greatcall.com](http://greatcall.com)).

com, 866-359-5606) and Consumer Cellular's Ally (\$150 plus \$25 per month, [consumercellular.com](http://consumercellular.com), 888-345-5509).

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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### San Leandro Times

2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro [www.sanleandrotimes.com](http://www.sanleandrotimes.com)



## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

### Creekside Wrestlers

This week's Athletes of the Week are the members of the Creekside girls wrestling team who competed in the California Girls Middle School State Championships at Jesse Bethal High School in Vallejo on last Saturday.

Creekside sent seven girls to the State Championships, where they saw the best wrestlers throughout the state. Five of them placed: at 95 pounds, Carlia Ott, 6th place; at 107 pounds, Emily Weed, 5th place; at 118 pounds, Courtney Michalowski, 3rd place; at 145 pounds, Samantha Garcia, 2nd place; and at 155 pounds, Abby Kwan, 6th place.



Members of the Creekside girls wrestling team

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## A SPORTING VIEW

# Raiders Moving to Las Vegas

By Mark Vasto  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Looks like when you bring \$750 million to the table, having a professional football team in Las Vegas doesn't look like such a bad bet anymore, does it now?

Since Vegas' inception as America's gambling mecca, professional sports has eschewed the town, ostensibly because they didn't want to be hit with the gambling tar brush.

And it wasn't without good reason -- in those days, the people taking bets weren't math nerds working for corporate, capeesh?

Not that gambling hasn't always been pervasive in sports in any city anyway ... it's just that putting your sport in Vegas would be like locking yourself in a cage with a mama grizzly after she just saw you kick her cub through the uprights. (She bet the under.)

On March 27, the great city of Oakland got kicked in its rotten teeth yet again by the Davis family, those leather jacket-wearing sadists who love nothing more than to bring pain to the NFL's most passionate, cosplaying fanbase.

Unable (read: unwilling) to hash out a deal with Oakland that made sense to both parties, the Raiders

were able to secure the extra money in various ways (that don't really matter for the purposes of this story) in order to make the move.

In the words of my great journalist friend Nadia Pflaum at the Ogden Standard: "Moving is expensive, yo!"

The upshot is, the Raiders have a new stadium on the way, Las Vegas will have an NFL team and Oakland will plan ahead for 2030, when New Orleans and Jacksonville will need new stadia (Tampa Bay will too, but I doubt they'll pull up stakes).

But breakups are never easy.

Oakland fans are left cursing themselves for having fallen for it again. From the first Reagan administration, the Raiders were rotten in Los Angeles. Then they came back. Now they're leaving ... two years from now. With a season-ticket waiting list. Awkward.

It gets weirder. The vote to allow the Raiders to move was supposedly heavily lobbied for by both Davis and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

Davis is, by all bank accounts, considered to be the poorest of the rich, and he could not pass up the deal of a brand-new, municipally funded stadium.

Jones, who pushed hard for the San Diego and St. Louis to Los Angeles deals, has vested interests in new stadiums everywhere: His entertainment services company Legends handles the luxury box contracts. He's happy, the league is happy.

San Diego lost the Chargers, but it can be calmed with soccer. St. Louis is a baseball town.

Since Vegas went corporate, it's been one of the safest towns to host a sports team. The question will come down to fan base.

It's a resort town, service-industry heavy and there's a high unemployment rate and a relatively small population for a NFL city ... less than half the size of Oakland's metro area. The NHL will break the ice, so to speak, and I see no reason why they shouldn't enjoy the same rapturous success that met the Atlanta Thrashers.

But Mark Davis and the Raiders will stick around as long as someone is dealing. That's a bet you can always count on.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sports-writer who lives in New Jersey.

(c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

## CVHS BOYS TENNIS RESULTS

Thurs., March 30, CVHS at Berkely  
Berkeley 4, Castro Valley 3

### SINGLES

1. Thomas Wright (B) - Timothy Wu 4-6, 7-5, 2-3 retired injury
2. Edward Wang (CV) - Tyler Riverbay 6-3, 6-3
3. Sohun Sankg (B) - Rohit Sinha 4-6, 7-5, 6-4
4. Michael Gutierrez (B) - Alex Low 6-2, 6-2

### DOUBLES

1. Cameron Henritay / Daniel Kivel- Goldstein (B) VS. Gabriel Priem / Dustin Fong 6-1, 6-1
2. Leon Chen / Ashir Gupta (CV) VS. Fintan O'Sullivan / Ari Libenson 6-2, 2-6, 6-2
3. Brendan Soo / Scott Coleman (CV) VS. Malachi O'Sullivan / Ruben Bergstranj 6-1, 6-4

Tues., March 28, CVHS at San Leandro  
Castro Valley 6, San Leandro 1

### SINGLES

1. Timothy Wu (CV) - Jefferson Lei 6-0, 6-2
2. Edward Wang (CV) - Ben Duong 6-1, 6-2
3. Rohit Sinha (CV) - Yuyi Cai 6-2, 6-3
4. Wesley Tat (SL) - Peter Maina 6-4, 6-2

### DOUBLES

1. Dustin Fong / Gabe Priem (CV) - John Cristobal / Ghyle Nebril 6-1, 6-4
2. Leon Chen / Ashir Gupta (CV) - Diego Mejia / Miguel Reyes 6-3, 6-2
3. Brendan Soo / Scott Coleman (CV) - Watson Liang / Sonny Lew 6-1, 6-2



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## CVLL Offers Scholarship

Castro Valley Little League has started at \$500 scholarship fund in the name of the league's former president, Joe Kinsella.

This award is for graduating seniors who have played for the league for a minimum of five years.

If interested in applying, instructions and application are online at: [castrovalleylittleleague.org/](http://castrovalleylittleleague.org/)



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



### Agents Have Responsibility to Fully Disclose

With California leading the nation in real estate disclosure laws, it is critical for sellers to understand the importance of full disclosure.

Nothing can be worse than ending up in court with a buyer who believes the seller either intentionally hid defects or neglected to provide adequate notification about neighborhood issues.

In addition to the disclosures provided by the sellers, the listing agent and buyer's agents have a responsibility to disclose as mandated by the State of California Bureau of Real Estate.

The mandatory Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement states that agents must provide "a reasonably competent and diligent visual inspection of the accessible areas of the property."

Both agents are required to examine the property room-by-room and from the front curb to the back fence. As they proceed area-by-area, they write down their observa-

tions on a form entitled the "Agent Visual Inspection Disclosure" (AVID).

This is not a technical inspection (eg. property, termite and roof). Agents are to describe what they see and are not to provide any diagnosis. A standard joke is that it is the only inspection that can be performed in high heels.

The AVID is important. First, it guarantees that the agents representing the buyers and/or sellers have actually visited the house. Although hard to imagine, at the height of the foreclosure crisis, I saw transactions where neither the listing agent nor the buyer's agent had actually visited the home being sold.

Second, it means that the agents are providing due diligence in representing their clients. They have taken the time to go through the property and itemize potential issues, defects, damage or any red flags they may see.

Agents need to take this respon-

sibility seriously. As a buyer's agent, I've walked through many homes with the listing agent's AVID in hand and have seen any number of items either missed or ignored by the agent.

Sellers sometimes have objections to the AVID, believing the listing agent is pointing out defects that might limit their chances of getting a fair price. Truthfully, if an agent can spot issues while walking through, you can guarantee a potential buyer or their agent will see them as well. If a seller is concerned about items that appear on an AVID, then they should take steps to remedy the issues.

Disclose, Disclose, Disclose is the Golden Rule of real estate and, if done correctly, will keep everyone out of court.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association at [www.ccmgtoday.com](http://www.ccmgtoday.com).

### Grill's Drippings Stain Patio Bricks

By Samantha Mazzotta  
Special to the Forum

*The patio bricks underneath my grill tend to catch a lot of grease and oil drippings. I clean up after every barbecue, but there are still stains on the brick from the grease. How can I get these up without bleaching out the spots?*

With porous surfaces like brick and concrete, oil stains can set in and be tough to get out. Your instinct to avoid using bleach or another type of acid to clean up the stains (like lemon juice) is right on. These can just make things worse and can discolor some types of paving.

Clearing the grease stain may take a few attempts with a num-

ber of cleaning agents. Start with the least harmful materials, most of which can be found in your kitchen or garage.

First, fill an old coffee mug with warm water, a couple of tablespoons of dish soap and a teaspoon of salt. Grab a clean synthetic scrubber brush (like a

dishwashing brush). Scrub the stain with the soapy water and rinse with warm water, repeating a few times and letting the bricks dry out to see the results in between each try.

If that doesn't clear the stain, you can try an oil-stain cleaner *see BRICKS on page 11*



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One-Line Open Home Listings run Wednesdays in the Castro Valley Forum (22,500 circ.) and Thursdays in the San Leandro Times (38,500 circ.) for \$25. For more information and a listing form, call 614-1558. DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT NOON.

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## Wild Winter Weather Causes Camellia Calamity

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**Q** Why are my camellia flowers so terrible looking this year? The center of the flowers are all brown.

**A** The spring blooming camellias, Camellia Japonica, are susceptible to a fungus disease called camellia petal blight. It hasn't been a problem the last couple of years because of the lack of rain. But, with the wet, damp conditions in January and February, it returned.



The white and pink varieties are more susceptible than the red ones. Also, Sasanqua Camellias are not affected due to their early blooming period rather than any resistance to the fungus.

The brown discoloration or rot in the center is sometimes confused with the normal damage caused by the winter wind, rain and frost. This type of environmental damage causes the edges of the flowers to turn brown and

the browning progresses toward the center of the flower.

Camellia petal blight starts at the center or core of the flower and works its way to the outer edges of the petals. Eventually, the fungus invades the base of the flower where a hard, black structure called a sclerotia forms.

This will be the source of the problem next year. It drops off and remains dormant below the plant, until just before the flowering season, when it germinates to produce small, cup-shaped reproductive structures. These structures release

spores which are dispersed in the air and land on the buds or open flowers.

The sclerotia can survive for at least five years and they don't all germinate the first year. Hence, it can skip several years in a row before returning with the right conditions.

Also, the infected flowers and/or buds may or may not fall prematurely.

There are no chemical controls for camellia petal blight, although the fungicide Captan would work if you could find it.

Good sanitation practices are then the only solution available to gardeners. You need to keep the spent flowers cleaned up under the canopy of the plants but don't place them in your compost pile as the sclerotia will survive there.

And, finally, in problem years, replace the mulch with a fresh layer of organic material in May.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and the Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers. His web address is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com). Send questions



**There are no chemical controls to combat camellia petal blight.**

by email to [dirtgarden@aol.com](mailto:dirtgarden@aol.com) or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/dirtgardener](https://www.facebook.com/dirtgardener). Send questions Buzz.Bertolero.

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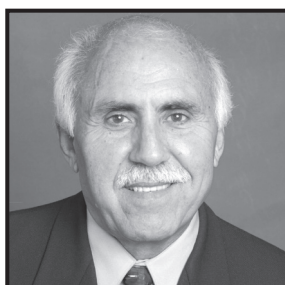
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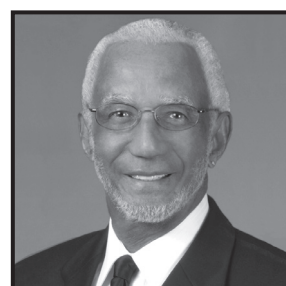
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## Housing Market Sees Another Decline in Mortgage Rates

Average mortgage rates dropped significantly last week for the second consecutive week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.14 percent, down from the previous week when it averaged 4.23 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 3.71 percent.

The 15-year fixed rate averaged 3.39 percent, down from 3.44 percent the week before.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.18 percent last week, down from 3.24 percent.

## Bricks: Place a mat to protect the area and clean up spills promptly

*continued from page 9*

purchased at your local home-improvement store. Some DIYers recommend applying an engine degreaser and letting it sit for about an hour, but test any cleaning agent or degreaser on an inconspicuous spot first.

The sad truth is that it's unlikely any cleaner, commercial or homemade, will completely clear away the grease stain. More powerful or acidic cleaning agents could damage the

brick, so they should be avoided.

If the stain is really bad, consider replacing the brick. If it's not too bad, clean the area as best you can and cover it with a grill mat which may prevent further staining.

**Home Tip:** To prevent your grill's grease and oil drips from staining your patio or deck surface, place a grill mat underneath, and clean up spills promptly.

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## RECENT HOME SALES

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5065 Elrod Drive	94546	\$773,000	3 BD - 1,530 SF - 1950
21736 Gail Drive	94546	\$732,000	2 BD - 1,959 SF - 1968
2770 Ganic Street	94546	\$1,334,000	9 BD - 3,636 SF - 1962
4431 Gem Avenue	94546	\$670,000	3 BD - 1,273 SF - 1950
3080 Greenview Drive	94546	\$695,000	3 BD - 1,272 SF - 1954
18801 Huber Drive	94546	\$780,000	4 BD - 1,744 SF - 1935
4415 James Avenue	94546	\$813,000	4 BD - 1,891 SF - 1957
18027 Redwood Road	94546	\$700,000	3 BD - 1,337 SF - 1950
20110 San Miguel Avenue	94546	\$725,000	3 BD - 2,340 SF - 1935
3380 Sydney Way	94546	\$970,000	4 BD - 2,108 SF - 1954
21164 Walker Court	94546	\$648,000	3 BD - 1,188 SF - 1954
18515 Watters Drive	94546	\$1,075,000	4 BD - 3,274 SF - 1964
20756 Woodside Way	94546	\$712,000	3 BD - 1,452 SF - 1952
20219 Waterford Place	94552	\$592,000	3 BD - 1,726 SF - 1981

<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$592,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$728,500</b>
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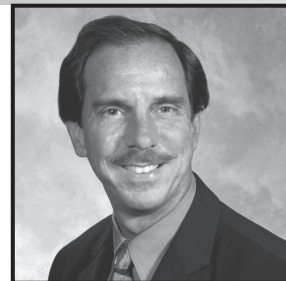
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# LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR  
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## Better Ways to Control Castro Valley's 21st Century Traffic Than with 1960's Technology

Editor:

With 21st Century self-driving cars coming to Castro Valley, doesn't anyone notice that they are going to be controlled by 1960's technology traffic lights?

The pavement sensors used now keep the lights green long after traffic has passed below, and only turn them red just as dozens of cars arrive. This happens repeatedly on any trip through town.

There are plenty of technologies to measure the speed and direction of vehicles. Why not use these with a control system that saves time, fuel, and brakes, while deterring speeders with red lights?

—Bill McIntyre, Castro Valley

## Urges Protest Against Sanitary District Rate Increases

Editor:

The Castro Valley Sanitary District once again wants to raise our sewer service rates 5% for FY 2017-2018 (to \$399 per year) and another 5% for FY 2018-2019 (to \$419 per year). The rate increases are based on budgets that are fundamentally flawed.

Here is what happened for FY 2015-2016. Two years ago, based on a budget showing a \$1.2 million deficit, the Board of Directors raised the sewer service rates 12% from \$303 per year to \$340 per year for all residential customers, with similar increases for commercial and industrial customers.

After an audit was done for FY 2015-2016, it turns out that instead of a \$1.2 million deficit, there was a \$2.3 million surplus. The Board of Directors approved a budget that was \$3.5 million in error and resulted in an additional \$3 million in reserves for our Sanitary District.

Instead of raising the sewer service rates by 12%, the Board should have reduced the rates by 23% from \$303 per year to \$264 per year.

With that kind of blunder, the Board should have returned the \$106 surplus to the ratepayers, or at least applied the surplus to any future budget deficits, which would have resulted in balanced budgets for FY 2017-2018 and FY 2017-2018 AND with no increases

in sewer service charges.

Instead, the Board of Directors has simply transferred the surplus to a "reserve fund." This action by the Board of Directors is fiscally irresponsible and amounts to theft by our public servants, who promised us that they would keep our rates as low as possible.

I urge all of the ratepayers of the Castro Valley Sanitary District to submit a written protest against the proposed rate increases by June 6, 2017, as well as attending the public hearing scheduled for June 6.

—Kenneth Owen, Castro Valley

## Calls CVHS Journalism Instructor's Defense of Student Commentary Writers 'a Joke'

Editor:

For Mr. Johanson ("CVHS Writers' Fulfilled Highest Purpose of Journalism," *Letters*, March 29), as a journalism instructor, to tell us that the students who provided us such one-sided outlandish quotes as, "they (the Trump Administration) will do anything to get rid of us" have "fulfilled the highest purpose of American journalism" is a joke.

Journalism 1-A tells us that each and every story has two sides and it is the civic duty for all who call themselves journalist to report and quote from both sides of the issue.

Tell me, Mr. Johanson, just where in this wonderful piece of journalism did the students make any attempt to quote somebody with factual information on the travel ban and why it should be the law? Where is the conservative point of view?

You even admit that the students purpose was to, "interview local sources whose families are affected by the Trump order." Well, what about families who are affected in a positive way by feeling safer in their homes and when they travel? That's what a journalist is supposed to do and what your students failed to even attempt.

When I cannot read both sides of an issue to form a fair and honest opinion I call it a disservice to our community.

—Charles Scott, Castro Valley

## Worried About Traffic at Adobe When Food Trucks Visit

Editor:

I take an evening art class at the Adobe Center every quarter. As the weather warms up and the days get longer, lots of teenagers hang out on the road, leading to the parking lot and sometimes, just park their cars in the middle of the road. It is a little annoying, as there are parking slots on the side of the road and the park to hang out in, instead of the street.

My concern is that now I hear we are going to have food trucks in this area. Parking is already kind of crazy and trying to get around even more congestion, to get to classes is going to be a drag.

Is there going to be anyone monitoring this start up? Hopefully the Sheriff's department can help keep things under control?

I have nothing against food trucks, just the that there is only the one road into the Adobe center and it even more congested, if the trucks park on the road in.

—Tami Hammerton, Castro Valley

## Scores County Planners for Expanding of Pot Sales

Editor:

To the kids in our schools who have participated in the DARE programs (say "No" to drugs), your County Planning Commissioners have just said "yes" to drugs. Sorry, kids.

They have just said "yes" to the expanded number of dispensaries throughout our county, to the sale of drug edibles (without any testing policies in place), and to the venture of drug cultivation in the very communities in which you live. I hope they are happy with the legacy they are leaving you.

They may have been worn down by the process of too many meetings and too much input. They might have been tempted by the lure of being enlightened entrepreneurs in this unknown field of opportunity. But, basically, children, they have sold you out.

Money, greed and destruction are inherent in drugs, and in spite of all the rationalizing around these county proposals, these ordinances are nothing but promotion of drug sales. The Planning Commissioners have sent you the message that these drug endeavors are okay because our coffers are empty. They have sent all of us the message that we must jump on the drug propagation bandwagon because it is popular and inevitable, in spite of our own moral compasses.

Kids, I plead "Say no to drugs, especially in our communities. Say no to the Board of Supervisors in whose hands these ordinance proposals rest." It will not be easy. Nate Miley and Scott Haggerty are the major proponents of these proposals. That's two out of five on the Board.

Thanks to Planning Commissioner Goff who had the fortitude to stand up for his own moral compass and deny recommendation of these proposals to the Board. Let's hope there are more like him that will not cave in to intellectual rationalizations, weakness, or the money grab.

—Vicki Stadelman, Castro Valley

## Obituaries



### Steven P. Charland

born November 23, 1956, passed away early on March 14, 2017, with his beloved wife by his side. He was passionate in his hobbies and was an avid fisherman, bowler, co-founder and long-time member of the NorCal Galaxies Car Club, and the System 80 guru in the pinball community.

To try and find adequate words to describe Steve is difficult, because he was a true one-of-a-kind. He was authentic, honest and humble. He had a loud, contagious laugh that would always make you smile. He was driven by his passions. He was knowledgeable and never hesitated to share his gifts with others. Although he would shy away from being called a leader, he was certainly that to many in his close-knit pinball community.

Steve is preceded in death by his father, Ed. He is survived by his mother, Ruth; his brothers, Scott and Greg; his wife and love of 43 years, Cathy; his two daughters, Aubrey Harkey and Amber Charland; his grandchildren, Weston McKenzie, and Dorian and Denna Harkey.

Our hearts, although filled with sorrow, are overflowing with gratefulness to have had this wonderful and fun-loving husband, father, brother, uncle and friend in our lives. We promise to have your spirit of hard work and dedication to following our passions.

A Celebration of Life Memorial will be held Saturday, April 22, at 3 p.m. at Castro Valley Community Park.

### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

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CHARLAND, Steven  
COLVILLE, Benedicta  
KRAUSE PALMER, Fradelle

■ COLVILLE Benedicta "Benny," born June 2, 1921, passed away on March 31 2017. Viewing is Thursday, April 6, from 5 to 9 p.m. with a Rosary at 7 p.m. Services will be at Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward on Friday, April 7, at 10 a.m.

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### Fradelle (Billy) Krauss Palmer

October 27, 1918 - January 25, 2017

Fradelle passed away very peacefully at age 98 after a brief illness. She was born in Alameda and brought home from the hospital on Armistice Day with horns blaring and bells ringing celebrating the end of World War I.

In 1925, she and her family moved to Castro Valley, where her parents founded one of the early chicken ranches on Redwood Road just north of Castro Valley Boulevard. She grew up in Castro Valley, attending Castro Valley Grammar School, and was a 1936 graduate of Hayward High School. Fradelle was an accomplished pianist and played with her high school orchestra as well as a dance band. She was always involved with high school reunions and remained close with her fellow classmates.

In the fall of 1936, while attending San Jose State, where she earned an Associate In Arts Degree in photography, Fradelle went on a blind date arranged by her roommate. In 1938, she married her blind date, Harold Otto Palmer, after his graduation from U.C. Berkeley. In their early years of marriage, she and her husband were members of a Fife and Drum Corps and the Hayward Dance Club.

They raised a family in their Castro Valley home, where Harold taught at Arroyo High School, Castro Valley High School, and later became the first Dean of Math and Sciences at Chabot College. Fradelle loved to host many social events for the faculty, and other groups, including weddings. She spent countless hours in her garden where she would decorate with rocks and driftwood collected from streams and seashores on her many camping trips with her family.

In 1989, Fradelle and Harold moved to Montana, where she volunteered with her church and traveled extensively to many parts of the world. In 2001, she sold her home and drove, in the dead of winter, back to California. Within three days, she purchased a home in Magalia, on an acre where she created a park-like setting and continued to share her love of music and entertaining by playing the piano well into her 90s. Her last three years were spent back in the Bay Area with family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold, and is survived by their two daughters, Ilona Wiseman (Bob) and Myrna Earl (Jack); 3 grandchildren, Christopher Wiseman, Stacey Earl and Travis Earl; and 7 great-grandchildren.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held on Sunday, April 9, at 1 p.m. at the Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. 3rd St., in Hayward.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF REDWOOD CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

## RCHS Concert Choir Honored

The Redwood Christian High School Concert Choir, a combination of both high school choirs, the International Choir and the Concert Choir, under the direction of Mark Cagle, was selected for a Command Performance at the Association of Christian Schools International Senior High Musicales on March 10. Eleven Christian high schools from throughout Northern California participated in the two-day event hosted by Capital Christian Center in Sacramento. The RCHS Concert Choir performed *Baba Yetu* (meaning "Our Father"), a Swahili language-translation of the Lord's Prayer.

## Chabot Drama Teacher's National Award

Longtime Chabot College Professor Rachel LePell has received national recognition for innovation in teaching theater.

The prize, from the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and Association of Theater in Higher Education, is given to only eight college faculty members in the U.S. each year.

Chabot College also received an award for its commitment to new theater works through its "Emerging Works" program. The awards were made during the American College Theater Festival, held in Washington, D.C. which draws from a competitive field of colleges and universities across the nation.

"Emerging Works" highlights the efforts of new original plays that are written by students in a Playwriting class. The program has been underway for more than two decades at Chabot College under the direction of LePell, and features a week of performances staged by student actors, directors, and designers.

### COUNTY FAIR CONCERT SERIES

## Tickets on Sale Now For Sugar Ray, John Michael Montgomery

After a sell-out response to a limited number of reserved concert seats offered last year, Alameda County Fair has added a new section of "Premium Floor Seats" for its 2017 Concert Series.

The new section will be located in what is now an open area between the stage and first row of permanent seating. These seats are the new "best in the house," where fans can get close to their favorite performers like never before.

Premium Floor Seats are now available at \$42.99 through the Fair's website. One hundred fifty of the Floor seats will be offered for each headline show. All paid seat tickets include Fair admission.

In addition, 500 "Reserved Seats" are also available for every headline show at \$22.99. These are same reserved sections and seats offered last year.

All open seats are free with regular Fair admission and filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

Tickets for Sugar Ray and John Michael Montgomery are currently available through the Fair's website [www.alamedacountyfair.com](http://www.alamedacountyfair.com). Additional confirmed headliners include Clint Black, Tower of Power, America, Night Ranger, Sheila E. and more, with ticket sale dates to be announced.

Floor and reserved seats for tribute shows by Super Diamond, Queen Nation and Journey Revisited may be reserved free of charge in advance by Season Pass holders or by anyone who purchases a full-price (\$15) admission ticket. All open seats for tribute shows are free with admission.

Exclusive offers for season pass holders include show discounts and 24-hour, pre-sale window before tickets go on sale to the general public. Premium floor seats are \$30 and reserved seats are \$10. Season Passes, a \$300-plus value, are available now through the Fair's website for \$40 each.



John Michael Montgomery, one of several artists participating in Alameda County Fair's 2017 Concert Series.

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## Reports: Spousal Assault; Drug Bust

continued from page 3

### Spousal Assault

Thursday, March 30: at 11:09 p.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to an apartment on Anita Avenue near Castro Valley Boulevard. There, they arrested a 31-year-old man on suspicion of assault on his spouse. The man was taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

### Driving Intoxicated

Thursday, March 30: at 6:21 p.m., deputies arrested a 40-year-old man from Oakland on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. The man also had a warrant issued for his capture.

Deputies pulled the man over on Baker Road near Castro Valley Boulevard for weaving in and out of traffic. The man failed his field sobriety test and was taken to Santa Rita Jail and held without bail.

### Wanted Man Extradited To Southern California

Wednesday, March 29: at 5:44 p.m., a 34-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of spousal assault and driving under the influence of alcohol. The man was also wanted on felony charges in South Pasadena, California. Deputies stopped the man for a traffic infraction on Lake Chabot Road near the Castro Valley Community Center when

they made a positive identification on the warrant. The man was taken into custody pending transfer to a South Pasadena jail. The victim was treated at the scene.

### Drug Bust

Wednesday, March 29: at 3:31 a.m., deputies arrested a 26-year-old woman from Livermore on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and illegal amounts of marijuana. The woman was hanging outside a home on Nugget Canyon Drive near East Castro Valley Boulevard when deputies approached her for questioning and discovered her stash. The woman agreed to a blood sample but was then taken into custody.

## Benefits: Discounts For Seniors

continued from page 7

**Supermarkets:** Many locally owned grocery stores offer senior discount programs, as do some chains like Albertsons, Kroger, Publix and Fry's Supermarkets, which offer some discounts on certain days of the week but they vary by location.

**Travel:** Southwest Airlines provide the best senior fares in the U.S. to passengers 65 and older, while Amtrak offers a 15 percent discount and Greyhound offers 5 percent off to travelers over 62.

Most car rental companies provide discounts to customers who belong to organizations like AARP. Royal Caribbean, Celebrity and Carnival cruise lines offer discount rates to cruisers 55 and over. And, most hotels offer senior discounts, usually ranging from 10 to 30 percent.

**Entertainment:** Most movie theaters, museums, golf courses, ski slopes and other public entertainment venues provide reduced admission to seniors over 60 or 65. And the National Park Service offers a lifetime pass for those 62 and up for \$10.

## ADOPT-A-PET



**FEY** is an active, friendly and smart 3 year old gal who knows "sit" and "down." She loves going on walks and seems to be OK with other dogs. Good with kids 7 yrs+. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



**BUBBA** is just a big hunk of love. He likes ball and rope toys, leaning on his person and getting pets. He's a low-key boy who's already neutered! Good with kids 7 yrs+. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



**MIA** is approximately 4 years old and weighs just 5 1/2 lbs. She is timid at first but is a sweetheart once she gets to know you, constantly wagging her tail. Visit [www.dustypawsrescue.org](http://www.dustypawsrescue.org) for more information.



**GIGI** is a bright, petite grey tabby with white paws, approximately 1 year old as of 3/20/17. She loves to play; a pipe cleaner being her favorite toy by far. Visit [www.dustypawsrescue.org](http://www.dustypawsrescue.org) for more information.



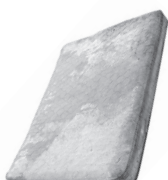
**EARTH DAY  
2017**

## Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> CVSan's Earth Day Clean-Up & Recycle

**RECYCLE at Canyon Middle School from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



E-Waste



Mattresses



Cooking Oil



Sensitive Documents for Shredding

Limits & instructions at [www.cvsan.org/ED](http://www.cvsan.org/ED)

**VOLUNTEER from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

### Clean-Up Sites:

Adobe Park, Cull Canyon Recreation Area, Castro Valley Creek, & Downtown Castro Valley and Lake Chabot Regional Park.

Free continental breakfast provided and a \$5.00 donation to one of three local charities will be made on your behalf after volunteering.

Register by April 17<sup>th</sup> at [www.cvsan.org/ED](http://www.cvsan.org/ED).

### FREE COMPOST AND C&D VOUCHERS:



Event is for CVSan residents & businesses only. Bring photo ID or WMAC/utility bill to event. Three 1-cubic foot bags per household or business. 600 Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris vouchers available. Supplies are limited – 1st come, 1st served. For complete details & instructions, visit [www.cvsan.org/ED](http://www.cvsan.org/ED).

## Castro Valley Police Officer Promoted to Captain of the Park District Department

Captain Lance Brede of Castro Valley has been promoted to serve as a captain in the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department.

Brede, 42, will oversee patrol operations throughout all 65 Regional Parks, the investigations unit and the volunteer safety patrol. He also will serve as liaison with the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

The veteran officer started his career with the District as a public safety student aide in December 1993. He was hired as a police officer in 1998 and worked his way

up through the ranks.

Captain Brede has worked as a detective, helicopter flight officer, SWAT team leader and commander, and most recently as patrol watch commander. A graduate of the FBI National Academy class 256 in Quantico, Virginia, Captain Brede is the recipient of both the district department's Distinguished Service Medal and Medal of Valor.

District General Manager Robert Doyle said Captain Brede's tactical and managerial experience "make him an excellent choice to command the patrol and investigative services or our police department."



Captain Lance Brede

9 Yard

15 Yard

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