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## VETERANS DAY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11: A DAY TO HONOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY



# CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 31

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

NO. 44

## INSIDE YOUR FORUM

### NEWS



#### Out of this World

CV students chat with astronaut aboard orbiting Space Station

Page 2

### SPORTS



#### Golf for Hope

Fifth Annual Hope Golf Marathon tournament raises \$84,000

Page 6

### SENIORS



#### A Will and a Way

Everything you need to know about ethical wills and how to make one

Page 7

## INDEX

Classified Ads .....	12
Community Calendar ...	4
Crosswords .....	14
East Bay Living .....	5
Homes .....	8
Horoscope .....	14
Obituaries .....	14
Opinions .....	14
Seniors .....	7
Weather .....	2

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ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTOS

**BATTLING THE BLAZE:** Strike teams from the Alameda County Fire Department assisted in battling the Kincadee fire in Sonoma County.

## Local Firefighters Back After Assisting in Sonoma County

By Linda Sandsmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

As the Sonoma County fire winds down, 20 Alameda County firefighters who assisted there have returned home.

Four strike teams consisting of five firefighters each were able to

help counteract the massive wildfires that once again plagued the area near Santa Rosa.

Each group of five was deployed with its own engine. They were sent to the wine country October 24 and 25, working in the Windsor area during Halloween.

"It was amazing to see the out-

reach from all the first responders," said interim Public Information Officer Brian Centoni of the County Fire Department. "Our firefighters have been working very hard with crews from Oregon, clearing roads, putting out hotspots and helping out wherever needed."

see **FIREFIGHTERS** on page 15

## The Invisible Face Of Homeless in CV

By Michael Singer  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

On the morning of October 15, Melissa Moore was helping friends move their belongings out of their current situation: a homeless camp set up in the woods alongside Grove Way and the I-580 freeway. Some had pets. Some had mobility issues. But no one had any idea what their future would hold.

Two days later, Alameda County Sheriff's deputies along with state and county, agencies began clearing out the residence, which some had called home for many years, including Moore.

"I lived in that camp for three years myself. These are my people. It makes me sad and angry to see how they were treated and continue to be treated," Moore told the Castro Valley Forum. "These are good people. They didn't want to be bothered and they were not bothering anyone being out there."

Moore's friends were some of the 40 people evacuated from the self-sufficient camp. The tents and shelters housed 30 men and 10 women in their 40s and 50s with one man in his late 60s who had a hard time trekking between the woods and town.

The group increased their numbers in April after Hayward evic-

ted homeless living in and around Centennial Hall. Moore confirmed the concerns over garbage but dismissed any rumors of widespread drug use or severe mental illness.

County Supervisor Nate Miley's office did an initial walk-through this past summer at the Grove site to assess the situation. The Sheriff's department did a sweep of the area a few weeks later followed by posting signs about the eviction. But not everyone got the news in the time of the October 17 eviction and many were left scrambling to find places to put their belongings and pets until they could find a better opportunity.

Local homeless support groups provided some relief. Members of St. Vincent De Paul supplied the group with donated camp stoves, tents, tarps, and supplies. First Presbyterian of Hayward offered hot meals and a break from the weather.

"We have served 23 different individuals from the encampment," First Presbyterian Lead Pastor Jake Medcalf told the Forum. "Some have gotten resources. Many have met with caseworkers. All have gotten meals."

As of this past weekend, not one of Moore's friends has found a long-term place to live.

see **HOMELESS** on page 3

## Village Halloween: A Delightful Treat

By Debbie Tee  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

For those who enjoy treats more than tricks, this year's annual Village Halloween didn't disappoint.

The sidewalks in the village were packed with people of all ages who donned their best Halloween apparel.

Ghosts, goblins, bats, butterflies, witches, skeletons, unicorns, dinosaurs, Disney characters, first responders, super heroes, bumblebees, ninjas and more made their way from shop to shop as friendly business employees, some in costume, passed out goodies.

Event attendees enjoyed a wide mix of light and dark chocolate, sweet and sour candy and nuts and chews to name a few.

The multi award winning duo "Lori & RJ" provided entertainment that included live music, dancing, marionettes, a puppet show and a magical act.

According to Lori Moitie, "we have a lot of fun! We flavor our show with all cultures because we know that our Bay Area is filled with wonderful and amazing cultures from all over the place."

"We have a Rumpelstiltskin with a Spanish flare, a magician see **VILLAGE** on page 3



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE TEE

Sidewalks in the village were packed with people of all ages who donned their best Halloween apparel. Event attendees enjoyed an assortment of candies and live entertainment.

## Castro Valley Weather Nov. 6 - 10, 2019



Wednesday  
Sunny  
High 69° Low 48°



Thursday  
Sunny  
High 75° Low 47°



Friday  
Partly Sunny  
High 76 Low 49°



Saturday  
Sunny  
High 76° Low 49°



Sunday  
Sunny  
High 75° Low 48°

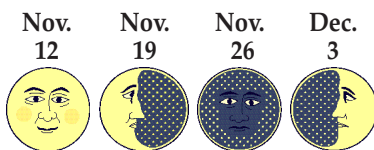
### Almanac



Sun sets at 5:06 p.m. today, rises at 6:41 a.m. Thursday.

Past Week's Rain: 00.00  
Season To Date: 00.38  
Normal To Date: 00.24  
Season Average: 21.22

### Moon Phases



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PHOTO BY FRIDA AZARI

Golden Oaks Montessori School students line up to talk to Astronaut Col. Andrew Morgan.

## Out of This World: CV Students Chat with an Orbiting Astronaut

Golden Oak Montessori, a public charter school in Castro Valley, got an opportunity only a handful of schools nation-wide receive each year — experiencing a phone call with an astronaut orbiting some 250 miles above the earth aboard the International Space Station.

The program, a joint effort with NASA and Amateur Radio International Space Station organization, gave students in grades 1-8 a chance to speak with Astronaut Col. Andrew Morgan on Monday, Oct. 28, via a HAM (amateur radio) operator.

Eleven students, elected by their classrooms, asked questions prepared in advance by the student community.

The astronaut's responses were beamed back to earth via a tele-bridge connection, patching the phone call into speakers for all students to hear.

The call lasted 12 minutes while the Space Station was orbiting above in range of the radio station.

Students learned that Scrabble



NASA PHOTO

Astronaut Col. Andrew Morgan in the International Space Station, which is orbiting about 250 miles above Earth.

and playing musical instruments are favorite past times among the astronauts, that the crew is growing lettuce in the station and they plan to harvest it later in the week, that ISS crew members communicate with each other in both English and Russian, and that Col. Skypes chats with his four children every week.

Classrooms have been studying space exploration, astronomy, and physical science related to the earth in preparation for their conversation with the astronaut.

Golden Oak Montessori parent Alessio Sangalli, who is a HAM radio operator, coordinated the International Space Station contact for the school.



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## Village: A Halloween Treat for All

*continued from front page*  
from the Philippines, RJ is from Louisiana and I'm from Brooklyn, New York. It's Barbra Streisand meets James Brown! Our main goal here is to entertain little kids to big kids or as we say, the two to toothless crowd".

When asked what part of the event was her favorite, a young bumblebee by the name of Eliyana Anora said "all of it!"

Dinosaur Elijah Chavre was more specific in his response and he wasted no words when he said that "getting candy" was the best part of the festivities.

In all, this was a successful event and certainly a safe option for trick-or-treating.

Fortunately, the poor air quality as a result of the nearby wildfires improved so that all could enjoy the day. Could this be the result of a vanishing spell from the most famous wizard, Harry Potter?

"Evanescence!"



## Homeless: Living in Fear and Suspicion

*continued from front page*

"We're not the people you think we are," Moore says. "We all have backstories on how we got here. I grew up in Castro Valley and raised two kids. Yes, I made some poor choices but it's a misconception to say, 'these people,' or call us 'them.' Everyone has a life. Most of us have jobs or collecting recycling just to survive. The only thing we don't have is a house with four walls."

Abode Services set up a table two weeks before the eviction to help sign people up for more permanent housing opportunities. Established in 1989, the group says it served 3,344 people in 37 programs in Alameda County last year. The earliest available opening for the Castro Valley group, according to Moore, is 18 months—far too long for anyone to feel like

a priority.

"The longer you are out there, the harder it gets," Moore says. "You lose focus. You lose the brightness of life."

Living outside the boundaries also means living in fear and suspicion. Moore and her friends claim law officers are trying to drive

them out of the area by harassing anyone in their middle ages riding a bicycle under a "rolling probable cause" section of the legal code. She also thinks the public is misinformed about the homeless in Castro Valley as being the cause of recent property crimes.

*see HOMELESS on back page*

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



**Senior Accused of Battery**  
Sunday, November 3: at 6:00 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 63-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of assault and battery on another person. An anonymous call about an altercation sent deputies to the intersection of Grove Way and Queen Court. There, the man fitting the description was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

**Child Assaulted**  
Sunday, November 3: at 5:03 p.m., a 54-year-old man with no permanent residence was arrested on suspicion of assault on a minor outside a sandwich shop in the Castro Village shopping center on Castro Valley Boulevard. Deputies were called to the scene after the store manager reported an altercation outside his store. The man was taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

**He Resisted Arrest**  
Sunday, November 3: at 1:55 p.m., deputies arrested a 36-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of assault and battery as well as assaulting a deputy while resisting arrest. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies stopped

the man for questioning outside a business on Castro Valley Boulevard near Wisteria Street when the man became confrontational and swung at deputies. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$15,000 in bail.

**Teen Arrested After Fistfight In Church Parking Lot**  
Saturday, November 2: at 11:55 p.m., an 18-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested following a fistfight in the parking lot in a local church. Deputies were dispatched to a home on Brookdale Boulevard near Lake Chabot Road to arrest the man after he was accused of punching the victim in the face causing lacerations. The man was taken into custody.

**Reckless Drug Runner**  
Friday, November 1: at 3:49 p.m., deputies arrested a 24-year-old man from Oakland on suspicion of reckless driving and possession

of illegal amounts of cannabis for sale. The man was speeding and weaving through traffic on Center Street near Grove Way when deputies pulled him over and discovered his stash. Deputies took the man into custody.

**Banging on the Wrong Door**  
Saturday, November 2: at 12:54 a.m., a 30-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication. Deputies were dispatched to a home on Cottage Court near Parson's Avenue to investigate a suspicious person banging on the door and asking to come inside. The homeowner reported not knowing the suspect. Deputies found the man had too much to drink and thought it was his mother's home he was trying to enter even though his mother's home was in a completely different neighborhood. The man was taken into custody.

*see REPORTS on back page*

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## The Week Ahead

### ● Friday, November 8: Cannabis 101 Presentation

Papa & Barkley, a wellness company, will discuss cannabis' medicinal history and provide an overview of its natural compounds including CBD and THC, and how these compounds interact with your body, at 1 p.m. this Friday, at the Kenneth Aitken Senior Center, 17800 Redwood Road. The presentation will focus on pain management and sleep. Call 510-881-6738 to reserve your space.

### ● Friday & Saturday, Nov. 8-9: Annual Community Boutique

Alta Mira Club at 561 Lafayette St. in San Leandro will hold its annual Community Boutique this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8-9, selling lunches and white elephants gifts, and holding a drawing to raise money for the group. Love All Pawz Rescue will have cats and kittens on site to meet potential adopters and sell pet supplies, quilts and holiday items. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

### ● Monday, November 11: Veterans Day

A memorial ceremony, with guest speaker and WWII veteran Peter Schantz, will be held at 11 a.m. at the Castro Valley Veterans Memorial Park. All government offices, except for emergency services will be closed. Public transportation and ACI garbage pickup will be normal. CVSan offices will be closed. Most other businesses, including The Forum, will operate on a regular schedule.

### ● Tuesday, November 12: Wicker Pool Tournament

The Aitken Senior & Community Center's 10th Annual Rich Wicker Pool Tournament will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 12, with prizes awarded to the top players in each bracket. Light refreshments provided. All skill levels welcome. Cost to enter is \$5 and players must be registered by Nov. 8. Call for more details at 510-881-6738.

### ● Saturday, November 9: Family Paths "Saturday Social"

Family Paths will partner with San Leandro local brewery Cleophus Quealy (CQ) at 448 Hester St. for a Nov. 9 Saturday Social, a free entrance day-long event starting at noon with programs and raffle prizes from 2-4 p.m. This is a fundraising and awareness opportunity for a non-profit that serves San Leandro clients with mental health treatments, parent education classes, and more. For info, visit <http://familypaths.org/>

### ● Saturday, November 9: Knights of Columbus Dinner

St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16770 Knights of Columbus invites you to an evening of music and dining with the Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino, at Our Lady of Grace Stack Center, 3433 Somerset Ave. Doors open at 5 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and silent auction. Dinner served at 6. A presentation on the Friars Ministries will accompany desert at 7. Tickets available online and after Mass or at the Parish Office. All proceeds will be donated to help with the cost of education and formation of a young man to become a Franciscan Friar.

### ● Saturday, November 9: Hearing Loss Meeting

Sharik Mobin, PhD, will talk about how we can get the most out of Blue Tooth technology, and also about his recent research projects, at the next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association Saturday. Refreshments at 9:30 a.m.; Program at 10: Oakland Kaiser Hospital, Fabiola Bldg., 3801 Howe St., Lower Level, Room G26. Parking garage on Howe is free on Saturday. [info@hearinglossesb.org](mailto:info@hearinglossesb.org) or 510-221-6080.

### ● Saturday, November 9: Charitable Poker Tournament

The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro invites you to play Texas Hold'em beginning with a check-in and free lessons at 5:30 p.m. and the tournament at 6:30 this Saturday at The Englander, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro. Must be 21 or older. Buy-in \$60, Re-buy \$20 Add-on \$40, Observer \$20. For tickets (limited to 50) call Mary Grodin 510-562-1029.

### ● Saturday, November 9: Meet in the Street & Light Parade

Alameda County is hosting the 8th Annual "Meet in the Street" with vendors and kids' activities, and the Light Parade with more than 45 floats to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. this Saturday on Castro Valley Blvd. between San Miguel Ave. and Redwood Road. Because the boulevard will be closed, a detour system will be in place to navigate traffic around the closure.

### ● Saturday, November 9: Quilters' Holiday Boutique

The Amador Valley Quilters will host a Holiday Boutique this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., Pleasanton. Hand-crafted items from more than 30 vendors will be available. Visit [www.amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://www.amadorvalleyquilters.org)

### ● Saturday, November 9: Fundraising Plant Sale

The Plant Exchange, 4500 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland holds an Adopt-a-Plant sale from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Prices will be up to 60% off. Volunteers needed. Email [connect@theplantexchange.com](mailto:connect@theplantexchange.com)

### ● Tuesday, November 12: Ohlone Audubon Meeting

Dorian Anderson will speak on his search of bird species during a year-long bicycle ride through 28 states during the next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue. Visit [www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org) for more information.

### ● Tuesday, November 12: Rotary Foundation Update

Brad Howard, past Rotary International Director, will update Castro Valley Rotary Club members on the workings of the Rotary Foundation at the next lunch meeting at Redwood Canyon Golf Course from noon to 1:30 p.m. next Tuesday. The cost of lunch is \$15 and reservations must be made by 9 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10 at [cvrotary@iCloud.com](mailto:cvrotary@iCloud.com) or 510.402.5123. More information is available at [castrovalleyrotary.org](http://castrovalleyrotary.org)

### ● Tuesday, November 12: Start Smart Teen Driver Safety Class

The CHP and Castro Valley Library present "Start Smart," a teen-driver safety class at 6 p.m. on Nov. 12, at the Castro Valley Library for new and future licensed teenage drivers between the age of 15-19 and their parents. CHP officers will talk about traffic collisions, their causes and avoidance techniques, seat-belt usage and driver responsibilities. To register, call 510-581-9028 (CHP) or 510-667-7900 (Library).

### ● Wednesday, November 13: Sons in Retirement (SIR)

Rev. Jayson Landeza of St. Benedict's Church in Oakland will talk about his job as chaplain for local police and military organizations at the Nov. 13 luncheon meeting of Sons in Retirement at noon (Social Hour at 11) at Fairview Event Center at Metropolitan Golf Course, 10051 Doolittle Drive, Oakland. The lunch costs \$25, payable in advance. Make checks payable to SIR Branch #26. For details on attending as a guest, call Ken at 510-537-4804.

### ● Thursday, November 14: Free Cancer Workshop

Eden Medical Center will host a free workshop, "Nutrients for an Anti-Cancer Life" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 14 in the 2nd floor conference rooms of the Center's Medical Office Building at 20101 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley. Learn how good nutrition can be one

of your best allies in recovering from cancer treatment and preventing recurrence from Susie White, a board-certified holistic nutritionist. For info or to register, call 925-933-0107.

### ● Thursday, November 14: Libertarian Party Meeting

The Libertarian Party of Alameda County will hold its monthly meeting Nov. 14 at 7:15 p.m. at The Englander Pub, 101 Parrott St. in San Leandro. Free, no membership required. For more info, visit [lpac.us](http://lpac.us)

### ● Thursday, November 14: A Taste of Ashland

Enjoy storytelling, drinks and small plates from local community food businesses from 6 to 9 p.m. at Ashland Market & Cafe, 16395 E. 14th St. in Ashland. Visit [www.ashlandmarket.org](http://www.ashlandmarket.org) for more info.

## Arts & Entertainment

### CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

*Tickets for Center for the Arts events (unless otherwise listed) are available at [www.cvcfa.com](http://www.cvcfa.com); or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. (phone 510-889-8961), or at the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue.*

● **"Peter and the Starcatcher,"** the Tony-Award-winning play based on the 2004 novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8-9 and 15-16, by the CVHS Drama Department. The play provides a backstory for the characters of Peter Pan, Mrs. Darling, Tinker Bell and Hook. *For tickets (\$15-\$20) see above.*

● **Concert by the Oakland Youth Orchestra** will be presented free at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 17 at the Center for the Arts.

● **Canyon Choir Concert** will be presented at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20. *For tickets (prices to be determined), see above.*

● **"The Great American Sh\*t Show"** with new monologues on life in the age of Trump with solo performing stars Brian Copeland and Charlie Varon, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 21 (date change). An evening of laughing and thinking, covering topics including how to deal with a family member who's all in for the Donald when you're not, trying to turn red congressional seats blue. *For tickets (\$40) see above.*

### OTHER THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"Cabaret,"** the Broadway hit musical set in a Berlin nightclub in the late 1920s, continues through Nov. 17 at Chanticleers Theatre. Cabaret explores the dark, heady, and tumultuous life of Berlin's natives and expatriates as Germany slowly yields to the emerging Third Reich. Musical numbers include "Willkommen," "Cabaret," "Don't Tell Mama" and "Two Ladies." Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. at Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in the Castro Valley Community Center Park. For tickets (\$18-\$25), visit [chanticleers.org/](http://chanticleers.org/) or call 510-733-5483.

● **"Next to Normal,"** the award-winning Broadway rock musical about depression, anxiety and the mental health industry, will be presented by Plethos Productions Fridays through Sundays, Nov. 8-24, at Smalltown Society, 22222 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Seating is limited. Early bird tickets are \$15 before Nov. 1 at [plethos.org](http://plethos.org)

### ART GALLERIES, RECEPTIONS & ART INSTRUCTION

● **Artist Reception:** Award-winning Castro Valley water-colorist Rita Sklar and the Castro Valley Arts Foundation invite the public to an Artist Reception on Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Exhibition Room at the Center for the Arts. Refreshments will be served.

● **Free Oil Painting Demonstration** by artist Debbie O'Brien will be presented by A.R.T., Inc. from 2 to 4 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Adobe Art Center, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. Debbie will explain her oil paintings of abstract views of reality.

● **Hayward 21st Century Library Grand Opening Exhibit** continues on the 2nd floor, featuring art by members of Sun Gallery and the Hayward Arts Council until Jan. 18.

● **Hayward Arts Council "Members Show"** will be presented by the John O'Lague Gallery at Hayward City Hall through Dec. 6. Gallery hours are 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

### AT THE CHABOT CINEMA 10/6 - 11/13

● **Terminator Dark Fate, R**

Wed 11/6 - Wed 11/13

3:55p 7:00p

6:03p 8:53p

*Note: Tickets are on sale for "Frozen 2" and "Star Wars"*

## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

CASTROVALLEYFORUM.COM

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## Picking the Winning Sides For the Thanksgiving Feast

There's more to Thanksgiving than just the big bird! For many, the traditional side dishes are just as important as the turkey itself.

With the big event just three weeks away, it's time to start the annual countdown.

### CANDIED YAMS

3 yams, about 2-1/2 pounds  
1 cup sugar  
1-1/2 cups water  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
Peel of 1/4 lemon  
1/4 cup butter  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Scrub yams and place in large pot. Cover with boiling water and cook, covered, over medium heat 25 to 30 minutes, until potatoes are tender but firm. Drain and cool potatoes. Peel and slice into thick pieces. Butter shallow baking dish and arrange yam slices in single layer in dish.

Heat sugar, water, nutmeg and lemon peel in saucepan. Add 1/4 cup butter and lemon juice. When butter melts, remove from heat and add vanilla. Stir syrup and pour over potatoes in dish. Bake at 425°F until bubbly, about 30 minutes.

### CRANBERRY RELISH

1-1/2 cups sugar  
3/4 cup water  
3 whole cloves

3 whole allspice  
2 (3-inch) cinnamon sticks  
1 (12-ounce) bag fresh cranberries  
Zest of 1 orange

Combine sugar, water, cloves, allspice and cinnamon sticks in 4-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil. Cook, stirring, until syrup is clear, about 3 minutes. Add cranberries and cook just until they begin to pop, about 5 minutes.

Remove from heat, add orange zest and cool. Keep in refrigerator at least 3 days before using. Yields about 2-1/2 cups relish, about 10 servings.

### GREEN BEAN HOLIDAY CASSEROLE

1 (10-3/4 oz) can condensed cream of mushroom soup  
4 cups cooked green beans  
1/8 teaspoon pepper  
1/2 cup milk  
1-1/3 cups french fried onions

Mix soup, milk and pepper in a 1-1/2 quart casserole dish. Stir in beans and 2/3 cup of the fried onions.

Bake for 25 minutes at 350°F. Top with the remaining 2/3 cup fried onions and bake about 5 more minutes, until onions are lightly browned. Serves 6.

### CREAMED PEAS & ONIONS

3 tablespoons butter  
2 cups peeled pear onions



**ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE FIGHTERS** take a group photo before departing from Sonoma County after assisting in battling the Kincaid fire. The Firefighters are holding a Community Blood Drive from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 22 at Fire Station 25 at 20036 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. To make an appointment, visit [bloodheroes.com](http://bloodheroes.com) and click "Donate." Use your unique sponsor code "ALCOFIRE"

2 tablespoons flour  
1 cup whipping cream  
1-1/2 cups milk  
Salt and pepper  
1 (2-pound) package frozen peas, thawed and drained  
Freshly grated nutmeg

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in saucepan. Add and sauté onions until lightly browned. Remove and reserve.

Melt remaining 2 tablespoons butter in same saucepan over me-

dium heat. Stir in flour and cook 1 minute. Slowly add whipping cream and milk, heating and stirring until smooth and thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add peas and simmer 5 to 10 minutes until tender, stirring frequently. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg. Serves 6.

### EXTRA CREAMY MASHED POTATOES

3-1/2 cups chicken broth

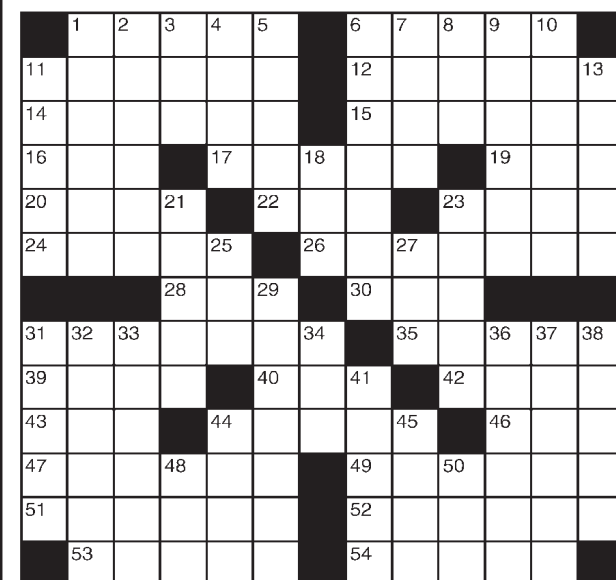
5 large potatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces  
1/2 cup light cream  
2 tablespoons butter  
Generous dash black pepper

Heat broth and potatoes in 3-quart saucepan over high heat to a boil.

Reduce heat to medium. Cover and cook 10 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Drain, reserving broth.

Mash potatoes with 1/4 cup broth, cream, butter and black pepper. Add additional broth, if needed, until desired consistency.

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11 Saccharine  
13 Sill  
18 Hr. fraction  
21 Indispensables  
23 Wonderful  
25 "Mayday!"  
27 Civil War soldier  
29 Theft  
31 Dieters' targets  
32 Film director whose father was a painter  
33 Baffler  
34 Wine and dine, maybe  
36 Elegantly maintained  
37 Bk. after Prov.  
38 Vacationer at Vail, probably  
41 Group character  
44 Metal refuse  
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**ANSWERS ON PAGE 4**

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### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** A rejection of your attempt to be friendly leaves you with two choices: Try again, or give up. If you want to make another effort, go slowly. Let things develop without pressure.



**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** It could be a problem dealing with unfamiliar people who do things differently from what you're used to. But rely on that strong sense of purpose to get you through this difficult period.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** To avoid neglecting a personal matter because of a demanding new workplace schedule, start prioritizing immediately. Knowing how to apportion your time takes a little while to set up.



**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** It won't be easy to avoid some of the pressures that come with change. Best advice: Take things a step at a time, and you'll be less likely to trip up while things are in a chaotic state.



**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** A much-talked-about workplace change could be coming soon. Be sure to get all the details involved in the process, and once you have them, you can decide how you want to deal with it.



**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** You might still believe that your trust was betrayed, although the facts would appear to prove the opposite. But by the week's end you should learn something that will help set the record straight.



**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Holiday plans could be a challenge because of shifting circumstances. But a more settled period starts by midweek, allowing you to firm up your plan-making once and for all.



**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** The facts continue to be on your side. So make use of them in dealing with any challenge to your stated position. Also, open your mind to the offer of help from an unlikely source.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** There could still be a communication problem holding up the resolution of a troublesome situation. Stay with it, and eventually your message will get through and be understood.



**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** A possible change in your workplace schedule might create a chaotic situation for a while. But once things begin to settle down, you might find that this could work to your advantage.



**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** A recent job-linked decision might need to be reassessed because of the possibility of finding benefits you might have overlooked. Check out all related data to help in the search.



**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** A personal situation you agreed to might not be as acceptable to the other person involved in the matter. Avoid pressuring and bullying. Instead, seek common ground by talking things through.

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• Oak Creek Alzheimer & Dementia Care Center

Thank you to our sponsors and those who joined us for the incredibly successful 2020 Bark & Boo's event!

The Castro Valley / Eden area Chamber of Commerce is located in Suite 224 at 3160 Castro Valley Blvd., phone 510-537-5300

# Seniors: Settling a Small Estate Without Going Through Probate

**Q** My father recently died, leaving his home in a Living Trust. He also left several bank accounts, which together total about \$100,000. Our problem: the accounts were never actually transferred into his trust. Is there a way to deal with them without going through probate?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

**A** Yes, there is. And, by the way, your question suggests that you know that a probate is a court proceeding supervised by a judge, usually requires the assistance of an attorney, involves lots of paper-work and compliance with procedural rules, and typically takes at least one year or more for completion, even where everything proceeds smoothly.

In our experience, most families prefer to avoid a probate pro-

ceeding whenever possible.

So, in your situation, there may be two approaches to settling your father's estate without probate:

1) Petition Court to Transfer Accounts To Trust: One approach would depend upon whether there is written proof that he intended to make his bank accounts part of his trust, but just never got around to doing it.

Example: he may have listed them in his description of assets appended to his trust, but perhaps never formally re-titled them into the trust.

If so, then it might be possible to Petition the Superior Court for an order transferring them into his trust, so that they can then be handled — like the home — as part of the trust and without probate.

This is sometimes called a "Heggstad" Petition, so named be-



cause of the leading court case approving this procedure. However, even this Petition would involve a court proceeding, require that you engage an attorney to prepare a written petition to the court, and would involve a short hearing before a judge. So, at best it would involve what I call a "mini-probate".

2) Small Estate Affidavit: An even simpler process would involve using the "Affidavit Procedure" for collection of assets that do not exceed \$150,000 in value.

This procedure, set out in California Probate Code § 13100, requires only the completion of an affidavit by the Successor(s)-In-Interest of your father, reciting the nature of the assets sought to be collected, the right of the Successor to receive them, and certain other recitals.

Many banks even have forms for this purpose. Here, the successor(s) would typically be the

see OSOFSKY on page 7

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



This week's Athletes of the Week are the members of the Castro Valley High School's JV girls water polo team. They were seeded in second place after finishing the regular season with a 5-1 record, then took third place at the Western Alameda County Conference (WACC) JV girls League Championships, held at Encinal High School on Saturday, October 26.

The CV JV girls water polo team are as follow: Head Coach Nicole Manley, No. 1 Mia Sklut,

No. 2 Francesca Controneo, No. 3 Emily Chin, No. 4 Alyssa Gilman-Chun, No. 5 Shyla Maharaj, No. 7 Kathryn Scheberies No. 8 Celeste Schwartz, No. 9 Michelle Lim, No. 10 Kamaya Maloof, No. 11 Natalia Perez, No. 12 Jamie Xie, No. 14 Lauren French, No. 15 Grace Traski, No. 16 Amelia Johnson, No. 17 Camila Sacramento, No. 18 Kaylee Poulus, No. 19 Jenny Connors, No. 22 Michelle Ip, No. 23 Maddison Cutler, No. 24 Kylie Szeto

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PHOTO COURTESY OF HOPE HOSPICE

The 24 participants in the 5th Annual Hope Marathon raised \$84,000 for the hospice.

## Hope 100 Golf Marathon Raises \$84,000

**T**he Fifth Annual Hope 100 Golf Marathon, a charity tournament for Hope Hospice in Dublin, raised \$84,000 for patient care and community services.

Twenty-four dedicated golfers hit the Valley Course at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton at dawn Sept. 30 to play 100 holes in just shy of 10 hours.

Each player committed to rais-

ing at least \$2,500 by soliciting support of friends and family. At \$4,320, Thad Buurkarl was this year's top fundraiser.

A special tribute was made in honor of the late Stephen G. Thompson, who played in the inaugural tournament. The closest-to-the-pin challenge at Hole 14, sponsored by Jerry Thompson & Sons Painting in Stephen's memory, yielded \$10,000 for Hope.

Proceeds benefit Hope's community education and grief support programs.

Major sponsors of this year's marathon included Jerry Thompson & Sons Painting, Graham-Hitch Mortuary, Colliers International, Bayside Interiors, Smith Currie & Hancock LLP, Premier Pharmaceutical Services, Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors, and A&M Printing.

## Anti-Cancer Life Workshop Next Thursday

Eden Medical Center will host its last free cancer workshop of this year, "Nutrients for an Anti-Cancer Life," from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. next Thursday, November 14.

Hear how good nutrition can be one of your best allies in recovering from cancer treatment and preventing recurrence from Susie White, board-certified in holistic nutrition.

For more information or to register, call Cancer Support Community at 925-933-0107.

Cancer Support Groups meet every first and third Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m.

Returning in 2020 will be Eden Med's free "Look Good Feel Better" classes about skin and hair care while going through — or recovering from — cancer treatments. Hands-on tips for head

covers, wigs, and styling help toward a positive, confident sense of self will be presented.

All meetings are held in the attached Medical Office Building of Eden Medical Center, second floor conference rooms at 20101 Lake Chabot Road in Castro Valley.

For questions or ideas for future workshops, contact Joanne Sexton at Eden Medical Center, at 510-727-2718.

## Ethical Wills: What They Are For and How to Make One

*Q: Can you write a column on ethical wills and how to make one? The attorney that made up my will recently suggested I write one as a tool to explain the intentions of my will, as well as express my thoughts and feelings, but I don't know where to start.*

**By Jim Miller**  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A: An ethical will – also referred to as a legacy letter – can be a valuable complement to your legal will, as well as a wonderful gift to your family or other loved ones. Here's what you should know along with some tips to help you make one.

**Ethical Wills**  
Unlike a last will and testament, which tells your loved ones (and the legal world) what you want

them to have, an ethical will (which is not a legal document) tells them what you want them to know.

With an ethical will, you can share with your loved ones your feelings, wishes, regrets, gratitude and advice, as well as explain the elements in your legal will, give information about the money and possessions you're passing on, and anything else you want to communicate.

Usually no more than a few pages, the process of writing an ethical will can actually be quite satisfying. But be careful that you don't contradict any aspects of your legal will or estate plan.

And, if you're having trouble with the writing, there are resources available to help you, or you can express yourself through an audio or video recording.

### Where to Start

To craft an ethical will, start by jotting down some notes about what's really important to you and what you want your loved ones to know. Take your time and remember that you're not trying to write for the Pulitzer Prize. This letter is a gift of yourself written for those you love.

After you've gathered your thoughts you can start drafting your letter. You can also revise or rewrite it anytime you want. And for safekeeping, keep your ethical will with your other legal documents in a secure location but be sure your executor has access to it. A safe-deposit box or fireproof filing cabinet or safe in your home is a good choice.

### Get Help

If you need some help, there are numerous resources available

like Celebrations of Life (CelebrationsofLife.net), which offers how-to information and examples of ethical wills, along with a "Ethical Wills: Putting Your Values on Paper" book, and the Ethical Wills/Legacy Letters workbook that you can purchase for \$16 and \$10 respectively.

Another good resource is Personal Legacy Advisors (PersonalLegacyAdvisors.com), which offers ethical will writing classes and workshops, along with personalized services like coaching, editing, writing and/or audio or video recording your ethical will. Prices vary depending on the services you choose. They also sell a do-it-yourself guidebook "The Wealth of Your Life: A Step-by-Step Guide for Creating Your Ethical Will," by Susan Turnbull for \$24.

You also need to know that many people choose to share their ethical will with their family and friends while they're still living so they can enjoy their reactions, while others think it should be read after their death. It's up to you.

Visit: [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

## Osofsky: Small Estate Affidavit Procedure

*continued from previous page*  
named beneficiaries in your father's Last Will (if he had one), or –if no Will – then the family members who would inherit his estate under the California law of Intestate Succession, i.e. the law which determines rights of inheritance where a decedent dies without a will. This law designates family members in a certain order of preference.

Of special note is that certain assets are excluded from the tally when determining whether this Small Estate Affidavit procedure may be used.

They include: assets held in a Living Trust, those titled in Joint Tenancy form, multi-party accounts with a designated surviving party (i.e. a Pay-On-Death Account), all vehicles and boats registered under the Vehicle Code, a mobile home, and earnings due from employment (up to \$15,000).

New law: By the way, lawmakers

in California just passed a law which bumps up the \$150,000 Small Estate threshold to \$166,250 for persons dying after January 1, 2020, and provides for a further adjustment in this threshold every three years thereafter based upon an inflation factor.

In your case, it would seem that

the Small Estate Affidavit procedure might be your best approach.

Gene L. Osofsky is an estate planning and elder law attorney in Hayward. Visit his firm's website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com)

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## Keeping Seniors Safe

One in 10 Americans age 60 and over have experienced some form of elder abuse. Some estimates range as high as 5 million elders who are abused each year and most elder abuse is not reported to authorities. The Castro Valley Library will present a free informational program on keeping seniors safe, from 11 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, Nov. 20, in the Learning Center. Topics to be covered: What elder abuse is and the laws that address it; Signs of financial, emotional, and physical abuse and neglect; Legal remedies available to abused elders; Practical tips to help prevent abuse, Agencies that can help. For more info, call 510-667-7900, or see Events at [www.aclibrary.org/branches/csv](http://www.aclibrary.org/branches/csv).

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Transaction Failures Up as Market Heads Down

As we enter the end of 2019, the market continues to slow. While part of this is the normal seasonal adjustment, we are also seeing continuing overall reductions in the market pace as it shifts from an overheated seller's market to a more neutral stance.

Two hallmarks of a slow-down are swelling days on the market and accompanying price reductions. A third factor, not as readily apparent, is an increase in failed transactions.

Realtors are reporting an uptick in exploding deals. "We are also seeing a dramatic increase in escrows coming apart," states Krystle Wilson of First American Title. Vicky Guo, also with First American, concurs. "When the market was hot, buyers did everything possible to keep transactions together. Now we get the feeling they are looking for any excuse to cancel."

Why this increase in collapsing transactions? Here are our

top three reasons:

### 1. Declining Prices.

In declining markets, some buyers rationalize that if they wait to purchase, they may get a better deal. Some buyers have entered into contracts, taken a look at overall market conditions and concluded it might be better if they cancelled and held back for a better deal.

### 2. Property Condition.

In hot markets, buyers are willing to overlook many property conditions just to secure a home. In our shifting market, with multiple offers down, contracts are coming in under asking price and requests for repairs have returned. In some cases, buyers, unfamiliar with repair protocols, are also asking for upgrades.

One buyer, in contract on a San Lorenzo home, produced a long list of upgrades and then asked for a \$50,000 price reduction. Encountering pushback from the seller, they chose to

walk instead of working out a realistic compromise.

### 3. Market Unfamiliarity.

It has been a very long time since agents, buyers and sellers have encountered a shifting market. Eight years of an overheated market inculcated market beliefs that no longer apply. Consequently, players on all sides of the equation do not know the current rules of engagement.

As an example, approximately 1/3 of Alameda County Realtors received their licenses after February 2011, the time the seller's market began. These agents have never seen a shifting market and consequently are scrambling to learn the new skills.

It always takes time during a shift for everyone to become comfortable with the new realities, and until it happens, we can expect many more failed transactions.

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.



Beautiful home with many upgrades on large lot. Open Kitchen/Living room with vaulted ceiling and upper windows allowing natural light to enter. The gourmet kitchen has quartz counters, gas stove and stainless-steel appliances. Beautifully landscaped backyard with mature trees and privacy.



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## 5 Ways to Bring the Outdoors In This Fall

With the weather cooling down and trees changing to vibrant colors, it's no wonder many consider autumn their favorite time of year. Fall draws people outside to apple orchards and pumpkin patches and fills homes with the smells of seasonal baking.

A recent YouGov survey commissioned by VELUX found that most people (over 69%) think exposure to daylight, fresh air and nature has a positive effect on their well-being, including reducing stress. Yet according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), people today spend 90% of their time indoors. Even houses now are built to be more sealed, trapping bacteria and toxins inside,



with many people unaware that indoor air can be up to five times more polluted than outdoor air, according to the EPA.

To enjoy the positive bene-

fits of nature even when spending time indoors, why not open up your house and bring more of the outdoors in? Try these five strategies for bringing more nature into your home this fall.

### 1. Open your windows or skylights

Before cold weather arrives, take advantage of pleasant temps to let in fresh air and sunlight, and even enjoy viewing the beautiful yellows, oranges and reds outside. The fresh air will help you breathe easier, ridding the air of toxins, bacteria and musty odors inside.

Skylights are great options for adding fresh air and natural light, which can help make your indoor living environment healthier. Skylights are a simple home renovation project that can dramatically improve your home's health and have changed a great deal from those of decades past. The latest skylight models and skylight blinds can open via smartphone app or remote control to bring in fresh air and control light. VELUX No Leak Solar Powered Fresh

see FALL, page 10

**The Esmeyer Team**  
James, Rosalyn, Rachel & Jamie  
Shamrock Realtors - Going Above and Beyond  
James Esmeyer, Broker Associate - DRE#01363681  
**(510) 909-8344**



## Prepare to buy or sell for the Fall

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**Kevin Hoopes**

Realtor®  
BRE#02056766  
21060 Redwood Rd, Ste. 100, Castro Valley, CA 94546  
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## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

20115 Redwood Road	94546: \$530,000 2 BD - 866 SF - 1988
2235 Jeffer Street	94546: \$625,000 2 BD - 1,018 SF - 1948
18420 Crest Avenue	94546: \$651,000 2 BD - 726 SF - 1952
8387 Norris Canyon Rd	94552: \$662,000 2 BD - 1,448 SF - 1924
3596 Juniper Street	94546: \$690,000 3 BD - 1,425 SF - 1948
3930 Stevens Street	94546: \$885,000 3 BD - 1,565 SF - 1953
20345 Stanton Avenue	94546: \$890,000 3 BD - 1,349 SF - 1949
18474 Carlwyn Drive	94546: \$920,000 3 BD - 2,046 SF - 1960
3623 Arcadian Drive	94546: \$953,000 4 BD - 2,234 SF - 1956
6028 Bellingham Drive	94552: \$1,090,000 4 BD - 2,594 SF - 1986
16981 Lamont Court	94546: \$1,120,000 3 BD - 2,445 SF - 1968
TOTAL SALES:	11
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$530,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,120,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$885,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$819,636

### San Leandro

14825 Lark Street	94578: \$307,000 4 BD - 1,512 SF - 1945
1570 165th Avenue	94578: \$400,000 2 BD - 957 SF - 1987
2569 San Leandro Blvd	94578: \$410,000 2 BD - 982 SF - 1980
15956 East 14th Street	94578: \$450,000 2 BD - 918 SF - 2008
15310 Dewey Street	94579: \$650,000 3 BD - 1,092 SF - 1950
15233 Elvina Drive	94579: \$659,000 3 BD - 1,107 SF - 1958
987 Burkhart Avenue	94579: \$663,000 3 BD - 1,182 SF - 1951
3814 Monterey Blvd	94578: \$678,000 3 BD - 1,096 SF - 1954
1555 141st Avenue	94578: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,419 SF - 1942
2282 Sitka Street	94577: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,522 SF - 1951
16220 Carolyn Street	94578: \$700,000 2 BD - 1,751 SF - 1947
15519 Montreal Street	94579: \$740,000 3 BD - 1,204 SF - 1960
1033 Auburn Avenue	94579: \$780,000 3 BD - 1,540 SF - 1956
TOTAL SALES:	13
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$307,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$780,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$663,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$599,769

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6

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## Fall: Bring the outdoors in to improve air quality and mood

continued from page 8

Air Skylights can be automated using VELUX Active with NETATMO, an internet-connected control system that compares online weather forecasts to temperatures, humidity and CO2 levels inside the home, automatically opening skylights to bring in fresh air if doing so improves indoor air conditions. In addition, VELUX offers a number of blinds options that can be automated with the VELUX Active with NETATMO system to

boost the skylights' thermal performance by blocking intense sunlight or providing an additional layer of insulation during cold nights.

### 2. Fill your home with cozy, natural scents

Use fresh herbs and spices like rosemary, sage, cinnamon sticks and cloves to create your own homemade potpourri. Or you could make a wreath using sprigs of your favorite herbs, including lavender, rosemary, bay and sage. You can add sprigs of

similar aromatic dried options to fresh-cut flower arrangements, adding layers of scent, deeper colors and contrasting textures to your floral displays.

### 3. Bring pumpkins indoors

Autumn is not complete without pumpkins, but there's no need to banish them to the front porch. Pick up some smaller pumpkins and other types of gourds, adding dried corn cobs to create a centerpiece for your dining room table or adding a pop of color to a coffee or side

table.

Some types of edible squash are almost too pretty to eat, so why not display them for a while before cooking them? Look for visually interesting acorn, delicata and buttercup squash for your displays.

### 4. Leafy bouquets

Rethink your cut-flower bouquets. Take a walk outside to collect branches of colorful leafy fall foliage to add to your floral bouquets, along with flowers of similar autumn hues. Think

chrysanthemums, sunflowers, dahlias and daisies in tones of orange, crimson and gold.

### 5. Incorporate fall design elements

Use autumn colors and shapes to inspire new design ideas. Swap decorative elements, from pillows and blankets to throw rugs and tea towels, for new items highlighting earthy tones like brown and orange. Look for items with nature-inspired designs - from leaf or vine patterns to migrating

flocks of birds - that bring a feeling of autumn into your home.

Change up your window treatments to reflect the season, too. Swapping out blinds on your skylights is simple; you can easily add fall-colored blinds to match the tones of your new decor.

To learn more about adding fresh air and natural daylight into your home with new energy-efficient skylights, visit [whyskylights.com](http://whyskylights.com).

-Brandpoint

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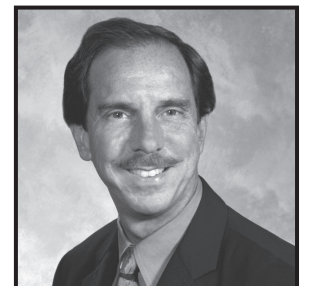
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NOV. 9 & NOV. 10**



CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDR./BA.	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
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A	—	1-4	1725 Estudillo Ave.	\$1,449,000	4/4	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt Jones	510-357-0120

*One-Line Open Home Listings run Wednesdays in the Castro Valley Forum (22,500 circ.)  
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*For more information and a listing form, Call 614-1558. DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT NOON.*

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L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • S = SHEFFIELD VILLAGE • SLZ = SAN LORENZO • W = WALNUT CREEK • Z=ALAMEDA



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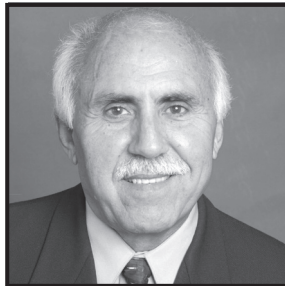
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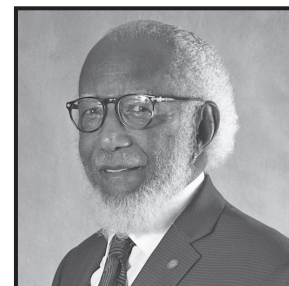
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For help or for more info call  
510-614-1558. E.B. Publishing

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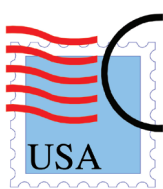
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# LETTERS

## TO THE EDITOR

FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM



### Going to College (?)

Editor:

I am raising an 11-year-old (not my biological child) and want to maximize her chances for a good education. It seems the rules have changed and I could use some guidance.

For years, parents have knowingly broken the law to provide the best educational opportunities for their kids. The lawbreaking parents are protected from prosecution. Their kids are accepted, embraced, and even given special preferences, sometimes displacing others more qualified. We call them "Dreamers."

Now I read that parents who break the law to get their kids into better schools are going to jail. What changed? Do we just prosecute citizens? The famous or wealthy? Whom?

In the 20th century, reality was usually dictated by facts. Now it seems to be dictated by conviction. If I tell my daughter she is a

protected minority, will her sincere belief (despite the obvious physical contradiction) avail her preferred admission status? Or would her belief be labeled sincerely wrong because it conflicts with biological reality? Which takes precedence in these times?

"The Matrix" taught us that "Some rules can be bent. Others can be broken." Someone please enlighten me. I need to understand the system.

—Stacy Spink, Castro Valley

### Intolerance Toward the LGBTQ Community

Editor:

Last month I traveled to DC to participate in a rally at the Supreme Court. At issue were three cases pertaining to employment protections for the LGBTQ community.

It is illegal in this country to fire someone for being female rather than male, or for being black instead of white, or for being Muslim instead of Christian.

Those are just examples, but in more than half the country you can be fired for being gay instead of straight. In the "land of the free" shouldn't every American be treated equally in the workplace?

On the same day I was there, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement (after previously filing a brief in the case) asking the court to *not* treat us equally under the Civil Rights Act. One

member of the USCCB team is Oakland Bishop Michael Barber, who oversees the Castro Valley Catholic churches OLG and Transfiguration.

In February, that same Bishop Michael Barber released the names of 45 Catholic priests and clergy in the East Bay credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors over the last 60 years. Were they fired from their jobs? No. Were the police notified of these pedophiles? No. Did any of them go to jail? No.

Many were simply transferred, including right here in CV. Look up the East Bay Times article 'Leadership Disregard' from 2008 and read it for yourself. Read about how known pedophile priests were silently moved around and ended up here.

If the names were known to journalists then, why did it take 11 years for Oakland's Bishop Michael Barbour to acknowledge them?

Rather than spend time influencing the Supreme Court against the LGBTQ community, why doesn't the Catholic church tend to its own problems? Another Oakland Diocese priest was arrested on child molestation charges in March of this year.

Despite what other letter writers have stated, I do my homework. I don't make unfounded allegations. I know what I am talking about regarding the Catholic Church and its "core doctrine" of intolerance toward the LGBTQ community, and silence surrounding their own terrible secrets. And now you do too.

—Billy Bradford, Castro Valley

### Democrats Blamed for Wildfires

Editor:

The left-wing news media are blaming our recent wildfires on "climate change." In contrast, conservative media (Forbes, Fox, Wall Street Journal) tell us the truth. For over twenty years, the Democrats who control federal agencies and our State government have prevented intelligent forest management.

The EPA has prevented sustainable harvesting of live timber. And Democratic run "Air Quality Control Boards" nearly always oppose controlled burnings, which would have eliminate overcrowded underbrush.

The American Indians of California were more intelligent than today's Democrats. The Indians wisely used controlled burns to clear out underbrush. But the today's Democrats are ideologically opposed to any human management of nature.

Besides, Democrats in Sacramento don't want to spend money removing dead trees, because they have "more important" things to accomplish.

Did you know that California spends ten times more money subsidizing electric cars than it spends to clear out dead trees? According to the US Forest Service, California now has 147 million dead trees, just waiting to burn. This is a record number; and three times more dead trees than we had 24 years ago.

This failure by Democrats in Sacramento is why wildfires now are far larger (and deadlier) than in past years. So if you have trouble breathing, or if your food goes bad during a blackout, you can thank the Democrats.

But don't blame PG&E for this disaster. PG&E could have spent over 2 billion dollars the past few years making all of their power lines safer. But instead (according to Credit Suisse) Democrat leaders in Sacramento pressured PG&E to waste over 2 billion dollars, by purchasing very expensive electricity from "renewable energy" sources.

So if you want a lower quality of life (more wild fires, more blackouts, more homeless camps, more crime, more taxes) then keep electing Democrats.

—Peter Hauer, Castro Valley

### Animal Welfare Legislation

Editor:

California continues to set the bar for animal welfare legislation. Governor Newsom recently signed the following bills into law:

- SB 313, bans the use of wild animals in circus acts;
- AB 44, bans manufacture and sale of fur products (first such state law in the nation);
- AB 273, bans trapping for fur;
- AB 1254, bans bobcat hunting;
- AB 1260, bans import of certain skins (hippo, caiman, lizards).

Heartfelt thanks to all these compassionate legislators--may their tribe increase. Here's hoping for some bills in 2020 addressing cruelty issues in rodeos and live animal food markets.

As Gandhi famously wrote, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Words to live by.

All legislators may be written c/o The State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

—Eric Mills, coordinator  
Action for Animals, Oakland

### Letters to the Editor

must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. Not every letter can be printed. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. We do not print unsigned or anonymous letters. Email Letters to: fredz@ebpublishing.com or mail to: The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.

## Obituaries

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### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

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Include a phone number.  
For help, call Patrick Vadnais  
at 510-614-1558

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### Dorothy Mary Caldwell

May 3, 1929 - October 26, 2019  
Resident of Castro Valley, CA

Dorothy, at the age of 90, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of October 26, 2019 surrounded by family.

Dorothy was born and raised in Oakland, California where she stayed until she moved to Castro Valley nearly 20 years ago with her husband John, to be closer to family.

She had a quick wit, great sense of humor, a warm soul and compassionate heart. A delight to be around, a beauty inside and out! She was a true matriarch of our family.

Dorothy is survived by her daughters, Kathleen Faria and Stacy Caldwell, her treasured grandchildren, Robert Triplett, Joel Faria, Megan Garcia and Seth Meranda, along with her joy and only great-grandchild, Rikher Faria. Preceded in death was her husband, John Caldwell and her only son, Wayne Meranda.

Dorothy was a loving dedicated mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. A wonderful friend as well as a generous, loving caregiver. She was caring, giving and very deeply rooted in her faith and a member of Our Lady of Grace in Castro Valley. Anyone who had the pleasure of having her in their lives was very blessed indeed and she will be dearly missed. She let everybody that she cared about know just how much they meant to her. She loved supporting her friends in her senior housing complex with little gifts and cards for birthdays, holidays, sickness, or just a little hello and thank you cards. She was known for decorating the hall on her floor of the senior housing where she resided to make sure it was very festive and reflective of the holiday!

In lieu of flowers, and in Dorothy's memory please send donations to her favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



### Virginia Liebhart Gates

June 4, 1914 - October 25, 2019  
Resident of Castro Valley, California

Virginia Gates passed away at the age of 105. She was born to John and Emily Liebhart in 1914 in Dickens, Missouri. Virginia moved to Central California as a young girl and graduated from Manteca High School. Following graduation, she enrolled in the nursing program at San Jose State College, transferred to Highland School of Nursing in Oakland, and graduated as a Registered Nurse. She continued graduate studies at UC Moffett Hospital in San Francisco.

Virginia was married to Donald E. Gates of Oakland for 51 happy years. They had two children, Ed Gates and Donna Driver, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Virginia resided in Oakland for 70 years and in Castro Valley for the past 12 years.

Virginia was a member of two local heritage societies, Daughters of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Colonists, and two local chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was also a member of the United Methodist Church of Castro Valley.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, November 9, at 2 p.m. at the Methodist Church sanctuary at 19806 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in her name to be given to the United Methodist Church of Castro Valley.





The kids of Smalltown excitedly color the background for an abstract mural project, no matter what your age it's important to have fun with you art and to be free.

## Coming Up at Smalltown

● **Thursday, Nov 14:** The Lab workshop at The Space. Showcase your music or poetry and workshop with other writers in the community. Sign up through email to perform! [info@smalltown-society.com](mailto:info@smalltown-society.com)

● **Wednesday, Nov. 20:** Bay Area United Against Hate Week — Poetry & Art Slam 6-8 p.m. at Smalltown. The theme is a time in which you've overcome hate or spread understanding and kindness in the community. Jr. high and high school ages welcome to apply! To enter, submit art, music, or poetry, in either the form of a video, doc, or email to [castrovalleyunitypoetryslam@gmail.com](mailto:castrovalleyunitypoetryslam@gmail.com). Poems must be below 3 minutes, dances and songs must be below 4 minutes, and art must be below 18-by-24 inches. Free entry.

More details on these events and others visit [www.smalltown-society.com](http://www.smalltown-society.com) or text "Smalltown" to 797979. Smalltown Society is located at 22222 Redwood Road, Castro Valley.

### OPINION:

## A CV Forest Fire Waiting To Happen

This Saturday, Nov. 9, residents are invited to join a tour at 10 a.m., of Castro Valley's Critical Fire Hazard Zone and learn how a local firestorm can be prevented.

Enjoy a leisurely one-hour walk along Ten Hills Trail. To keep it to a one-way walk consider joining with friends, parking one car near 17321 Redwood Road, the other near 16980 Grovenor. The walk will begin at Grovenor and end at Redwood.

California fire prevention experts have officially designated all of the Ten Hills Trail Area and the private housing areas across Redwood as a "Severe Fire Hazard Zone."

Camino Alta Mira, Willow Glen Place and other housing areas all border on this neglected overgrown forest. Consequently, fire insurance companies are refusing to renew policies.

And there is more bad news. Today's California Housing Disclosure Laws, mandate that when a homeowner places a home for sale, this designation of "Severe Fire Hazard Zone" must be disclosed.

For the safety of all Castro Valley, residents must unite and put fire prevention to work.

Find out exactly what is needed. A demonstration has been completed, covering a few hundred yards of this mile-long Ten Hills Trail. All flammable undergrowth has been removed, but mature trees were saved.

—Submitted by John Sullivan  
Castro Valley



## Firefighters: County Fire Strike Teams

continued from front page

"They're in good spirits because they've been able to assist the people there, but they've seen a lot of tragedy too, like the homes that were lost."

Fire Chief David Rocha says that 40 firefighters from other local departments were also sent to the fires, including crews from Camp Parks, East Bay Regional Parks District, Livermore-Pleasanton

and the cities of Alameda, Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward and Oakland. Four additional strike teams were available for "distant county" deployment if necessary including two from Alameda County.

Centoni says that the public need not worry of a shortage of firefighters at home during such emergencies.

"We always backfill here, so assisting at other locations doesn't

deplete our levels of service. We keep our levels high, always at 100 percent," he says.

Alameda County Fire strike teams returned from Sonoma County on Sunday. As of Monday no crews had been sent to the Southern California fires, and only eight firefighters (two crews) with apparatus from the county's Office of Emergency Services remained on the Kincadee fire lines.

## LEGAL NOTICES

FILED  
OCTOBER 07, 2019  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 564182

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business: Hair By Laurel Landgraf at 20627 Rustic Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546 in Alameda County. Mailing address: 4044 Meadowview Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546 in Alameda County. The business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Laurel Landgraf, 4044 Meadowview Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced on N/A. /s/ Laurel Landgraf

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires OCTOBER 07, 2024  
OCT 16, 23, 30, Nov 06, 2019  
0166-CVF

FILED  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 563987

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business: PauGlam at 2721 Sheffield Place, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Ruben Pulido, (2) Paulina Cano, 2721 Sheffield Place, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a married couple. This business commenced on N/A. /s/ Ruben Pulido, Paulina Cano

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

OCT 16, 23, 30, NOV 06, 2019

0167-CVF

FILED  
OCTOBER 04, 2019  
ORIGINALLY FILED  
MARCH 18, 2015  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 502638

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF THE USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

Abandonment of the business name: A Woman's Touch Gardening located at 19782 Salem Rd., Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County is hereby abandoned by the following owner(s): Sandra M. Feisler, 19782 Salem Rd., Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. /s/ Sandra M. Feisler

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

OCT 16, 23, 30, NOV 06, 2019  
0165-CVF

## Model Airplane Documentary Screening

In the ultra-competitive sport of elite, stunningly-designed indoor model airplanes, a wild-card newcomer threatens to knock a teammate off his world champion throne.

Imagine traveling halfway across the world, descending over 400 feet underground in a tiny elevator, and spending nearly a week in the vast, cathedral-like salt mines under Romania to compete in the most elite model airplane contest on the planet.

"Float," a documentary, follows the tumultuous journey of Brett Sanborn and Yuan Kang Lee, two American competitors, as they prepare for and compete at the World Championships against leading pilots representing 12 countries.

This remarkable movie about science, engineering, creativity and champion spirit will be shown at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Castro Valley Library, where you'll also meet some of Castro Valley's very own model building pilots.

Register now to attend, at <http://bit.ly/cv-float>.

To watch a short trailer of

"Float" visit <https://www.facebook.com/floatdocumentary/videos/1248229382014649/>

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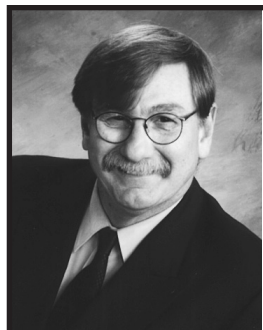
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FILED  
OCTOBER 18, 2019  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 564551

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business: Schnookie's Cookies at 20551 Forest Ave. Apt 19, Castro Valley, CA 94546, county of Alameda. The business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Laura Putnam (2) Ronald Ladley, 20551 Forest Ave. Apt 19, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a married couple. This business commenced on 08/11/19. /s/ Laura Putnam, Ronald Ladley

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires OCTOBER 18, 2024  
OCT 30, NOV 06, 13, 20, 2019  
0175-CVF

FILED  
OCTOBER 23, 2019  
MELISSA WILK  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 564738

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business: Pressure Makes Diamonds at 367 S. N Street, Livermore, CA 94550, county of Alameda. The business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Corey Rubio, 367 S. N Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced on 04/23/19. /s/ Corey Rubio

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires OCTOBER 23, 2024  
NOV 06, 13, 20, 27, 2019  
0178-CVF

**Need to Place a Legal Notice?**

Stop by or Call  
Patrick: 510-614-1558  
2060 Washington Ave.,  
San Leandro

## Reports: Son Puts Father into the Hospital Over Shoes

continued from page 3

**Drugs in Her Bag**  
Saturday, November 2: at 2:21 a.m., a 26-year-old woman with no permanent residence was arrested on suspicion of possession of methamphetamine drugs and related drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the woman near the intersection of Castro Valley Boulevard and Center Street where they discovered a pipe and a bag of the narcotics in her purse. The woman was taken into custody.

**Wanted Man**  
Thursday, October 31: at 8:35 p.m., deputies arrested a 24-year-old man from Hayward as part of

a warrant issued for his capture. The man was previously charged with assault and battery. Deputies caught up with the man in front of a business on Castro Valley Boulevard near Nunes Avenue. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$50,000 in bail.

**Under the Influence and Exposing Himself**  
Friday, November 1: at 1:43 a.m., a 40-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics. Deputies stopped the man for questioning after they spotted him trying to break into a business on Castro Valley Boulevard near Park

Way. As they followed him, they observed him exposing himself. The man admitted to being under the influence of drugs and was taken into custody.

**Son Puts Father into the Hospital Over Shoes**  
Tuesday, October 29: at 10:34 p.m., deputies arrested a 48-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of elder abuse, violating the terms of a restraining order, possession of illegal drug paraphernalia, and violating the terms of his parole. The man was illegally visiting his parents' home on Somerset Avenue near Stanton Avenue to complain to his mother about not

being able to get new shoes. Deputies report the man was intoxicated, became aggressive, and threw the woman's pills against the wall. The man's 75-year-old father tried to intervene but was assaulted by his son, sending him into a Parkinson's Disease flare-up. The father was transported to the hospital. The son was taken to Santa Rita Jail and held without bail.

## Homeless: MAC Review Of Evictions

continued from page 3

Why would we want to steal from people close by to where we live? It just doesn't make sense," she says.

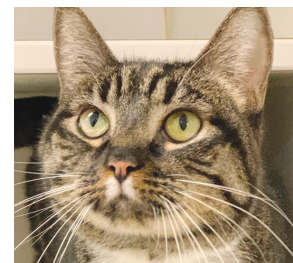
Moore and others are also outraged at the shooting of two of the dogs in the camp. Sheriff's accounts of the incident suggest the animals were off-leash and lunged at a deputy who fired his weapon. Moore says the dog's owners were taken by surprise by officials and that other means could have prevented their deaths.

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meeting on Monday, Nov. 18 will address the homeless eviction and review how the county agencies performed.

## ADOPT-A-PET



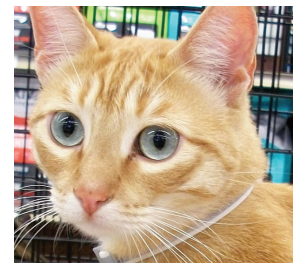
**ENID** is a sweet, 2-year-old pup with smooth tan and white fur that wants to be the center of attention and would love to go to a home with older children and teens. She's OK with other dogs who give her space. For more info, call Hayward Animal Shelter, 510-293-7200.



**DREA** is a quiet, 7-year-old kitty who was rescued from a drainage pipe! She's learning to trust people and loves to be cuddled on your lap. She'd be a good fit with a patient family who'll give her time and TLC to come out of her shell. Hayward Animal Shelter: 510-293-7200.



**DAKOTA** is a 3-year-old Siamese mix with stunning blue eyes who just lost his home and family. He's sweet, affectionate and playful. He is Neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and FIV/FelV negative. For more information, please email: Love-allpawzrescue@gmail.com.



**CHEESE** is a very friendly 2-1/2 year old orange boy with beautiful gray blue eyes who also lost his home and family. He absolutely loves belly rubs. Neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and FIV/FelV negative. For more info, please email: Love-allpawzrescue@gmail.com.



**CANYON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**19600 Cull Canyon Road**  
**April 25, 2020**  
**8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

### DO YOU HAVE OLD TURKEY FRYER OIL?

If you are a CVSan resident and have cooking oil, such as turkey fryer oil, bring up to 10 gallons in plastic, glass, or metal containers to CVSan's Recycles Day event on April 25th. Used cooking oil that is solidified, semi-solid, or liquid will be accepted.



How can you tell if cooking oil is old, spoiled, or going bad?

- Light-colored oil will turn dark and dark oil will turn darker
- Oil will smell different when heated
- The time it takes to cook can be doubled and the food cooked in it may taste bitter

You can also set out used cooking oil on the curb next to your organics cart on your collection day. Place oil in a screw-top plastic container that is no taller than 12 inches in height. The cooking oil's original container can be used if it meets these specifications. Label the container "Cooking Oil."

Small amounts of cooking oil (about 1 cup per weekly collection) may be mixed with food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plant debris in the green organics cart.

**Oil/grease should not be poured down the drain.**

**CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT**

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