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FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

AN INDEPENDENT HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SERVING SAN LEANDRO, ASHLAND, SAN LORENZO AND SHEFFIELD VILLAGE

VOL. 35 • NO. 5

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



People concerned with the fate of San Leandro's part of Lake Chabot Road filled the room at a City Council committee meeting on January 14. City Manager Janell Cameron is in the foreground left, and to her right are Councilmembers Bryan Azevedo and Dylan Boldt, and Public Works Director Sheila Marquises.

PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

New Law Aims To Make Crosswalks Safer

No parking within 20 feet of intersection gives both pedestrians and drivers a better view of each other

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Every year, approximately 30 to 40 pedestrians in San Leandro are involved in collisions with vehicles, according to the city's statistics.

A new state law that took effect on January 1 may help prevent such incidents by improving visibility at intersections.

The Intersection Daylighting Law (California Assembly Bill AB-413) now prohibits

parking within 20 feet of the approach to any marked or unmarked crosswalk. (All intersections are crosswalks unless marked otherwise.)

For intersections with curb extensions, often called bulb-outs, parking is banned within 15 feet of the crosswalk. The law applies regardless of whether signage or curb markings are present.

see CROSSWALKS, page 11

Lake Chabot Road Won't Open Soon

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Lake Chabot Road in San Leandro, closed since winter storms two years ago, will not be reopening anytime soon, residents found out at a City Council committee meeting on Jan. 14.

Members of the council's Facilities

and Transportation Committee tied in a 1-1 vote to reopen the road soon as a one-way street – from Astor Drive to Estudillo Avenue. The Alameda County part of the road is open, from Astor Drive to Fairmont Drive.

The tie vote in the transportation committee meeting came after Coun-

cilmember Bryan Azevedo called for a one-way reopening of the road after a needed geotechnical study is finished in 10 to 12 weeks.

Councilmember Dylan Boldt sided with the staff, voting against the one-way reopening in the hopes it would

see ROAD, page 11

Council OKs 80-foot Communications Tower

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

An 80-foot-tall communications tower disguised as a pine tree will be built on San Leandro Boulevard in the north end of town, after the city council rejected an appeal of an earlier Planning Commission approval.

The City Council voted 6-0 with one recusal on Jan. 21

to turn down the appeal by the owner of an adjacent property of the Planning Commission's approval.

Newly elected Councilmember Dylan Boldt recused himself, as he had voted on the matter in November as a member of the Planning Commission.

"Any enlarged communi-
see TOWER, page 12

EBMUD Welcomes New Board Members

Jim Oddie's ward covers west San Leandro, San Lorenzo

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) board of directors welcomed its newest members at its Jan. 14 meeting – Directors Joey D. Smith, Jim Oddie and Valerie Lewis.

Oddie is the board member from EBMUD Ward 5, which covers the west side of San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Alameda, West Oakland, the Oakland Airport.

The rest of San Leandro is in Ward 7, represented by April Chan who was elected to a 4-year term in 2022.

Oddie was a member of the Alameda City Council from 2014 through 2024 and is currently a vice president and general counsel of a technology company in Lafayette.

"Poet W.H. Auden said, 'Thousands have lived with-

“Our job really is to make sure water is available when you turn on the faucet.”

— EBMUD board member
Jim Oddie

out love, not one without water,' and that underscores how important this role is," Oddie said. "Our job really is to make sure that water is available when you turn on the faucet, it's high quality when it comes out, and it's affordable. I'm honored to fill this role, and I hope I live up to the expectation."

Newly elected Joey D. Smith
see BOARD, page 12

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Zaira Duncan at 667-3522.

San Leandro Times

An independent hometown newspaper serving San Leandro, Ashland, San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

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The San Leandro Books Inc. store will stay open as the company files for bankruptcy.

San Leandro's Books Inc. Store to Remain Open Despite Bankruptcy

The Books Inc. bookstore in San Leandro will stay open, despite the company filing for bankruptcy, the company said last week.

In what the company calls a reorganization, only its Berkeley store will close, on Feb. 9, but Books Inc.'s 10 other stores in the Bay Area will remain open.

Books Inc. has stores in the East Bay, San Francisco, the peninsula and at San Francisco Airport. Its warehouse is in San Leandro next to its store at 2483 Washington Ave.

"Books Inc. is not going away," said Andy Perham, a 15-year employee who became Chief Executive Officer in 2019.

He said that reorganizing with Chapter 11 will put the company on a stronger platform for the future.

The BooksInc.net website will continue to operate and fulfill orders as normal.

Artist Reception at CV Arts

Textile artist Liz Berg and nature painter George Phillips are currently showing their work at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. The public is invited to a reception February 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Lobby and the Exhibition Room.

Both artists explore strong colors as they create their work. Berg combines needlecraft with collage, found objects, and papermaking. She has taught classes around the United States and Switzerland, garnering awards along the way.

George works mostly in oil pastels, showcasing animals and sights from his lifetime of travel. He fell in love with the people of Nepal in the

Himalayas and now supports the Small World foundation, which helps girls and women meet their potential. The proceeds of George's art go directly to support 21 young women attending medical school there.

The work on display is for sale. Light refreshments and jazz piano with Castro Valley Arts Foundation curator and artist Susan Sarti and trumpeter and photographer Bruce Cassaday will be part of the afternoon.

A-MAZE-ING!

See if you can find the route to Funland before it gets dark.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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VACATION FUN!

Our friends have arrived at their destination and can't wait to visit Funland. You can join in by identifying the FUN-filled words listed. Here are some hints:

1.	F	U	N			
2.	F	U	N			
3.	F		U	N		
4.	F		U	N		
5.	F			U	N	
6.	F		U		N	
7.	F				U	N
8.	F		U	N		

1. Depressed mood.

2. A fly ball for fielding practice.

3. The animals of a certain region.

4. Fail a test.

5. Show off.

6. Able to write or speak easily.

7. Great wealth.

8. Where metal is melted.

Time limit: 60 seconds.

1. Funk. 2. Fungo. 3. Fauna. 4. Flunk. 5. Flaunt. 6. Fluent. 7. Fortune. 8. Foundry.

THREE FOR A DOLLAR!

To win, you must knock three bottles off the shelves. But there's a catch: The numbers on these bottles must total 50.

Bottles 6, 19 and 25. Another way: 27, 20 and 3.

25	27	3	12	6
15	9	30	20	19

SECRET AGENT!

Since our friends used a travel agent in setting up their trip, we're going to honor the profession with a word square puzzle. The diagram at right has the word AGENT already inserted. You need to find four more five-letter words so that all words used read the same both across and down.

		A		
		G		
A	G	E	N	T
		N		
		T		

1. Serious play.

2. Characteristic of a king.

3. One that acts for another (AGENT, in place).

4. A minister's house.

5. Change.

1. Drama. 2. Regal. 3. Agent. 4. Manse. 5. Alter.

Community Calendar

San Leandro High Jazz & Wind Ensemble Concerts

Everyone is invited to the San Leandro High School Jazz Band Concert on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the San Leandro High School Wind Ensemble Concert on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2250 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Tickets are \$5 at the door. All proceeds support the San Leandro High School Instrumental Music Program.

Tandi Farms Pasta Fundraiser

Tandi Family Farms will host a Pasta Feed Fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road in Castro Valley. Tickets are \$15 at the door, all you can eat – pasta, salad and bread. Both cash and credit cards accepted. All proceeds benefit Tandis Family Farms Victory Garden Project.

Become a Bicycle and Pedestrian Commissioner

Help make San Leandro a community where walking and biking are safe, equitable, and enjoyable for all ages and abilities. Become a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. As a commissioner, you'll advise on biking and walking conditions and help create a more accessible San Leandro. Apply now: [SanLeandro.org/Boards](https://www.sanleandro.org/Boards)

Resolve to Lose Weight By Joining TOPS

Resolve to lose weight in 2025. Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) for the support you need to start your weight loss journey. TOPS is a non-profit weight loss support group that meets on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria Street in Castro Valley. For more information, call Sandy Montero at 510-299-7312. Join for fellowship and support. What do you have to lose?

Applications for the 2025 Cherry Festival & Parade

Last year, over 20,000 people enjoyed the parade and festival. The festival is seeking vendors with high-quality products, unique experiences, professional attitudes, community non-profits, and performers to help make this the best Cherry Festival yet. If you're interested in applying, visit [sanleandrocherryfest.com](https://www.sanleandrocherryfest.com) for more information. The 2025 Cherry Festival and Parade will be on Saturday, June 7.

Join the "Book It 2025 Reading Challenge"

Push the boundaries of your reading by joining the San Leandro Library's "Book It 2025 Reading Challenge," open to teens and adults, starting Jan. 10. Stop by any branch library to pick up a gameboard, or join online at [sanleandrolibrary.beanstack.org](https://www.sanleandrolibrary.beanstack.org)

Homework Center

At the Manor Branch Library

Need help with your homework? Come to the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd., for after-school homework help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. This is for students in grades 1 through 5. Registration needed at bit.ly/4fD096R or call 510-577-7971.

Women's History Month Tiny Art Show at the San Leandro Public Library

The San Leandro Public Library is celebrating Women's History Month with its 4th Annual Tiny Art Show. Pick up a mini art kit (3"x3" canvas, paint, brushes) starting 02/03 at the Main Library to create a masterpiece inspired by women artists. Return by February 27 to be featured in the March Tiny Art Show display. Kits available while supplies last.

SLHS United Parents Crab Feed

The San Leandro High School United Parents are having a crab feed on Saturday, March 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 2200 San Leandro Blvd. Fresh Dungeness crab, pasta, meatballs, salad, French bread. No host bar and dessert bar. Raffle, auction items. Pre-sold tickets only: <https://forms.gle/AS5EKaobyMxiZt1w7> Order by Feb. 22. Tickets are \$85 and \$15 of each ticket donated to a sports team or student organization of your choice.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at The Library

All are invited to learn about and celebrate the diversity and culture of Lunar New Year – 2025, the Year of the Snake – on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

Enjoy sensational performances by special guests Oakland Taiko, Dasen American Academy, and Vovinam of San Jose.

Refreshments offered while supplies last at this all ages/family friendly program.

Redlining History for Kids Program at SL Museum

The San Leandro History Museum will present a fun and educational program for kids on Saturday, Feb. 1, from noon to 2:30 p.m.

The afternoon will kick off with a thought-provoking film about housing discrimination practices, followed by an interactive hands-on activity guided by the museum staff.

No registration required. Recommended for ages 7 to 12. Parent supervision required.

Call 510-577-3990 or email historymuseum@sanleandro.org for more information.

Spectrum Community Services Fall Prevention Classes

Spectrum Community Services will hold its Winter 2025 fall prevention programs: A Matter of Balance and Walk with Ease, hosted at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St. in San Leandro. These classes are designed to help older adults improve their strength, mobility, and confidence, enabling them to maintain their independence.

To register or learn more, visit [SpectrumCS.org](https://www.spectrumcs.org) or call 510-876-8809.

No one will be turned away for inability to pay, ensuring these life-changing programs remain accessible to all.

A Matter of Balance: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. January 14 – March 4 (8

Martina Brings a Variety of Talent And Interesting People to Her Show

The Martina Show airs on Comcast 28 Fridays at 7 p.m.

The show's host, Martina Lawson Hines of San Leandro, began hosting the show in 2008. She shares information and entertainment as she interviews notable people in the East Bay.

Recently, Martina's mom made a request – to have a theme song for the show.

"My Cousins, Chelsi Alexys, Prestige, and Celeste Butler, who are all accomplished artists, responded to the request, and put together an incredible theme song in no time," Martina said.



Martina Lawson Hines

Martina described the song as upbeat, positive, and inspirational.

"I'm hoping that once the

song is available on various outlets, it will go viral and be trending on music charts," she said.

To hear the song before it's available to download, tune in to The Martina Show's next new episode airing this month. Martina will also be highlighting some of her cousin's accomplishments on the new episode as well.

The Martina Show can be seen on Comcast 28 on Friday night's at 7 pm or watched from anywhere on the stations broadcast site at: <https://www.chabotcollege.edu/chabottv/>

Alta Mira Club

Mystery Tea Luncheon

The Alta Mira Club, 561 Lafayette Ave. in San Leandro, will host a Mystery Tea Luncheon on Monday, Feb. 17, at noon, featuring popular mystery writers Jennifer Morita, Karen Phillips and Simon Wood. Salad bar luncheon, followed by the program. Tickets \$25. All proceeds benefit scholarships. Limited seating. Email or call for reservations: Nancyfong@aol.com or 510-483-1018.

Castro Valley Orchestra Free Concert

The Castro Valley Orchestra will open its 2025 season with a free concert on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. The program will include works by Bizet, Humperdinck, and Mozart. Ross Gershenson, retired Fremont music teacher and member of the Oakland Symphony, will perform the Horn Concerto by Lee Actor. A reception to meet the soloist and members of the orchestra will follow the concert.

Financial Wellness Workshops at the Library

Take steps toward your financial wellness with a free workshop series on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Learn planning and savings tools from Youngky Hermanto, CLTC, a registered financial advisor. The next session is "Increasing Cash Flow & Managing

Debt" on Jan. 23; followed by "Preparing with Proper Protection" on Jan. 30; "Your Health & Wealth" on Feb. 6; "Understanding Asset Accumulation Strategies" on Feb.

20; and "Fulfilling Long-Term Goals" on Feb. 27. Register for any or all sessions by calling 510-577-3971 or visiting the library's website at www.sanleandrolibrary.org

Events at the Library

Meditation Mondays

Relax at a free drop-in relaxation practice on the first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Calm your stress with meditation, gentle stretching, breath work, and poetry. For age 18 and older. Call 510-577-3971 to reserve a spot of just drop in. Future Meditation Mondays will be on Feb. 3 and March 3.

Lunar New Year Celebration: Craft and Kung Fu

Celebrate the Year of the Snake at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd., on Sunday, Feb. 9. Join a festive afternoon featuring a craft session from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m., followed by an exciting performance by U.S. Shaolin Kung Fu from 3:30 to 4 p.m. This event is for all ages and no registration is needed.

Adults learn to read free!



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Our Love Affair with Spaghetti

Americans engage in the occasional fling with quinoa and arugula, but pasta, especially spaghetti, has become a long-term love affair.

The average family enjoys spaghetti about once a week, usually made with a heat-and-serve red sauce.

But few bottled sauces can compare with the flavor of homemade. Simple to make, spaghetti sauce typically uses common and inexpensive everyday ingredients. And like soup, it can be customized to suit a family's taste.

SAVORY SPAGHETTI SAUCE

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped

- 2 (15-ounce) cans tomato sauce
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh basil or 1 teaspoon dried
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh oregano or 3/4 teaspoon dried
- 2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- Hot cooked spaghetti
- Fresh oregano, optional

In a Dutch oven, cook ground beef and onion until meat is no longer pink and onion is tender; drain. Add the next eight ingredients; bring to a boil.

Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1 hour, stirring occa-

sionally. Remove the bay leaf. Serve with spaghetti. Garnish with oregano if desired. Yields 4-6 servings (about 1 quart).

QUICK-TO-FIX SPAGHETTI SAUCE

- 3/4 pound extra-lean ground beef
- 1 clove garlic, minced or 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon dried basil, crushed
- 1/2 cup dehydrate onion
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 4 ounces fresh mushroom, sliced
- 1-1/2 cups water
- Cooked pasta
- Grated Parmesan, optional

Brown ground beef in large skillet with lid. drain well. Add garlic, tomato paste, tomato sauce, onion, basil, onion powder, salt, pepper, cornstarch, sugar, mushrooms and water. Stir to mix.

Simmer sauce for 30 minutes, covered, stirring frequently. Served over cooked pasta. Top with Parmesan. Serves 4.

MEATLESS SPAGHETTI SAUCE

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 (28-ounce) can chopped tomatoes
- 1 (28 ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 8 ounces red wine
- 2 tablespoons dried basil
- 1 -2 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper

Place a 4 quart pot over medium high heat, add olive oil and red pepper flakes, stirring for approximately 1 minute.

Lower heat to medium and add onion, sauteing until onion begins to be translucent. Add garlic and saute for additional 2 minutes.

Add both cans tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato sauce, sugar, and wine. Add spices, blending thoroughly. Cover and simmer on low heat for 2 hours, then taste test and add more wine if too thick and re season as desired.

Simmer, covered, for an additional hour. Can be slow cooked in crock pot on low for 6-8 hours. Yields 10 servings.

Cooked ground beef or turkey or cooked Italian sausage may be added upon serving if desired.

This recipe freezes well.

FAUX BEEF SPAGHETTI SAUCE

- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 4 stalks celery, sliced
- 1 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 large can tomato sauce
- 3 small cans tomato sauce
- 1 cup soy burger
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 3/4 teaspoon basil spice
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- Parsley



- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 cups water

an appetizer.

SWEET SPICE SPAGHETTI SAUCE

Saute onion, bell pepper, mushrooms, celery and garlic in olive oil until slightly tender. Add all other ingredients and simmer for about 4 hours. Add water as needed if mixture becomes too thick or dry. Serves 8 to 10. As you serve this sauce over pasta, sprinkle with a little freshly grated Parmesan.

NARSAI DAVID'S PASTA A LA AMATRICIANA

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 4 cups canned crushed tomatoes
- 1 pound pasta
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan

Heat oil in a saucepan. Add onion and saute until translucent. Add red pepper flakes and tomatoes and simmer until thickened, about 10 minutes.

While sauce is simmering, bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until al dente. Drain and rinse with hot water. Toss pasta with sauce and sprinkle cheese on top. Serves 4 as main course or 8 as

- 4 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 4 medium onions, chopped
- 1 cup finely chopped celery
- 2 cloves garlic, pressed
- 2 tablespoons mince parsley
- Spice Blend (recipe follows)
- 3 (15-ounce) cans tomato sauce
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

In a 6-quart pan over medium high heat, stir bacon and beef frequently until well browned, about 15 minutes. Discard fat. Add onions, celery, garlic, parsley and spice blend. Stir often until onions are limp, about 20 minutes. Add tomato sauce and paste, and vinegar. Simmer, uncovered, until reduced to about 2 quarts, about 1 hour. Makes 2 quarts.

To make Spice Blend, combine 1 tablespoon firmly packed brown sugar, 1/2 teaspoon each of ground cinnamon, dry oregano leaves, pepper, rubbed sage, and dry thyme leaves. Add 1/4 teaspoon each of ground cloves and ground nutmeg.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your batteries should be fully recharged by now, making you more than eager to get back into the swing of things full-time. Try to stay focused so that you don't dissipate your energies.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): You're eager to charge straight ahead into your new responsibilities. But you'll have to paw the ground a little longer until a surprise complication is worked out.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Rival factions are pressuring you to take a stand favoring one side or the other. But this isn't the time to play judge. Bow out as gracefully as possible without committing yourself to any position.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Reassure a longtime, trusted confidante that you appreciate their words of advice. But at this time, you need to act on what you perceive to be your own sense of self-interest.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): You need to let your warm Leonine heart fire up that new relationship if you hope to see it move from the "just friends" level to one that will be as romantic as you could hope for.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): There's still time to repair a misunderstanding with an honest explanation and a heartfelt apology. The sooner you do, the sooner you can get on with other matters.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Expect a temporary setback as you progress toward your goal. Use this time to reexamine your plans and see where you might need to make some significant changes.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Some missteps are revealed as the cause of current problems in a personal or professional partnership. Make the necessary adjustments, then move on.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Jupiter's influence helps you work through a pesky problem and allows your naturally jovial attitude to reemerge stronger than ever. Enjoy your success!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Set aside your usual reluctance to change, and consider reassessing your financial situation so that you can build on its strengths and minimize its weaknesses.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Some recently acquired information helps open up a dark part of the past. Resolve to put what you've learned to good use. Meanwhile, travel plans continue to be favored.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Act on your own keen instincts. Your strong Piscean backbone will support you as someone attempts to pressure you into a decision that you're not ready to make.

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- We believe there are many paths to God.
- We show you how to transform your life through practical spiritual principles.
- Everyone is welcome.

SUNDAY 12:12 P.M.

Unity Church of San Leandro

Meeting in person on the 1st & 3rd Sundays at 12:12 PM
San Leandro Senior Community Center
13909 E. 14th St., San Leandro

County Arts Commission Accepting Grant Applications

Alameda County Arts Commission's ARTSFUND Grant Program is accepting applications through Feb. 6.

The Alameda County Arts Commission's 2025 ARTSFUND Grant Program supports Alameda County-based nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

The online application is now open. Information can be found at the Arts Commission's website arts.acgov.org/artsfund.

Standard grant awards are \$2,000-\$3,000 each. The application deadline is Thursday, Feb. 6, at 5 p.m.

The ARTSFUND Grant Program supports all types of arts and cultural programs such as visual arts, dance, music, theater, literature, media arts, and other related forms presented by Alameda County nonprofit organizations.

The Alameda County Arts Commission, a division of the County of Alameda, is dedicated to improving the quality

of life in Alameda County by nurturing a thriving environment for the arts, promoting economic opportunities for Alameda County's artists and arts organizations, and encouraging public participation in the arts.

The Arts Commission staff will present a webinar to assist organizations in preparing their grant application on Friday, Jan. 17 at 1 p.m. The workshop is free, open to the public, and reservations are not required.

A pre-recorded video of the webinar is also available to watch online at any time. For details about how to join the Zoom webinars, watch the video, and learn more about the ARTSFUND Grant Program, visit the Alameda County Arts Commission's website arts.acgov.org/artsfund.

The Arts Commission staff can also be reached by email at artscommission@acgov.org or phone (510) 208-9646.



Volunteers Clean Don Castro Recreation Area

The Alameda County Unincorporated Area Clean Water Program, in partnership with EarthTeam, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), and community volunteers hosted a successful cleanup and beautification event at Don Castro Regional Recreation Area for MLK Jr.

Day of Service.

Seventy volunteers and staff from EarthTeam, the Alameda County Unincorporated Area Clean Water Program, and EBRPD, removed 3.5 cubic yards of trash from the creek and park areas. Volunteers also cleared invasive French broom and weeded

areas targeted for native plant restoration. Educational activities included water testing and a talk on healthy creeks, emphasizing litter prevention and environmental stewardship.

"This event showcased the power of community action to protect and enhance our natural spaces," said Jennifer

Travis, Alameda County Resource Conservation District's Resource Conservationist and Clean Water Program Representative.

The Alameda County Unincorporated Area Clean Water Program thanks everyone who contributed to this day of service.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY
By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times
GUEST COMMENTARY

2024's Sluggish Market Carrying Over Into 2025

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

For those paying attention to the real estate market, 2024 was the worst year since 1995. Sales were down as rates continued above 6% and prices continued to rise. So far, 2025 is not looking much better. At the end of the day, the problem roughly falls into 2 categories:

High interest rates are providing a barrier to both buyers and sellers.

buy a home, it is obvious: rates over 6% do not appeal to many buyer's budgets. If we do not see rates fall, we can anticipate a slower market with fewer buyers willing to commit. Even then, however, we are still facing an inventory shortage due to the lack of listings, so those buyers that are out shopping have less to choose from. This, in turn, is pushing prices even higher.

For sellers, the idea of giving up a low mortgage to buy a home at a much higher rate is simply not palatable. As a result,

many sellers are deciding to hunker down and stay put and many, as mentioned in previous articles, are deciding to stay in their homes for the long haul.

Increasing prices are causing significant problems for both buyers and sellers.

It is common sense that escalating prices are causing grief for buyers. Many have been priced out and those that remain are struggling to land their own slice of the American dream of home ownership.

It is also causing problems for sellers. The higher prices go, the more difficult it becomes to sell. A significant percentage of bay area homeowners – due to the fact that

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they bought when prices were much lower – would incur a significant capital tax burden upon closing. As prices increase, so do the potential taxes. For some, the idea of giving that much money to the government is simply out of the question. The only real solution would be to increase the sellers tax exclusion from the current \$250,000 to \$500,000 per person.

There are also those 55 and under who currently have relatively low property taxes but who would, upon selling and repurchasing, have their property taxes significantly increase. For those looking to sell to buy smaller homes, they could easily end up paying more property taxes than before. Once again, selling does not make sense.

The real solution is much lower interest rates: let's hope we see reductions sooner than later.

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.

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

20634 Maria Court 94546: \$755,000 [2 BD - 1,266 SF - 1992
20205 Sapphire Street 94546: \$820,000 [3 BD - 1,267 SF - 1952
4564 Sargent Avenue 94546: \$900,000 [3 BD - 1,112 SF - 1953
1925 Grove Way 94546: \$1,050,000 [3 BD - 1,783 SF - 1947
2591 Miramar Avenue 94546: \$1,125,000 [3 BD - 1,282 SF - 1955
17739 Kingston Way 94546: \$1,180,000 [3 BD - 1,583 SF - 1953
21694 Shadyspring Road 94546: \$1,265,000 [3 BD - 2,456 SF - 1976
20760 Edgewood Circle 94552: \$1,300,000 [4 BD - 1,875 SF - 1990
7303 Longmont Loop 94552: \$1,458,000 [4 BD - 2,251 SF - 2000
20174 Glenwood Drive 94552: \$1,748,000 [4 BD - 2,903 SF - 1993
5022 Beacon Hill Drive 94552: \$1,780,000 [4 BD - 3,194 SF - 1970
5930 Gold Creek Drive 94552: \$1,800,000 [5 BD - 2,527 SF - 1997

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$755,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,222,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,800,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,265,083

SAN LEANDRO

1505 Peters Street 94578: \$520,000 [2 BD - 1,461 SF - 1947
1700 151st Avenue 94578: \$668,000 [2 BD - 720 SF - 1938
351 Garcia Avenue 94577: \$680,000 [2 BD - 1,138 SF - 1926
1906 North Boulevard 94577: \$700,000 [817 SF - 1943
1974 Eveleth Avenue 94577: \$750,000 [3 BD - 1,072 SF - 1952
851 Estudillo Avenue 94577: \$850,000 [4 BD - 2,152 SF - 1924
15421 Maureen Street 94579: \$878,000 [3 BD - 1,441 SF - 1958
14360 Maracaibo Road 94577: \$885,000 [4 BD - 1,386 SF - 1962
832 Hollyhock Drive 94578: \$940,000 [1,659 SF - 1979
1584 Hickory Avenue 94579: \$945,000 [3 BD - 1,484 SF - 1953
14335 Nassau Road 94577: \$960,000 [3 BD - 1,126 SF - 1962
1013 San Rafael Street 94577: \$1,000,000 [2 BD - 1,687 SF - 1952
2177 Lakeview Drive 94577: \$1,200,000 [3 BD - 1,842 SF - 1962

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$520,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$878,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,200,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$844,307

SAN LORENZO

551 Via Acalanes 94580: \$800,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1944
1241 Via Manzanas 94580: \$885,000 [3 BD - 1,479 SF - 1950
16010 Via Harriet 94580: \$950,000 [3 BD - 1,548 SF - 1956

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$800,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$885,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$950,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$878,333

HAYWARD

27830 Miami Avenue 94545: \$625,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1955

see RECENT Home Sales on page 7

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A	1-4	1-4	2405 W Avenue 135th	\$1,050,000	4/2	Re/ Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
F	1-4	1-4	5566 Magnolia Terrace	\$650,000	2/1.5	Re/ Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555
H	1-4	1-4	1962 Catalpa Way	\$849,000	3/1	Re/ Max Accord	The Lovewell Team	510-351-5555

CITY GUIDE A = SAN LEANDRO • B = BRENTWOOD • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DUBLIN • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD
L = LIVERMORE • P = PLEASANTON • S = SAN RAMON • SLZ = SAN LORENZO • W = WALNUT CREEK • Z = ALAMEDA

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For Small Backyards, Plant Compatible Fruit Trees Together

By Buzz Bertolero
The Dirt Gardener

Q Is it possible to grow various fruit trees in a small backyard? I'm considering peaches, nectarines, apples, and cherries.

A Today's smaller lot sizes make it challenging to plant various deciduous fruit trees. One way to do this is by planting three compatible trees in a single hole. Plant the trees in a triangle two feet apart and slightly bent at an outward angle. This keeps the center of the trees open for good air circulation. Annual pruning will keep one variety from dominating the group. Select varieties that ripen at different times for fresh fruit throughout the summer. Here are some fruit tree combinations that work. Combination cherries, Bing, Black Tartarian, and Royal Ann, are

very popular, and cross-pollination is assured. Pick any three varieties of Peach, Nectarine, Plum, and Apricot or mix any combination of these trees. Apple, Pear, and Asian Pear are other combinations to consider, but an Apple, Cherry, Peach/Nectarine combination would not work. If in doubt, ask your local nursery professional for a second opinion. Semi-dwarf fruit trees are not as small growing as the name indicates. They grow twelve to fifteen feet high with an eight to ten-foot wide. Instead, plant Ultra Dwarf Fruit Tree. They grow eight to ten feet high and are perfect for small-yard orchards. You'll find a complete list of edible fruits online at your favorite garden center. One final thought: all deciduous fruit trees are not watered equally. Once established, the stone fruits, those with a pit, cherry, apricot, peaches, nec-

tarines, and plum, suffer from root rot from over-watering. Planting under their canopy is not recommended. Once established, they're watered every three weeks with a large basin around them. The pome fruits, Pears, Apples, and Asian Pears tolerate much more frequent watering so that you can plant under them. Fruit trees are not inexpensive, so be diligent to get the right trees in the right spot.

Q My brother has two big persimmon trees that give tons of fruit. He plans to get rid of one of them. The trees are about eleven years old. They are about eight to ten feet high and six to seven feet wide. Should I hire an expert to move the tree, or can my brother dig it up and replant it in my backyard? Also, do you need to have two persimmon trees to cross-pol-

linate with each other for fruit production?

A It is a shame that these trees have to be removed. Persimmons are slow-growing, so to get mature specimens takes time. Unlike cherries and other fruit trees, persimmons do not require pollination by a second tree. They can be successfully transplanted. The best time to move these trees is now through the middle of March. You must take a large root ball, probably two feet by two feet. The size and weight of the ball make it problematic for most gardeners. I would google "Mature Tree Relocation." For companies that provide this service. Here is one.

<https://www.cbctreeservice.com/free-estimate/?2=Tree-Service&msclkid=4fffb63186b1beac>

c41d91b9fc0169c

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt

Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com, and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.



By Diako1971 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=37549288>



Flower Bulbs

February is the month to start planting gladioluses. Select bulbs now and follow up with additional plantings at three-week intervals to extend the blooming season. Other bulbs for spring and early summer bloom that can be planted now include achimenes, agapanthus, amaryllis, tuberous begonias, calla lilies, canna lilies, dahlias, daylilies and irises.

Vegetables

Although nighttime temperatures continue to drop to the low 30s, seeds in the garden will germinate, but very slowly. Sow beets, celery, carrots, chard, chive, collards, garlic, leafy lettuce, mustard, parsley, peas, radishes, spinach and turnips. Keep an eye out for snails and slugs as the seeds germinate.

Weeds

While the ground is wet from our latest rains, pull weeds before they form seeds. Be sure to remove the entire root system so they don't sprout again. Avoid using weed-killing chemicals, as they just add pollution to your yard's soil.

Mortgage Rates Drop Below Seven Percent

After crossing the 7%-mark last week, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage saw its first decline in six weeks. While affordability challenges remain, this is welcome news for potential homebuyers, as reflected in a corresponding uptick in purchase applications.

RECENT HOME SALES

HAYWARD

continued from page 6

27830 Miami Avenue 94545: \$625,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1955
550 Blossom Way #D4 94541: \$675,000 [3 BD - 1,160 SF - 1993
2209 Oak Creek Place 94541: \$680,000 [2 BD - 1,542 SF - 1978
24517 Diamond Ridge Drive 94544: \$705,000 [3 BD - 1,670 SF - 1992
31940 Olean Street 94544: \$730,000 [2 BD - 820 SF - 1951
27836 Ormond Avenue 94544: \$775,000 [3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1954
239 Dash Court 94544: \$820,000 [2 BD - 1,491 SF - 2020
26663 Eldridge Avenue 94544: \$825,000 [3 BD - 1,231 SF - 1954
465 Nassau Lane 94544: \$950,000 [3 BD - 1,134 SF - 1955
29711 Hansen Street 94544: \$1,011,000 [4 BD - 2,018 SF - 2022
190 Caterina Way 94545: \$1,100,000 [3 BD - 1,958 SF - 2017
27048 Columbia Court 94542: \$1,160,000 [3 BD - 1,683 SF - 1979
2926 Chronicle Avenue 94542: \$1,160,000 [3 BD - 2,037 SF - 1978
3435 Pinewood Drive 94542: \$1,200,000 [4 BD - 2,055 SF - 1972
27975 Edgcliff Way 94542: \$1,325,000 [3 BD - 2,294 SF - 1968
30083 Bridgeview Way 94544: \$1,507,000 [4 BD - 2,485 SF - 1999
3140 Atwal Court 94541: \$2,250,000 [5 BD - 4,500 SF - 2007

TOTAL SALES:	17		
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$520,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$878,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,200,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$844,307

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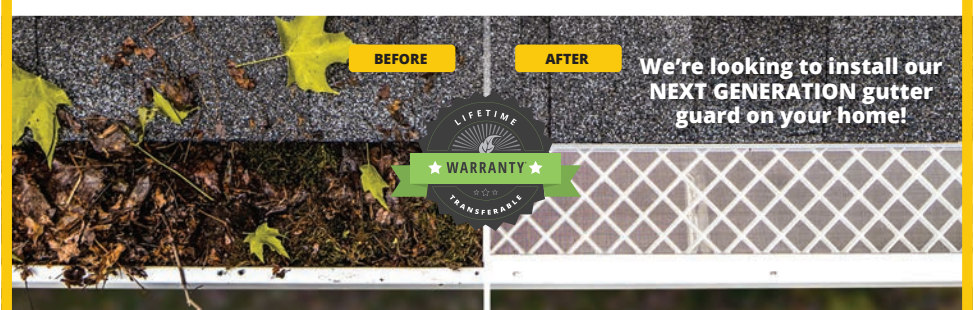
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LEGAL NOTICES

FILED January 8, 2024
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 611674

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Ohlone Lawn Care located at 1353 Via
Vista San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Alameda
County, is hereby registered by the
following owner(s): Gabriel Medina
located at 21353 Via Vista San Lorenzo,
CA 94580. This business is conducted
by An Individual. This business com-
menced N/A
/s/Gabriel Medina
This statement was filed with the Coun-
ty Clerk of Alameda County on date in-
dicated by file stamp above.
Expires January 7, 2030
JAN 16, 23, 30, FEB 6, 2025
1905 - SLT

1 Ga. neighbor
2 Speck
3 Yellow turnip
4 Belittle
5 Teeming
6 Political strategist Navarro
7 Hamilton bill
8 Complain
9 Guns the engine
10 One
11 Hotel furniture
16 "Cold As Ever" rapper
19 Seized vehicle
20 Bank statement no.
21 Rude dude
22 Killer whales
23 Check
25 Designer Chanel
26 Table protector
27 Summer month in Paris
28 Terse denial
30 Roe provider
33 Treeless tract
34 Poi base
36 Some Pacific salmon
37 Pickling herb
38 "Hi, sailor!"
39 Implement
40 Garbage barge
42 Roast VIPs
43 "Caught ya!"
44 "I -- Rock"
45 Eeay quaff

510.376.1589
dan@xzault.com

Board: Three longtime, retiring EBMUD directors replaced

continued from front page

Smith in Ward 1 recently retired from EBMUD after more than 30 years of service. Smith started her career in the water industry in August 1992 and retired as a water conservation technician.

Ward 1 includes San Pablo, part of Richmond, Hercules and

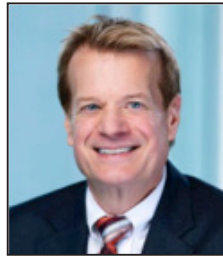
Rodeo.

"After 32 years of sitting on that side, this is definitely a change," Smith said. "I'm really looking forward to working with this Board. There will be some challenges, but it is going to be awesome."

Valerie Lewis in Ward 6 is an attorney and former assistant

vice president and assistant legal secretary for Safeway Inc./Albertsons Companies.

"My



Jim Oddie

friends will tell you if you don't want an honest answer, don't ask me," Lewis said. "I ran for this seat to tackle the urgent challenges of climate change and its impact on our water supply, and the delivery of clean, affordable water. I will give you my best, I will be there, and you can count on that."

Ward 6 includes East Oakland from Park Boulevard and 5th Avenue south to San Leandro.

In 2024, the board bid farewell to three retiring directors: Lesa R. McIntosh, Doug A. Linney, and William B. Patterson. Together, they served a cumulative 79 years on the utility's board.

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Don't Bow to One Loud Group

Editor,

During the City Council and Facilities meeting held Jan. 14, our city engineers and fire chief once again went over their very thorough presentation outlining the myriad of reasons Lake Chabot Road would be safer were it to remain closed.

Any attempt to re-open it prior to full repair (necessarily one way) would not only dangerously hinder emergency vehicle access, it would divert even more traffic onto Bay-O-Vista streets, primarily Sandelin, Graff, View and Astor. Money would have to be spent to cut into the hillside and build a retaining wall to enable the first driveway to be safely visible to the road, probably costing close to \$100,000.

Heavy concrete barriers would need to be installed to keep traffic off the dangerous portion of the road, making it too narrow for a fire truck to navigate in the event of a fire emergency.

To reopen the road, San Leandro, a city where 40% of its roads received a failing grade, would have to spend \$89,500 to examine the road to ensure it can safely support vehicular traffic. Should it pass, this would not be a one-time survey.

Each time we have a heavy rainstorm it needs to be reexamined. If there were an earthquake in the area, it needs to be reexamined, and finally, at the beginning of each rainy season, it would have to be reexamined.

Currently, the cost of each survey is \$89,500. Last year the estimated cost was \$85,000. The cost of these necessary safety surveys will continue to increase. Surely there is a better way for

San Leandro to spend all of that money...for instance, on the failing roads which actually have homes on them. Please don't let a small group of very loud people bully the council into wasting our city money better used elsewhere.

Gwenn Olson
San Leandro

If Road is Safe for One-Way Traffic, Use It

Editor,

Regarding the proposal to open Lake Chabot Road for one-way downhill traffic until the repairs for two-way traffic are completed in two years, a council member recently said, "if it's safe, we should use it." A clear and practical solution to fire and traffic dangers that threaten thousands of city residents. What matters is whether the roadway is structurally sound.

The actual condition of the roadway is in dispute. Opponents claim the roadway is undercut and washed away, requiring extensive measures to open it for one-way traffic. Yet aside from one spot where the shoulder is damaged, the road appears as it was prior to the storm that led to its closure. The City Council is considering asking an independent expert if the roadway is suitable for one-way traffic. The study should proceed. If safe, the road should reopen.

Opponents claim the closed road can be used as an evacuation route. But using it requires driving through narrow fence gates and over 3-foot bollards put there to inhibit traffic from passing through. Removing the obstacles and opening the road one-way would improve it greatly.

Concerns about cyclists and pedestrians are overstated. There is plenty of room for cars and bikes

and alternative walking routes are plentiful, including miles of trails in the parks next door.

Environmental concerns are misguided. Forcing traffic onto long, steep detours is far more polluting. Meanwhile, amid the collisions and near-misses, vehicles descending View Drive continue to jump the curb and crash into front yards.

Open Lake Chabot Road for one-way downhill traffic to provide a viable and effective evacuation route and to protect thousands of city residents with a safer traffic detour. It's a cheap and easy solution pending repair of the road for two-way traffic. If the road is safe, we should use it.

Paul Wellenkamp
San Leandro

Irresponsible Dog Owners the Problem

Editor,

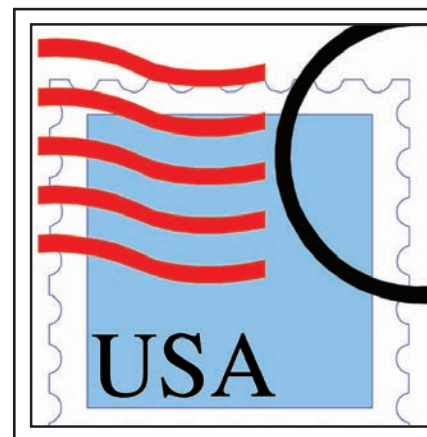
In response to Gloria Strohm's letter (Letters to the Editor, Jan. 23, 2025) urging SLUSD to open Roosevelt to the public and to dogs, I have some clarifying comments.

My children attended Roosevelt in the '90s and early 2000s. Stray and unleashed dogs and the resulting dog poop was an issue then as it is now. We discussed what we could do as a concerned PTA. I also taught at Roosevelt for many years, retiring in 2020.

The problem of irresponsible dog owners allowing their dogs to run free on the playground continued to be an issue. I had to help students clean dog poop off their shoes, and clean the carpet where my students sat several times.

Staff volunteered to patrol the grass and look for poop before events on the green. Yes, stepping in dog poop is part of urban "life" and "it happens," as Ms. Strohm said. Dog poop in and around classrooms is not safe and should not be tolerated as part of life.

Dog owners should be responsible. They should follow clearly posted laws, keep their dogs leashed, and clean up dog feces. In my experience, some flaunt the laws. I spoke with several dog owners over my career, reminding them of the city ordinances. Usually I was ignored, and once I felt uncomfortable because of an



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aggressive response.

It is not feasible to have police patrolling on the Roosevelt grounds. There are higher priorities for law enforcement. As a concerned citizen, I did my best.

Ms. Strohm, Roosevelt's campus should not be compared with Washington. Washington is attached to a city park and that space is open and is maintained by the city. Roosevelt is not.

Finally, when a child is bitten by an unleashed dog, we all should pause and consider the best approach to keeping our school and community safe. This is why Roosevelt is currently, not permanently, closed. I miss taking my grands to the playground on the weekends. But I support our district as they work to ensure the safety of all.

Jenifer Engler
San Leandro

Rebuked Fascist Regime

Editor,

Here comes again Bruce Joffe, calling for another impeachment of His Excellency, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, for the grace and glory of some 80 million people who rebuked the fascist regime installed in the White House in 2021.

For four years the fascists engaged in jailing political demonstrators, plotting fraudulent lawsuits against His Excellency, wasting taxpayers' money on illegals and by a rampant inflation while in the states run by Democrats, like California, the homeless encampments grow, the fires burn the houses of those who still have one, and in New York illegals who "come to work" overwhelm the shelters and commit crimes.

Donald J. Trump has shown

loyalty to his followers, persecuted for a political demonstration that a fraudulent committee falsely accused with a barrage of lies while the vandals who destroyed cities and towns in 2020, and still continue with the looting, have never been charged. The patriots are free.

Meanwhile Biden pardons the crooks of the selected committee, drug dealers and corporate crooks, of course, also his son and family, with the excuse that they didn't do anything wrong. When asked why he didn't pardon himself, he replied "Why, I didn't do anything wrong." Aha, what about the others?

So, Bruce Joffe, salute His Excellency with reverence, on behalf of 80 million U.S. citizens.

Leo T. West
San Leandro

About those Pardons

Editor,

It never ceases to entertain me with Bruce Joffe's latest partisan myopic diatribe on his dislike for President Trump. Mr. Joffe obviously missed the memo on pardons. Trump campaigned, stating that if he was elected he would pardon those involved in January 6. Since President Trump won the electoral college and the popular vote, that puts Mr. Joffe in the minority.

I can hardly wait for Mr. Joffe to tell the readers how he feels about President Biden pardoning his son when he said numerous times he would not. Also, the immediate members of his family and all the Congress people who were on the January 6th select committee. Mr. Joffe please do not make us wait too long. I am anxious to read your rationale.

Jeanette Wilson
Castro Valley

Crosswalks: San Leandro hopes to see a decline in pedestrian collisions

continued from front page

The City Council passed a resolution on January 21 stating that drivers found violating the law in San Leandro will receive an initial warning, but later citations will cost \$63.

"People are accustomed to taking that last spot right next to the corner, so now they will have to become accustomed to not doing that," said Mayor Juan González. "We recognize that it's a cultural change, so we'll give people a courtesy warning for the first few months."

"We really need people to adapt because this is all about making it safer for pedestrians, especially for the very young and older folks."

According to AB-413, the law's primary objective is to enhance roadway users' safety by eliminating visual obstructions near crosswalks. Parked vehicles near intersections often block drivers' view of pedestrians and vice versa, increasing the risk of severe or fatal collisions.

By requiring vehicles to

park farther from crosswalks, the law ensures that drivers can clearly see pedestrians waiting to cross and that pedestrians can see oncoming vehicles without stepping into the roadway.

A few years back, San Leandro's Engineering and

"This is about making it safer for pedestrians, both the very young and older folks."

— Mayor Juan Gonzalez

Transportation department put together a "Pedestrian Safety Is a Two-Way Street" pamphlet with a list of tips for pedestrians and drivers. The pamphlet noted, "Regardless of fault, pedestrians almost always suffer the most serious

injuries in these collisions."

"As motorists, we should always try to drive defensively, including watching out for the unexpected pedestrian," the pamphlet says. "Look for pedestrians before making a right turn on red. Look to the right to ensure a pedestrian hasn't stepped into a crosswalk."

When stopping for a stop sign or traffic signal, the pamphlet adds, drivers should stop their vehicle in advance of the crosswalk markings or the stop bar, particularly if they plan to make a right turn on red.

"On multi-lane roadways, other stopped vehicles may prevent you from seeing a pedestrian in the crosswalk," the pamphlet said.

With this new law, San Leandro officials hope to see a decline in pedestrian collisions and create safer roadways for all.

"This new state law aligns with our Age-Friendly Plan as we continue to improve pedestrian safety in the city," Mayor González said. "Hav-



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The curb is painted red near the intersection of the historic Best House on W. Estudillo Avenue.

ing personally encountered distracted drivers as I walk around our city, I know that greater visibility will help improve pedestrian safety."

Before the state legislature

passed the Daylighting Law in 2023, California was one of the few states without a mandatory daylighting regulation. The U.S. Uniform Vehicle Code, established in 1926, ini-

tially prohibited parking within 25 feet of intersections, later amending the rule to 20 feet. Now, California joins more than 40 states that require daylighting at intersections.

Road: 'We are headed into year three of this road closure'

continued from front page

help an earlier eventual two-way reopening. The third member of the committee, Mayor Juan Gonzalez, recused himself from voting because he lives nearby.

The full City Council will now get the matter, without a committee recommendation.

City engineering staff had recommending that the road remain closed while reopening it in both directions is pursued. Engineering staff put the completion date at summer 2026 at the earliest.

City Public Works Director Sheila Marquises, when questioned about Azevedo's proposal, said it could slightly delay the two-way reopening of a fully repaired road.

Cost of the road repairs has been an issue since the road closed. It is estimated that it will cost \$11 million, with \$2 million of that covered by a Federal Highway Administration emergency relief grant.

The Surlene Grant Meeting Room was filled with about 100 people, some of whom seemed disappointed with the result.

Public speakers repeatedly pointed to the Los Angeles wildfires and the need to be able to quickly evacuate the neighborhood in case of fire or other emergency.

"We are headed into year three of this road closure with no reopening in sight," said Bay-O-Vista resident Anne Cawood. "The first priority of any city with a very high fire severity risk should be the public safety of its residents."

Cawood said the staff report did not address the need for the road to be quickly reopened as an emergency evacuation route.

Some people had previously argued for leaving the road closed to all vehicles except bicycles. Only one speaker opposed a speedy road reopening at the January 14 meeting, however.

City staff members as well as the two committee members who did speak pointed out that in an emergency, cars should drive right over the bollards that appear to block passage at either end of the closed area of Lake Chabot Road.

They're meant to be driven over, just not routinely, they said. They allow emergency vehicle access for smaller day-to-day emergencies.

Alameda County Fire Department division chief Paige Bowie said that a one-way reopening would have residents' fleeing vehicles competing with emergency vehicles in event of a disaster.

"All it takes is one disabled

vehicle to trap emergency vehicles," she said.

Road Closure Causing Speeding on Residential Streets

High-speed detours through residential streets by people driving from Castro Valley also concerned some public speakers. On this point, neighborhood residents got some remedies that might come sooner. Both the committee members and city engineering staff supported traffic calming measures as soon as possible, and city staff is looking into what can be done most quickly.

Delineators to keep cars in a single lane were suggested for the turn from Lake Chabot Road onto Astor Drive, at the westbound road closure, which neighbors claim some cars do on two wheels now. Delineators were also suggested along View Drive.

Staff suggested speed bumps not be used for safety reasons on a steep road, and that rumble strips also not be used due to noise. They did call for the delineators, optical stripes that encouraged cars to slow down, and road striping improvements.

There was discussion of how quickly a stop sign could be installed at Chabot Terrace,



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

San Leandro's portion of Lake Chabot Road is closed to traffic between Astor Drive and Estudillo Avenue but emergency vehicles can still get through.

as long requested by residents. Limited visibility on a steep curve there makes it dangerous for residents to enter or leave Lake Chabot Road.

Mayor Juan Gonzales, the third member of the committee who might have broken the tie vote, recused himself from the reopening discussion and vote due to a strict reading of state conflict-of-interest law as it applies to nearby residents.

Gonzalez lives in Bay-O-Vista, a short distance from the road but not immediately

adjacent to it. He is seeking a the Fair Political Practices clarification of the law from Commission.

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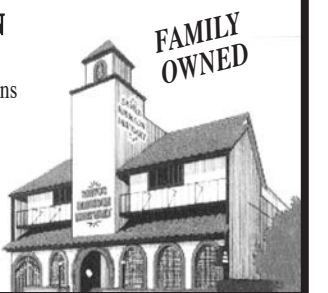
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Tower: Applicant's claim: a 'dead area' from City Hall northward and westward

continued from front page
cations we can gain for use in an emergency is a good thing," said Alameda County Fire Department Division Chief Paige Bowie, whose department supported building the towers. The tower at 440 Peralta Avenue is in the parking lot of San Leandro Electric Supply. The tower aims to cover a "dead zone" for reception in the area, according to Tower Engineering Professionals, the company building the tower for AT&T. AT&T, in turn, holds the federal contract for building

out the nationwide FirstNet network for emergency responders. They said that area of unreliable communications extended from near City Hall, northward and westward between about East 14th Street and the residential areas west of the railroad tracks, to the Oakland city line. The tower would also improve cell phone service for home customers for AT&T and perhaps other providers as well, according to the sponsors. Public speakers at the No-

vember Planning Commission meeting had wondered which was the greater motivation for the cell phone company, improving emergency communications or boosting the service for residential customers, perhaps boosting that side of their business as well. The city's legal counsel had also said at the November meeting that the city didn't have a choice under federal law but to allow the tower if a "dead area" for emergency responders had been shown and it met federal limits for ground-level microwave ra-

diation emitted by the tower. The sponsors had come armed with surveys showing both, and the Planning Commission had approved the project. Advocating for the tower was Mike McLaughlin of the Western Fire Chiefs Association (no relation to the San Leandro school superintendent of the same name), a retired fire chief who said emergency responders from San Leandro and nearby had identified gaps in emergency communications. However, neither police



A rendering of the proposed "monopine" communications tower at 440 Peralta Ave., from sponsor's application to the Planning Department.

department or fire department representatives attended the November Planning Commission meeting to address this concern.

At the January 21 council meeting, however, Bowie did speak on behalf of fire department, and said there was a gap in communications in the area that needed to be fixed.

The police department has not taken an official stand on the tower or problems in communications in the area, according to police spokesperson Lieutenant Enguang Teng.

Public speakers at both the Planning Commission meeting and last week's City Council meeting had raised the issue of radiation, but not at ground level. They conceded that relatively little radiation would reach the nearest homes, all of which are one or two stories.

there, in an area near transit which the city had identified as desirable for housing, the attorney said.

If the tower emitted radiation that was unsafe for people in upper floors, it rendered it useless for housing, Strauss argued.

City Planning Manager Wayland Li said that his department had looked over public objections cited before the Planning Commission and tried to cover them with conditions written into the resolution approving the tower.

While most cell towers across the country had to certify that radiation levels were within federal limits shortly after they were built, they are not necessarily checked after that, Li said. This agreement with the cell tower builder and operator would have annual inspections for the first five years to safeguard the public, he said.

Li also said that federal laws, while mandating the building of towers in case of an emergency communications gap, also mandate that the towers stay safe for neighbors even if new building takes place nearby.

So if multi-story housing was to later be built near the towers, it would be up to tower operators to re-aim their antennas to prevent excess radiation for the residents of upper floors, Li said. If the problem could not be resolved by the tower operators, they could be required to shut down the towers and relocate them, he added.

Could Tower Restrict Transit Oriented Development?

Their concern was with upper floors of multi-story housing that could be built nearby in later years. Cell towers emit more radiation from near their tops than at ground level, and under the city's General Plan the area would be a prime one for building housing tall enough to be affected.

Ariel Strauss, attorney for adjacent property owner Don Lee, said there was an issue of preventing a legal later use of his client's property if the tower was built. Lee had bought the land thinking about building condominiums

Please Note Correct Dates:
Feb. 27th, March 1st, April 29th

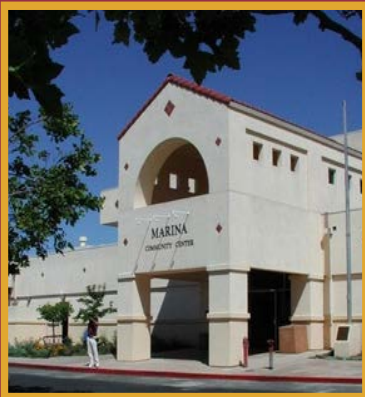
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BUDGET ENGAGEMENT FORUMS



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BUDGET ENGAGEMENT MEETING



MARINA COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025
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BUDGET ENGAGEMENT MEETING



SURLENE GRANT COMMUNITY ROOM

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025
9:30AM - 11:30AM
999 E. 14TH STREET,
SAN LEANDRO, CA

CITY MANAGER TOWNHALL



VIRTUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025
1:00PM - 3:00PM
FOR MEETING LINK, PLEASE USE
QR CODE BELOW:



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Questions?



510.577.3376



budget@sanleandro.org

Emergency Preparedness Meeting Set for February 5

Join the County of Alameda and the City of San Leandro for the PG&E/EBMUD Incident and Emergency Preparedness Community Forum on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd. in San Leandro.

First responders and engineers will be available to answer questions and address comments.

The meeting hosts are Alameda County Supervisor Lena Tam and Mayor Juan González III.