

THANKSGIVING  
IS NEXT WEEK!

# BIRD *is the* WORD

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## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 29

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017

NO. 47

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PHONE: (510) 537-1792

### VETERANS DAY 2017



PHOTO BY LARRY ROSA

Several hundred people, many in uniform, attended Saturday morning's ceremonies to honor the members of America's Armed Forces at the Castro Valley Veterans Memorial. Formally known as Armistice Day, it is commemorated every year on Nov. 11 to mark the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. Saturday's services were hosted by VFW Post 9601 and American Legion Post 649.

## Light Parade Shines on a Saturday Night

By Linda Sandsmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Castro Valley's Sixth Annual Parade of Lights was the place to be last Saturday night. The half-mile parade route was so popular that two announcers were utilized at opposite ends of Castro Valley Boulevard. Both Bruce Johnson of the CV Rotary Club and Dayna Speed of TMC Productions presented the same introductions for the parade's participants.

"As of this morning we had 57 entries from all over the community. Participating in this event tonight we have classic cars, mid-gut cars, bicycles, walking participants, music, dance, and of course, lights on everything," they said.

This year's parade fell on Veterans Day, so past and present service members were honored, along with first responders.

Several floats incorporated "snow" and many handed out candy, necklaces and information about their programs.

A few new businesses entered this year's parade, including the Castro Valley Marketplace (which is renovating the former see *PARADE* on page 3



PHOTOS BY LINDA SANDSMARK

TMC Productions brought this Disneyland electrical light float to Saturday night's parade.

### CV OUTREACH

## Volunteers Needed for Next Week

By Linda Sandsmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

As Castro Valley Outreach enters its busy season, interim chairperson Theresa Koscinski is requesting community help for the group's Thanksgiving food distribution.

"Volunteers will be needed Monday, Nov. 20 and Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Castro Valley LDS church," says Koscinski.

The LDS (Mormon) church is located at 3900 Seven Hills Road. Help is needed starting at 9 a.m. to sort and lift boxes of canned foods.

"Donations of grocery store gift cards to supplement the Thanksgiving food boxes are appreciated," adds Koscinski.

Castro Valley Outreach, a non-profit organization, assists parents of children attending Castro Valley Unified School District schools during times of temporary need.

In addition to the Thanksgiving food drive, Castro Valley Outreach also sponsors an "Adopt a Family" program to provide Christmas gifts and a tree for needy families. The families were previously approved through a confidential application process.

"Gift card donations are appreciated so we can purchase the specific needs for each family," says Koscinski. "For donations or any other questions, people can contact me by email at Tmkoscinski83@gmail.com"

### OPENING TODAY

## It's Crab Season!

Crab fishing fleets were due to set out last night for the beginning of the local commercial Dungeness crab season.

Dungeness crab is the real San Francisco treat and that means you can expect the annual round of crab feeds to begin soon in Castro Valley and all around the Bay.

There was some concern that this season might be delayed as it was during the past two seasons because of levels of domoic acid caused by a naturally occurring toxin off Northern California this time of year, but the state health department said tests of ocean water south of Mendocino County are not raising concerns.



## Castro Valley Weather Nov. 15 - 19, 2017



Wednesday  
Showers  
High 66° Low 55°



Thursday  
Showers  
High 63° Low 46°



Friday  
Partly Sunny  
High 64° Low 57°



Saturday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 60° Low 45°



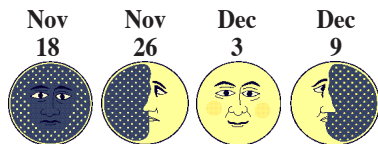
Sunday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 59° Low 44

### Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.18  
Season To Date: 00.91  
Normal To Date: 02.07  
Season Average: 21.22

### Moon Phases



Sun sets at 4:56 p.m. today, rises at 6:51 a.m. Thursday.

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## Food Drive for Those in Need

The Lovewell Team with Re/Max Accord was proudly honored with an award from the Alameda County Food Bank as being the 2nd highest donor in collecting 2,165 pounds of food for the Early Holiday Food Drive in 2016. The Lovewell Team will be gathering up food again this year through this Saturday, Nov. 18, in partnership with the Alameda County Food Bank, to aid those in need. We must not forget that there are many local families that are in desperate need of our support. Please drop off food at our office at 3327 Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley or call us and we can come and pick it up. Call 510-351-5555.

## HARD Community Service Nominations

The Hayward Area Recreation District, commonly known as HARD, is accepting nominations for the Annual Board of Directors' Award for Distinguished Community Service during 2017.

The Awards allow the board to

formally recognize individuals and organizations whose volunteer efforts exhibit HARD's mission of providing high quality leisure facilities and programs to its residents.

All members of the community are encouraged to nominate those

who exemplify important volunteer service.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Dec. 8. Winners will be announced on Jan. 9 and recognized at the Annual Awards Luncheon on Jan. 26.

More information and nomination forms are available by calling Kerrilyn Ely at 510-881-6704 or Nicole Roa at 510-881-6723. The form can also be downloaded at [www.haywardrec.org](http://www.haywardrec.org)

Recipients of the District's Volunteer of the Month Award during the past year are not eligible for recognition of the same services. A list of those winners can be found at [www.HaywardRec.org/awards](http://www.HaywardRec.org/awards)



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## SWALWELL, GERMAN PARLIAMENT MEMBERS MEET IN CV



PHOTO BY LARRY ROSA

**Congressman Eric Swalwell, center, presents bottles of California wine to two members of the German Parliament, Jens Zimmermann, at left, and Metin Hakverdi during a meeting in CV Saturday to discuss Russia's interference with U.S. and German elections, and cooperation between California and Germany on trade and technology startups.**

## Parade: Family Fun, Food and Booths

*continued from front page*

Daughtrey's building downtown).

Another large presence was provided by Crush Comics, which provided numerous comic book characters and a giant Stay Puff Marshmallow Man from "Ghostbusters."

"We're super excited to reach out and be part of the community, and we hope they make us their neighborhood comic book shop," said Andrea Hunter, who with her husband recently took over Crush Comics next to the Chabot Cinema.

The day's festivities started at 3 p.m. with family activities, food trucks and booths. The event was presented by Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's office, the Alameda County Community Development Agency, TMC Productions and the Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce.

Other sponsors and volunteers included the Castro Valley Sanitary District (which provided traffic control), Castro Valley Rotary, Hayward Area Recreation District, Deja Blue Salon, and the countless law-enforcement entities.



**Sgt. Major Jason Deitschman was Grand Marshal for the Light Parade. With him is Sue Alverson of the VFW National Home for Children.**

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



### Domestic Assault

Sunday, November 12: at 5:56 p.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to an apartment on Grove Way near Betlen Way. There, they arrested a 30-year-old man from Hayward on suspicion of assault on a family member. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

### Report of a Fight Ends in Drug Arrest

Sunday, November 12: at 9:30 p.m., a 50-year-old man from Fremont was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics drugs and illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies were called to a home on Yeandle Avenue near Meadowlark Avenue to investigate reports of a fight in a public place but found the suspect instead. The man was also reported to be on probation. Deputies searched the man and found the contraband. The man was taken into custody.

### Wanted Woman

Sunday, November 12: at 7:36 p.m., deputies arrested a 44-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics drugs and illegal drug paraphernalia. The woman was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for her capture. Deputies stopped the woman for ques-

tioning outside a home on Summarglen Place near Summarglen Terrace when they discovered her stash. The woman was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.

### Biker Busted for Drugs

Saturday, November 11: at 12:09 a.m., a 67-year-old man from Oakland was arrested on suspicion of driving a motorcycle without proper license, driving with a suspended license, possession of illegal narcotics drugs and illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies pulled the man over for improper motorcycle registration when they discovered

his stash. The man also had a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.

### Unwelcome Squatter

Friday, November 10: at 7:49 p.m., deputies arrested a 54-year-old man with no permanent address on suspicion of illegal squatting. The man was found in an encampment behind a business on Redwood Road near Lessley Avenue. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his arrest. Deputies took him to Santa Rita Jail pending \$5,000 in bail.

see **REPORTS** on page 6

## Crow Canyon Road Delays

Motorist driving along Crow Canyon Road should expect delays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. this week while a contractor for the Alameda County Public Works Agency makes soil bores.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane with traffic control flaggers directing motorists around the testing area between mile marker 6.08 and 6.21.

The soil tests will provide information for engineers designing repairs to the areas damaged by the 2017 winter storms.

The soil bores began on Monday and will take several days, according to the agency. Drivers should exercise caution while driving around personnel and equipment.

For more information and updates, visit [www.acpwa.org](http://www.acpwa.org).

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## The Week Ahead

### ● Now: Re/Max Accord Holiday Food Drive

Re/Max Accord at 3327 Castro Valley Blvd. is running a food drive in partnership with the Alameda County Food Bank to help those in need and end hunger in our community. We have 1,800 bags that we are distributing to local homes and we are doing a massive pick up this Saturday, Nov. 18. Please participate!

### ● Wednesday, November 15: Author to Address Women's Club

Award-winning author Dallas Woodburn will be guest speaker at today's 1 p.m. meeting of the Castro Valley Women's Club at 18330 Redwood Road. Ms. Woodburn has been published in Family Circle, Reader's Digest and the popular Chicken Soup books. For more info, visit [www.castrovalleywomensclub.weebly.com](http://www.castrovalleywomensclub.weebly.com) or call 510-461-7692.

### ● Thursday, November 16: School Board Meeting

The Castro Valley Board of Education will hold a regular open meet-

ing beginning at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the School District Headquarters, 4400 Alma Avenue. The complete agenda and board packet are available at [bit.ly/CVUSDBBoardMeetings](http://bit.ly/CVUSDBBoardMeetings)

### ● Thursday, November 16: Thanksgiving Luncheon

Enjoy a delicious turkey lunch with all the trimmings, live music and friendly company at noon tomorrow at the Hayward Area Senior Center, 22325 North 3rd Street, sponsored by the Hayward Rotary Club. Free to the first 150 sign-ups. Register at [www.haywardrec.org](http://www.haywardrec.org) or call 881-6700.

### ● Saturday, November 18: A Benefit for Disaster Victims

The Black Student Union of Castro Valley High School is conducting a Clothing Drive and fund-raiser from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 18 in front of the CVHS Center for the Arts at 19501 Redwood Road. It's a rummage sale and donation of lightly worn clothes for victims of disaster.

### ● Saturday, November 18: "Occupation of American Mind"

The South Alameda County Peace and Justice Coalition invites the public to a screening of the documentary "The Occupation of the American Mind," at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Castro Valley Library. The film is said to explore how the Israeli and U.S. governments have joined forces to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favor.

### ● Saturday, November 18: Fundraiser for Fire Victims

The Palomares Hills Home Owners Association Social Committee is planning a '70s Family Disco Dance Party from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday at the Palomares Hills Recreation Center, 6811 Villareal Drive in Castro Valley. Appetizers and drinks will be provided. Suggested donation \$25 adults, \$10 youth. All proceeds will go to the American Red Cross. To buy tickets, visit [palomaresdiscopartyfundraiser.eventbrite.com](http://palomaresdiscopartyfundraiser.eventbrite.com)

### ● Saturday, November 18: Jazz Concert

The Eden Youth and Family Center celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a Jazz Concert featuring Virginia Ayers Dawson at 6:30 p.m. this Saturday in the Hayward City Hall Rotunda, 777 B Street. To purchase tickets (\$55) visit [40thanniversaryjazzconcert.eventbrite.com](http://40thanniversaryjazzconcert.eventbrite.com)

### ● Saturday, November 18: Eden Area Village Monthly Coffee

Join Eden Area Village for coffee at the Cannery Cafe in the Hayward Area Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd., at 9 a.m. this Saturday and learn how we are working together to help seniors remain active and engaged in our community. Visit [edenareavillage.org](http://edenareavillage.org) or email [info@edenareavillage.org](mailto:info@edenareavillage.org) for more information.

### ● Saturday, November 18: "Death of a King" Tickets on Sale

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. this Saturday for Broadcaster Tavis Smiley's presentation of "Death of a King: A Live Theatrical Experience," at Oakland's Paramount Theatre on Feb. 18, 2018. Tickets can be purchased at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or by calling 800-745-3000.

### ● Monday, November 20: Municipal Advisory Council

The Castro Valley MAC will hold a general purpose meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at Castro Valley Library. The agenda (at: [acgov.org/un-inc/](http://acgov.org/un-inc/)) includes annual updates from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol and County Code Enforcement.

### ● Tuesday, November 21: Rich Wicker Pool Tournament

The Aitken Senior & Community Center at 17800 Redwood Road will host its 8th Annual Rich Wicker Pool Tournament on Nov. 21 at 9:30 a.m., with beginner and advanced brackets. All levels are encour-

aged to participate in the fun event. Prizes will be given to the top player in each division and their names will be added to the perpetual plaque. Light refreshments will be provided. Players must be registered by Friday, Nov. 17. Call 510-881-6738 for more details or to register.

### ● Tuesday, November 21: Soroptimist International in CV

Lynn Levin, president of Soroptimist International of the East Bay, will provide a history of the Club, its long association with Rotary, and its good works in Castro Valley, at the Castro Valley Rotary Club meeting at noon on Nov. 21 at the Restaurant at Redwood Canyon Golf Course. The buffet lunch is \$20 and reservations must be made by 9 a.m. on Nov. 20. For more info, visit [www.castrovalleyrotary.org](http://www.castrovalleyrotary.org) or contact Jim Negri at 650-996-9173.

### ● Tuesday, November 21: Fundraiser for Fire-recovery Charities

Visit California will host The Grateful Table Benefit at 1 p.m. on Nov. 21 to support Northern Californians whose homes and businesses were impacted by the Wine Country fires. The ticketed event is open to the public and will feature one long table seating 1,000 guests with wine and cuisine prepared by Food Network Chef Tyler Florence. It will take place at the vineyard on the Napa/Sonoma County Line. Dress in casual, warm clothing. To purchase tickets (\$500, or table of 8 for \$4,000) or for more info, visit [www.visitcalifornia.com/attraction/grateful-table](http://www.visitcalifornia.com/attraction/grateful-table)

### ● Saturday, November 25: Sports Collectors Show

The Meridians of St. Leander's are sponsoring their 33rd Annual Sports Collectors Show, with a variety of vintage sports memorabilia from 1880 to 2017 for sale on Nov. 25, at Ryan O'Connell Hall, 575 W. Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. Proceeds will benefit St. Leander's parish and local charities. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for those under 10 or over 65). For more information, call Mark at 510-538-6245.

### ● Saturday, November 25: Smalltown Open Studio

Connect with local artists and build creative community during a free open studio session from 2 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 25 at 22222 Redwood Road. Bring your supplies, passion and current projects. All artists are welcome for this low-key work time. For more info visit [www.smalltownsociety.com](http://www.smalltownsociety.com) or find us on facebook.

## Arts & Entertainment

### THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"Christmas in OZ"** – Celebrate the 85th anniversary of the East Bay Children's Theatre at the World Premiere of this new Broadway-style holiday musical opening this Friday, Nov. 17, and running through Dec. 17 at Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley. It's Christmas, and somewhere in Kansas, Dorothy is lonely for her friends back in Oz. And so, she builds herself a magical wish machine, and returns to the Emerald City--just in time for the big holiday celebration. Show times are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. For more information, or to book tickets, visit [www.ebctOnline.org](http://www.ebctOnline.org) or [www.Chanticleers.org](http://www.Chanticleers.org) or phone 510-SEE-LIVE.

● **"The Laramie Project,"** by Moisés Kaufman, directed by Kane Ashton, will be presented at 6:30 p.m. this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-18, by the Castro Valley Dramatic Arts Academy at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North 3rd St. in Hayward. For tickets (adults \$25, students \$15 suggested donation) visit [www.artful.ly/store/events/13558](http://www.artful.ly/store/events/13558)

● **"The Illusion,"** written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner, will be presented by Ohlone College at 8 p.m. on Nov. 16, 17 and 18 at the Smith Center, 43600 Mission Blvd. in Fremont. Set in 17th Century France, it's the story of a father who seeks a sorcerer to find his long-lost son, a play with humor and suspense offering a surprising twist at the end. For tickets (\$15-\$10) visit [www.smithcenter.com](http://www.smithcenter.com) or call 510-659-6031. Event parking is \$4.

### AT THE GALLERIES

● **"Celebrate Women,"** an exhibit featuring the works of 50 artists from the members of Nor Cal Pen Women, will be on display through Friday at the John O'Lague Galleria in Hayward's City Hall at 777 B Street, sponsored by the Hayward Arts Council. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [haywardartscouncil.org](http://haywardartscouncil.org) for more info.

● **Artist Open Studio Every Thursday:** Join this informal gathering of artists working together in a friendly and helpful atmosphere. Adobe Art Center hosts provides tables, chairs and easels. \$3. Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redwood Studio 1 at the Adobe Art Center.

● **Runes Revealed – Contemporary Artists Respond to an Ancient Alphabet,** a mixed media exhibition by Nordic 5 Arts inspired by the ancient form of writing no longer in use, will be on display from Dec. 2 (with a reception from 1-3 p.m.) until Jan. 13, at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. Select works will also be on exhibit from Nov. 30 to Jan 5 at PhotoCentral Gallery, 1099 E St. in Hayward. For info, visit [www.nordic5arts.com](http://www.nordic5arts.com)

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(Wells Fargo Plaza)

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On All Services  
over \$35

Cannot be combined with any other offers.  
Exp. 11/21/17



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Jason Burge, Third Grader

This week's Athlete of the Week is Jason Burge, age 8, and a third grader at Chabot Elementary School. He runs the 800, 1,500, and 2,000 meters in cross country with the Castro Valley Track Club.

Burge ran the 1,500 meters in 5:58, at age 7, and is ranked third in the Pacific Association.

He loves meatballs, but dislikes zucchini.



## CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

**Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs**  
www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org

## First Round NCS Tennis Playoffs

CV AT AMADOR VALLEY,  
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7  
AMADOR VALLEY 5, CV 2

### SINGLES

1. Poljakovic (AV) - Elena Lottich 6-3, 6-2
2. Rachel Dong (CV) - Sonobe 6-3, 6-2
3. A. Shen (AV) - Anya Mortensen 6-4, 6-4
4. Peng (AV) - Gaby Madison 6-3, 7-5

### DOUBLES

1. Yanovi / Belau (AV) - Riley Powers / Victoria Vitton 6-1, 6-3
2. Lauren Leong / Sammie Lee (CV) - Kheny / Tohovri 6-3, 7-6 (3)
3. Sing / C. Chen (AV) - Alex Tam / Kele Fong 6-2, 7-5

Castro Valley finished with a season overall record 17-4  
13-3 league(second place WACC-Foothill conference)



**Full Gym/Group  
Exercise Special**  
**2 Months FREE  
Dues When You  
Join Early**

Offer Expires 11/30/17

### ONE TIME INITIATION FEE

**Family - \$200** up to 6 members  
**Single - \$100**

Previous Members of 12 mo. or Less are Not eligible for this Promo. Can't be combined with other offers.

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No Appointment Needed!

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& Free weights  
• Kid Fit Kids Pools

**\$198 Family  
Monthly Dues  
includes the  
whole family up  
to 6 members.  
\$192 Monthly  
Dues for singles.**



The Western Alameda County Conference held their singles and doubles tennis Championships at Chabot College, the weekend of Nov. 4, 5. In the singles championship, Elena Lottich from CV, won in the finals against Sasha Turchak from Berkeley H.S. 6-3, 6-2. In the second round match Lottich played Khai-ly Tran from Alameda H.S. and won with a score of 6-0, 6-0. The semi-final match was with Solia Valentine from Berkeley, and won 6-0, 7-5. Lottich is a sophomore at CVHS, and will participate in the NCS singles championship at Marin Tennis Center in San Rafael on Nov. 14-15.

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## Reports: CV

continued from page 3

### Public Intoxication

Saturday, November 11: at 10:09 p.m., deputies arrested a 24-year-old man from San Lorenzo on suspicion of public intoxication. The man was visiting a patient at Eden Medical Center on Lake Chabot Road when the nurses determined the man had been drinking heavily. Deputies took the man into custody after the man failed his field sobriety test.

### Driving Drunk and Drugged

Saturday, November 11: at 4:48 p.m., a 56-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Deputies spotted the man driving erratically and pulled him over on Castro Valley Boulevard near Lake Chabot Road. The man failed his field sobriety test and was taken into custody.

### Couple Arrested at Hotel

Friday, November 10: at 1:53 a.m., deputies arrested two people from Hayward as part of a warrant check at a hotel on the Boulevard near Justco Road. A 23-year-old woman at the scene was charged with previous assault on a family member, resisting arrest, and possession of stolen property. A 22-year-old man was charged with violating a court-issued restraining order. Deputies took the couple to Santa Rita Jail pending as much as \$55,000 in bail.

### Unwelcome Trespasser

Wednesday, November 8: at 8:35 a.m., a 55-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of trespassing on private property. Deputies were called to a mobile home park on Norbridge Avenue near Castro Valley Boulevard to investigate a suspicious person. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

### Joy Ride Comes to an End

Wednesday, November 8: at 12:51 a.m., a 27-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of driving a stolen vehicle. Deputies stopped the man driving down the Boulevard near Redwood Road after identifying the vehicle as stolen. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$5,000 in bail.

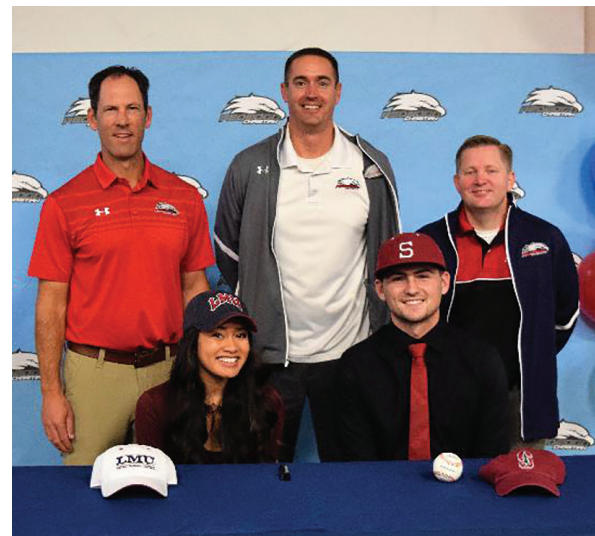


PHOTO COURTESY OF TERESA HENDREN

## Letters of Intent

Redwood Christian High School had two students, Skyler Gallarzan and Alex Williams, sign NCAA letters of intent to play their respective sport at the college level on Wednesday, November 8, the first day student athletes were eligible to sign. Gallarzan and Williams received offers to participate in Division 1 athletics. Gallarzan has been offered a position on the rowing team at Loyola Marymount University. Williams will be receiving both a position on the Stanford baseball team and a partial scholarship. The two had the privilege of signing their Letter of Intent in front of their family, friends, teachers, coaches, and the Redwood Christian Middle and High School student body. Pictured from left: Athletic Director, Jim Cleveland, Principal, Ben Warner, and Superintendent, Al Hearne. Front row: Skyler Gallarzan and Alex Williams.

## Castro Valley Student Wins 'Outstanding Teen' Contest

Olivia Sally of Castro Valley was named "Miss Contra Costa County's Outstanding Teen 2018" on Nov. 4 during a competition at California High School in San Ramon. The contest is open to residents of both Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Sally, 15, is a Bishop O'Dowd sophomore, a Girl Scout and member of Castro Valley's Chabot Service Unit. She will be competing for "Miss California's Outstanding Teen" in Fresno in June. The contests are part of the Miss America organization.



Olivia Sally

### IN UNIFORM



PHOTO BY TAMMY MACKIN

Jacob Keenan graduated in June 2017 from Castro Valley High School and entered the United States Marine Corps in August. He graduated boot camp on November 9 and his next stop is advanced training. Jacob is the son of Dori Keenan and Don Keenan of CV.



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Sellers Vet Buyer Wannabes Online

While many thought the housing market would have peaked by now, it is still sizzling in many Bay Area neighborhoods.

Frustrated after years of increasing prices and with ownership hopes dwindling, many buyers are going full out to land a home. This means continued multiple offers, many way over asking price and with all contingencies removed.

Confronted with spectacular offers similar in terms, some sellers are changing the way they select the winning deal. "If these are all going to net us a similar amount," they reason, "Then we are going to select the winning

offer based not on the terms, but on the specific buyers we want living in our home after we leave."

This practice is certainly not new. Over the years, sellers have voiced their preferences for the type of buyers they would love to see in their home.

As an example, many sellers, especially those who have invested in loving upgrades, are averse to the idea that an investor will buy their beloved home and rent it out. It's for this reason we encouraged buyers to write a letter to sellers explaining who they are and why they love the home. The goal is to influence the sellers to choose them.

What is new, however, is the methodology sellers are using to vet the buyers. They are going online.

Emulating practices employers have been using for years, some sellers are now doing extensive online searches for each buyer in the running for their home. They are checking Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, the Free Public Records Directory, Pipl and any other sites they can find that may have information.

They are also browsing sex offender and criminal records websites. Lifehacker.com even has a post by Adam Dachis entitled "How to Use the Internet to Investigate Your Next Date, Co-worker, or New Friend (Without Being Creepy)." Some are even paying for information on sites like Truthfinder.com.

Find this disturbing? Like it or not, it's the new reality. This genie is out of the bottle and will not be going back in.

It's a modern version of "Buyer beware." Savvy buyers should look themselves up online to make sure there is nothing there that might give sellers the wrong impression. Love to host noisy parties? Those Facebook pictures of beer bashes might resonate with your friends, but could spell doom for that offer on a nice house in a quiet cul-de-sac.

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

4736 Audrey Drive	94546	\$800,000	3 BD - 1,560 SF - 1953
18833 Cindy Way	94546	\$820,000	4 BD - 2,180 SF - 1964
18922 Crest Avenue	94546	\$460,000	2 BD - 1,229 SF - 1949
22179 Dolores Street	94546	\$608,000	3 BD - 1,018 SF - 1948
4781 Ewing Road	94546	\$950,000	N/ABD - 2,215 SF - N/A
4356 Gregory Street	94546	\$785,000	3 BD - 1,646 SF - 1962
2491 Irma Way	94546	\$655,000	3 BD - 1,616 SF - 1952
3239 Lenard Drive	94546	\$722,000	3 BD - 1,468 SF - 1958
2500 Miramar Ave #301	94546	\$462,000	2 BD - 1,148 SF - 1982
3809 Boulder Canyon Dr	94552	\$1,010,000	4 BD - 2,096 SF - 1998
18535 Buren Place	94552	\$827,000	3 BD - 1,785 SF - 2003
20716 Waterford Place	94552	\$651,000	3 BD - 1,794 SF - 1981

<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>12</b>		
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$753,500</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$1,010,000</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$729,167</b>

#### San Leandro

2240 Benedict Drive	94577	\$680,000	3 BD - 1,944 SF - 1956
869 Lee Avenue	94577	\$975,000	2 BD - 1,798 SF - 1926
14250 Maracaibo Road	94577	\$640,000	3 BD - 1,230 SF - 1962
1224 135th Avenue	94578	\$695,000	4 BD - 1,925 SF - 1950
1449 136th Avenue #1	94578	\$402,000	2 BD - 811 SF - 1970
14457 Kings Court	94578	\$399,000	2 BD - 1,035 SF - 1974
15532 Lark Street	94578	\$600,000	4 BD - 1,469 SF - 1958
893 Lasuen Drive	94578	\$625,000	3 BD - 1,186 SF - 1954
3839 Monterey Boulevard	94578	\$705,000	4 BD - 1,549 SF - 1954
947 Devonshire Avenue	94579	\$650,000	3 BD - 1,316 SF - 1956
15683 Hebron Court	94579	\$680,000	4 BD - 1,788 SF - 1956

<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>11</b>		
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$399,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$975,000</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$641,000</b>

#### San Lorenzo

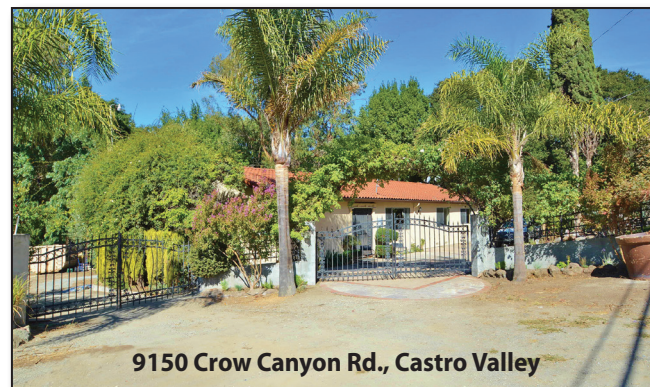
17531 Via Arriba	94580	\$565,000	3 BD - 1,868 SF - 1948
1557 Via Barrett	94580	\$708,500	3 BD - 2,164 SF - 1955
16036 Via Del Sol	94580	\$570,000	3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1944
169 Via Linares	94580	\$330,000	3 BD - 1,024 SF - 1951
16158 Via Walter	94580	\$635,000	3 BD - 1,231 SF - 1956

<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>5</b>		
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$570,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$708,500</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$561,700</b>



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## Mortgage Rates Dip Slightly

Average mortgage rates fell slightly across the board last week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.90 percent, down from the previous week when it averaged 3.94 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.57 percent.

Fifteen-year mortgages averaged 3.24 percent, down from 3.27 percent. A year ago at this time, the 15-year rate averaged 2.88 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.22 percent, down from 3.23 percent.



### Spray

Plan your dormant fruit spraying schedule to coincide approximately with cool-weather holidays. Specific cues are the fall of the last leaves (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year's Day) and when buds swell, but before they show color (Valentine's Day). Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is particularly important — after the blossoms open, it is too late.

### Mulch

Renew mulches under grapes and berries. Strawberries and blueberries benefit from loose, acidic mulches such as pine needles or rotted sawdust. Raspberries and blackberries prefer hay or straw mulch. Remove mulch from under trees back to the drip line. Bare soil can more easily absorb the day's warmth. This also discourages overwintering of disease-carrying bacteria.



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## OPEN HOMES

SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup>



CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
DA	—	1-4	5655 Bruce Dr.	\$2,999,888	5/3.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy Peixoto Team	925-251-2536

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

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All real estate advertised in the Castro Valley Forum is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, marital status, national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The Castro Valley Forum will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate that is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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(3 weeks)

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**\$30** 10 words  
(1 week)

## HELP WANTED

**\$35** 10 words  
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## MISC. FOR SALE

**\$30** 10 words  
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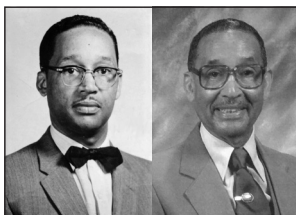


Letters to the Editor will return next week.

## Obituaries

### Warren G. Parker

Feb. 24, 1924 ~ Oct. 7, 2017



Warren G. Parker was born on February 24, 1924 in Arlington Texas, the 3rd of 4 children born to Tom, and Gertrude Parker. Warren, and his sister Minnie moved to Berkeley, California in 1927, after their mother died. He received his formal education in Berkeley, including earning his Baccalaureate of science degree after 4 years at UC Berkeley.

Warren served in the army during WWII in the "China, Burma, India" theatre. He earned 4 medals, and went around the world while serving his country.

Warren worked for the Treasury Department as an IRS agent for 34 years, and retired in 1986 with a total of government service credit of 39 years.

Warren and Camille married on August 30th 1948, and had 5 children.

The Parkers first lived in Berkeley, where they attended McGee Avenue Baptist Church, then moved to Oakland, California where they attended Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church. Warren taught, and ushered, and served on several committees of both churches. Warren, Camille, and John moved to Castro Valley in 1975. Warren and Camille took many cruises together and loved to travel. Warren passed away on October 7, 2017.

The memorial service is today, Thursday, November 16, at 10 a.m. at the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave. in Oakland, California.

### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

may be emailed to: [obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com) or faxed to 510-483-4209. Include a phone number. Brief notices are published free. Longer obituaries, including pictures, are available for a fee. For help, call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558

BRITT, Pam  
MICHAOWSKI, Darrell F.  
PARKER, Warren  
VENTON, Laura Ann

■ BRITT, Pam (Fetter), Feb. 13, 1949 – Oct. 19, 2017, resident of Greenwood, California and former resident of Castro Valley.

### Laura Ann Venton

Dec. 5, 1951 - Nov. 3, 2017  
Resident of Piedmont



Laura Venton, age 65, passed away on Friday, November 3, 2017, ending her battle with cancer.

Laura was born in Berkeley, California on December 5, 1951. She grew up in Oakland, graduating from Oakland High School in 1969. She received her B.A. degree from UC Berkeley and her Master's degree from Cal State East Bay.

Laura was a credentialed Special Education teacher for 33 years, primarily in the Castro Valley Unified School District.

Laura leaves behind three older sisters, Nyda Delegeane, Ellen Venton and Janet Estes; four nieces, one nephew plus three grandnieces and a grandnephew. She was preceded in death by her parents, Don and Mary Venton.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 25 at 11 a.m. at Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street in Pleasanton.

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"IT IS NOT THE AGE, IT'S THE MILEAGE"

### Darrell Michalowski

May 17, 1956 ~ November 6, 2017



Darrell Frank Michalowski passed from this world on November 6, 2017. Darrell was born on May 17, 1956 in Castro Valley California to Gene and Marion Michalowski. He was the fourth of six children and attended Castro Valley schools. Darrell worked primarily in construction related fields and for many years was employed as a Building Engineer at Pacific Park Plaza in Emeryville. Eventually acquiring his contractor's license, Darrell also started his own business, Turn Key Construction. Later Darrell specialized in remodeling and refitting homes, including those needing an upgrade for disabled and senior residents. Darrell had an exceptional eye for interior and exterior detail and could fix ANYTHING!

From riding his motorcycle through the halls of Castro Valley High to spending the night in a jail cell next to Ted Bundy, Darrell's life was anything but boring. Darrell was an avid sportsman and could be found water skiing with his brother Dwayne one weekend and snow skiing with his brother Doug the next. As the years went by Darrell was particularly drawn to golf, at which, not surprisingly, he excelled. For Darrell, many cherished memories were made on the golf course; initially playing with his Dad and grandfather Frank, and later with his "dream team" foursome, Darrell, brother Dan, son Nick, and nephew Scott. Darrell also enjoyed baseball, politics, and panning for gold, especially in the company of Nick and lifelong friends Mark Larsen and Dave Cole.

Darrell was charming, gracious, and well-spoken. He was also stubborn and opinionated (ask any liberal within earshot). Darrell was very much a "man's man" but he also had a soft side that animals and children easily detected. He was proud, unassuming, and resilient. Darrell had a dry sense of humor and enjoyed nothing more than an animated debate (only with those that could keep up, of course). Though Darrell tried to maintain a "tough guy" exterior, he would give his last dollar to someone he felt needed it more than he did. Darrell doted on his children, Nick and Meghan, and later his grandchildren Ashley and Courtney. Though they grew up out of state, Darrell was always there when they needed him.

Darrell's life was not without challenge or hardship. Darrell experienced the loss of his father and mother, the sudden death of his brother Doug, and the devastating loss of his cherished daughter, Meghan. In 2011, however, Darrell's life came full circle. Nick and his granddaughters relocated to Castro Valley and he met Susie Vonderlieth, the love of his life. Though he faced several health issues, Darrell was never happier than with Susie, knowing his immediate and extended family were nearby. He relished being called "Papa Darrell" by all of his grandchildren and he made every effort to stay involved with their activities. He also had a special bond with his young grandson Reid and niece Kelsey. If asked, Darrell would say that the only thing missing was a hole in one!

Good or bad, Darrell took each day as it came and never looked back. Darrell's smile, enthusiasm, and love of life will be missed more than he thought possible. Along with Susie, son Nick (Corrina), and grandchildren Ashley, Courtney, Reid, & Grace, Darrell is survived by brothers Dan (Marlys) and Dwayne, sisters Donna Kilmartin and Diana Yearian, and numerous nieces and nephews. It was Darrell's wish not to have any formal service or memorial but if, as you read this, and you have a special memory of Darrell, feel free to raise an adult beverage in a toast to him and to a life too short, but well lived.

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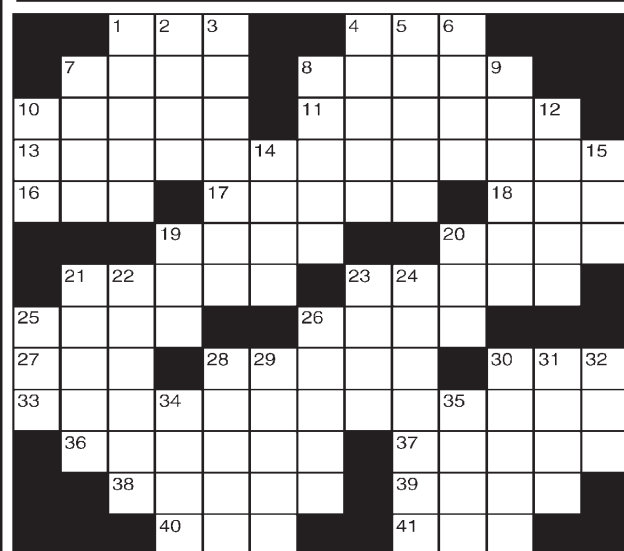
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#### ACROSS

- 1 AAA job
- 4 Fed. purchasing org.
- 7 Hindu garment
- 8 Intended
- 10 Takes to the waves
- 11 Sweater material
- 13 Paycheck recipients
- 16 Still
- 17 Partners
- 18 By way of
- 19 Nerd-pack fill
- 20 Take five
- 21 Polecat
- 23 Bank feature
- 25 Kind
- 26 Fork part
- 27 Commotion
- 28 Enraged
- 30 Illuminated
- 33 One-on-one sites in church
- 36 Esprit de corps
- 37 Screwdriver ingredient
- 38 Construction fastener
- 39 Previous nights
- 40 Understand
- 41 Scooted

#### DOWN

- 1 Fortune teller's deck
- 2 "Carmina Burana" composer Carl
- 3 Magi
- 4 Aladdin's ally
- 5 Starch-yielding palms
- 6 In due time
- 7 Certain
- 8 Spars
- 9 Go places
- 10 Agent
- 12 Preferred invitees
- 14 Foundered
- 15 Perched
- 19 Deposit
- 20 Regret
- 21 Gomorrah's sister city
- 22 Swedish money
- 23 Henry
- 24 Massachusetts city
- 25 Pouch
- 26 Boob tube
- 28 Go
- 29 Archipelago part
- 30 Burdened
- 31 Types
- 32 Airport safety org.
- 34 Icebox, for short
- 35 PBS science show

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5



## SENIOR Q&A

# Questions to Ask Before Agreeing To Be a Trustee

**Q** A close friend asked me to be the Trustee of his trust in the event of his incapacity or death. While it is an honor to be asked, I wonder what questions I should ask before accepting?

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

**A** It is indeed an honor, as it means that your friend trusts your judgment and is willing to put the welfare of his trust beneficiaries in your hands.

But being a trustee is also a great responsibility. You need to consider this request with your eyes wide open. Here are eight questions to ask before saying "yes":

1) May I Read the Trust? The trust document is your instruction manual. It tells you what you should do with the funds or other property you will be entrusted to manage.

Make sure you read it and understand it. Now is the time to ask questions.

2) What Are the Goals of the Trust-Maker? Unfortunately, most trusts give the trustee considerable discretion about how to spend trust funds, but with little or no guidance.

Example: often trusts say that the trustee may distribute principal for the beneficiaries' "health, education, maintenance and support."

Is this a limitation, meaning you can't pay for a yacht (despite arguments from the son that he needs it for his mental health)? Or is it a mandate that you pay for his support even if he has a job and can support himself?

How are you to balance the needs of current, against those of future, beneficiaries? Ask your friend to put these wishes in writing.

3) How Much Help Will I Receive? Will you have a Co-Trustee and, if so, how will you divvy up the duties? Will you be authorized to hire professionals to advise you on investments, accounting, legal issues, and taxes?

4) How Long Will My Respon-

sibilities Last?

Are you being asked to take on this duty for a limited time (for example, until your friend's youngest child reaches age 25), or for an indefinite period that could last the rest of your lifetime?

In either case, under what terms can you resign? Be sure that the trust names successor Trustees, so that you may resign if it becomes too burdensome for you.

5) What Is My Liability? Generally, trustees are relieved of liability in the trust document unless they are grossly negligent or intentionally violate their responsibilities. Make sure the trust so provides, so that you are not held liable for innocent mistakes made in good faith.

6) Will I Be Compensated? Often family members and friends serve as trustees without compensation. However, if the duties are especially demanding, it is not inappropriate for trustees to be paid.

7) Are Any Beneficiaries Persons with Disabilities on Public Benefits? If so, make sure the trust includes Special Needs provisions so that distributions do not cause the suspension of those benefits, such as SSI or Medi-Cal.

Ask that the trust be reviewed now by an Elder Law or Special Needs attorney to ensure compliance with public benefit laws, and consult again when you actually assume your duties as these provisions require special guidance.

8) Are There Problem Beneficiaries? Will acting as trustee create conflict between you and any beneficiary?

If after getting answers to all these questions you feel comfortable serving as trustee, then by all means accept the role. It is an honor to be asked and you will provide a great service to your friend and his beneficiaries.

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



**Q:** As a divorced woman, am I entitled to my ex-husband's Social Security benefits? I was married for 14 years.

By Jim Miller  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

**A:** Yes, you may very well be eligible for divorced spouses Social Security benefits if you meet certain criteria. Here's how it works.

A divorced spouse can collect a Social Security retirement benefit on the earnings record of their ex-husband (or ex-wife) if you are at least age 62, were married for at least 10 years, are unmarried, and are not eligible for a higher benefit based on your own earnings record.

In order to collect, your former spouse must also be at least 62 and eligible for Social Security benefits. But, he doesn't have to be receiving them in order for you to collect divorced spouse's benefits, as long as you've been divorced for at least two years.

Even if your ex is remarried, it won't affect your right to divorcee benefits, nor will it affect your ex's retirement benefits or his current spouse's benefits.

### Benefit Amount

A divorced spouse can receive up to 50 percent of their ex's full Social Security benefit, or less if



**A divorced spouse can collect a Social Security retirement benefit on the earnings record of their ex-husband (or ex-wife) if you are at least age 62, were married for at least 10 years, are unmarried, and are not eligible for a higher benefit based on your own earnings record.**

they take benefits before their full retirement age – which is 66 if you were born between 1943 and 1954.

To find out your full retirement age and see how much your benefits will be reduced by taking them early see [SSA.gov/planners/retire/retirechart.html](http://SSA.gov/planners/retire/retirechart.html).

Keep in mind though, that if you qualify for benefits based on

your own work history, you'll receive the larger of the two benefits. You cannot receive benefits on both your record, and your ex's work record too.

To find out how much your retirement benefits will be, see your Social Security statement at [SSA.gov/myaccount](http://SSA.gov/myaccount). And to get an estimate of your ex's benefits, call Social Security at 800-772-1213.

You'll need his Social Security Number to get it.

### Divorced Survivor

You also need to know that if your ex-spouse dies, and you were married for 10 or more years, you become eligible for divorced survivor benefits, which is worth up to 100 percent of what your ex-spouse was due.

Survivor's benefits are available to divorced spouses as early as age 60 (50 if you're disabled). But, if you remarry before 60 you become ineligible unless the marriage ends. Remarrying after age 60 will not affect your eligibility.

Also note that if you are receiving divorced spouses benefits when you ex-spouse dies, you will automatically be switched over to the higher paying survivor benefit.

### Switching Strategies

Being divorced also offers a switching strategy that can help boost your benefits if you were born on or before Jan. 1, 1954.

Here's how it works. If you worked and are eligible for benefits on your own earnings record, you could file a "restricted application" with Social Security at age 66 to collect a divorced spousal benefit, which is half of what your ex gets. Then, once you reach 70, see **DIVORCED on back page**

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## Divorced: SS Benefits

*continued from page 11*  
you stop receiving the ex-spousal benefit and switch to your own benefit, which will be 32 percent higher than it would have been at your full retirement age.

Unfortunately, as a result of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, this option is not available if your birthday is Jan. 2, 1954 or later.

Divorced widows (and widowers) also have switching options regardless of your birthday. If, for example, you are currently collecting Social Security retirement benefits on your own record, and your ex-spouse dies, you can switch to survivor's benefits if the payment is larger.

Or, if you're collecting survivor's benefits, you can switch to your own retirement benefits – between 62 and 70 – if it offers a larger payment.

For more information, please visit this website: [SSA.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html](http://SSA.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html), or call 800-772-1213.

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

## ADOPT-A-PET



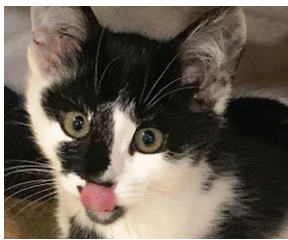
**VEGAS** is a fun loving, 7 month old. He loves chasing feather toys. He's OK with other cats, but likes to have a corner he can call his own. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



**KIWI** is a young kitten who's sweet and loves all the attention she can get. She leans in for pets and rubs and doesn't mind sharing the attention. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



**JUANITA** is about 10 years old and 64 lbs. She enjoys being petted and smiles a lot. She has that soft fur you love to touch. Complete an application online at: [www.dustypawsrescue.org](http://www.dustypawsrescue.org)



**OREO** is about 3 months old. Although still a bit skittish if approached suddenly, she lets all members of the household hold her. Complete an online application: [www.dustypawsrescue.org](http://www.dustypawsrescue.org).

## WORLD PREMIERE

# 'Christmas in OZ' – New Musical About Old Friends Opens Friday

To celebrate its historic 85th anniversary, East Bay Children's Theatre is decking the halls with a new holiday musical for the entire family: "Christmas In OZ."

For the first time ever, the venerated company will be partnering with another East Bay institution – Chanticleers Theatre in Castro Valley – to host the World Premiere event from this Friday, Nov. 17, through Dec. 17.

It's Christmas Time again and somewhere in Kansas, Dorothy is lonely for her friends back in Oz. And so, with the help of the kindly Mr. Tinker, she builds herself a magical wish machine, and returns to the Emerald City--just in time for the big holiday celebration.

But the holly is quickly stripped of its jolly when a sassy sorceress named Nefariosa crashes the party and kidnaps Santa Claus! Now Dorothy must recruit the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion to help her rescue Saint Nick and save Christmas for the entire world.

"Christmas In OZ" is an enchanting, full-length Broadway-style musical treat for the entire family.



PHOTO BY EAST BAY CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Dorothy (Jordyn Foley) and her friends (Mark Enea, Zac Schuman and Nick Shannon) are captured by Nefariosa in the musical "Christmas in Oz," opening this Friday at 8 p.m. at Chanticleers Theatre in Castro Valley. Saturday performances are at 7 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.

The script and score are overflowing with unforgettable songs, exciting dance numbers, classic comedy, and magical special effects. And it's all the brainchild of the Bay Area's own theatrical wizard, Ron Lytle, creator of "The Man Who Saved Christmas," "Oh My Godmother!" and more than a dozen other musicals.

All performances will be held at Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley from Nov. 17 through Dec. 17, Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

For more information, or to book tickets, visit [www.ebctOnline.org](http://www.ebctOnline.org) or [www.Chanticleers.org](http://www.Chanticleers.org) or phone 510-SEE-LIVE.

## ZERO WASTE HOLIDAYS

While holiday shopping this year CVSan encourages you to remember the first of the 4Rs, REDUCE. Americans produce 25% more garbage between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, which is an additional 1 million tons per week of garbage. 8,000 tons of wrapping paper is used every holiday season and almost all of it is not recyclable.

Nearly 70% of Americans welcome less emphasis on gifts and spending. Instead of giving things this year, why not give experiences? Read on to learn more about Less Stuff. More of What's Meaningful.



**Memberships**- Why not give the gift of a membership to your loved ones and enjoy the present year-round? Some ideas include museum memberships (art, interactive, kids, science, history, cultural, etc.), nonprofits memberships (environmental, animal, philanthropic, hobbies, etc.), or gym memberships (CrossFit, yoga, rock climbing, general fitness, personal training, etc.).



**Classes** - Classes are a great option for gifts for you or your loved ones. Check out local classes on cooking, art, music, sewing, photography, writing, language, landscaping, college courses, and much more. Classes can be a fun way to learn new skills, meet new people, and support local groups that specialize in their trade.



**Events and other Experiences** - Do your loved ones enjoy concerts, plays, ballet, theater, opera, movies, lectures, tours, dining out, community groups, or other forms of entertainment? Events are a great way to enjoy local forms of art, talent, and food. Best of all, you can share the experience by joining any of these outings with your loved ones.

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