



**Hundreds March**  
HUNDREDS MARCH AT  
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AGAINST GUN MAYHEM .... **3**



**Home Improvement**  
NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN  
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**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**CLOUDY** Temperatures hit  
mid 70s on Friday  
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0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 48-53

**FRIDAY**  
  
**SATURDAY**  
  
**SUNDAY**

# San Leandro Times

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

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SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Kids came to the library with their families for the elementary school art show on March 6 where the work of students was on display in the Children's Room.

## Things Go Better with Art

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

What if there was a class in school that would teach you what to do when things go wrong?

How to be flexible, to experiment, to be playful, to make the best of things?

Maybe there is such a class – art.

“I don’t know. Maybe it helps you with

life,” said art teacher David Patusco.

When the crayon breaks, or the paper peels off, what do you do?

“Now you learn to use the crayon to get a different effect,” Patusco said on the night of March 6 at the Main Library where the elementary school art was on display. “You can use the side of the crayon to get a softer effect, or a bow-tie shape.”

Experiment and take risks, the art teachers say. If something goes wrong it just might turn out for the better.

“Art in the 21st century teaches you to be flexible, not attached to one outcome,” said Patusco, an art teacher at San Leandro elementary schools.

A big crowd of students and their families

see ART, page 2

## Cutter Delivers State of City; It's Upbeat

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

Mayor Pauline Cutter gave her “State of the City” address at the Senior Center on Monday night, painting a rosy picture of San Leandro – citing good financial health, infrastructure improvements, and a city that runs on “kindness.”

“It’s hard to believe that I am now in my fourth year as mayor of this wonderful community, and coming up on 20 years as an elected leader in San Leandro,” said Cutter, who previously was on the school board. “Looking back over that period of time, I’m so proud at how much progress has been made in our community and how we work together.”

A large portion of the mayor’s speech focused on bringing new business to town and how well San Leandrans are doing economically, with unemployment at a 20-year low at 3.4 percent.

That rate is on par with the statewide rate of 4.3 percent and the national rate of 4.1 percent and slightly higher than the Alameda County average of 3.2 percent.

“San Leandro is stronger today than it has ever been,” said Cutter. “Our economy is thriving, we continue to attract new businesses and jobs, and the city is financially secure.”

But that financial security doesn’t take into account the city’s \$210 million in unfunded pension liabilities, an amount which has doubled since 2014. Cutter said that the pension

shortfall continues to be one of the city’s “biggest challenges.”

Cutter said one way to mitigate the pension crisis is a dedicated fund that sets aside half of

see SPEECH, page 14

## Arroyo Student Brings Gun To School

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

An Arroyo High School student was arrested after being found with a gun on campus last Friday afternoon.

The campus in San Lorenzo was put on lockdown at around 2:30 p.m. after a 15-year-old student was reported to have a handgun, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department.

“We were able to isolate that student to a particular classroom and we were able to enter that classroom and detain the student without incident and find a loaded handgun,” said Kelly.

The weapon was a loaded semiautomatic handgun. The boy was arrested and taken to juvenile

see GUN, page 14

## Apartments Near BART Get Green Light

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

The 62-unit affordable housing project planned to be built across the street from the San Leandro BART station will go forward after the City Council failed to make a decision on an appeal from a neighbor who opposes the construction.

At the March 19 meeting, the City Council did not make a decision on the appeal, so a previous

ruling of the Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) is upheld and the Eden Housing apartment project can be built.

Jim Blaine, who lives next to the planned five-story apartments on Parrot Street, said the building will block out the sun and negatively affect his property values.

Blaine paid around \$6,000 to the city to file the appeal and a handful of neighbors joined him at the meeting Monday night to

“I’m frustrated. I’m caught in the middle.”

— Homeowner Jim Blaine

urge the City Council to have Eden Housing redesign it to be less obtrusive.

“I know we need more housing, but consideration must be given to current residents as well,” said Blaine.

Only Three Council Members Vote on Appeal

But the council couldn’t decide on Blaine’s appeal, because

see APARTMENTS, page 5

### INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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Woman’s purse snatched while leaving bank. **Page 3**

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## MEETING SCHEDULES

### CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 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 Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



## San Leandro Times

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

### EDITORIAL

**Fred Zehnder**  
Editor and Publisher

**Jim Knowles**  
Managing Editor  
jimk@ebpublishing.com

**Amy Sylvestri**  
City Editor  
amys@ebpublishing.com

**Steve Schaefer**  
Auto Editor

Contributing Writers  
**Buzz Bertolero**  
**Martha Kennelly**  
**Carl Medford**  
**Linda Sandsmark**

### PRODUCTION

**Howard Morrison**  
Manager  
**Greg Benson**  
Art Director  
**Moxie Morrison**  
Assistant

### OPERATIONS

**Claudette Morrison**  
Business Manager

### ADVERTISING

Display Advertising  
**Claudette Morrison**  
Classified Advertising  
**Patrick Vadnais**

### HOW TO REACH US

San Leandro Times  
2060 Washington Ave.  
San Leandro, California 94577  
Office hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Office: (510) 614-1555  
Newsroom: (510) 614-1557  
Sports: (510) 614-1561  
Advertising: (510) 614-1555  
Classified: (510) 614-1558  
Fax: (510) 483-4209  
Email: jimk@ebpublishing.com

[www.ebpublishing.com](http://www.ebpublishing.com)



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# Art: High school artists glad to receive large canvases

continued from front page  
lies packed the children's room at the Main Library where the kids artwork is on display on the walls.

Later that week, the San Leandro High art students had a show of their own – The AP & Studio Art Exhibition 2018 – in the lobby of the school's Performing Arts Center, using large canvases donated by former school board member Ray Davis from his late wife, Kat.

"The kids were wide-eyed when they saw these canvases," said San Leandro High art teacher Audrey Brown. "They grabbed them right away."

Art student Janet Nguyen was glad to get the chance to work on a larger canvas, which she used to paint with acrylic her piece called "Lake Suwa." The blue lake is surrounded by mountains, forests and clouds.

In her note about the piece, Nguyen offers some interesting ideas. She sees the mountains as sturdy and firm, providing reassurance and comfort. The mountains can be the people who shape you, and the people who make you suffer. The water constantly moves with all living



Janet Nguyen talked about her painting "Lake Suwa" at the San Leandro High art show. At right is "Lake Suwa," "Persephone" by Maria Rosales, and "Boba" by Shannon Dao.

beings and plants, following its journey.

But at the same time, the mountains are slowly eroding, showing that nothing can fight time.

"The mountain is just a temporary wave of soil in the large scheme of things," Nguyen said. Some of the high school stu-

dents like pop art with its bright, bold colors. "Boba" is an acrylic by Shannon Dao of a girl drinking a milk tea in melon colors that are bright and fresh like the tea itself.

Student Anthony Tate's piece, "Sup Dude," came as a spur-of-the-moment idea when his friend Kha-vinh jumped in front of him while he was taking a picture at



the cross country team's dinner and struck a pose. Tate took the picture and then used the photo to make his painting.

"I like it because it really shows the fun and chill attitude of the cross country team," Tate said.

The AP & Studio Art Exhibition 2018 is on display in the SLHS Performing Arts Center when the theater is open for performances.



## Corrections

In the story "San Leandrans to March Against Gun Violence," (March 22, 2018): All Saints Church joined in the march and promoted it, but didn't host it. The march was organized by the Community Impact Lab.

In the story on the track meet, "Athletes Compete in SL Invitational," (March 22, 2018) the quote from San Leandro High sprinter Femi Ajose should have read that he hoped to break, not 11 seconds, but 10 seconds in the 100 meters.

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# San Leandro Families March Against Gun Violence

San Leandro held one of the hundreds of "March for Our Lives" protests that took place last Saturday all over the nation in support of gun control.

The Community Impact Lab hosted the San Leandro event and many people gathered in support of ending gun violence as they walked around Washington Elementary School.

In San Leandro, over 400 peo-

ple joined in the march, including many families with children from San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, Oakland, Hayward, and Concord.

Over 800 March for Our Lives events took place throughout the United States and around the world.

The Community Impact Lab is a local group who says their goal is to promote an atmosphere

where families act together as a force of social change.

"It was such an inspiring and hopeful experience to march down our streets in solidarity with hundreds of thousands of others throughout the world to demand an end to gun violence and a safer world for our children and our community," said Xouhoa Bowen of Community Impact Lab.

## Woman Robbed Leaving Bank, Police Car Chase Ends in Crash

A woman had her purse snatched as she exited a bank downtown last week and two suspects are in custody following a police chase.

The victim, 67, left the Chase bank at around 6 p.m. on March 19 and was walking in the area of Peet's Coffee, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

While there, a man later identified by police as Mister Simmons, 24, allegedly grabbed the victim's purse from her arm.

The suspect ran to an awaiting vehicle being driven by a man police identified as Tyrone King,

21, who then fled the scene.

Two San Leandro police officers were flagged down and given a description of the suspects and their vehicle.

Within minutes, the suspects' vehicle was located by officers and they tried to stop the car but the suspect began to drive at a high speed.

The pursuit was called off due to concerns about speed.

The suspects continued to speed and eventually lost control and crashed into a fence at the intersection of Durant and Stratford avenues, Benabou said.

Both suspects ran into the

neighborhood, Benabou said. King was apprehended one block away and Simmons, was located as he attempted to hide inside of a nearby church. Both suspects were taken into custody.

The victim's purse including cash from the bank transaction was recovered at the crash scene and in the suspects' possession, Benabou said.

The Alameda County District Attorney charged Simmons and King with robbery and an additional charge of felony evading was filed against the driver, King.

Both men remain in custody at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

## Cops, Fire, and PG&E Crews Team Up to Rescue Hawk

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office responded to Cherryland Park at 236 Grove Way to help an injured hawk that was stuck in a tree and snagged in a rope, last Saturday at around 2 p.m.

The bird was unable to get free without falling to the ground, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the sheriff's office.

Sheriff's deputies, animal services and dispatchers coordinated resources and contacted PG&E and the Alameda County Fire Department to respond to the scene.

The ACFD was able to use their ladder truck to get close and provide safety while PG&E was able to get their bucket right where we needed to be.

The state Fish and Wildlife Department responded and we were able to get the hawk into a cage and back on the ground.

The hawk was injured and is expected to fully recover at a Bay Area wildlife rescue center.

Once healed, the bird will be released, Kelly said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACSO

In a team effort, a hawk was rescued from Cherryland Park last weekend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNITY IMPACT LAB

Over 400 people walked around Washington Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood as part of the nation-wide "March for Our Lives" protest against gun violence last Saturday.

## Pair Detained After Standoff

San Leandro police responded to the 300 block of Belleview Drive at around 4 p.m. for a report of a disturbance involving weapons on March 25.

When the officers arrived and were speaking to the people involved, they witnessed the residents throw weapons – a knife and a bat – at each other. It was evident one of them was having a mental health issue, according to Lt. Randy Brandt of the San Leandro police.

Officers trained in negotiation and other tactics arrived at the scene and after several hours of negotiations, were able to successfully detain both subjects.

Based on the sensitivity of this investigation, no information will be released beyond these details, Brandt said.

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# NEIGHBORS



Historic Casa Peralta will be the scene of Easter festivities for children and their families.

## Egg Hunt and More at Casa Peralta

The San Leandro Improvement Association (SLIA) will host its second annual “Egg Hunt at The Casa” this Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon at the historic Casa Peralta grounds in downtown San Leandro with egg hunts, a petting zoo, music, and family-friendly activities.

The SLIA will decorate the Casa Peralta and hide plastic eggs stuffed with goodies and sweets from Ghirardelli for the kids to find. Festivities will include three egg hunts, face painting, music, family friendly activities and a petting zoo sponsored by Mike’s Feed & Pet.

Chicks and bunnies will be found at the petting zoo. The egg hunts will be broken up into different age brackets every 30 minutes and volunteers from the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club will manage the egg hunts so parents can relax and enjoy watching their little ones search for Easter eggs.

Kids are encouraged to bring baskets for the egg hunt. Times for the egg hunts are: 10:30 a.m. for 3 and under; 11 a.m. for 4 to 6 year olds; and 11:30 a.m. for 7 to 10 year olds.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### ❖ Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, under the direction of Terrance Kelly, will host the

Annual Free Spring Concert at the First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. on Saturday, April 7, at 7 p.m. Guest artists will include the Lighthouse

Gospel Choir of Marin County, Anthony Washington & Levitical Movement, and Robin J. Williams & Peace Gospel Choir. For more information, call 839-4361 or go to [www.oigc.org](http://www.oigc.org).

### ❖ SL Players Present *Death by Design*

The San Leandro Players present *Death by Design*, a comedy/mystery with surprising twists, opening on April 7 and running through May 6 at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro. Show times are Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., plus two Friday shows at 8 p.m. on April 27 and May 4. Tickets are \$20 general, \$15 seniors, TBA members, under 12, students. For more information or reservations call 895-2573 or online at [www.slplayers.org](http://www.slplayers.org).

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Congratulations, Lamb. This is the week to finish your project and then bask in your well-earned approval. (And if you like, you also can say “bah” to all those detractors.)



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** The bold Bovine could find a new opportunity too intriguing to be ignored. But don’t charge into it. Go slowly so you see how things develop as you get more involved.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You might try to soften your stand on that important issue. A little more flexibility actually could get you what you’re looking for. A new friend enters the picture midweek.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Your inner voice is on the mark when it advises you to tackle that family problem now! The sooner you’re able to come to terms with it, the better it will be for everyone.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Someone reveals important news about a longtime associate. But before you decide how to deal with this information, make sure it’s reliable, and not simply self-serving.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Some intensive soul-searching early in the week can help you reach a decision by week’s end that should please both you and the other person involved. Good luck.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** The possibility of a career change is intriguing. Learn more about what it can offer and what it cannot. Weigh everything carefully. And ask questions.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Work is your priority this week as you try to make up for lost time. Expect help from someone who cares about you. Things take a welcome turn by the weekend.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** A health problem causes some anxiety early in the week. But prompt medical attention soon eases everyone’s concerns. Enjoy an arts-filled weekend.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** As much as you might resent it, a changing situation could require you to adjust your plans accordingly. The good news: An associate agrees to cooperate.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** That old problem is finally resolved, just in time for you to take on a new work-related project. This one could be the super door-opener you’ve been looking for.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** The early part of the week presents some difficult hurdles. But once you get over them, you can start to focus on matters that are more important to you.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ❖ Good Friday Ecumenical Service

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd. in San Leandro, will hold a Good Friday Ecumenical service at noon on Friday, March 30. The service will include familiar hymns and reflections on Christ’s “Seven Last Words” by clergy from different congregations throughout San Leandro as well as from Rose Padilla Johnson, CEO of the Davis Street Family Resource Center. A special collection will be taken at the service to support Davis Street’s services to low income residents of our community.

### ❖ Cesar Chavez Film at the SL Library

In honor of Cesar Chavez day, the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., will show the 2014 feature film *Cesar Chavez* on Saturday, March 31, from 2 to 4 p.m. The movie will be shown in English with Spanish subtitles. This film is rated PG-13 and will be shown in the Lecture Hall. For more information, call 577-3971.

### ❖ My Sister’s Closet Flea Market

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Eden Auxiliary 1139 will hold a My Sister’s Closet Flea Market on Saturday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Eagles Hall, 21406 Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. Table rental is \$24 and must be paid for in advance by March 24. For more information, call Glenda at 584-1568.

### ❖ Easter Treasure Hunt

Heritage Baptist Church will host an Easter Treasure Hunt at James Monroe Elementary School, 3750 Monroe Blvd. in San Leandro, on Saturday, March 31, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. This free event will include games, prizes, and exciting activities for children 4 to 11 years old. For more information, go to [www.hbc.or/](http://www.hbc.or/) easter or call 357-7023.

### ❖ Seed Lending Library

The San Leandro Library is launching a seed lending library. Stop by the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, March 31, between 1 and 2 p.m. to borrow seeds. Whether you are new to gardening or a seasoned gardener, browse through the seed packets and find something you want to grow. For questions about gardening or seed saving, send an email to [sanleandroseed@gmail.com](mailto:sanleandroseed@gmail.com) or stop by to speak with an experienced volunteer.

### ❖ The Plant Exchange

The Plant Exchange will be on Saturday, March 31, from noon to 4 p.m. at 4500 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland. The Plant Exchange is the free, one-day event where gardeners, landscapers, urban farmers, educators, and enthusiasts all come together to exchange plants, equipment, tools, and information about ways to make our urban environment more sustainable, aesthetic, and healthy. For more information, visit <http://theplantexchange.org>.

### ❖ SL Parkinson’s Support Group Meeting

The San Leandro Parkinson’s support group will meet on Thursday, April 5, at 10:30 a.m. at the San Lorenzo Community Church, 945 Paseo Grande in San Lorenzo. The speaker will give information about the Parkinson Institute. For more information, call Lona White at 276-3119.

### ❖ I.D.E.S. of Saint John Lunch & Bingo

I.D.E.S. of Saint John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will have a salad bar lunch and bingo on Saturday, April 7, at noon. Tickets are \$15 and includes lunch and four bingo cards,

additional cards are 25 cents each. For more information and tickets, call Willie Calvo at 635-6326, or Frances Leite at 886-1568.

### ❖ San Leandro Swim Team Tryouts

The San Leandro Swim Team will hold tryouts for the upcoming season at the San Leandro High School Pool on Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at 6 p.m. at the San Leandro High School pool, 2200 Bancroft Ave. All swimmers ages 4 to 18 interested in joining the team come prepared to demonstrate your skills. Swimmers should be comfortable in water and able to swim 25 to 50 yards unassisted. For more information go to the website: San Leandro Drowning Darryls – Team Unify, or call Darryl at 913-0850.

### ❖ San Leandro Readers Roundtable

The San Leandro Readers Roundtable will meet on Saturday, April 7, at 2 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The book for discussion is *The Moor’s Account* by Laila Lalami, a work of historical fiction that recounts the imagined memoirs of the first black explorer of America in 1527. All are welcome, and all books discussed are available for purchase in the library’s Booktique bookstore.

### ❖ Films about the Earth at SL Museum

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., will present two Disney movies – *Earth* (at 11:15 a.m.) and *Earth: One Amazing Day* (at 2 p.m.) on Saturday, April 7. In between the films (1 to 2 p.m. and 3:15 to 4 p.m. ) there will be hands-on activity stations about animal coloration, adaptation and natural selection in the museum classroom area. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 577-3990.

### ❖ Comedian Mark G at The Englander

Comedian Mark G will perform at The Englander Pub, 101 Parrott St. in downtown San Leandro, on Saturday, April 7, at 8 p.m. in a benefit to support the work of Unity in the Community – San Leandro, which seeks to foster a community free of racism where people celebrate their differences. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Eventbrite.com, \$25 at the door. This is a 21-and-over event and seating is limited. For more information, email [UnityInTheCommunitySL@gmail.com](mailto:UnityInTheCommunitySL@gmail.com).

### ❖ Buon Tempo Club Dinner-Dance

The Buon Tempo Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a dinner-dance on Saturday, April 7, at Transfiguration Church, 4000 East Castro Valley Blvd. in Castro Valley. Happy hour begins at 5 p.m. and a six-course dinner begins at 6 p.m. The Castro Valley Adult Orchestra will play jazz, pop and big band favorites. Tickets for the dinner are \$25 for members and family and \$30 for guests. Everyone is invited. For reservations, call the dinner line at 483-6929.

### ❖ SL Library Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will host the Spring Two-Day Book Sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The sale will be open on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. Over 10,000 quality books will be on sale at bargain prices. By joining the Friends of the Library, you can attend the members preview from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. Membership is \$10 or \$15 for a family and applications at the Main Library can be picked up on the day of the sale.

Calendar items should be submitted at least one week prior to the desired edition of the Times, which is published Thursdays. Space limitations require we print items of the most general interest.





Bridge Housing plans to build a modern apartment building as shown in this rendering at Parrott Street and San Leandro Boulevard near the San Leandro BART Station.

## Apartments: Only 3 council members vote when 4 votes needed

*continued from front page*

only three council members voted and four votes are required to make a decision.

Mayor Pauline Cutter wasn't at the meeting because she was recovering from knee surgery.

Councilmen Pete Ballew and Ed Hernandez recused themselves because of real estate conflicts of interest.

And Councilwoman Corina Lopez voted to abstain.

The other three council members – Benny Lee, Deborah Cox and Lee Thomas – voted to deny the appeal, upholding the Board of Zoning Adjustments decision.

But the outcome is the same – the BZA's decision stands because there aren't enough council votes to overturn it.

Monday's meeting was held 60 days after the appeal was filed – which is the final day for the council to make a decision.

### Zoning Board Says Project is Appropriate

When the BZA unanimously approved the project in January, they said it's an appropriate project, as high-density housing is what the city wants in the Transit Oriented Development area.

"I'm frustrated," Blaine told the council. "I'm caught in the middle."

All the council members urged Eden Housing to work with Blaine and perhaps redesign or reconfigure the apartments, but there is no formal agreement requiring them to do so.

Lopez said that the city has given Eden a lot of money for the project and the compromise of a redesign would be preferred. She asked to continue the item to a future meeting so that Eden and Blaine could meet, but was told that wouldn't be feasible because of the 60 day deadline. She eventually voted to abstain.

The money Lopez is talking about is a \$1 million city loan to Eden plus \$4 million of the city's share of county affordable housing funds.

"With \$5 million of the city's money, I would ask that you at

least go back and ask your architect to look at other options," said Lopez.

Councilman Lee Thomas said he wished that Eden had been more communicative with neighbors surrounding the project site.

"It pains me that Eden didn't have more dialogue with our

**“He should be given a refund.”**

— Former mayor Stephen Cassidy

resident," said Thomas.

Andrea Osgood of Eden Housing said that project might go over the currently allowable high limit zoned for the area if it were to be redesigned to Blaine's preferences and that could force them to reduce the number of units which they do not want to do. The proposed configuration is the most practical, she said.

As with other proposed high-density housing projects, Blaine and his neighbors said they could see the need for more housing, but questioned the location, prompting accusations of a "not in my backyard" mentality.

"NIMBYs would like to see a wall around San Leandro," said public speaker Leo T. West. "Basically, they are saying 'We don't want these people here.' The issue is not the shade, the

issue is they don't want certain people here. The council should rule in the interest of the many and not a single person."

Blaine did not win his appeal, but he might get at least some of the \$6,000 fee back.

The money is actually a deposit and the city staff deducts the cost of the time spent on the appeal from the fee. San Leandro Planning Manager Andrew Mogens said that Blaine's case wasn't as complex as some larger projects so he'll likely get at least some of his money back.

Former Mayor Stephen Cassidy said it was "grossly wrong" that a private citizen has to pay thousands of dollars just to get their appeal heard by the council.

"He should be given a refund," said Cassidy.

Several of the council members agreed that the fee was too high and essentially prices a major part of the population out of governmental due process. The council said they'd like to put appeal fee restructuring on a future agenda.

### Art to Go on Display at Main Library

The San Leandro Art Association will have its work on display at the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., from April 2 to April 30. There will be a free art demonstration in the Karp Room by Tracy Vinzant on April 10 with refreshments at 6:30 where you can meet the artists and the demo begins at 7:35.

## Apply for Healthcare Scholarships From the SL Hospital Auxiliary

The San Leandro Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary is now accepting applications for its annual health care scholarship program.

Each year, the Auxiliary awards scholarships to college students and graduating high school seniors pursuing medical careers.

To be eligible, these students must live in San Leandro or San Lorenzo and enroll in health-care-related studies. Scholarships

will be awarded in June for studies in the fall.

Since 1972, the San Leandro Hospital Auxiliary volunteers have donated more than \$500,000 in scholarships. Past scholarship recipients have gone on to become physicians, nurses and health professionals.

Applications are available at the information desk or in the gift shop in the lobby of San Leandro Hospital, 13855 East 14th St.

Students can also request an application from a career counselor at San Leandro or Arroyo high schools. The deadline to apply is April 20.

For more information about the San Leandro Hospital Auxiliary scholarship program or if you are retired and interested in volunteering at the hospital, call 667-4501 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Sign Up for Boys & Girls Club Basketball

The Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro is now taking sign-ups for its Spring 2018 instructional basketball program for all boys and girls in grades 3 through 6. The league begins on April 11.

The program is designed to give players a fun and competitive basketball experience. Each player is evaluated prior to

being assigned to a team so that all teams have a balanced number of veterans and rookies.

All players are required to play two quarters per game, so every player will be on the court and be a part of the action.

All practices and games are held at the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro, 401 Marina Blvd.

The basketball program fee is \$85 for current "After School" members or \$95 for all others and includes uniforms and awards.

The Club is also looking for volunteer coaches for the program. For more information on the program or if you are interested in volunteering as a coach, call Ross Lim, at 566-3305.

## Seed Lending Library To Launch on March 31

The San Leandro Library is launching a seed lending library. Stop by the Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave., on Saturday, March 31, between 1 and 2 p.m.

to borrow seeds.

Whether you are new to gardening or a seasoned gardener, browse through the seed packets and find something you want to grow.

For questions about gardening or seed saving, send an email to [sanleandroseed@gmail.com](mailto:sanleandroseed@gmail.com) or stop by to speak with an experienced volunteer.

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## AUTOMOTIVE

## Lexus LC Makes a Good Green Ambassador

By Steve Schaefer  
San Leandro Times

**T**he LC 500 coupe is Lexus' halo car, based on a concept car that was unveiled at the 2012 Detroit Auto Show. It represents Lexus to the world, for style, power and efficiency, too.

And, you can get it in a powerful version with a V8 engine that pushes out 471 horsepower and 398 pounds-feet of torque. Or, choose the green and clean model, which is a hybrid with a 3.5-liter V6 mated to a pair of electric motors.

Either way, this car's breathtaking styling exemplifies the look that has driven much of Lexus' design language for the past few years. It's free of the hyper edgy look seen in cars like the RX crossover. Instead, it features dramatic curves with exuberant lighting at the corners, and more subtle edges and forms.

It wears the trademark spindle grill up front, but with a unique mesh texture that changes from

top to bottom. The flared rear fenders and pulled-in waist create drama, as do the gleaming 20-inch alloy wheels.

My Ultra White tester was the LC 500h hybrid, with Lexus' Multi Stage Hybrid System, which combines the engine with two electric motor/generators, for a total of 354 system horsepower. That system is good for a 4.7-second zero-to-sixty time per the manufacturer for the 4,435-pound cruiser.

Driving the hybrid, you'll appreciate the EPA ratings of 26 City, 35 Highway, and 30 Combined. I averaged 30.3 mpg in my test week. The EPA Green scores are a set of 7s — great for a car with an engine and a motor, and no plug.

The LC 500h is top drawer in every way inside. You sit low in superbly comfortable leather-wrapped bucket seats. Rear passengers had best be children or pets, because there is little legroom there. Every surface is delightfully decked out in soft

"Toasted Caramel" leather and Alcantara (suede). The passenger gets two grip handles integrated into flowing extensions of the dashboard. The doors wear four flowing creases.

The compact instrument panel offers two views, controlled by a button on the steering wheel. Either view displays various panels of information, including range, average mpg and mph, the essential three-part energy monitor (engine/battery/motor), gear position information, tire pressure, and even a G-force indicator and sway warning.

Select from several preset performance configurations, including Normal, Eco, Comfort, and two increasingly rockin' Sport settings. The Sport options tighten up the handling, steering and accelerator feel, among other things. The Comfort setting softens them. Normal suited me just fine.

The energy monitor helps you know when the car is using the battery for power or the gas tank and when it's charging the battery. The battery ran the car much of the time in commute traffic.

The LC comes standard with the 12-speaker Lexus Premium Audio System, but my tester was upgraded to the sensational Mark Levinson 13-speaker, 915-watt Surround Sound system (\$1,790). This package also includes Semi-aniline leather front seats and a matching Alcantara headliner.

You can get a head-up display for \$900. It shows digital speed, a bar-graph tachometer, and either compass direction or the speed limit. The Convenience Package (\$1,000), adds Intuitive Park As-



The styling, performance and craftsmanship of the LC position it as the flagship coupe of the Lexus lineup.

sist and a Blind Spot Monitor with Rear Traffic Alert.

Surprisingly, my fancy car did not have a heated steering wheel. It's part of a cold-weather package.

Lexus provides a touch pad on the center console to control the display screen. You get used to using it over time, but I regretted having to click the Climate button, slide over a few sections, and then flick it just to activate the seat heaters.

From a base price of \$96,510, my tester added up to a budget-busting \$101,385, making it one of the most expensive cars I've tested.

Who's the buyer? He or she will need to have a substantial bank account, and not plan on carrying more than one friend and not much more than an overnight bag or two in the trunk. They will probably have another car for that, anyway.

The owner will enjoy exclu-



The interior features a layout that is both cockpit-focused and elegant.

sivity. It's likely that you won't see another LC 500 (hybrid or not) on the road at any time — I didn't. The low-volume LC's job is to elevate the brand's prestige and bring customers to Lexus' website or into the showroom, where they can lease or buy a more down-to-earth sedan or crossover. Lexus offers multiple hybrids, at a fraction of the

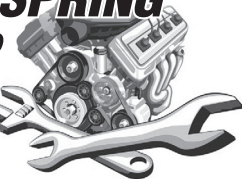
LC's cost. The LC 500h is an extremely attractive and desirable car, and earns mileage numbers more like its modest cousin, the Toyota Corolla. I enjoyed getting thumbs up at traffic lights, and my colleague, Harsh, was thrilled when he saw his dream car in the parking lot, learned it was my test car, and got a ride in it.

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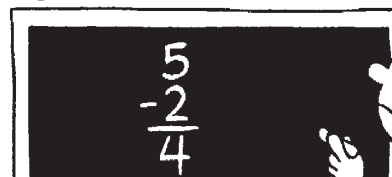
BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Blanketroll is missing. 2. Cap is different. 3. Sun is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Sign is missing. 6. Log is smaller.

## PUZZLE CARD



How can you take two from five and get four ... and have it be correct?

Answer: Take the word "FIVE" and remove "2" of the letters, "F" and "E." You now have "IV," which, in Roman numerals, equals "4." You see, five minus two does equal four. Any questions?

## A "RIDDLE" BY LEWIS CARROLL!

To know the answer, find the one "character" that is missing from the poem.

DREAMING OF APPLES ON A WALL,  
AND DREAMING OFTEN, DEAR,  
I DREAMED THAT, IF I COUNTED ALL,  
HOW MANY WOULD APPEAR?

Answer: A space in the second line: "And dreaming of ten, dear." Ten apples.

**DON'T GO "BALD" TRYING TO SOLVE THIS ONE!** At right is a word square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. Found on U.S. coins (given).
2. Sections set apart.
3. Wheels with teeth.
4. Wormlike form of insects.
5. Short, literary composition.

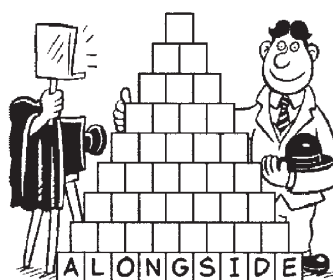
Answers: 1. Eagle. 2. Areas. Gears. 4. Larva. 5. Essay.

1	E	2	A	3	G	4	L	5	E
2	A								
3	G								
4	L								
5	E								

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

## THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!



Starting with the given word **ALONGSIDE** at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order.

1. Next to (given).
2. A type of glance.
3. Roman army units.
4. A part of a shoe.
5. Loud, unpleasant sound.
6. Front of an aircraft.
7. A single unit.
8. Position indicator.
9. Element symbol.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Answers: (from the bottom up): Alongside, siding, legions, inside, noise, nose, one, on, O (oxygen).



# SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT



## Spring Projects to Spruce Up Your Home

East Bay weather will soon be turning summerlike and many homeowners are itching to begin home improvement projects.

If you are one of them, consider these areas of your home when prepping for spring.

### ● Windows and doors

From a full window replacement to a simple coat of paint, updating your windows and doors can have a big impact on your home.

If your windows felt drafty during the winter, it may be time for replacements. Replace your old single-pane windows with energy-efficient double-pane windows.

Double-pane windows can help you save on heating and cooling bills; they help keep the temperature in your home consistent year-round and help protect your furniture, carpet and window treatments from the sun's fading rays.

Need to bring some fresh color into your home but don't want to paint? Try updating your blinds or shades. From different styles to colorful fabrics, blinds and shades can add a pop of color to your room. Motorized blinds and shades come in hundreds of style and color options so you can find the right fit for your home's decor.

Your front door is a major focal



Spring is a great time to start getting your A/C system ready.

point of your home, enhancing your home's curb appeal. Make a bold statement and improve your home's energy efficiency with a new ENERGY STAR-certified front door.

Consider options with decorative glass accents, and sidelights to

add more natural light while maintaining a sense of style and privacy.

Looking for something even easier? A new coat of paint to your existing door is a quick and easy way to give your home a fresh, new look.

### ● Gutters and downspouts

Excess water near your foundation can cause thousands of dollars in damages. Luckily gutter cleaning and downspout repair is fairly low-cost.

You'll want to make sure to clean your gutters and clean out any debris that may keep spring rains from flowing freely through your downspouts.

Along with replacing damaged gutter or downspout sections, you'll also want to make sure you have added downspout extenders to ensure water is draining far away from your home's foundation. Extenders should reach at

least five feet into your yard.

Gutter covers can also be added to minimize debris from gathering in gutters throughout the year.

### ● Air conditioning

Spring is a great time to start getting your cooling system ready. Often you have to call in the pros for air conditioning work, but things like spraying off any overgrowth or debris, cleaning coils and changing filters are fixes you can easily do on your own. Also, trim back any shrubs that are near by. Keeping the outdoor unit clean from debris will boost your A/C system's efficiency. Keep your indoor duct work clean by removing register covers and wiping clean any of the visible parts. You'll need to contact a professional for a full duct cleaning.

For more home tips and design inspiration, visit [Pella.com](http://Pella.com).

—BrandPoint

## Reduce Stress During Home Improvements

If you're ready to hire someone for your first-ever home renovation, you're likely focused more on the result of the project, not the process.

If you could just get from Point A (your underwhelming kitchen, bath or living room) to Point B (a new, luxurious and useful new space), life will be so much better.

It's true that home renovation can deliver many benefits, including improved home value and livability. However, it's also one of the most stressful events you'll ever experience.

Seasoned renovators will tell you that even the most carefully chosen and brilliantly orchestrated renovation will require some major life adjustments. For first-timers, it's important to be prepared — financially, logistically and mentally.

If you're considering a major renovation, here are five pieces of advice home renovation veterans would likely give to first-timers:

### 1. Prior planning prevents poor performance.

Some things in life can be over-planned, but renovation isn't one of them. Don't skimp on the planning process. You need to use patience and care when choosing a project that will increase your home's value and your enjoyment of the space. You'll also need to decide how you will finance the project, select a contractor and deal with potentially major issues such as managing construction dust.

Homeowners also need to define what they want to accomplish. For example, do you just need an updated look or do you want an entirely new living space? You can glean ideas from publications, websites and other resources and also seek out professional assistance, such as from an interior decorator.

2. Your contractor is going to become your new roommate. Most homeowners continue to live in their homes during a major renovation, so you'll be spending a lot of time with your contractor.

For that reason, eight in 10 homeowners say that livability is one of the most important factors during a remodeling project, according to a study by MMR Research Associates.

Your first step is to hire a professional contractor who is licensed, insured and certified. Look for a firm that is conscientious about everything it does, has an experienced team and is used to handling large projects.

To find an ideal firm, get referrals from friends and from the firm itself and look at company websites. During the interview process, talk to prospective firms about timeline, logistics, realistic expectations and budget management. It's important to understand the scope of the project and how your contractor proposes to handle any challenges that arise.

3. There will be dust. Dust will happen, guaranteed. Every phase of remodeling creates dust, and it's the top threat to livability during a renovation.

More than 80 percent of homeowners are concerned that dust will be an annoyance and inconvenience during a remodeling project, according to the MMR study. In addition to the nuisance of dust migrating throughout your home, demolition and remodeling dust can cause difficulty for people with existing respiratory problems such as asthma and it can damage your belongings.

Before you sign a contract, make sure the remodeler has a dust control plan for your project. Top contractors follow dust control best practices and use the latest technology to virtually eliminate worksite dust because they realize more than 90 percent of homeowners will have a higher satisfaction rate if dust is controlled.

4. It's the little things that get you. While your contractor is tearing down walls and re-creating your living space, life will still go on in your home. Piano lessons will continue, deliveries will take place, bedtimes will remain and meal prep will go on.

Meanwhile, your contractor's crews need somewhere to park their work vehicles and might not remember to put every tool away (and out of reach of your kids) at the end of a day. It's important to communicate with your contractor about these logistics and how you can work together to make the renovation go smoothly with as little disruption to your lives as possible.

5. It will be worth it. Your first priority in a remodeling project is to improve or enhance your living environment. You'll also get an added bonus, because most home renovations improve value.

For example, a major kitchen remodeling project recoups more than 74 percent of its cost at the time of resale, and adding an attic bedroom returns more than 84 percent, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report. In addition to financial considerations, completed renovations can improve curb appeal and livability.

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# SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Are Hidden Leaks Damaging

Home water leaks waste 1 trillion gallons of water per year, and 10 percent of American homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons of water a day, according to the EPA.

Fixing easily detectable leaks like dripping faucets and malfunctioning toilets can reduce water bills and water waste. But what do you do about the leaks you can't see?

Hidden leaks can be dangerous. Leaking pipes within walls can cause mold. Dripping faucets behind appliances can be a fire hazard. Leaking irrigation can cause significant lawn damage. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

A national study of more than 300 homes found that 17 percent of homes have some type of leak. Of those leaks, half were from a broken toilet flapper. This type of common leak wastes 800 to 1,100 gallons of water each day!

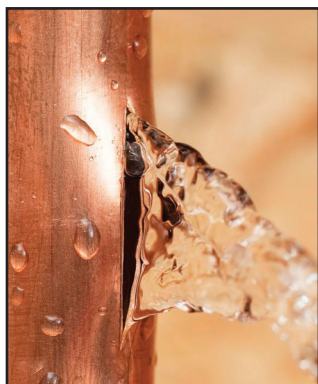
Uncovering hidden leaks is important for your budget, your safety and to protect your property investment.

Here are some ways to easily detect hidden leaks so you don't have to worry:

**Proactive Inspections:** Look where hidden leaks commonly occur before you see signs of a problem. Early detection could prevent costly damage. Even new homes need this approach, since human error during construction could lead to hidden leaks later.

**Inspect Systems:** First check your irrigation system by walking around the yard, looking for signs of leaks, like puddles of water or depressions in the ground near sprinkler heads or lines. Also, inspect around your water heater for moisture. Remember to watch the water meter, too. An unexpected spike in a water bill could indicate a problem.

**Technology:** New advancements help detect leaks using intelligent-water technology, such



**10% of American homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons of water a day.**

as the Phyn Plus smart water assistant/shutoff.

Installed right after the meter on the main water line, this device analyzes your home's water use by measuring tiny changes in pressure at 240 times per second. This allows the device to shut off the water automatically, so the homeowners can rest assured that they won't come home to surprise water damage from a burst pipe.

**Keep Your Home's Age in Mind:** Older homes have older pipes and systems that may be more prone to leaks, so it's important to keep close attention on your home as it ages. That being said, new homes aren't immune to water leaks.

You may have heard stories of new homeowners hanging a picture on their wall, only to find a puddle on the floor the next day right below where the nail had punctured a pipe. Pipes and soldering can fail at any time, whether your home is brand new or 100 years old.

**Use the Pros:** When in doubt, hire a professional to get expert insight and workmanship.

It's important to detect hidden water leaks in your home. Learn more about water leaks and smart home technology by visiting: [www.phyn.com](http://www.phyn.com).

—BrandPoint

## SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS

Always buy a sample to make sure you are happy with the color before purchasing the amount you need. Check the sample color in various lighting conditions on the surface you want to paint.

### Choosing Colors

Light colors reflect light, and make a room appear bigger. Blues and Greens are cool colors, and are ideal for a relaxing, calming atmosphere.

Reds and oranges are stimulating, and ideal for dining rooms or anywhere food is eaten.

Whites (of which there are hundreds!) are popular at the moment

because minimalism is in fashion. They accentuate everything else in the room, which may include art or pieces of furniture.

Don't use pure white unless you are painting a medical clinic or a laboratory. Choose an off-white and the subtle tones will help you achieve what you want without being extreme.

Darker colors or feature walls can be dramatic, and can make a room feel cozy and warm. Use them sparingly.

Consider the furniture or artwork you already have in the room. Choose complimentary or



contrasting shades to highlight their colours. It's easier to pick a color that matches your furniture than to buy new furniture to match your walls!

Trims such as doors, windows and architraves should not be features, so try to pick a color for them that you can carry through the building and tie all the rooms together with a common theme. If

you don't, you risk making your interior look too busy, and it will cost you a lot more in extra labor and materials.

If you have a large room or high ceilings, don't be afraid to be bold and use color creatively. Conversely, if the interior is small be careful about how many colors you use. Three is enough for any room, and yes, ceiling white is a color!



DATE: Saturday, April 7, 2018

TIME: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

LOCATION: City of San Leandro ~ Public Works  
14200 Chapman Rd, San Leandro

# SHREDDING & TECHNO TRASH RECYCLING EVENT

## SHREDDING EVENT REQUIREMENTS:

- ⊙ Limit - 4 record boxes (12" x 10" x 15") (or equivalent - 40 lbs. total weight)
- ⊙ All paper documents accepted (no binders/notebooks)
- ⊙ Envelopes & manila file folders ok
- ⊙ Paper clips & staples ok (no large binder clips)
- ⊙ Picture ID with San Leandro address



## ITEMS TO CONSIDER SHREDDING:

- ⊙ Bank statements
- ⊙ Credit card statements & preapproved credit card applications
- ⊙ Tax returns & legal documents
- ⊙ Employment records (W2s, pay stubs, etc.)

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



### Fed Rate Increases Not Likely To Affect Local Housing Market

**A**cknowledging Jerome Powell's debut as the new Fed Chairman, this past Wednesday the Fed approved the widely anticipated quarter-point hike, boosting the new benchmark funds rate to a target of 1.5% to 1.75%.

The question on everyone's mind: "How will this affect the Bay Area's sizzling hot real estate market?"

Not so much.

It is true that increasing interest rates affect long-term prospects. It's also noteworthy that current low rates are helping fuel the current market's climb.

In the short term, however, our current blistering local market is being driven primarily by an ex-

treme shortage of available housing.

Issues such as the inability of California builders to produce new homes in the numbers required and aging Boomer homeowners choosing to age-in-place rather than sell will keep inventory low for some time to come — some projections state until at least 2020.

Additionally, local tech companies (eg. Facebook, Apple, Netflix & Google) are currently on fire and hiring at unprecedented levels. Offering extraordinary compensation (the average software salary is hovering around \$200,000/year and many local households have 2 such incomes), it's no wonder there seems to be no end of buyers who can easily qualify for the jumbo mortgages required to purchase stratospherically-priced properties.

Even with the Fed increase, we will not necessarily see an immediate or significant jump in residential mortgage rates.

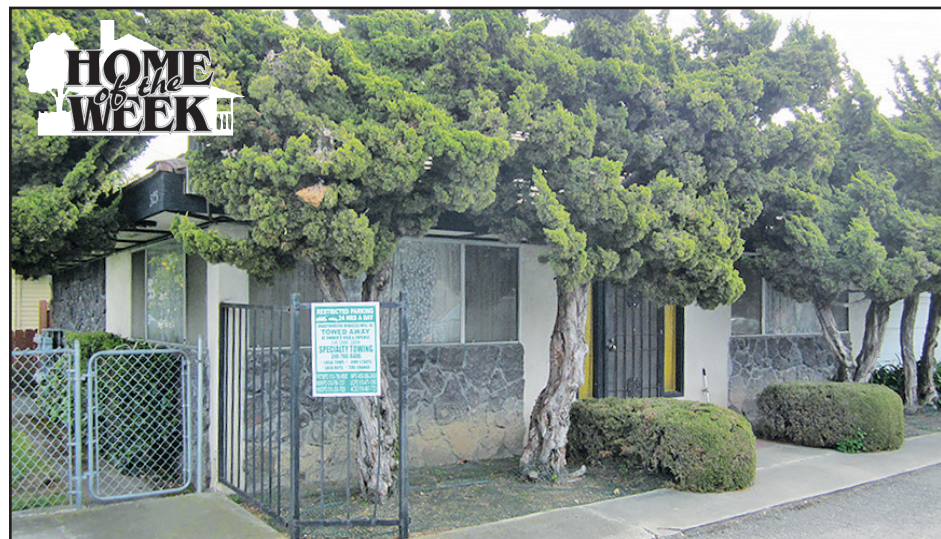
"We saw an initial flurry of activity in rates," explains Anna Ruotolo, Branch Manager & Senior Mortgage Originator for Finance of America, "but things have calmed back down."

She further explains, "Even if we saw a .25% increase from 4.636% to 4.885%, for a person with 20% down looking to purchase a \$600,000 home, their loan payment for a \$480,000 loan would only increase \$72.00/month. At the end of a year," Ruotolo states, "the increase is only \$864-\$868/year."

To put this in perspective, if a prospective buyer hits a local barista 5 times a week on their way to work for a medium caramel frappa whatsit with double whip, their monthly bill is over \$100. Planning on dining out for two in a nice restaurant? You are lucky to get a restaurant tab of less than \$100.

Those hanging by a thread at the bottom of the income scale will be affected but, in reality, by curbing restaurant activity, they should still be able to get a property in which they can dine-in and celebrate ... their own home.

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.



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## Home Improvement as a Tax Deduction?

### Not all home improvements are tax deductible

By Samantha Mazzotta  
Special to the Times

**T**he cost of certain home improvements can be deducted on your tax returns, but not all of them. And the rules for such deductions can change, so the deduction you are eligible for one year may not be available the next.

Some of the more compelling deductions are energy tax credits.

For example, if you install solar panels or a solar water heater, geothermal heat pumps, a small wind turbine or fuel cells in your existing or new home, you may be able to get a one-time, 30 percent tax credit on the cost of such systems (including labor and installation costs).

If you install energy-efficient windows and doors, you may be able to take a one-time credit of 10 percent. Installing new insulation or putting on a new roof also can qualify you for the credit, if the materials meet specific energy-efficiency guidelines.

These are detailed by the Internal Revenue Service, and you can visit its website or talk with a tax preparer to learn more.

If you make home improvements for medical reasons —

such as installing wheelchair ramps and handrails, lowering cabinets, etc. — you may be able to deduct those improvements as medical expenses. Be careful about what you claim, however. "Making a residence wheelchair accessible qualifies, but adding a sculpture garden does not," says a TurboTax guide.

Other deductions may be available, but read the tax guidelines carefully and fill out forms properly. Tax software or a professional tax preparer can help you figure out which credits or deductions you can take.

**Home Tip:** Interested in installing an energy-efficient system such as solar panels? Get an installation estimate from a certified, licensed installer and ask about tax credits.

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# Are Cat Repellents Safe For Flowerbeds?

By Buzz Bertolero  
The Dirt Gardener

**I've been using mothballs to discourage cats from digging in my flowerbeds. Would it hurt to use them now in a herb garden?**

There was a time when this would have been an acceptable solution, but not today. Mothballs contain one of two toxic ingredients, paradichlorobenzene or naphthalene. They're considered a pesticide because of the fumes that cause health issues that range from simple irritations to serious medical conditions resulting from prolonged exposure.

Cedar is the acceptable indoor replacement for clothing moth control. Outdoors, poor air circulation is not a problem, and the vapors do repel cats and other intruders. There is no indication that I'm aware of that the fumes are absorbed by plant tissue so in theory mothballs should not be any more problematical than air pollution. However, the more significant risk comes from the chemicals getting into the soil inadvertently from hand watering, sprinklers or mother nature. Hence, I'd go in a different direction entirely and avoid all the potential risks in all areas.

Today, there are non-toxic alternatives. Cat repellents are available that are safe to use on edibles. These products use plant fragrances, such as clove, mint, and rosemary, along with other non-chemical sources to drive cats away. The one drawback, like most repellants, is that they're water soluble so they must be reapplied often.

I prefer a natural plant debris option since cats don't like to walk on a surface that irritates their paws. Juniper debris and the spiny leaves from the California Live Oaks are two of types of natural plant debris that can be used while pine and redwood debris is ineffective. They're also used as a mulch for additional benefits. Also, the leaves from the California Live Oak has another benefit as it controls snail and slugs mulch like egg shells. So you have several other solutions that are less toxic than Moth Ball to repel cats.

**I'm interested in building two raised beds on a decomposed granite patio outside my kitchen. How do I handle the drainage with the solid bottom?**

The simple answer is to lift the beds off the ground with a two-inch spacer or three-foot legs.



Today, there are non-toxic alternatives that you can use as a cat repellent in your garden.

Next, you'd drill one hole in the bottom, so the water drains out just like any planter box. Raised beds with legs are ideal for those who don't wish to bend over to garden. They can be of any length but only three to four feet wide or six-feet wide if you are going to access the container from both side. The normal reach is three to four feet. I would then line the bottom of the beds with several layers of landscape fabric or any other type of mesh material, such as a screen or pantyhose.

Water quickly percolate out of the container but not the soil. The beds are filled with potting soil within an inch half of the top. This allows sufficient room so an adequate volume of water can be applied to the plants. You can build the containers from scratch, or you might investigate those that are prefab.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional and Senior Gardening Professional at Sloat Garden Centers ([www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com)). Email [dirtgarden@aol.com](mailto:dirtgarden@aol.com).

## Mortgage Rates Hold Steady

Mortgage rates showed little change last week after falling for the first time in 2018 a week earlier, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.45 percent last week, up from 4.44 percent the prior week. A year ago at this time, the 30-year fixed rate averaged 4.23 percent.

Fifteen-year rates averaged 3.91 percent, up from 3.90 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.68 percent last week, up from 3.67 percent.

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## RECENT HOME SALES

### San Leandro

Pacific Avenue, 1471	94577: \$115,000	N/A	BD	-	N/A	SF	-	N/A
Durant Avenue, 869	94577: \$620,000	2	BD	-	836	SF	-	1920
Victoria Court, 530	94577: \$808,000	3	BD	-	1,158	SF	-	1915
Tudor Road, 505	94577: \$585,000	2	BD	-	985	SF	-	1948
Cornwall Way, 48	94577: \$615,000	N/A	BD	-	1,371	SF	-	1977
East 14th Street #116,	94578: \$315,000	1	BD	-	659	SF	-	1987
Caliente Circle, 381	94578: \$425,000	2	BD	-	1,060	SF	-	1980
Joan Drive, 1931	94578: \$610,000	3	BD	-	1,028	SF	-	1966
Figueria Drive, 3617	94578: \$599,000	3	BD	-	1,408	SF	-	1954
Saratoga Street #204E	94578: \$325,000	2	BD	-	1,022	SF	-	1981
Lawndale Avenue, 1747	94579: \$670,000	3	BD	-	1,392	SF	-	1957
Pepperdine Street, 14724	94579: \$650,000	4	BD	-	1,783	SF	-	1951
<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>12</b>							
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>			<b>\$604,500</b>			
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$808,000</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>			<b>\$528,084</b>			

### Castro Valley

Parsons Avenue, 19318	94546: \$1,170,000	4	BD	-	3,311	SF	-	1990
Parsons Avenue, 19606	94546: \$520,000	2	BD	-	1,160	SF	-	1928
Jamison Way, 3544	94546: \$6,075,000	3	BD	-	1,611	SF	-	1952
Greenridge Road, 5323	94552: \$750,000	2	BD	-	2,042	SF	-	1972
<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>4</b>							
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT:</b>			<b>\$960,500</b>			
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$6,075,000</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT:</b>			<b>\$2,128,750</b>			

### Hayward

Meekland Avenue, 18857	94541: \$450,000	3	BD	-	1,610	SF	-	1943
Wright Drive, 23626	94541: \$683,500	3	BD	-	1,070	SF	-	1951
B Street #209, 1318	94541: \$390,000	1	BD	-	944	SF	-	1984
A Street #307, 1315	94541: \$400,000	2	BD	-	1,056	SF	-	1984
Lori Way, 23224	94541: \$775,000	4	BD	-	1,920	SF	-	1978
Tribune Avenue, 2830	94542: \$1,200,000	N/A	BD	-	N/A	SF	-	N/A
Hayward Boulevard, 26	94542: \$705,000	3	BD	-	1,606	SF	-	2007
Arundel Drive, 90	94542: \$1,330,000	6	BD	-	4,655	SF	-	2007
Arundel Drive, 91	94542: \$1,490,000	4	BD	-	4,315	SF	-	2009
Lancaster Road, 2554	94542: \$773,000	4	BD	-	2,007	SF	-	1956
Huntwood Avenue, 25425	94544: \$650,000	4	BD	-	1,705	SF	-	2007
Thackeray Avenue, 28363	94544: \$600,000	4	BD	-	1,999	SF	-	1956
Avocado Court, 24982	94544: \$762,000	4	BD	-	1,821	SF	-	1996
Overhill Drive, 797	94544: \$685,000	2	BD	-	1,300	SF	-	1956
Vista Grande D, 28836	94544: \$989,000	N/A	BD	-	N/A	SF	-	N/A
Dixon Street #312, 29300	94544: \$315,000	1	BD	-	598	SF	-	1984
Gushue Street, 25867	94544: \$730,000	4	BD	-	1,741	SF	-	1992
Northern Cross Road #60,	94545: \$730,000	3	BD	-	1,777	SF	-	2009
Montevina Way, 175	94545: \$825,000	3	BD	-	1,998	SF	-	2010
Oak Street, 21498	94546: \$860,000	6	BD	-	2,692	SF	-	1920

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD

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### ACROSS

- Old clothes
- Chantilly, for one
- Wicked
- Persian Gulf nation
- History chapters
- Wish otherwise
- Options list
- Shopping area
- Raw rock
- Long story
- Japanese sash
- Trade
- Operate
- Barrister's abbr.
- Tools for duels
- Poinsettia family
- Downright
- Wouldn't shut up
- Trojan War hero
- Siesta cover
- Whatever amount
- Victory sign
- Put something over on
- Shelter
- Arp's style
- Likely
- Elliptical
- Physical
- Dog's doc
- Rapid
- Choir voice
- Tokyo's old name
- Start the pot
- Welsh emblem

### DOWN

- Optician's selection
- Vicinity
- Jets or Sharks
- One of a daily trio
- Slot machine losers
- Spirited horse
- Tooth decay
- "Guinness Book" suffix
- Forehead
- Emanation
- Profound
- Roosevelt program
- City-related
- Binge
- Health resort
- Hearty brew
- Burger holder
- Genetic abbr.
- Red-staters' org.
- Away from WSW
- Forest-related
- Slim and trim
- Most popular, for short
- Pundit's column
- "Beetle Bailey" dog
- Sunrise site
- Wheelbase terminus
- Birth certificate info
- Uncontrolled
- Son-gun link

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16



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## Speech: Infrastructure improvements made

continued from front page

the revenue from the sale of city-owned property or unspent funds at the end of each fiscal year.

Over the past four years, the city has put \$14 million in that fund, which is equivalent to just about one year of city pension costs, and a drop in the bucket compared to the \$210 million total, which is increasing every

**“I believe the moral test of a government is how it treats the most vulnerable.”**

— Mayor Pauline Cutter

year as more employees retire and live longer.

Former Mayor Stephen Cassidy has been a vocal critic of the city's pension policies.

“Rapidly increasing employee pension costs pose a grave threat to San Leandro's solvency,” said Cassidy last month, calling



Mayor Pauline Cutter touted the “Smart City” efforts.

the debt an “impending financial disaster.”

Cutter continues to promote the idea of San Leandro as a “smart city,” with a focus on innovation. Cutter said that in the past year they have competed infrastructure improvements such as converting all streetlight to LEDs which will save the city \$8 million in energy costs over the next 15 years.

Cutter also spoke of San Leandro receiving international attention for its “smart city efforts,” as she was a guest of the Ecomondo technology expo in Italy this past fall where she learned about trends in green technology.

“Technology provides an opportunity to connect with each

other,” said Cutter. “More and more I see the benefit of sharing ideas within our region, our state and beyond.”

Cutter spoke about some of the city's efforts to improve the infrastructure, including earmarking \$8 million for road rehabilitation and \$1 million for code compliance. She said that, over the past year, the “MySL” code compliance app has led to city staff fixing 700 potholes, erasing 600 pieces of graffiti, and cleaning up 1,300 cases of illegal dumping.

Another big topic was affordable housing and San Leandro continues to face a major shortfall. Cutter touted the city's tenant relocation ordinance which was created this year as one way to help people kicked out of their apartments due to high rent.

The ordinance forces landlords to pay the equivalent of three months' rent to tenants who move out after their rent is increased by 12 percent or more in a year. Critics of the program say it doesn't do anything to help people actually find affordable housing.

As a cornerstone of her reelection campaign – Cutter's first term ends this year – the mayor has said she will focus on San Leandro being a city “where

kindness matters” and ended her speech by promoting the city's humanitarian causes.

Cutter said San Leandro is “rejecting isolationism” by being a sanctuary city, has helped 25 homeless people get housing, and raised the minimum wage beyond what's required by the state.

“I believe that the moral test of a government is how it treats

**“Rapidly increasing employee pension costs pose a grave threat to San Leandro's solvency.”**

— Former Mayor Stephen Cassidy

the most vulnerable residents and that every person deserves both a fair shake, and a helping hand,” said Cutter. “This truly is a city where kindness matters. Every one of you help to strengthen the fabric of this beautiful community with your commitment to working together.”

## Museum to Show Two Films About the Earth

The San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo Ave., will present two Disney movies at no charge – *Earth* (at 11:15 a.m.) and *Earth: One Amazing Day* (at 2 p.m.) on Saturday, April 7. In between the films (1 to 2 p.m. and 3:15 to 4 p.m.) there will be hands-on activity stations about animal coloration, adaptation and natural selection in the museum classroom area.

*Earth* (1:35 mins) tells the story of three animal families on a global journey revealing how animal mothers struggle to raise their young in an increasingly dangerous environment.

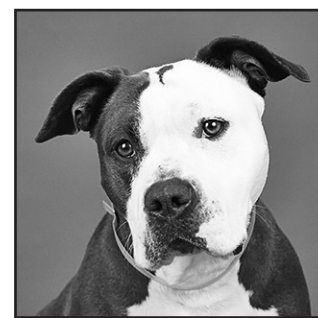
In the Arctic, a polar bear and her two newborn cubs must find food across the quickly melting ice. In Africa, an elephant and her calf begin an arduous journey in search of water. In the ocean, a

humpback whale must keep her calf safe over thousands of miles as they migrate from the equator to Antarctica.

*Earth: One Amazing Day* (1:10 mins) takes the audience from the early morning to the dark of night, revealing what an animal experiences at different times of day. From towering giraffes to tiny hummingbirds, the creatures are shown in ways that most people have never seen.

The film is the stunning result of technology and artistry in an astonishing journey revealing the awesome power of the natural world – tracking the sun from the highest mountains to the most remote islands and exotic jungles. The film highlights how every day is filled with more wonders than one can possibly imagine.

## Pets of the Week



Sadie



Gemma

and treats, and does well with other dogs. Spayed and ready to go.

**Gemma** has been waiting since last October for a patient family who understands she's a work in progress and it will take time for her to blossom. A bit timid, she'd do great in a home where she can relax and be herself.

For more information on Sadie or Gemma, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

## Gun: String of gun threats in schools

continued from front page

hall, Kelly said.

Kelly said the boy either showed the gun to someone or told them he had it, which led to rumors spreading across the campus and authorities being notified.

It is not known why the boy brought the gun to school. The lockdown was lifted at around 4 p.m. and no one was injured.

Two other students were also detained at the time, thought to be associates of the boy who had the

gun and they were questioned by the sheriff's office.

This past weekend cities nationwide wide held anti-gun violence protests.

San Leandro High was placed on lockdown on March 14 when graffiti was found in a bathroom at San Leandro High saying that someone said they would be “shooting the school.”

And messages threatening gun violence were found in restrooms at Creekside Middle

School in Castro Valley on March 15 and again this Monday.

Castro Valley High called sheriff's deputies to the school after a phone call of a threatening nature was made this week – that was determined to be a prank.

In Hayward, both Tennyson High and the Impact Academy were shut down due to similar threats last week. In the Arroyo case, the suspect actually possessed a loaded gun, but in the other cases, no guns were found.

## I.D.E.S. St. John Lunch And Bingo

I.D.E.S. St. John will host a salad bar lunch and bingo on Saturday, April 7, at noon at 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro.

Tickets are \$15 which includes lunch and four bingo cards. Extra bingo cards are 25 cents each. For tickets, call Willie Calvo at 635-6326, or Frances Leite at 886-1568.

## LOCAL DEATHS

**DeCARVALHO, Marcus.**  
**LINDQUIST, Katharine.**

■ Lindquist, Katharine, a long

time resident of San Leandro, passed on March 18, 2018. A memorial service will be held in her honor on Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m. at the First Covenant Church of Oakland, 4000 Redwood Road, Oakland. Visitation will be held on Friday,

March 30 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Santos-Robinson Mortuary, 160 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro, followed by a burial at Mountain View cemetery.

Santos-Robinson Mortuary, San Leandro (510-483-0123, santos-robinson.com).

■ Marcus DeCarvalho passed away March 22, 2018 at age 74.

Services will be held Monday, April 2 at San Leandro Funeral Home, 407 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Visitation at 6:45 p.m. Rosary Tuesday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 2500 Bermuda Ave., San Leandro, followed by interment at Hold Sepulcher Cemetery, 26320 Mission Blvd. in Hayward.

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## SL Swim Team to Hold Tryouts Next Week at SLHS Pool

The San Leandro Swim Team will hold tryouts for the upcoming season at the San Leandro High School Pool on Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at 6 p.m. at the San Leandro High School pool, 2200 Bancroft Ave.

All swimmers ages 4 to 18 interested in joining the team

come prepared to demonstrate your skills. Swimmers should be comfortable in water and able to swim 25 to 50 yards unassisted.

For more information go to the website: San Leandro Drowning Darryls – Team Unify, or call Darryl at 913-0850.

## Friends of Library to Host Spring Book Sale Next Week

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will host the Spring Two-Day Book Sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave.

The sale will be open on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. Over 10,000 quality

books will be on sale at bargain prices.

By joining the Friends of the Library, you can attend the members preview from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Membership is \$10 or \$15 for a family and applications at the Main Library can be picked up on the day of the sale.



# OPINION

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and **must be under 300 words**. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: [letters@ebpublishing.com](mailto:letters@ebpublishing.com) or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

### No Support from Council to Seek Middle Ground on Eden Affordable Housing

Editor:

On March 19th, the City Council met to consider an appeal requesting redesign of the proposed Eden Housing affordable apartments, to create less extensive shadowing on a neighboring home.

The appellant, James Blaine, at no time stated he wanted to stop the project. He even announced in the beginning of his remarks that he wanted to correct errors in a recent interview published in the San Leandro Times that stated he desired to stop the project. The appellant is in favor of much needed affordable housing.

As the meeting progressed, the advocates for the Eden project implied that Mr. Blaine desired to stop the project and that it must be allowed to proceed due to the great housing need. Mr. Blaine never sought to stop the project, he only wanted the design to be altered.

Eden Housing's architect stated there was no other possible design, yet some speakers questioned that opinion. The idea that seeking less shadow implied an attempt to stop the project is a false dichotomy.

Anyone who tried to seek a middle ground, as Council Member Corina Lopez attempted, found no support from the rest of the city council. It was easier to take sides and dismiss Mr. Blaine as NIMBY or "anti-progress," than to work with him as a homeowner, a law abiding and tax-paying citizen of San Leandro.

My sympathy goes to the homeowners in San Leandro. If you live in the Transit Oriented Development (near BART) area, you're now (or will be) living in a more densely populated neighborhood. It doesn't matter if the home you bought is your piece of the American Dream, or if your home was passed down by family, San Leandro needs to acquire land to meet California's affordable housing shortage, and it's unwilling to give real compromise.

—Richard Kirby, San Leandro

### SL Residents Have a Right to Address Quality-of-Life Issues

Editor:

On Monday, March 19, I attended a City Council Meeting. A San Leandro resident was appealing a decision to build a 5-story building adjacent to his property. He was not challenging the building of the 62 unit low cost housing structure, but merely wanted some design changes, so the building would not have an adverse effect on his quality of life.

Although some of the council members were sympathetic to his cause, they could not come up with a way to address his concerns. They asked the architect for the corporation if she had any suggestions as to how to modify the design to alleviate Mr. Blaine's concerns.

Really! Did they expect the architect paid for by the firm building the structure to say there were possible design changes! Give me a break! There always is a way to do something differently. It may cost more, and not satisfy everyone perfectly, but to say there is no way is ridiculous.

The argument broke down into how

many feet of sun was being blocked. That was not the point. It doesn't matter if it was 5 inches or 20 feet. It was affecting his quality of life, and that is what is important.

Another issue was the \$6,000 fee Mr. Blaine had to pay for 10 minutes to make his case. That is \$600 a minute! I consider that a violation of my rights to free speech. Our constitution is based on the principles of a Republic which guarantees the rights of the individuals over the masses. Individuals in San Leandro that do not have the means to pay for it are being denied their rights. Think of how you would feel, if you had a similar situation and could not pay to be heard.

—Carol Stewart, San Leandro

### Why is Mayor's Chair Vacant at City Council Meetings?

Editor:

Within the past couple months I have attended two City Council Meetings with a packed room. Much to my surprise, Mayor Pauline Cutter has not attended either, or made herself available by phone. Is this her re-election strategy – to not attend meetings that have issues important to the community so she does not have to commit to a vote on the issue?

—Diana Souza, San Leandro

### 'Kodak Moment' Needed on Border Between SL and Oakland

Editor:

I also fully support the police department's request to place cameras on the San Leandro-Oakland border to help provide hard evidence for prosecution and reduce crime. I'd like to refer to it as being a "Kodak Moment" that all the citizens of San Leandro would be proud of.

—Brent Heath, San Leandro

### Road Conditions on East 14th Called 'Deplorable'

Editor:

I am very sorry to inform you about the bad road condition of East 14th Street from Fairmont Drive to Estabrook Street. I have not seen any road pavement from the last five years; the road condition is deplorable. I hope the road's condition will improve soon by this summer.

—Jaiprakash Naidu, San Leandro

### 'Sick and Tired' of Carping Between Times' Letter-Writers

Editor:

So Much Nonsense:

Is anyone else as sick and tired as I am of the absurd drama created in the "Letters to the Editor" part of our local newspaper each week?

It all started with a letter with a narrow-minded opinion on some hot button topic.

This is followed by opposing view letters the following week.

Then we get to hear from the author again the next week along with more opinions from others and even people making light of the topic in some cases.

And it goes on and on. So much nonsense.

How about sending your letters to the SF Chronicle or some larger circulation periodical that is more suited for topics of

national debate?

Or better yet maybe outside the Bay Area Bubble?

How about this newspaper editor takes some responsibility and stop printing this tabloid-like nonsense week after week? How about we all write some letters to the Editor about the nice dinner we had with friends, promoting a local establishment, or the never-ending street repair on East 14th Street? Save the political BS for Fox and ESPN and let's use this paper for what is actually happening in San Leandro.

—Chris Morreale, San Leandro

### Publishing Leo West's Letters 'Reflects Poorly' on the Times

Editor:

While I do not presume to speak for the majority of your readers, I have not encountered a single resident of our humble city who can find much (if any) of the ideas espoused by your #1 contributor, Leo West, to be cogent or comprehensible. To me your willingness to publish his musings on such a regular basis reflects poorly on your paper and our community. Having said that, I do have to tip my hat to him for so succinctly providing the most powerful response to his own failure to answer Ms. Mary Lunberg straight-forward questions when he provided the following quote "When the arguments lack, then start the insults." Leo, Leo, Leo, take a look in the mirror.

—John Quillen, San Leandro

### Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan 'a Bold Vision' for San Leandro

Editor:

On March 19th, the City Council voted to approve the 2018 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, a bold vision for San Leandro's transportation future that will be the envy of other East Bay cities. The Plan represents hard, careful work sustained over 14 months by the city's Engineering & Transportation Department; consultants Alta Planning + Design (who studied every street and intersection throughout San Leandro with special attention to those near our schools); and members of the community including members of Bike Walk San Leandro, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC), and Bike East Bay.

Instead of wasting time haggling over which little fix in whose district and where to put it on a long to-do list, BPAC and Council looked at the big picture and took the long view for our growing, smart city. As the city builds more housing and businesses move in, we face more cars on already congested streets; more wear and tear (potholes) and their costly repair; worsening pollution; and higher rates of ill health. We need safe, efficient alternatives to driving.

When people bike and walk, they're healthier. They're also more social. Outside of their moving boxes, people literally see eye-to-eye. Most bike and pedestrian plans focus on the construction of things out of asphalt, concrete, and paint. Ours focuses on building community.

The new Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan provides for protected (Class IV) bike lanes (where there is a physical barrier between the bicyclist and traffic) that will someday stretch across the entire city: east/west through downtown and north/south on both sides of 880. Accompanying them will be a complete network of other types of bike lanes. Coupled with the planned walkway improvements (a lot of them at our schools), all of San Le-

andro's residents — no matter how old or how well they ride a bike — will be able to get to school, to work/BART, to almost everywhere quickly and without fear on a bike or walking. Street congestion? Nope. Fewer speeding cars? Yep. Air pollution? Not so much. Healthier kids and adults? Yes.

Thank you, Council, for listening to the community for this visionary bike and pedestrian plan.

—Sarah Bailey, San Leandro  
BPAC, District 5

### Community Impact Lab Gets Credit for SL March For Our Lives

Editor:

I appreciate the front page coverage

that the March 22nd Times gave to last Saturday's March for Our Lives event in San Leandro.

Credit for organizing the march and rally goes to Community Impact Lab (led by Molleen Dupree-Dominguez and Xoahua Bowen), not All Saints Episcopal Church as the article stated. A group from our church did join this well organized event that brought hundreds of San Leandrans together to advocate for safety for our schools and common sense gun control legislation. The community came together in peace to call for action. It was a proud day for San Leandro.

—Tom Breckenridge, San Leandro  
Social Ministries Team Leader  
All Saints Episcopal Church

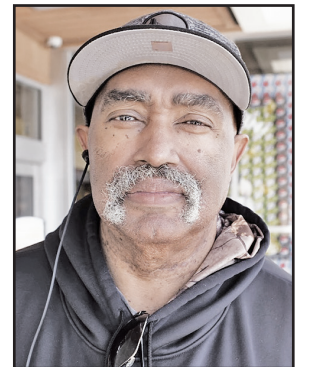
## INQUIRING REPORTER

### Is your personal information safe on Facebook?

— Asked at the Greenhouse Marketplace

No, because they always promise it's secure but then it gets hacked. I had three accounts hacked on Facebook. They said somebody was using my account, and then somebody got my credit card number and they charged me for ads.

**Chris Bush**  
San Leandro



No, I don't put much personal information online. I'm just conscientious. I always feel there is the possibility of hackers, somebody that would use your information for their own gain.

**Jon Wright**  
San Leandro

No way. Stuff happens. Some people are pretty smart. Some people know how to get in there and get your personal information.

**Jeff Belman**  
San Lorenzo



No. I just closed my Facebook account a month ago. I don't like how it's gotten too big, it's a huge corporate entity. The way I feel, it's out of control. I just said, forget Facebook. I email or phone my friends instead.

**Suzanne Pickens**  
San Leandro

No, if it's global it's not secure. Like they say, once it's out of the bag... I grew up with Toys R Us and now it's closing. Nothing is the same forever. And you can limit your profile information online. Don't put too much, and it can be fictitious. It doesn't have to be real.

**Vicky Wong**  
San Lorenzo





# Assumption Students Knit Scarves for the Homeless

Assumption Catholic School 8th graders put a new skill to good use to help others in their community.

The class learned to make scarves, and spent a month making 25 scarves for the homeless.

"We need these scarves to help provide the homeless with warmth and comfort, especially on this cold day," said one eighth grader.

The students learned different styles of making scarves from knitting to crocheting to even finger knitting. They were taught and assisted by their 8th grade homeroom teacher, Lana Rochford, and her mother, Betty Jang. Supplies were donated from Jang's knitting group.

This service project not only taught the kids a new skill but also taught them perseverance, patience, and dedication.

The 8th graders knitted at recess, at home, and even while talking about the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" in literature class. One student who knitted three scarves, said she found knitting relaxing and it kept her off her

cell phone.

The idea to knit for the homeless came up when Rochford was wondering what her students could do for a class wide fun service project.

When she asked her mom, Jang, for assistance, she was thrilled. Jang came every Wednes-

day for the next month to help the students with their scarves and service learning project.

On March 8, the scarves were blessed by Father Leonard Marrujo of the Assumption Church before being delivered to the San Leandro homeless shelter Building Futures next week.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

**Assumption School eighth graders (right) said they found knitting relaxing and it kept them off their cell phones. Father Leonard Marrujo (above) blesses the scarves that the students knitted for the homeless before the scarves were delivered to Building Futures.**



## City of San Leandro to Hold Annual Egg Hunt Saturday at Stenzel Park

The City of San Leandro will host its annual Egg Hunt for children ages 10 and under this Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. sharp, rain or shine at Stenzel Park, 15300 Wicks Blvd.

The event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required with the San Leandro Recreation and Human Services

Department at [www.sanleandrorec.org](http://www.sanleandrorec.org) or in-person at the San Leandro Senior Community Center or Marina Community Center.

Children should arrive with their own basket and egg hunts will be divided into age-appropriate groups. A visit from the bunny is expected.

This event is being made

possible thanks to the generous donation from the San Leandro Optimist Club.

It will include volunteers from the Optimist Club and Community Impact Lab and the Youth Advisory Commission.

For information, call the Recreation and Human Services Department at 577-3462.

## Library to Screen Film on Cesar Chavez

In honor of Cesar Chavez this Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m., the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, will show the 2014 feature film

*Cesar Chavez* this Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. The movie will be shown in English with Spanish subtitles.

This film is rated PG-13 and will be shown in the Lecture Hall.

For more information, call 577-3971.

# PESACH SEDER

Enjoy the Holiday of freedom in the warm company of friends and family.  
A Seder experience that will last a lifetime!

- Four-course gourmet Passover cuisine
- Hebrew/English Haggadahs
- Hand-made Shmura Matzah

- Inspirational & thought provoking holiday insights
- NEW! Interactive Children's Program!

## FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 6:45 PM

AT CHABAD JEWISH CENTER 20912B REDWOOD RD

**NO CHARGE!**

Sponsor a person: \$36    Sponsor an entire table: \$300

RSVP @ [JewishCastroValley.org](http://JewishCastroValley.org) or call (510) 342-9326

To reserve for the Second Seder on March 31, please call us.

# DOWN TOWN San Leandro

## FARMERS' MARKET

*Wednesdays • 4PM - 8PM*  
MAR 28TH - OCT 10TH  
PARROTT ST. & E. 14TH ST.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - WEEKLY THEME:**  
**COOKIN' THE MARKET DEMONSTRATION**  
By Chef Marisa

**THIS WEEK'S FREQUENT SHOPPER PICKS:**

**ORANGES:**  
J & J and Ken's Top Notch

**KALE:**  
J&M, Nyia Yi, Tu Universo

**FREQUENT SHOPPER PRIZE:**  
Oakland A's tickets!