

'Tis the Season!

CHRISTMAS ARRIVES EARLY TO CASTRO VILLAGE  
THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, FROM 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
TREE LIGHTING AT 6:30, LIVE MUSIC & SANTA CLAUS



# CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 28

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016

NO. 48

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### NEWS



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PHONE: (510) 537-1792



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAYWARD AREA RECREATION DISTRICT

**Above:** More than 65 participants swim laps at the Hayward Plunge Thanksgiving morning to help raise funds for the annual Karen M. Gordin Scholarships. **Below:** This year's winners were Michael Fong and Maria Filice, shown at right with Karen Gordin's parents, Jeff Gordin (at left) and Jana Gordin (on the right).

## Swimming for Thanksgiving

More than 65 people braved the morning chill on Thanksgiving Day to dive into the water at the Hayward Plunge for the Karen M. Gordin Turkey Swim, beginning at 8 a.m.

Billed as a way to burn off calories before the traditional feast, the annual swim has a more important goal – to provide scholarships each year for two certified lifeguards who are in school working towards their goals.

The Hayward Plunge Staff sets aside Thanksgiving Day each year to raise money for the scholarship fund named for Karen Gordin, a lifeguard for the Hayward Area Recreation District (HARD) who was tragically killed in a car crash in 2001.

Karen was loved by everyone at the Hayward Plunge and the staff wanted to carry on her name and the values she held on to.



This year's winners were Michael Fong, a HARD employee, and Maria Filice, who works for the City of Martinez. They received \$1,000 checks made possible in part by the more than \$1,700 dollars in donations made by Thursday morning's swimmers.

Gordin's parents – Jeff and Jana Gordin – were on hand for the scholarship presentations.

*Anyone wishing to donate can make out checks to: Karen M. Gordin Scholarship Fund and mail or deliver to Hayward Plunge, 24176 Mission Blvd., Hayward 94541.*

## Thanksgiving May Be Over, But Work at Food Bank Never Ends

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Alameda County Food Bank – which was just named the No. 1 food bank in the nation – was bustling with activity last week, with volunteers and workers making sure that there was a hot meal on everyone's Thanksgiving table.

With plans to distribute over 30 million meals by the end of the year, the Alameda County Food Bank supplies nourishment for an astounding one-in-five county residents, according to the spokesman Michael Altfest.

The food bank receives about 60 percent of its annual donations during the holiday season. Some of

that comes from non-perishables donated during food drives and dropped off in those barrels you see in grocery stores.

Volunteers sort those donations, tossing out anything that's been opened, or past its expiration date, or isn't up to nutritional standards – things like booze or soda.

*see BANK on page 2*

## Daughtrey Plan Gets Nixed at MAC Meeting

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The plan to turn the empty Daughtrey's building into a kid's entertainment zone with a jungle gym, laser tag, and an arcade got a resounding "no" from the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Monday night.

Developer David Greensfelder said that Lost Worlds Amusement Center wants to occupy the entire building at 3295 Castro Valley Boulevard.

With the exception of a poorly received pool hall and seasonal pop-up Halloween stores, the Daughtrey's building has remained empty since the department store closed in 1991.

But the MAC and over a dozen public speakers said that Lost Worlds isn't the right fit for the space. Many speakers said they'd prefer if the building was razed and an open green space was created where people could gather and perhaps concerts could be held.

Greensfelder explained that finding a tenant has been difficult because the building is large, but somewhat narrow – so if it was split either one business wouldn't have any frontage on the Boulevard or there would be two "bowling alley" shaped stores much longer than they are wide which has proved unappealing to potential clients.

Greensfelder said that BevMo, Grocery Outlet, Big 5, Target Express, medical offices, and an archery range all considered but ultimately declined to open there. Most said they already have locations nearby in places like Dublin and San Leandro so they felt they were saturating their market.

*see MAC on page 11*

## CV Man Shot Dead Monday

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A Castro Valley man was shot dead in front of his home on Wilson Avenue Monday night just after 6 p.m.

Caesar Plascencia, 37, was pronounced dead at the scene moments after emergency responders arrived, according to Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly.

Deputies responded to calls of shots fired on the 4100 block of Wilson Avenue, near Redwood Road and found the victim near his home suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

A paramedics attempted to resuscitate Plascencia but the effort was not successful.

Kelly said no motive is yet known for the homicide. The sheriff's office describes Plascencia as a respected union construction worker.

Initial reports indicate that the shooter or shooters man have fled from a parked car and fled.

Police are asking anyone with a surveillance system in the area to check their footage. Anyone with information on the case is asked to call 510-667-3636 and callers can remain anonymous.



# CV History in One Easy Lesson

Second in a series about our town's history coinciding with a month-long display opening this Saturday at the Adobe Art Center.

By Thomas E. Lorentzen  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM



Don Guillermo Castro

As we prepare for the opening of "200 Years of Castro Valley History" at the A.B. Morris Adobe Art Center this Saturday, Dec. 3, we have a tranquil opportunity to pause and reflect.

Our tendency is to normally look at this moment in time, but all periods of time are defined by preceding ones. The upcoming exhibit helps us understand this, as well as what defines our valley and the origins and evolution of our town.

Let's start with a look at our valley without people – what are the primary physical characteristics that provide the platform for our lives in Castro Valley?

We live, of course, in a valley, but not a full one (it is approximately two-thirds of a valley). We have a very moderate climate – indeed a micro-climate. Given our

hills, it provides a unique weather pattern which is one of the best in the Bay Area, if not the country.

We have several creeks that meander with the freedom that is allowed them. Their motions are subtle, barely noticed during our diurnal lives. It is because of these factors that our valley provides a healthy locality for a viable life.

These conditions were attractive to the first residents – the Ohlone Tribe. They lived by hunting, fishing and gathering. They found this valley to be conducive to their pursuits, making it a good place to settle and live. These elements set the stage for the future development of our town.

Much of California's history has been defined by those who brought external influences to the west, particularly from Spain and Mexico. It was because of these forces that the town we now know was named, originating with a land grant provided to a soldier in the Mexican army and a rancher, Don Guillermo Castro.

It originally was composed of 27,000 acres. He was primarily a rancher, and operated his spread for approximately two decades. His effort at sustainability, however, was subverted by an affinity for gambling and the emergence of people who sought to settle in the area by any means possible as a result of the Gold Rush.

Forced to surrender his land, it set the stage for those who followed, including Father Zachariah Hughes (a Methodist minister), who purchased a 500 acre spread of land in what was then called "Castro's Valley."

The public is encouraged to attend the month-long exhibit that will open this Saturday at the Adobe Art Center at 20595 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. It has been prepared by two of the most knowledgeable individuals about the history of our town – Randy Vanderbilt and Lucille Lorge, and is being hosted by the Hayward Area Recreation District.

An opening reception will be held from 1-3 p.m. Saturday and the exhibit will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (except for Dec. 24 and 31).

Come and learn about the present through understanding our past. It continues, like our creeks, to flow forward. We are all a part of history in the making. Come to learn and enjoy.

## Castro Valley Weather Nov. 30 - 4, 2016



Wednesday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 57° Low 40°



Thursday  
Sunny  
High 58° Low 40°



Friday  
Sunny  
High 61° Low 39°



Saturday  
Sunny  
High 61° Low 43°



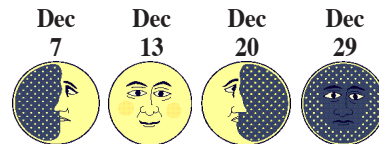
Sunday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 62° Low 40°

## Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 01.20  
Season To Date: 06.66  
Normal To Date: 04.12  
Season Average: 21.22

## Moon Phases



Sun sets at 4:51 p.m. today, rises at 7:06 a.m. Thursday.

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## Bank: Getting the Word Out on Donations

continued from front page

Those barrels are where the bank gets its "variety" says Altfest.

The bank buys most of its food in bulk, so people wind up with the same food over and over. But the individual donations are more diverse, with people giving ethnic food and personal favorites.

After the food is sorted, volunteers "go grocery shopping" – taking carts and wandering through the food bank's large warehouse on Edgewater Drive in Oakland.

"They pick out food basically based on what they'd like to have in their own cupboard and try to keep it balanced," said Altfest. "That's also why we like to get the word out on donations – focus on nutrition and what you'd want to see BANK on page 5



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

The holidays are always busy at the Alameda County Food Bank, but Donna Mastronarde or San Leandro and Laura Gonder of Oakland volunteer every Wednesday, sorting food donations to make sure their safe and nutritionally sound.

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Tracy Asturias  
510-537-1434  
dossheetmetal@sbcglobal.net

### The Hearing Center of Castro Valley

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December 3, 2016  
3:30 - 6:30pm

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on B Street  
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Look For Other Downtown  
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## The Week Ahead

### ● Thursday, December 1: Honoring Park District Retirees

The East Bay Regional Park District invites the public to a reception honoring retiring longtime directors John Sutter and Doug Siden from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Dunsmuir Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. Please RSVP to Ali Haynes, ahaynes@ebparks.org or 510-544-2010.

### ● Friday, December 2: Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Enjoy live music and free photos with Santa from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. this Friday in Castro Village. Tree-lighting will be at 6:30 p.m. California Highway Patrol Officers will be present, conducting a "CHiPs for KiDS" Pack-a-Patrol-Car event. It's a great opportunity to meet CHP Officers, check out a CHP patrol vehicle and pack as many toys as can fit into it. Members of the community are encouraged to donate a new and unwrapped toy for children in need this holiday season. For more information, contact Officer Dan Jacowitz at the Castro Valley CHP 510-581-9028.

### ● Friday-Sunday, Dec. 2-4: Holiday Book Sale

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold their Holiday Book Sale, with an excellent selection of books, CDs, DVDs, and other items, this Friday from 6-8 p.m. for members (memberships available at the door), and for the public Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday (\$3 bag sale) from 1-4 p.m. A fine collection of gift quality books are available. Following the sale many other best quality books and audio-visual items will be on sale in the Book Store through December.

### ● Friday, December 2: Eden Area Village

Eden Area Village is developing a non-profit membership-based

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

### ● Saturday, December 3: Soroptimist 12th Annual Boutique

Holiday crafts, gift items, jewelry, photography, hats, garden items, stained glass, soaps & lotions, dog & cat items, baby items, cosmetics, knitted/crochet items, bake sale, raffle prizes, and more at Soroptimist of the East Bay Holiday Boutique from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday at Hill & Valley Club House, 1808 B St., Hayward. Lunch and refreshments will also be available. All proceeds help support the goal of Soroptimist – improving the lives of women and girls. For more info, contact Donna Whitehouse at 510-924-7622 or at: rambosmom@comcast.net

### ● Saturday, December 3: Holiday Card-making Workshop

Make hand-crafted cards for the holidays with Vinnie Cespedes at the Castro Valley Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. this Saturday. All materials are provided, just bring your creativity. This program is appropriate for adults, teens and tweens. Register (required) at the Library Information Desk or call 510-667-7900. Visit [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)

### ● Saturday, December 3: "Transforming Lives" Presentation

Catholic Charities East Bay invites you to a special one-hour presentation from 10 to 11 a.m. this Saturday in the Parish Hall at Church of the Transfiguration, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. where Catholic Charities' staff, clients and volunteers take you on a "tour" of their programs that move families and youth from crisis to stability and prosperity.

### ● Saturday, December 3: Pets Available for Adoption

Dusty Paws Rescue will show adoptable dogs, cats and kittens from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday at Pet Food Express, 3385 Castro Valley Blvd. Check out [www.dustypawsrescue.org](http://www.dustypawsrescue.org) for available animals.

### ● Tuesday, December 6: Buon Tempo Club Family Dinner

Everyone is invited to Buon Tempo Club's six-course Chicken Picata dinner at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 at Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. For reservations (\$15 members, \$20 guests), call 510-483-6929. Deadline for reservations is this Friday, Dec. 2.

### ● Tuesday, December 6: Ohlone Audubon Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. in Livermore with the annual Holiday Cookie Exchange and members' pictures show. All are welcome; cookies are not required. For info, visit [www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)

### ● Tuesday, December 6: Sneak Peek: "Wonderful Life"

Come to the Castro Valley Library from 7 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday for a Sneak Peek of the holiday classic, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" running thru Dec. 11 at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre in Hayward. Enjoy a scene from the production and then talk with the actors about the show and their craft. Attendees will receive a two-for-one coupon for a full performance of the show.

### ● Tuesday, December 6: CV Sanitary District Meeting

Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) will hold its monthly Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in CVSan's Board Room, 21040 Marshall Street. Visit [cvsan.org/BoardAandM](http://cvsan.org/BoardAandM) for the agenda.

### ● Thursday, December 8: 'Handling the Holidays' Workshop

For help those who have experienced a loss, Hope Hospice is holding a "Handling the Holidays" workshop at the Hope Grief Support Center, 6377 Clark Ave. in Dublin at 2 p.m. on Dec. 8. For info, call 925-829-8770 or visit [HopeHospice.com](http://HopeHospice.com)

## Arts & Entertainment

### CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

*Tickets for CFA events listed below are available online at [www.cvartsfoundation.org](http://www.cvartsfoundation.org); or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. phone 889-8961; or at the CV Adult School, 4430 Alma Ave. Purchase tickets in advance. Prices go up when tickets are purchased at the door.*

● **"Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus,"** the beloved true story, adapted for the stage by Andrew Fenady, will be performed by the Castro Valley High School Drama Department at 7 p.m. on Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10, and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 4 and 11. *For tickets (\$13-\$15) see above.*

● **Virginia's Tea Party**, a separate ticketed event for \$5 preceding the shows at 6 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 10, and at 1 p.m. on Dec. 4. Participating children will enjoy a tea party with fun treats, cookie decorating and crafts, and of course, writing letters to Santa. These events will be in the Exhibition Hall in the Lobby of the Center for the Arts. Space is limited. You must purchase a "Yes Virginia" show ticket (*see above*) to participate.

● **"Toys,"** a winter holiday orchestra concert with the Canyon Middle School Beginning Concert Orchestra and Canyon's Intermediate String and Advanced String orchestras will be presented at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6, celebrating the joys of the holidays and featuring music from "Toy Story 2" and "Babes in Toyland," directed by Heidi Dahms. *For tickets (\$5-\$7), see above.*

● **Creekside Choir Concert**, will be presented at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7. *For tickets (\$4-\$6), see above.*

● **Canyon Middle School Winter Choir Concert**, will be presented at 6:30 p.m. and at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8. Come hear the 6th-8th graders in Canyon's Choir's winter/holiday program. *For tickets (\$4-\$6), see above.*

● **Creekside Band Concert** will be presented at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12. *For tickets (\$5-\$7), see above.*

● **Canyon Band's "Winter Concert,"** featuring Canyon Middle School's Jazz Band, 6th Grade Band, Intermediate Band and Advanced Band, will be presented at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13. *For tickets (\$5-\$7), see above.*

● **Castro Valley High School Orchestra Concert** will be presented at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15. *For tickets (\$8-\$10), see above.*

● **California Beach Boys Concert**, originally scheduled for this past October 15, has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. *For tickets (on sale now) see above.*

### THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"A Christmas Carol,"** a new version set in Charles Dickens' home in 1843, is playing at Chanticleers Theatre at 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley through Dec. 11. It's the famous tale of Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Ghosts of Christmas told in a fresh, unique way. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, with 2 p.m. matinees on Dec. 4 and Dec. 11. For tickets (\$25-\$10, open seating) and information on group rates, visit [chanticleers.org](http://chanticleers.org) or call 510-733-5483.

● **"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play"** will be presented by the Douglas Morrisson Theatre at 8 p.m. on Dec. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 3, 4, and 11, at the DMT Theatre, 22311 North 3rd Street in Hayward. An Opening Reception will be held tomorrow, Dec. 1. For tickets (\$27-\$29), visit [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org) or call 510-881-6777. Enjoy the holiday classic that puts the "heart" in heartwarming.

● **Special Songs for a Special Time of the Year** will be presented by the Morrisson Theatre Chorus, directed by César Cancino, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 15-17, at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North 3rd Street in Hayward. For tickets (\$18-\$12) visit [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org) or call 510-991-6777

### ART GALLERIES & EVENTS

● **Hayward Arts Council Open Juried Show** (judged by Carolyn Lord) through November 17 at John O'Lague Galleria, in Hayward City Hall, 777 B Street at Watkins, open M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

● **American Pen Women**, on exhibit through Jan. 27, 2017, with a public reception at 7:30 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 2, at John O'Lague Galleria, in Hayward City Hall, 777 B Street at Watkins, open M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

● **Prints by Bob Wolff**, on exhibit through Jan. 10, 2017, at the Hayward Senior Center, 22325 North 3rd St., Hayward.

## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

CASTROVALLEYFORUM.COM

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### Submissions to The Forum

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

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# HOLIDAYS AROUND *the* TOWN

## Bank: Donate Nonperishable Foods to One of the 300 Barrels Around the County

*continued from page 2*  
eat yourself.”

After the shopping trip, the food is boxed up and distributed to 240 Alameda County soup kitchens, shelters, and programs.

The food bank uses monetary donations to buy perishable items such as meat, milk, and fresh produce.

The bank can turn one dollar in cash into six dollars worth of food because of deals they have set up with farms and food companies, Altfest said.

A “virtual food drive” on the food bank’s website allows people to shop and choose individual items at an online grocery store and then pay with a credit card, so

they can choose exactly what they want to give.

The food bank says the items they need the most are canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and fish, peanut butter, pasta and tomato sauce, beans, rice, soups, cereals and powdered milk.

The website also has information on the bank’s “share our hol-

iday” program which allows people to link their friends and family to give a donation to the food bank in lieu of holiday gifts.

If you are interested in donating, you can drop nonperishable foods in one of the 300 barrels that have been placed in stores all over the county, or make an online contribution at: [www.accfb.org](http://www.accfb.org), or send

a check to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, P.O. Box 2599, Oakland 94614.

To help pack and distribute food, visit website. Individuals, church groups, schools, and companies are all welcome to volunteer.

And if you need food, call 800-870-FOOD and you will be referred to a source that can provide groceries and hot meals, usually the same day. The Alameda County Food Bank makes over 3,000 referrals each month.

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7106 Dublin Boulevard • Dublin, CA 94568 • (925) 803-9210  
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Wells Fargo donated \$5,000 to Our Lady of Grace School in Castro Valley so the school could purchase a kiln and necessary supplies for their art class. Above, representatives from the school receive a check from Brandon Crawford of Wells Fargo.

#### Softball

CV Synergy 18 Gold will be having tryouts at Castro Valley High School's Varsity field on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more info, visit: [cvsynergy18gold.wixsite.com/home](http://cvsynergy18gold.wixsite.com/home) or contact one of the coaches: Mike Adami 415-308-4712, Gabe Adami 925-837-5786 or Matt Rose 925-383-0655.

#### CV Girls Softball

CV Girls Softball League is accepting online registration for the 2017 spring season. Girls ages 5-18 are welcome to sign up at: [castrovalleysoftball.com](http://castrovalleysoftball.com).

#### Baseball

Castro Valley Little League will be having live registrations for the Spring 2017 Season, at Creekside Middle School, in the Multi-Purpose Room, at 19722 Center Street. Sign-ups are for Boys and Girls Ages 4 to 16 on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more info visit: [www.castrovalley-littleleague.org/registration](http://www.castrovalley-littleleague.org/registration)

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

### United Green 2007 Boys Soccer Team

This week's Athletes of the Week are the members of the Castro Valley Soccer Club's United Green 2007 boys soccer team.

The team competed in the year end NorCal State Cup Tournament, at Woodward Park in Manteca, for the first two weekends of November. They won their quarterfinal game by beating San Ramon 2 - 1 on a penalty kick goal by Alex Ling.

In the semi-final game they defeated a team from Ceres 6 - 2, by putting on an offensive show that included an impressive goals by Devin Dellner.

In the championship game Castro Valley jumped out to a 1 - 0 lead when Martin Strasburger put in an early goal, however, they

couldn't hold the lead and eventually lost to the Placer County Blues 3 - 1 to finish in second place in their group.

The team is made up of 10 boys from Castro Valley, that love soccer. The team is coached by Garry Agnew and David Fruin.



### CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

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## CV Soccer Clubs' U9 Girls Green Team Completes Their Successful 2016 Season

Congratulations to the members of the Castro Valley Soccer Clubs' U9 girls green team - coached by Andy Hulbert and Meg McKinley - who finished their 2016 season in remarkable style over the weekend of Nov. 12-13 in Manteca.

After securing First Place in their NorCal Silver Elite Fall League with a record of 7-1-0, scoring 33 goals in the 8 games, they went on to win the Premier 3 State Cup in Manteca with a 3-0 finals win over Pleasanton Rage

Premier.

The team fought hard throughout the tournament and had won their semi-final game in overtime on Saturday to advance to the Championship games against Rage.



## Age Well Drive Smart

As we age, factors such as vision changes and slower reflexes can affect the ability to react to hazards swiftly. According to the CDC, an average of 586 older Americans are injured every day in vehicle crashes. The good news is there are corrective steps people can take to stay safe on the road.

**Join us for a FREE class**  
Thursday, December 15  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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**Space is limited, please register: (510) 727-3176**

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## SPRING BASEBALL ONSITE REGISTRATION



### CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

**Monday, December 5 - 6:30-8:30p.m.**  
**at Mountain Mikes Pizza**  
**20261 Patio Dr., Castro Valley**  
*Castro Village Shopping Center*



For more  
information call  
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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Despite Raises, Middle Class Is Moving Out

"Five point two percent! The middle class finally got a raise!" trumpeted CNN Money's Kathryn Vasel on Nov. 7.

"Median household incomes in 2015 rose 5.2 percent from a year earlier. This is the first increase since 2007, the year before the recession started. And," she added, "there's more good news! The poverty rate ticked (down) to 13.5 percent!"

Great, right?

Not according to Sam Khater, deputy chief economist at CoreLogic.

While the income bump might be good in parts of the country, large numbers of middle-class wage earners are being forced out of California.

"There is clearly a relationship between the migration patterns and home prices," he explains. "The middle and lower middle can no longer afford to live in California."

CNN's Vasel confirms. "California's housing market is one of the most expensive in the nation, with a median home price of \$428,000 across the state. Prices have shot up 71 percent since 2011."

Locally? Prices are higher.

Contra Costa County's median price for Nov. 17 was \$540,000. Alameda County showed same period median pricing of \$779,000. Santa Clara County clocked in at \$1,050,000, while San Mateo County broke the bank at \$1,350,000.\*

## Holiday Rates Move Higher

Average fixed mortgage rates moved higher with the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage topping 4 percent for the first time since 2015, according to the Freddie Mac weekly survey.

The long-term fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.03 percent for the week ending Nov. 23, up from the previous week when it averaged 3.94 percent.

Fifteen-year home loans averaged 3.25 percent, up from 3.14.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.12 percent last week, up from 3.07 percent.

Vasel reiterates that while wage boosts are great, "incomes just haven't kept up with the (California) home price bonanza for many people — particularly for the working and middle class." It's even worse in the tech-centric Bay Area.

You would think that high wages would be a boost to the economy. "Not so," declares Christopher Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics. "The gains aren't coming in support of the rest of the economy, they're coming at the expense of the rest of the economy."

He warns, "Folks in the tech industry make craploads of money and they can afford to live there and will force out other people."

Khater agrees, adding, "It makes it harder for the average person to make a living there. So

that means less teachers, fire fighters, retail workers."

Many have no choice but to move to places like Oregon, Arizona, Texas and Nevada. Realtors confirm a mass exodus is underway, with critical non-tech skills exiting the state in hordes.

CoreLogic's data confirms that for every home buyer coming into the state, there are three Californians selling and moving out.

With the state's labor pool moving out, municipalities are scrambling to implement low-cost housing to keep some here. It's a very real problem, and there's no immediate solution in sight.

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

## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

19504 Alana Road	94546	\$730,000	2 BD - 1,218 SF - 1947
19656 Center Street	94546	\$550,000	2 BD - 952 SF - 1952
3712 Christensen Lane	94546	\$678,000	4 BD - 1,302 SF - 1954
21109 Gary Drive #202	94546	\$425,000	2 BD - 1,041 SF - 1981
17882 Lamson Road	94546	\$850,000	4 BD - 3,344 SF - 1959
2546 Lessley Avenue	94546	\$640,000	4 BD - 1,991 SF - 1948
3908 Lotus Court	94546	\$815,000	3 BD - 2,248 SF - 1968
18445 Magee Way	94546	\$700,000	3 BD - 1,467 SF - 1952
22154 North 6th Street	94546	\$435,000	1 BD - 829 SF - 1954
5233 Reedley Way	94546	\$865,000	3 BD - 2,152 SF - 1964
20175 San Miguel Avenue	94546	\$535,000	3 BD - 756 SF - 1953
4359 Seven Hills Road	94546	\$711,000	3 BD - 1,526 SF - 1955
4801 Shauna Court	94546	\$750,000	3 BD - 1,534 SF - 1969
5450 Briar Ridge Drive	94552	\$577,500	3 BD - 1,593 SF - 1978
19120 Buren Place	94552	\$720,000	3 BD - 1,785 SF - 2002
7497 Denison Place	94552	\$1,145,000	5 BD - 2,875 SF - 1999
25801 Durrwood Court	94552	\$1,075,000	5 BD - 2,820 SF - 1998

TOTAL SALES: 17  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$425,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$711,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,145,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$717,735

### San Lorenzo

16773 Ventry Way	94580	\$450,000	2 BD - 876 SF - 1956
1868 Via Natal	94580	\$602,000	4 BD - 1,644 SF - 1955
17668 Via Segundo	94580	\$575,000	3 BD - 1,272 SF - 1944

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$450,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$575,000  
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$602,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$542,333

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Claudette Morrison  
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San Leandro  
ClaudetteM@ebpublishing.com

## OPEN HOMES SATURDAY & SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	—	1-4	576 E. Merle Court	\$458,000	2/1	Re/Max Accord	Louise Lovewell	351-5555
OK	1-4	1-4	17 Lowell Court	\$580,000	5/2.5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Lisa Ferraris	304-1271
C	—	1-3	8585 Norris Canyon	\$1,499,000	5/2.5 - 5+/- acres	J. Rockcliff Realtors	Kristy P.	925-251-2536

CITY GUIDE A = SAN LEANDRO • B = SAN LORENZO • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DUBLIN • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD • K = BERKELEY  
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## MISC. FOR SALE

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R. Bowman

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Keep those sharp Sheep eyes focused on a hazy situation. As things begin to clear up, you'll find a sharper picture emerging, showing something you will need to know.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Watch your expenses through the end of the month. Later, you'll be glad to have extra money to pay for something that will make an acquisitive Bovine's heart beat faster.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You're now ready to make that off-deferred commitment, if you still believe it's what you want. Don't be afraid to change your mind if you feel you should go in another direction.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Now that you are moving on with your life after that recent disappointment, how about reactivating your travel plans and taking someone special along with you.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Many new friends come into your personal life, which suits all of you social Lions just fine. However, one new friend might make demands that you could find difficult to deal with.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Communication doesn't exist unless it's two-way. So if you're getting no replies to the signals you're sending, it could be time to look for someone more receptive.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** A workplace complication that you thought was ironed out develops new wrinkles that need attention. Meanwhile, expect continuing improvement in your home life.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** A tense personal problem needs to be talked out before someone decides to walk out. Resist making decisions until full explanations are offered from both sides.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** A technological glitch that caused problems recently will soon be repaired, and life can return to normal. A colleague has a surprising message to deliver.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Your partner might feel that you haven't been as open with him or her as you should be. Deal with this now, before it turns into something more difficult to handle.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Good news: Many of the stumbling blocks that affected the progress of some of your career projects are fading away. Things also start to look up on the home front.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** You'll need that strong Piscean pluck to get through waters that will be turbulent for a while. A more positive aspect soon emerges, along with some welcome news.

# LETTERS

## TO THE EDITOR

FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM



### Free Speech and Peaceful Protest 'are Cornerstones Of Our Constitution'

Editor:

The rights to free speech and peaceful protest are cornerstones of our Constitution. It's sad that whenever young Americans exercise those rights, others (as in Letters to the Forum, Nov. 23) accuse them of being brainwashed and insist that some bogeymen (teachers, the media, "professional protesters") must have put them up to it.

Considering the hundreds of reports of bullying around the country since the election, we should be proud that our local students are trying to make a difference in a nonviolent way.

As minors, they're too young to vote, so it's only fair that they be able to make their voices heard in other ways.

—Rob Brandt, Castro Valley

### Trump, Not School Officials, Motivated Student Protests

Editor:

Nov. 9 and 10 were difficult days at Castro Valley High School. Results of the presidential election deeply upset most students; one told me that she spent election night sleepless and sobbing.

Like thousands across the country, hundreds of our students were moved to publicly protest the Electoral College victory of a man they perceive as hostile to their families and their futures. Yet the student demonstrations were non-violent and peaceful, though loud.

I was disappointed to read two letters in the Nov. 23 Castro Valley Forum that misrepresented the events at our school. Two writers accused our school's teachers and administrators of encouraging students to walk out of class.

The fact that demonstrations broke out across the country ought to show that our students' protest was no isolated incident engineered by faculty members who "foment the rebellious nature of our immature children for political purposes."

Ask anyone who was there. Far from encouraging "sedition" as one writer claimed, our teachers taught on those days. Our administrators promoted unity and tolerance.

Our principal and superintendent did not "authorize" the walkout, nor could they prevent it by any means short of blockading the doors.

The protesters express their motivations in their own words in the Dec. 2 issue of The Olympian and on its web site at [www.cvhsolympian.com](http://www.cvhsolympian.com). Many express concern for the future of the country.

None claim that our school's staff members motivated them to protest. Donald Trump, his rhetoric and his supporters did that.

—Matt Johanson, CVHS teacher, Castro Valley

### Recreational Pot Belongs in Licensed, Regulated Outlets

Editor:

At last the truth has come out – legalized marijuana is to be a cash revenue to the County - as laid out in the recent Forum front page article ("Government Sees Legal Marijuana as a Cash Crop," Nov. 23).

But how is this to be done? Through "dispensaries"? Or through traditional retail outlets such as liquor stores?

Logic says traditional retail stores, but that isn't what is being said. Instead, just like medical marijuana, it is going to be sold through dispensaries. Why? Where is the regulation that is firmly in place for medicines or booze? This detail has not been provided.

The MAC has been on the same side as the residents – NO to dispensaries in our community. E-mail all the Supervisors and let them know that medicine belongs in pharmacies and intoxicants belong in licensed, regulated outlets that sell intoxicating products.

—Frank Mellon, Castro Valley

### Light Parade: Thanks to Mel Speed for All His Hard Work

Editor:

Saturday, November 12, was the fifth year of the Meet in the Street and Holiday Light Parade. A vision of Mel Speed's years ago, with a great assist from his Bride Dayna, this year's event continued another family friendly tradition!

Mel and Dayna (The Music Company/TMC Productions) would be the first ones to tell you that they received lots of help from Supervisor Nate Miley (a lighted cowboy on his float this year!), the Alameda County Community Development Agency, The Economic and Civic Development Department, and the Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce.

We are so blessed to be part of a community where people throughout Castro Valley can come together for an event like this, have a great time and enjoy just being together and encouraging each other.

Thanks, Mel, for the vision, and all of your hard work year after year to provide all of us with such a tremendous event!

—Bruce D. Johnson, Superintendent Emeritus  
Redwood Christian Schools, Castro Valley

### Shocked at Our Resistance to Environmental Preservation

Editor:

In the Oct. 19 edition of Letters ("Catching Up on the Forum's Back Issues"), one Castro Valley resident complained about the cost and worth of paper bags: "the handle breaks off on half the stress of plastic bags."

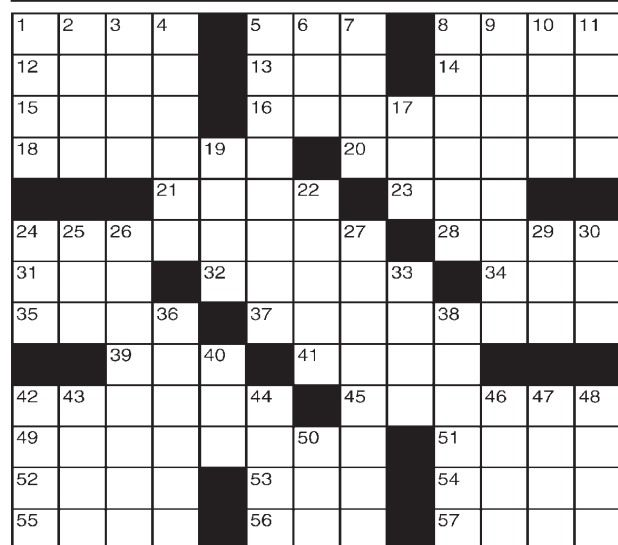
I lived in Germany 40 years ago and even at that time Germans were exceedingly environmentally conscientious. I do not know if stores catered to citizens who forgot their own bags by providing bags at cost, everyone simply used their own on a daily basis.

Feel ripped off by the 10 cents? Then bring your own bag. What to do with the paper bags? I find them very useful as I use them to place my scraps in them instead of placing scraps directly into the large organic bin. Our bin remains much cleaner that way.

Having lived in Germany has made me feel utter shock to how resistant so many Americans are to taking steps to help our environment and preserve this planet for our children. I realize the politics behind this and do not wish to lecture anyone, but the resistance and complacency is still shocking.

—Luz Boucher, Castro Valley

## THE FORUM CROSSWORD



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ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

## Obituaries

### Todd Kenneth Montell

September 25, 1988 – November 14, 2016

Todd Kenneth Montell passed away due to an unfortunate accident on Monday, November 14, 2016. Todd grew up attending schools in the Pleasanton Tri-Valley area, graduated from Redwood High School in Castro Valley and attended Chabot College in Hayward.

Todd is a kind, sensitive soul and was loved by all his family and friends. He was very passionate about all the Bay Area sport teams, Oakland Raiders, A's, Warriors, San Jose Sharks and attended games frequently. Todd loved skateboarding and perfected his skills over the years, which made him an excellent snowboarder. Todd also loved the outdoors, and spent many vacations at his mother's family property in Brownsville, California and at his father's property in Fort Jones, California. He loved to fish Dry Creek in Brownsville, Lake Chabot in Castro Valley, Alameda rock wall, San Leandro Marina and the California coastline from Monterey to Baker Beach in San Francisco.

Todd is survived by this father, Ken Montell; his fiancée, Linda Burr; brother, Travis Montell; mother, Jennifer (McBride) Gottesman, and her husband, Rick Gottesman; his loving grandmother, Frances McBride; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Todd is preceded in death by his grandpa, Gordon McBride; and uncles, John and James Montell.

Services will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 11 a.m. at The Historical Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., in Pleasanton.



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### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

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## Park Directors to be Honored Tomorrow

The East Bay Regional Park District is inviting the public to a reception tomorrow, Dec. 1, honoring John Sutter and Doug Siden, who are retiring after a combined 44 years of service on the District board.

Sutter, who served 20 years representing Ward 2, is best known for his work to save land around San Pablo Reservoir as well as create Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and the future Gateway Park at the old Oakland Army Base.

He was a founder of the Greenbelt Alliance and has been an advocate for public access to parks and the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

Siden was elected to represent Ward 4 in 1992, and was a key part of the successful efforts to pass Measures CC and WW. He's also been instrumental in the protection, public access and continued restoration of Crown Memorial State Beach and Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline.

He's been involved with the

East Bay Economic Development Alliance, San Leandro Creek Alliance and Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center. Siden has been a longtime proponent for social justice and environmental protection.

The reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1, at Dunsmuir Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Ali Haynes at [ahaynes@ebparks.org](mailto:ahaynes@ebparks.org) or to call 510-544-2010.

## MAC: What Will Become of Daughtrey's?

*continued from front page*

Dollar stores were eager to open up shop, according to Greensfelder, but the MAC has made it well known that they didn't want a discount shop in the space.

But the Lost Worlds concept seemed equally unappealing to the board.

"I'm not sure appalled is the right word, but this isn't good enough," said MAC Chair Marc Crawford. The MAC has indicated

they'd like to see a retail or restaurant use for the property.

Crawford went on to say that if Greensfelder couldn't come up with a better tenant, perhaps the project should be put out to bid for other developers again.

"The proposal made here tonight is a nonstarter," said Crawford.

Other MAC members were equally skeptical.

"When I look at this, it looks like a McDonald's playroom," said

Chuck Moore of the drawings.

So the MAC sent Greensfelder back to the drawing board and the 25-year-old problem of what to do with one of Castro Valley's most prominent buildings goes on.

Also at Monday night's MAC meeting, the board heard updates on, but did not vote on two proposed housing developments: the construction of seven homes at 19430 Center Street and 27 townhouses at 3544 Jamison Way.

## Pen Women Exhibit: Meet and Greet With Artists This Friday

By Bruce Roberts  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

**I**N THESE DAYS of meteoric change in all things technical, where people can buy the newest and best product one day only to have it outdated the next, it's refreshing to find a part of American culture that has solid roots in history, a stable force for good in the American scene.

The National League of American Pen Women was founded in 1897, by a group of professional women determined to fight for women's equality in the workplace, any workplace.

Journalists, novelists, poets, teachers, artists — a wide variety of talented women made up this group. Today, nearly 120 years later, the organization still thrives, as evidenced by "A Woman's View of the World," artistic works by the Diablo/Alameda Chapter currently on display at the John O'Lague Galleria in Hayward City Hall.



Artist Winnie Thompson's pastel "Malala" is part of "A Woman's View" exhibit.

The show is a cornucopia of techniques — watercolors, acrylics, pencil, ink, paper maché, pastels, mixed media, even poetry — that highlight the varied talents of these women.

Straight lines, curves, shapes and circles with mesmerizing shades of color typify the work of Natica Angily, the most prolific entrant with 10 pieces.

The sumi ink and watercolor of Kazumi Cranney are reinforced by original haiku, while Christine Horner combines her haiku with photos, a combination known as Haiga in Japanese art.

Alani Taira shows exquisite pencil and graphite skill with "Lifetime" and "Immersion," while Winnie Thompson's "Malala" is a pastel portrait of the young Afghan hero who fights for equality just as the Pen Women do.

These and several other talented artists, 12 in all, will be exhibited through Jan. 27 at the O'Lague Galleria Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Interested art lovers should come by from 5:30 to 7:30 this Friday, Dec. 2, evening to meet and greet these modern members of a historic American organization.

Bruce Roberts is Hayward Poet Laureate and Hayward Arts Council Board Member. Visit [www.haywardartscouncil.org](http://www.haywardartscouncil.org) for more art exhibits and events.

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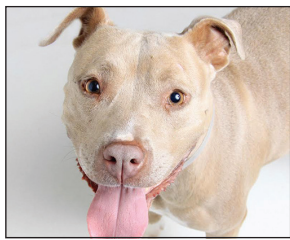
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**FUZZY** is a very gentle DSH, who plays with her toys and sister, Chanel. For more information, please complete an application online at: [www.dustypawsrescue.org](http://www.dustypawsrescue.org)

## Reports: CV Crime

continued from page 3

### Troublesome Transient

Tuesday, November 22: at 10:07 p.m., deputies arrested a 56-year-old man with no permanent address on suspicion of refusing to leave and disrupting a business on the Boulevard near Wilbeam Ave. A restaurant manager made the call to deputies after the customer was accused of harassing staff and other patrons. Deputies determined that this was not the first the man was troubling the business and was "likely to continue." They took the man into custody.

### Over the Limit

Monday, November 21: at 11:01 p.m., a 35-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication. The man was hanging outside a convenience store on Redwood Road near Grove way when deputies approached him and determined he was intoxicated. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his arrest. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$2,500 in bail.



PHOTO BY SARAH NOSSEIR

A scene from the CVHS production, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," opening this Friday at the Center for the Arts. For more information, see the A&E Calendar on page 4.

## Christmas Editorial 'Yes Virginia' Opens Friday Night at the CFA

By Ria Panjwani  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH School advanced drama class will be performing the show "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" in the Center for the Arts on Dec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11.

The play is about an editorial in the newspaper written in response to a little girl who writes to the newspaper asking if Santa Claus is real. It centers around bringing people together in true Christmas spirit.

"It's a really heartfelt show. It has a good moral of looking out for each other and having everyone's back," said senior Sophia Delucchi, who plays the role of Andrea Borland.

Advanced drama students have been rehearsing during their period three class, and each student has a role in the show. Students dedicate a lot of time and effort to make sure the show is the best it can be.

"This class is one of my highest priorities because you have to be here. It's really important you make it to this class because you are part of a group that needs you to be here," commented Delucchi. Some students take on an additional role of leadership that can lead to a whole new level of involvement in the process.

"When you act, you're just mainly focused on that one character. But when you're a student director, you get to work on the

whole project and get to be a part of the whole process and really make the story come to life," said student director Gaby Georgieva.

So come on out to any of the shows in December to be welcomed into the approaching Christmas holiday season with this thrilling performance of "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus!"

Ria Panjwani is a Castro Valley High School sophomore and staff writer of The Olympian newspaper.

## Congregation Shir Ami Hosts Food Security Panel Sunday

Congregation Shir Ami of Castro Valley will be hosting a panel on Food Security at 11:45 a.m. this Sunday, Dec. 4, at its temple at 4529 Malabar Ave. in CV.

Panelists from a variety of agencies will discuss their organizations' efforts at meeting the needs of all members of their communi-

ties to a sufficient quantity of nutritious food without having to incur economic and personal stress.

There will be a children's program from 11:45 to 12:15, and an adult program from 12:30 to 1:45. Refreshments will be served, and all members of the community are welcome to attend.

## TIPS FOR COMPOSTING AT HOME



### Why is Composting Important?

Food scraps decompose in a landfill and release methane gas, which traps heat in the atmosphere.

When you compost food scraps and food-soiled paper in the green organics cart, they're turned into a rich compost.

CVSan residents can receive up to three bags of free compost at the next Recycles Day event on April 29, 2017.

### Composting Tip: Does Your Pet Eat Meat?

Did you know that you can place vegetarian pet waste in the green organics cart? You can put "pet poop" in the organics cart as long as your pet does not eat meat (e.g. rabbits, hamsters, and horses).

If your pet does eat meat (cats and dogs often do), please continue to place their waste in the brown garbage cart.

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