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CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 33

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

NO. 26

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

OUR TOWN



All in the Family
Emma Woitke joins her father's Castro Valley law firm on Redwood Road
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IMPROVEMENT



Home To-Do List
Summer's arrival means a new checklist of things to do for your home
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NEWS



Free Webinar
Free webinar on how to keep your garden healthy during periods of drought
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PHONE: (510) 614-1560



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

The USS Hornet, docked in Alameda, is a popular destination on patriotic holidays. Hundreds of people lined up to visit the huge aircraft carrier, above, this past Memorial Day. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

SF Waterfront Best Place to Watch Sunday's Fireworks

The combination of Covid and California's statewide drought has slimmed down, postponed or canceled many of the traditional 4th of July events and fireworks exhibitions for 2021.

The biggest display of dazzling pyrotechnics will be on the San Francisco waterfront, beginning about 9:30 p.m. Sunday night, which will be visible along many parts of the Bay if it isn't foggy.

see **FOURTH** on page 2

Crackdown On Illegal Fireworks

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

You hear them after dark—the bang, the pop, the hiss, and the crackle with just a hint of flash spraying overhead. But the sound of fireworks this year is giving more than a few groups cause for concern considering how hot and dry the Bay Area has been this spring, among other reasons.

Fireworks are illegal in all but two places in Alameda County: Dublin and Newark. And even then, you can only buy and set off “safe and sane” fireworks in those areas. Outside of those two cities, the police and Sheriff's Department will crackdown on illegal fireworks — ones that launch in the air, the cherry bombs, and the more potent explosives.

The sudden burst of fireworks in the area has not gone unnoticed, says Sgt. Ray Kelly with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Reports of illegal activity were lighting up emergency lines back in May.

However, deputies won't be relying on special surveillance equipment to report fireworks abuse. Instead, they are counting on phone calls from the neighborhood to snuff out especially dangerous displays of firepower, Sgt. Kelly added.

A two-month investigation by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department led to the seizure of some 15,000 pounds—more than 7 tons—of fireworks in the Bay Area last

see **FIREWORKS** on back page

July 4 Travel to Rebound to Record Levels

A year after Covid shutdown summer travel, Independence Day travel — tomorrow through Monday — is expected to nearly fully recover to pre-pandemic levels. In fact, AAA predicts it will be the second-highest Independence Day travel ever, trailing only 2019.

“We saw strong demand for travel around Memorial Day and the kick-off of summer, and all indications now point to a busy Independence Day with travel in full swing this

summer,” said Sergio Avila, AAA Northern California spokesperson.

Road trips will continue to dominate this summer with more than 43 million travelers driving to their destination.

Travelers can expect to find higher prices for hotels and car rentals as demand climbs. Higher gas prices won't deter travelers as more than 91% of holiday travel will be by car.

Some local and state travel restrictions may still remain in

place. Travelers who are not vaccinated should continue to physically distance, wear a mask, and get tested for Covid before and after travel.






Regardless of vaccination status, masks are required on planes, buses, trains, airplanes and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the U.S.

If possible, avoid travel on peak traffic days — Thursday and Friday afternoon and midday Monday.



AAA predicts it will be the second-highest Independence Day travel ever, trailing only 2019.

Castro Valley Weather June 9-13, 2021

				
Wednesday Afternoon Breeze High 93° Low 55°	Thursday Afternoon Breeze High 91° Low 62°	Friday Partly Sunny High 92° Low 52°	Saturday Sunny High 92° Low 50°	Sunday Mostly Sunny High 80° Low 50°

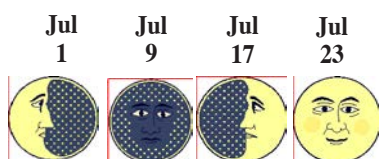
Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 10.21
Normal To Date: 20.87
Season Average: 21.22

Sun sets at 8:31 p.m. today, rises at 5:48 a.m. Thursday.

Moon Phases



**GOT A NEWS TIP? CALL 510-614-1560
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CV School Board Appoints Hendee And Blackmon Assistant Principals

The Castro Valley Board of Education has appointed Steven Hendee as Assistant Principal of Castro Valley High School, and Jennifer Blackmon as Assistant Principal of Canyon Middle School.

Hendee, the director of the high school's marching band and orchestra since 2012, is replacing Susan Shih who has become the new Principal of Creekside Middle School.

During his tenure at CVHS, Hendee has also represented the district with the Castro Valley Music Parent's Society and the Center for the Arts Executive Committee. He has

been instrumental in increasing participation and recognition of the band program in Castro Valley.

Before coming to Castro Valley, he worked in the San Francisco School District. He was selected by the California Music Educators Association as an Outstanding Educator in 2015.

At Canyon Middle School, Jennifer Blackmon is replacing Zandra Teixeira who has taken a position in another school district.

Blackmon has been a Special Education teacher and Program Specialist in

Castro Valley since 2018. She formerly worked for the Hayward and Oakland school districts in a variety of positions.

She is both an employee and a parent in the district. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Human Development at Cal State University, San Marcos and her Master's Degree in Special Education and Administrative Credential at National University.

School Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi welcomed the two new additions to the district's administrative staff "to support students and staff."

Fourth: Holiday Events

continued from front page

The fireworks are staged at two areas – in front of Pier 39 and at the end of the Municipal Pier. If you're driving, be warned that much of the waterfront area will be closed to traffic Sunday.

BART Service

BART is providing special service Sunday night to transport visitors from the East Bay to the City and back home again after the fireworks have ended (see story on page 10 of this issue).

One Parade Canceled, Another Rescheduled

The City of Alameda's Mayors Parade, one of the biggest in the U.S., has been canceled again this year, and the Danville Parade has been rescheduled to the Labor Day weekend.

Free Concert in Hayward, Celebration in Alameda

The Hayward Municipal Band will present a free concert of patriotic favorites beginning at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Tony Morelli Bandstand behind the Plunge in Hayward's Memorial Park.

The USS Homet, docked in Alameda, will hold a day-long celebration from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with food and drinks available. Visitors can relax on the Flight Deck with DJ Tanoa Stewart and explore all the great aircraft, Apollo artifacts and exhibits. For more info visit www.uss-homet.org.



CVSAN PHOTO

CVSan General Manager Roland P. Williams announces completion of \$24 million wastewater upgrade, a joint project with the Oro Loma Sanitary District.

\$24 Million Wastewater Upgrade is Completed

The Castro Valley and Oro Loma sanitary districts have completed a \$24 million project to upgrade the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant to remove about half of the nitrogen from wastewater.

New equipment included high-powered blowers, aerators, a chemical feed system, and the rehabilitation of a shallow water drain system that will be used to release secondary treated water into the Bay during heavy rains.

The project, funded 25 percent by CVSan, was completed on budget and is currently operating above anticipated capacity.

"This project represents a significant investment in our infrastructure," CVSan General Manager Roland P. Williams stated. "The Wastewater Treatment Plant is the backbone of our community's wastewater system. The Nutrient Optimization Project will help improve water quality and overall Bay health and will provide us with the ability to continue our mission to protect public health and the environment by providing high-performance wastewater services."

For more information on this project and other CVSan projects, visit: cvsan.org/Projects.

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-  **ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** (March 21 to April 19) You feel ready to face up to a major change, although it might involve some risks. A once-dubious family member comes around and offers support and encouragement.
-  **TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** A misunderstanding is easily cleared up. Then go ahead and enjoy some fun and games this week. A Libra might have ideas that merit serious consideration for the future.
-  **GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** A misunderstanding is easily cleared up. Then go ahead and enjoy some fun and games this week. A Libra might have ideas that merit serious consideration for the future.
-  **CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** You might feel as if you're in an emotional pressure cooker, but the situation is about to change in your favor. Take time out for some well-earned fun.
-  **LEO (July 23 - August 22):** A shift in your workplace responsibilities creates resentment among some co-workers. Deal with it before it becomes a threat to your success on the job.
-  **VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Expect some surprises in what you thought was one of your typically well-planned schedules. Deal with them, and then enjoy some lighthearted entertainment.
-  **LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Be careful: What appears to be a solid financial opportunity might have some hidden risks attached. A hazey personal matter needs to be cleared up.
-  **SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** It's a good time to strengthen ties with family and friends. You might feel unsure about a recent workplace decision, but time will prove you did the right thing.
-  **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Just when you thought your relationship was comfortable and even predictable, your partner or spouse could spring a potentially life-changing surprise on you.
-  **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Your usually generous self is overshadowed by your equally strong suspicious nature. You might be judging things too harshly. Keep an open mind.
-  **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Love and romance dominate the week. Married Aquarians enjoy domestic harmony, while singles could soon be welcoming overtures from loving Leos.
-  **PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** An old health problem recurs, but it is soon dealt with, leaving you eager to get back into the swing of things. A favorable travel period starts this week.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WOITDKER FAMILY

Emma Woitdtker and her father, Jay, at his Castro Valley law firm on Redwood Rd.

Family Law: Emma Woitdtker Joins Her Father's Law Firm

By Linda Sandsmark
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

When she was growing up, Castro Valley native Emma Woitdtker says she can't remember wanting to be anything other than an attorney.

"What really attracts me is the ability to solve real-life problems with real-life solutions," says Woitdtker, who earlier this year passed the California Bar Exam and who's now joined her father's law offices on Redwood Road.

"We see people at various stages of life, at all ages," says the 2014 Castro Valley High School graduate. "We know that talking about wills and trusts can be scary for a lot of them. We try to set things up to avoid problems, so that

the family will be happy and loving. We like to think we're giving them peace of mind."

Woitdtker attended Castro Valley public schools, starting with Independent Elementary and went on to Canyon Middle School. After CVHS, she moved cross-country to Loyola University New Orleans, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. From there she attended McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, part of University of the Pacific.

Despite having to move home last year due to the pandemic, she finished the law school's three-year course of study in two-and-a-half years.

She even had to take the California Bar Exam at home in February. She passed on her first try to the delight of

her parents, Robyn and Jay Woitdtker.

"I am both honored and excited that my daughter, Emma has joined my law office," says her father. "Having practiced in Castro Valley on Redwood Road for some 41 years I am very pleased that our office now has both youth and fresh energy and we will continue to serve the residents of Castro Valley and the surrounding areas into the indefinite future."

Emma herself has advice for anyone considering the legal field.

"I'd like to tell people who think they might be interested in a law career not to be scared away by law school or the Bar exam," she says. "It's a great profession, and our goal is to make people's lives better."

Sheriff's Reports

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Refused to Leave

Sunday, June 27: at 9:51 a.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 33-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of refusing to leave private property when asked to do so. The man was caught sleeping overnight inside the gates of a maintenance yard on Lake Chabot Road south of Bay-O-Vista Swim Club. Deputies took the man into custody.

Shoplifter Caught

Saturday, June 26: at 10:13 p.m., a 29-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting from a grocery store on East Castro Valley Boulevard at the 580 Market Place center. Deputies responded to the scene after the store manager detained the woman for leaving with unpaid merchandise. The woman was taken into custody.

Joy Ride Ends in Arrest

Friday, June 25: at 3:28 a.m., deputies pulled over and arrested a 27-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of a stolen vehicle. The woman was stopped on Pico Place near Page Street when deputies ran the plates and realized the vehicle was reported stolen. Deputies took the woman into custody.

Contempt of Court Order

Thursday, June 24: at 11:00 a.m., a 50-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of violating the terms of a court-issued restraining order. Deputies responded to a call about a suspicious person

on Somerset Avenue near Betrose Court and found the man within a restricted 100-yards of the property. The man was taken into custody.

Petty Theft

Thursday, June 24: at 3:10 p.m., deputies arrested a 23-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of petty theft from a store in the Castro Village Shopping Center on Village Drive. The man was also found to have three warrants issued for his capture including two charges of vehicle theft and smuggling drugs into prison. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him to Santa Rita Jail.

Illegal Drug Paraphernalia

Wednesday, June 23: at 3:15 p.m., a 27-year-old man with no permanent residence was arrested on suspicion of posses-

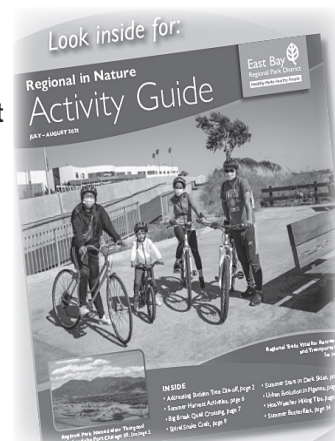
sion of a pipe used for smoking drugs. Deputies stopped the man for questioning outside a business in the Castro Village Shopping Center on Patio Drive when they discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

Disruptive Suspect Resisted Arrest

Tuesday, June 22: at 12:10 p.m., deputies arrested a 41-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of disrupting a business and resisting arrest. The woman was in a grocery store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Redwood Road harassing other customers when the manager asked her to leave. Deputies arrived when the woman became combative. The woman refused to cooperate with deputies and was taken into custody.

This issue of the Castro Valley Forum contains the East Bay Regional Park District July-August 2021 Activity Guide.

If your copy of the Times does not include the EBRP Activity Guide, call 510-614-1555 or stop by the Times office (2060 Washington Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to obtain one.



CASTRO VALLEY FORUM
CASTROVALLEYFORUM.COM

ESTABLISHED: 1989 • CIRCULATION 22,500
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Published every Wednesday by EastBay Publishing Corp.
2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577
Corporate Address: P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501
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ALAMEDA COUNTY

DISPARITY STUDY
COMMUNITY MEETINGS



June 30, 2021 | 11:30 AM

June 30, 2021 | 5:00 PM

Mason Tillman Associates is pleased to announce the upcoming virtual business community meetings to discuss the Alameda County Disparity Study. Alameda County contracted with Mason Tillman to conduct an independent evaluation of its utilization of minority and women business enterprises on County contracts from July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2020. This utilization will be compared to the availability of ready, willing and able M/WBEs in the market area to determine if a statistical disparity exists. The Study will also assess policies related to maximizing M/WBE participation.

The business community meetings will give businesses the opportunity to ask questions about the Study, obtain information regarding M/WBE and Small, Local, and Emerging Business certifications, and learn about upcoming contracting opportunities.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VNlqCj-7T5yxfJZ32CZQ



The Week Ahead

● Thursday, July 1: Library's Reopening Concert

Enjoy an Outdoor Summer Concert as the James Henry Trio presents Music from Around the World to celebrate the Castro Valley Library's reopening, at 6 p.m. tomorrow, July 1. Bring lawn chairs, bring a picnic! James Henry has toured internationally as a master percussionist. His music is deeply rooted and soulful and will take you on a global journey. Register at: tinyurl.com/rxsfbm2v. Parking will be limited at the library and social distancing practices will be maintained. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. For more information, call 510-667-7900, or see Events at aclibrary.org/location/castro-valley-events/.

● Thursday, July 1: 'First Thursdays' Free Concert

Enjoy Country Music by the Bootleg Country Band from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, July 1, at Redwood Canyon Golf Course, 17007 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. Food and drinks available for purchase. Bring your own chair or blankets. Limited reserved tables and chairs will be provided, \$40 per reserved table, includes linen, 6 chairs and 6 beer tickets. RSVP requested due to Covid restrictions. All current guidelines will be followed. Visit www.redwoodcanyon.com to reserve your table. For more info, call 510-537-8001.

● Tuesday, July 6: Rotary Topic: Mars Rover

A spokesperson from NASA Ames will describe the mission of the latest Mars Rover at the next lunch meeting of the Rotary Club of Castro Valley from noon to 1:30 p.m. on July 6 at Redwood Canyon Golf Course, 17007 Redwood Road in Castro Valley. The cost of lunch is \$15 and reservations must be made by 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 4, by contacting Rotary at cvrotary@iCloud.com or 510-402-5123. More information is available at castrovalleyrotary.org.

● Friday, July 9: Plethos Children's Musical

Plethos Productions will bring Mo Willems' bestselling children's book series to life in a new in-person musical "Elephant & Piggie's 'We are in a Play!'" with performances Friday to Sunday July 9-11 and July 16 to 18, at Heirloom East Bay, 9990 Crow Canyon Road in Castro Valley, or stream digital performances July 19-Aug. 1. This fun, jazzy showtune-style musical is a story guaranteed to melt hearts of all ages from preschool to post-graduate. Tickets are available now at plethos.org.

Submissions to The Forum

The Community Calendar is for publicizing the activities of non-profit organizations, local government agencies, charities and community groups. It is not intended to be used for the advertising of commercial events, whether admission is charged or free. Items for the Community Calendar as well as news submissions must be received by 6 p.m. Friday for inclusion in the following Wednesday's newspaper. Send information in an email to: filesforforum@gmail.com. Do not send flyers or posters as we cannot use them.

REGULAR GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

- **Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC)** generally meets on land-use issues at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, and holds general purpose meetings at 6 p.m. on most 3rd Mondays. Meetings are currently virtual at 6 p.m. For agenda, visit acgov.org/bc/cvmac
- **Castro Valley School Board** usually meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Meetings are currently virtual.
- **Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan)** meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings are currently virtual.
- **Alameda County Board of Supervisors** meets every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. Meetings are currently virtual.

INDEPENDENCE DAY SCHEDULES

SUNDAY & MONDAY, JULY 4-5, 2021

Government Operations

All Federal, State, County and City offices will be closed, except for emergency services.

Business Offices

Banks, stock exchanges and most business offices, including The Forum, will be closed.

Stores, Pharmacies, Restaurants

Some will be open, but may be on shortened schedules. Check ahead to be sure of hours.

Public Transportation

BART will run a Sunday schedule from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, the 4th of July. Special nighttime service will be available for those traveling to San Francisco for the fireworks display. See story on page 10.

AC Transit buses will operate on a Sunday schedule.

Garbage Collection

Recycling, organics, and garbage collection services will occur on Monday, July 5, as scheduled by Alameda County Industries (ACI). Call ACI at 510-483-1400 with billing and customer service questions or visit ACI's website: alamedacountyindustries.com.

Castro Valley Sanitary District offices will be closed on Monday, July 5. Please call 510-506-5821 for sewer emergencies. Visit cvsan.org for more information regarding CVSan services and programs.

● Saturday, July 10: Hearing Loss Support Meeting

The East Bay Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America strives to give people the tools they need to live more successfully with hearing loss. Join us for a professionally presented program by Christine Miller, Marketing and Sales Associate from Sonic Alert, maker of HomeAware, a comprehensive system using light, sound, and vibration to notify the user of a phone call, doorbell ring, or an emergency alarm. This free device is available through California Telephone Access Program to eligible residents. Tune in to learn more via Zoom at the next meeting at 10 a.m. on July 10 (greetings begin at 9:30). RSVP to www.hearinglosseeb.org.



THE FORUM

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SUMMER HOME IMPROVEMENT



Steps to a More Appealing Home

Your house can be more comfortable with a few minor home improvements, including one you can barely see. Here are tips that can help:

- Your front door is one of the first things people see when arriving at your house and what greets you every day when you come home. Keep it bright and welcoming with a fresh coat of paint and perhaps some shiny new hardware. While you have the paint handy, see if the shutters, mailbox, front porch or window boxes could use a touch-up, too.

- Get good screens. Whether on the window, the door or a screened-in porch, there are a variety of styles and mesh fabrics to meet a number of needs and designed to maximize the outward view, making it sharper and more brilliant.

Think of it as "high-definition" insect screening. Woven from smaller-than-usual yarns to ensure durability it improves the openness by 10 percent over conventional screening. This enhances the view and improves airflow by approximately 20 percent while see **STEPS** on page 5

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Paint Like the Pros: Keys to Successful Exterior Painting

Painting the exterior of your home is one of the most important types of home maintenance.

If you're up to the task, it's important to know there are four keys to successful exterior painting, according to the Paint Quality Institute.

Key No. 1: Do Careful Surface Preparation. Inexperienced painters can't wait to begin applying the paint, but professionals know it's what you do beforehand that spells success or failure with exterior painting.

Make sure the surface is clean and free of dirt and chalk. Scrub with soap and water, then rinse; next, remove any loose, flaking, or peeling paint by scraping, wire-brushing, and sanding. Or, speed the whole process by renting a power-washer to prepare the surface.

On wood siding, also sand areas that have glossy paint so the new paint will adhere better. If bare wood shows, spot-prime the area (omit this step if you are using an advanced, top-quality paint, since these coatings act as both primer and paint).

Finally, brush off any dust or paint chips that remain. Your home is now ready to paint.

Key No. 2 Buy Top Quality Paint. Even though the highest quality paint costs a little more, you can't afford to cut corners here. For the best performance, purchase top quality 100% acrylic latex exterior paint. These paints have superior adhesion, so they'll "grab" tightly onto a properly prepared surface.

They also are very flexible, which permits them to expand and contract with the surface below in extreme cold or heat. Despite their higher cost per gallon, top quality 100% acrylic latex paints actually save you money and time, because the best of these paints function as both primer and paint, so you won't have to buy and apply two types of coatings.

Key No. 3: Use High Quality Brushes and Tools. The best quality tools and accessories not only help you apply a thicker, more uniform coat of paint, they'll also make your work easier.

Choose well-balanced brushes with tightly packed bristles that feel springy when you run an open hand across them. If you are applying latex paint, work with brushes and



High-quality paint yields high-quality results.

rollers made of synthetic materials such as polyester.

Key No. 4: Paint in the Right Weather Conditions. Try to paint in moderate weather – when temperatures are no higher than about 85 degrees, with little wind. These conditions will permit your paint to form a durable, protective film

that will last for years.

When painting on warmer days and in hotter areas, avoid painting in direct sunlight, since surface temperatures can be 10 to 20 degrees higher than the air temperature.

Tip: Work your way around the house, painting areas that are in the shade.

Air-Conditioner Summer Safety Sense

Investing a little time and effort to prevent electrical hazards can mean increased safety and comfort this summer.

Air-conditioning fires occur more frequently than many realize. It's estimated that an average of 2,300 air-conditioning fires occur in residential structures each year and peak during the summer months.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 86 percent of these residential air-conditioning fires are ignited as a result of mechanical failure or malfunction, such as a short circuit.

Electrical Safety Tips

To help you keep your cool, here are some tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International on how to prevent cooling electrical hazards before they start:

- Have a qualified, licensed professional install and service any air-conditioning units in or around your home.

- Be sure that both the electrical circuit and the electrical outlet can handle the air-conditioning unit load. Have a licensed electrician inspect your home's wiring and advise you as to whether it will safely handle air-conditioning units.

- Make sure your equip-

ment has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Look for breaks in power cords, plugs or connectors before plugging in and turning on equipment.

- Always plug an air conditioner into a grounded (three-pronged) outlet. If an appliance cord plug doesn't fit an outlet, have a qualified electrician replace the outlet.

- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.

—North American Precip Synd., Inc.

Steps: Cut Back on the Shrubbery

continued from previous page

increasing protection against small insects by 10 percent. You can install it yourself or have it done professionally.

- Keep things clear. Don't let the front of your home look overgrown. Cut back on the shrubbery, and consider plants in pots instead.

- Improve the lighting. Consider motion-sensing lights on walkways and the driveway and lanterns on posts near the door.

- Opt for an awning. It can make your entryway more impressive and keep you and your family dry when you open the door.

- Add a stone border around the flower beds.

- Make sure your house number is easy to read from the street.

For more about screening options, go to: phifer.com. At the site, you can also watch a video on how to install screens.

—North American Precip Synd., Inc.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Understanding Real Estate Teams

A real estate team recently received a call from a person interested in selling their home. The person responding for the team stated, "Thank you for calling, I can set up a meeting with our Listing Specialist to visit your home."

The seller responded, "Is that the team leader? I only want to talk to the person who actually leads the team."

Anyone entering a dentist's office expects a common experience: as you enter, the receptionist greets you and verifies your information. If in for a cleaning, the dental hygienist soon appears. If you need X-rays, you are introduced to the X-ray technician. Lastly, if you need actual dental work, the dentist makes an appearance.

This model has been around for decades and is accepted as a cultural norm. It makes

complete sense: no one expects the dentist to answer phones, greet you at the door or clean your teeth.

Instead, a team of highly skilled and trained individuals has been assembled who are better than the dentist in their assigned tasks.

In contrast, real estate teams have been in existence a relatively short period of time. Consequently, there are many misconceptions about how a real estate team actually works.

Teams make sense: real estate has become very complicated. A well-trained team can provide outstanding levels of care to a large group of clients and frequently have much more extensive in-house capabilities than solo agents.

In practice, a well-developed team works like a doctor's office. Tasks have been broken into segments and well-trained individuals

respond based on the task at hand.

When a request comes in via phone, email or Internet, it is assessed by a "first-responder" team member whose task it is to quickly respond and set appointments. Buyers are connected with Buyer Specialists and sellers with Listing Specialists.

Once a listing is signed, a Listing Manager takes over to order inspections, gather disclosures, schedule pictures and oversee the entire listing process. A Transformation Specialist supervises the property preparation and manages applicable trades. When ready, the Staging Coordinator steps in and, once in escrow, a Transaction Coordinator handles everything.

What does the Team Leader do? Like the dentist, runs the team and gets involved where their specific skills are required. Truthfully, team members are usually more skilled at their tasks than the leader. It is a system that works extremely well and, given time, will become a cultural norm in its own right.

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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THE DIRT GARDENER

Chewed Lemons Likely a Rat Problem

By Buzz Bertolero

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Q: What has been feeding on my lemons? It is an extraordinary sight to see the lemons still attached to the tree exposed to the air with some or no white pith. And there is lots of debris on the ground under the canopy. Have you ever heard of such a thing?

A: Yes, this is an increasingly common occurrence with lemons along with other types of edibles and non-edibles. Later this summer, tomatoes will be victimized.

It's improbable that a bug or insect is the cause of the problem as their mouth parts are not large enough to due to this type of damage. Also, it would take a large army of them, diligently at work 24/7 to skin a lemon.

It's much more likely that the culprit is a nocturnal rodent or larger animal. Raccoons, possums, or maybe squirrels come to mind; however, my number one suspect is roof rats – a different species from a sewer rats.

They can nest in structures such as attic and crawl spaces but are more likely to nest outdoors



in dense, thick, shrubby ground covers. Ivy, cotoneasters, junipers, and ceanothus are excellent hiding places for roof rats as they protect them from predators such as feral cats.

They're very mobile, so they are maybe nesting elsewhere. The lemons are not a regular part of the diet; instead, they use them as water source. They're likely to do more damage during a drought as their usual water site dry up.

My New Guinea impatiens were destroyed in 2015 by the roof rats devouring the fleshy stems.

Unfortunately, there isn't one ideal solution. Netting the lemon tree/bush isn't viable because of its fruit size and year-round maturity. Poison baits are not advisable unless there is some bait station that would protect domestic animals such as dogs and cats from it.

You might trim the foliage back, so the access from some structures is reduced along with trimming up the lower branches. Adopting a hungry cat to roam at night is not a bad idea; otherwise, you'll need to contact a commercial exterminator for a second opinion.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advance California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero

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Homes

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Home sales information is compiled and provided by CalREsource and includes Bedrooms, Square Feet and Year Built when available

CASTRO VALLEY

Total: 18 – Average Price: \$992,000
High: \$1,462,000 – Low: \$585,000

4150 Ravenwood Place
\$585,000 2 BD - 1,168 SF - 1970

17108 Ehle Street
\$700,000 2 BD - 802 SF - 1941

4659 Heyer Avenue
\$750,000 2 BD - 956 SF - 1949

20111 West Ridge Court #9
\$760,000 2 BD - 1,602 SF - 1977

16981 Rolando Avenue
\$773,000 2 BD - 976 SF - 1946

22030 Queen Street
\$828,000 2 BD - 1,192 SF - 1947

21486 Bedford Drive
\$850,000 3 BD - 1,488 SF - 1948

20041 Rawhide Way
\$920,000 2 BD - 1,571 SF - 1986

18822 Parsons Avenue
\$925,000 3 BD - 1,040 SF - 1950

22232 Moyers Street
\$933,000 3 BD - 1,930 SF - 1949

18383 Sherwood Court
\$1,022,000 3 BD - 1,583 SF - 1952

3172 Carleen Drive
\$1,100,000 3 BD - 1,618 SF - 1955

18492 Lake Chabot Road
\$1,132,000 3 BD - 1,880 SF - 1953

3159 Terry Court
\$1,180,000 3 BD - 2,016 SF - 1961

7318 Longmont Loop
\$1,250,000 4 BD - 2,251 SF - 2001

19056 Schuster Avenue
\$1,300,000 3 BD - 2,136 SF - 1955

6420 Ridgewood Drive
\$1,400,000 3 BD - 2,256 SF - 1990

5660 Sun Ridge Court
\$1,462,000 4 BD - 2,119 SF - 1974

SAN LORENZO

Total: 6 – Average Price: \$788,500
High: \$939,000 – Low: \$455,000

920 Elgin Street #H
\$455,000 2 BD - 900 SF - 1990

16158 Via Walter
\$800,000 3 BD - 1,231 SF - 1956

771 Delano Street
\$825,000 4 BD - 1,638 SF - 1952

15464 Dermody Avenue
\$835,000 3 BD - 1,431 SF - 1950

15898 Via Paro
\$877,000 3 BD - 1,000 SF - 1944

1060 Via Palma
\$939,000 2 BD - 1,144 SF - 1949

Mortgage Rates Rise Above 3%

Long-term mortgage rates rose above 3 percent last week for the first time since April, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

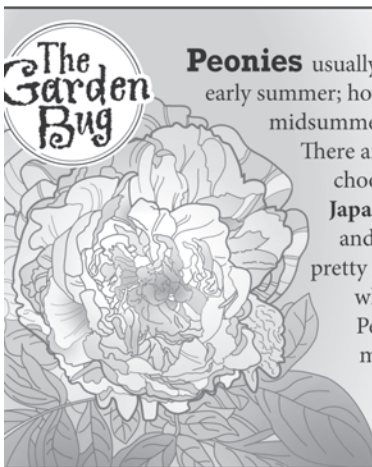
The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 3.02 percent for the week ending June 24, up from the previous week when it averaged 2.93 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.13 percent.

"Mortgage rates have risen

above three percent for the first time in ten weeks," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist.

"As the economy progresses and inflation remains elevated, we expect that rates will continue to gradually rise in the second half of the year.

For those homeowners who have not yet refinanced – and there remain many borrowers who could benefit from doing so – now is the time."



Peonies usually bloom late spring through early summer; however, some nurseries offer midsummer or late-summer varieties. There are six peony flower types to choose from: **anemone, single, Japanese, semi-double, double and bomb.** Some peonies have pretty scents like roses or lemons, while others have none at all. Peonies flower every year for many years; some have done so for over 100 years.
- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.almanac.com

WEEKEND GARDENER

Vegetables

Feed your vegetable crop periodically with a mild, balanced fertilizer for bigger and better harvests.

Add Color, Shade

The first week in July is a good time to add color and shade to the yard. Look for bargains in hibiscus, gardenias, bougainvilleas, white and yellow marguerites, and patio trees in 5-gallon containers. Brighten up the mid-summer months with flowering vines, such as trumpet vines in red, orange or lavender, star jasmine and Hall's honeysuckle.

Roses

Lightly prune, feed and water roses on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to encourage them to flower continuously into late fall. Trim faded blooms down to the first 5-part leaf or further to gently shape the plant. New blooms should appear in about three weeks.

Protecting Plants

Stake tall-growing sunflowers, particularly those with gigantic blossoms. They can break or fall over on windy days. Prop up fruit-laden tree branches so that the weight doesn't break the branches.



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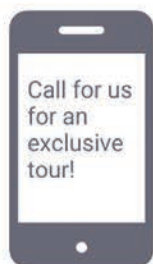
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Marisol is a gorgeous, 3 month old medium hair tabby. She's super sweet, friendly, energetic and playful. Spayed, vaccinated, chipped and FIV/FeLV negative. More info: Email Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.



Trebolinda, born on St. Patty's day, is a beautiful dilute Tortoiseshell. She loves to wrestle with other kittens and sit in laps. Spayed, vaccinated, chipped, FIV/FeLV negative. Info: Email Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.

BART to Provide Extra Trains for San Francisco Fireworks

Fireworks are expected to start along the San Francisco waterfront at 9:30 p.m. Sunday night

BART will provide additional trains serving only Embarcadero station in San Francisco after the system's regular service ends at 9 p.m. East Bay residents must be in the Embarcadero Station by 10:40 p.m. to catch a train home.

About 30 minutes after the conclusion of the fireworks, BART will run two sets of special event trains from the Embarcadero Station to Richmond, Antioch, Berryessa, and SFO/Millbrae making all station stops. Castro Valley, Dublin and Pleasanton riders should take the Berryessa train and transfer at Bay Fair, then take the shuttle train to the Dublin/Pleasanton rail line, which will stop at all stations along the line.

Riders must be inside the Embarcadero station within 30 minutes after the fireworks end. Keep that in mind if you plan to walk some distance from the station to watch the

fireworks.

BART advises celebrants to load their Clipper card in advance with enough funds for the round trip to avoid lines after the fireworks.

Parking is free on Sundays at all stations except for Milpitas and Berryessa/North San Jose.

Monday, July 5th, will run as normal weekday service. Parking will be free on Monday at all stations except for Milpitas and Berryessa/North San Jose.

Giants, A's Games Service

BART will also be providing additional trains serving limited stops after regular BART service ends for fans departing San Francisco Giants night games. The special service will continue for every SF Giants night game until Aug. 30, when Monday-Saturday midnight service resumes system-wide.

BART also continues to run special service for Oakland A's home night games as well.

For more detailed information, visit www.bart.gov/schedules.



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Gardening During Periods of Drought

Longer periods of drought conditions and lack of water can impact plant health, limiting a plant's ability to produce food and making it more prone to attracting pests. Excessive heat can also accelerate the reproduction time of pests.

Alameda County's Clean Water Program is offering a free webinar from 4 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, on how to keep your garden healthy during dry times.

Participants will learn about efficient watering practices, and how to improve the soil's capacity to hold water, utilize alternative water resources and reduce summer pests.

Classes are presented by Suzanne Bontempo, a certified Integrated Pest Management Advocate.

To register, find the webinar announcement on the Program's website at www.CleanWaterProgram.org.

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CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Waste Collection Rates

Effective tomorrow, July 1, rates for solid waste collection services will decrease by .5%. CVSan's Board of Directors approved the decrease for customers earlier this month based on the latest third party detailed rate review for this rate period.

CVSan General Manager Roland Williams said that while the decrease may seem minimal, "it is a great example of how CVSan takes managing the public's funds seriously." To learn how rates are set and evaluated, please visit: cvsan.org/YourRates.

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED JUNE 02, 2021
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 579607

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Pursuant to Business and
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Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Achieve Fitness, located at 20200 Forest Ave. #10, Castro Valley Ca 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Margaret Sohm, 20200 Forest Ave. #10, Castro Valley Ca 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced November 2013
/s/ Margaret Sohm
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires JUNE 02, 2026

JUNE 30, JULY 07, 14, 21, 2021
0372-CVF

FILED JUNE 02, 2021
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 579617

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

The name of the business(es):
Jameson Glass Design. located at 24009 Fairlands Road Ca 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy Jameson, 24009 Fairlands Road, Hayward Ca 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A
/s/ Timothy Jameson
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires JUNE 02, 2026

JUNE 23, 30, JULY 07, 14, 2021
0367-CVF

FILED MAY 19, 2021
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 579270

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

The name of the business(es):
Salydum Ventures. located at 142 Sunset Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Salome Ikechiuku. located at 142 Sunset Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A
/s/ Salome Ikechiuku
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires MAY 13, 2026

JUNE 16, 23, 30, JULY 07, 2021
0368-CVF

FILED JUNE 11, 2021
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 579942

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

The name of the business(es):
Creative Dimensions In Dentistry. located at 20265 Lake Chabot Rd, Castro Valley Ca 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maass, MacKenzie, Alvaro, Salehinia, Erickson, Griggs, & Chhina, 20265 Lake Chabot Rd, Castro Valley Ca 94546. This business is conducted by a corporation. This business commenced 1968
/s/ Maass, MacKenzie, Alvaro, Salehinia, Erickson, Griggs, & Chhina
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires JUNE 11, 2026

JUNE 23, JUNE 30, JULY 07, 14, 2021
0370-CVF

**In Loving Memory
of Fred Zehnder**

Dear Editor:

I am deeply saddened by the death of Fred Zehnder.

I had the great pleasure to work for Fred at KTVU as the Weather Producer for Pat McCormick, my friend Brian Copeland and Anchor Dennis Richmond.

When Fred moved to print journalism, he asked me to do weather and climate content for the San Leandro Times. Those that did not have the good fortune of meeting or working with him should know he was the nicest man in the media I have ever met.

TV is a ruthless business and the people that run it often do not know how good the people working in it are. I say this because TV News Directors are fired on a regular basis often for nothing that they had any control over. (ratings, etc).

Fred was at KTVU for almost a quarter century because he was that good and he was excellent in employing folks that shared his values of fairness, journalism excellence and integrity. He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed.

This publication and the Castro Valley Forum are a reflection of who he was and how great a journalist he was and his understanding of society and his readers. To be needlessly killed by a DUI driver makes his death even more tragic.

—Mike Pechner, Fairfield

**LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR**

FILESFORFORUM@GMAIL.COM



**Time to Address the
Homeless Problem**

Editor:

I currently live in the neighborhood behind 711 and El Rancho. The homeless situation created by First Presbyterian Church on Grove is getting out of control.

This post is to point out the difference between the tiny homes and people flooding the street/Trader Joe's/711... There is ramped drug use and mentally ill disrupting the neighborhood.

My girlfriend is scared to walk to Trader Joe's due to the constant amount of people on the street. We are hitting a point of the intention for help is causing more harm than good.

It's time we address the problems they have caused. I am very concerned for the neighborhood and know others feel the same.

I am urging people to call First Presbyterian at (510) 634-4750 to discuss how it is hurting our community and to clean up the mess they created.

—Andrew Fleming, Castro Valley



The Hayward Municipal Band will return to Memorial Park in Hayward on Sunday.

Free Concert to Celebrate the Fourth

The Hayward Municipal Band is performing its free concerts again this summer at Memorial Park, after a year off due to COVID-19. The band's third show of the summer will

be on Sunday, July 4, at 2:30 p.m. in Memorial Park, 24176 Mission Blvd. Hayward. This is the band's 64th season presenting quality music in a family-friendly setting. The

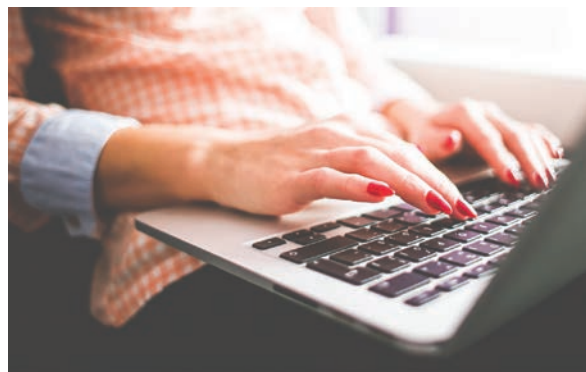
group plays a wide variety of genres under the direction of Kathy Morelli Maier. Enjoy an outdoor picnic while listening to the band's return to Memorial Park.

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LETTER to the EDITOR

Must include first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. The Forum does not print unsigned or anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Email to: filesforforum@gmail.com or mail to:
The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**CV Little League Minor A Giants
TOC Tournament of Champions**

Our Athletes of the Week are the Castro Valley Little League Minor A Giants. The team won its Championship game on June 16 and ended its regular season with a 19-5 record. The team moved on to play the Ashland Little League in the Tournament of Champions on June 23. The Giants won the game and are the TOC Tournament of

Champions, California division #45. Players include Mason Rice, Mateo Gutierrez, Nathan Jarvis, Nikolas Lund, Noah Thompson, Austin Frazier, Francisco Arroyo, Franklin Glenn, Gabriel Boutet, Gibson Anaya, Jeremy Forsgren, and Julius Omelagah. The team was coached by Kurt Forsgren, Matt Frazier, and Matt Omelagah.



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Fireworks: Law Enforcement Efforts

continued from front page week. Authorities found and dismantled a major illegal fireworks distribution ring with operations in Oakland, as well as San Mateo, San Francisco, and Santa Clara counties.

Even with those illegal fireworks off the streets, the repeated loud explosions are concerning for certain members of the community including pets, the elderly, and people with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. There is also high fire danger as we head into the dryer months.

“All dangerous fireworks are illegal in the state of

California,” said Alameda County Fire Chief William McDonald. “We support our law enforcement partners with their charge to remove these illegal fireworks from our communities.”

As a department, Chief McDonald added fire crews are always on high alert during fire season especially the week overlapping Independence Day. Alameda County is currently in its second driest year since 1977 when water conservation was at an all-time high. Statewide, 75 percent of California is considered in the most extreme levels of drought, also known as excep-

tional drought.

“We will be increasing our resources throughout our coverage area, ready to respond to any call for service,” Chief McDonald said. “For the communities that allow safe and sane fireworks, please follow the guidelines set forth for appropriate use, your safety, and that of your family, friends and neighbors relies on it.”

Alameda County Sheriff’s Office is currently putting out an enforcement team to respond and address illegal fireworks. California Highway Patrol is also aware of the fireworks and will be stepping up its efforts as well. Those who are caught with fireworks can be cited and or fined up to \$10,000, and face imprisonment.

If you hear or see fireworks in your area, the Sheriff’s Department asks you to call the non-emergency number: 510 667-7721. You can remain anonymous.

Local Student Awarded

Yazmine Romero of Castro Valley awarded degree at Spring Commencement ceremonies at Youngstown State University in Ohio.

Romero earned a Bachelor

of Science in Business Administration in Marketing Management and was among more than 1,400 students awarded undergraduate and advanced degrees and certificates.

PARTICIPATE TO WIN \$25!



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Announcing CVSan’s Waste to Zero in 60 Days Challenge

Share what you are doing to get to zero waste! Follow CVSan’s zero waste-inspired posts each week on Facebook and Twitter during July and August and tell us what you are doing by replying or tagging @CVSan. If you do, we have weekly drawings for participants to win \$25 gift cards to local 4R Star businesses. For more, please visit cvsan.org/Zeroin60.

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This ad was funded by Measure D



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meek Mansion located in Meek Estate Park at 17365 Boston Road in Cherryland.

Two Historic Homes to Reopen in July

After a year of closure, the Hayward Area Historical Society has announced that visitors will once again be able to visit two historic homes in the Hayward area.

Meek Mansion will be open on a monthly basis starting this Saturday, July 3, and McConaghy House will be open on the second Saturday of the month starting July 10.

Both homes will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on their open days.

While many people have fond memories of visiting either property at one time or another, the reopenings mark a new way to experience the houses.

Both will feature new informational panels, explaining highlights and stories of each

room, as well as self-guided tours so guests may experience the spaces at their own pace. Docents and staff will be available to answer questions and offer insight into the history of each location.

Perhaps the biggest changes have happened at Meek.

During the last year, the first floor and exterior were painted, thanks to the Hayward Area Park and Recreation District. The Historical Society staff has been busy preparing for opening the doors by bringing in period-appropriate furniture from the collections to illustrate how the house may have been furnished.

At this time, only the first floor will be open to the public, but that is subject to change in the future.

At McConaghy House, visitors will be able to explore both the first and second floors.

The homes will be open free of charge. There is a suggested \$5 donation for entry to help with the ongoing maintenance of both structures. During open days, appropriate health and safety guidelines set forth by the State of California and Alameda County will be enforced.

Meek Mansion is located in Meek Estate Park at 17365 Boston Road in Cherryland. McConaghy House is located next to Kennedy Park at 18701 Hesperian Boulevard in Hayward.

For more information about upcoming events and programs, visit www.haywardareahistory.org or call 510-581-0223.



McConaghy House (next to Kennedy Park) at 18701 Hesperian Blvd. in Hayward.