



CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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NO. 18

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



Live Talk

Chef José Andrés to join Swalwell tomorrow to discuss food security

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OUR TOWN



Cover Your Face

Public is being asked to wear face covering when within six feet of others

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NEWS



Got You Covered

CVHS grad now makes masks after being laid off by her employer

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PHONE: (510) 614-1560

Baywood Court Remains Coronavirus-Free to Date

With COVID-19 taking a devastating toll on retirement communities around California and the country, Castro Valley's Baywood Court elderly residents remain Coronavirus-free to date.

Since mid-March, the Baywood Court staff has been working to protect everyone, limiting visitation, screening all individuals at the main entrance, requiring social distancing, and stepping up infection control procedures.

Residents are instructed to remain in their apartments, avoid gathering in common areas, and only venture out to retrieve their mail. The dining room has been closed, and three meals per day are being delivered to all residents in their apartments.

"We know that we have to be extra careful right now," says resident Eleanor Dohmann, who has lived at Baywood Court for six years after moving from San Lorenzo. "Baywood Court has just been great during this time. They work to keep us going and I'm

very happy to be here."

Employees who work closely with residents are required to wear additional personal protective equipment. Only community business partners, healthcare professionals, resident family members, and government officials who are required to care for residents are allowed entry into the community after completing screening protocols that include temperature checks.

"We're grateful for the cooperation of all of our residents and staff to help keep everyone here as safe as possible," says Matt Neal, Baywood's CEO. "Our staff has gone above and beyond in creative and thoughtful ways to keep our residents engaged and active, and we're confident that we'll weather this storm together and come out the other side knowing we did everything we can to protect those in this community who are most vulnerable."

With residents confined to their apartments, staff members are

finding creative ways to keep residents' spirits high with engaging activities. At strategic locations outdoors, Baywood's Wellness and Recreation Department staff lead adaptive seated and standing exercises for residents, who participate from their balconies and patios at a social distance. Staff members also provide outdoor musical performances.

Residents receive a daily newsletter at their doorstep containing word games and puzzles, as well as leisure activities to help them pass the time, including houseplant kits, exercise resistance bands, beading materials, coloring pages and pencils, DVDs, books and magazines, and crafts. Popcorn and ice cream are also distributed through the hallways to residents on select days.

Baywood Court, a nonprofit corporation developed over 30 years ago, is located at 21966 Dolores St. in Castro Valley. For more information, visit www.baywoodcourt.org



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYWOOD COURT

Six-year Baywood Court resident Eleanor Dohmann receives an ice cream snack at her door.

Shelter-In-Place Extended Through End of May

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Get used to staying home a bit longer.

Six Bay Area county health departments have extended their current shelter-in-place orders until the end of May. Included are the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara as well as the City of Berkeley.

The new order is expected to include, "limited easing of specific restrictions for a small number of lower-risk activities."

While other states may be loosening their restrictions, California's shelter-in-place order has been effective with slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus, ensuring local hospitals are not overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases, and saving lives of the 7 million Bay Area residents, health officials said.

As of April 27, Alameda County and Berkeley registered 1,498

Alameda County Public Health Department announced last Friday that more virus testing centers are open countywide.



cases of infection and identified 52 deaths associated with COVID-19. That's a 20 percent increase in both statistics from a week ago.

However, the number of new infections has dropped to as low as 20 in a single day following this

month's spike of 80 reported cases on April 15. Additionally, Alameda County says the number of cases that require hospitalization including intensive care has begun to flatten out over the last week.

"At this stage of the pandemic,

however, it is critical that our collective efforts continue so that we do not lose the progress we have achieved together," the counties said in a joint statement. "Hospitalizations have leveled, but more work is needed to safely re-open

our communities. Prematurely lifting restrictions could easily lead to a large surge in cases."

Testing Sites Open

Hoping to get a better handle on who has and who hasn't contracted the novel coronavirus, Alameda County Public Health Department announced last Friday that more virus testing centers are open countywide. The goal is to reach 2,500 COVID-19 tests per day countywide, with testing of all symptomatic individuals.

There are now 21 drive-throughs, and walkup testing centers acknowledged by the county. Most are restricted to those with healthcare memberships including Kaiser Permanente, Stanford Health, Dignity Health, and Tri-City Health.

There are two testing sites specific for veterans in Livermore and Fremont. Testing hours, procedures, and timing of results vary by site.

see *SHELTER* on page 3

Castro Valley Weather April 29-May 3, 2020



Wednesday
Partly Sunny
High 65° Low 54°



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High 71° Low 50°



Friday
Partly Cloudy
High 69° Low 52°



Saturday
Partly Sunny
High 67° Low 54°



Sunday
Partly Sunny
High 65° Low 43°

Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 08.39
Normal To Date: 18.68
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases



Sun sets at 7:59 p.m. today, rises at 6:15 a.m. Thursday.

**GOT A NEWS TIP? CALL 510-614-1560
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TOMORROW ON FACEBOOK

Chef José Andrés to Join Swalwell for Live Talk on Food Security, Supply

Chef José Andrés, Rep. Eric Swalwell and Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Illinois) will hold a Facebook Live event to discuss restaurants, food security, and the food supply chain during the COVID-19 crisis, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. tomorrow, April 30.

Since the nation has been gripped by the coronavirus pandemic, reliable access to home-made, nutritious food has become an enormous challenge for many.

Chef Andrés' disaster relief organization, World Central Kitchen (WCK), has been working to safely distribute individually packaged, fresh meals in communities that need support.

WCK has facilitated the delivery of over 200,000 fresh meals a day during the pandemic to children and families, frontline health workers and to seniors who cannot venture outside.

Andrés along with Congressmen Swalwell and Davis will discuss food security and assistance to restaurants and small businesses during this trying time.



Chef José Andrés

"Over the past few years, World Central Kitchen has seen the power of a hot plate of food in times of crisis," Andrés said. "Food provides vital nourishment and a message of hope for the community, that we care and we're here to make sure that tomorrow, things will be better."

"This fight to feed families, frontline health workers and first responders, as well as put our restaurants and farmers back to work, is one of our biggest yet."

Swalwell noted that many traditional safety nets like school lunches and food banks are struggling right now to keep up with the demand that the coronavirus has brought.

"People from all walks of life, from seniors to students, are finding it difficult to get a nutritious, homemade meal," he said. "At the same time, we're also seeing thousands of restaurant and gig economy workers who are out of work. World Central Kitchen is doing incredible work to pair these two groups together and I look forward to joining my friends Chef Andres and Rep. Davis for a much-needed conversation about food security and stability."

The Facebook Live event will take place tomorrow, April 30, at 1 p.m. Members of the public can tune in live at: Facebook.com/ChefJoseAndres/Live



PHOTO COURTESY OF REDWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

HELPING HANDS from Redwood Christian Schools' baseball program were **Tristan Flores, Matt Pontes, Trey Gallarzan, Ethan King, Reece Gallarzan, Ethan Neal; Coach Geronimo, Coach Cleveland and Coach Vanegas.**

RCS Baseball Players Serve at Food Pantry

Six Redwood Christian Schools varsity baseball players and three coaches served during Easter Break at 3 Crosses Church to prepare for their weekend Drive-Through Pantry.

In partnership with the Alameda County Food Bank and Cross Streets Ministry, volunteers at 3 Crosses are preparing weekly to help as many families who are in need of meals during this time.

The RCS players assembled more than 800 boxes over two days more and helped pack food boxes that were handed out at the drive-through pantry event.

Last Saturday, 538 families came to the drive-through and an additional 127 families received home delivery of food boxes. This translates to 3,248 people receiving about 48,700 meals!



Schools Won't Let COVID-19 Ruin End-of-Year Celebrations

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Despite the closed campuses, sports stoppages, and canceled performances, students, teachers, and administrators are not going to let the COVID-19 outbreak put a damper on their end-of-the-year celebrations.

Many schools are preparing for virtual events and other measures to acknowledge the hard work and extra effort accomplished by students.

Administrators at the Castro Valley and San Leandro school

districts are working with staff and families to plan for modified commencement ceremonies for the Senior classes and advancement celebrations for 5th and 8th Grades. Events like Senior Awards Night and picnics are also being debated.

"What is clear is that we are not going to be holding graduation on the field as we have always done as all of the public school-run sites in Alameda County are closed and we continue to practice social distancing," says Castro Valley School Superintendent, Parvin Ahmadi. "However, we will do

everything we can to give the kind of acknowledgment that the students deserve."

But for those looking forward to celebrating their educational milestones, the impact of the has been especially devastating.

"Like many seniors, I have been grieving the loss of my high school career," says Castro Valley High School senior, Grace Boyd. "I am still going to celebrate, but with my family, and connect with my friends online."

Meanwhile, teachers and staff have spent the last month working with families to make sure all

students can participate in distance learning.

"Currently, anyone who needs a device is encouraged to contact their school's principal to arrange for pickup," says San Leandro Unified School District Director of Community and Employee Engagement Keziah Moss. "Our staff is also reaching out to comfort and connect with students during this emergency."

Part of the success of the school year has been the preparation District level. San Leandro distributed almost 4,000 laptops to its students and families helping to bridge the

digital divide. Castro Valley sent out close to 2,000 laptops and is providing wireless networks to ensure students can participate online.

The computers were purchased a few years back as part of the 2016 Measure G ballot initiative.

For less fortunate families, Castro Valley and San Leandro both distribute free meals for students several times a week. Castro Valley's local Mom's Against Poverty (MAP) works with local food banks to give out 300 bags of groceries each week. Student meals are available at Creekside,

Stanton, and Castro Valley Elementary. Superintendent Ahmadi noted social workers are also on hand during the distribution to check in with families and give them support.

This pandemic has also fallen during traditional school enrollment time, which the districts are now conducting entirely online to ensure community safety. The hope is now that encouraging the online enrollment process that schools can accurately plan for what the schools will need when they anticipate reopening in the fall.



PHOTO BY LINDA SANDSMARK

Castro Valley's newest 'Little Free Library' on Riverbank Avenue was created during shelter-in-place period.

Newest 'Little Free Library' Created During Quarantine

By Linda Sandsamrk
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Castro Valley resident Gina Gerhardt took advantage of the current shelter-in-place period to create a colorful "Little Free Library" in the vicinity of Strobridge Elementary School.

"This is most certainly a 'COVID 19 Project,'" said Gerhardt in an e-mail.

"I started it last year. It's made completely out of reused products (old discarded kitchen cabinet, tin cans for the roof), and then it SAT in my backyard for almost a year. It was the perfect time to finish it and mount it outside."

The result is a lovely offering to the neighborhood: a place to drop off and pick up books for free,

especially when access to regular libraries is unavailable.

Anyone may drop by to choose a book and/or drop one off. Gerhardt's Library is located at 1836 Riverbank Avenue.

There are about 15 other Little Free Libraries in Castro Valley, although some of them may be temporarily closed due to the containment. For a list and map, please see littlefreelibrary.org. The website also has plans, blueprints and video tutorials on how to build your own.

LittleFreeLibrary.org is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging reading, creativity and community. According to its website, there are more than 1,000 Little Free Libraries around the country. Their motto is "Take a book, Share a book."

Shelter: May

continued from front page

Testing at California State University East Bay's parking lot is free and available Monday through Friday to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and a fever above 100 degrees. Symptoms include cough and shortness of breath. No referral from a medical doctor is required, however, priority is given to:

- Staff and residents from long term care facilities,
- Health care personnel, first responders and essential infrastructure workers,
- People living in congregate settings,
- People experiencing homelessness,
- Contacts of reported cases,
- People who are hospitalized

"Our current strategy relies on nucleic acid-based COVID-19 tests as these have good and well-understood performance and are increasingly available," a county Public Health Department spokesperson said in a statement. "At this time, serological (antibody) testing is useful for studies exploring the extent of the epidemic but remains unreliable for diagnosing infection and predicting immunity."

Alameda County's overall COVID-19 response includes investigating every reported case, extensive contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, outbreak mitigation, and protecting high-risk individuals and health care workers.

County Health officials have now broken down the broader unincorporated zones into three sections: Eden Area MAC (Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward Acres, San Lorenzo), Castro Valley MAC, and Fairview MAC. Castro Valley has reported 78 infections of the COVID-19 virus.



'COVER YOUR FACE': The public is being asked to carry cloth face coverings and wear them when within six feet of others, including when hiking, running, and biking.

GOING TO THE PARK?

Wear Cloth Face Covering When You're Within Six Feet of Others

In mid-April a "Cover Your Face" order was issued for five Bay Area counties – Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin and Contra Costa – asking the public to carry cloth face coverings and wear them when within six feet of others, including when hiking, running, and biking.

Visitors should be prepared to wear face coverings when in parking lots, staging areas, and around entrance gates since they can be crowded, making it difficult to maintain 6-foot social distancing.

Hikers should also be prepared to put on cloth face coverings

when hiking on narrow or crowded trails since maintaining six-feet social distancing may be challenging.

The new order also recommends that runners and cyclists should take extra steps to avoid exposing others, including wearing face covering, avoiding side-walks with pedestrians, avoiding other runners and cyclists directly in front of or behind others.

Local health agencies are also recommending that those doing strenuous exercise keep further distance when possible.

Parents should closely super-

vise the use of face coverings to avoid misuse. The order does not require face coverings for children aged 12 years or less, and children two years or less should not wear face coverings because of the risk of suffocation.

The Park District is updating park signage to inform visitors about the new "Cover Your Face" health directive and the recommendation to keep further distance when doing strenuous exercise.

For up-to-date information about COVID-19 park-related closures, visit www.ebparks.org/coronavirus.



NEW! Free Family Caregiver Classes now Offered by Video Conference

Since Hope Hospice has had to temporarily suspend our Family Caregiver Education Series and Living With Dementia group classes in light of the region's COVID-19 response, we transitioned the courses to video conference via Zoom technology. Classes remain complimentary to the public in our Tri-Valley and adjacent East Bay service area. Additionally, families who care for a loved one living with dementia and have questions about specific challenges they are facing can request a free private consultation via Zoom.

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SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Assault on Family Member
Saturday, April 25: at 10:21 a.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 29-year-old woman from Oakland on suspicion of assault on a family member. The woman was spotted at the intersection of Heyer and Cull Canyon Road in an altercation. Deputies determined the woman and the victim were related. The woman was taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Street-Fighting Man
Friday, April 24: at 4:30 a.m., a 37-year-old man with no permanent residence was arrested on

suspicion of assault and battery. Deputies were dispatched to a report of a fight in front of a business on Grove Way near Center Street. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Grand Theft Auto
Thursday, April 23: at 4:40 p.m., deputies arrested two men from Modesto (Stanislaus County) on suspicion of grand theft auto. The driver, a 23-year-old, was pulled over on Wisteria Street near Gan-ic Street when deputies ran his plates and found the car had been reported stolen. The passenger,

a 26-year-old, was additionally charged with possession of illegal narcotics. The men were taken to Santa Rita Jail pending bail.

Stalker Senior Citizen
Thursday, April 23: at 6:52 p.m., a 73-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of violating the terms of a court-issued restraining order. Deputies were dispatched to a home on Knox Street near Redwood Road after the homeowner reported a suspicious person in the yard. The man was reportedly within the 1,000-foot restriction area of the order and was taken into custody.

Robber Caught on the Run
Tuesday, April 21: at 7:45 p.m., deputies arrested a 21-year-old man from Hayward on suspicion of robbery and damaging a cell phone used to call for help. The man was stopped at the intersection of Somerset Avenue and Santa Maria Avenue when deputies arrived. The man had taken an unspecified amount of merchandise from a local business. Deputies took the man into custody.

Attempted Assault
Tuesday, April 21: at 8:26 a.m., a 29-year-old CV man was arrested on suspicion of attempted assault and possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies were called to a grocery store on the Boulevard near Redwood Road after store managers reported an altercation just outside. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Wanted Woman at Hospital
Monday, April 20: at 1:36 p.m., deputies arrested a 36-year-old woman from San Ramon as part of a warrant. The woman was at Eden Medical Center when deputies identified her outstanding warrant for burglary and auto theft. Deputies took the woman to Santa Rita Jail pending bail.

New School Year Could Open as Early as July

Governor Gavin Newsom yesterday outlined plans for the gradual reopening of California and said he is considering starting the school year weeks earlier than usual because of a learning gap created by COVID-19.

"We are considering the prospect of an earlier school year into the fall, as early as late July, early August," Newsom said. "Our kids have lost a lot with this disruption."

At his noontime press briefing,

the governor also said some businesses, such as low-risk offices, manufacturing, child-care facilities and retail stores might be re-opening soon.

Newsom continued to decline to give an official date, but said "we believe we are weeks, not months away, from making meaningful modifications" to the state's stay-at-home directive."

Newsom outlined four broad phases that California is working through during the current

COVID-19 pandemic, saying that the current lockdown represents phase one. "As we move into phase two, where businesses can begin to reopen," Newsom said, "we need to make sure that guidance is abided by, and is organized in a very deliberate way."

But nail salons, gyms, movie theaters and in-person church services would still have to wait until another phase in which the state would have more confidence that infection risk is lower.

Eden Health District Distributes 100,000 Masks

Eden Health District in Castro Valley has begun distribution of 100,000 KN-95 masks. More than 60,000 masks have already been provided to Eden Area first responders, health care providers, nonprofit organizations and essential workers, with the remaining masks to be delivered within the next week.

"Obtaining FDA-certified face masks has been a daunting challenge for many of the outstanding local agencies and nonprofit organizations that treat COVID-19 patients and those most vulnerable to becoming infected with the coronavirus," said Eden Health District CEO Mark Friedman. "The District deeply appreciates the work of these partners and is glad to provide them masks at no charge."

"The Eden Health District is committed to helping our public agency and nonprofit partners focus on addressing the COVID-19 outbreak, and not having their time and attention consumed by scrambling to find scarce personal protective equipment," added Gordon Galvan, Chair of the District Board of Directors.

"We appreciate Eden Health District's partnership," Kristin Spanos, CEO of Alameda First 5, stated. "Our childcare workforce and community partners perform critical work to keep our society going. We're relying on them to care for children of essential work-



Eden Health District CEO Mark Friedman with Viviana Fausto of the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center in Hayward with 3,200 masks delivered by Eden Health District on Monday.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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-  **ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** The Lamb is usually excited about taking on a new challenge. But if that's a touch of doubt you're feeling, maybe it's you telling yourself to go slow on this until you learn more about it.
-  **TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Accepting new commitments when you haven't yet finished the batch on hand could be a bit rash. Better to ease up on the new ones until you get further along with your current lot.
-  **GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Try to be more open-minded in working toward a resolution of that standoff between yourself and a colleague or family member. A little flexibility now could work to your advantage later.
-  **CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Some people might be anxious about your plans. So you need to take time to explain what you expect to do and how you expect to do it. And don't forget to ask for suggestions.
-  **LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Dealing with an unfamiliar problem can be difficult. The wisest course you can take is to ask for advice from those who have been where you are and have come through it. Good luck.
-  **VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Aspects favor moving carefully and deliberately when making any significant changes. Could be there are more facts you need to know, which you might overlook if you rush things.
-  **LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Your balanced approach to life proves to be helpful this week when someone you care for needs your spiritual comfort, while someone else benefits from your tough-love practicality.
-  **SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Once again, you're likely to be asked to keep a secret for someone. But do you really want to do so? Be honest with yourself before you make any such commitment.
-  **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Taking a more direct approach from the more diplomatic one you've used before could make a difference in finally resolving a too-long-held disagreement. Try it.
-  **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Being asked for advice is flattering to the Sea Goat, who has a habit of saying the right thing. This time, expect someone to be especially impressed and to act on that sentiment.
-  **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** With a number of pressures easing, your project could be making a lot more progress than you expected by this time. That's great news. But don't let yourself be distracted; stay with it.
-  **PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** An interesting challenge looms that could be exactly what you've been looking for. Discuss this with colleagues who could have much to contribute and who might want to join with you.



A word to our readers ...

This week The Forum was published online to save the costs of printing and delivering, our two biggest expenses. We know that most of our readers would prefer to get their local news the old-fashioned way, not from a computer screen. The good news is that next week we'll be printing The Forum as a newspaper again. But during these tight times, we have to make our decisions weekly, based on what we can afford. We thank all those who have sent donations over the past few weeks. If you'd like to contribute, send a check to The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.

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ers and to provide a vital link to food and emergency supplies for the public, especially children and families. It's important that we prioritize their health and safety."

The Eden Health District serves the residents of the cities of Hayward and San Leandro and the

unincorporated communities of Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland and Fairview in the Eden Area of Alameda County. Since its founding in 1948, the District has invested more than \$100 million to advance the health and well-being of local residents.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

GUEST COMMENTARY



Is the Real Estate Sky Falling?

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

As the COVID-19 shelter-in-place (SIP) continues, the real estate market is morphing to meet the new norms. As it does, myths are sprouting like dandelions in spring and some are echoing Chicken Little's warning that the sky is falling.

There is no denying that COVID-19 has wreaked substantial havoc and changed the way we will live going forward. It has created significant heartache from the lives lost, jobs furloughed, stock market devaluations and resulting economic hardships.

We have seen a dip in homes coming to the market since the SIP began. County regulations make it impossible for buyers to view occupied homes and some sellers are waiting until the SIP is lifted.

This has contributed to significant inventory shortfalls and correspondingly, pending sales are down sharply from last year same period. Some transactions have canceled due to COVID-19 fears, inability of lenders to complete loans or the loss of down payments.

We have seen some price reductions as sellers, needing to sell homes immediately, have adjusted prices downward for a quick sale.

In the midst of the tragedy, however, some things are true, especially in our region.

This is not a "normal" disaster.

Those remembering the 1989 earthquake know the extensive time required to get infrastructure such as the Bay Bridge repaired and back in service.

A review of the 2009 economic collapse reminds us it took years for the economy to

recover.

Our current crisis is still a disaster, but is based on limits placed on behavior (SIP) that will be lifted in stages over the coming weeks and months. While we will see some long-term effects, the primary COVID-19 restrictions will be short-lived and recovery will begin once restrictions are lifted.

We still face a statewide housing crisis.

If anything, COVID-19 has made the housing crisis more severe and, once the SIP is lifted, we anticipate buyer activity to ramp back up to normal levels. There are many buyers who still need homes and many

of them have been steadily employed through the crisis.

Homes are still selling.

Although some prices are declining, we are seeing multiple offers driving prices upward. Some buyers have assumed the crisis gives them an opportunity to write lowball offers, however, in most cases, sellers are ignoring them.

Some may believe the sky is falling. We believe once the SIP is lifted, a healthy recovery will be the reality.

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.



- Hit the Market on 4/14/20
- Multiple Offers received on 4/17/20
- Currently Pending significantly higher than list price



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If you are a seller that is on the fence as to whether it is the right time to sell, you may want to reconsider. Inventory is very low in Castro Valley and there are many buyers out there who need a home. Call us if you would like to discuss the current market.

Call the Leslie Peterson Team for more information!
Leslie Peterson
510-697-1208
CAL BRE #01452724



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Taking Precautions Against Tomato Diseases; Pruning Lilacs

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

Q: How would I go about cleaning or disinfecting my Tomato Cages from previous years? I want to do this before placing them around my new plants. Can tomato diseases or the "virus" be on them?

A: I don't believe you should be overly concerned about any diseases that might carry over from year to year or the virus. The surface of metal or painted tomato cages is quite sterile, so it's doubtful the right environment exists for any problems.

With wooden supports or if there is organic debris still on the cages, there might be issues. Early and late blight are the primary diseases you're looking to prevent. Cool to mild temperatures and wet conditions create the right condition for these diseases.

The last time this could have been a problem was in 2010. That being said, it certainly would not

hurt to disinfect your cages along with any plastic and or wooden containers.

You'll need to remove any of the leftover debris from last year, as the blight diseases require visible plant residue to over-winter. Next, wipe the supports down with a mixture of water and household bleach. The ratio for this simple disinfectant is nine parts water to one part bleach.

You also could apply the solution with a pump spray bottle and then wash it off. The disinfectant should be dripping off the cages. If you're using bleach, wear gloves and old clothes.

The cages should then be left to air dry in the afternoon sun, overnight. Clorox Disinfecting Wipes can be used for those cages already in place.

And finally, a thick layer of mulch can prevent the fungal spores from splashing on the plants. With tomatoes, we don't have to worry about planting them

too deep. They will produce roots off the buried portion of the plant.

Q: I haven't had any luck finding out how to prune lavender lilac. I've always taken the old or dead wood off, but I need to find out how to get longer stems with the more abundant blooms?

A: Lilacs are not that difficult to prune, and they don't require any special technique, as they are pruned to shape. They're pruned in the spring after flowering.

Stand back and eyeball the plant to see what needs to be done. It is very subjective. Lilacs bloom on the current year's growth.

Pruning and when it's done shouldn't have any effect on the stem length or the size of the blooms. These are genetic characteristics.

Lilacs propagated from another plant cutting will be identical to the parent. Those started from seeds will not. So, long stems and larger flower clusters may not be

in this plant future if the original plant didn't have them to start with.

To encourage growth, feed after pruning with an all-purpose organic fertilizer, and then see what develops next spring, as there isn't much else you can do.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced April 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/BuzzBertolero](https://www.facebook.com/BuzzBertolero)

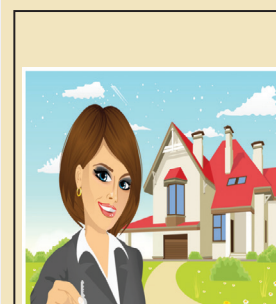


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SAT. & SUN.
FEB. 29 & FEB. 30

No Open Homes Are Scheduled for this Weekend.

One-Line Open Home Listings run Wednesdays in the Castro Valley Forum (22,500 circ.) and Thursdays in the San Leandro Times (38,500 circ.) for \$25.

For more information and a listing form, Call 614-1558. DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT NOON.

CITY GUIDE

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

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(1 week)

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\$30 10 words
(1 week)

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\$35 10 words
(1 week)

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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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GENERAL

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- Thank you -

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FOUND - Cat: Tuxedo male, not neutered, quiet. Found on Neptune Drive, near Oyster Bay Park. Call 408-966-1886.

Hearing Aide found on 4/13/2020 at San Leandro Marina Park, south end near restroom. Call 510-357-5192.

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All private party ads are prepaid (paid in advance). Use your M/C, VISA or DISCOVER card, mail in your payment, or stop by our office to place an ad.

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WANTED: Reel to reel music tapes (from the 60's) blank or recorded tapes. Call Patrick 510-517-3351.

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CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE:
Monday 5:00 p.m.

RENTALS

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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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YOUR INFO

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San Leandro Times HOME SERVICES GUIDE
Call 614-1558

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE!

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56					57				58			
59					60					61		

ACROSS

- 1 Easter treat
- 4 Wager
- 7 Retain
- 11 Metric measure
- 13 Rowboat need
- 14 Sleeping
- 15 Flow like molasses
- 16 Chum, nowadays
- 17 Actor Brad
- 18 Grassland
- 20 Opening course, often
- 22 Erstwhile garment
- 24 Hitchcock classic
- 28 Spotted insect
- 32 Radiant
- 33 Champing at the bit
- 34 Bathroom fixture
- 36 Yorkshire river
- 37 Narc's measures
- 39 Croquet equipment
- 41 Catch
- 43 Second person
- 44 Related to 5-Down
- 46 Use a Brillo pad
- 50 Ballerina's frill
- 53 Cauldron
- 55 Japanese zither
- 56 Press
- 57 Flightless bird
- 58 Calendar quota
- 59 Trudge
- 60 Kenny G's instrument
- 61 That girl

DOWN

- 1 Ids' counterparts
- 2 Get bigger
- 3 Middle East strip
- 4 Go up and down
- 5 Listeners
- 6 Army unit
- 7 Carefree
- 8 Sapporo sash
- 9 Allow
- 10 Banned insecticide
- 12 Carousel
- 19 Light touch
- 21 Portion of N.A.
- 23 Eviscerate
- 25 Hint
- 26 Emcee
- 27 Hasn't paid yet
- 28 Michigan, for one
- 29 Not fer
- 30 Nincompoop
- 31 Wrigley product
- 35 Reddish-brown horse
- 38 Perched
- 40 __ Angeles
- 42 They're calling Danny Boy
- 45 Prolonged sleep
- 47 Fawns' mothers
- 48 Hexagonal state
- 49 Induce ennui
- 50 Gratuity
- 51 Web address
- 52 Excessively
- 54 Monkey suit

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4



Olivia Berden at her sewing machine where she has made more than 350 face coverings.

CHVS Grad Has You Covered

Over Eight Miles of Thread... and Counting! That's how much thread 2013 CHVS graduate Olivia Berden figures she has used sewing face masks for people in the last few weeks.

Like so many others, Berden lost her income when the shelter-in-place was put into effect. As an Animal Sciences graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, she stayed in the area after graduating to pursue a career working with animals.

With time on her hands from being laid off, and equipped with a new sewing machine, she shifted gears from making hammocks, toys, and other things for rescued animals at a local wildlife center to start making face masks.

Berden gives them away for free to local community members. Some recipients have health issues, others work with the public

in various capacities, and some just want to be safe as they go about their essential activities. The thank you cards, along with messages of gratitude and appreciation, have kept Olivia sewing, sometimes late into the night.

Relying on supply donations from others, Olivia has been able to give away over 350 face masks each day.

Free Mobile Services for Eligible Californians

TruConnect, the only California-based provider of free broadband services to low-income participants, is providing a vital lifeline to nearly 225,000 residents most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis across the state.

There are approximately 4.5 million Californians eligible for LifeLine service that are not currently enrolled in the program. Those potential participants are concentrated in the areas of high-unemployment due to the coronavirus. Even prior to state and local officials' expansion of public health safeguards to prevent the spread, TruConnect has sought to provide critical resources to its LifeLine wireless customers. It is currently working to identify ways to use free wireless service to expand the health and financial safety net for low-income residents, especially for those qualified individuals who have not yet applied.

TruConnect's free mobile phone is now loaded with food security apps to access CalFresh, free lunch programs and foodbanks, while offering links to health resources and e-learning solutions for non-profit charities.

TruConnect continues to offer free mobile telephone and broadband service through its website, www.truconnect.com. Applicants who meet low-income eligibility requirements will receive a free phone through the mail and be able to stay connected throughout the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Makenzie Parajon

This week's Athlete of the Week is Makenzie Parajon. The Castro Valley High School Senior will be receiving the Herculean Award with eight Varsity Letters including four with Varsity Girl's Waterpolo and four with Varsity Girls Softball. Outside of school, she has been a member of various sports teams including Castro Valley Synergy Softball and the Castro Valley Crocodile Swim Team. In the fall she will be attending UC Berkeley to play softball and major in Psychology.



CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs
www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org



A scene from "Bacurau" now playing at thechabot.com

What's Up at Smalltown

• **Friday, May 1:** Premiering online at The Chabot: "Capital in the Twenty-First Century." The Chabot has partnered with Kino Marquee to create a "virtual theater", showing films that would be in theaters currently if not for COVID-19. The documentary "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," based on the international bestselling book of the same name by Thomas Piketty, is a paid experience and supports both The Chabot and the artists behind the film. Online at TheChabot.com

• **Saturday, May 2:** The Chabot Facebook LIVE: "Dementia 13" this Saturday Night with Chabot Theater's 6th Installment of "LIVE RIFF-Along" featuring Francis Coppola's "Dementia 13," hosted by the venerable Lord Blood Rah of Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre, free at 8 p.m. live on The Chabot's Facebook account: @ChabotCinema

• **Sunday, May 3:** Quarantine Sundays with Safiyah Hernandez. Join Smalltown Society artist

Safiyah Hernandez for her 5th installment of Quarantine Sundays live and direct from her Instagram and Facebook account, free at 2 p.m. IG: @safiyahhernandez/ FB: @SafiyahHernandezMusic

Support The Chabot Theater: Online Gift Cards and Merch available at TheChabot.com. Donations to The Chabot can be made via PayPal/Venmo: @thechabot. Donations to Smalltown Society can be made via PayPal/Venmo: @smalltownsociety

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LEGAL NOTICE

FILED
MARCH 09, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 569449

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Sisters With A Purpose at 20074 Rawhide Way, Castro Valley, CA 94552 in Alameda County is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Alona Ward, 20074 Rawhide Way, Castro Valley, CA 94552 (2) Donna Rosby, 29 Klondike Ct., Sacramento, CA 95835. This business is conducted by a general partnership. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Alona Ward, Donna Rosby
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires MARCH 09, 2025

APR 08, 15, 22, 29, 2020
0258-CVF

We Hope and Pray you are staying safe and healthy during these difficult times. Special thanks to all Our Heroes keeping us safe during the Coronavirus Pandemic including the medical workers, nurses, doctors, grocery workers, delivery services, and all volunteers lending a helping hand.



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ADOPT-A-PET



HOMER, a homing pigeon, needs to be an indoor-only bird. Homing pigeons tend to become bonded with their feeder. Visit: www.pigeonrescue.org for expert info on how to care for a pigeon. Hayward Animal Shelter, 510-293-7200.

It's Kitten Season

It's that time of year – kitten season has started! If you see an "orphaned" kitten, before picking it up, take a step back. Kittens do not always need human intervention, often mom is nearby. Kittens do best with their mothers, and have a better chance of survival if left with them. Mom cats do not always spend their time with the kittens, if the kittens are cold or in an especially unsafe area feel free to contact Hayward Animal Shelter with questions, or learn more at www.haywardanimals.org