



Our Readers Remember
LONGTIME BARBER; NEWLYWEDS FIRST HOUSE
IN SAN LEANDRO; BANCROFT BAND..... **Pages 1, 4 & 5**

WEEKEND WEATHER
SUNNY Sunny thru Sunday
HIGHS: 73-82
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 57-59

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA

Our Readers Remember

Longtime Barber Made Lasting Impression

By Camilla Pember
Special to the Times

Ray Massone was the San Leandro neighborhood barber that everybody loved.

He was a San Leandro icon cutting hair for 50 years. He bought the barber shop in 1972 and owned Ray's Estudillo Center Barber Shop in the Estudillo Shopping Center for 38 years.

Ray continued to cut hair up until a few months before his death. Ray passed away February 20 of this year, and will all miss him terribly.

“He was an old fashioned barber, only taking cash and checks.

He was an old fashioned barber, only taking cash and checks. He did not take appointments. The customers all waited their turn in the barber shop.

My son Miles, now in his 30s, had his first haircut with Ray. My husband Rick went to Ray for 32 years. It was always a pleasure for Rick to talk with Ray about family, work and music.

Ray was a big fan of Frank Sinatra. He was very skilled at his craft and my

see BARBER, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMILLA PEMBER

Camilla Pember's son Miles, now in his 30s, got his first haircut from Ray Massone at the barbershop in Estudillo Center.

Utility Connections Delay Apartment Construction On Bancroft Ave.

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Despite appearances, apartments are still planned for 1388 Bancroft Ave., at the corner of Bancroft and Estudillo avenues.

Neighbors have been decrying the state of the vacant former medical office building and wondered why the old structure had not been demolished to make way for the new apartments.

The problem is backlogs by PG&E in disconnecting utilities throughout the area,

said San Leandro Community Development Director Tom Liao. Without the utility company safely disconnecting gas and electric lines, it can be dangerous to demolish a building, he said.

The developer has been waiting for months to get the utilities disconnected so he can begin demolition, and he does not know how much longer it will take, Liao said. He said developer Tom Silva

see DELAY, page 11

Voters Nix Stormwater Fee Hike

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Voters didn't pass an increase in the annual stormwater fee tax, despite the City Council's efforts to convince people of the needs to maintain the drainage system.

Out of 6,825 valid votes counted, 2,965 households (43.4 percent) voted to increase the stormwater fee, and 3,860 households (56.6

percent) voted against raising the fee. Not receiving the simple majority means the current fee structure will continue to be collected at \$26 annually.

The special election asked homeowners to pay an additional \$25 yearly on average to improve stormwater drainage systems. The goal was to pro-

see VOTERS, page 12

Doctor Brings Awareness to Brain Health

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Being more aware of our brains and how they can change as we get older is important, said Dr. Han Lee

of Kaiser Permanente, and he has done his best to spread that word around during June's Brain Awareness Month.

Dr. Lee, a neurologist and Movement Disorders Special-

ist at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, ended the month appearing twice on the KTVU Channel 2 News as well as talking to the San Leandro Times and Castro

Valley Forum.

He focused on Alzheimer's disease, increasingly common as more people live longer.

But treatments are starting

see BRAIN, page 3

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

THEATER

San Leandro Players new show opens Saturday. **Page 2**

SENIORS

An older trust may need an update. **Page 7**

ART

Art class focuses on San Leandro. **Page 12**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call the City Clerk at 577-3367.

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St., San Leandro. For more information, call Michelle Mayfield at 667-3522.



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SL Players' *Waiting in the Wings* Opens Saturday

The San Leandro Players presents Noel Coward's *Waiting in the Wings*, opening on Saturday night at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave., next to historic Casa Peralta.

The show runs on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Aug. 18, plus two Friday shows at 8 p.m. on Aug. 9 and Aug. 16.

Tickets: \$25 general; \$20 seniors and under 12 (other discounts may apply). For more information or tickets online at www.slplayers.org or by calling 510-895-2573.

Noel Coward wrote this play, his 50th, as a gift for actress friends he had worked with in his earlier days. "The Wings" is a charity home for

retired actresses.

Hanging over the community are the whims of the theater board that runs the home. What ensues is a delightful collection of forceful and dramatic personalities, a long simmering feud, a mysterious journalist, and the tender and heartbreaking realities of losing of family and building new relationships.

The show features Pamela Ball, Miranda Bumstead, Sarah Catherine Chan, John Chapin, Dana M. Fry Ed.D., Imagine Gonzales, Terry Guilory, Marsha Howard, DD Langley, Carole MacKenzie, Laura Martin-Chapin, Siobhan O'Brien, Tiare Pena, Linda Scaparotti, and Mark DeWeese.



PHOTO COURTESY SAN LEANDRO PLAYERS

Miranda Bumstead, Tiare Pena, Imagine Gonzales and Sarah Catherine Chan appear in the San Leandro Players production of *Waiting in the Wings*, opening this Saturday night at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium at 320 West Estudillo Avenue, next to historic Casa Peralta.

Waiting in the Wings

Where: San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 W. Estudillo Ave.

When: Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., through Aug. 16.

Tickets: www.slplayers.org or call 510-895-2573.



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American Legion Post 117 Breakfast

American Legion Post 117 Memorial Building, 117 of San Leandro will host its monthly Fourth San Leandro. Pancakes Sunday Breakfast on with sausage, eggs, coffee, tea, juice. Veterans \$7, to 11 a.m. at the Veteran-non-veterans \$8.

From Heart to Art

Paint Your San Leandro Story

FREE

July 13: Marina Community Center 10:30 AM

July 29: San Leandro Senior Center (50+) 1:30 PM

August 10: San Leandro Library Karp Room 10:30 AM

Be guided into what you love about your life in San Leandro and celebrate what you bring to San Leandro. Create images and symbols to represent what you gain and what you give. No art experience necessary. Registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/workshop810>

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Community Calendar

Washington Manor Resilience Hub

Presentation on American Indian Traditions

The Washington Manor Resilience Hub with funding from the San Leandro Resilience Hub Initiative will host a presentation by Dr. Enrique Salmon from Cal State University East Bay, based on his book *Iwigara*, American Indian ethnobotanical traditions and science. The presentation will be on Saturday, July 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Washington Manor Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. The California Native Garden will also be open and will highlight plants covered in Dr. Salmon's book.

Camp Half-Blood Olympics

Youth ages 10 to 17 are invited to join a Percy Jackson-inspired event on Saturday, July 20, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Snacks included. Please register in advance: sanleandro.libcal.com

Monday Movie Matinees

At the Main Library

Come to the family-friendly movie matinees on Mondays at 1 p.m. from June 10 to July 29 in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Check the website calendar for exact movies. www.sanleandrolibrary.org

San Leandro Players Present *Waiting in the Wings*

The San Leandro Players presents Noel Coward's *Waiting in the Wings*, opening on Saturday night at the San Leandro Museum/Auditorium, 320 West Estudillo Ave., next to the historic Casa Peralta. The show runs on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Aug. 18, plus two Friday shows at 8 p.m. on Aug. 9 and Aug. 16. Tickets: \$25 general; \$20 seniors and under 12 (other discounts may apply). For more information or tickets online at www.slplayers.org or by calling 510-895-2573.

Afro-Peruvian Dance Workshop

Experience the rich cultural heritage of Afro-Peruvian rhythms with Cunamacué Dance on Tuesday, July 23, at 4 p.m. at the Manor Branch Library, 1241 Manor Blvd. Join the dance class to learn traditional moves and immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of this unique dance form, celebrating the fusion of African and Peruvian cultures. Fun for the whole family. No registration needed.

Life Skills Camp For Youth Ages 14-22

Join workshops on time management, budgeting, applying for jobs, and more on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. through July 23 at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Registration open now for individual sessions. Door prizes and snacks at every session. sanleandro.libcal.com.

I.D.E.S. St. John

Hamburger & Hot Dog Lunch with Bingo

I.D.E.S. St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will host a hamburger and hotdog lunch with Bingo on Saturday, July 27, at noon. Tickets are \$15 and includes a hamburger or hotdog, salad and four Bingo cards. Extra Bingo cards for 25 cents each. For tickets, call Jenet Re at 510-483-1132, or Willie Calvo at 510-207-6326.

Grant Avenue Foundation School Supplies Giveaway

The Grant Avenue Foundation will hold a Backpacks and School Supplies Giveaway for grades K-12 on Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jefferson Elementary School, 14300 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. The child must be present to receive a backpack and supplies.

Celebrate Community at First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church, 180 Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro, will host a National Night Out party on the front grounds on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and meet neighbors and enjoy ice cream, popsicles, and home baked cookies. Let's build connections to make a better and safer community. For more information, call 510-483-2772.

Brain: More treatments beginning to emerge

continued from front page

to emerge. The disease robs people of their memories and eventually their independence, but presents itself very differently in different people.

Some 1 in 10 people you know are likely to develop Alzheimer's at some point in their life, usually in old age. Someone is diagnosed with the disease in America once every 65 seconds, Lee said.

Alzheimer's produces enormous strains on families, medically, emotionally and often financially. Along with other neurological disorders, it costs the economy an estimated \$800 million annually.

"Getting information out is critical. Collectively we can move mountains in the U.S.," Lee said.

Two things Dr. Lee would like people to know is that some things people worry could be Alzheimer's often aren't. And even if they are, treatments are beginning to emerge for a disease once thought not only incurable but barely treatable.

"If you ask someone to pick up milk and bread at the store, and they forget one or the other, but realize they forgot something, that's

completely normal," Lee said. "But if they don't recall the request at all, that may not be."

Signs of early Alzheimer's that are worth looking out for are making strange decisions, getting lost in familiar places, and personality changes, he said.

There are also medical conditions that can mimic some Alzheimer's symptoms, but are treatable and often completely curable.

The first step in looking into Alzheimer's concerns is talking with your general practitioner, or your primary care physician.

"They can do screening tests. We need to rule out things that can be fixed and aren't Alzheimer's," Lee said. But after that, Alzheimer's itself can require help from different medical providers at different times.

New Treatments For Alzheimer's

After years of no effective treatments, some are now available, to boost neurotransmitters in brains, and to protect memory to some degree, he said. Some also clean out harmful plaque already in people's brains.

Lee said side effects can be



PHOTO COURTESY KAISER PERMANENTE

Some medical conditions that mimic Alzheimer's symptoms are treatable and curable.

considerable in our first generation of Alzheimer's drugs, but later generations should work better with lessened side effects and be available in about two years.

There are different ways to help prevent Alzheimer's at different points in life. Getting an education is helpful in one's youth, as does staying mentally active throughout life. Later on, protective headgear can help avoid traumatic brain injuries, and moderating weight and alcohol helps, as does not smoking.

The overall society could use a bit more awareness, too,

Lee said. We're widely understaffed for caring for people at home, and the U.S. is not well equipped to deal with chronic diseases more generally, not just Alzheimer's.

"We're facing growing diseases of the aging, as people live longer, but there is competition for funds," he said. "During Brain Awareness Month, we try to take the stage to say that the U.S. is falling behind other nations in (preventing and treating) neurological diseases."

"We're all waiting for a cure, but people are suffering now," Lee said.

Adopt-A-Pet



Sox



Forky

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are both dogs.

Sox is a 5-month-old Queensland heeler mix. He's looking for a home to grow and become the perfect companion for someone or a family. Sox is playful, has lots of energy, and is at the perfect age to learn all his commands with ease.

Forky is a 2-year-old terrier mix. He's a sweet companion already and loves to be with his person. Forky is shy at first but once you get acquainted he will want to stay in your lap and by your side.

To meet or adopt Sox or Forky, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

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Celebrate Disability Pride Month with Program at the San Leandro Library

The San Leandro Public Library and East Bay Innovations (EBI) will hold a celebration to honor Disability Pride Month this July with a program on Friday, July 26, at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue.

10 to 11 a.m. – Family Storytelling and Art for all ages – Trustees Room

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Documentary of Crip Camp (2020, Rated R for Profanity and Mention of Sexuality, 1 Hour 42 Minutes – Lecture Hall. Rated R for talk of sex, profanity.

1 to 2 p.m. – Ice Cream Social – Trustees Room. Stay a while after the documentary for a sweet summer treat and conversation.

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Our Readers Remember

A new house on Sunnyhaven and the babies arrived one after the other

Schatz Robideaux remembers moving into a new house in San Leandro with her husband Raymond in 1956.

The newlyweds had an apartment when they heard there were lots of new houses being built in San Leandro.

“We were in a little apartment in Oakland and

a neighbor told us about this place where they were building new homes,” she said.

They bought a new house on a corner lot on Sunnyhaven Street, near Wicks and Lewelling boulevards. Schatz remembers her husband adding on to the house.

“He made a beautiful

place out of that house – a shop, and a double garage,” she said. “He added on and remodeled. I think that’s why he picked that lot on the corner, because it had more room.”

Another big event happened just after they moved into their new house in San Leandro.

“That’s when I found out I was pregnant with my first baby,” Schatz said. “And then one after the other. I had three boys in three years (Raymond Jr., Charles and John). And after a couple of years, another, a girl (Mary).”

The boys were so close in age that when they went to school their teachers thought the first two were twins. All the kids went to Marina High School on Wicks, just a few blocks

from home.

At the time, the Trojan Powder Works, right behind Marina High, made explosives for the army. Schatz remembers the time they had an explosion at the plant, shortly after they moved in.

“It blew up – it scared the heck out of me,” Schatz said. “I thought it was World War III. I looked out and there were these big timbers flying up in the air.”

Schatz also has a photo of her parents cutting a cake to celebrate their wedding anniversary, taken in their house on Sunnyhaven just about a year after they moved in.

Ray was in the military and then got a job at the Oakland Airport working on airplanes before starting his own trucking company, Robideaux Express.

“He was only 74 when



Schatz and Ray Robideaux bought a new house on Sunnyhaven Street in 1956.

he died,” Schatz said. “He was the most wonderful man there ever was. Every one of my relatives loved Raymond.”

Schatz’s father Paul Schmitt was an artist and that’s how Schatz became an artist, too. “He would hand me a pencil and paper to draw. That’s how I learned.”

Schatz is currently staying at the Baywood Court senior housing in Castro Valley, which she says is a nice place where they treat her well. But she still hopes to be able to eventually return to her home on Sunnyhaven where she has neighbors she’s known for years.

“A neighbor I’ve always know, Randy Sanchez, is still there,” Schatz said. “His folks bought the house. He stayed with the house, he was always a good neighbor.”

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your Arian leadership qualities can help bring order out of confusion, whether it's on the job or at home. But be careful to guide, not goad, others into following you.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Applying a more personal view to a job-linked issue could help provide better insight into persistent problems. Use your keen Taurean logic to cut through the double talk.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Taking some time off could be the best way to get through a seemingly endless round of demands. You'll return refreshed and ready to tackle things from a new perspective.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Restoring a sagging professional relationship takes a lot of effort. By all means, state your position. But also make sure that you pay close attention to the other person's point of view.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): A hot prospect intrigues the Big Cat, who is always on the prowl for a promising investment. But be careful that this "promise" has a chance of being kept. Check it out more carefully.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): A friend could use some of your compassion and concern. If they don't ask for help, be sure that you step up and make the first move. Also, check out a new career possibility.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): You might have difficulty getting your opinions heard because of all the noise being made by the other side. But hang in there. Others should line up with you once they learn the facts.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Offering to help a colleague is commendable. But before you commit your time and effort, check to see if this person's situation is all that they have led you to believe it is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): You should soon be seeing positive results from your recent efforts on behalf of a family member. On another matter, check that you have all the facts regarding a job assignment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Your aspects favor closer family relationships this week. Take time for visits, whether in person, by phone, by mail or in cyberspace. Let them know how important they are to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): A missed opportunity isn't always a negative. Maybe your instincts are telling you not to rush into something you "thought" was worthwhile. Make time for family this weekend.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Your sense of humor helps you get through a tricky situation. But some stick-in-the-muds might not be so willing to make the changes that you and others agree are necessary.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

S	A	R	I	S	I	S	A	A	C	S	
T	I	R	A	D	E	B	I	S	Q	U	E
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Sharon, Bob, Matt, Rob and Kristin Jones in a family photo taken in 1980.

Jones, Jr. Recupers from Head Injury, Joins Family Real Estate Business

By Maggie Sharpe
San Leandro Times • July 24, 2003

Bob Jones has been in the real estate business in San Leandro since 1964. Now his son, Matt, has joined the family business on Joaquin Avenue.

Bob didn't imagine that he would one day be working alongside his son. In May, 1991, Matt sustained a serious head injury in a car accident. He came within an inch of his life, spending 35 days in a coma, breathing through a tube in his throat, before slowly starting to recuperate. It took months of rehabilitation for Matt to make a comeback.

"I knew words but I had to learn how to talk again," said Matt. "I didn't know how to put sentences together."

He says he's lucky because a lot of head injury victims lose large chunks of memory, but his

memory is intact.

He still has double vision which glasses are able to correct and he never regained the full use of his right arm. But that wasn't for lack of trying.

"When Matt was in rehabilitation, he swam 50 laps every day in an Olympic-size pool, using just one arm and one leg," said his dad. "I think that really helped him to recover."

Matt, who is now 30, is the youngster of the family. He and his brother, Rob, 34, and sister, Kristin, 33, all went through Roosevelt, Bancroft and San Leandro High schools.

Rob graduated from Cal State Hayward and now lives in Sacramento; Kristin is a graduate of Chico State and lives in Beaverton, Oregon. Their mother, Sharon, died of lung cancer in 1981 when she was just 36.

Slowly recovering from the

car accident, Matt maintained a positive attitude.

"I got a second chance at life," he said. "I just take it one day at a time."

He went back to school at Los Positas College, earning an A.A. degree and getting his Realtor's license.

"He didn't pass the real estate

test the first time," said his dad, "but he didn't give up. He studied some more, took the test a second time and this time he passed."

Bob describes Matt as "inspirational."

"When Matt goes to the Bay-O-Vista club to work out every morning, the whole place just lights up."

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Our Readers Remember

Barber: Ray makes a house call during pandemic to save the day

continued from front page
husband always came home looking well trimmed and spiffy.

Although he didn't cut women's hair, I would often stop by to chat with Ray on my way to Estudillo Produce. Ray was sort of a therapist, too. I told him about my problems and worries and he listened intently. I often took his wise advice.

Then he would follow up days later by asking how everything went and whether my problem or worry had been resolved.

Best of all Ray made house calls. During the pandemic the barber shop was closed. I tried to cut my husband's hair but made a real mess of it.

Ray came to our house and cut Rick's hair in our backyard, repairing the damage from my dreadful haircut. We were so happy when Ray returned to the shop after the pandemic.

All of San Leandro will



Ray Massone makes a house call to give Rick Pember a haircut during the pandemic.

miss Ray. He brought back a time when barber shops were an important part of life. Ray was always there ready to give you a terrific haircut and lend an ear. We will all miss Ray.

ORCHARD AVENUE AND CHICKEN FARMS

So many houses on Orchard Street were occupied by families from the Sandwich Islands that it became known as "Kana-ka Road," and the poultry farms

along the road leading to Jane Dutton's farm caused it to be dubbed "Chicken Lane." — From A Garden Grows in Eden by Harry E. Shaffer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL PISCITELLO

The Bancroft Junior High School Jazz Band posed for a photograph in the Music Room in 1971 in this photo sent in by Michael Piscitello. Band teacher Anthony "Tony" Morelli is at left.



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Pictured left to right: George Santos and Guy Robinson, circa 1949.



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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY
By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Buyer Turnoffs
To Avoid When Selling

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

As we head into the summer, real estate markets tend to soften and, thanks to high interest rates, this year is no exception. To be honest,

sellers have been spoiled over the past few years. Thanks to low inventory, multiple offers have driven prices higher, resulting in some sellers believing they can simply put out a welcome mat and plop their home on the market to

score high-priced offers. Not exactly. Only the best prepared homes get the highest prices. Others may still get offers, but they will not be at the level as homes that rock. Interested in maximizing your property's potential? Here are five buyer turnoffs to avoid:

Dirty and Messy
You've seen the ads – "Mrs. Clean lives here ...". It's a cute way of saying the home is well-cared-for and spotless. Over the years, however, I've visited many homes where Mrs. Clean not only does NOT live there, she is not even in the neighborhood. Dirty, messy, cluttered ... these are conditions to avoid when selling.

Smelly
Cigarettes, fried fish, curry, dirty diapers, mold and dogs are the top smells to avoid. They permeate soft surfaces and are almost impossible to remove. Not only do they alienate buyers at the front door, they force potential purchasers to start calculating the cost of remediating the

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Letter to the Community

We'd like to take a moment to thank our readers and advertisers for keeping The San Leandro Times viable over the years. As many of you may be aware, we're doing all we can to keep the Times continuing to bring you free, local coverage as we've always provided. However, after the loss of our beloved publisher, Fred Zehnder, as well as rising printing and distribution costs, we're forced to change our model to keep with the times and keep our doors open. We ask you, our loyal San Leandro community, if you can help in any way, through ideas, inspiration or monetarily, we would be very grateful. As always, we appreciate your readership and words of encouragement.

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odors. Additionally, some staging companies refuse to stage homes with excessive odors.

Dogs
Not only are dog odors offensive, buyers HATE being greeted by barking, crotch-sniffing, hand licking canines. While dog lovers may believe everyone loves their mutt, a small barking dog is enough to keep some buyers in their cars.

Popcorn Ceilings
Although acoustic finishes on ceilings stopped containing asbestos after 1978, many buyers not only assume every popcorn ceiling has asbestos, they do not like the look. Assuming the reality is worse than it actually is, some buyers will simply pass.

Wallpaper
While you may love wallpaper, most buyers want it gone. Truthfully, it can be a total pain to remove and if you leave it up, buyers might subtract the cost of removal from the price. If it covers every wall, they may even assume the costs of elimination will be too high. And DO NOT paint over it ... that just makes it worse.

Want the highest price possible? Avoid these common issues and your chances of a top-dollar offer will be ... higher.

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.

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 midsummer 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 biweekly 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.

Lawns
Mow grass often enough to maintain a 2-inch height. Closer cutting in hot weather weakens the turf. Use the grass clippings as mulch around plants, but mix them with leaves or shredded newspapers to keep them from matting.

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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Does Your Older Trust Need an Update?

Q: My wife and I had our Living Trust prepared back in the year 2001. I hear there have been changes in tax law since then which might affect us. Is it time to have our trust reviewed?

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

A: Yes, Indeed!. When you created your own trust, the estate tax exemption was much smaller than it is today, and special tax planning was required to minimize estate taxes for a married couple. At that time, your attorney probably recommended a form of trust tailored to the much lower estate tax exemption, which was then \$675K per person. He or she likely designed a Trust with a Bypass Sub-Trust built into it. This Bypass Sub-Trust was sometimes called a "B Trust," an Exemption Trust, a Family Trust, or a Credit Shelter Trust.

This design was to preserve the first spouse's estate tax exemption for later use at the survivor's later death.

Under former law, without this design, if all trust assets transferred to the surviving spouse directly, the first spouse's exemption would be unused and lost and all trust assets at the later survivor's death could potentially be heavily taxed, as they would be then sheltered by only the survivor's own \$675K exemption. The excess estate value (if any) was then exposed to an estate tax at a rate as high as 55%. Understandably, couples wished to avoid that tax.

However, by directing a portion of the first spouse's share into a Bypass Sub-Trust, rather than to the Surviving Spouse directly, the couple could shield \$675K + \$675K, or a total of \$1,350,000, over the span of two lifetimes.

Now, the estate tax exemption has increased dramatically, making the former use of Bypass sub-trusts unnecessary for most couples. By comparison, the former \$675K

estate tax exemption is now \$13.61 Million per person per the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("TCJA"), effective for persons dying between 2018 and 2025. Unless Congress votes to extend that TCJA, which is set to expire in 2026, the estate tax for persons dying in years 2026 and thereafter will likely return to the prior exemption, which was approximately \$5,250,000 (plus increases for inflation) under the American Taxpayer Relief Act ("ATRA") signed by former President Obama. But even if the current law expires in 2026 and the exemption drops back to what it was under the ATRA, even that lower ex-



emption (plus adjustment for inflation) would still be more than sufficient for most couples' estates, and would eliminate the need for mandatory Bypass Sub-Trust funding on the first death.

Question: You might ask why couples might now prefer to forgo a Bypass Sub-Trust. Answer: The typical Bypass Trust had some drawbacks: (1) the survivor typically lost the right to make any changes in the Bypass portion even if family circumstances had changed, (2) the survivor's access to the assets in the Bypass trust could interfere with applying for a Medi-Cal long-term care subsidy, (4) the assets in the Bypass portion usually did not

qualify for a 2nd date-of-death "step-up" in tax basis upon the later death of the surviving spouse, with increased exposure to a later capital gains tax for appreciating assets when, and if, the ultimate recipients (usually the children) later opted to sell the appreciating asset(s), and (5) the Bypass Trust usually required separate accounting and annual income tax returns during the life time of the survivor. Surviving spouses usually found these restrictions burdensome.

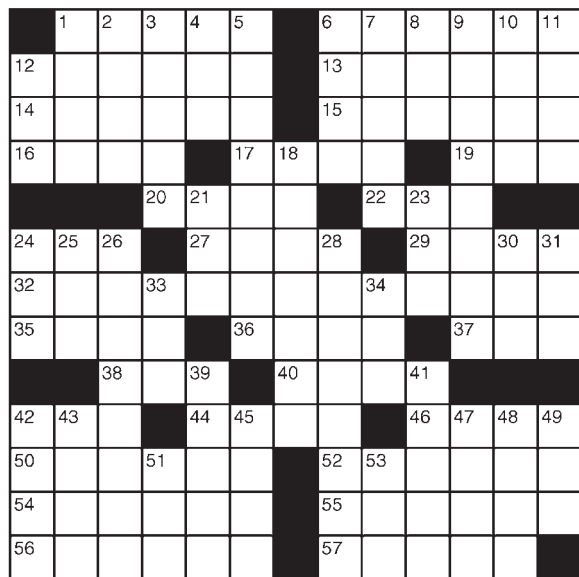
Further, under current tax law, the unused portion of the first spouse's full exemption can now be preserved for use by the second spouse even without the use of the restrictive Bypass Trust. The survivor need only make a proper election to preserve it by filing a timely Estate Tax Return Form 706 after the death of the first spouse. In view of

these new developments, couples with Bypass Trusts created for estate tax purposes under old tax law should have their trusts reviewed and, where appropriate, consider eliminating the mandatory funding feature at the first spouse's death. Instead, they might now consider plans which give the survivor the option of doing post mortem planning after the first death, e.g. by funding a portion of trust assets into an optional Disclaimer Trust. The Disclaimer Trust would then operate as a tax-saving Bypass Trust if that option then appeared appropriate, whether to ensure full use of the 1st spouse's exemption (without the need to file a timely Form 706 to so elect) and/or for non-tax reasons (e.g. creditor protection, assuring bequests to the deceased spouse's designat-

ed beneficiaries). An exception to the above recommendation: The use of the mandatory Bypass Trust can still be useful for non-tax purposes, e.g. in situations involving second marriages. Here, each spouse usually wishes to provide financial security for the survivor, but also wishes to preserve a portion of assets for his/her own children. Under these circumstances, a Bypass Trust can still help these couples achieve their estate planning goals.

Gene L. Osofsky is an elder law and estate planning attorney who has been helping East Bay families for over 25 years with Trusts, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Probate, Medi-Cal Planning, and related matters. To contact, send an email to Gene@LawyerForSeniors.com or call (510) 247-2555.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD



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FILED
MELISSA WILK
June 7, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 607055
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
The Varos Group, located at 1031 MacArthur Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577
6450 Moraga Ave Oakland, CA 94611
Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Red Oak Realty, located at 7502 Fairmount Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530. This business is conducted by a Corporation.
This business commenced N/A
s/Vanessa Bergmark
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires June 6, 2029
JUN 27, JUL 04, 11, 18, 2024
1511 - SLT

LEGAL NOTICES

FILED
MELISSA WILK
June 24, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 607425
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Peacefull Hands, located at 838 Hancock Street #33, Hayward, CA 94544
Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Joseph Jr., located at 838 Hancock Street #33, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an Individual. This business commenced N/A
s/John Joseph Jr
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires June 2, 2029
JUL 03, 10, 17, 24, 2024
1527 - SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK
June 24, 2024
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 607437
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Alameda Auto Lab, located at 631 Buena Vista Ave., Alameda, CA 94501
Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alameda Auto Lab, located at 631 Buena Vista Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced 00/00/2021
s/Robert Ramos
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
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OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. Letters can be edited for clarity or length. Letters are the views of the author and not necessarily the views of the newspaper or its advertisers. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

Underground Stormwater Pipes Need More Explaining

Editor,

Thank you to the many San Leandro property owners who returned stormwater fee amendment ballots.

While we convinced thousands of you about the need to update the 1993 fee rate, we did not convince enough of you.

We commit to better informing residents about the importance of maintaining the City's large underground network of stormwater pipes and better explaining how the proposed projects directly reduce flood risk for neighborhoods and businesses.

Because clean storm drains play an integral role in flood prevention, we would welcome any additional support that you can provide through our Adopt-a-Drain program to help keep drains clear of debris.

Residents and businesses can learn more by visiting SanLeandro.org/AdoptADrain.

Finally, I want to thank city staff for their diligence in pursuing grants. At this Monday's City Council meeting we celebrated the receipt of over \$6.6 million in grants for our water pollution control plant.

Mayor Juan González
San Leandro

Hernandez Will Manage How Public's Money is Spent

Editor,

The recent letter by the campaign manager of Councilmember Brian Azevedo's reelection campaign that targeted former Councilmembers Lee Thomas and Ed Hernandez was extremely one-sided and turned a blind eye to the current City Council's wasteful and misguided expenditures.

The latest selfish use of taxpayer money was the City Council giving \$18,000 for one City Council member's education, in addition to the \$10,000 she already received. This \$28,000 for one council member displays negligence especially when they had other options but chose to ignore them.

Far better use of these funds existed. The funds could have been used to reimburse residents for damages to their cars they have

incurred due to the City's failure to fix traffic hazards and repair roads.

With respect to Ed Hernandez, he supports the construction of affordable and reasonable housing to address the Bay Area housing crisis. That has been his longstanding position. It should not then be any surprise that both San Leandro businesses and residents also wanting more housing would donate to Hernandez's campaign.

We have lived in San Leandro for over a decade and recently sat down with Ed for a conversation about our concerns. He is transparent, accountable, and knowledgeable about San Leandro's current issues. He will bring integrity and sound management of taxpayer money to the City Council. He will listen to both business and residents concerns, and focus on problem-solving to improve the well-being of our community.

San Leandro's success depends on having a diverse local economy. We need officials in office like Ed Hernandez who appreciate this connection. After all, the sales tax, property tax, and license fee that businesses pay are critical to funding essential city services for residents, including our emergency responders.

William Rodenburg and V. Yang
San Leandro

Campaign Contributions Tainted Money

Dear Editor,

I serve on the school board of the San Leandro Unified School District. I am speaking here as a private citizen and not on behalf of the district.

Jeromy Shafer, the long-time campaign manager for Councilmember Bryan Azevedo, wants to shift the focus away from his client's misrepresentations and shady campaign finance practices to others.

Let's review the facts: 1) In a letter to this paper last month Azevedo sought "to set the record straight" by stating he took only \$2,000 from the Duong family. In fact, Azevedo took \$5,000 from the Duong family.

2) The Duong family and the Oakland-based trash and recycling corporation they own, California Waste Solutions, wanted to come

into San Leandro. Reportedly, they were the source of funds for Azevedo's trip last year to Vietnam when he flew first class. The family is now under the microscope of a federal grand jury investigating public corruption by Oakland city officials, including Mayor Thao whose house the FBI raided.

3) Shafer wants the public to believe that Azevedo was a "clean money" candidate because the donations Azevedo accepted were not actually from California Waste Solutions. That is technically correct, but deceptive and misleading.

Azevedo took \$2,000 from Andy Duong, the second highest executive at California Waste Solutions, and \$3,000 from the Duong family investment company. Any way you look at it, the source of these funds was California Waste Solutions, a major corporation.

The Duong family were Azevedo's largest contributors and donated only to Azevedo. Azevedo was up to his eyeballs in corporate money in his race for mayor.

4) Elected officials throughout Alameda County that received campaign contributions from the Duong family have donated the money to charity, except Azevedo. He has kept the tainted money.

Leo Sheridan
San Leandro

What Happened to San Leandro Editor,

What happened to San Leandro in no particular order: Marina ruined due to lack to police enforcement, so we are forced to walk over barricades, and can no longer drive to the back side. Thanks homeless or transients for messing this up, along with no law enforcement.

Thanks San Leandro police for installing blue solar satellite cameras instead of doing the patrol yourselves in these areas. We see the police much much less than before, and they rely on ambassadors, and cameras, so where are the police during their shifts?

Why have a pride day in July, when the LGBTQ community has an entire month? Also, when will the city stop developing every empty area of San Leandro? When can we get rid of the people loitering in the streets, ruining the look of the city, harassing people, asking for money, etc?

We need law enforcement to crack down and use the laws in the books to charge these people. What happened to our once beloved city now being overrun by losers while we sit back and watch?

Robert Johansen
San Leandro

Disappointing City Council Discussion

Editor,

Monday night the City Council approved \$1.35 million for the

"Alternative Response Unit" developed with the Alameda County Fire Dept. to send a team of EMTs and nurse practitioners instead of armed police officers in response to persons experiencing mental health problems in the community.

Steven Taylor's death four years ago is a prime example of what can happen when ill-equipped police are expected to respond to such situations. Creation of sensible programs like this follows a national trend — one we have been slow to join. So our city should be commended for doing the right thing. That said, there were elements of the City Council discussion that were disappointing, if not disturbing.

One Council member (who abstained) suggested the funding was a waste of time because the sorry state of the mental healthcare system was a county problem, that there would just be a revolving door returning mentally ill persons back to our streets and disturbing the peace, and daring to suggest the funds could buy four more police officers instead.

And our Mayor (even as he voted in favor) chose to press for rigorous cost-benefit analysis of the program — even being so bold as to declare the program would not have saved Steven Taylor's life (with Steven's grandmother in the room).

I for one would like to see the same call for analytical rigor applied to police expenditures. Lost was any reference to how this new program can free up police resources to focus on more serious threats to public safety — nor to the potential to avoid million-dollar settlements from wrongful death lawsuits.

Admittedly the Alternative Response Unit is a band-aid. It can't make up for the inadequacies of our mental health system. But as a city we can and should do our part. Wish the entire City Council could have wholeheartedly embraced that.

Bob Bailey
San Leandro

Socialist Workers Party Stands with Chabad Center

Editor,

Jew-hatred raised its head again June 21 and July 6 in acts of vandalism against the Chabad Center of Oakland. Chunks of concrete were thrown at the center's windows and damaged them. Last December, Chabad's large menorah at Lake Merritt was torn apart and tossed into the lake during the Hanukkah holiday. No one has been charged for these attacks.

The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people and trade unions to oppose these acts, to speak out against them and to organize to defend Jews against attack.

SWP campaign supporters joined the protest against the vandalism at Lake Merritt and we stand with the Chabad Center today.

These attacks are not one-off acts. The October 7, 2023, Hamas pogrom — the worst slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust — was a warning that the rise in Jew-hatred and anti-Jewish violence that has marked the opening of the twenty-first century is a world question. The fight against it is decisive to every working-class battle today.

Eric Simpson
Oakland

Eric Simpson is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in California, District 12

Commission Should Look into Assassination Attempt

Editor,

It's not too early to appoint a commission to study what happened. This country was an earlobe away from another assassination with an assault weapon. What a terrible situation.

Why not name it the Roberts Commission? If Justice Roberts cannot be the chairman, for whatever reason, let's ask Justice Thomas. Thomas has a comfortable ring, usually associated with English muffins and bagels. A name like the Thomas Commission represents multi-ethnic America. Our last Presidential assassination brought the Warren Commission, which was just too white to represent everyone.

Since Justice Thomas receives free air transportation, he is able to fly cheaply all over the world to learn who may have planned this attempted-assassination. Was it Orban, or Soros, or Macron? Justice Thomas will take his wife Ginni, who is an expert at recognizing foreign flags, especially those flying upside down.

The 20-year-old suspect from Pennsylvania is dead. Are there powers behind him? Let's not discount the usual suspects: The governor of Florida? Senator Vance? Representative Mike Johnson, the House Republican speaker, is short on height but big on prayer. He's in line for the presidency, so he's a usual suspect.

As soon as the new commission is formed, government agencies, including the FBI, can begin hearing evidence. I suggest the FBI stay away from analyzing the shooter's assault weapon. Last time, the bureau did such a poor job of examining Alec Baldwin's gun used in "Rust," they destroyed it. It couldn't even be used as evidence. I also suggest the FBI discover quickly whether Lee Harvey Oswald has grandkids. Pinning this one on a grandchild may be possible.

George Z. Banks
San Leandro

Delay: Abandoned medical building's demolition stalled for years

continued from front page

of Eden Realty has stayed in touch with the city throughout the delays.

The reverse problem, a backlog of utility connections, has delayed construction projects throughout the area, Liao added.

For instance, a spokes-

“The developer has been waiting to get the utilities disconnected so he can begin demolition, and he does not know how much longer it will take.

— Tom Liao, City of San Leandro Community Development Director

person with the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) said they had planned to open the new Ashland Zocalo Park at East 14th Street and 166th Avenue in February, but could not get utilities hooked up in time. That opening got pushed back to yesterday, July 17 — a five-month delay.

The Bancroft Avenue development, replacing a medical office building, first came up for city approval back in 2017, but faced neighborhood opposition over its size and impact on traffic and the adjoining residential neighborhood.

Developer Scaled Down Apartment Building after Neighborhood Opposition

A year later, the developer came back with a scaled-down proposal, according to City of San Leandro's Principal Planner Avalon Schultz.

The plan was scaled down to 42 units instead of the original 72, and three floors instead of four. That proposal was approved by the City Council in 2020. In 2022 the existing commercial tenants were told the building would soon be vacated.

Once the utilities are disconnected and the demolition



PHOTO BY MIKE MCGUIRE

The plan for a luxury apartment building on the corner of Bancroft and Estudillo avenues was approved by the City Council four years ago but the work hasn't started yet. The old medical building still hasn't been demolished to make way for a new building.

can safely proceed, the city will work with the developer to get the new building built promptly, Liao said. He hopes there's no long delay getting the utilities connected in the new building.

The new 1388 Bancroft Commons will include 40 two-bedroom apartments and two three-bedroom apartments. Two of the two-bedroom apartments will be affordable, and the developer will also pay into a fund that helps build affordable units in other locations. There will

be a wireless communication center built into the project that the developer says will connect the units to the emerging Internet of Things.

Developer Silva wrote Liao that “our high-end luxury units are designed to create a new class of luxury, high tech living that will appeal to professional and highly skilled residents who work in the Central Bay Area but whose needs are not currently met by the San Leandro rental housing stock.”



StopWaste Executive Director Timothy Burroughs (left) congratulated staff of Drake's Brewing Company on their Environmental Leadership Award at a ceremony last month.

StopWaste Award Goes To Drake's Brewing

At a ceremony last month, Drake's Brewing Company in San Leandro was one of six organizations honored with a 2024 Environmental Leadership Award by Alameda County public agency StopWaste.

Drake's won for Excellence in Waste Prevention and Reuse, with a focus on their innovative solutions to transport packaging waste.

At the brewery, beer kegs used to be stacked on wooden pallets that break often and

see STOPWASTE, page 12

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Robert Scott Stimson

May 16, 1972 ~ May 18, 2024

'Stimp' was born at St. Rose Hospital and was raised in San Leandro.

He attended Thomas Jefferson Elementary, Bancroft Middle School and graduated San Leandro High in 1990. He received his BS from Cal State Hayward and eventually got his teaching credentials. He loved teaching.

He is survived by his mother, Jane Urish Potter, Aunt Mary Wilson (Steve), cousins Keith and Kevin Wilson. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, David Potter, who raised him from the age of 3. Also preceded in death by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Urish, and father, Richard C Stimson.

Services will be Aug. 3, at 14235 Bancroft Ave. Bethel Presbyterian Church.



Casimiro Munoz

October 14, 1931 ~ June 9, 2024

Casimiro "Cas" Munoz, 92, longtime resident of Tuolumne County, passed away on June 9, 2024. He was born October 14, 1931 in San Leandro, CA. Cas was a football and baseball coach for forty two years and a teacher for forty five years; 3 years in Petaluma, 30 years in San Leandro and 12 years at Summer-ville. He traveled to Hawaii 4 times with the San Leandro varsity baseball teams and once with Summerville High School for tournaments. San Leandro High School named their baseball field after him.

He was a member and past president of Brentwood Lake Club, was an avid fisherman and loved golf.

Cas is survived by his wife of 43 years, Barbara Munoz; child Linda Munoz and step-children Cindy Fischer and Scott Irwin; 9 grandchildren Katie, Matt, Logan, Abigail, Hayden, Kyle, Brian, Jessica, and Jennifer, and 7 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his son David (2022), son-in-law Jim (2021) and brother Tom (2021).

No services are planned at this time.



From Heart to Art – Focus on SL

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

What does your heart tell you about living in San Leandro? That's the question that local "intentional artist" Constance Chapman hopes to help you discover at the two classes she's teaching this month in San Leandro.

Chapman has worked with people for years to help them express inner feelings as art. She takes her students through a series of exercises helping to create images and symbols to illustrate those feelings.

Besides painting, the workshops will give people an opportunity to share what they love about San Leandro and what they bring to the city.

"Everybody brings something to San Leandro, or else it wouldn't be what it is," Chapman said.

Students will go from "I can't paint" to "OMG!" in one

afternoon, she said.

"You will journal, share with others, and paint, all in a fun and safe container," she said.

You will create an acrylic painting you'll love for years to come, be guided in a step-by-step painting experience in a safe and supportive environment, and enjoy community discussions about what you and the other students love about San Leandro life, Chapman said.

She's hoping to create a class that represents San Leandro in all its diversity, and that will help students make new friends as well as express their creativity.

Chapman hopes that people will use lots of color in their art, and really express themselves.

She said that while this newspaper and other organizations sometimes seek "old

photos" of San Leandro, the art created here will be among the "old photos" people here cherish 50 years from now.

Asked Students What They Liked About San Leandro

Chapman is herself an artist and a certified Intentional Creativity Coach. She had enjoyed art for years, but got serious about it and about passing her enthusiasm along during the pandemic, she said.

"Art regulates stress and shifts emotions," Chapman said. "I let my intuition guide me and am often delighted with the unexpected."

Part of her preparing to teach this class was posting on the Next Door social media site to ask people what they most like about San Leandro. She was impressed how many different things were named, but one of her personal favorites was the repeated response

that San Leandro had the best soil for growing things in the East Bay, she said.

The first class was held on Saturday, July 13, at the Marina Community Center. The next class will be on Monday, July 29, at 1:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. You can register in person, online at www.sanleandrorec.org or by calling Customer Service at 510-577-3462. Use the course number 22889.

The San Leandro Library is hosting a third offering of the class at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10, in the Karp Room. To register for that class, email the artist at constancechapman4171@gmail.com to secure a spot.

Chapman suggests you sign up for whichever class meets your needs and schedule best, and she looks forward to meeting you then.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONSTANCE CHAPMAN

Art students look at one of the artworks created at an earlier class taught by Constance Chapman.

Voters: 'We didn't convince enough people how serious things are'

continued from front page

tect city streets and property from flooding, prepare the city for climate change, and ensure no pollutants drain into San Francisco Bay.

The city's Public Works Department requested a fee increase in March since it hasn't been adjusted in 30 years. The current stormwater fee adopted in 1993 generates \$1.1 million in annual revenue. The associated stormwater fund operates at an annual loss of approximately \$250,000. The Stormwater Fund's balance as of June 30, 2024, is projected to be negative \$2.5 million.

Didn't Convince Enough People, Mayor Says

"The short answer is we didn't convince enough people how serious things are and so we will continue the process of educating people to help them understand," Mayor Juan Gonzalez told the Times.

Gonzalez said the storm drain system isn't as understandable to people as things like public safety and roads, and the city needs to explain it better.

"When you talk about something like public safety, people can connect with it because they know somebody or they have experienced

something," Gonzalez said. "Issues like roads are also easy to understand because they sit on the surface, and people drive on them. If you hit a pothole, you personally experience it as the consequence of the need for road repair. Stormwater drains are a bit more abstract. Ultimately, we just didn't make the connection to people's personal lives."

Work Still Needed

Expensive work on the stormwater system still needs to be done.

The city must still complete \$32 million in high-pri-

ority capital improvement projects, according to Public Works consultant Rick Simonson, who gave a presentation about storm drains. It also needs to address the most frequent recurring flooding issues and severe system deficiencies, and install the remaining trash capture devices as mandated by the State of California.

Mayor González said the city would continue to pursue federal grants and other methods to help repair the drains and pipelines and get public works to tackle as many high-improvement projects there as possible.

In July 2023, the city manager's staff briefed the Council about the extent of San Leandro's financial challenges. Consultants were instructed to determine the best of three possible funding options: issuing a general obligation bond, adding a parcel tax (both of which require a two-thirds majority of voters to pass), or increasing the city's Utility User Tax (UUT), which would only require a simple majority to be enacted.

Of the 426 people surveyed, only 57.9 percent (fewer than the required 66.67% of voters) thought a parcel tax would be acceptable. By contrast, 46.5 percent (slightly fewer than the 50 percent required to pass) told pollsters they would be open to include a UUT tax to pay for infrastructure projects.

The city manager's office will now look for alternative sources of funding for the stormwater system.

StopWaste: Brewery replaced plastic wrap with reusable wraps

continued from page 11

were secured with disposable plastic pallet wrap as they were moved between facilities for cleaning and refilling or for shipment to off-site taprooms. This created a lot of waste.

In 2019, Drake's switched to reusable plastic pallets and replaced the plastic wrap with reusable wraps and rubber bands. In the first year alone, they eliminated 16,000 pounds of pallet wood waste and 290,000 square feet of plastic wrap—enough to cover five football fields.

In addition to cost savings, the reusable solutions save time because they are easier

to apply and have improved worker safety.

Drake's Brewing Company has made many other efforts to reduce their environmental footprint, from minimizing brewery water use to creating customized signage that helps taproom guests properly sort their discards. They also readily share their insights, experiences, and resources with fellow breweries and are regular presenters on the topic of sustainable operations to industry groups.

More information about the awards can be found at www.StopWaste.org/2024Awards.

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