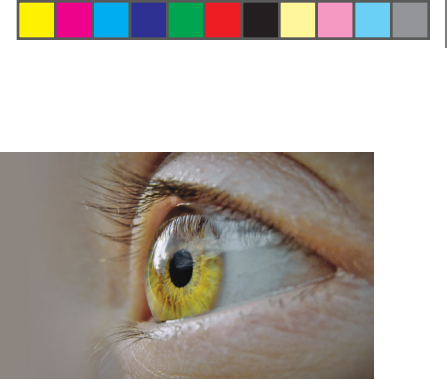


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YEAR 33

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

NO. 15

## INSIDE YOUR FORUM

### NEWS



#### Earth Day

Volunteer to help clean up local waterways for Earth Day event

Page 2

### OUR TOWN



#### Speed of Light

Slow commute? Report identifies Castro Valley's slowest intersections

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### NEWS



#### Archie Cox

The man who organized Eden Area Village, has died at age 97

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## EXPLORE OUR WATERSHEDS



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ALAMEDA COUNTY

Alameda County has more than 100 watersheds, ranging in size from just a few acres to the giant Alameda Creek watershed that overlaps two other counties. Wildlife, like this Great Blue Heron, depends on its healthy creeks, wetlands and the Bay. Learn how to explore these vital watersheds on page 12.

## Mathilde Apelt Schmidt: 100 Years of Happiness

By Michael Singer  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

If you want to know the secret to happiness and long life, look no further than Castro Valley's Mathilde Apelt Schmidt.

A self-published author of five books, the former German teacher, piano player, gardener, and Scrabble player extraordinaire is celebrating her 100th birthday next Wednesday.

"It's all in my book, but achieving inner happiness is important," she says. "Stay away from the enemies of happiness: stress, anger, jealousy, greed, lies, fear of the future, regrets of the past—all of the things you shouldn't do. And then focus on the things you should do: empathy, think of



Mathilde Apelt Schmidt celebrates her 100th birthday on April 21.

others, stay active, and attain a positive attitude and keep it."

To celebrate her centennial, her family and friends are

organizing a socially distanced celebration at Parsons Park on Walnut Road on April 21. The gathering is expected to include a video performance by Russian American classical pianist Olga Kern.

Born in Bremen, Germany in 1921 to German Senator Hermann Apelt, Mathilde studied agriculture, specifically cotton. During World War II, she was taken by the French in Strasbourg and held as a POW until a prisoner exchange following the Battle of the Bulge in 1945. She reminisces about having been extremely well treated by the Americans as a prisoner.

"We slept in cots, but they fed us well and took care of us," she said.

see SCHMIDT on page 11

## County Expands Eligibility for Covid Vaccine

Alameda County expanded its coronavirus vaccine eligibility over the weekend to people age 16 and older, in advance of tomorrow's formal statewide opening of shots for all California residents in that age range.

Sixteen- and 17-year-olds have the option of receiving only the 2-shot Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, because shots from Moderna and Johnson and Johnson have only been approved for those 18 years and older. County health officials warn that supplies are limited.

The state has now administered more than 22 million doses of Covid vaccine. Nearly half of those 18 and older have received at least one shot

as have about 47% of adults. More than 81% of residents 65 and older have received at least one shot.

Alameda and Contra Costa counties joined forces with the state this week to continue vaccinations at the Oakland Coliseum. The site is open only to those who live or work in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and operates Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., with 17 drive-through lanes as well as walk-up appointments accessible by fare-free rides with AC Transit and BART.

The site is expected to deliver up to 6,000 vaccines per day and will continue to operate Mobile Vaccine Clinics.

see COVID on page 4

## MAC Approves Three Projects

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) approved three land use projects at their Monday night meeting – two homes and some outdoor dining for a downtown restaurant.

The MAC gave the go-ahead to the owners of the Genghix restaurant at 20855 Redwood Road to construct permanent outdoor seating on the east side of the building, enclosed by a fence.

County staff who recommended approval of the project said that the set up will make Redwood Road more pedestrian-friendly.

Over the past year, the state and county have made outdoor dining applications streamlined since COVID-19 has severely limited indoor dining options, but the owners of Genghix did not take advantage of the temporary outdoor options, choosing instead to apply for this permanent outdoor seating plan.

The MAC also approved construction of a two-story 7,000-square-foot single-family home at 6021 Grassland Drive in the eastern part of town.

The owner also plans to build a 3,000-square-foot garage underneath the home and an 850-square-foot

see MAC on page 11



## Castro Valley Weather Apr 14-18, 2021



Wednesday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 68° Low 45°



Thursday  
Partly Sunny  
High 66° Low 46°



Friday  
Partly Sunny  
High 68° Low 48°



Saturday  
Sunny  
High 73° Low 49°



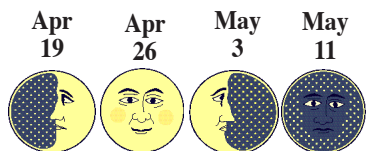
Sunday  
Sunny & Warm  
High 83° Low 49°

### Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00  
Season To Date: 10.09  
Normal To Date: 18.76  
Season Average: 21.22

### Moon Phases



Sun sets at 7:45 p.m. today, rises at 6:36 a.m. Thursday.

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## PARKING LOT CHORUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE COLEMAN

During the pandemic, a chorus has been rehearsing in Castro Valley's Faith Lutheran Church parking lot. At the keyboard is director Cesar Cancino. The singers, a subset of the Douglass Morrison Theatre chorus, are in the cars singing into wireless microphones and listening on FM radios. With antennas on the ladder, receivers and mixer on milk crates, the system is powered by a deep cycle battery. The chorus will perform a concert April 24 via radio for their friends and families, who can listen on their own car radios in the same parking lot.

# COMPOST FOOD-SOILED PAPER



Pizza and paper takeout food boxes can be made into compost! Food boxes stained with cheese, grease, and other ingredients cannot be recycled into new paper products. Place pizza and paper takeout food boxes in the green organics cart/bin.

Food-soiled paper can also be made into compost! Place food-soiled paper (free of cleaners or disinfectants) such as paper napkins and towels and paper plates and cups in the green organics cart/bin.

Visit [cvsan.org/fsr](http://cvsan.org/fsr) for more information and helpful tips.

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## Volunteer for Earth Day Clean-Up

The Alameda County Clean Water Program is hosting an Earth Day clean-up event next week and is looking for volunteers to make it a day of service in the East Bay.

This year, your help is needed to clean up Castro Valley Creek, San Lorenzo Creek, and other waterways by removing trash from your neighborhoods and local natural areas.

Creek cleanups start at your doors! Trash travels through



storm drains into creeks, and rivers to become harmful pollution.

Cleanups can be on Earth

Day, Thursday, April 22, or any day throughout the week-end and will be self-guided and close to home. Local streets, sidewalks, parks, and other natural areas are good choices.

Trash within our neighborhoods becomes the trash polluting the coast once they are washed into the storm drains and waterways.

To register, visit [accleanwaterprogramearthdaylitterclean-up.eventbrite.com](http://accleanwaterprogramearthdaylitterclean-up.eventbrite.com)

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N	E	A	T	E	N	P	E	T	D	O
H	A	M	S	B	A	L	S	A	M	I
M	R	I	A	X	E	I	N	N		
M	I	C	H	E	L	L	E	S	C	A
H	O	O	R	A	Y	R	O	B	B	E
A	B	B	A	A	V	A	M	A	R	A
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# Report Lists CV's Slowest Intersections

By Michael Singer  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A recent national report confirms what you probably already knew: waiting for that traffic signal to turn green seems like an eternity, especially in the afternoons.

In its annual U.S. Signals Scorecard, INRIX – a company that provides traffic and parking data – found the average trip taken during the height of the pandemic last October was 9.8 miles and took 17 minutes.

The research was gathered from 210,000 intersections across the country

In California, you are likely to spend about 5.3 minutes at intersections with traffic lights and you'll sit and wait for the light to change for almost two minutes on average. When added together, the report found 9.3 percent of your trip was wasted on slow intersections, especially in the afternoon.

"The busiest hour nationally was on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.," said INRIX report author, Rick Schuman. "Weekends generally match expectations, with Saturday busier than Sunday, and mid-day Saturday being as busy or busier than Friday at the same time."

While traffic intersections are much worse in Southern California than in the Bay Area, Alameda County – with its high percentage of traffic signals – ranked 8th in the state for worst intersection congestion.

In Castro Valley, you will wait for the longest times at these intersections:

- Castro Valley Blvd. and Wilbeam Ave. (peak traffic at 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays)
- Redwood Road and I-580 interchange (peak traffic at 5:45 p.m. Mondays)
- Redwood Road and Grove Way (peak traffic at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday)

see REPORT on page 10



PHOTO BY CATHY BOUCHER, CHANTICLEERS THEATRE

Heather Warren and Henry Halkyard as they appear in the Chanticleers season opener "Almost, Maine," a live streaming event beginning this Friday and running through May 9. The comedy by John Cariani takes place in a mythical town that's so far north it's almost not in the U.S. and almost in Canada, where residents find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways. For tickets (\$20), visit [chanticleers.org/almost-maine/](http://chanticleers.org/almost-maine/). Tickets and instructions sent to you by email.

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER



### Shoplifter Caught

Sunday, April 11: at 1:52 p.m., Sheriff's Deputies arrested a 38-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of shoplifting at a grocery store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Redwood Road. The man was detained by store security after they noticed he left the store with unpaid merchandise. Deputies also found the man in possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. He was taken into custody.

### Busted in the Park

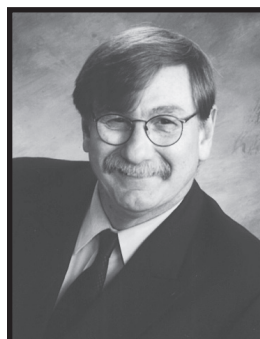
Saturday, April 10: at 1:45 p.m., deputies arrested a 32-year-old woman with no permanent residence on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics, a controlled substance, and related drug paraphernalia. The woman was hanging out at Carlos Bee Park on Grove Way when deputies stopped her for questioning and discovered her stash. Deputies took the woman into custody.

### Arrested for Drugs

Saturday, April 10: at 7:22 p.m., a 61-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the man for questioning in the parking lot of a grocery store on Redwood Road near Grove Way. The man revealed his stash and was taken into custody.

Sunday, April 11: at 10:30 p.m., a 32-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication. Deputies stopped the man for questioning in front of a business on Redwood Road near Grove Way. The man showed signs of inebriation and failed his field sobriety test. Deputies took the man to a sobering center.

see REPORTS on page 4



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Published every Wednesday by EastBay Publishing Corp.  
2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577  
Corporate Address: P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501  
Tel: 510-614-1560 • Fax: 510-814-9691

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## Community Calendar

### ● Today, April 14: School Board Meeting

The Castro Valley Board of Education will hold an open virtual board meeting today, April 14 at 5 p.m. While the meeting will be held remotely, public participation is encouraged. To observe the meeting virtually, click on LINK on the agenda at the noticed meeting time. The complete board packet and more information are available at [www.cv.k12.ca.us](http://www.cv.k12.ca.us). For questions, contact Aimee Cayere, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent at [acayere@cv.k12.ca.us](mailto:acayere@cv.k12.ca.us)

### ● Fri., April 16: Chanticleers' "Almost, Maine"

Chanticleers Theatre opens its 2021 season this Friday with John Caariani's comedy "Almost, Maine" as a streaming event. Hearts are broken. Love is lost, found, and confounded. And life for the people of Almost, Maine will never be the same. For tickets (\$20), go to: [chanticleers.org/almost-maine/](http://chanticleers.org/almost-maine/) or call 510-733-5483. You will have to provide an email address for tickets and instructions to be sent to.

### ● Mon., April 19: Castro Valley Library to Reopen

The Castro Valley Library will re-open its doors on Monday, April 19, with limited hours and occupancy. Next week's hours will be 10 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday. The library will be closed on Friday and Sunday. To enter the library, members must follow Alameda County health guidelines. Masks are required for those two years and older and members must follow social distancing requirements.

### ● Tues., April 20: Rotary Topic: Bay Area Tourism

Teipo Brown, of the San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, will update the CV Rotary Club on the current state of local tourism as we move toward the end of the pandemic. Meetings take place by Zoom from noon to 1:30 p.m. More info at: [castrovalleyrotary.org](http://castrovalleyrotary.org).

### ● Wed., April 21: Women's Club: "Fall Prevention"

Stacey Blackard of Spectrum Community Services will be guest speaker during the Zoom meeting of the Castro Valley Women's Club from 1 to 3 p.m. on April 21. Blackard brings over a decade of experience to this training session. Join in and get great tips and advice that will help keep you safe, independent and fall free. Call 510-461-7692 or email [castrovalleywomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:castrovalleywomensclub@gmail.com) for the zoom link.

## ADOPT-A-PET



**Kifli** can be a little skittish when you first meet her, but will settle quickly once she gets to know you. She loves digging in her blankets and snacking on timothy hay and parsley. To adopt, call Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293-7200.



**Pandesal** is a gentle tempered female bunny who is curious and cute. She enjoys playing with her toys and is good with handling. She does not like being picked up. To adopt, please call Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293-7200.

## Reports: Stolen Property

*continued from page 3*

### Stolen Property and Drug Paraphernalia

Thursday, April 8: at 12:51 p.m., deputies arrested a 34-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of stolen property and illegal drug paraphernalia. The man was hanging out in front of a business on Redwood Road near Grove Way when deputies stopped him for questioning and discovered his stash. Deputies took the man into custody.

### Petty Theft at Drug Store

Thursday, April 8: at 1:58 p.m., a 29-year-old woman from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of petty theft at a drug store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Yeandle Avenue. Deputies were called to the scene after store security spotted her leaving the store with unpaid merchandise. The woman was also found to have illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia in her purse. Deputies took her into custody.

### Too Tipsy to Walk

Wednesday, April 7: at 10:27 a.m., deputies arrested a 45-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of public intoxication. The man was hanging outside a church on Redwood Road near Modesto Street when deputies stopped him for questioning because he seemed to have trouble standing up straight. Deputies report the man failed his field sobriety test and was taken into custody.

### Fireworks Possession

Wednesday, April 7: at 11:22 a.m., a 30-year-old CV man was arrested on suspicion of possession of dangerous fireworks without holding a valid permit. Deputies stopped the man in the parking lot of a business on the Boulevard near Wilbeam Avenue following complaints about fireworks being set off in the area. The man revealed his stash and was taken into custody.

### Driving Drugged

Wednesday, April 7: at 7:16 a.m., Deputies pulled over and arrested a 28-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of driving while under the influence of drugs. The man was traveling on Dolores Street near Grove Way when deputies noticed him swerving in traffic. Deputies report the man failed his field sobriety test and was also in possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia. The man became confrontational during the arrest and was handcuffed and taken into custody.

### Violated Court-Issued Restraining Order

Monday, April 5: at 12:09 p.m., a 21-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of violating the terms of a court-issued restraining order. Deputies responded to a suspicious person call at a home on Acorn Street near Stanton Avenue and identified the man's 100-foot restriction to the property. The man was taken into custody.

## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Whether a waiting period is taking longer than expected, or just seems that way, the anxious Lamb would do well to create a center of calm within her- or himself, and not do anything rash.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Practical matters dominate the week, but cultural activities also are favored, especially those that can be shared with someone special in the Bovine's life. Some important news might be forthcoming.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** You need to know more about a possible career move in order to see if it offers a real opportunity or just a change. You're sure to get lots of advice -- some of it good -- but the decision must be yours.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** The arrival of hoped-for good news about a loved one dominates most of the week and provides a great excuse for the party-loving Moon Child to plan a special event to celebrate.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Leos and Leonas rushing to finalize their plans might want to think about slowing down the pace, or risk overlooking an important consideration that could become a sore point down the line.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** The week's challenges call for logical approaches. But sentiment also has its place. Sharing memories with a special someone, for example, strengthens the bond between you.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it's based on a solid foundation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don't be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Don't rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.

## Covid: Vaccine Information Forum Next Wednesday

*continued from front page*

Vaccine appointments can continue to be made by visiting [bit.ly/39vmfIW](http://bit.ly/39vmfIW) and filling out the Vaccine Notification Form, or by calling 833-422-4255.

For those with questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine, a Vaccine Information Forum, sponsored by the Alameda County Library, will be held at 4 p.m. next Wednesday, April 21, when a panel of medical professionals will talk

about the virus and vaccines. Register at [bit.ly/ACLVaccineForum](http://bit.ly/ACLVaccineForum).

Last week, the CDC updated its guidelines on the surface transmission of the coronavirus, saying the chances of becoming infected by contact with contaminated surfaces and objects was low. While catching the virus from touching doorknobs, groceries or mail remains theoretically possible, the CDC said the chances were less than 1 in

10,000.

Meantime, scammers are looking to cash in on the immunization push against COVID-19 by selling forgeries of government-issued "vaccination record cards" that show people have been inoculated.

Hundreds of criminals are selling blank and forged versions of the cards over such e-commerce sites as eBay, Etsy while running ads for the fakes on Facebook, according to a report on CBS MoneyWatch.

**Castro Valley**  
Vaccinations = 30,843  
Confirmed Cases = 2,472

**Alameda County**  
Vaccinations = 1,064,805  
Confirmed Cases = 84,460  
Deaths = 1,446

**California**  
Vaccinations = 22,974,654  
Confirmed Cases = 3,602,827  
Deaths = 59,249

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## What's Up at Smalltown

### ● Friday, April 16: Castro Valley Street Eats

Smalltown Society and The Chabot present: Castro Valley Street Eats. The food trucks have returned! Come grab some food, support The Chabot Theater reopening (10% of the revenue from the trucks goes to support the Chabot's grand reopening) and listen to live music from local jazz band "Third Light." Castro Valley Street Eats is a weekly event sponsored by Food Truck Mafia and First Pres of Hayward. from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 2490 Grove Way, Castro Valley (behind Trader Joe's).



# Transplanting Daylilies; Recycled Water

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Forum

**Q** Is it too late to divide and transplant my daylilies? Is the foliage usually cut back after they finish blooming? If so, how far back are they trimmed?

**A** Unless you really had to, I'd probably wait and not move the plants now. Daylilies are best relocated and divided from October through the end of March.

I wouldn't cut the foliage off after flowering. Instead, I'd wait until the winter months and then cut the foliage off at the ground, as they do get shabby looking from the winter storms and cold.

Transplanting could be done early or later. It doesn't matter to the plants. I prefer later as the green foliage is far more visibly pleasing

than the short stubble left after the ground-level pruning.

Those plants moved or divided in the fall and winter months produce no new growth until the following spring. Before transplanting, I would cut the foliage back to the ground, making it easier to move the plant(s).

Using a round nose shovel, sever the lateral roots around the clump(s), then gently lift the clump(s) out of the ground. Next, slice the clumps in half or quarters – depending on their size – with a pruning saw, hand shears, or shovel.

Before replanting, remove any of the loose debris from the clumps. Dig a hole that is twice to three times as wide as the clumps and add plenty of homemade compost, soil conditioner, or blended mixes to the native soil.

Also, add a handful of starter fertilizer to the bottom of the

hole.

Moving and dividing daylilies isn't tricky, and you have a high success ratio.

**Q** I'm going to recycle my indoor water to water my plants. Will I have to add any additional chemicals to the water? I vaguely remember something about zinc and iron.

**A** It's not necessary to supplement greywater with any additives when using it to water outside plants. Greywater is defined as "untreated wastewater from clothes washers, showers, bathtubs, bathroom sinks, and laundry tubs."

The untreated wastewater from kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or toilets, referred to as black water, is prohibited. Most home plumbing systems can be modified to capture greywater, but you'll

need to check to see the requirements in your local area.

Vegetables can be watered with greywater as long as the water doesn't contact the edible parts. You will have to change the laundry and bathing products you use to those that are plant-friendly.

Avoid bleach, dyes, bath salts, cleanser, shampoos with unpronounceable ingredients, and no products containing boron. Greywater needs to be used quickly, as it's recommended that you don't store it for more than 24 hours.

Watering basins around plants is desirable as it minimizes runoff and acts as a percolation basin. The utilization of greywater is advantageous for sustainable ecosystems, but it's not right for everyone. Also, I'd check with your local water district as they should have informa-

tion posted on their website. [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com)

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is [dirtgardener.com](http://dirtgardener.com)



## Don't Hold Back

Everything goes into the ground now! Plant trees, ground cover and shrubs. Sow or transplant vegetables, annuals, perennials and herbs. Transplant early-maturing beans, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash and tomatoes. Plant summer-time-blooming bulbs and corms including caladiums, calla and canna lilies, dahlias and day lilies. Make sure irrigation drip lines, soaker hoses and sprinklers are in place before root systems get too large.

## Shady Characters

Fibrous begonias, lobelia and impatiens will liven up those shady areas in your garden. They're available now in nurseries and garden centers.

## Fruit Thinning

Start thinning excess fruit set on trees and vines.



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**ig JLREALESTATEGROUPCV**

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Increasing Numbers of Buyers Getting the Morning After Jitters

As prices continue to rise, many buyers across the region are approaching the limits of their capacity to buy a home.

With average home prices pegged at numbers that just a few short years ago would have been considered outlandish, growing numbers of buyers are wondering if paying so much is the right thing to do.

The effect has been quite visible in recent weeks as buyers, straining at the outer limits of their resources to get an offer accepted, wake up the next morning with a serious case of cold feet. Those who have ever been to an auction and been bitten by bidding fever understand how emotions can get the best of you when trying to negotiate on the fly.

While some steady their nerves and press forward, some, with regrets oozing from every pore, call their agents and try to nullify the contract.

C canceling can be tricky, especially if the accepted purchase agreement was non-contingent. In fact, if the deposit is already in escrow,

the buyers could stand to lose the entire amount. Others, alarmed at the price they paid or terms they negotiated, call up and try to renegotiate. This also is ill-advised, and goes a long way to getting off on the wrong foot with the seller and the listing agent.

Here are 3 things to help avoid buyer's remorse:

Take time to perform due diligence on any home on which you write an offer. While this is hard with today's 15-30 minute viewing windows, go through disclosure packages, reports and other information so you understand the pros and cons of the home.

Make sure you have adequate reserves in the event the home appraises low. A simple rule is to subtract the list price from your offering price: if you have enough extra cash to make up that difference, you should be OK.

Set concrete limits and do not exceed them. If you prepare effectively before you get into a bidding war, you will know where the limits are and can back away when the numbers cross your line.

While most people have heard the adage, "In real estate everything is negotiable," it is important to understand that it applies to what happens *before* ink is put to paper and a deal is ratified. Another maxim for buyers who sign a contract and then try to waffle would be, "Buyer beware."

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.



Beautiful Views from this lovingly maintained Mid Century Modern Home situated on a .16 acre level lot, located high in the Hayward Hills! This 3 bedroom 2 bath home boast 1,641 sq ft with a step down formal living room with vaulted wood ceilings, floor to ceiling walls of windows and gleaming wood flooring. Dining area with hardwood flooring opens to kitchen with new flooring, breakfast bar and family room with new carpeting, wood burning fireplace and slider to patio and backyard. Hallway and bedrooms have refinished hardwood flooring throughout and new interior paint. Master bedroom has 2 closets and master bath with new flooring, pedestal sink and stall shower. Hall bath has shower over tub with tile surround and glass enclosure. Washer and dryer is located in the 2 car garage with side door to side yard. Entertain, relax, garden or play in your backyard with patio, lawn area and many areas for planting or enjoy East Avenue Park which is minutes away from the home.



3169 Saddle Drive, Hayward, CA • \$849,000



### Cathy Brent Team

510-381-1065

Cathy@CathyBrent.com

DRE #01088138

www.cathybrent.com

Kathi Townsend: 510-333-9404 / kathi.townsend@BHSDrysdale.com / DRE #01409032

Wayne Licsak: 510-303-7765 / wayne.licsak@BHSDrysdale.com / DRE #01850870

Linda Neff: 510-557-9185 / linda@lindaneff.com / DRE #01495978

Kelly McCoy: 925-786-2681 / DRE #02095209



## Spring is Here -- Along With the Harshest Allergy Season Yet

Experts predict allergy season to be exceptionally severe this spring, according to the Allergy & Asthma Network. Rising global temperatures and a forecast of warm, dry air this spring after a winter of heavy snow could significantly increase pollen production. This comes after a year many people spent mostly indoors in quarantine.

As you head outside to enjoy the spring weather, allergens like pollen may come as a shock to the system. Spring allergens, which can lead to chronic and troublesome symptoms, such as respiratory irritation, itchy eyes, and nasal congestion, impact millions of Americans.

"After over a year spent in the confines of our homes during the pandemic, we want to spend as much time outdoors as we can this spring," says nationally renowned natural health physician and best-selling author, Dr. Fred Pescatore.

"Don't let allergies ruin your long-awaited spring. There are steps you can take to alleviate your allergy symptoms."

- **Rinse Your Eyes.** Allergies can cause burning, itching, and tearing in our eyes as well as swelling of the eyelids. Washing your eyes with clean water or an eye wetting product moistens them to provide relief when they are dry and irritated. It also removes allergens that cause eye inflammation.

- **Wash Your Clothes Often.** When worn outdoors, your clothes can carry small particles back into your home and cause more exposure and allergic reaction. Washing your clothes and taking a shower after outdoor activity can remove lingering allergens.

- **Manage Your Stress Levels.** Stress can be a powerful force on your physical and mental well-being, and it can pile on quickly. Stress hormones can negatively impact the immune system, increase



oxidative stress levels, and inflame seasonal allergy symptoms. When you start to feel stressed, stop and take a breath. If you can, take a walk. Getting quality sleep also helps reduce the effects of stress.

- **Add a Natural Supplement.** Try adding a natural anti-inflammatory daily oral supplement. Pycnogenol, an extract from French maritime pine bark, is shown in research to reduce the body's response to histamines without the side effects typically experienced with allergy medications, such as drowsiness. Studies show that supplementing daily with Pycnogenol can substantially reduce the symptoms associ-

ated with seasonal allergies, like burning, itchy, or watering eyes, and stuffy, runny, or itchy nose.

"For the many people seeking alternatives to conventional treatment for seasonal allergies, Pycnogenol may represent an effective and completely natural solution, void of any side-effects," says Dr. Pescatore. Pycnogenol is available in more than 800 products sold in stores and online. To learn more, visit pycnogenol.com.

With a tough allergy season ahead, remember these tips to manage your allergy symptoms and enjoy the spring season you deserve.

-Statepoint

### RECENT HOME SALES

#### Castro Valley

18518 Crest Avenue	94546: \$250,000 2 BD - 1,054 SF - 1950
2505 Miramar Avenue	94546: \$498,000 2 BD - 986 SF - 1988
21175 Elm Street	94546: \$763,000 2 BD - 866 SF - 1948
2973 Wisteria Lane	94546: \$850,000 3 BD - 1,802 SF - 1979
5026 Tyler Lane	94546: \$1,225,000 4 BD - 2,084 SF - 1964
4217 Forest Glen Pl	94546: \$1,225,000 4 BD - 2,424 SF - 1989
17252 Columbia Drive	94552: \$1,250,000 3 BD - 2,006 SF - 1986
7742 Pineville Circle	94552: \$1,300,000 4 BD - 2,340 SF - 1995
5622 Cold Water Drive	94552: \$1,350,000 5 BD - 2,688 SF - 1965
4447 Santos Amaro Pl	94546: \$1,650,000 3 BD - 3,496 SF - 2003
TOTAL SALES:	10
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$250,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,650,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,225,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,036,100

#### San Leandro

16006 East 14th Street	94578: \$395,000 2 BD - 824 SF - 1987
16006 East 14th Street	94578: \$435,000 1 BD - 901 SF - 1987
521 East Merle Court	94577: \$560,000 2 BD - 1,128 SF - 1927
15210 Andover Street	94579: \$650,000 3 BD - 1,706 SF - 1950
521 Estabrook Street	94577: \$655,000 4 BD - 1,392 SF - 1922
484 Nabor Street	94578: \$697,500 3 BD - 1,445 SF - 1956
1879 Hilding Avenue	94577: \$720,000 3 BD - 1,104 SF - 1952
101 East 14th Street	94577: \$825,000 2 BD - 1,570 SF - 1940
15247 Laverne Court	94579: \$850,000 1,892 SF - 1958
15459 Heron Drive	94579: \$860,000 4 BD - 1,651 SF - 1998
2097 Strang Avenue	94578: \$905,000 3 BD - 1,417 SF - 1948
15368 Ruggles Street	94579: \$920,000 4 BD - 1,337 SF - 1955
764 Juana Avenue	94577: \$955,000 5 BD - 1,723 SF - 1946
1760 View Drive	94577: \$960,000 3 BD - 1,619 SF - 1956
13800 Velarde Drive	94578: \$1,150,000 4 BD - 2,287 SF - 1957
TOTAL SALES:	15
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$395,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,150,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$825,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$769,166

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# What Homeowners Need to Know Before Refinancing

## Fixed Mortgage Rates Drop

With mortgage rates hovering near three percent, experts say there are still a number of homeowners who could benefit from refinancing. In fact, borrowers who refinanced in 2020 to lower their mortgage rate saved over \$2,800 in mortgage payments annually, according to the latest Freddie Mac research.

"While today's low mortgage rates have fueled a refinance boom, it's been driven mainly by higher-income borrowers. With millions of borrowers eligible to refinance, lower- and middle-income borrowers who could stand to benefit the most from refinancing might be leaving money on the table," says Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

To determine whether refinancing makes financial sense for you, it's essential to first understand the basics. Here's what to know about the refinancing process:

- Understanding refinancing: When refinancing your mortgage, you are essentially

applying for a new mortgage with the goal of securing a loan with better terms than your current one. Primarily, people refinance their mortgages for three reasons: to lower their interest rate, to switch from one product to another (i.e. switch from an adjustable-rate mortgage to a fixed-rate mortgage) or switch to a loan with a shorter term.

- Determining refinancing costs: While refinancing can save you money, it isn't free. Just as there are closing costs and associated fees with your current mortgage, there are related costs to refinance your loan. To get a sense of what refinancing could cost you, use Freddie Mac's refinance calculator, which is available at [calculators.freddie-mac.com](https://calculators.freddie-mac.com).

- Knowing your options: The refinancing option that is best for you will depend on your financial situation and goals. The most common option is to refinance the remaining unpaid balance on your mortgage.

Through refinancing, you can improve your financial position by shortening your term or locking in a lower interest rate. Your lender will be able to discuss refinancing options with you and help determine the best solution for your situation.

- Closing your loan: Closing on your new loan is the final step in the refinancing process, a procedure that is almost identical to when you initially closed on your current mortgage. During closing, it's important that you take your time to read all documents carefully and ask clarifying questions. Once all of the closing documents are signed, you will have a new loan.

For more information on refinancing, visit [myhome.freddie-mac.com](https://myhome.freddie-mac.com).

Remember, even with today's mortgage rates near historic lows, it's important to carefully evaluate your situation and your home goals with a housing counselor or lender.

-Statepoint

Long-term fixed mortgage rates dipped last week for the first time in two months, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.13 percent for the week ending April 8, down from the previous week when it averaged 3.18 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.33 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.42 percent, down from 2.45 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.92 percent, up from 2.84 percent.

"After moving up for seven consecutive weeks, mortgage rates have dropped due to the recent, modest decline of U.S. Treasury yields," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "As the

economy recovers, it should experience a strong rebound in the labor market. Combined, these positive signals will continue to bolster

purchase demand. The drop in rates creates yet another opportunity for those who have not refinanced to take a look at the possibility."

## WEAR A MASK STOP THE SPREAD



### "Shakespeare" gardens

honor the famous playwright and have been set up in parks all over the world, often near theatres. They contain plants, flowers and trees found in his many works, such as almond, birch, blackberries, camomile, caraway, cedar, daffodil, ebony, fig, gooseberry, hazel, hyssop, lettuce, marjoram, mulberry, nutmeg, oats, olive, pear, pomegranate, quince, radish, rye, rosemary, saffron, strawberry, sycamore, thorn, violet, wormwood and yew. - Brenda Weaver

Rosemary (18th-century woodcut)

Sources: *The Plant-Lore and Garden-Craft of Shakespeare* by Henry Ellacombe, 1884; [www.botanicalshakespeare.com](https://www.botanicalshakespeare.com)

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REAL ESTATE

We would like to thank the Castro Valley community for all their coat contributions making our One Warm Coat drive a HUGE success.  
**We collected close to 300 coats!**

SOLD



**20041 Rawhide Way, Castro Valley**  
listed at \$799,000 SOLD for \$920,000  
CASH with multiple offers in 5 days!



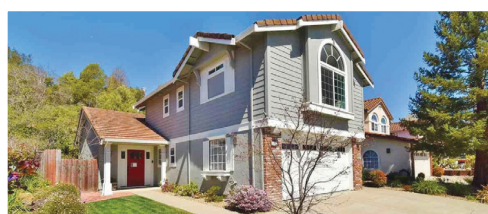
**5329 Fairweather Court, Castro Valley**  
listed at \$1,299,000 SOLD for \$1,410,000  
with multiple offers in 6 days!

Castro Valley is experiencing record low inventory, our team is working with several qualified buyers.  
Call us if you are interested in selling! 510-697-1208

FOR SALE



**6676 Edgewood Way, Castro Valley**  
Listed at \$789,000. Palomares townhome  
2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1579 sqft



**20607 Glenwood Drive, Castro Valley**  
listed at \$1,199,000 pending with multiple  
offers well above list price in 5 days!



**17100 Robey Drive, Castro Valley**  
listed at \$998,000 pending with multiple  
offers well above list price in 17 days!



**4706 Stacy St, Oakland**  
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**Leslie Peterson**

510.697.1208

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Leslie@evolvere.ca.com

**Sheryl Danielson**

510.688.8179

CA RE #02000330

Sheryl@evolvere.ca.com

**Kristen Peterson**

510.408.8161

CA RE #02058725

Kristen@evolvere.ca.com

19633 Center Street, Castro Valley

evolvere.ca.com

**evolve**  
REAL ESTATE



## Eden Area Village Organizer Archie Cox Dies at Age 97

The man who organized Eden Area Village, Archie Cox of Hayward, has died at age 97.

Cox was a veteran and local business owner who started the local organization to help its members stay in their homes as they aged.

With more than 90 members who provide each other with companionship and assistance, Eden Area Village continues to work toward Mr. Cox's vision, welcoming seniors in the Castro Valley, Hayward and San Lorenzo area. There are no membership fees, but the local group has started a small memorial fund in Archie Cox's name.

For more information, call 510-969-2732 or visit [edenareavillage.org](http://edenareavillage.org). Find out more about senior villages across California at [villagemovementcalifornia.org](http://villagemovementcalifornia.org).



Archie Cox

## Take Eden Music and Arts Survey

Eden Music & Arts is planning a season of music and arts events throughout the community when it is safe to do so, according to Artistic Director Marcella Schantz, who says

"the strength of our community lies within us, in our art."

Whether just viewing art in the public domain or creating works through learning, everyone appreciates how the arts

add to our lives.

Schantz invites you to check out her website and to take a moment to answer a brief survey at [EdenMusicandArts.com](http://EdenMusicandArts.com).

## Report: CV Traffic Light Scorecards

*continued from page 3*

• East Castro Valley Blvd. and Center St. (peak traffic at 9:00 a.m. Thursdays)

If you want to look up intersections through which you regularly travel, INRIX provides a website: [inrix.com/signals-scorecard/map/](http://inrix.com/signals-scorecard/map/). An interactive map lets you dig into the data and see traffic signal performance grades by state, region, county, city, and even the block level.

Rick Yeung with the Alameda County Public Works Dept. noted that he expected worse results than the report provided and that the report might not have the whole story, adding that the GPS data should only provide information for vehicles but not the operating parameters of the signal controllers.

"Although the INRIX report provided key findings, it's a bit disappointing not including any recommended actions to help reduce traffic congestion," Yeung said.



Melody Appleton

## Appleton Commended

The Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution on April 6 expressing its appreciation to Melody Appleton for her dedicated service as a member of the board.

Appleton, who began her tenure with the district in 2012 as the first-ever woman on the board, left the position at the end of March.

During her nine years of service, she was chair of CVSan's Center Street and Communications committees and was a member of the Finance, Personnel, Wastewater,

and Zero Waste committees. She served as president of the board in 2017 and was active in the California Association of Sanitation Agencies.

Appleton represented CVSan at many events, including Recycles and Earth Day celebrations, the Fall Festival, and Zero Waste Week. She was instrumental in implementing CVSan's successful Private Sewer Lateral Program.

The district is reviewing qualified candidates for the board vacancy and plans to announce its selection at a special meeting on Tuesday, April 27.

## NEW PROPERTY SALE REQUIREMENTS



Selling your home? All residential, commercial, and industrial properties within Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) boundaries are required to have a Private Sewer Lateral (PSL) compliance certificate when they are sold. This certificate ensures that the property's private sewer lateral (lateral) is free of structural defects such as root intrusion, joint offsets, and cracks.

CVSan has an online portal where property owners can see if their property has a PSL compliance certificate, which is available at [permitportal.cvsan.org](http://permitportal.cvsan.org). Properties that do not have certificates on file are required to replace their lateral or complete a closed-circuit television (CCTV) sewer lateral inspection during or shortly after the property sale. If the CCTV inspection shows that the lateral needs to be repaired or replaced, the completed repair work must be approved by an authorized CVSan inspector. After the property has passed its CCTV inspection or has completed the necessary repair work, a lateral compliance certificate will be issued.

For more information on the property sale requirements, please visit [cvsan.org/PSL](http://cvsan.org/PSL). Questions can be directed to Engineering Technician Evan Choy at [evan@cvsan.org](mailto:evan@cvsan.org) or (510) 537-0757 ext. 131.

### CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

Effective Environmental Services since 1939  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
MARCH 17, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 577277

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Nasatir School of Percussion, 17872 Kingston Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cary Nasatir, 17872 Kingston Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 7/1/1999.

/s/ Cary Nasatir

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 17, 2026

APR 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021  
336-CVF

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
APRIL 2, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 577878

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): C.V. Pizza Express located at 19573 Center Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bikram Jit Singh, 5596 Jensen Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced March 1985.

/s/ Bikram Jit Singh

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires APRIL 2, 2026

APR 14, 21, 28, MAY 4, 2021  
338-CVF

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
MARCH 15, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 577169

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Boutique Seven81 located at 132 Callan Ave, Apt #E, San Leandro, CA 94577, mailing address 8495 Pardee Drive, #6472, Oakland, CA 94603, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shatoya McCall, 132 Callan Ave. Apt #E, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 02/17/21.

/s/ Shatoya McCall

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 15, 2026

APR 14, 21, 28, MAY 4, 2021  
339-CVF

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
MARCH 2, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 576823

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): R & J Quick Clean Center located at 2522 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Lorge, 2511 San Carlos Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 1962.

/s/ Chris Lorge

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 2, 2026

MAR 24, 31, APR 7, 14, 2021  
330-CVF

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
MARCH 18, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 577328

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Jennifer's Pizza located at 5651 Gold Creek Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Keenan, 5651 Gold Creek Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced 2/24/2021.

/s/ Jennifer Keenan

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 18, 2026

APR 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021  
333-CVF

FILED  
MELISSA WILK  
MARCH 19, 2021  
County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 577416

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Dave's Doors & Interior Construction Specialist, 3525 Seven Hills Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Mercurio, 3525 Seven Hills Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ David Mercurio

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires MARCH 19, 2026

APR 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021  
335-CVF



## Schmidt: 'Happiness a Matter of Mind'

*continued from front page*

Following WWII and six years of study at Hamburg University, Mathilde traveled to America. Her oldest sister had married a German American in Dayton, Ohio. Mathilde was eager to do the same. In 1952, Mathilde landed in the San Joaquin County town of Lodi, where she met Leo W. Schmidt. The two were introduced by Leo's sister and were married after a short courtship because Mathilde's visa was running out.

About 10 years later, the couple moved to Castro Valley where they raised four children who went to Castro Valley Schools. Marty, the youngest, died along with his son Denali in 2013 while they attempted

to be the first father and son team to climb the second highest mountain in the world.

The couple ran a business cleaning floors at various 7-11 stores. Mathilde went on to earn a master's degree in special education from Cal State Hayward and worked as a German language teacher for more than 20 years at various local schools, the Aitken Senior Center, and elsewhere.

She was active in the CV German community, helped organize Oktoberfest celebrations, was a Rotarian and volunteered at the Castro Valley Library.

Her next career started in her mid-80s with the writing of the first of five books. But it's her guide for life "Happiness

a Matter of the Mind: Vantage point of an Octogenarian" (2008) that she is best known for and the one that has helped influence her friends and admirers.

"I started way too late; I think," Mathilde said. "But I had all these stories in my head and I needed to get them on paper. I found that my non-fiction is much easier because it happened to me."

She says the book on happiness came about because she felt any adverse situation can hide a silver lining.

In the notes, Schmidt wrote that after conquering several unfortunate situations throughout her long life, "I always came out becoming a happier person."

## MAC: Plans

*continued from front page*

covered patio. After construction, the owner will demolish a 57-square-foot studio unit which currently stands on the site.

The MAC also approved an application from MAC Member Chuck Moore's Moore Ranch/ Graceland Equestrian Center to construct a new 3,900-square-foot single family residence and conversion of an existing home into an additional dwelling unit at 10970 Crow Canyon Road.

The MAC also decided to put off approval of an application to subdivide one parcel into three smaller parcels at 4364 Edwards Lane, where the property owner wants to build two more single-family homes in addition to the one that is already on the lot. The MAC will further discuss the project at an upcoming meeting, likely in May.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



PHOTO: JARED DARLING

### Marcus Barnes

Marcus Barnes is our Athlete of the Week. This Castro Valley High School Senior is a right-handed pitcher for Boy's Varsity Baseball. Marcus threw a complete game on Friday to beat San Leandro 3-1. Last February, Barnes was named Castro Valley Baseball Player of the Game after five strikeouts in five innings. At 6-foot 2-inches, Marcus has a fastball that clocked just over 75 mph.

## Letters to the Editor

### Ridiculous Reason for a Recall

Editor:

Mr. Rosenberg's letter ("Supports Newsom Recall," *Letters, March 10*) regarding the petition to recall Governor Newsom, presents the weakest and most ridiculous reason for recalling a governor.

Call me simple, but Governor Newsom is a human being full of faults, just like all of us. He has done a fairly good job trying to take care of our very complicated and needy state.

Yes, it wasn't easy to try and get a Covid Vaccine, but I think that most seniors have gotten at least one if not both doses of the coveted vaccine somewhere in our area.

I am an 82 year old mother and grandmother. We have 5 grandchildren in school, and I am so happy that teachers were allowed to get the Covid Vaccine. It makes them healthier and safer, thus keeping the children that they might encounter healthier and safer too. That's a win, win! So stop your whining.

What made my blood curdle was when our former president Trump, his family and all those Republican politicians who didn't believe in the virus, made sure they were first in line to get the vaccine regardless of age. Now that is something worth complaining about. I hope that this will be food for thought, for all of you folks out there trying to get your petition signed.

—Barbara Lang, Castro Valley

### 'False, Incomplete Information' from Rodeo Critic

Editor:

This is in response to the letter written by Eric Mills ("Recalls Wisdom of Cesar Chavez," *Letters, March 31*), which stated some incomplete and false information. Dr. MLK was an activist for the black people's suffrage. Mr. Chavez advocated for farm workers. Gandhi was an advocate for all living things.

My main concern is, the sentence "Racism, economic deprivation, dog fighting and cock fighting, bullfighting, and rodeos are cut from the same fabric."

That is the farthest thing from the truth! Dog fighting, cock fighting, bullfighting, and rodeos should never be compared in the same sentence as an equal sporting event. Rodeo animals are not bred to kill other animals!

As for economic deprivation, there are hundreds of rodeos throughout the US, Canada, and the world that support and give back to local their communities. Now, for racism, rodeo has Black riders and Black rodeos, Hispanic riders and Hispanic rodeos, Gay riders and Gay rodeos.

There are contestants from many countries and ethnicities that compete in rodeos here in the USA. So to say that rodeo is racist is completely false.

Next, saying that the rodeo industry harms their animals (previous letters to the editor), is also the farthest from the truth. If you are a carpenter, won't you take the necessary precautions to take proper care of your tools so that you can work? A farmer will take care of his tractors and other farm equipment. I could

go on but, you get the idea.

All tradesmen need to take care of their equipment so that they can work. The exact same ethic goes for the rodeo stock contractors, rodeo producers, and the contestants. These people ensure that all of their animals are 100% safe and well cared for. Just as Gandhi would have wanted.

—Gary Houts, Castro Valley

### When is it OK to Harm an Animal?

Editor:

I find Mr. Eric Mills' arguments about rodeo being abusive to animals to be based on horribly flawed logic.

Here's what we know: Animals are subjected to stress, physical harm, and death as a result of rodeo. Rodeos are simply entertainment for us humans. So it begs the question: When is it OK to harm an animal?

Another obvious question is: Does anyone really have the authority to decide that one animal lives and the other dies?

Here's rodeo's answer to these questions: It's OK to harm an animal for our enjoyment and for profit. I have the authority to do so because I gave myself the authority, and the animal is powerless to resist.

Any questions?

—Ray Cooper, Petaluma

### Opposes Sanitary District Development

Editor:

New plans for Castro Valley infrastructure would be so exciting. Old sewers replaced, etc.

Well, there's enough money to get a really good start, but instead, Castro Valley Sanitary District is planning a new suite of offices which could be as much as three stories high, consist of between 13,000 to 20,000 square foot complex of office space, mechanic's bays, washing facilities to service all the Castro Valley Sanitary District trucks.

This plan will include 50 parking spaces. All at a cost of \$15 million and growing. In the middle of a residential area surrounded by single family homes on Center Street. It's within a mile of Creekside Middle school.

How do the neighbors feel about this? Think chemicals fluids in ground water, aquifers. Large projects like this in a city would require a bond approved by tax payers? Oh don't worry, its being paid for with "reserves." Does that mean savings? Does that mean we could use money for sewer maintenance, but we are building office complexes. Have we been paying too much for services and there are surplus funds? What do you think?

—Trish Desloover, Castro Valley

### Federal and State Governments Fighting Homelessness

Editor:

Regarding Steven Anticevich ("Questions Biden's Priorities," *Letters, April 7*) noting that ICE and DHS under Biden have spent \$87-million to house undocumented aliens that he

believes could go to the legal homeless in America.

Latest economic information shows 2.7 billion dollars spent by Federal government on homelessness in 2020. The State of California has allocated over 650 million towards homeless programs.

—Robert S. Thomas, Castro Valley

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. Email Letters to: fredz@ebpublishing.com, or mail to: The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.

## Obituaries

**CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES** may be emailed to: obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Include a phone number. For help, call Patrick Vadnaia at 510-614-1558

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A boardwalk at Coyote Hills Park allows visitors to get close to the wetlands fed by Alameda Creek. This area is rich in wildlife and a great place to watch water birds.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

During a watershed education lesson at Palomares Elementary School in San Lorenzo, students learn the importance of local creeks and the wildlife they support.

## Two Ways to Explore Alameda County Watersheds

No matter where you live or how much water is nearby, you live in a watershed, an area of land that drains into a specific body of water like a river, stream or lake. It includes everything within its borders – all the land, air, plants, animals, mountains, cities, farms, and even people, their stories and traditions.

Alameda County has more than 100 watersheds, ranging in size from just a few acres to the giant Alameda Creek watershed that overlaps two other counties.

Some of the creeks remain relatively natural, while others have undergone many changes such as dams and channel alteration resulting from devel-

opments within the watershed.

The Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District invites you to download and use the County Watershed Map, a great tool for explorers, naturalists, educators and citizen scientists.

Two Ways to Explore Alameda County Watersheds:

1. Download KMZ (com-

pressed) map files to your personal Google Earth Pro. These interactive maps let you compare the historical and present-day watersheds, zoom in on creeks and follow them to the Bay, and learn more about restoration projects and other features and points of interest.

2. Use Online Resources. In

addition to the Google Earth Watershed Map, you can use the Explore Watersheds web pages to learn more about the hydrology, geology, and wildlife found in our local watersheds.

From Berkeley to Fremont to Livermore, the online map has interactive, clickable watersheds with a quick overview

and printable maps.

“Learn More” pages for each watershed include an overview of the watershed, features, creeks, restoration efforts, recreation opportunities and 1 ways to get involved.

The Watershed Map is a project of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

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### ZEPEDA EMAIL:

The article headlined “CV Man Running for State Senate” on Page 1 of last week’s Forum did not include the candidate’s email address. It is: [join@zepedaforse-nate.com](mailto:join@zepedaforse-nate.com).

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Claudine Krause

## Free Online Watercolor Workshop

The Hayward Arts Council invites you to a free watercolor or clothed-figure workshop by Castro Valley artist Claudine Krause over zoom on Saturday, April 24 from 2-3:30 p.m.

Krause received a BFA and MFA in Fine Arts from the San Francisco Academy of Art University. She paints in a variety of mediums and has a passion for portraits of people and pets. For 11 years, she has taught art classes to all age groups, from beginners to advanced students.

Her work has been commissioned and exhibited throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Registration for this free workshop is required at [www.haywardartscouncil.org/](http://www.haywardartscouncil.org/). A confirmation zoom link to join will be emailed the day before.



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