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CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 38 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026 | NO. 39

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

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From a Garden
As I reflect and prepare – an answer emerges

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NEWS

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Castro Valley Library Event Celebrates America at 250

By Negin Toosi
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Castro Valley library recently held an event to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. On Saturday afternoon September 26, the "America, You're Beautiful" event brought together attendees who were diverse religiously, ethnically, and politically for a community discussion and community artwork.

After a round of introductions, there was a lively discussion about the challenges America is facing, as well as our hopes for the future. Community members then discussed the questions "How do we foster a sense of mutual responsibility so that each person knows they have a part to play in the advancement of the country and appreciate the contributions of others?" and "How do we build genuine bonds of care and collaboration in our communities that allow people to work together and overcome whatever differences arise?"

Local resident Naree Chan said, "I enjoyed the thoughtfully curated discussion and hearing from fellow residents about our collective hopes for our community."

The second hour of the event was devoted to a paper quilt making project. Quilts were introduced as a symbol of the original U.S. motto e pluribus unum ***("out of many, one"),*** because many different colors and styles of fabric come together to create one piece. Quilts have also played a role in conveying messages around women's suffrage, freedom from slavery, and other social movements throughout American history.

Using art supplies donated by the Friends of the Library, each attendee created small paper quilt squares highlighting their aspirations for our country. The squares are on display at the Castro Valley library. Additional materials are available upon request from the library for those who would like to create their own quilt squares.

Art Walk Experience in Hayward

By Winda I. Shimizu
SPEACIAL TO THE FORUM

The Hayward Arts Council presents the first "Downtown Hayward Art Walk Experience" on Saturday, October 10 from 11am to 3pm throughout B Street, A Street, and Foothill Boulevard in downtown Hayward.

This is a family friendly free event where you can enjoy artwork for sale by local artists at the following businesses: Books on B, Buffalo Bill's Brewery, Casa del Toro Cocina & Tequila, Concha Dreams, Con Azucar Cafe, Ska Dog Records, Snappy's Cafe, The Stacks Record Shop, Storybook Bar + Kitchen, The Bistro, Vintage Alley, The Dirty Bird Lounge, HAHS Museum, Metro Taquero and Music Depot.

Local artists will be located in front of these businesses displaying and selling a variety of media for visitors to experience handmade arts and crafts throughout downtown Hayward.

"Come out, walk the streets of Downtown Hayward, and support your local artists! Events like this are important because the support we receive from our community is what keeps local artists creating and keeps the art alive in our community. Every purchase, conversation, and show of support means more than people realize. We're excited to bring art into the heart of Hayward and hope everyone comes out to experience it, meet the artists, and show some love for local art!" express visual artist and organizer of the event Louis Jiminez.

You don't want to miss the interactive community art wall brought by Ground Up Multi Task where visitors can add their creativity to our community wall on the corner of The Bistro and Main Street.

During the event grab a map showing all the participating locations and explore and have fun getting to know local artists, businesses and community.

The Downtown Hayward Art Walk Experience is in collaboration with the Hayward Farmers' Market, Hayward Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Hayward Improvement Association, Ground Up Multi Task, Hayward Area Historical Society, and Hayward Arts Council.

To learn more about Hayward Arts Council exhibitions and programs, please visit https://www.haywardartscouncil.org/
Winda I. Shimizu is Hayward Arts Council's Executive Director.

Castro Valley Weather October 7 - October 11 2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sunny	Sunny	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny	Sunny
High 88° Low 59°	High 84° Low 58°	High 74° Low 58°	High 66° Low 52°	High 73° Low 54°

Almanac

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

Sun sets at 6:42 p.m. today, rises at 7:10 a.m. Thursday.

Moon Phases

Oct 9	Oct 17	Oct 24	Oct 31

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WEATHER AND YOU:

"Indian Summer over played its hand."

By Mike Pechner
Special to the Forum

The last few days of September and the first few days of October have been warm with a few days unseasonably warm. I am using the data from the Howard Air terminal because it has the longest continuous weather record for the Coastal plain and near the Bayshore line.

The stations' proximity to the Bay waters, a little inland from San Leandro and Castro Valley, make it an ideal location. Since. September 29th, daily high temperatures was 80F or above for the last two days of September and hrough the first 5 days of October. The current forecast models show the area of High Pressure to sit over us, for at least through today, (Wednesday), we may not see any relief until tomorrow, This is a normal weather pattern for September and October and its not uncommon to have two 100 degree days over the century mark very similar to this time last year. The longer raage forecast shows cooler weather this weekend but it's unsure if a cooler regime takes over or if it gets warmer again. It's possible more evening bar-ba-que weather could be with us for a few more days inland next week.. A few locations like Livermore had four or five days of 100 this past week

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Due to an editorial error, the front-page articles titled "Day of the Dead Exhibition Returns to Hayward" and "Flock Cameras Record Protestors" published September 30, 2026, incorrectly carried the byline of Michael Singer.

Michael Singer, who is no longer an employee of the Forum, did not author these pieces. The articles were written by the Hayward Area Historical Society and Bob Britton, respectively. We apologize for the error and any inconvenience or professional concern it may have caused. Note: We are reviewing additional details to ensure accuracy of the article about Flock cameras and will be providing further clarification in next week's edition.

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From a Garden

By Thomas Lorentzen
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

My last column was born during a visit to Alaska. This column originates from Annapolis. Instead of the woods and bears of Alaska, I look upon a Monet-like garden in the backyard. Flowers are fading from the summer to prepare for the fall to autumn. As I prepare to return home to Castro Valley, I wonder about my own backyard. I wonder if new hues are emerging, along with new feelings? Time will tell and reveal from my return.

With thoughts alike these upon my mind, fresh thinking emerges from a new movie series based upon John Steinbeck's classic book "East of Eden." The series is the production of Zoe Kazan - the granddaughter of Elia Kazan. He produced the classic adaptation of the book in 1954. It featured a young actor named James Dean. Now, seven decades later, his granddaughter has reimagined and reinterpreted the novel. With respect to the original version, she digs deep and wide with potent perception of the nature of the novel.

As I watched, I humbled with rethinking of a modest performance I am doing on Steinbeck on October 27th at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts. Having done significant research on the composer, which includes dozens of visits to Salinas and Sag Harbor (homes to Steinbeck), I relate my learnings to those of Zoe Kazan. Do our perceptions and perspectives mate in consensus? Or - do they differ? These thoughts contest within me. Additionally, do these wonderings relate to our town and time? As Shakespeare posed – that is the question.

As I reflect and prepare – an answer emerges to parent my perspective and presentation. It comes from a discussion with an academic from the U.S. Naval Academy a couple of days ago. It strikes me that there is a stream from Alaska to Annapolis to Castro Valley. Now, I must refine and define with the flow of human purpose that swims within the stream of Steinbeck's writing. It is an endeavor that I feel that Steinbeck and both Kazan's would value from here in our town – Castro Valley, on the east side of a Township called Eden.

The Month of October Tiny Art Display
Castro Valley Library
Come enjoy the Castro Valley Community, Tiny Art Display. We will be showcasing all the Tiny Art in our two lobby display cases and also in the Children's Area. Tiny Art is fun to make and fun to see as well! Paintings, mosaics, clay creations and more!

Sunday, October 11, 2026
A History of Horror Films
Castro Valley Library 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Join cinephile and Library staff member Corey Parsley as he shares the exciting history of horror films from the early 20th century to today. From Nosferatu to Obsession, you'll learn how society impacted the genre and how the genre changed society. Please register at www.aclibrary.org.

Saturday, October 10,
Castro Valley Center for the Arts
For all those who have "Don't Stop Believin," "Open Arms," and "Faithfully" etched in their memories, Voyager, a premier Journey tribute band, will be at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts (19501 Redwood Road), Saturday, October 10 at 7:30 pm., ready to take you down memory lane! For tickets: cvarts-foundation.org or call (510) 889-8961. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking.

Saturday, October 17
ESSAY CONTEST "Why Voting Matters"
is sponsored by Eden Area Indivisible?
Students age 16 or older living in the Eden Area (Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Ashland, Fairview) are eligible to submit original essay on topic "Why Voting Matters". The essay must be 100 words or less, original work. Use of AI is not allowed. Judges will select the first place essay. First Prize is $500 Scholarship given during Awards Ceremony held at No Kings Early Rally on Saturday, October 17th from 10 AM to 12 PM at Heritage Plaza located at 835 C Street in Hayward. To apply, go online and fill out Google Form and copy and paste essay here: https://bit.ly/WhyVotingMattersEssay Hurry! The deadline to apply is October 7th by 5:00 PM Questions? Call or text Pat Payne at 510-427-5261

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— Gary Wolff, Water Resources Engineer

Paid for by Wolff for EBMUD Director 2026, FPPC#14840464

October @ Castro Valley Library

There are so many reasons to visit your Library during October!

Library staff member Corey Parsley happens to be a **horror film** expert! He'll be sharing his knowledge with the community on Sunday, October 11 at 2:30 pm.

Two local teachers will be talking about the impact of **book bans** on educators and students on Sunday, October 18 at 2:30 pm.

Mick LaSalle will be back for **Reel Talk**, this time about the Almodóvar film *Julieta*. Join us on Sunday, October 25 at 2:30 pm.

To register for these programs, visit our website at www.aclibrary.org.

But wait there's more...

The **5th Annual Tiny Art Show** has been a huge success! Stop by the Library to view these little wonders from our community members.

And, of course, our annual **Halloween Parade**! Caregivers, bring your little ones in costume on Thursday, October 29 at 10:30 am.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

Co-Purchasing Scenarios Offer Hope to Beleaguered Buyers

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

As mortgage rates climb, buyers struggling to buy a home are looking to other options. Neighbor's Bank, in a recent survey of 1,014 American adults ages 18+ discovered some interesting data about co-purchasing properties. A summary of the survey by Enis Shala, Digital PR, Fractl reveals the following: "60% of Americans would rather co-buy and own half of a home now than continue renting until they could afford an entire home on their own.

· 71% would consider buying a home with someone other than a spouse if doing so made homeownership more affordable.

· Affordability overwhelmingly drives the appeal of co-buying. 94% named at least one cost-related reason, compared with 38% who cited a relationship-related reason such as companionship or helping a loved one become a homeowner.

· Sharing the monthly mortgage was the top attraction to co-buying at 52%, followed by splitting the down payment at 37%, affording a bigger or better home at 36%, and buying somewhere they could not afford alone at 33%. Building equity sooner ranked last at just 15%.

· Family remains the most popular choice for a shared purchase. 68% would consider buying with at least one family member, including 44% with a parent, 41% with a sibling, and 27% with an adult child. Another 40% would consider buying with an unmarried romantic partner.

· 51% of single, never-married Americans would buy a home now with a friend or family member rather than wait to buy with a spouse or on their own.

· 61% of Americans say buying a home with a close friend or family member is a commitment as serious as marriage. More than half, 54%, would also buy a home with a romantic partner before getting married.

· 50% would consider buying a home with friends to grow old together and avoid living alone later in life.

· Younger Americans are particularly open to buying with friends. 45% of Gen Z would consider purchasing with a close friend, compared with 26% of millennials, 25% of Gen X, and 24% of baby boomers.

· Income also shapes interest in buying with friends. Americans earning under $50,000 were twice as likely to consider buying with a close friend as those earning $100,000 or more, 38% compared with 19%.

· Nearly all Americans, 94%, would likely put a co-buying agreement in writing."

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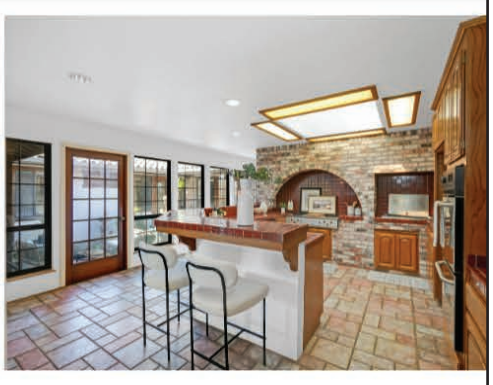

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FILED September 3, 2026
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By----------, Deputy
FILE NO. 625793
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Pawluxe located at 3913 Castro Valley Blvd., SPC 47 CA 94546 Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pawluxe Service LLC located at 3913 Castro Valley Blvd., SPC 47 Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liabitily Company This business commenced 8/21/2026
/s/ Heather Justus
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires September 2, 2031

FILED AUGUST 13, 2026
MELISSA WILK County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By----------, Deputy
FILE NO. 625351
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
World Winners located at 22219 Betlen Way Castro Valley CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Pryor, 22219 Betlen Way Castro Valley CA 94546. This business is conducted by An Individual. This business commenced 8/12/2026
/s/ Jessica Pryor
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires AUGUST 12, 2031

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Letters to the Editor

Letters must include the writer's name, address, 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 those of the newspaper or its advertisers. Submit letter online: mycvforum.com/letters-submission-form

The Fiction of Digital Tangibility: How Senate Bill 122 Distorts the Sales Tax Framework

I've been alarmed that it draws waste, distraction and loss of privacy into some of the Sales Tax Realms by expanding part of the sum of intangible transactions into a virtual claim as tangible, dishonestly for the sales or use tax framework. Anything that was truly tangible before this legislation was simply being taxed already.

A word salad throws the veil of claim to require believing that sometimes the intangible is tangible. This aspect of creativity is expensive with enough complexity to, already even now, restructure complexity and dodges to use by negotiating duct-tape compromises for some business interests.

I would suspect inefficiency waists more for the general community than is fair in comparison to the actual tax collection. Lies tend to invite a complex and energetic solution when not corrected.

This Senate Bill 122 violates the community structure by requiring some things which are not actually tangible to be regarded as if those things are tangible.

The causation failed to admit the mistake and now participates in weaving a tangled web that catches some of our nations net worth to navigate.

It's a tax added upon digital communication. We were already taxed on the tangible aspects of digital sales. A quantifiable tax upon communication might be entirely unconstitutional & worth a good exam!

I've Much appreciation for the Blessings We Receive.

–John Edward Culp, Castro Valley

Correction: In the Sept. 30, 2026, letter to the editor regarding Senate Bill 122, the name of the individual was incorrectly stated. The correct name is John Edward Culp.

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- October 12th - Filter Exchange Program Begins. For details visit cvsan.org/UsedOil.
- November 3rd - Regular Board Meeting.
- November 11th - Veterans Day Holiday Observance (CVSan Closed).
- November 20th - Filter Exchange Program Ends. For details visit cvsan.org/UsedOil.
- November 26th and November 27th - Thanksgiving Holiday Observance (CVSan Closed).
- December 1st - Regular Board Meeting.
- December 24th and December 25th - Christmas Holiday Observance (CVSan Closed).
- December 31st and January 1st - New Year's Holiday Observance (CVSan Closed).

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All CVSan Board and Committee meetings are open to the public. For complete meeting details and information about CVSan's services, programs, and events, please visit cvsan.org. Please note CVSan's meeting schedule is subject to change.

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The Monkey Trap

By Ronald Mah
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

When comic books were $0.10 or less, I had a Tarzan comic book. Pretty politically incorrect for all kinds of reasons, but I didn't know better. There was a monkey in a trap. But it wasn't a cage trap the monkey was inside of, but a little wooden box with a rope attached to it tied to a tree. The box had a little hole just big enough for the monkey to put its hand inside. It had put its hand inside to grab the fruit inside. Having grabbed the fruit, its hand was now too big to pull out of the hole. Hand holding fruit in the box tied to the tree, the monkey was trapped! Tarzan arrives and I expect him to cut the rope or smash thee box to free the monkey. Nope! Instead, he shows it another piece of fruit. The monkey's eyes got big, and it reached for the fruit, releasing the fruit inside the box. Having let go of the fruit, its hand was nowsmall enough to pull through the hole. Now free! That is, no longer keeping itself trapped by holding on to the fruit in the box tied to a tree. About 10-years-old, I thought that was pretty cool. Decades later, I realized how analogous that was for so many people's lives.

Working with a client having trouble making an needed life change but just couldn't, I realized that they were keeping themselves stuck- that is, being trapped holding on to their "fruit."

"I have to be on time period"
"I have to make it to the game."
"I can't just give up" or "I have to win."
"I can't let her down."
"I can't say that to him."

I challenged one way or another, "Or not." "Or you can." "Or you don't have to." Or, more gently, "What rule or requirement or demand is keeping you from doing what you need to do, versus freeing you from this trap?" Maybe not being willing to upset someone, or being late was against family code, or not attending was failure of parenting or relationship, or quitting or losing in implied being a terrible person, or being a matter of honor or betrayal to disappoint someone. Once these "sacred" rules were identified from where originated, then they might consider whether they were still relevant or appropriate in present time frame, circumstances, or relationships. Perhaps, appropriate before, some may become monkey traps may keeping stuck in harmful and distressing ways. Some might should be kept-values and rules that still work, but others may have lost purpose and become harmful or dysfunctional. What are your monkey traps?

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