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CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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YEAR 32

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

NO. 31

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



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The Castro Valley Library now offers contact-less book pick-up service

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LIVING



Crackers

The perfect snack just got more special, and its surprisingly easy to make

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Got Compost?

CVSan partners with Pete's Hardware for Compost Give-Away

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PHONE: (510) 614-1560



PHOTO BY LINDA SANDSMARK

Connolly's Furniture and Mattress Store, located at 20600 Redwood Road in Castro Valley.

CONNOLLY'S FURNITURE

Closing Doors After 75 Years in Business

By Linda Sandmark
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Connolly's Furniture and Mattress store will be closing its doors after 75 years in business, due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

"Unfortunately, because of COVID we have to close," says store manager Danielle Connolly.

Connolly's has been a favorite with local residents. Past customers received notices from owner Steve Connolly about the closing and liquidation.

"My great, great grandfather first opened in 1945 in Fremont," says Danielle. "We expanded, but the area in Fremont where we were located was re-zoned. We came to Castro Valley in 1913 and also opened another store in Livermore. We're having a sale in both locations, and we'll be open as long as we have inventory."

Connolly's friendly design staff specialized in custom orders for indoor, home entertainment, office, and outdoor living spaces. Now the inventory is being offered at up to 75 percent off.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE CONNOLLY

A LOOK BACK: Connolly's original furniture store opened in 1945 in Fremont. It was called Walter Connolly's Appliances and Furnishings.

"We've loved being in Castro Valley. This town has been such a delight," says Danielle. "It's been sad for our customers here, because they want to shop locally. We have top quality designers, and we always try to make our customer's

house a home. We want to thank the Castro Valley community and our customers for treating us so well."

Connolly's Furniture and Mattress is located at 20600 Redwood Road. The Livermore store is located at 2193 First Street.

County COVID Cases Over 10,000

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The number of people contracting COVID-19 in Alameda County passed the 10,000 mark this past week prompting health officials to remind people to practice social distancing and wear a mask when going out.

"Tragically, 29 fatalities were reported yesterday bringing our current average to 109 lives lost every day," California Governor Gavin Newsom said in a Tweet on Monday. "Please -- wear a mask."

Alameda County has been on the state's "watch list" because of growing concerns over the coronavirus. The county experienced a record number of people being admitted to the hospital (201) and intensive care units (58) than any time since the outbreak began.

"We continue to monitor our local case rate and hospitalization data," Neetu Balam, County Health Department spokesperson

told the Castro Valley Forum. "We have yet to see a flattening or a decrease in either metric to determine whether the State's Orders or our June 29 pause on reopening have turned the tide."

While common symptoms include persistent cough, shortness of breath, and fever, most individuals infected with COVID-19 will only experience mild to moderate symptoms and therefore do not seek medical attention or aren't

see COVID-19 on back page

Castro Valley
Confirmed Cases = 295

Alameda County
Confirmed Cases = 10,438
Deaths = 178

California
Confirmed Cases = 460,550
Deaths = 8,445

as of July 27, 2020



PG&E PHOTO BY BRANDI MERLO

PG&E on Patrol

EYE IN THE SKY: PG&E recently conducted low-flying helicopter patrols over its power lines in Castro Valley and the East Bay as part of a company-wide exercise to help employees prepare for the possibility of Public Safety Power Shutoffs during this tinder-dry summer. The exercise has included simulated and actual events, both on the ground and in the air. The above photo is of a similar drill patrol in Amador County. The program is part of the utility's \$9.5-billion, years-long effort to prevent power line caused wildfires like those that have killed dozens of people and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses in recent years.

Castro Valley Weather July 29-Aug 2, 2020



Wednesday
Partly Sunny
High 76° Low 56°



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High 76° Low 57°



Friday
Mostly Sunny
High 75° Low 58°



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
High 78° Low 57°



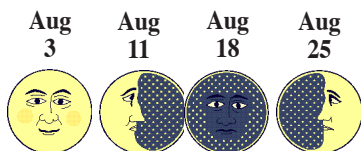
Sunday
Mostly Sunny
High 81° Low 60°

Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 08.54
Normal To Date: 21.22
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases



Sun sets at 8:20 p.m. today, rises at 6:12 a.m. Thursday.

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CVSan's COMPOST GIVE-AWAY

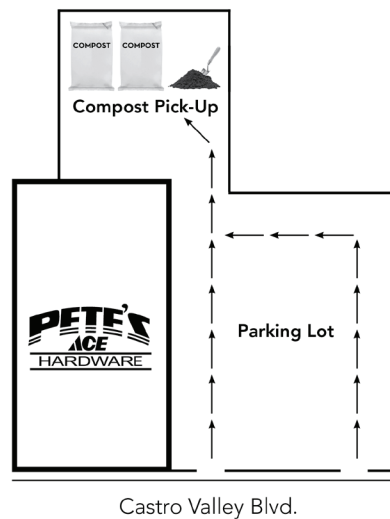
From August 17th to September 19th, Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) is partnering with Pete's ACE Hardware (Pete's) to provide free compost to CVSan residents and businesses!

Registration Required for Free Compost:

- Visit cvsan.org/RecyclesDay to register for a compost coupon. Registration will be open August 3rd - August 29th.
- A coupon for two 1.5 cubic foot bags of Whitney Farms organic compost will be sent in the mail. Coupons are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit one coupon per household or business.
- Coupon expiration dates vary based on date of registration. Please note the expiration date on your coupon.

Where To Pick Up Your Compost:

- **Pete's ACE Hardware**
2569 Castro Valley Blvd.
- Drive directly to the Compost Pick-Up area in back lot. You do not need to enter store. Redeem coupon with Pete's staff, who are available to load bagged compost into your vehicle.



Thank you, Pete's, for your partnership with this event as an alternate to the compost give-away typically held at Canyon Middle School.

For more information, visit cvsan.org/RecyclesDay.

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This ad was funded by ACI Collection Events



Disability Rights Pioneer Honored

By Melissa Jordan
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

This week marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), and members of BART's Accessibility Task Force (BATF) reflected on what the landmark legislation has meant in their lives.

Hale Zukas, a pioneering disability rights activist, was a founding member of the task force and serves on the advisory body to this day. He also worked behind the scenes to push for passage of the ADA, which turned 30 this past Sunday.

Zukas has Cerebral Palsy and uses a wheelchair; he communicates with the assistance of a helmet-mounted joystick and letterboard.

A Cal student in the 1960s, he co-founded Berkeley's Center for Independent Living (CIL) in 1971. The modern disability rights movement was born in Berkeley; first-in-the-nation curb cuts were at the corner of Bancroft and Telegraph, based on technical designs by Zukas.

When asked what the ADA means to him, Zukas replied with a single word: "access."

Zukas helped to create that access. In what would become the longest occupation of a federal building in U.S. history, he and others from the movement staged a nearly month-long protest at a Health, Education and Welfare office in San Francisco in 1977. The sit-in brought worldwide attention to the nascent movement for equality.

Zukas shaped the BART system since its early days, co-founding BART's accessibility advisory group in 1975. He was a driv-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Hale Zukas, (center of photo with helmet) at 1970s protest in this photo by Anthony Tusler.

ing force in designing the button placement inside BART elevators at a height that could be reached easily by someone in a wheelchair.

The BART Board recognized Zukas with unanimous passage of a resolution honoring him at its July 23 meeting.

BART became the first public transportation system to be fully accessible to people with disabilities, thanks to the advocacy of pioneers like Zukas and the late Ed Roberts, namesake of the Ed Roberts Campus Independent Living Center at the Ashby BART Station.

The disability rights movement continues, however, in ways large and small, at BART and throughout society.

Melissa Jordan is a member of the BART Communications Staff.



BART PHOTO BY MARIA J. AVILA

Hale Zukas photographed at Ashby BART Station in July 2020; Zukas co-founded BART's accessibility advisory board in 1975 and serves on it to this day.

CORRECTION:

The Forum's July 15 Page One story about the Castro Valley Marketplace included a quote attributed to Craig Semmelmyer. The quote came from a statement on the Castro Valley Natural Grocery social media page. The Forum regrets the error.

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MATEO is a 2-year-old brown tiger tabby cat. He is a friendly boy who loves napping on plush beds. To adopt Mateo, call the Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293-7200.



The Castro Valley Library is now offering a No-Contact Pickup service. Contact-Less Pick Up Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 5 pm (closed Sunday and Monday).

Castro Valley Library Offers No-Contact Book Pick-Up

Castro Valley Library's annual Summer Reading Game is in full-swing, despite the closure of the library's physical building to the public.

The "Kind, Connected Summer" offers a gameboard full of safe and educational activities for the entire family.

Each week, families can submit a photo or drawing of their participation in a listed activity to be entered to win exciting prizes from area businesses, including bundles of brand new books.

A new, second gameboard has just been launched, for families who have already completed the

activities on the first. Paper gameboards can be picked up outside the library's front doors, and virtual gameboards can be downloaded from the library's website.

The game runs June 15 through Aug. 15.

Looking for new books to read see **LIBRARY** on page 11

COVID Testing Center, Food Distribution Program Are Moving to New Locations

The COVID-19 Testing Center and weekly No-Contact Food Distribution program are moving to new locations starting next week, according to the Hayward Emergency Operations Center.

The Testing Center, currently at Cal State's campus, is moving to Skywest Golf Course at 1401 Golf Course Road adjacent to Hayward Executive Airport starting Monday, Aug. 3. The Testing Center's last day of operation at Cal State will be this Friday, July 31.

Among the changes:

The Testing Center is now collecting health insurance information so it can seek reimbursement for testing costs. However, insurance is not required to be tested and no individual will be charged a fee of any kind to be tested, including an insurance co-payment.

Testing remains available free of charge to anyone age 12 or older, regardless of place of residence or immigration status or whether or not they have COVID-19 symptoms. No physician referral is required.

Tested individuals also will be able to register online to receive email notice when their test results are available online. Those who test positive will still receive a telephone call with the result as well as information and advice on next steps, and the availability of supportive services and resources.

Beginning Monday, advance appointments for testing can be made at www.hayward-ca.gov.

Also next week, the weekly


No-Contact Food Distribution program that takes place every Thursday at Skywest Golf Course will move further south down Hesperian Blvd. to the Chabot College campus. Its last day of operation at Skywest will be tomorrow.

Testing Center hours will remain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, while the weekly No-Contact Food Distribution program will continue operating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.

The relocations are being made to sustain both the Testing Center and Food Distribution program for as long as they are needed.

The COVID-19 Hotline has been replaced with a call center specifically associated with the Testing call center, which can be reached at 510-583-5333.

For more information, visit www.hayward-ca.gov/covid-19 and subscribe to receive the e-newsletter, The Stack.



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CV Resident

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Senior Citizen Assault

Friday, July 24: at 6:39 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 70-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of felony assault on a family member. The woman was at a home on Massachusetts Avenue near Carlton Avenue when she reportedly got into a heated altercation. Deputies took the woman into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Fight Outside Grocery Store

Wednesday, July 22: at 6:48 a.m., a 911 call about a fight in a grocery store parking lot sent deputies to the business on the Boulevard near Redwood Road. There, they arrested a 24-year-old CV woman on suspicion of assault on a family member. Deputies took the woman into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Shoplifter Banned

Wednesday, July 22: at 3:21 p.m., a 29-year-old man with no per-

manent residence was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting and preventing a business from operating. Deputies responded to a call from a store manager at a gas station on the Boulevard near Redwood Road. The manager reportedly caught the suspect walking away with unpaid merchandise. The man had previously been asked to stay away for similar incidents. Deputies took the man into custody.

Joy Ride Ends in Arrest

Monday, July 20: at 8:26 p.m., deputies pulled over and arrested a 49-year-old woman from Castro

Valley on suspicion of grand theft auto. The woman had been driving on the Boulevard and was pulled over in the 580 Market Place parking lot after deputies identified the vehicle as being stolen. The woman was taken into custody.

Taxi Driver Robbed

Tuesday, July 21: at 1:20 a.m., a 31-year-old CV woman was arrested on suspicion of robbing a taxi driver. Deputies responded and located the suspect in a parking lot on Grove Way near Center Street. The woman was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending bail.

Student Honors, Dean List

Nicole Bagdadian, Junior, Horticulture and **Emerald L. Coupe**, Post Baccalaureate, Education, have made the Scholastic Honor Roll for Spring term 2020 at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Both earned a 3.5 GPA or better.

Yazmine Romero of Castro Valley was named to Dean's List for Spring Semester 2020 at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. Romero is majoring in Marketing Management at YSU.

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Future-Proof Your Career at CV Adult & Career Education

By Sharon Travers
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The pandemic has not only triggered the highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression, it's also changing the job market of the future.

According to The University of Chicago, 42% of recent layoffs will result in permanent job losses.

Re-training and building workforce skills has never been more important, especially if you're one of the 13% of adults in Alameda County who's unemployed right now.

Future-proof your career at Castro Valley Adult & Career Educa-

tion (CVACE). They've got training courses that will help get you hired and certificate courses are affordable, convenient, short-term, and high quality.

If you're looking to add some technical skills to your resume while you're home helping your kids do homework on Zoom, take CVACE's new 100% online Excel certificate course with live lectures.

You'll go from learning the basics to advanced skills in just 13 Saturday sessions.

This course is starting August 22 and registering now. It's only \$195 for quality live, online instruction from an expert adult school computer teacher, Francis Reyes.

Want to add to your resume and skillset with career-relevant certificates? Castro Valley Adult & Career Education has ten 100% online courses to choose from this fall. Add a certificate in project management or data analysis, bookkeeping or supervisory leadership and make the most of this time.

They're comprehensive, a great value for the money, and taught by industry experts. Classes are enrolling now.

If you've been moved in this moment to become part of the healthcare field, the school's new hybrid Clinical Medical Assistant program can help you get there.

You'll learn foundational concepts online, taught by a highly regarded team of medical teachers, and then work in-class and in-person on the clinical skills you need for the job.

Students who've completed this program are working now at medical offices around the Bay Area, and at hospitals such as Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Sutter East Bay Medical Foundation, UCSF, and Stanford's University HealthCare Alliance.

There is a mandatory orientation, done remotely, on Saturday, Oct. 10. Register for the orientation online at www.cvadult.org and learn about the Clinical Medical Assistant program as well as several other medical courses including a 100% distance learning Medical Administrative course.

Now's the time to re-train and re-skill Castro Valley Adult & Career Education. Visit the website at www.cvadult.org or call (510) 886-1000.

Sharon Travers is Assistant Principal of Castro Valley Adult & Career Education.



FILE PHOTO

Nearly all of the respondents in a recent survey said it has been important to keep regional parks and trails open during the pandemic.

East Bay Regional Parks Seeing Unprecedented Surge of Visitors

By Ned MacKay
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

During the coronavirus pandemic, the East Bay Regional Park District has experienced what the district describes as an unprecedented surge in visitor attendance, as people head to the parks for healthy exercise and relief from stress.

According to findings of a recent survey, 96 percent of the respondents stated that it has been important to keep regional parks and trails open during the pandemic.

Ninety percent believed that having access to the parks and trails has been important to their health and wellbeing. And 94 percent believed the parks will play

an equal or greater role in their lives when the pandemic is over.

• Online Survey

Now, the district is conducting an online survey along the same lines, and would like to hear from as many people as possible to assist the district in developing ways to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic, both while it is still a threat and afterwards, when the coronavirus has been controlled and people can get back to resuming as normal a life as possible.

If you'd like to participate in the survey, go to www.ebparks.org. At the top of the home page is a slide display that changes every few seconds. When "Covid19 Park & Community Survey" appears, click on it. The survey is available in both English and Spanish.

• Oakland Zoo to Reopen

As has been widely reported, the Oakland Zoo has planned to reopen its doors at the end of July, after a months-long closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's great news for both animals and people.

The regional park district is a partner with the zoo, in that the park district's 2008 Measure WW Local Grant Program has provided \$4 million over the years for zoo capital improvements.

Measure WW is a bond issue that received strong support from park district voters in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. And the park district joined the zoo in urging county and state leaders to allow the zoo to reopen with ap-
see PARKS on page 11

ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR GAIL STEELE – R.I.P.



The late Hayward City Councilmember (1974-1982) and Alameda County Supervisor (1992-2010) Gail Steele was a great advocate for both children and animals. A colleague reported that Ms. Steele "always took in tons of stray animals to care for. Her yard was full of cats, pigeons, rabbits and turtles. I think I recall a chicken or two."

In 1993 Supervisor Steele voted to outlaw the rodeo's brutal "horse tripping" and "steer tailing" events, making Alameda County the first in the nation to do so. Ms. Steele, in frail health, testified at a 2018 HARD board meeting in favor of banning the rodeo's cruel "wild cow milking contest" and the children's "mutton busting" events.

A MODEST PROPOSAL

Rodeo has had its day, and now--like those Confederate statues--belongs in the Dustbin of History. As a lasting tribute to her life and work, HARD's Castro Valley rodeo grounds should be converted into "THE GAIL STEELE FARM ANIMAL SANCTUARY AND HUMANE EDUCATION CENTER FOR BAY AREA CHILDREN." I think Gail would approve. (NOTE: California Education Code 60042 mandates that "humane education and kindness to animals" be taught in the public schools, K-12.)

WRITE: Paul McCreary, Genl. Mgr., and Members of the Board (Paul Hodges, Lou Andrade, Rick Hatcher, Carol Pereira, Minane Jameson), c/o HARD, 1099 "E" Street, Hayward, CA 94541; email - mccp@haywardrec.org.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



New Listings Are Like Shiny Objects

Crows are attracted to shiny objects. Ironically, humans are as well. It is why publishers use glossy paper for magazines, automotive paint has a shiny topcoat and lipstick glistens.

Scientific studies have not only confirmed our attraction to sparkly things but linked that response to our need for water and survival. Viewed from a distance, water ... sparkles.

Motivated by this trait, many of us migrate from one shiny object to the next. Advertisers understand this and endeavor to make advertisements for new products as "shiny" as possible.

If done correctly, people are attracted and begin moving towards the object. Factor in crowd psychology, and, if the object is shiny enough, you get large groups of people migrating en masse to the new "thing."

I believe buyers see a beautiful new listing as the next shiny object and, as a social group,

move towards it. When marketing a home, we talk about the Golden Window – that period when the opportunity to get the highest price and terms for a listing is at its peak (the first 14 days).

It can best be understood by watching buyer behavior: when a home hits the market, it immediately attracts a swarm of new buyers who migrate towards it as a group. The larger this group, the higher the opportunity for the seller to get a quick sale. This is one of the reasons savvy sellers spend time and money getting their homes to look as "glossy" as possible.

While this is great for sellers, it is bad for buyers. If you imagine that a group of 50 homeowner wannabees look at a home and, of that group, 20 decide to write an offer, only one ends up winning.

In a classic example of "survival of the fittest," the strongest buyer succeeds and the remainder turn away, lick the wounds of their disappoint-

ment and then, as a group, head off to the next shiny object, adding a few more new buyers to the group as they go. Lather, rinse, repeat.

The fascinating thing is that as they drive to the next new listing, they pass by less shiny listings that have, for any number of reasons, been sitting on the market a while and subsequently lost their luster. Rather than stop and reconsider these properties, they, blinded by the next shiny object, drive by and miss their best opportunity to actually purchase a home.

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.

HOME of the WEEK

18650 Center St. Castro Valley

Captivating Mid-Century upper CV home featuring timeless architecture!

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1508 sq ft., Double attached garage.

Beautifully remodeled in contemporary textures & colors, this home offers an open floor plan with vaulted-beamed ceilings, good sized rooms and lots of natural light. The chef's kitchen is perfect for gourmet cooking while entertaining your guests. 2 Luxurious modern bathrooms. Refinished hardwood floors, dramatic dual-sided brick fireplace, plus a sunny room for play or office. This home has a wonderful flow and delightful character! Mature, low-maintenance landscaping and scenic view of rolling hills.

Please contact Brian for showing schedule. Listing price \$880,000



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Looking for Answers to Marigold Woes

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

I cannot figure out why some of my marigold plants thrive, and others don't. I've planted different varieties in different containers, in the same location, using the same planting mix and receiving the same care. Can you shed some insight into my problem?

There is no clear-cut answer to this question. If your plants were dying shortly after planting, I'd suspect that the water isn't reaching the main root ball.

In nursery packs, marigolds have a very dense white, fibrous root ball, also typical of pansies, violas, and other annuals. When transplanting them, the exposed roots need to be separated with your fingers, interrupting the circular or rectangular pattern of the root ball.

First, be sure they have been watered before removing them from the tray or pack. When planted from a dry pack, water rolls around and never penetrates the root ball because of the dense

root mass and the loose potting soil. The plants eventually die from the lack of moisture, even though the soil around them is wet.

With plants in one-gallon and larger size containers, the alternative is to slice the root ball with a knife. If your plants were dying shortly after planting, I'd suspect that the water isn't reaching the main root ball.

Water stress problems would show up right away – in the first couple of weeks.

A prolonged growth pattern might indicate that there is a nutrient issue, as the roots are not expanding out into the native soil. This can occur when reusing potting soil without rejuvenating it with some additional organic matter.

Healthy plants require healthy soil, and it takes more than a standard fertilizer. So I'd look to feed or supplement your plants with a fertilizer that contains Mycorrhizae or liquid humus. Mycorrhizae fertilizers supply minor and micronutrients, trace minerals, and beneficial microbes to build a balanced, fertile soil.

Container plants lose nutrients every time you water, so they need to be replaced. In summary, water and nutrients would be the first areas to explore for an answer to your problem.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Pro-

fessional. The Dirt Gardener's website is www.dirtgardener.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)



Mortgage Rates Rise for The First Time in Weeks

Long-term home mortgage rates rose last week for the first time since the end of last month, according to Freddie Mac's nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.01 percent for the week ending July 23, up slightly from 2.98 percent the week before. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.75 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mort-

gages averaged 2.54 percent, up from the previous week when it averaged 2.48 percent. A year ago at this time, the 15-year rate averaged 3.18 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.09 percent, up slightly from the previous week when it averaged 3.06 percent. A year ago at this time, the 5-year ARM averaged 3.47 percent.

Existing-Home Sales Way Up in June

U.S. sales of existing homes rebounded at a record pace last month, showing strong signs of a market turnaround after three straight months of sales declines caused by the ongoing pandemic, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

Each of the country's four major regions achieved month-over-month growth, with the West experiencing the greatest sales recovery.

Total existing-home sales, including single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums jumped 20.7% from May to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 4.72 million in June. Sales overall,

however, dipped year-over-year, down 11.3% from a year ago.

"The sales recovery is strong, as buyers were eager to purchase homes and properties that they had been eyeing during the shutdown," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. "This revitalization looks to be sustainable for many months ahead as long as mortgage rates remain low and job gains continue."

The median existing-home price for all housing types in June was \$295,300, up 3.5% from \$285,400 in June 2019. June's national price increase marks 100 straight months of year-over-year gains.

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RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

4846 Kathleen Avenue 94546: \$705,000 2 BD - 820 SF - 1949
21679 Lake Chabot Rd 94546: \$710,000 2 BD - 848 SF - 1942
3923 Wilson Avenue 94546: \$750,000 4 BD - 1,396 SF - 1946
18587 Stanton Avenue 94546: \$790,000 3 BD - 1,680 SF - 1952
3058 Lynette Street 94546: \$865,000 5 BD - 1,988 SF - 1957
19258 Meadowood Rd 94546: \$900,000 4 BD - 2,248 SF - 1987
4660 Heyer Avenue 94546: \$960,000 3 BD - 1,934 SF - 1977
5576 Crow Canyon Rd 94552: \$1,044,000 4 BD - 1,774 SF - 1953
22839 R. Palomares PI 94552: \$1,162,000 5 BD - 2,560 SF - 1997
TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$705,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$865,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,162,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$876,222

San Leandro

2597 San Leandro Blvd 94578: \$375,000 2 BD - 982 SF - 1980
2456 Bermuda Avenue 94577: \$570,000 3 BD - 1,128 SF - 1961
1661 Renaissance Ln 94578: \$600,000 3 BD - 1,294 SF - 2004
948 Alice Avenue 94577: \$612,000 2 BD - 1,192 SF - 1926
2443 Heathrow Lane 94577: \$639,000 1,723 SF - 1978
1228 Trojan Avenue 94579: \$670,000 3 BD - 1,020 SF - 1950
834 Kenyon Avenue 94577: \$680,000 2 BD - 1,182 SF - 1948
718 Barri Drive 94578: \$746,000 3 BD - 1,591 SF - 1955
15421 Maureen Street 94579: \$750,000 3 BD - 1,441 SF - 1958
2399 Lagoon Court 94579: \$1,055,000 4 BD - 2,778 SF - 1999
TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$375,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$654,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,055,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$669,700

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County Grand Jury's Dire Financial Assessment of Safety Net Hospitals

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The annual Alameda County Civil Grand Jury report has delivered a harsh assessment of looming financial failure at local safety net hospitals that serve East Bay cities and the unincorporated area. Known as the Alameda Health System (AHS), it was established by the county to meet state-mandated health care obligations. It operates five hospitals (John George Psychiatric, Fairmont, Highland, Alameda, and San Leandro) and four wellness centers with over 800 beds and a thousand physicians.

The Grand Jury report spells out a dire financial situation for AHS: As of 2019, the system has a negative net worth (owes more than it owns) of \$300 million and forecasts case deficits of \$123 million for 2020, and \$82 million for 2022 — a total of \$453 million estimated even prior to the pandemic. The report reads "County witnesses testified that AHS's use of a balanced operating budget does not adequately represent the actual financial position of AHS, which contributes to the tensions between county staff and AHS." AHS's income comes from patients and supplemental federal,

state, and county payments including money from Measure A. The Grand Jury said it saw evidence of late or erroneous billing and delayed collection efforts which resulted in lost revenue and high labor costs. Almost 80 percent of AHS's expenses are employee wages and benefits and contracting services. The Grand Jury report states this fiscal arrangement is untenable: "Evidence considered raised the question for the grand jury: Can AHS ever fully repay its debt to the county? Even with transparent and efficient management, an average annual EBIDA Margin of 3 percent to 5 percent does not appear sufficient to pay off AHS's outstanding debt and buffer against any future financial crises. Alameda County and AHS must collaboratively resolve how to pay for AHS's long-term debts with the county."

Have You Taken Census?

Another Census reminder postcard — one of six total mailings since the Census opened March 12 — have arrived in mailboxes. If you've received a notice and haven't responded, you have just a couple of weeks before census takers knock on your door. That operation, called Non-Response Follow Up, employs half a million census takers and begins

Tuesday, Aug. 11. Census takers will not be visiting households that have already responded to the census. The 2020 Census has been extended to October 31, so people still have time to avoid a census taker visit by responding online at: my2020census.gov, or by phone by calling: 844-330-2020, or by mail.

The Grand Jury has now required that the AHS Board of Trustees and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors both respond to the Jury's findings and recommendations within 90 days. You can read the entire report at grandjury.acgov.org/.



These big bags of compost await your pick up from mid-August to mid-September as CVSan holds an alternative compost give-away at Pete's Ace Hardware in Castro Valley.

Compost Give-Away Coming Next Month

Every August, Castro Valley Sanitary District hosts its Recycles Day & Compost Give-Away at Canyon Middle School. The event, scheduled for this Aug. 1, had to be canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. So, CVSan is partnering with Pete's Hardware for an alternate Compost Give-Away event from Aug. 17 through Sept. 19. To participate, register for a

compost coupon from Aug. 3 to 29 by visiting cvsan.org/RecyclesDay. Limit one coupon per household or business. A coupon for two 1.5-cubic-foot bags of Whitney Farms organic compost will be sent in the mail. Coupons are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Note that coupon expiration dates vary based on date of registration.

Redeem your coupon and pick up your compost at Pete's ACE Hardware at 2569 Castro Valley Blvd. by driving to the store's back lot. Stay in your vehicle and redeem your coupon with Pete's staff, who will load bagged compost into your vehicle. Thanks to Pete's for their partnership. For more information, visit cvsan.org/RecyclesDay.

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APPRECIATION MONEY

Hope Hospice Offers Free Webinar on Healthcare Directives

Hope Hospice will present free educational webinars this morning and next Wednesday afternoon on a unique style of advance healthcare directive that's legally accepted in California and 44 states.

Known as the "Five Wishes" document, it is written in easy-to-understand everyday lan-

guage that doesn't require a lawyer to complete.

Like other types of advance directives, Five Wishes helps people communicate choices about the level of life-sustaining medical treatment they want in the event they become incapacitated or when death is near.

The webinars will be held from

10 to 11 a.m. today, July 29, and next Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 4:30-6 p.m. Register for your date of choice at HopeHospice.com/townhall. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with webinar login information.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of our panelists.

Obituaries

Eugenia Elizabeth Szasz

July 8, 1926 ~ July 4, 2020

Eugenia Elizabeth Szasz, best known by family, friends, and colleagues as "Gene" passed away peacefully at home on July 4, 2020. She will be greatly missed by her children Lisa of Castro Valley, California, Paula (Joseph) of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and Eric (Susan) of Newberg, Oregon, 4 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.



Gene was preceded in death by her husband Paul and brother Walter (Jane) Dlugolecki. She grew up on a rural farm near Marlborough, Ohio with her brother and 5 cousins. She often shared wonderful memories of the farm and being part of a big Polish-American family.

Eugenia was a graduate of McKinley High School, Canton, Ohio and Chabot College, Hayward, California. She had 3 vastly different careers over the years. Starting with United Airlines, followed by San Lorenzo School District, and then (best known) as a House Manager for 15 years at the Douglas Morrison Theater in Hayward, California. She was also an active volunteer with the Eden Hospital Auxiliary, Birthright, and Our Lady of Grace Church Ladies Guild.

Due to the world health crisis a Memorial Mass will take place when it is safe to do so. Family and friends will be contacted at a later date.

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 Vadnais at 510-614-1558

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Timothy Edward Graney

July 12, 1949 - July 6, 2020

Tim was born and raised in Oakland, where he attended Bishop O'Dowd High School (Class of '67) and later UC Berkeley (Class of '73). Tim enjoyed playing basketball and was a Warriors season ticket holder for many years. He loved dogs, especially golden retrievers. He enjoyed restoring classic cars - Mustangs and Mercedes-Benz. He loved rhythm & blues music and was a gifted painter of portraits and landscapes.



Tim had a varied career. A long-distance runner, he owned a popular running shoes store in San Francisco's financial district; worked as a stockbroker; and was the national sales manager for a local auto parts company for 15 years.

Tim is survived by his wife of over 30 years, Maggie Pullman Graney, who he met in high school. He had two daughters: Megan Graney and Maureen Graney (Dan) Green, grandson Timmy and stepson Jason Rahlwes. Tim is also survived by three sisters: Michael Graney (Harry) Mulholland; Shawn Graney (Steve) Green; and Colleen Graney (Rick) Palia, nephew Chris and niece Becky. He was preceded in death by his younger brother Patrick, and parents Marion and Evans Graney. Tim is also survived by his brothers-in-law Barrett (Nicole) Pullman, Dave (Lorrie) Pullman; sister-in-law Patty Pullman Schoenstein; and nieces Lisa, Marcie and Sydnee and nephews Dan and Mike.

Donations can be made in Tim's memory to the American Heart Association.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM



Government Funding the Catholic Church

Editor:

The Catholic church is the third largest landowner in the world. They own roughly 177 million acres of property across the globe, not including Vatican City.

The Catholic church as a whole is incredibly wealthy, and yet when our government offered taxpayer-funded COVID-19 loans to small businesses, the Catholic church applied. Under the less-than-500-employees rule they weren't eligible, so church lobbyists went to Congress and begged. It worked. The US Catholic church has so far received (according to the Associated Press) roughly \$1.4 billion of your tax dollars meant for small businesses.

The Treasury Department urged businesses and nonprofits not to apply for these loans if they had access to other funding, and the Catholic Church applied anyway. They do not pay property, estate, or payroll taxes, so they've invested nothing into a system from which they are now benefiting.

Where did all their own money go? In 2019 alone, Catholic dioceses and religious orders were ordered to pay out \$282 million for their 4,500 child molestation victim cases nationwide.

The Oakland Diocese paid out \$56.4 million for the 72 children in 22 parishes who were sexually abused. In 2016, New York's archdiocese reportedly paid out nearly \$60 million to 278 victims.

In 2007 the LA archdiocese paid a record \$660 million to settle sexual abuse claims from more than 500 victims. That same LA archdiocese just received 37 COVID-19 loans worth between \$9 million and \$23 million.

The LA archdiocese also spent \$20,000 to lobby the Senate and House on "eligibility for non-profits" under the CARES Act. A group called Catholic Charities USA spent \$30,000 on lobbyists for COVID-19 relief money.

I don't know, maybe it's just me, but I have a problem with the reality that the same Catholic church demanding taxpayer-provided government funding also gets to legally bypass local government employment laws in the name of "religious freedom."

—Billy Bradford, Castro Valley

Wants Schools Reopened

Editor:

Every single year, tragically, 150-250 children die. Not from coronavirus, but from the everyday influenza. Thousands die in traffic accidents. Yet, as a society we do not close our schools for every influenza outbreak, nor do we forbid children to be passengers in cars. Currently, very few children (far fewer than the average flu season) have died nationwide.

Children do not appear to transmit the disease to the same degree as adults (ranging from next to no transmission in children under 10, to increasing risk through the teens), and they certainly transmit it less than, again, the common influenza that kills thousands of adults every year.

Adult teachers are more at risk of infection going grocery shopping than teaching children. Yet, here we are, forcing millions of children to "watch school" for an indefinite amount of time.

Already at least one full year out of 12 will be mostly lost, and likely 1.5 years, or more than 10% of millions' educations. How many thousands of juniors and seniors will just drop out permanently? How many unsupervised grade schoolers will just watch YouTube videos all day? Re-open the schools, and teach how to evaluate risk.

—David Nierengarten, Castro Valley

Don't Lose Your Test Results Code

I want to thank the Castro Valley Forum for the COVID-19 testing registration information published in the June 17 issue. My husband Duane and I used the telephone number you provided and were able to register for the Covid-19 test. All went well until it was time to get the results of the test. The information was sent to my phone with a special 5 digit code. For some reason, the code to access our test results didn't work. I had already recycled the

Forum issue that listed the phone number of the registration test center. Without the correct code I couldn't access our test results.

After three weeks of trying we decided to go to the test site to talk to a "real live person," alas the test site was closed that day. Duane mentioned that maybe there was a website for the Forum. I googled and got the Forum's website and success! I was able to access the June 17th article on the Covid-19 testing information and recovered the telephone number. With this number 1-888-634-1123 I got a live person who was very helpful. Now don't do what I did and lose the number. Good luck!

—Virginia Degner, Castro Valley

The Violence in Portland

Editor:

I read with deep concern about the violence perpetrated by several federal law enforcement agencies against peaceful protesters in Portland that resulted in the seizing and detaining without probable cause protesters on Thursday and the shooting of Donovan La Bella, critically injuring him.

I read with hope that Oregon's Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum is filing suit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Protection Service.

I want to strongly recommend that we urge all governors and attorneys general of other states to join in that suit. Here in California, I appeal to Gov. Newsom and Attorney-General Becerra. At a time when so many of us joined together to protest the horrific violence perpetrated by racist police against people-of-color, I find myself outraged and terrified that there hasn't yet been a national outcry when our federal "law enforcement" agencies have unlawfully escalated the violence against protesters.

We can't let Portland or the state of Oregon stand alone now. I am most concerned about the use of these federal forces against our citizens during the national elections.

These are moral national issues, and we can't let the federal government forces divide and conquer us, picking off one city at a time. As Rosenblum said, "If this can happen in Portland, it can happen anywhere."

—Rita Sklar, Castro Valley

Our Brave Librarians

Editor:

I wanted to acknowledge our Library's "Castro Valley Reads," which just completed a third year.

Dawn Balestrei and Chris Selig have chosen wonderful books to explore as a community for three years, starting in 2018 with environmental issues in "Lab Girl," then immigration in "A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka: A Memoir."

This year's "Bluebird Bluebird," is the first work of fiction that we tackled as a community. Attica Locke's mystery deals with many things including race, racism, investigation, and policing in an East Texas community along Rt. 59. This year's book, chosen prior to both Covid-19 and the George Floyd tragedy, helps us think deeply about these issues and ourselves in America today.

I think it was very brave of these two women to offer up this community wide look at important topics for those who wish to delve into them together.

Attica was hosted by Chris and Dawn via zoom on Thursday evening, July 23, and answered questions from our previously held small video book discussion groups.

She was honest and informative as well as entertaining sharing her influences growing up in East Texas, writing for TV, and imagining these characters who touched us in ways that made us think deeply and reckon with these topics regardless of the part of the country we come from or end up in.

I am very grateful that we have a forward thinking staff at our library.

—Lois M. Ingellis, 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. Email to: fredz@ebpublishing.com, or mail to: The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.



PHOTO BY CATHY BRESLOW

Plethos Productions' performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" was filmed at Twining Vine Winery in Castro Valley.

Shakespeare... With A Reality-TV Twist

CASTRO VALLEY'S PLETHOS Productions will present Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy "Much Ado About Nothing" – à la reality TV show, by live streaming next month.

This hilarious show has been given a modern makeover by Plethos incorporating the drama of "Real Housewives," the makeups, breakups and hookups of "The Bachelor," and the scheming of "Survivor" all in the beloved original iambic pentameter The Bard is known for.

"Much Ado" is a lighthearted show about the forever-bachelor Benedick and the only woman he's found who matches (or beats) his wit – the forever-bachelorette

Beatrice.

When their friends decide to play cupid and set the two up, Shakespearean mayhem results, complete with backstabbing, multiple weddings, wine in the face, and insults like only Shakespeare can craft.

This performance had been scheduled at Twining Vine Winery in Castro Valley, but instead was filmed at the vineyard to be hosted live online as a high quality recorded version of the show.

An interactive Q&A session with the cast and crew will follow each presentation. Shows will stream Friday-Sunday August 14-23. Early Bird tickets are \$10 at plethos.org.

Library: Has No-Contact Book Service

continued from page 3

this summer? The library is also now offering a No-Contact Pick-up service. Simply place the items you'd like on hold, either through the library's website or by calling the library. When your items are ready, the library will contact you to schedule a no-contact appointment to pick up your items.

Appointments are available Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you're not sure what books you'd like to request, visit the library's website to submit a Book Match request. Answer a few short questions about your reading interests, and a librarian will recommend books for you to request.

If you have items checked out from the library that you're ready to return, the library is now offering a limited returns service. The Castro Valley Library will open their book drop on Sundays and Mondays, though the book drop may close early if the return bins become full.

There may be a delay of up to 10 days before returned items are checked in, allowing library staff to quarantine returned items until it is safe to handle them.

Although the library does not currently have a date for the full reopening of its buildings, library services including eBooks, eCards, and other online resources continue to be available on the library's website, and library staff is onsite.

If you have any questions, contact the library Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. by calling 510-667-7900.

The Castro Valley Library is a branch of the Alameda County Library system. The Library is located at 3600 Norbridge Avenue and is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, call the Library at 510-667-7900, or see Events at www.aclibrary.org/branches/csv.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Cameron Faris

This week's Athlete of the Week is Cameron Faris, a Senior at Castro Valley High School who plays on the Varsity Baseball team. Cameron will be playing Division I baseball for the University of San Francisco Dons next year thanks to a very generous athletic/academic scholarship. The right-handed shortstop has been playing in Castro Valley Little League ball since he was 5. Cameron currently plays for the Headfirst Baseball Academy on their Bercovich 24 team.

CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs
www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org

Parks: Don't Forget to Bring Face Mask

continued from page 4

appropriate social-distancing protocols in place.

For more about the zoo's reopening plans, go to www.oaklandzoo.org.

Federal Funding

Congress has just approved the Great American Outdoors Act, which mandates permanent funding of \$900 million annually for the national Land and Water Conservation Fund. The bill now goes to President Trump, who has said he will sign it.

The Fund receives its money from royalties paid by energy companies drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. Over the past 50 years, the program has provided more than \$16 million in funding for the East Bay Regional Park District.

In general, funds are used to expand public lands, safeguard natural areas and protect cultural heritage sites nationwide and

have had the support of the East Bay's entire Congressional delegation.

Virtual Nature Programs

The park district's virtual nature programs continue, with all kinds of information and activities on video at www.ebparks.org.

From art to zoology, you can view it all by clicking on "Digital Learning" when it appears on the serial slide show, or by clicking on the "Digital Learning" display

near the bottom of the home page.

And when you are actually out in the parks, please don't forget to bring along a face mask to wear when social distancing is difficult on narrow trails. The more we make a habit of mask wearing, the safer we will be and the sooner we'll all get through the pandemic. Thanks to everyone for cooperating.

Ned MacKay is a writer for the East Bay Regional Park District.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Don't gnash those pearly whites because you might have to delay your plans. This could give the Lucky Lamb a better perspective of what's been done, and what still needs doing.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Scoring financial bull's-eyes is easy for the focused Bovine who knows the ins and outs of the marketplace. But even with your success record, caution is still the watchword.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Watch that tendency to over-romanticize a situation that should be given closer scrutiny. Better to be suspicious now and ask for an explanation, rather than face a sad surprise later.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Bruised self-confidence can make things difficult unless you accept the fact that you have what it takes. Ignore the critics and concentrate on believing in yourself. Good luck.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Congratulations on what you've accomplished. But this is no time to curl up for some serious catnapping. Your rivals are probably already working on plans to overtake your lead.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Your adventurous side wants to play a more dominant role this week, and you might want to oblige. Try to arrange for some getaway time with that special person.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Taking logical approaches to pesky workplace issues can help resolve even long-standing problems. A shift in policy might catch you by surprise. Be alert to signs of change.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your kindness and compassion are exactly what are needed in dealing with an awkward situation in the early part of the week. Share the weekend fun with family.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Keeping your focus straight and true is a good way of getting your points across. Save any variations for a later time. The musical arts are important this weekend.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Reject advice to cut corners in reaching your goal. Better to take a little more time to do the job as you promised. You'll gain new respect for your honesty and integrity.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Don't allow a troublesome situation to grow so big that it will be increasingly difficult to deal with. The sooner you speak up, the sooner everyone will be able to benefit.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Confronting someone who is making a lot of mistakes could be the kindest thing you can do both for that person and for anyone who could be adversely affected by the errors.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of Division 5, Part 3, Chapter 6, Article 4, Section 5473 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California, the Sanitary Board of Castro Valley Sanitary District has by Ordinance elected to collect its charges for sewerage services on the tax roll and has caused to be filed with its Secretary a written report containing a description of each parcel of real property receiving sanitary sewage service from said District and the amount of the charges for each such parcel.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on Tuesday, the 4th day of August 2020, at the hour of 6:30 P.M., via teleconference only, said Board will hear and consider all protests and objections to said report.

By order of the Board of the Castro Valley Sanitary District.

Dated: July 14, 2020

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager
Castro Valley Sanitary District

FILED
JUNE 23, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 570907

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Glamour Threading located at 20662 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tara Gaga LLC, 20662 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. This business commenced N/A. /s/ Tara Gaga LLC

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

Expires JUNE 23, 2025

JULY 08, 15, 22, 29, 2020
272-CVF

FILED
JUNE 24, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 570980

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Country Woods Stables located at 5833 Blue Bird Ct., Castro Valley, CA 94552, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Courtney Orzen and (2) Chris Orzen, 5833 Blue Bird Ct., Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a married couple. This business commenced 6/1/2020.

/s/ Courtney Orzen, Chris Orzen
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.

Expires JUNE 24, 2025

JULY 22, 29, AUG 05, 12, 2020
274-CVF

COVID-19: Sheriff's Office Reports Deaths

continued from front page

tested, according to Balram who said the number of reported cases may not reflect the full scope of infections.

"With the testing resources available to us right now, we're focused on the goal of testing every symptomatic person in Alameda County, prioritizing those individuals in high-risk settings in alignment with state testing guidance," Balram said.

Sheriff's Office Reports COVID-19 Deaths

Two Alameda County Sheriff's Office employees are among the latest victims of the pandemic. Last Thursday, 57-year-old Senior Deputy Oscar Rocha died from COVID-related complications at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek. A day later, 61-year-old technician Valerie Leon died while being treated for COVID-19 complications at Kaiser Hospital in

Modesto.

"Valerie was just a wonderful and loving person with a bright smile. She loved her job, community, family, and friends. We are truly heartbroken at her passing," said Sheriff Greg Ahern.

Valerie Leon's granddaughter Isabelle, who lives in Castro Valley, has set up a community fund to help with funeral expenses at gofundme.com/f/valerie-leon-funeral.

Got a Mask?

While scientific evidence suggests that wearing a mask helps prevent the spread of COVID-19, less than 41% of Americans wear one when they leave the home, according to an ongoing survey.

Premise Data has been collecting data for its Coronavirus Global Impact survey since the beginning of April. Out of the more than 43,500 responses from people based in the U.S., more than 22% of respondents say they never wear a mask when leaving the house.

When asked why, 30.5% of those respondents said they didn't believe face masks are effective in preventing the spread of the virus.



Senior Lunches

Take-away low-cost lunches are available curbside for seniors 60 and over at United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St. in Castro Valley on Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 12:30 p.m. for a donation of \$3.75 per meal. Registered for the program at www.SpectrumCS.org. Please call 3 business days in advance to 510-881-6768 and leave a message with your name, phone number, the day(s) you want to reserve a meal and the location.

HARD is stopping meal distribution at the Hayward Senior Center on Friday, July 31st and will be starting it at Aitken Senior Center in Castro Valley on Monday, Aug. 3. Service is uninterrupted at the San Leandro Senior Community Center and Castro Valley United Methodist Church.

What's Up this Week at Smalltown Society

● **Friday, July 31:** "The Fight" premieres at The Chabot's Virtual Theater. At this defining moment in American history, "The Fight" follows a team of ACLU lawyers in an electrifying battle for human rights and integrity. This film won the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Social Impact Filmmaking at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, and is now premiering online at The Chabot's Virtual Theater! Proceeds of each viewing support both The Chabot, and the artists behind the film.

● **Saturday, August 1st:** The Chabot is hosting its weekly Live Riff-along where you get the opportunity to watch a free movie, and also make fun of it in the comments! This week's film is the 1968 gothic horror film, "The Blood Beast Terror" so head to thechabot.com or to The Chabot's Facebook page this Saturday at 8 p.m. to join in on the fun!

● **Sunday, August 2nd:** Quarantine Sundays with Safiyah Hernandez: Join Smalltown Society

artist Safiyah Hernandez for her newest installment of Quarantine Sundays LIVE from her Instagram and Facebook account. Free at 2 p.m. IG: [@safiyahhernandez/](https://www.instagram.com/safiyahhernandez/) FB: [@SafiyahHernandezMusic](https://www.facebook.com/SafiyahHernandezMusic)

Support The Chabot Theater: Online Gift Cards and Merch available at TheChabot.com. Donations to The Chabot can be made via PayPal/Venmo: [@thechabot](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?username=thechabot). Donations to Smalltown Society can be made via PayPal/Venmo: [@smalltownsociety](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?username=smalltownsociety)

HOMEOWNERS:

**NEED TO REPLACE
THAT LEAKY PRIVATE
SEWER LATERAL?**

**Grants up to
\$2,000 available**

LATERAL REPLACEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) is pleased to announce the continuance of the Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP) for the 2020/21 Fiscal Year. \$50,000 in total funding has been approved and the program is scheduled to start **Monday, August 17, 2020** at 7:30 a.m. Financial assistance is available for replacement of more than 50% of the lateral, up to 50% of the total cost of the lowest bid, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per private sewer lateral (lateral) (subject to availability of funds).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Condition Ratings

Laterals are to be video inspected by the property owner's contractor and witnessed by CVSan. CVSan will evaluate the condition of the lateral and assign a condition rating. Only those laterals with a rating above a certain designation will be eligible for the grant.

Qualified Contractors

CVSan will make a list of qualified contractors available to the public. Only those qualified will be allowed to work on LRGP projects. Qualified contractors are properly licensed to replace laterals, have no outstanding matters with CVSan, and have not presented misleading or confusing print media to the community about the program.

For information, please contact Castro Valley Sanitary District
21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 537-0757 ext. 109 | www.cvsan.org/grants



NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Castro Valley Sanitary District in their office located at 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546-6098, at any time prior to 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and services for the construction of improvements designated as:

AERIAL PIPELINE AND PUMP STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT, CVSan PROJECT NO. 94 (2019-01)

Bids will be publicly opened, examined, and declared on said day and hour, and will be referred to the CVSan Board of Directors for subsequent action.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2020 through virtual video conference. Please contact CVSan at 510-537-0757 ext. 109 for virtual video conference details.

All of said work is to be done in accordance with the Contract Documents, at the places and in the particular locations, of the form, sizes and dimensions and of the materials, and to the lines and grades and at the elevations as shown on the Plans and Specifications made and approved by CVSan.

Physical copies of the Contract Documents will be available by mail from the Castro Valley Sanitary District, 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546 where they may be obtained for a non-refundable \$85.00 charge. Contract Documents mailing charges will be waived for this project.

Each Bid must conform and be responsive to the invitation, the Plans and Specifications, and all documents comprising the pertinent Contract Documents. Each Bid shall be presented under sealed cover and shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, cash or bidder's bond, made payable to CVSan, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid. The said check shall be given as a guarantee that the Bidder will execute the Contract in conformity with the form of agreement contained within the Contract Documents and will furnish bonds and insurance policies as specified within five days after notification of the award of the Contract to the successful Bidder.

CVSan reserves the sole right to reject any and all Bids and to waive any informality in a Bid.

No Bidder may withdraw its bid for a period of 60 days after the date set for the opening thereof.

At the successful Contractor's option, securities may be substituted for the required retention, in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the State of California Public Contract Code.