

COLD DRINKS  
FOR HOT DAYS

Let's Toast TO That



4

# CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 32

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

NO. 37

## INSIDE YOUR FORUM

### NEWS



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Rotary Club sponsoring an informational fire prevention webinar  
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PHONE: (510) 614-1560



EBMUD PHOTO

What looks like some gigantic interstellar space probe is actually the new Carisbrook Reservoir in Oakland, one of 20 infrastructure projects completed so far this year by East Bay Municipal Utility District at a total cost of \$49 million. The one million gallon pre-stressed concrete reservoir and new pumping plant has the capacity of pumping more than a million gallons of water a day and includes solar panels on the roof that can generate 30-kilowatts of electricity. EBMUD projects in Castro Valley included installation of new pipe lines and the rehabilitation of a water storage tank along with safety, electrical and mechanical enhancements.

### COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Deadline Looms For Decision on In-Person Learning

By Michael Singer  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Schools in Alameda County have until noon this Friday, Sept. 11, to let County officials know if they want to bring some students back into the classroom.

On Sept. 2, the Alameda County Office of Education and Alameda County Public Health Department issued statements on elementary school waivers. The applications for in-person instruction apply only to students in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through Grade 6 and only if the school district meets a stringent, multi-step process.

The waivers apply to any school operating in Alameda County whether they are public, private, faith-based, special needs, or charter schools.

Permission to reopen these classrooms is also dependent on how well Alameda County as a whole combats the spread of COVID-19. Alameda County is in the Purple Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which indicates widespread COVID-19 in our area.

"Schools may not open for in-person learning until disease conditions improve and we move into the next tier (Red) for 14 days," the Public Health Depart-

ment said in a statement. "While we are in the Purple Tier, the County may accept waivers to allow in-person learning for elementary schools (grades TK-6 only)."

Public Health lists 13 different requirements for any school wishing to file a waiver and reopen. The school must identify its plans for managing student entrances and movement about the school, how it would administer health screenings for students and staff, how it would identify and trace contacts, and what factors would trigger a classroom shutdown with a return to distance learning.

Some school districts say they are carefully reviewing the requirements with their teachers, staff, labor partners, and leadership teams.

see LOOMS on page 5

Castro Valley  
Confirmed Cases = 486

Alameda County  
Confirmed Cases = 19,350  
Deaths = 300

California  
Confirmed Cases = 740,400  
Deaths = 13,763

as of September 8, 2020



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUSS DRAKE

Ken Drake (center, seated) with son, Russ and granddaughter Angela Macedo. In the back row from left, Doug Daley, granddaughter Trish Daley, great-grandson Drake Daley (in the "0"), daughter-in-law Hilary Drake, great-granddaughter Stella Macedo, and Scott Macedo.

## Happy 102nd, Kenneth Drake!

By Linda Sandmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

WW II Veteran and Castro Valley resident Kenneth Drake celebrated his 102nd birthday this past

weekend with a socially distanced party at home with close family members.

Asked what he thought of the get-together, he looked at the date on his cake and said, "One hun-

dred and two years old! I guess I am getting old."

Drake was born in Oakdale, Nebraska, on Sept. 6, 1918. He grew up there with his brother, Russel  
see DRAKE on page 5

## Heat Wave Subsides, Fires Rage On

A record three-day heatwave that sent temperatures soaring above 100 degrees in Castro Valley — and past 120 in some parts of the state — began to diminish yesterday. By the weekend, local temperatures are predicted to decrease to the upper 70s.

The heat put a strain on the state's electrical grid causing some blackouts. Power was expected to be shut off in some northern counties later this week because of dangerous wind conditions.

More than two dozen wildfires are burning in California, some still out of control. By yesterday

afternoon, more than 2.3 million acres had been blackened, 3,400 structures destroyed and eight people killed. Hundreds of others had to undergo emergency evacuations.

At a briefing yesterday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said some 14,000 firefighters, many from out of state, were battling the historic blazes in what he called "challenging times" for the state.

Though none of the fires were in the immediate East Bay area, brown unhealthy smoke blotted out the sun at times casting an orange haze over the region.



## Castro Valley Weather Sep 9 - 13, 2020



Wednesday  
Sunny & Smoky  
High 86° Low 58°



Thursday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 80° Low 59°



Friday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 77° Low 58°



Saturday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 78° Low 56°



Sunday  
Sunny  
High 77° Low 58°

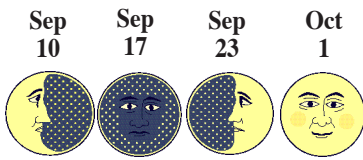
## Almanac



Sun sets at 7:26 p.m. today, rises at 6:47 a.m. Thursday.

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

## Moon Phases



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ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPT. PHOTO

**TO HELP FIGHT WILDFIRES** and other off-road locations, this new truck has been added to the array of Alameda County firefighting equipment. The Ford F560 crew cab Skeeter is housed at Station 6 on Crow Canyon Road. It can "pump and roll" 400 gallons of water and has a foam pro system. It's secondary to the main engine, which carries more hose and water. The new truck is good for 4-wheel driving and remote access, according to Fire Dept. spokesman Brian Centoni.

## Webinar Tomorrow on Fire Prevention

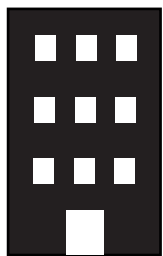
The Rotary Club of Castro Valley is sponsoring an informational presentation with the Alameda County Fire Department at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 10, via Zoom. "Fires are serious business,"

said John McPartland, retired Oakland Fire Dept. battalion chief and Rotary member. "Get prepared and stay prepared." Speakers from the County Fire Dept. will provide information on

making your house as fireproof as possible and on how to prepare for an evacuation. Use this Zoom link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2813700652> and invite family and friends to take part.

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## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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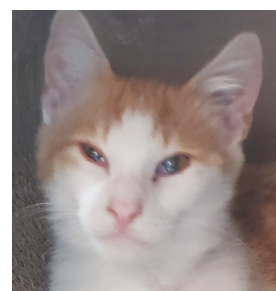
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**BRIAN** is a dapper, 5 month old kitten with beautiful green eyes. He's super sweet, playful and loves to snuggle. Brian is neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and negative for FIV/FELV. Email [Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com](mailto:Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com).





PHOTO COURTESY OF REDWOOD CHAPEL

**NIGHT OF HONOR:** Former police officer Dennis Glover, center, with a group of Alameda County Sheriff's officers. Glover organized the volunteer delivery of catered meals for the 21st Annual Night of Honor, hosted by Redwood Chapel in Castro Valley.

## NIGHT OF HONOR

# First Responders Honored Virtually at Annual Event

For its 21st year, Redwood Chapel in Castro Valley celebrated its Annual Night of Honor last week, but in a decidedly different fashion because of the pandemic.

This year, on Aug. 31, instead of the usual big outdoor sit-down dinner in the church parking lot to thank the area's first responders, church volunteers took catered lunches or dinners to the California Highway Patrol office, the Alameda County Sheriff's Eden

Township Station, and four Alameda County Fire Stations, according to Redwood's Executive Pastor Eric Junginger.

Each dinner included a thank-you note from Redwood Chapel. The event was organized by former San Leandro Police Officer Dennis Glover.

There were plenty of responses in return.

"The meals went quick!" said one CHP officer. "Even though we

cannot share a meal together at the Night of Honor event, our hearts are warmed with the love and thoughtfulness displayed by Redwood Chapel and the members of your congregation.

"We have not had visitors inside the office for a long time, so it really made our day. Thank you for the meals and more importantly, the support. We are proud to serve this community, and appreciate every person in it."

## Warriors Facility to be Opened for Voting

The Golden State Warriors have teamed up with Alameda County to provide a safe and accessible voting location at the Warriors' Facility at 1011 Broadway in downtown Oakland.

Hours for the Warriors' polling site and ballot drop-off will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 through Monday, Nov. 2, and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day,

Tuesday, Nov. 3. The facility will be staffed by Alameda County election workers. Social distancing measures will be in place and County health guidelines followed.

Applications are still being accepted to serve as an election worker. Those interested can apply at [www.acvote.org/community/become-a-poll-worker](http://www.acvote.org/community/become-a-poll-worker). Learn more by calling 510-272-6971.



## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

### Busted for Drugs

Thursday, September 3: at 9:36 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 33-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and associated drug paraphernalia. The man was traveling on Castro Valley Boulevard near Strobbridge Avenue when deputies stopped him for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

violation. During questioning, deputies reported the man was in possession of a pipe used for smoking drugs. The man was taken into custody.

### Caught Destroying Evidence

Tuesday, September 1: at 10:03 p.m., a 48-year-old man from

Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of attempting to destroy evidence being used in a trial court and possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies responded to a silent alarm at a storage facility on Grove Way near Idena Avenue. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

### Attempted Murder

Wednesday, September 2: at 11:50 p.m., a 23-year-old CV man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, physically harming another person, and destroying evidence for a trial. Deputies were dispatched to a meeting hall on Rutledge Road near the Boulevard after reports of an altercation in the parking lot. The man was identified as trying to kill another person following an argument. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him to Santa Rita Jail. The victim was treated for serious wounds and taken to the hospital.

### Domestic Violence

Wednesday, September 2: at 2:01 p.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to an apartment on Center Street near Grove Way. There, they arrested a 34-year-old woman on suspicion of assault on a family member. Deputies handcuffed and took the woman into custody.

### Traffic Stop Ends in Arrest

Tuesday, September 1: at 4:10 p.m., deputies pulled over and arrested a 43-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. The man had been driving along Eden Canyon Road near the Interstate 580 freeway when deputies pulled him over for a traffic



This year, the San Leandro Dahlia Society is exhibiting more than 300 online photos in a virtual show, taken in the gardens of some two dozen growers. The public is invited to vote for their favorite in each category at [sld-stuber-plants.sg-creations.com/](http://sld-stuber-plants.sg-creations.com/). Voting opens today, Sept. 9, and continues until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12.

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|-------|-------------------------------------|
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| 10/15 | Legal and Financial Issues          |
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## Cold Drinks for Hot Summer Days

### CLASSIC LEMONADE

1-1/2 cups freshly squeezed lemon juice (from about 12 lemons)  
1/2 cup sugar  
6 cups water  
Lemon slices (to garnish)  
Ice

In a large pitcher combine the lemon juice, sugar, and 1 cup water. Stir until the sugar dissolves, then add 5 more cups water, a few slices of lemon to garnish, and plenty of ice. Serves 8.

### RASPBERRY FIZZ

1/2 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons lime juice  
2 cups cranberry juice  
3 cups club soda  
1 cup ginger ale  
1 pint raspberry sorbet

In a small saucepan over high heat, combine the sugar and 1/2 cup of water. Bring to a boil and cook until slightly thickened, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and add the lime juice. Let



the lime syrup cool to room temperature.

In a pitcher, combine 1/2 cup of lime syrup with the cranberry juice, seltzer, and ginger ale. Pour into glasses and top with scoops of raspberry sorbet. Serves 6.

### ICED LEMON-GINGER TEA

4-inch piece fresh ginger  
6 cups water  
1/2 cup honey  
1/2 cup sugar

Zest of 2 lemons  
1 cup fresh lemon juice  
Lemon slices for garnish

Peel ginger and cut crosswise into thin slices. Combine the ginger, water, honey, sugar and zest in a medium saucepan; boil until

sugar dissolves. Remove pan from heat and steep tea, covered, for 45 minutes. Uncover tea and cool completely.

Remove ginger and lemon zest with a slotted spoon and discard. Pour tea into a pitcher and add lemon juice.

Chill tea, covered until cold.

Serve over ice cubes in tall glasses and garnish with lemon slices if desired. Yields about 7 cups.

### FRUIT & MINT TEA PUNCH

5 cups boiling water  
8 tea bags  
1-1/2 cups sugar (or to taste)  
2-1/2 cups orange juice  
1 cup fresh lemon juice  
1 bunch fresh mint, leaves only  
1 orange, sliced  
1 lemon, sliced

Pour boiling water over the tea bags. Cover and steep for 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and pour tea into a large pitcher. Add the orange and lemon juices and mint. Chill. When cold, add the sliced orange and lemon.

Serve over ice. Yields about 10 cups.

## El Rancho Steak House Closes

After more than 30 years of serving steaks and Latin-influenced cuisine in the Bay area, El Rancho Steakhouse on Castro Valley Boulevard has become the latest business to succumb to the coronavirus economy.

Owner Alex Hawari announced in late August that the family-run business would be closing. Unable to seat people for indoor dining since March, the company had tried staying afloat with pickup and delivery service.

Originally launched in the late 1980s in San Jose and later in Hayward, Hawari moved the restaurant to Castro Valley around 2001. In a message, the company thanked everyone for "being part of our family and for your support for all these wonderful years."

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL SINGER

## Teamsters Picket Eden Med

About two dozen employees of Eden Medical Center staged an informational picket line outside the hospital last Thursday. Respiratory therapists, medical technicians, MRI technologists, and other employees represented by Teamsters 856 say some 150 frontline workers at the Castro Valley hospital have not had a new contract since March. They are the only unionized group at the hospital that hasn't reached a settlement.

## Looms: Plan

*continued from front page*

"At this time, we are very grateful to have had a strong start to the first three weeks of school and continuing to support our community in distance learning," San Leandro Unified School District spokesperson Keziah Moss said.

Once a school or school district initiates its interest in resuming in-person instruction, the reopening plan must be posted on the school or district's website. It must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate boards, teacher associations, and community leadership.

The plans must then be submitted to the California State Department of Education for final review. After all criteria are met, the school may then open after 30 days.

Despite the push for a return to some normalcy with teachers and students in the same classrooms, some parents are skeptical of any reopening plan.

"With no fundamental shift in our capacity for testing and tracing, I think any move to re-introduce our kids to on campus instruction is extremely unsafe," said Bill Taroli of Castro Valley who has a 2nd Grader. "We needn't look any farther than the outbreaks on every campus that has reopened recently."



## Drake: Celebrates 102nd

*continued from front page*  
and sister Jean.

In 1936, when he graduated from high school, the infamous "dust bowl" was raging across the middle states. His parents abandoned their farm because they couldn't sell it, and relocated to California, driving across the country with all their worldly goods in a 1925 Chevy, "Grapes of Wrath" style, with the boys perched on the rumble seats.

Drake enlisted in the Army in

1941 and was stationed at bases around the world. He was honorably discharged as an E-5 Sergeant in 1945.

The next year he built a house on Almond Road in Castro Valley, raised his family, and worked for over 30 years as a civilian carpenter at Alameda Naval Air Station.

After living in active senior communities post-retirement, Mr. Drake recently moved back to Castro Valley, to the Almond Road Senior Estates.

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## Top Ten COVID-19 Issues Currently Affecting Real Estate

The Counselors of Real Estate (CRE) just released an outstanding summary of the major issues currently affecting real estate in this new reality.\* This is a brief summary.

**COVID-19.** Real estate practices as we have experienced them have been turned upside down. Previously accepted norms are being questioned and the future of many (open houses) are questionable.

With many sheltering-in-place and moving their workplace to their homes, the types and locations of desirable housing will be changing. Additionally, expect massive changes in the commercial real estate arena.

**Economic Renewal.** While the stock and real estate markets are currently ramping upward, the fact that our nation is in a recession will produce a tipping point that may usher us into downward markets for the foreseeable future. The longer pandemic restrictions are in place, the more severe will be the recovery.

**Capital Market Risk.** The first thing hit when the pandemic arrived was the stock market. While recent returns have elevated the market back to pre-Covid levels, long-term uncertainty concerning pandemic-induced cultural and business changes will have a

profound impact.

**Public & Private Indebtedness.** In an effort to hold businesses together, the feds instituted sweeping financial bailouts that have increased our national debt to unprecedented heights. Individual debt is also up as many have been using credit to hold things together during the crisis.

**Affordable Housing.** While we all agree that the extreme lack of housing is a primary concern, there is also a strong undercurrent of "not in my back yard" making potential solutions difficult.

**Flow of People:** Immigration has been halted and people are fleeing urban centers as the pandemic deepens. This will ultimately result in significant demographic shifts across the country.

**Space Utilization.** Health in the workplace is an emerging issue that will shape the face of commercial real estate going forward. Many amenities such as restaurants and theaters may never look the same again.

**Technology & Workflow.** Technology that enhances security and "touchless" operation of commonly shared devices will begin to emerge as mandatory.

**Infrastructure.** With much of our infrastructure moving from brick-and-mortar to online entities, we will see massive

infrastructure changes in the near future.

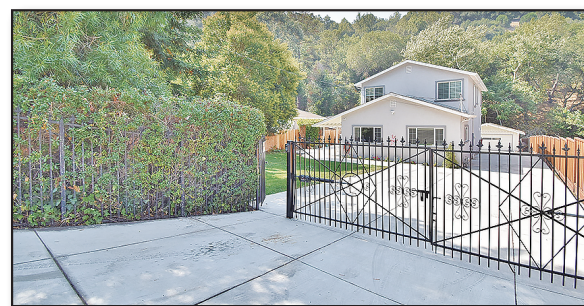
**ESG.** Environmental, Social and Governance criteria has become a critical component in real estate investing. Issues like climate control will be affecting real estate at all levels going forward.

We recommend reading the entire article at <https://www.cre.org/external-affairs/2020-21-top-ten-issues-affecting-real-estate/>

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

Amazing remodel & newly added second story addition, make this 2,465 sq ft, 4 bedroom 4 bath w/office, a perfect family home. Nestled on a .30 acre gated lot, this home is set down off the street w/plenty of off street parking, long side access to 2 car garage & room for RV's, boats & multiple cars. This home has a great room concept w/ open kitchen, living room w/gas fireplace & dining area all in one. Also on the main level are 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, laundry room, large pantry & slider to the 1,200 sq ft, 2 tier Trex decks, level area w/artificial grass & front yard w/patio & large lawn area. Upstairs you will find a beautiful master suite w/French doors to deck w/wooded views & stairs to yard, large walk-in closet, master bath w/walk in shower, Jacuzzi tub & white onyx accents. Additional bedroom w/full bath & an office. Extra features added in 2017 include new sewer line, Presidential roof, tankless water heater, furnace, air, ducting, carpet, 200 amp electrical & more!



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

## Raccoons Devastate Lawn

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Forum

Last fall, we had a problem with raccoons as they tore up the lawn to feast on the grubs. I want to discourage the raccoons early on this year. Is there an easy way to tell if the lawn grubs have returned?

Grubs are immature beetles found in the ground. As they mature, they begin to feed on the grassroots, killing lawn patches in the process. The damage is visible from late summer through the fall. The damage starts typically

next to cement or a hot concrete edge and quickly spreads outwards toward the lawn's center. The dead grass easily peels off the soil surface, exposing the grubs.

Grubs can still be present in undamaged grass that's why the raccoons return.

There is a simple test for the presence of grubs using detergent and water. With stakes and string, mark off two by two-foot squares. Mix two tablespoons of liquid soap or detergent in a bucket of water and evenly pour the solution over the areas. I'd set up several test sites. The sites can be any area where the turf has turn brown and a

normal area.

Keep a close eye on the surface for the next 10 to 15 minutes. The detergent agitates the grubs forcing them to the soil surface. Typically, more than five grub per quarter-square foot warrants treatment.

The organic solution for grubs is to apply Beneficial Nematodes. Beneficial Nematodes kill all the soil insects except earthworms. They're applied with a tank sprayer. Beneficial Nematodes done early on will rid the area of all the soil insects and force the raccoons to look elsewhere for a food source.

Another solution is Bayer

Season Long Grub

Control. It can be applied as early as May or June and provides grub control over an extended period. These products do not provide immediate results, as they take seven to ten days or longer to be effective. Unfortunately, the raccoons continue to be destructive, so be proactive and start your controls early.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com) and questions can be sent by email to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com)



## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

4742 James Avenue	94546: \$400,000 2 BD - 944 SF - 1948
2878 Theresa Court	94546: \$605,000 3 BD - 1,240 SF - 1979
23278 Canyon Terrace Dr	94552: \$720,000 2 BD - 1,213 SF - 1997
21889 Hoffman Way	94546: \$725,000 3 BD - 1,267 SF - 1959
2549 Grove Way	94546: \$760,000 3 BD - 1,639 SF - 1957
22467 Queen Street	94546: \$861,000 4 BD - 1,670 SF - 1942
5738 Shadow Ridge Dr	94552: \$865,000 4 BD - 1,891 SF - 1973
21168 Greenwood Cir	94552: \$880,000 3 BD - 1,561 SF - 1990
2537 Nordell Avenue	94546: \$900,000 3 BD - 1,534 SF - 1953
2410 San Carlos Ave	94546: \$950,000 4 BD - 1,766 SF - 1952
7287 Longmont Loop	94552: \$1,000,000 4 BD - 2,251 SF - 2000
3322 Arcadian Drive	94546: \$1,025,000 3 BD - 1,626 SF - 1956
2449 Riffel Court	94546: \$1,150,000 3 BD - 2,392 SF - 1959
25169 Valley Oak Dr	94552: \$1,250,000 5 BD - 2,357 SF - 1996
17429 Almond Road	94546: \$1,307,000 3,127 SF - 1964
5787 Highwood Road	94552: \$1,310,000 5 BD - 1,932 SF - 1962
TOTAL SALES:	16
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$400,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$890,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,310,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$919,250

### San Leandro

14215 Seagate Drive	94577: \$655,000 3 BD - 1,596 SF - 1987
1636 Renaissance Ln	94578: \$685,000 3 BD - 1,294 SF - 2004
16526 Page Street	94578: \$685,000 2 BD - 1,000 SF - 1958
1580 150th Avenue	94578: \$690,000 4 BD - 1,330 SF - 1939
528 Pershing Drive	94577: \$711,500 2 BD - 1,031 SF - 1938
14271 Acapulco Road	94577: \$729,000 4 BD - 1,386 SF - 1962
1399 Sayre Street	94579: \$740,000 3 BD - 1,125 SF - 1957
15361 Laverne Drive	94579: \$781,000 3 BD - 1,169 SF - 1957
13939 Tahiti Road	94577: \$785,000 3 BD - 1,336 SF - 1961
16213 Carolyn Street	94578: \$800,000 2 BD - 1,578 SF - 1948
2415 Belvedere Ave	94577: \$890,000 1,768 SF - 1963
TOTAL SALES:	11
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$655,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$729,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$890,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$741,045

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The Garden Bug Peonies  
These garden favorites are usually sold as bare-root tubers. For planting, pick a sunny spot with good drainage, and work some organic matter and a cup of bonemeal into the soil. Place the root in a hole about 2 inches deep (if planting in southern states, only 1 inch deep), and cover with soil, tamping gently. Water well. Plant peony tubers in late September or October, or about six weeks before the ground freezes. Peonies take years to fully develop, and may need support stakes.  
Source: [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)  
- Brenda Weaver

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# Plant Trees this Fall for Years of Shade, Beauty

By Melinda Myers  
Special to the Forum

When temperatures cool this fall, add trees to your landscape. Make the most of this investment of money and time and give your tree its best chance at survival with proper planting and care.

Select a tree suited to the growing conditions, your landscape design and available space. Check the tag for the mature height and spread. You'll have a better-looking plant that always fits the space with minimal pruning.

Avoid planting near overhead utilities since trees and power lines make for a dangerous combination. Contact your underground utility locating service at least three business days before placing the first shovel in the ground. It's free and all you need to do is call 811 or file an online request.

Once the area is marked, you can get busy planting.

Dig a saucer-shaped hole three to five times wider than the root ball. It should only be



PHOTO: MELINDAMYERS.COM

**When planting, the tree's root flare should always be at or slightly above the soil surface.**

as deep as the distance from the root flare to the bottom of the root ball. The root flare, where the roots bend away from the trunk, should always be at or slightly above the soil surface.

Set the tree in the hole, then peel back and cut away any bur-lap and wire cages which would

constrict root growth. Roughen the sides of the hole and backfill with the existing soil. Water thoroughly to moisten the roots and surrounding soil.

Continue to water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Proper watering,

especially during the first two years, is critical for establishing trees. Watering thoroughly as needed encourages deep roots and a more drought tolerant and pest resistant tree.

Mulch the soil surface with a two- to three-inch layer of woodchips or shredded bark to conserve water, suppress weeds and improve the soil as it decomposes. Pull the mulch back from the trunk of the tree to avoid disease problems.

Remove any tags that can eventually girdle the tree and prune out any broken or rubbing branches. Wait a year to fertilize, and two years for additional pruning.

Make regular checkups, prune to create a strong structure, and keep grass, weeds and lawn care equipment away from the trunk throughout the lifetime of your tree. Your efforts will be rewarded with years of beauty and shade.

Melinda Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).

# Brown Lawn Problems

By Buzz Bertolero  
Special to the Forum

**Q** Why does my lawn have a brown cast to it after it's mowed. It was a newly sodded lawn last fall.

**A** There is a simple solution to this problem: Raise the mowing height on your lawnmower.

When mowing grass, you only want to remove one-third of the grass's blade to keep it green. There are two parts to a grass leaf. The upper part, which is called the blade, and the lower part is called the sheath. The sheath is not green but a light tan or beige color. Hence when you mow the blade off you get this off color look. The website [www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/education/grass-plant-physiology/plant-physiology](http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/education/grass-plant-physiology/plant-physiology) will give you much more detailed information.

Now, you probably installed a type of tall Fescue as it's the pre-dominant variety used in today's sod lawns. Tall Fescue is mowed high around three inches. If you cut it short, it has an unattractive appearance.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Gardener's website is [www.dirtgardener.com](http://www.dirtgardener.com) and questions can be sent by email to [buzz@dirtgardener.com](mailto:buzz@dirtgardener.com)

# Little Change in Mortgage Rates

Interest rates on longterm home loans changed very little last week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.93 percent, up slightly from 2.91 percent the week before. A Year ago, it averaged 3.49 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgages ticked down from 2.46 percent to 2.42 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgageS (ARMS) averaged 2.93 percent, up from 2.91 percent the week before.

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## Castro Valley Statistics

Current active listings: **24**  
Current pending listings: **91**  
Average days on market: **16**  
Average list price vs. sale price: **105.3%**

With low inventory, low interest rates and strong buyer demand it's a great time to sell your home.

Give Jon and Leslie a call today for a no obligation, free market analysis of your home.



LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR  
FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM**Blames Democrats for Wildfires**

Editor:

Our deluded Governor is blaming the severe wildfires on "climate change." But the real cause of massive wild fires is government stupidity. For over 20 years, Democrats (who largely staff the EPA, and also control California's government), have prevented safe forest management.

For over two decades, the EPA has prevented the sustainable harvesting of live timber. And in California, Democratic controlled "Air Quality Control Boards" nearly always oppose controlled burnings, which would have reduced the danger of wild fires, by eliminating overcrowded underbrush.

The Native Indians of California were more intelligent than today's Democrats. The Indians wisely used controlled burns to clear out underbrush. But the Democrats are ideologically opposed to any human management of nature.

Besides, Democrats in Sacramento don't want to spend money removing dead trees, because they have "more important" things to do. Up until just last year, California was spending ten times more money to subsidize electric cars, than to remove dead trees.

According to the US Forest Service, as of last year, California had 147 million dead trees, just waiting to burn. This is a record number; and three times more dead trees than we had 25 years ago.

This failure by Democrats is making wildfires far larger than in past decades. If you have trouble breathing, or if your food goes bad during a blackout, you can thank them. If you want a lower quality of life (more wild fires, more blackouts, more homeless camps, more crime, more taxes, more illegal immigration, and more riots) then just keep electing Democrats.

—Peter Hauer, Castro Valley

**Ballot Prop. 16 Called Deceptive**

Editor:

Though one Republican and one Independent were in favor of Prop. 16, the support for this item was found primarily among democrats in the state assembly.

This deceptively named ballot measure ostensibly promoting affirmative action strikes out existing civil rights clauses of the California Constitution. One of those clauses is section 31 of article 1 stating:

"The State shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting..."

By overturning protection against discrimination, this proposition blatantly endorses racism and sexism and overtly defies the gains made by civil rights activists who valiantly fought for equal treatment for marginalized communities.

This could not have happened at a worse time as democrats believe that the solution for this economic downturn is to decrease peoples' opportunities for employment because of their skin color and/or gender.

These politicians are in no position to call Trump racist or sexist seeing how they failed to recognize their own intolerant views through their endorsement of this ballot measure. Notable proponents of this proposition are our congressman Eric Swalwell, Governor Gavin Newsom and VP nominee Kamala Harris.

As someone of Asian descent, I am hoping people will not support them ever again. If you decide to vote in favor of this egregious piece of legislation or any of the other government officials backing it, you will be negating much of the progress made by the civil rights movement.

—Wing yun Ho, Castro Valley

**For the Discouraged Generation**

Editor:

If you have had your education disrupted or your career search put on hold by this pandemic, let me suggest some unforeseen benefits from this rarest of all possible moments.

## Obituaries

Kathryn ("Kathi")  
Sheehan Gaab

November 21, 1958 – August 24, 2020

Loving Mother. Devoted Wife. Adoring Grandmother. Cherished Friend. Kathi Gaab, the middle child of elementary school teacher Merrelyn and salesman/Navy pilot Daniel Sheehan, was born on November 21, 1958 in San Pablo, California. She grew up with her brothers Merrell and Michael and loved creating art, Scottish dancing, reading, and raising ducks and setting them free. She completed high school after a bout with Hodgkin's Lymphoma (which led to complications she never dwelled on) and attended Heald College.



Kathi met her husband, Jim Gaab while finishing a project at work one night. She told her children later that she was impressed by his kindness. They had a beautiful, thoughtful and affectionate relationship built on commitment to their family. They were truly the most important people in each other's lives. Kathi gave life to a boy and two girls of whom she was very proud. She and Jim gave them a childhood of stability, safe boundaries and unconditional love.

Kathi had two priorities besides her family: building friendships and caring for children. Kathi listened not just to respond, but to understand. Kathi was passionate about promoting child development: advocating for her own children at school, creating elaborate themed birthday parties for them, and sharing books and crafts with children in the pews of Transfiguration Catholic Church. She took extreme pride in her grandchildren; ages five, three, and 18 months. She could always make them smile, even in her sickest days.

She was the most beautiful woman her family knew; a dedicated mother, wife, grandmother, and friend. Her spirit lives on in the hearts of her husband Jim Gaab, son Brian Gaab (daughter-in-law Meghan, grandsons: Daniel and Patrick), daughter Erin Arsala (son-in-law Wais, grandson Adam) and daughter Kelly.

Due to the pandemic, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations can be made to the Hayward Animal Shelter in honor of her love of her pets Paris and Spike.

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## LEGAL AD

FILED AUGUST 10, 2020  
MELISSA WILK, County Clerk  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
By-----, Deputy  
FILE NO. 572105

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and  
Professions Code  
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):  
Lornel Logistics LLC located at 1135 Jefferson Street, San Leandro, CA 94577, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lornel Logistics LLC, 1135 Jefferson Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. This business commenced N/A. /s/ Lornel Logistics LLC  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.  
Expires AUGUST 10, 2025

SEPT 09, 16, 23, 30, 2020  
284-CVF

CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
ANSWERS

S	W	I	G	J	O	E	T	A	K	E
P	A	T	H	O	W	N	A	G	E	D
A	S	S	O	R	T	E	D	H	O	P
I	O	N	S	A	S	S	A	I	L	E
T	N	T	O	U	T	E	R	I	K	E
A	S	S	I	S	T	E	D	S	E	E
S	H	B	O	O	M	T	O	E		
E	A	R	N	A	S	S	I	G	N	E
E	T	A	L	T	E	A	E	U	R	O
D	E	N	Y	E	A	R	S	N	A	G

You have been granted the privilege of a time out. This will necessarily be a time of reflection – time granted to reorganize and prioritize your life. You may not make a conscious decision to reexamine your life but it will surely be forever reflected in the manner you spend this time. If you spend it in a chemically induced fog or a whirlwind of activities this time will never be repeated.

If you have been attending school, these past months have catapulted you into the online world of learning. You have had to navigate the online world to master subjects with limited assistance from the school system. Not a perfect experience, but the door is definitely opened.

There is an unlimited world of knowledge available to anyone with access to the internet. But the best part is there is no one guarding the door. You can venture wherever you want...

The time to think or contemplate is the greatest gift offered to everybody. All of us have been granted a respite from the patterns of our life. While we may be temporarily separated from our friends, social groups or other familiar activities we can now literally live the cliché "smell the roses," or think about the assumptions of life. Why are we here and what is the purpose of our existence?

Yes these questions are as old as humanity. Questions we will all face from time to time. Perhaps there is an answer that speaks to you. Rest, dream, and enjoy. Thank you covid 19, we will survive this and will treasure these memories.

—Glen Alcorn, Castro Valley

**Calling on Congress to Save Lives**

Editor:

"I saved millions" boasted President Trump during the Republican National Convention.

I am outraged!

Congress took a recess instead of saving millions of lives from infectious diseases. Millions of children are missing out on life-saving vaccines.

"Covid-19 risks derailing all our efforts and taking us back to where we were 20 years ago," said Dr. Pedro L. Alonso, the director of the World Health Organization's global malaria program.

The biggest infectious-disease killer worldwide is tuberculosis, claiming 1.5 million lives each year. Due to the pandemic derailing healthcare, deaths due to malaria, HIV and tuberculosis are expected to double this year.

I call on Representative Swalwell, Senator Feinstein, and Senator Harris to break the stalemate in DC and pass an emergency response package with \$20 billion for international development.

Global organizations like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance are out of emergency funds. Will Congress save millions of lives?

—Pat Payne, 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. We do not publish anonymous or unsigned letters. Email Letters to: fredz@ebpublishing.com, or mail to: The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.

**HOROSCOPE** by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Careful, Lamb. Taking on too many tasks at one time can cause you to create more snarls each time you try to work your way through the tangled mass. Best to handle one job at a time.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** Making bold moves is what Bovines do. But the best moves are made with lots of data to provide backup just in case you charge into an unexpected complication. A new relationship shows promise.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** Sharing credit for a job well done is easy for you to do, but not necessarily for your partner. But fair is fair. Don't let yourself be denied the right to have your contributions recognized.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** Communication is important to help bridge a gap that can lead to problems at home and/or at the workplace. Find a way to get your points across before the breach becomes a chasm.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Relationships, whether business or personal, need to be watched carefully for signs of trouble. Any negative indications should be dealt with before they become too burdensome.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Congratulations. A more positive aspect highlights much of the Virgo's week. You should find others more receptive to your suggestions, and also more likely to act on them.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** All work and little play could wear the Libra's usually positive attitude down. Take some much-needed time off. Perhaps a short jaunt with someone special is the way to go.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** This is a good time to expand your view from the known to the unfamiliar. Confronting new situations could be challenging, but ultimately also could be extremely satisfying.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Giving advice to those who just want validation for what they're doing can be unsettling. So back off and save your counsel for those who really appreciate it.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** Cultivating a more positive attitude not only makes you feel better about yourself, but also has an upbeat effect on those around you, especially that certain someone.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Keeping the lines of communication open and accessible is the key to establishing the right foundation on which to build an important and meaningful relationship. Stay with it.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** Before agreeing to act on a request, consider using your perceptive Piscean talents to see what might lie hidden beneath its surface and could possibly cause problems later on.





Aisea Taimani performs live this Thursday night

## What's Up at Smalltown

● **Thursday, September 10:** Smalltown Takeover: Aisea Taimani, is a local songwriter who has performed around the globe in many musician's collectives, as well as with his band: "Aisea Taimani and the Minor Islands." His style of music is influenced by reggae, folk, and soul, so expect a unique sound and a powerful voice. Aisea shares his music at 9 p.m. on IG: @smalltownsociety

● **Friday, September 11:** Smalltown Takeover: Kevin Seal, a musician and songwriter who has recorded with "Griddle," "20 Minute Loop," "CitizenFive," and other rock and soul bands. These days, while raising his 4th-grade son, he hosts a weekly music game show on Facebook called "Lo-Fidelity." Join Kevin for an evening of music at 9 p.m. on the IG page: @smalltownsociety

● **Saturday, September 12:** Live Riff-Along of *The Screaming Skull* where you can watch a free movie, and make fun of it in the comments! In this week's 1958 Indie Thriller, a newlywed woman believes she is being haunted by her husband's first wife! Head to thechabot.com or to The Chabot's Facebook page this Saturday at 8 p.m.

● **Monday, September 14:** Smalltown Takeover: Songwriter Clay Bassard once again takes over the Smalltown Instagram page, sharing his soulful tunes. If you missed his performance last month, make sure you catch it this time at 9 p.m. : @smalltownsociety

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

## ROTARY TO HEAR FROM GOVERNOR GLENN GUISIANA

Rotary District 5170 Governor Glenn Guisiana will update members on club activities at the next Zoom meeting of the Rotary Club of Castro Valley from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15. More information is available at castrovalleyrotary.org.



## Healthy Living Festival

The 17th Annual Healthy Living Festival for seniors and their friends will be held on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Although it will be presented virtually this year because of the pandemic, Supervisor Nate Miley who is presenting the event with United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, says seniors can still expect many of the highlights from previous years including live entertainment, a free meal and a swag bag if they register in advance at [tinyurl.com/hlf2020](http://tinyurl.com/hlf2020).

I believe we are doing a fantastic job for this year's virtual event," says Miley.

There will even be a virtual zoo walk for participants to enjoy from the safety of their residences courtesy of longtime festival partner the Oakland Zoo.

The Healthy Living Festival promotes healthy senior living by providing a welcoming hub of critical health information, comprehensive array of senior resources, and fun physical activities.

For more info, visit [www.usoac.org/](http://www.usoac.org/) or contact Sara Appelbaum at [sara.appelbaum@acgov.org](mailto:sara.appelbaum@acgov.org).

## HAYWARD COVID TESTING CENTER CLOSED TODAY

The Hayward COVID-19 Testing Center at the Skywest Golf Course, 1401 Golf Course Road, will be closed today, Sept. 9, in observance of Admission Day, the anniversary of the day in 1850 on which, by an act of Congress, California was admitted to the U.S. as the 31st state of the Union.

The Testing Center normally operates weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule a test visit [www.hayward-ca.gov](http://www.hayward-ca.gov).

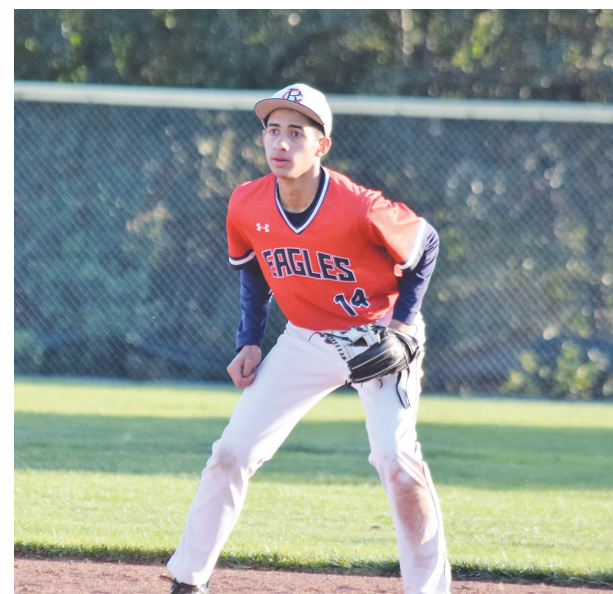
## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Outfielder Ethan King

Ethan King is our Athlete of the Week.

This Junior Outfielder at Redwood Christian recently competed in the Georgia Perfect Game 18U South-East Elite Championship. This was a 5-game tournament at the East Cobb Sports Complex involving 60 teams from all over the country.

Ethan competed with MVP (Black) where he had his best game in the fourth game going 2 for 3 with 2 RBI.



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## **Now offering \$3 cash or \$5 in-store credit**

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*\$3 cash or \$5 ReStore store credit provided per mattress. Maximum 5 units per vehicle per day. Voucher provided upon drop-off and must be redeemed same day. Offer only valid at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Oakland, CA.*



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