

HOLIDAYS AROUND
THE TOWN: SAFEST
WAY TO BRIGHTEN
THE SEASON

Let it Shine PAGES 4 & 5



WEEKEND WEATHER
MILD Scattered showers as weekend progresses
HIGHS: 58-63
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
LOWS: 48-53

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

San Leandro Times

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

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SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Dintle Semakele and her son Julian got inside their surprise present last Friday.

Early Christmas Gift Surprises Single Mom

By Jim Knowles
San Leandro Times

A year and a half ago, Dintle Semakele found herself alone with her 2-week-old baby, unable to pay the rent.

Her husband had been incarcerated and was no longer around to help. She and her son have been living in a women's shelter and she's trying to get back on her feet.

The one thing Demakele really wanted,

since she moved to the United States from South Africa four years ago, was a car.

"One of the biggest problems is I don't have a car to have a job like DoorDash or Uber that I could easily do with my child," she wrote in a letter.

Semakele's letter was compelling, said Delane Sims, director and founder of DNNC Steps to Success, an organization that helps single moms.

Last week, Christmas came early when Semakele got a surprise gift, a car of her own.

Sims kept it a surprise last Friday afternoon. She arrived at the women's shelter in San Leandro and asked for Semakele.

Sims took Semakele on a walk around the block, saying only that they were going to talk about Semakele's application for the

see GIFT, page 3

New Stay-at-Home Order Announced

Shutdowns causing slow death to small businesses

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

Alameda County is under a stay-at-home order until Jan. 4, as coronavirus cases climb and hospital ICU beds continue to fill up, public health officials said Monday.

The order is based on the regional availability of intensive care unit (ICU) beds. The San Francisco Bay Area reports about 25 percent of its COVID-19 units are still available. While the state's order would have gone into effect if ICU bed availability fell below 15 percent, Alameda County Public Health Department officials joined other counties in the Bay Area in the stay-at-home order to avoid a critical situation as the year winds down.

"Rising hospitalization rates across the region threaten not only our community members with severe COVID-19, but anyone who may need care because of a heart attack, stroke, accident, or other critical health need," said Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss. "By acting together now we will have the greatest impact on the surge and save more lives."

Alameda County also issued a statement on Saturday urging businesses and residents to plan now for further restrictions. The news did not sit well with some residents.

"How are we in this togeth-

er?" said county resident Judea Johnson. "What are the folks working from home on Zoom having to sacrifice? You're still getting a paycheck while receiv-

see ORDER, page 12

Money Missing At Church

By Michael Singer
San Leandro Times

A former non-clergy employee of the Church of the Assumption in San Leandro is suspected of misappropriation of funds, according to a statement released last week by the Diocese of Oakland.

In a letter to parishioners on Dec. 1, Bishop Michael C. Barber said the church provided information to the Alameda County District Attorney on October 23 requesting an investigation, "into suspected financial improprieties."

"The information is in the form of a forensic accounting report, completed by an independent firm engaged by the Di-

see MONEY, page 7

Council Picks Interim City Manager

The San Leandro City Council hired a new city manager this week.

The City Council unanimously voted on Monday night to approve the contract of Ms. Fran Robustelli, who will serve as interim City Manager beginning Monday, Dec. 21.

Robustelli's selection comes after current City Manager Jeff Kay's previously announced departure to become the new city manager for the City of Healdsburg, California.

For the past 25 years, Ro-

bustelli has served in executive roles with special districts and city governments. Most recently, she served as the interim city manager for the City of Clayton in Contra Costa County.

Robustelli has specialized in human resources, and is also skilled in a wide range of other areas, including economic development, budget and risk management, and emergency services.

"Fran Robustelli is a seasoned and effective leader who has grappled with many difficult

see CITY MANAGER, page 4



Fran Robustelli will start her new job on Dec. 21.

INSIDE YOUR TIMES

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Come to the drive-in Hanukkah celebration. **Page 2**

MUSIC

Music students awarded scholarships. **Page 4**

INQUIRING

Would you take the vaccine? **Page 11**

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MEETING SCHEDULES

CITY COUNCIL

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

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD

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



San Leandro Times

An independent hometown newspaper serving San Leandro, Ashland, San Lorenzo and Sheffield Village

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Magnolia



Loki

do well in a home with kids of all ages.

Loki is a 2-year-old male. This energetic boy will do a full body wag when his favorite people come into the room. Loki loves playing with toys, eating treats, and exploring. He would do best in an active home with teens or adults.

For more information on Magnolia or Loki, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.

The Pets of the Week at the Hayward Animal Shelter are both dogs, Magnolia and Loki.

Magnolia is a 4-year-old sweetie pie, gentle and friendly. She likes being near people, will roll over for belly rubs, is calm around other dogs, and would

Chabad San Leandro to Present A Drive-In Hanukkah Celebration

This year we'll see a one-of-a-kind Hanukkah celebration.

To make sure that everyone can celebrate the festival in a very safe manner, Chabad San Leandro will have a drive-in Hanukkah event on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m. in front of the Century 16 Theater at Bayfair Mall, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro.

From the safety of your car you can watch as the Big Menorah is kindled and see a spectacular fire show. Each car will receive special pre-packaged Hanukkah treats.

There will also be a ZOOM event on Wednesday Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. where from the comfort of your home, we will all light our Menorahs together, make yummy Latkes (potato pancakes) and watch a special presentation featuring eight different presenters conveying inspiration through words, music, art and more.

There will be a special ZOOM program for kids on Thursday Dec. 17, at 4:30 p.m. where the kids will decorate special Chanukkah cookies and



watch an exciting, kids-friendly Hanukkah video about the Hanukkah story.

To reserve a package for either ZOOM event and to receive the zoom link, rsvp @ Chabadsleandro@gmail.com or call 510-736-2311.

If you're missing any Hanukkah supplies, the Chabad will be happy to provide. Email chabad-sleandro@gmail.com.

About Hanukkah

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah celebrating the two miracles – against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and reded-

icated it to the service of God.

When they sought to light the Temple's Menorah (the seven-branched candelabrum), they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks.

Miraculously, they lit the menorah and the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity.

To commemorate the miracle of the oil we enjoy fried food like crispy potato latkes (pancakes), and sing familiar tunes. It's a time of joy and celebration.

Now more than ever we can learn from the Menorah's message of adding in light which dispels a lot of darkness. Another act of goodness and kindness makes all the difference.

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Happy Winter!

If you have non-perishable food to be picked up, give us a call and we shall pick it up and deliver it to Dig Deep Farms on Fairmont Dr. We just did a food drive and filled up 5 SUVs. Thank you to all of the people who contributed.



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Gift: Single mom was hoping for a car to help her make a living

continued from front page

gift. As they rounded the corner, they came in sight of the cute, little Toyota Scion with a big red ribbon on the roof.

"When I saw the bow," Semakele said later, "I thought, that's beautiful, somebody's getting married."

And then Sims told her it was her car.

"This is my car? This is unbelievable!" Semakele exclaimed as she walked closer to the vehicle with her young son.

Go ahead and get in, Sims said.

Semakele sat in the driver's seat with her son Julian on her lap, still in disbelief, wiping tears from her eyes.

"This is our car, Julian!" Turning to Sims and the other volunteers, she said, "I'm so happy. Thank you so much."

Julian also got a little present, an early start to a college education. Along with Sims, Amanda Feinstein, program director of Brilliant Baby, was on hand. Her organization is seeing that Julian starts off with a \$500 savings account for college.

Sims founded DNNC Steps

to Success (www.dnnestepstosuccess.com) to help single mothers, primarily African American, low-income single moms. The UC Berkeley grad said the program comes from her own experience as a single mom of

"This is our car, Julian."

Dintle Semakele



PHOTO BY CINDY MANLY-FIELDS

Dintle Semakele was momentarily in disbelief when she realized she and her son now had a car.



PHOTO BY CINDY MANLY-FIELDS

With Dintle Semakele inside her car (left to right) are Delane Sims and Myeshia Jefferson with DNNC Steps to Success, and Amanda Feinstein with Brilliant Baby.

four children. The website also has a link to the 2020 fundraising gala to support low-income single mothers in the community.

Sims is an Oakland native who has a nail business in San Leandro, Delane's Natural Nail Care. She also runs the Senior Moments program at the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce that helps seniors live at home safely. Sims' own father, Andrew Hatch, was once the oldest person in the world, before he died in 2016 at the age of 117.

DNNC assistant director Myeshia Jefferson is co-owner of the nail salon. Jefferson teaches young women how to make a consistent income by becoming a sustainable business owner.

Semakele wrote in her letter to apply for the gift that the car would help her make an income, as well as provide peace of mind

"When I saw the bow, I thought, that's beautiful."

Dintle Semakele

to herself and her son. She even saw the car as a backup in case she couldn't live at a shelter anymore.

"Having my own car and a place to live would help me feel accomplished," Semakele said. "I would have peace of mind knowing we are both safe and healthy."

Nominate Someone to The Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations are being accepted for the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, honoring exceptional women making a difference in our community.

Honorees will be celebrated in 2021 during an event co-hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

Nominations may be made in 13 categories: Business & Professions; Community Service; Culture & Art; Education; Emerging Leader; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Philanthropy; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; Sports & Athletics; and Youth. Visit acgov.org/whof/nominations.htm for more information.

One Day Flu Shot Clinic For San Leandro Residents

The Alameda County Public Health Department is giving free flu shot clinic on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 East 14th St., co-sponsored by the City of San Leandro and Supervisor Wilma Chan.

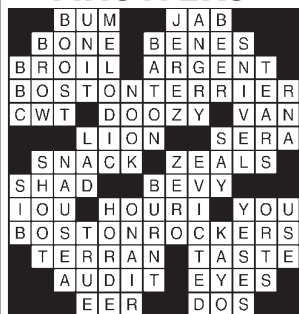
Older adults who have not yet received a flu vaccination are strongly encouraged to participate. The regular dose vaccine is available to individuals, 3 years and older, including pregnant women. Children under 3 years old should be seen by their pediatrician. Walk-in and drive-through appointments are available.

Each flu shot recipient will receive a free ready to heat frozen classic turkey meal. Please call 510-577-3462 to register for a flu shot appointment.

"We are in the midst of flu

season and another wave of Covid-19 cases. This year it is more critical than ever for everyone to get a flu shot," said Mayor Cutter. "We must avoid a 'twindemic' and surges that compromise our hospital and health care system along with flu symptoms that mimic Covid-19."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS



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11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your San Leandro Home for Sale

San Leandro - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one,

there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective

buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home

Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-855-890-1345 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of Michael Garcia of Realty World Dominion DRE# 01778005.

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CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA

ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR RENT BECAUSE OF COVID-19?

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City Manager: Looking forward

continued from front page

decisions, including challenges arising from the coronavirus pandemic in her previous assignment," said Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter. "I am impressed with Fran's governmental experience and desire to continue moving San Leandro forward seamlessly as Jeff Kay transitions to his next opportunity."

In San Leandro, Robustelli will receive a salary of \$19,723 per month or \$236,700 annually.

In response to her appointment, Ms. Robustelli stated, "I look forward to working with the City Council, staff, and other community stakeholders as we

collectively work together during this difficult time resulting from the pandemic."

Robustelli's interim service in this role is expected to continue until the City Council completes a national recruitment for the city

manager position, which will commence early next year.

For more information, contact Paul Sanftner, communications and community relations manager, at psanftner@sanleandro.org or 510-577-3372.

Walnut Creek P.D. Arrests Three SL Women for Looting

Nine people have been charged in the looting in Walnut Creek on May 31, including three people from San Leandro.

The destruction and looting

of 39 businesses in downtown Walnut Creek resulted in property damage of \$3 million to \$4 million, according to Walnut Creek police, who are looking for more suspects, KTVU reported.

Walnut Creek detectives got search and arrest warrants for nine adults, eight of them women. The Contra Costa County District Attorney filed felony charges for "burglary during a state of emergency" against seven of the suspects, due to the pandemic emergency. Most of the suspects were charged in connection with looting the Macy's in downtown Walnut Creek.

Later that same night, May 31, businesses across San Leandro were also looted. The San Leandro police haven't yet announced how many stores were looted in San Leandro or given an estimate of the damage.



Musical Scholarships

Congratulations to Alessandra (top right) and Sofia Sotelo, and Baron Batarse who have each won a \$2,320 scholarship for private music lessons in this year's Music Teacher's Association of California Alameda County Branch Discovery Scholarship Program. Alessandra is 15 and a sophomore at San Leandro High. Sofia is 12 and is in 7th grade at John Muir Middle School, and Baron is 13 and in 9th grade at Arroyo High School. As all three have been taking piano lessons for at least five years and practice every day, they did very well on their online interviews and auditions.

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"...behold I bring you good news of great joy..." Luke 2:10

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LIFESTYLE

Latkes Keep the Hanukkah Tradition Glowing Bright

When the first Hanukkah candle is lit this evening, the glow will remind those of the Jewish faith of a miracle with oil that took place more than 2,000 years ago when the Jews drove a foreign army out of Jerusalem and rekindled the eternal light in the Temple with pure oil.

Legend relates that only enough oil for one day could be found, but it miraculously lasted for eight days. To commemorate this event, colorful candles are lighted each night of the holiday.

The custom of serving fried foods, particularly latkes (potato pancakes), grew out of the miracle of the oil, and have become the symbol of the holiday.

Latkes are usually served with sour cream and applesauce.

CLASSIC LATKES

- 1 pound russet potatoes, peeled
- 1 small onion, peeled
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1/4 cup sour cream

- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives (optional)
- Apple sauce

Grate potatoes, then the onion using the large hole of a box grater. Place grated vegetables in a large clean kitchen towel. Bring up the ends of the towel and twist together to form a pouch. Hold the bundle over the sink, then squeeze out as much excess moisture from the vegetables as possible. Place vegetable mixture in large bowl. Add egg, flour, salt and pepper; mix well.

Heat oil in medium nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Carefully drop tablespoonfuls of the vegetable mixture into skillet; spread each into thin circle with back of spoon. Repeat to cook 2 to 3 latkes at a time. Cook 3 to 4 minutes on each side or until golden brown on both sides. Remove latkes from skillet; drain on paper towels.

Serve each latke topped with a teaspoon of the sour cream and chives and applesauce alongside. Serve warm. Serves 4.

APPLE FRITTERS

- 3 eggs



Classic Potato Latkes

- 1 cup milk
- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon

- 1 cup sugar
- 6 medium-size crisp apples such as Fuji or Granny Smith

Oil for frying

Puree the eggs, milk, flour and salt in a blender or food processor until smooth. Scrape the batter into a shallow bowl.

Combine the cinnamon and sugar in a small bowl and set aside.

Peel, core and slice the apples into 1/2-inch-thick wedges.

Heat about 1/4 inch of oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until hot but not smoking.

Dip each apple slice into the batter; let excess batter drain off briefly, then fry slices, a few at a time, until golden on both sides, about 3 to 4 minutes. Remove slices to a paper towel-lined platter or baking sheet to drain and cool briefly.

Sprinkle apples on all sides with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Keep warm in a 200°F oven, if necessary.

Repeat with remaining apples, skimming browned bits of batter from the pan and adding additional oil if needed. If oil becomes too brown, discard it and use fresh oil for successive batches of frying.

Transfer apple fritters to a warm platter. Sprinkle with more cinnamon-sugar before serving. Yields about 30 fritters.

CROCK POT HANUKKAH BRISKET

Beef brisket large enough to fit your Crock Pot

- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/3 cup water

Place onions in bottom of slow cooker, then place brisket, fat side up, on top of onions. Sprinkle garlic on top.

Combine ketchup, vinegar, and brown sugar in small bowl and then rub into beef. Add enough water to coat the bottom of the cooker. Cover Crock Pot and cook on Low 8-10 hours.

For gravy, remove brisket from the slow cooker place on serving plate, and cover tightly with foil. Turn Crock Pot temperature to High. Mix flour with 1/3 cup water, add to Crock Pot, and bring to a boil, stirring frequently with wire whisk. Yields 16 servings.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



Buyer Love Letters May Be Inciting Discrimination

Seated at a table with an elderly couple, I was discussing the details involved in selling their house.

It was clear they loved their home and, although they knew that relocating closer to family was the right choice, it was going to be difficult to leave the home they had cherished for so many years.

"We raised our family here," the wife stated. "Every inch of this home is filled with delightful memories."

The husband nodded, and then, grasping his wife's hand, looked at her and stated, "We really want a young family to get this home so they can have the same experiences we've had."

I have lost count of the number of times I have heard this sentiment from older sellers who want to pass their home to younger

generations. Potential buyers, aware of this sentiment, are eager to convey to sellers their willingness to carry on a family-oriented tradition. The vehicle they choose to communicate their sentiments is the ubiquitous "love letter."

A staple accompaniment of offers for years, these letters often include pictures of young couples, children and even pets.

The joy-filled faces peering out from the pages are hoping their carefully crafted communication will win the hearts of the sellers and get their offer accepted.

The letters work: I have watched sellers read the letters and accept offers based not on the price or terms but the content of the letters and the individuals portrayed therein.

While these letters seem warm and fuzzy, and have been an accepted practice for years, they can be construed as a violation of our nation's fair housing laws. According to the Fair Housing Act, sellers, when choosing an offer, should be impartial to a potential buyer's race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin.

In other words, if sellers, based on their preferences, choose a family over others equally or better qualified, then they have discriminated against other potential buyers.

The problem with "love letters" is that the pictures clearly communicate a buyer's characteristics, making it easy for sellers to discriminate. Intentional or not, if

the decision to accept a specific offer is based upon the attached letter, the sellers may be guilty of violating the law.

Consequently, with society's ever-increasing sensitivity to fair housing laws, attaching love letters to offers is a custom coming under increasing scrutiny, and may be a practice to abandon going forward.

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.

Coming Soon

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Increase Soil pH with Lime

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Times

I bought a pH test kit to check the soil around my wisteria because it has not been doing well. I was surprised that the soil pH tested around 4. I expected it to be low because I'm using well water. How would I raise the pH to about 6.5?

Raising the soil pH is not a question that I frequently receive. It's more of a problem in the Midwest or where acid rain is prevalent.

Our clay soil tends to be alkaline, so gardeners are more likely to lower it, and a 4.0 reading from well water is unusual. That being said, you increase the soil pH by adding lime or limestone, calcium carbonate, a naturally occurring rock.

Agricultural lime or "Aglime," is crushed limestone, and you're likely to find it at an independent garden center than a Big Box Retailer or online.

Limestone – calcium carbonate – is not to be confused with hydrated lime, calcium hydroxide. They're not the same.

You should apply five pounds per 100-square-feet in clay soil, which is more than you need around a single plant. So, I'd spread a three to four generous handfuls under the canopy of the wisteria. It's then cultivated into the soil, and you let the winter rains do the rest.

It's very dusty, so use a mask. I also have found wood ashes and baking soda could be used as a short term solution. The quantity necessary is a bit shaky,

so I'd stick to Agricultural Lime.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional. The Dirt Garden-er's website is www.dirtgarden-er.com and questions can be sent by email to buzz@dirtgardener.com.



Ho Hum, Mortgage Rates Reach Another Record Low

Long-term home mortgage rates hit another record low last week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.71 percent for the week ending Dec. 3, down from the previous week when it averaged 2.72 percent. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.68 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.26 percent, down from 2.28 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) av-

eraged 2.86 percent, down 3.16 percent.

"Despite persistently low mortgage rates, home sales have hit a wall," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "While homebuyer appetite remains robust, the scarce inventory has effectively put a limit on how much higher sales can increase."

"Unfortunately, the record low supply combined with strong demand means home prices are rapidly escalating and eroding the benefits of the low mortgage rate environment."



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PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Staying Connected

People have to make do during the housing shortage and at a homeless encampment in Oakland someone has found a way to get their necessary utilities right from the source.

Money: 'A serious violation of trust'

continued from front page

ocese," Bishop Barber said. "The Diocese engaged the firm after the parish finance council discovered the perceived financial improprieties and irregularities.

The Bishop added that the individual is no longer employed by the Church of the Assumption or in the diocese.

"There were no other people implicated by the report," he said. "The diocese is cooperating fully with law enforcement and intends to seek restitution."

Bishop Barber said the Diocese would not provide any other details until the district attorney's office concludes its investigation. The District Attorney's office declined to comment on any ongoing inquiries.

The Diocese said it is also reviewing its procedures regarding the training of clergy and lay employees in financial policies in an effort to avoid similar situations in the future.

"This matter represents a serious violation of the trust, generosity, and stewardship of our faith community," Father Leonard Marrujo of Assumption Parish said in a statement. "I understand we will need to improve our adherence to strict standards of financial controls and work very hard to regain the trust of our parishioners."

The current investigation

follows a review of church funds earlier this year by the church's finance committee.

"In light of our commitment to financial transparency, we are posting several reports related to the 2019 financial activity on the Parish website," the church

posted to its site.

The church said it has contracted with a CPA firm that works with other parishes and schools in the diocese to handle its accounting functions. Its 2019 audit went as far back as 2016 to record transactions that had been missed.

Get those Cards and Packages in the Mail

This year, the United States Postal Service recommends that anyone shipping gifts through USPS to put their items in the mail by next Tuesday, Dec. 15, to ensure they arrive before Dec. 25.

Of course, sending presents and holiday cards as early as possible is the best way to avoid any issues, but not everyone plans ahead like that.

Retail Ground Service is the most affordable method of shipping, but anyone able to pay more can ship or mail items by Dec. 18 through First-Class Mail or by Dec. 19 through Priority Mail Service.

The Priority Mail Express service—the most costly option—has a Dec. 23 deadline.

For more information, visit usps.com.

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Alameda Health System has made major investments to upgrade San Leandro Hospital to meet the changing and growing needs of our community.

The hospital's new acute rehabilitation unit offers specialized multidisciplinary services and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



What's Next?

We're raising funds for modern equipment to develop a comprehensive suite of diagnostic and imaging services.

Join the Campaign for San Leandro Hospital.

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Kay Say He's Leaving City on Good Trajectory

By Mike McGuire
San Leandro Times

Jeff Kay, San Leandro's departing city manager, says he's leaving the city in good shape — except for the current Covid emergency — as he prepares to begin the new year as Healdsburg's city manager.

Fran Robustelli, who has been interim city manager in Clayton, has been named San Leandro's interim city manager effective Dec. 21.

Kay's last day at San Leandro City Hall will be Dec. 18 and he begins in Healdsburg two weeks later. He has been city manager since 2018, and had previously held other positions in the city since 2009.

He leaves while the city is struggling to deal with the Covid emergency, in both financial and practical terms. Still, he said, that will be overcome, and shouldn't be confused with the city's longer-term strength.

"The City is on a good path, apart from the present emergency, and I take a little bit of pride in that," Kay said.

The city has achieved longer-term budget stability, he said, and economic development is going well, particularly in San Le-



Jeff Kay will become the city manager in Healdsburg.

andro's industrial area. The 21st Amendment brewery and Torani Syrups are among the businesses that recently opened here.

After holding economic development positions with the city, Kay became assistant city manager and then city manager in 2008, when Chris Zapata left the city amidst controversy.

When he first went to work with the city, just as the 2008 recession was beginning to ease, it was a challenge to bring in business and investment.

"It's really interesting to see how that's changed," he said, adding that San Leandro is now very much on the radar for

businesses looking for new or expanded quarters.

Affordable housing has also come around, Kay said. The city has built several hundred units, and the need to build more is widely accepted, though neighbors can and do take issue with some aspects of particular projects.

Kay also tried to promote public art in San Leandro, starting when the city had relatively little of it. Now, he says, public art is increasingly visible around town, and some of it is known well beyond San Leandro's borders.

The city has dealt about as well as it could with the Covid crisis, which tore a big chunk out of city revenues while demand for services remained and even increased, Kay said.

"We've held staffing steady and maintained services in bad times," he said.

Meanwhile, to fight some problems caused by Covid and others worsened by the pandemic, the city has tried to fund food pantries to fight hunger, given emergency rental assistance to keep people in their homes, and made emergency grants to small businesses to keep them in business, he said.

There are challenges in the years ahead, Kay said. First up will be recovering from Covid, and slowly getting the city's operations and the city's residents

"The city is on a good path, apart from the present emergency."

— City Manager Jeff Kay

themselves back toward normal.

Homelessness and housing affordability was a problem before the pandemic and progress needs to continue being made after Covid, Kay said.

"In fact, it's the issue of our

time. A huge part of the city's work that touches three or four city departments," he said.

The city's long-term pension obligations to city workers as they retired also must be dealt with in the city's ongoing budget planning, Kay said. He added that this is true in many other cities throughout the Bay Area and the state.

Kay regrets he will not be here to see San Leandro develop a citywide equity plan, with the help of the nonprofit Seed Collaborative.

"Equity needs to be at the center of everything cities do as we move forward," he said.

When asked about police shootings and calls to shift funding away from the police, Kay declined to comment. However, he noted that this was not why he was leaving the city, contrary to some rumors on social media.

"As far as the police and

other controversies go, I'll repeat what I told the staff a few months back," Kay said. "I hope we can look back in a few years and see that we used these challenges to learn and move forward."

He said that he had made progress on leaving San Leandro on a good trajectory toward the future, and it was a good time to confront different challenges in a different kind of community such as Healdsburg.

"Even though it's less urban, with some rural as well, there's still a lot of economic development going on," said Kay, who will be going back to his specialty of economic development.

He also said that living in a smaller, often quieter, area appealed to him.

"But I'm going to miss the community of San Leandro, and perhaps even more so the city staff here, who have been and are wonderful," Kay said.

LED Lights Safest Way to Brighten the Holiday Season

Holiday lights and decorations have popped up around San Leandro, offering a dash of needed cheer in 2020.

As those lights go up indoors or outside, PG&E reminds customers to use energy efficient bulbs, which are the safest option and can help save money.

"Holidays are a great time to remind our customers about how to practice holiday lighting safety. First and foremost, be aware of your surroundings to avoid electric hazards," says

PG&E spokesman Aaron August. "Second, LED lights are a great way to save energy and money on your bill this time of year."

LEDs produce almost no heat, so they are safe to touch and greatly reduce the risk of fire.

LEDs are 75 percent more energy efficient and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs — lasting up to 40 holiday seasons. They're also shatterproof and shock resistant.

Lighting Safety Tips

- Check for overhead power lines before hanging outdoor lights and keep at least 10 feet away from lines.

- Never place yourself or any object near a power line.

- Make sure lights are approved for outdoor use. Never use indoor lights outdoors.

- Use a timer or turn off lights before going to bed, or if you are away from home.

- For more PG&E holiday safety and energy efficiency tips, visit www.pge.com.

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MELISSA WILK

NOVEMBER 25, 2020
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 574799

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Dr.SurgeonMarketing located at 1738
Thornton Place, San Leandro, CA 94577,
in Alameda County, is hereby registered by
the following owner(s): Kairi Bynum, 1738
Thornton Place, San Leandro, CA 94577.
This business is conducted by an individual.
This business commenced N/A.

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

Expires NOVEMBER 25, 2025

DEC 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020
301-SLT

FILED
MELISSA WILK

NOVEMBER 12, 2020
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 574435

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and
Professions Code
Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Magdali Deli & Coffee Shop located at 2160
East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA 94577, in
Alameda County, is hereby registered by the
following owner(s): (1) William Noe Vasquez
Bravo and (2) Magdali Orozco, 326 Tilton Avenue,
San Mateo, CA 94401. This business
is conducted by a married couple. This business
commenced N/A.

/s/ William Noe Vasquez Bravo, Magdali
Orozco
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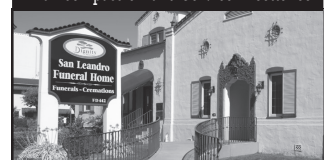
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Dorothy P. Parsons

Dorothy P. Parsons passed away on December 7, 2020 at the age of 97. Dorothy and her sister were the first twins born in the Weymouth, MA hospital in 1923. Dorothy lived in Oakland for 64 years and in San Leandro for 27 years.

Dorothy attended UC Berkeley, was an avid reader, interested in art, collectibles and travel, and a long-time member of Beta Sigma Phi.

Preceded in death by her husband, Walter V. Parsons, she is survived by her daughters Carolyn (Odell) and Kathleen, twin sister Elisabeth, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. No services will be held.

Arrangements by Grissom's Chapel.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): At this time you might want to resist that otherwise admirable Aries penchant for getting to the heart of a matter quickly. Keep in mind that a delicate situation calls for patience.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Your aspects favor more diplomacy and fewer direct confrontations when dealing with a relationship problem. Avoiding hurt feelings can help in your search for the truth.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Positive aspects are strong this week. Although you might still have to deal with some problems caused by a recent period of turmoil, you are making progress, and that's what counts.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): A family matter could benefit from your counsel. But don't come into it unless invited, and don't stay if you feel uneasy. Just remember to reassure one and all that you'll be there for them.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): As the truth about an ongoing situation emerges, you could find that you were right to defer judgment before you had all the facts. Now would be a good time to move on to other matters.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Your plans to take control of a personal situation because you feel you are best qualified could create resentment. Best to hear what everyone else involved in the matter has to say about it.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): Uncovering some surprising background facts about that ongoing personal matter could make you reconsider the extent of your involvement. A neutral family member offers advice.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Religious or spiritual themes start to dominate your aspect this week. This can serve as a counterweight to the mounting effects of the season's growing commercialization.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Taking on that recent challenge impressed a lot of important decision-makers. Meanwhile, proceed with your holiday plans, and don't forget to include you-know-who in them.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Disagreeing with an opinion you can't accept could be dicey, and your motives might be questioned. Best to wait to mount a challenge until you have support for your position.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Getting involved in helping others in this increasingly hectic period not only makes the generous Aquarian feel good, but you could also gain a more substantive benefit from your actions.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): The Piscean way of thinking clearly and objectively helps you resolve a complex situation without creating any ill will. Don't be surprised if your counsel is requested on another matter.

Applications Accepted for HARD's Community Service Awards

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors' Annual Awards for Distinguished Community Service during 2020.

The awards are an opportunity for the board to formally recognize individuals and organizations whose efforts have helped to provide high quality leisure activities and programs to its residents on a voluntary basis.

All members of the community are encouraged to nominate those individuals or organizations who exemplify such important volunteer service.

"HARD and the board of directors have recognized individuals and organizations with this award program since 1962," stated Board President Paul Hodges.

"The 2020 pandemic has been a very challenging year to

provide services, and yet we've had businesses, organizations and individuals who have contributed and connected with us and we want to show our appreciation."

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, Dec. 31. Winners will be announced by the board of directors next month and will be formally recognized on Friday, Jan. 22.

The downloadable nomination

form is available at www.HaywardRec.org, or at the district office, or by contacting Jim

Wheeler at 510-881-6704 or at WheJ@HaywardRec.org.

For additional information,

visit www.HaywardRec.org or call the HARD office at 510-881-6700.

Holiday Teen Trivia Contest

Join the San Leandro Library for a fun winter holiday trivia contest on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Open to teens in 6th through 12th grades. We'll meet

on Zoom to test our knowledge of winter and holiday celebrations. The winner gets to select a prize. Email kmandalay@sanleandro.org to sign up.

On this Day in History – Dec. 3

1799: Metric system first adopted in France.

1964: Nobel Peace Prize presented to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Oslo.

OPINION

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be under 300 words. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. E-mail letters to: letters@ebpublishing.com or fax to: 510-483-4209, or send by mail to: The Editor, San Leandro Times, 2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

The Election is Over

Editor:

The election is over. Joe Biden has won overwhelmingly. In fact, he has received more votes than any other elected president in the history of these United States!

Yet, there are delusional individuals that hold onto a dissipating flatulence in the form of a "sour grape" reaction, that the vote was a fraud and President Trump won the election, which is so far from reality as a slow walk to the planet Stupidtron!

Those in this Legion of Bamboozled, please stop it. It's over, it is over! Otherwise we just may have to call you a whaaaaambulance!

—Victor Krevocheza
San Leandro

Fake News?

Editor:

Mr. Smithman ("Doesn't Believe 'The Media'," Letters, Dec. 3), and I am not just speaking for myself, we don't hate Mr. West. He doesn't understand the difference between weather and climate and thinks Alaska is overrun with polar bears. So we correct him. He wants socialized housing but denounces socialism. He is an immigrant to the United States but is hostile to immigrants. So we point out his hypocrisy. That is not hate.

If he is the most educated person you have read in the SLT then you are not reading all the articles. I don't always agree with how Jim and Amy write their stories but they are worlds better at facts than Mr. West.

Perhaps you should try reading the front page instead of just page 15. And why are you reading "The Media" anyway? Sometimes I wonder if Mr. West is even real. I actually think he is just lonely and needs a friend.

Ms. Perreira ("Election Not Over," Letters, Dec. 3) - No. Mistake. The election is over. As of this letter, 28 court cases already thrown out due to lack of credible evidence. It appears one can lie in a speech or a letter, but you can't lie to a judge. Without evidence, you must admit that either there was no rampant fraud or that Democrats were just awesomely awesome at politics this year. Buck up little camper...you can have a shot at it again in 4 years.

—John Clouston
San Leandro

Source of the Assertions?

Editor:

Debbie Perreira ("Election Not Over," Letters, Dec. 3) was upset that Donald Trump lost the election. Her tract, stated: "The fake news media are ignoring, suppressing, and even dismissing an enormous amount of evidence that indicates significant voting irregularities took place during the presidential election..."

She insisted on having detected "serious inferences of fraud as it relates to counting of ballots" and such additional nonsense as "...massive amounts of ballots (having) suddenly appeared...(and that) few, if any of the votes went in Trump's favor." She also contended that "Last minute rule changes, software glitches, count halts, ballot dumps, and statistical anomalies made their ugly appearances in this election-go-round, all to the benefit of one party only."

These are, of course, assertions, that have been dismissed over and over by courts and judges in the many states where they have been, and continue to be filed. Still, the question remains, where did Ms Perreira get her "facts"?

Whenever I read opinion letters in small local newspapers, such as the San Leandro Times, by writers referring to "Fake News" in their assertions and fail to detect such inconsistencies as minor grammatical or syntax slip-ups, I immediately check for sources on Google, or elsewhere, to find out who the real author may be.

Where does this information come from? Especially, if no such facts were ever noted in the news on which I rely. It's a habit I developed, among other reasons, over decades of teaching adult students as an industrial instructor. I like to keep them honest. So what do I find by simply placing a short quotation of Ms Perreira's letter in the Google search field?

It turns out that the diatribe she produced was simply a number of sentences plagiarized from an article by James Hirschen, J.D., M.A., who calls himself a New York Times best-selling author, media analyst, and law professor. However, the Orange County Screen Writers Association refers to him as "Entertainment Attorney/Talent Agent James Hirschen."

But, don't take my word for it.

Look it up yourself. The article was published by Newsmax TV Hollivood. Here is the link of the original text: www.wbap.com/news/election-investigation-need-now-to-preserve-our-democracy/

A lot of Trump's devotees seem to emulate the corruption and duplicity exhibited by him. The result is no less than a disservice to their cause.

But let me just end it like this:

Give it up, Ms Perreira. Of course, you have the right to be upset. But you do not have the right to claim and present other people's work as your own, even if that work was false as it was expressed.

—Hans Siebert
San Leandro

A Chance for a New Start

Editor:

Here we are nearing the end of this year and I want to encourage all of us to take a moment to look back, to consider in hindsight the tremendous changes and challenges we've faced this year.

A public health crisis, a gaping budget deficit, civil unrest with mistrust towards government at all levels, as well as a substantial escalation of ongoing police brutality that highlights continued racial injustice.

Many of these problems predated 2020 and all of them will be here in 2021. Throughout, residents, activists, organizers, and leaders in our city have organized their communities to address them head-on, from protests and political campaigns, to food drives and local business support.

Conversely, we have not seen some of our elected officials rise to meet the needs of this moment.

When called out and called in by their constituents, they have even doubled down on the harm they've caused, whether promulgating lies about homelessness and police violence as Vice Mayor Ballew has done, misrepresenting their positions on critical issues and taking credit for others' accomplishments as Councilman Hernandez has done, or feigning ignorance and helplessness as Mayor Cutter has done.

When the new year comes, we will have a chance for a new start with new members of this council. It's time for city government to take a hard look at themselves as they prepare for a very different future than one any of us could have envisioned. Because the people of San Leandro are already far ahead of them and we need our elected leaders to catch up right now.

—Stephen Michael Tow
San Leandro

INQUIRING REPORTER

Will you take the Covid vaccine?

— Asked downtown

Yeah, I'm going to take it, but I won't be the first. I'll wait and see. I'll check the news and make sure everything is okay first. They came up with the vaccine so fast because they already had it.

Mike Finholt
San Leandro



I'm going to see how it goes in the first round with the health care workers. If it goes well, I'll be one of the first in line after that.

James Colston
Oakland

Not until it's proven effective. They're pushing it too fast. They don't have enough volunteers who have taken it. There's not enough information on it yet.

Claudette Beale
Oakland



Oh, Lord, no. It's too early. They're rushing it to satisfy the public. I'm not going to be the guinea pig.

Lula Burnett
San Leandro



Yes, I think it's worth it, mostly so that I don't spread it. It's a protective measure.

Joe Holsworth
San Leandro



Library Suspends Curbside Service until at Least Jan. 4

The San Leandro Public Library is suspending on-site curbside pickups through at least Monday, Jan. 4.

The decision to suspend curbside pickups is in response to the Alameda County Health Officer Order No. 20-21 implementing the latest restrictions from the State of California.

The suspension went into effect on Wednesday. This in-

cludes curbside holds checkout as well as the Take-and-Make craft kits. No overdue fines will accrue during this time, and library due dates will continue to be extended as needed.

The Main Library bookdrop will be closed during this time. All currently available holds will be suspended from expiring, and will remain available for at least two weeks after curbside

service resumes.

The library will continue to hold all of our online programs, including story times, book clubs, virtual programming, and more.

Phone reference and email reference services will continue to be available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Park District Facilities Now Closed As Covid Cases Continue to Rise

The East Bay Regional Park District on Sunday evening closed all campgrounds, visitor centers, outdoor museums and children's playgrounds until further notice.

Notice of the closures came after regional health officers in Alameda County and five other Bay Area counties ordered new lockdowns in the face of rising

rates of COVID-19 infections.

Future camp reservations through made through Jan. 4 were also cancelled, including for the Sibley backpack camp. Customers will receive full refunds.

Because outdoor activity is encouraged by health officials during the new Regional Stay-At-Home Order, Park District officials are reminding

visitors that spending time in nature is important for mental and physical health and well-being.

To keep yourselves and Park District staff safe when visiting regional parks and trails, please wear masks when within six feet of others and follow all COVID-19 safety requirements.

Order: Public starting to question contradictory lock-down orders

continued from front page

ing your deliveries from essential workers. All while insisting others suffer and lose their businesses and kids not go to school."

As of Monday, there are 16.7 new cases of COVID-19 per day per 100,000 residents, up from 9.1 last week in Alameda County. More than 187 patients were hospitalized and 57 were admitted to ICU for COVID-related illness. That's double the number from last week.

"We know that those cases that occurred around people's dinner tables or activities and travel through Thanksgiving are going to show up right about now," said Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. "We believe that the levels of transmission that we've been reporting will likely continue to go up because of those activities around Thanksgiving."

At his weekly update, Gov-

ernor Gavin Newsom announced that California is planning to receive 2.16 million first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine this month. His office also rolled out a new smartphone app that can send you an alert if you come into contact with someone who has been COVID positive.

The program, called "CA Notify," is available starting tomorrow for your Apple iPhone or Google Android device.

When a person tests positive for COVID-19, the California Department of Public Health will send a verification code to plug into the app. Once the code is entered, it will trigger an alert to the phones of people who may have been within 6 feet of that individual for 15 minutes or more – in the past 14 days.

The app is voluntary and was field-tested by UC San Francisco and UC San Diego Students.

COVID Numbers:

Castro Valley

Confirmed Cases: 941

San Leandro

Confirmed Cases: 1,862

Alameda County

Confirmed Cases: 32,545

Deaths: 522

California

Confirmed Cases: 1,366,435

(+1.8%)

Deaths: 19,966 (+0.3%)

as of December 7, 2020

1.2 million – number of people taking an airline trip in the United States on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, the largest number of travelers in a day since the pandemic began. (Source: TSA)

3,000 – new cases of Covid per day in California in October

20,000 – new cases of Covid per day in California in December. (Source: Los Angeles Times)



Alameda County Industries

We are proud to be your service provider for **Recyclables, Organics & Garbage.**

Holiday Service Schedule

DECEMBER 21 - 26, 2020

If your collection day is:	Mon. 21	Tue. 22	Wed. 23	Thu. 24	Fri. 25
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 21	Tue. 22	Wed. 23	Thu. 24	Sat. 26

CHRISTMAS WEEK: If your regular collection day is Friday, your carts will be serviced one day later.

DEC. 28, 2020 - JAN. 2, 2021

If your collection day is:	Mon. 28	Tue. 29	Wed. 30	Thu. 31	Fri. 1
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 28	Tue. 29	Wed. 30	Thu. 31	Sat. 2

NEW YEAR'S DAY WEEK: If your regular collection day is Friday, your carts will be serviced one day later.

Holiday Tree Collection - On regular residential service days, from December 26 to January 31, place your holiday trees curbside. ACI will collect and compost them. Different trucks are used to collect the trees, so tree removal may occur earlier or later than your normal organics service.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Place tree curbside on your scheduled collection day.
- Remove all decorations, lights and the stand.
- Cut tree in half if taller than 6'.
- Flocked and artificial trees cannot be composted. Place them in the garbage or schedule a special collection.



Wrap It Up! - Metallic wrapping paper, most ribbons and bows, cellophane, and polystyrene packaging are not recyclable through curbside collection.

TRY THESE WASTE SAVING TIPS:

- Wrap gifts in reusable, recycled/recyclable, or compostable materials. (We used a cotton kitchen towel for the gift shown here!)
- Save and reuse ribbons, wrap, and other packaging.
- Donate packing peanuts to a local mailing or shipping store.

Find locations at www.StopWaste.org.

As a last resort, place non-recyclable packaging and wrapping materials in the gray cart, securing small items in a bag.



Alameda County Industries wishes you the happiest of holidays and a prosperous 2021.

Contact us:

www.AlamedaCountyIndustries.com

Phone: 510-357-7282 • Fax: 510-357-7329

Office Hours: 7am-5pm • Monday-Friday

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