



**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
**MILD** Lots of cloud cover but no rain  
HIGHS: 55-60  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110  
LOWS: 40-45

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

# San Leandro Times

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

VOL. 28 • NO. 51

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



Jim Hardy displayed his carvings, drawings and photos at the luncheon at the Veterans Memorial Building last Friday.

## Veterans Turn Memories to Art

By Jim Knowles  
San Leandro Times

Jim Hardy had a recurring dream where he was trying to run in the sand and his legs kept getting bogged down.

One day, the former combat photographer was scanning negatives from pictures that he had never printed. An image ap-

peared on the screen of the picture he took in Vietnam from a Huey helicopter firing rockets.

"It came back to me right then," Hardy said. "That's what my dream was about."

The memory came back after 50 years. Hardy said he remembers the pilot flying low behind the sand dunes along a beach,

so the dunes would block the sound of the chopper. And then the helicopter rose up over the dunes and people started running. The chopper, along with another Huey, let go a volley of rockets.

"I said I think they're farmers," Hardy recalled. "But the pilot turned around and

see ART, page 2

## New Council Sworn In at City Hall Love Fest

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

Newly elected City Council members took their oaths surrounded by friends and family members at a love-fest Tuesday night at City Hall.

In the November election, Mayor Pauline Cutter, District 1 councilwoman Deborah Cox, and District 5 councilwoman Corina Lopez were all re-elected, and Victor Aguilar defeated incumbent Lee Thomas for the District 3 seat.

Cox was sworn in by her husband Kevin and son James and her 93-year-old father flew in from Iowa for the ceremony.

"I want to say thank you to everyone and I'm incredibly humbled and honored to be re-elected," said Cox. "In the Bay Area we are facing huge social issues and we can't solve them alone, we have to work together. I'm incredibly proud of the work we've done and I look forward to the work we will do in the future."

Aguilar was sworn in by Ricardo Lara, the newly-elected state insurance commissioner. Aguilar's defeat of Thomas was the first time an incumbent City Council person has been unseated since 1974.

Aguilar was emotional as he took the oath and said he was proud to be the first openly gay San Leandro city council member.

"I have experienced the sting of discrimination," said Aguilar. "I stand up for myself and I will

stand up for others. I pledge to always put the people of San Leandro first."

Corina Lopez thanked her family, including her mother, for

see FEST, page 8

## Year in Review: A Look back At 2018

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

As the year comes to a close, here is a look back at some of the most memorable news stories of 2018 in San Leandro.

### January

- The first San Leandro baby of the year, Prince Abraham McElligott, was born at 2:11 a.m. at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, weighing in at 7 pounds and 2 ounces, the son of Edlyn Rodriguez of San Leandro and Reuben McElligott.

- Recreational pot sales became legal and business was booming at the two stores in the unincorporated area: We Are Hemp in Ashland and the Garden of Eden in Cherryland had lines out the doors. Despite the fact

see 2018, page 5

## Santa Louie Delivers the Bikes Once Again

### Bikes for Tykes handed out over 400 bicycles last Saturday at Davis Street; this Friday it's the annual toy giveaway

By Amy Sylvestri  
San Leandro Times

After ten years, it has become a holiday tradition and this past weekend San Leandro Police officer Louie Brandt once again passed out hundreds of bicycles to underprivileged kids at the Davis Street Family Resource Center.

"Santa Louie" spends months soliciting donations from San Leandro businesses and residents as part of his "Bikes for Tykes" campaign. This year, Brandt was able to raise funds to buy over 300 bikes, and Abbott Diabetes

Care in Alameda donated over 100 more.

The San Leandro Kiwanis Club pitched in 360 helmets, so the kids can hit the road right safely.

Cars lined up around the block at Davis Street last Saturday morning as parents who have kids enrolled in Davis Street's various charitable programs waited to pick up the bikes in time to get them under the tree on Christmas morning. The lucky kids who got bikes were selected in a lottery.

see BIKES, page 8



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Jason Jower dressed as Santa and helped Davis Street CEO Rose Johnson and San Leandro police officer Louie Brandt give out hundreds of bikes last Saturday.

## INSIDE YOUR TIMES

### NEWS

Off-duty cop accidentally shot himself, police say. **Page 3**

### FOOD

Temperature is important when cooking a roast. **Page 7**

### SPORTS

Wrestlers compete in annual Briones tourney. **Page 9**

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Calendar.....	4
Classified Ads .....	11
Crime .....	3
Crossword.....	14
Holiday Ads.....	8 & 9
Homes .....	10
Home Services .....	12
Inquiring Reporter ...	15
Letters .....	15
Lifestyle .....	7
Obituaries.....	14
Seniors .....	6



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.



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

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## Art: Luncheon recognizes the Veterans Art Project

continued from front page

said, "No, those are Viet Cong." That's what I was dreaming. I was one of the people running from the helicopter."

Hardy and a few other artists were on hand last Friday at the Veterans Memorial Building on Bancroft Avenue in San Leandro for a luncheon for the Veterans Art Project, hosted by the Alameda County Arts Commission and the Oakland Veterans Center.

Hardy's sketches and photos are in Washington, D.C. but he made copies that he had on display at Friday's luncheon. But the first thing to catch your eye is his carvings of soldiers in Vietnam.

After the war, Hardy decided his art degree wasn't going to get him a job, so he learned to weld. After work he wanted to do something else, so he started carving balsa wood.

He used his photos to make the carvings, so they aren't just generic soldiers, each is a specific person, and all his drawings are signed by the subject of the drawing.

"I didn't want to put my name on it – I thought their name should be on it, so I asked them to sign the drawing," Hardy said.

The carvings have great detail – the radio operator, the medic, the guy with the grenade launcher. And one is of Hardy himself, with his camera hanging from a shoulder.

A couple of the carvings got knocked over and broken when on display in Washington one time.

"The park ranger kept apologizing," Hardy said. "I said, 'No problem. These are grunts. I'll just patch 'em up and send 'em back out.'"

Another artist at the luncheon, Ehren Tool, works with pottery and displayed his cups. Tool works in the art department at UC Berkeley and is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan.

Another veteran, Sal Castaneda, said he resumed working in film and cinematography after



Hardy made many carvings of soldiers in Vietnam, including this one of himself.



Hardy took this photo out on patrol on Thanksgiving day after a hot meal was delivered by helicopter.



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50 years because of the Veterans Art Project.

"Art can tell a very complicated story in a simple way," Castaneda said.

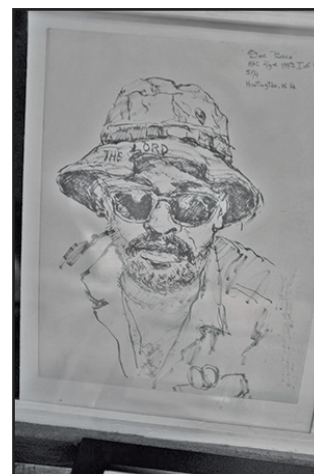
David Joseph, director of the Oakland Veterans Center, emceed the luncheon and thanked numerous people who contribute to helping veterans, from Dorothy Salmon and the Pathway Home for donating furniture to a woman who helps vets file their claims to the yoga instructor, who got in a word for his class.

"Don't think hippie yoga, or yoga pants, it's just bettering ourselves," he said.

Art is part of healing from PTSD, said Violet Juno, the county Arts Commission coordinator.

Juno said one of the veterans told her, "It's better to make art than talk about it."

One figure stands out in Hardy's carvings, a bespectacled fellow with a bow tie, overcoat and a Panama hat with big, boxy



On all of his drawings in Vietnam, Hardy asked the person he drew to sign the picture.

camera on a tripod.

"That's Matthew Brady," Hardy said. "So you have a combat photographer from the 1860s and a combat photographer from the 1960s."

## Sign Up for Boys &amp; Girls Club Basketball

The Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro is taking sign-ups for its Winter 2019 instructional basketball program for all boys and girls in grades 3 through 6. The league begins in January.

The basketball program is designed to give players a fun and competitive experience. Each player is evaluated prior to being assigned to a team so that all teams have a balanced number of veterans and rookies.

All players are required to play two quarters per game, so all players have an opportunity to be on the court and part of

the action.

All practices and games are held at the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro, 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro.

The basketball program fee is \$85 for current "After School" registered members or \$95 for all others and includes uniforms and awards.

The Boys & Girls Club is also looking for volunteer coaches for the program. For more information on the program or if you are interested in volunteering as a coach please contact Ross Lim, at 483-5581 or via e-mail at rosslim89@gmail.com.



# POLICE & FIRE

## Police Wonder Why Man Was in Duct

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office provided an update this week on the man who was caught in the ducts of a San Lorenzo Chinese restaurant on Dec. 12.

The man was rescued at around 9:30 a.m. last Wednesday after a passerby on the 700 block of Bockman Road heard him calling for help in a faint voice.

The Alameda County Fire Department and Sheriff's Office were called to the scene and determined the voice was coming from a roof vent atop the restaurant. A ladder was extended and personnel were able to find a 29-year-old man trapped in a greasy metal duct running from the roof to the kitchen, according to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the sheriff's office.

The man was covered in grease and oil and was trapped in such a condition that he could not move, Kelly said.

Firefighters quickly went



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACSO

**A man was trapped in the greasy duct of a restaurant, unable to move for two days.**

to work and after almost an hour were able to extract the man from the metal duct.

The man was physically exhausted and suffering from dehydration. He was transported via ambulance to a local hospital for treatment and he is expected to make a full recovery. Kelly said the man had been in the duct for two days and was unlikely

to have survived much longer without water.

At this time, the sheriff's office is conducting a trespassing and vandalism investigation regarding the break-in.

Police are now looking into whether the man intended to commit a burglary by entering the restaurant – which has been closed for months – via the duct.

## Bigge Crane Employees Fired After Posting Hurtful Photos

Three employees of San Leandro-based Bigge Crane and Rigging Co. have been fired after photos were posted to social media showing them mocking Camp Fire victims.

One photo depicts a man sitting on a family's mailbox, another shows him on a burned trampoline, and another shows a dead cat posed with an empty beer bottle positioned near its mouth.

The Bigge employees were in Butte County to aid in clean up following the devastating wildfire that claimed over 80 lives and burned over 18,000 structures.

The photos were posted by Rob Freestone to a public Facebook page regarding Butte County. Freestone had moved to the Bay Area from Indianapolis just six weeks ago to work for Bigge but was fired Monday morning.

The Town of Paradise's Facebook page posted that the Bigge employees' behavior was disrespectful to fire survivors.

Bigge also posted a statement over the weekend saying the behavior could not be tolerated and that Freestone and two others have been let go.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF PARADISE

**Rob Freestone found himself out of a job this week after posting what he felt were comical pictures he took during the clean up for the Camp Fire. Butte County residents weren't amused and pushed for the San Leandro-based Bigge Crane company to fire Freestone.**

## Off-Duty Police Officer Shot Himself Accidentally, Cops Say

An off-duty Oakland police officer accidentally shot himself in the parking lot of Bayfair Mall near the Chili's restaurant last Saturday night at around 9 p.m., according to San Leandro police.

The injured officer then went to his girlfriend's home and she called police. At some point he lost the gun he shot himself with, police said.

When officers responded to the girlfriend's apartment on the 400 block of Dolores Avenue, she told them that her boyfriend had been shot and was inside the apartment.

Officers began first aid and the injured cop was taken to the hospital in an ambulance, according to Lt. Isaac Benabou of the San Leandro police.

The officer, whose name has not been released by authorities, is in stable condition as he recovers from a gunshot wound to the chest, Benabou said.

The injured officer was alert and communicating with police and told them he accidentally shot himself near the Chili's restaurant after eating with a friend.

But he could not tell them what happened to his gun, which is still missing, Benabou said.

Police are also trying to determine why the officer left the scene of the shooting and whether he was alone at the time of the shooting.

It is also not known at this time if recordings from any of the mall's numerous security cam-

eras captured footage that will help San Leandro police in their investigation into the incident, Benabou said.

It will not be known whether the officer will face criminal charges or professional sanctions until the investigation concludes, police said.

Police are asking anyone with information to call 577-3315.



### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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O	B	O	E	O	W	L	H	E	R	E
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# NEIGHBORS



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

## Patch It Up

City of San Leandro workers patched the cracks in Washington Avenue last week, a measure that helps prevent potholes.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### ❖ SL Center for the Performing Arts

Brian Copeland returns to the San Leandro Performing Arts Center with another in his series of all-star stand-up comedy concerts on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m. at the San Leandro Center for the Performing Arts, 2250 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. Some of the Bay Area's best comedians are coming, including Sandy

Stec, Chicago Steve Barkley, Joe Klocek, and more. Advance sale tickets are \$65, tickets at the door are \$70. Student prices are \$18 advance, and \$20 at the door. To order tickets, visit [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) All Star Stand Up Comedy Concerts.

### ❖ Plethos New Year's Eve Party

Ring in the new year with Castro Valley's newest com-

munity theatre company Plethos Productions on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Ristorante Di Parma, 22532 Foothill Blvd. There will be a Talent Showdown with stand-up comedy and musical theatre. Tickets are \$50, which includes tasty Italian small plates and champagne toast. For tickets or for more information, visit [Plethos.org](http://Plethos.org).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ❖ Last Minute Toy Drop Off

The Davis Street Family Resource Center is in need of toys of the Holiday Basket program, especially for children 9 to 15 years old. Drop off new, unwrapped toys at 3081 Teagarden St. in San Leandro, today, Dec. 20, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or make a donation online at [www.DavisStreet.org](http://www.DavisStreet.org).

### ❖ PhotoCentral Gallery Exhibit

*Cultures in Transition*: Photos by Oliver Klink, are on exhibit through Feb. 15 in the PhotoCentral Gallery, at the HARD District Offices, 1099 E St. in Hayward. The exhibit and book celebrate cultures in Asia including Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Mongolia, and India, and include essays as well as stories about the images by the photographer. The upstairs gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The downstairs gallery is open on Monday from 5 to 10 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and by appointment. For more information, call Geir Jordahl at 881-6721 or [info@photocentral.org](mailto:info@photocentral.org).

### ❖ SL Democratic Club's Christmas Party

The San Leandro Democratic Club's Christmas Party will be held tonight, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. The San Leandro Democratic Club will be serving a homeless dinner on Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Warming Shelter at the First United Methodist Church, 1600 Bancroft Ave. in San Leandro. So the club is collecting care packages for the homeless. Set-up time is 3:30 p.m. and the dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Care package donations can be brought to the dinner of personal items such as toothbrushes, socks, deodorant combs, throw blankets, snacks, etc.

### ❖ Lawyers in the Library

An attorney from the Alameda County Bar Association will be at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. to provide brief consultations and referrals on Thursday, Dec. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. with sign ups beginning at 5:30 p.m. This free consultation is not intended to, and does not, establish a continuing attorney/client relationship. The volunteer attorney can provide only brief consultation and referrals. Each consultation will generally be 10 minutes or less. This service is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limited number of slots available. If you are limited in your speaking and understanding of English, you must bring an interpreter. For more information, call Patricia Mallari at 577-3971.

### ❖ Caroling, Cookies, and Cocoa

A free drop-by event put on by the San Leandro Church of Christ, 601 MacArthur Blvd. in San Leandro will be on Saturday, Dec. 22, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The gathering will be in front of the church building on the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lewis Avenue. Stop by to munch on homemade cookies and sip hot chocolate while joining in on singing a carol or two. Invite a friend.

### ❖ Christmas at Badarikashrama

Celebrate Christmas in the serene atmosphere of Badarikashrama with a Christmas concert and international vegetarian dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 25, at 3 p.m. with music, vegetarian

dinner, Indian cuisine and other dishes. Free and open to all. Reservations suggested. For more information, call 278-2444.

### ❖ Bayfair Center Red Cross Blood Drive

Bayfair Center, 15555 East 14th St. in San Leandro, invites the public to help save lives during its Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, Dec. 27, from noon to 6 p.m. in the lower level, Suite 312. Blood donors will receive a free long-sleeve Red Cross t-shirt while supplies last. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, visit [www.redcross-blood.org](http://www.redcross-blood.org) and enter sponsor code "Bayfair" or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Potential donors with questions about their eligibility to donate blood should call 1-866-236-3276 before scheduling an appointment. Identification is required to donate.

### ❖ SL Holiday Lights Recycling Program

The City of San Leandro Recycling Program is hosting its third annual free holiday lights recycling program through Jan. 11. Holiday lights, working or not, are being accepted Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Public Works Service Center, 14200 Chapman Road. Collection bins are in the lobby. The event is open to San Leandro residents only. Lights should be free of all bags, binding and packaging. Extension cords, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), pre-lit trees, wreaths and garland are not accepted.

### ❖ SL Boys & Girls Club's Annual Crab Feed

The San Leandro Boys & Girls Club's annual crab feed will be on Saturday, Jan. 12, at the club's facility at 401 Marina Blvd. in San Leandro. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, salad and French bread. The event is "Assigned Seating Only" and always sells out, so purchase your tickets early. For tickets or more information, call Bob Glotch at the Boys & Girls Club at 483-5581 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Proceeds support the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, which provides educational and enrichment after-school programs for 1,200 children per day at 12 sites in San Leandro and San Lorenzo.

### ❖ I.D.E.S. St. John Lunch & Bingo

I.D.E.S. St. John, 1670 Orchard Ave. in San Leandro, will host a spaghetti lunch and bingo on Saturday, Jan. 12, at noon. Lunch tickets are \$10 for adults and children 6 to 12 and includes four bingo cards. Extra cards are 25 cents each. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. For tickets, call Darlene at 589-6536, Willie at 635-6326 or Frances at 886-1568.

### ❖ Kiwanis Club Annual Crab Feed

The Kiwanis Club of San Leandro presents its 15th Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, Jan. 19, at the San Leandro Boys & Girls Club, 401 Marina Blvd. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. with dancing and live music by Chico and the Band from 7:30 to 10 p.m. All you can eat salad, garlic bread, pasta and crab. Tickets are \$50, or \$20 for children 10 and under. All seats are reserved. Call early to reserve group seating. Tickets available from San Leandro Kiwanis Club members, or call Terri Neumann at 895-4425.

## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** You might be busier than you had expected right now. But between the socializing rounds and the workplace tasks, there are opportunities for special moments with that certain someone.



**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Your creative approach leads to a quicker-than-expected solution to a workplace problem. Now you can devote more time to that proposal you hope to introduce by midmonth.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Technological glitches create problems early on. But by midweek, all runs smoothly once again, and you're well and truly on your way to meeting all your deadlines.



**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Your energy levels are high, and you feel you can handle everything that comes along. But try to take a break from your hectic pace for some quiet time with someone close to you.



**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Before you pounce on that shiny new opportunity, take more time to check it out to see how much substance actually lies beneath all that glitter. A family member has important news.



**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** A personal situation you thought was resolved resurfaces, thanks to a possibly well-intentioned move that went awry. Deal with it as soon as possible. Accept the help of a trusted friend.



**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** That goal you set way back when is finally in sight. Maintain your focus on achieving it, and don't allow yourself to be distracted by unimportant demands for your attention.



**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** A temperamental flare-up creates negative feelings that need to be dealt with immediately. But things once again go well after the apologies are made and hurt feelings are soothed.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** An early impulsive act causes confusion. But all is smoothed over once explanations are made. Expect a friend or family member to ask for your kind and always wise advice.



**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** You might have to do some juggling of your priorities, as a personal matter appears to require more time and attention. Put your pride aside and accept help from those who offer it.



**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Your creative aspect is strong. Not only does it help you accomplish your goals, but it also inspires others. This could lead to a potentially rewarding collaboration opportunity.



**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Be careful about making major decisions when you're not really committed to them. And resist any pressure to do otherwise. Better to delay action until all doubts are resolved.

## WATCH BATTERIES DONE RIGHT

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Calendar items should be submitted at least one week prior to the desired edition of the Times, which is published Thursdays. Space limitations require we print items of the most general interest. Only Non-Profit Organizations should submit calendar items.



# 2018: City manager issues 23-page email, says he dominates at ping-pong

*continued from front page*

that the City of San Leandro first granted marijuana sales permits in 2015, none of the three shops planned have opened yet.

• City Manager Chris Zapata sent out a 23-page mass email preemptively denying sexual harassment allegations that had been brought against him by Davis Street Family Resource Center CEO Rose Johnson. Zapata said that Johnson was retaliating

against him due to his demand that her non-profit repay a city loan. After a five-month independent investigation that cost the city nearly \$40,000, Zapata was cleared of wrongdoing.

## February

• City Finance Manager David Baum gave the city a gloomy financial forecast, predicting a decade of budgets in the red, including a \$4 million deficit

for this fiscal year. Baum also reported that the city's projected unfunded pension liabilities – money that will be needed to pay pensions in future years – have doubled in the past four years to \$210 million.

• Mayor Pauline Cutter was appointed Chair of the Women's Leadership Alliance at the U.S. Conference of Mayors and led a panel on women in government at the Washington, D.C. conference.

• After months and months of debate, San Lorenzo High picked the Grizzlies to be their new mascot, replacing the Rebels which some had deemed racially-charged. It will cost the

*see 2018, page 14*



TIMES FILE PHOTO

Construction got underway on AC Transit's BRT stations on East 14th Street.

## United Way Seeking Volunteer Tax Preparers

United Way Bay Area is seeking volunteer tax preparers, interpreters and greeters to help staff our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout the Bay Area during the 2019 tax season. Training is provided.

With the support of trained, IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers, VITA sites provide free tax preparation to low to moderate income individuals and families at more than 200 locations throughout eight Bay Area counties.

To volunteer, visit [earnitkeepitsaveit.org/volunteer](http://earnitkeepitsaveit.org/volunteer).

VITA volunteers help Bay Area households receive the best possible refunds by ensuring they claim all deductions and tax credits available. For example, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit—one of the most powerful poverty-fighting safety net programs in the country—can provide eligible families with three or more qualifying children

a \$6,431 credit.

Sites also provide support in helping families access the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC). Families with multiple children can claim the maximum credit of almost \$3,000.

Free volunteer training provided by community partners and the IRS begins in December and January. Volunteer tax preparers are invited to attend three days of classroom instruction. There is also a need for outreach volunteers. These roles require less training.

For tax professionals or experienced volunteers, an online training and accelerated certification tool is available.

Site operation hours vary, but most volunteers are asked to volunteer regularly for at least one four-hour shift each week from late January until April 15. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. There is a special need for bilingual Spanish speakers.

## 73 Percent of County Voters Mail In Ballots

Alameda County Registrar of Voters Tim Dupuis earlier this month certified the county's results for the Nov. 6 General Election.

The certified results sent to the California Secretary of State's Office show that 587,501 of Alameda County's 879,912 registered voters cast ballots in the election, bringing the County's overall voter turnout to 66.8 percent. That is more than 20 percent higher than the turnout recorded in Alameda County

for the last mid-term election in 2014.

The Vote-by-Mail option grew in popularity in Alameda County, with 428,001 voters or 73 percent of the total turnout choosing to mail in their ballots.

Only 27 percent of participating voters cast their ballots at one of the 815 designated election day polling places in Alameda County. The county hired and trained about 5,000 temporary workers to work at polling places on election day.

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## GRADUATE



## PROFILE



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- DELIVER INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY
- COLLABORATE



### ETHICAL & CULTURAL LEADERS

WE

- ACT WITH INTEGRITY AND RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS
- INITIATE ACTIONS AND ARE COMMITTED TO SHAPING A BETTER COMMUNITY AND WORLD

The San Leandro Unified School District is pleased to share our newly adopted Graduate Profile. This collaborative vision identifies a set of student outcomes to define what all graduates should know and be able to do to be prepared for post-secondary education, career, and civic participation. Our adoption process involved students, parents, teachers, community members, board members, administrators, and bargaining unit representatives.

SLUSD looks forward to preparing its students for college and career by implementing the Graduate Profile to ensure students are Cultural and Ethical Leaders, Critical Thinkers, Communicators and Collaborators and have a Healthy Mind and Body.

To see more exciting developments in SLUSD schools, visit [www.slusd.us](http://www.slusd.us).

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## SENIORS

## Making Your Charitable Gifts Count Under the New Tax Law

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.  
Special to the Times

**Q** I am wondering if I can still get deductions for charitable gifts under the new tax law? Do you have any thoughts on this?

**A** Yes. Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, effective this year, the traditional method of making a gift and itemizing your deductions on your tax form, as in years past, may not work.

This is because of the way the new Standard Deduction works: essentially, your charitable and other qualified itemized deductions would need to exceed the

amount of the increased Standard Deduction before you would receive a tax benefit for your charitable gifts. Reason: you cannot claim both the Standard Deduction and itemized deductions; you must choose one or the other.

Under the new tax law, the Standard Deduction has been almost doubled: it is now \$12,000 per year for single individuals and \$24,000 per year for a married couple filing jointly.

But, here's the good news: there are some "workarounds" for those who are charitably minded, but also wish to also receive a tax benefit. Here are three:

1) Bunch Your Deductions and Make Them in Alternate Years.

For example, if you are single and normally make up to \$10,000 per year in charitable deductions consider making \$20,000 per year in charitable deductions in alternating years.

2) Consider a Donor Advised Fund ("DAF") Offered By a Public Charity.

Many charities offer DAF's to their contributors. A DAF allows you to contribute what would normally be several years' worth of charitable donations into the fund in one year, and receive a charitable deduction immediately.

Your contribution would then typically be invested and grow tax-free. Meanwhile, you could make

donations to charities from that account as time goes on, whether in the year of gift or in following years. Additional contributions to the DAF in later years would also be tax-deductible.

However, you should first check with your financial advisor to choose an appropriate DAF, selecting one with a good management and investment record. Since the advent of the new law, DAF's have increased in popularity.

3) Consider a Qualified Charitable Donation Through your IRA.

If you are at least 70.5 years of age, and already taking Minimum Required Distributions ("MRD's") as required by the IRS, you could arrange to allocate some of your MRD draws directly to a charity of your choice.

The contribution would still count toward your required MRD's, and the distribution will not be included in your gross income, which essentially lowers your overall income tax bill.

However, there are special rules. Notably, the contribution must be made directly from the IRA to the charity; it cannot be made to you initially, with you later turning around and sending the funds off to the charity.

Check with your IRA custodian to see if it offers this service. I understand that Fidelity, Vanguard, T. Rowe Price, and Charles Schwab

offer this option to their customers.

Note: the charity must receive the contribution and cash the check before the end of the tax year to make this work. Al-

though you will then receive a Form 1099-R, it is up to you – not your brokerage company – to properly report the contribution as a nontaxable Qualified

Charitable Donation.

Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).

## Have You Checked Your Social Security Statement for Errors?

By Jim Miller

Special to the Times

your statement out on paper.

If you're age 60 or older and not yet receiving benefits and don't have a "My Social Security" account online, your statement will actually be mailed to you about three months before your birthday.

Your Social Security statement lists your earnings record for each year of employment and estimates the benefits you and your family may receive as a result of those earnings.

Once you get your statement, take some time to verify its accuracy by comparing the earnings listed on your statement with your own tax records or W-2 statements. You have to correct errors within 3 years, 3 months and 15 days following the year of the mistake.

If you happen to spot a discrepancy within that time limit, follow these steps.

First, call your nearest Social Security office (see [SSA.gov/locator](http://SSA.gov/locator) or call 800-772-1213 to get the number) to report the error.

Some corrections can be made over the phone, or you may need to schedule an appointment and go in with copies of your W-2 forms or tax returns to prove the mistake, or you can mail it in.

If you suspect a discrepancy but don't have backup records, the Social Security Administration (SSA) may be able to use your employment information to search its records and correct mistakes. If the SSA can't locate your records, you'll need to contact the employer to obtain a copy of your

W-2 for the year in question.

Once your earnings record is corrected, Social Security will send you a confirming letter. If you don't receive the confirmation within three months, contact them again, and double-check the correction by making sure it appears on your Social Security statement.

If corrections aren't made on your statement, start an appeals process (see [SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10041.pdf](http://SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10041.pdf)).

## Other Mistakes

Social Security earnings miscalculations can also happen if there's a mistake in your current mailing address that the IRS has on file for you. Check your federal tax returns for this possible error, especially if you've moved recently.

To correct your address, contact the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you the "Change of Address" form 8822, or print it off at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822.pdf](http://IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822.pdf), fill it out and mail it back to the address on the form.

Other factors that can cause mistakes are if your name or date of birth in the SSA records isn't the same as it appears in the IRS files. So double-check your Social Security statement for these possible mishaps, and if you find an error call the 800-772-1213 and ask for Form SS-5, "Application for a Social Security Card," and submit it with the correct information. The form can also be downloaded at [SSA.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf](http://SSA.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf).

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

Hundreds of bicycles stood ready for pickup at the Davis Street Family Resource Center last Saturday.

## Bikes: Program delivers 400 bikes

*continued from front page*

And this Friday, Davis Street will hold its annual toy giveaway, passing out toys to families in need to put under the tree.

In the decade that he has overseen the "Bikes for Tykes" program for the San Leandro Police Officers Association, Brandt estimates that they've given away over 3,000 brand new bicycles to boy and girls of all ages – from tricycles to mountain bikes.

Brandt says he may retire this upcoming year, but plans on

handing over the reigns of the Bikes for Tykes program to Jason Jower from Abbott Diabetes Care to make sure San Leandro kids will be provided for.

"The program will absolutely continue," said Brandt. "I am proud of what we've done so far and it will go on. Everyone has been so generous. It's a community effort."

Davis Street CEO Rose Johnson says that Brandt's Bikes for Tykes giveaway is always a highlight of Davis Street's holiday season.

"Louie has brought so much joy to so many over the years," said Johnson.

The bike giveaway is over for this year, but Davis Street is still accepting donations for their toy drive and turkeys and other food for their holiday basket program through today, Dec. 20.

You can drop off toys at the Davis Street Family Resource Center at 3081 Teagarden Street or visit [www.davisstreet.org](http://www.davisstreet.org) for more information or to make a monetary donation.



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

City Councilwoman Corina Lopez was surrounded by her family as she was sworn in for a second term on the council.

## Fest: New council sworn in

*continued from front page*

coming to the ceremony. Lopez is the daughter of migrant farm workers and she often comments that her childhood disadvantages shaped her values.

Lopez said she was proud to be the first Latina San Leandro council member when she was first elected four years ago and even more proud that the council now has two more Latino members, a Chinese-American member, and that women are well represented on the council.

"It has been quite a road from the lettuce fields of Bakersfield and Salinas to being here on the San Leandro City Council," said Lopez. "It's my hope and anticipation that the next four years will be as productive as the past four."

The last person to be sworn in was Mayor Pauline Cutter, who was surrounded by three generations of her family and sworn in by her daughter Jessi.

Cutter told the crowd this would be her sixth and final time getting sworn into an office after

having first been elected to the San Leandro School Board 20 years ago.

Cutter called her fellow council members a family who "are all in it for the right reasons" and also thanked the city's staff for their work with the council.

"When you work together, you can create things that really matter to you," said Cutter. "I think I bring common sense, and leadership through common sense is a good thing to have. It just makes me so proud to stand up here."

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## SPORTS

## Arroyo Wrestler Wins 189-Pound Class at Briones Tourney

By Andrew Joseph  
San Leandro Times

San Leandro High hosted the 2018 Roger Briones Invitational on Saturday when San Leandro, Arroyo, and Castro Valley all competed in the largest athlete turnout in recent history for this event.

Albany placed first overall with 177.5 points, Castro Valley placed second with 113 points, and Menlo-Atherton placed third with 108 points.

"Today is about competing against a large number of top teams in the area to gain valuable experience in preparation for the North Coast Section (NCS) Tournament later this season," said San Leandro head coach George Zuber.

#### Alia Abush of Arroyo Takes First Place In 189-Pound Division

Arroyo placed sixth with 93.5 points, and standout Alia Abushi placed first in the 189-pound class. Alisha Narvaez placed second in the 121-pound class, Jorja Loera placed fourth in the 143-pound class, and Tatianna Herrera placed fourth in the 235-pound class.

"The Briones Invitational is great because you get to compete at a high level, meet new people, and get an experience that you don't get anywhere else in California," said Narvaez. "My personal goal for this 2018 season is to go to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) state finals and place well there."

The Pirates placed 13th overall with 50 points. Notables for San Leandro include Kendall Branchaud who placed third in the 189-pound class with a win-by-pin, Nichole Sanchez who

placed fifth in the 121-pound class, and Wendy Molina who placed seventh in the 137-pound class with a win-by-pin. San Leandro's last NCS team championship came in 2005 on the end of a back-to-back title season.

"It's an honor and a gratifying feeling to play host to such a large event that pays tribute to one of the program's greatest supporters," said Sanchez. "We've all been preparing since last Monday for today, knowing how much more effort we need to give than we did in our last two tournaments."

Notables for the Trojans include Amanda Decker who placed first in the 131-pound class, Olivia Ott who placed fourth in the 160-pound class, and Ever Esparza who placed fourth in the 189-pound class.

"The goal for us today in the first major tournament of the season was to go out there and give it your all and have fun," added Abushi. "A lot of wrestling in general is about making weight before competition so we made sure to get a lot of work done in practice."

The winners in each weight class were spread around to different schools all over Northern California at the invite.

"It was a great turnout this year and hopefully a lot more girls in the future try out for their team," said Abushi.

The sport of women's wrestling in California, specifically The Bay Area, is growing rapidly every year and is welcome to support and interest from the community.

"I think, statistically, women's wrestling is the fastest growing female high school sport—even though 15 years ago it didn't even exist. It's here



PHOTO BY ANDREW JOSEPH

Arroyo High School wrestler Alicia Narvaez (black uniform) competes in the 121-pound preliminary round en route to finish second place in her class.

now and it's thriving and growing," said coach Zuber. "It's great to have these high level tournaments to showcase all this talent."

weight class:

101 pounds – Mikayla Guevarra, Amador Valley  
106 pounds – Jewelina Ko, Benicia  
111 pounds – Carmen Perez, Wind-

116 pounds – Camila Barranco, Aptos  
121 pounds – Desinee Lopez, Folsom  
126 pounds – Evelyn Calhoun, see WRESTLING, page 16

The first place winners in each sor

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# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Times

GUEST COMMENTARY



## It's Beginning To Look Like Christmas

Winter storms are making their mark across the country, a vivid reminder we are officially into the Holiday season.

While most of us have warm homes to snuggle in as we head towards Christmas, we are witnessing a dramatic increase in the numbers of folks who do not.

First, the number of homeless tent encampments appears to be proliferating. Second, recent fires in Butte County destroyed more than 13,000 homes. With so many displaced and needing support, the Central County Realtors want to remind you that this is the Season of Giving. We urge you to focus outward to meet housing needs at home and abroad.

### Give Locally:

As the weather turns colder, the homeless in the Bay Area need additional support. While it is easy to stereotype the homeless, they are real people with specific needs we can help meet. Go to [projects.sfchronicle.com/sf-homeless/how-to-help/](http://projects.sfchronicle.com/sf-homeless/how-to-help/) for a list of organizations you

can support.

### Give Statewide:

The Camp Fire in Butte County is officially the deadliest wildfire catastrophe in recorded California history. Fire is no respecter of persons and the devastation has impacted every socio-economic category.

While many want to provide clothing and other items, the most practical support is financial donations. There is also a need for housing and volunteers. KQED has published a list of support organizations at [www.kqed.org/news/11705542/how-to-help-camp-fire-victims](http://www.kqed.org/news/11705542/how-to-help-camp-fire-victims)

### Give Nationally:

Every year we encounter disasters across our country, including the recent earthquake in Alaska, wildfires in numerous states, tornados in the mid-west, hurricanes on the East coast and more. Go to [www.redcross.org/donate/](http://www.redcross.org/donate/) to learn how to partner with relief efforts across the country.

### Give Globally:

As a family, we have chosen to forego giving gifts to adults and focus instead on providing for the needs of families around the world. We collaborate with [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) to provide funds that will buy a cow or other animals for families in less-fortunate areas.

Other organizations such as [www.streetsofhope.com](http://www.streetsofhope.com) take abandoned boys from the streets and provide them with housing, food, clothing and an education. The boys are taken from a life of despair and given the gift of hope.

We want to wish you a very

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. The true heart of the season is in giving, and it is our desire that you not only have a peace-filled season, but that you also experience the joy that comes from giving to those in need.

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.

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## Cal Fire Warns of Home Heating Danger

As temperatures in the East Bay continue to dip down to and below the freezing mark, Cal Fire is reminding residents to take steps to heat their homes safely.

The frosty nights mean that many will need to turn on home heating sources to keep warm indoors.

The cold winter months are also the time of year fire departments across the state see an increase in home fires due to faulty heating equipment or unsafe practices.

"Taking the time to check your heating equipment and maintaining it correctly could make the difference in protecting your home, but most importantly, your life," said State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover.

"If heat is provided using fossil fuels, there should be a working carbon monoxide alarm to help alert residents if a malfunction in their heating equipment occurs. And make sure you have working smoke alarms throughout the

home."

Cal Fire offers these tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.

- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

For more information on safe home heating visit the Cal Fire website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



## WEEKEND GARDENER

### Prune

Prune fruit trees and vines this month and next, but only after all of the leaves have fallen. Pruning plants that are not fully dormant leads to disease and damage to the tree tissue. Don't prune roses until mid-January.

### Vegetables

Transplant globe artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, horseradish and rhubarb. Dig the soil when it's not waterlogged. If you squeeze a handful of soil and it stays in a lump, it's too wet to dig.

### Flowers

Transplant azaleas, camellias, ornamental cabbage and kale, cyclamen, primroses and pansies. Be on the lookout for snails. If you prefer not using pesticides, use a flashlight to handpick them just after dark. If the plants are dry, sprinkle them at dusk which will encourage the snails to come out of their hiding places.

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# Water Container Plants Before a Frost

By Buzz Bertolero  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

**Q** What are the general rules about mulching plants for cold weather protection? I see very little being done, but I'm new to the area.

**A** Mulching plants with straw and other materials are used to insulate their roots when the ground freezes.

Fortunately, the ground never freezes in the Bay Area, so mulching isn't necessary. But we do get freezing temperatures that damage and even kill many

plants. Summer color and other soft tissue, herbaceous plants are the first to go.

The key to the damage with woody ornamental plants is how long the temperatures stay below 32°F after the sun rises and how much moisture there is in the ground.

Cold temperatures are a descant, withdrawing moisture from plant cells at a very rapid rate. This results in the burnt or brown foliage and in severe cases, the plants don't recover. Hence it's essential to water container plants before a frost.

Frost damage is a concern when the air is still and never an issue during windy condi-

tions. The wind chill factor is of no concern with plants, as they have no central nervous system. Only the actual temperature affects them.

Herbaceous herbs such as parsley, basil, and others don't survive most cold periods and must be replanted each spring. Sage, oregano, rosemary and other woody varieties are not affected by our winter temperatures.

We protect cold-sensitive plants like citrus, bougainvilleas, mandevilla's, hibiscus and others with Bonide Wilt Stop or Cloud Cover. These products put a protective film or barrier on the leaves. I like to refer to

them as 'ChapStick' for plants.

Also, plants can be covered with N-Sulate or a similar plant blanket. N-Sulate is a UV treated, reusable tarp-like covering available at many garden centers. It is used to drape groups or clusters of plants.

You could also use sheets or blankets, but plastic sheeting is not recommended. With plastic, the cold travels right through the material. This is not the case with the other materials. Plastic could be used as long as you 'tent' the plants keeping the material from contacting the leaves. It is not recommended to wrap plants long term as we do with water pipes for the



winter.

Typically, we would expect our coldest temperatures in January and February. It is not recommended to prune off any frost damaged until March.

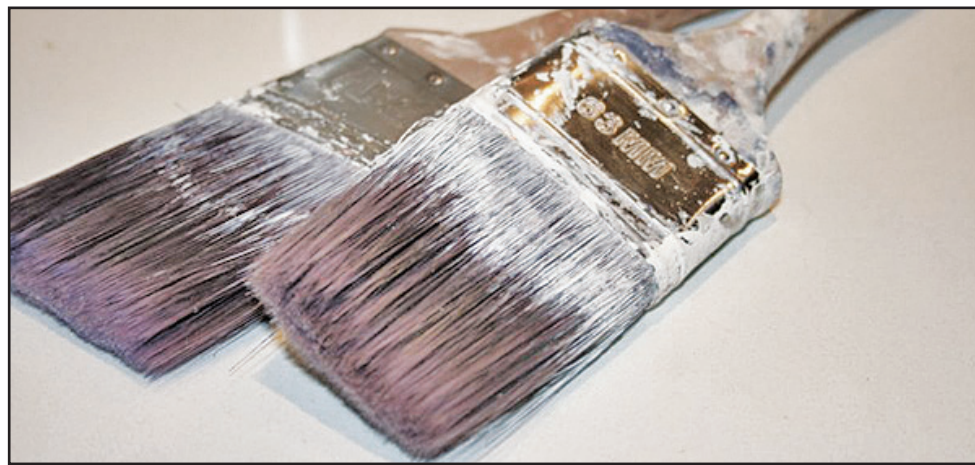
Buzz Bertolero is an Advance

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) or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)

# Tips for Salvaging Old Paint Brushes

By Samantha Mazzotta  
Special to the Times

**Q** Last summer, I repainted the garage. Because I had plans to paint some other rooms, I wrapped up the rollers and brushes in old plastic shopping bags to keep the paint damp. And then ... I forgot about them. This morning while cleaning my workspace, I found them again. The paint has hardened to stone. Can I save the brushes and rollers, or do I need to just buy all new stuff?



**A** I'm not going to judge. I've let far too many paint-laden brushes dry out myself when I got distracted. But you should definitely try to salvage the brushes and rollers before shelling out money for new paint supplies.

First, confirm what kind of paint you used in the garage last summer by checking the label on the cans of leftover paint. It most likely was latex-based interior paint, but oil-based paint is still in use.

The good news is, latex is the easiest paint to clean up, even when it's been dried on for some time. Don't use solvents like turpentine, alcohol, gasoline or anything else to clean latex, and don't listen to anyone who insists you use these chemicals.

To clean latex paint off your brushes and rollers, fill a pail or utility sink with warm, soapy water. (Plain dish soap is fine.) Peel the plastic shopping bags off the brushes and discard them.

## Mortgage Rates Drop to Lowest Point in 3 Months

Mortgage rates dropped significantly last week after several weeks of moderating.

The 30-year fixed rate fell to 4.63 percent last week – the lowest it has been since mid-September. Mortgage rates have either fallen or remained flat for five consecutive weeks and purchase applicants are responding with an up-

If pieces of the plastic stick to the rollers or brushes, just leave them on, rather than potentially damaging the brushes by trying to pry them off. Drop the brushes and rollers into the soapy water and let them sit for at least 20 minutes.

Check to see if the dried latex is loosening up, being careful not to bend or tug at the bristles of the paintbrushes. If they're still stiff with paint, the bristles could fray or break. Keep soaking them, checking every 20 minutes or so, until the latex loosens from the bristles and roller sponges, and you can easily push it off the brushes.

(If the brushes are still stiff or have bits of paint stuck to them, try soaking the bristles in boiling-hot white vinegar for about five minutes, then run a stiff nylon or plastic brush (never metal) through the bristles.)

Rinse the soapy water off, shake or spin the rollers and brushes to get rid of excess wa-

ter, and let them dry on sheet of newspaper or clean towels.

Oil paint is a different matter. If you used oil-based paint and it has dried, you can try salvaging the brushes by soaking them in mineral spirits or paint thinner for several minutes. Make sure the room is well-ventilated, and that you wear gloves and eye protection during this process.

Roller sponges with oil paint dried on them may not be salvageable but if you need to pry them off the roller handles, apply mineral spirits or paint

thinner to the ends to loosen the dried paint.

Finally, store rollers upright and either hang brushes up or store them in a clean paint can, handles down and brushes upward.

**Home Tip:** To easily hang up paintbrushes, run a wire or twine across the front of a storage shelf and either thread the brushes onto the wire by the holes in their handles, or attach pegboard hooks to the wire and hang the brushes from them.

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## From Michelle:

Independently owned brokerages, Pacific Union & Compass Real Estate recently merged. I'm excited about Compass because they provide world class technology and high level marketing for my clients, which would not be financially feasible for a company with limited resources. Additionally, the impressive group of engineers and support staff that work in the background, came to Compass from some of the most successful companies in business today.

One of my favorite new listing tools is called Compass Concierge. If the property is eligible, Compass pays up front for the cosmetic fix-ups, staging, landscaping etc. and the seller reimburses the company at the close of escrow. It's a very exciting program.

The real estate industry is changing rapidly and the old way of doing business is no longer enough. Please contact me for additional information or to discuss your real estate needs.



Michelle Ross Miller  
Real Estate Broker  
BRE# 01012751

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**The Garden Bug** The ritual of oak and mistletoe

In the first century AD, the Roman historian Pliny the Elder wrote that the druids held nothing more sacred than finding mistletoe growing on an oak tree. While chanting to the moon, they would bring two white bulls to the tree and sacrifice them to consecrate the event. A golden sickle would then be used to cut away the mistletoe, and great care was taken to gather it up in white cloth. - Brenda Weaver  
Source: wikipedia

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

And, a special **THANK YOU** to the Marina Seagate Residents who donated Food Bags to the Alameda County Community Food Bank!

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## RECENT HOME SALES

### San Leandro

3811 Yorkshire Street #2	94578: \$435,000 2 BD - 918 SF - 1987
357 Maud Avenue	94577: \$475,000 2 BD - 1,568 SF - 1972
16800 Los Banos Street	94578: \$508,000 4 BD - 1,603 SF - 1955
1353 Jean Way	94577: \$515,000 2 BD - 995 SF - 1942
891 Martin Boulevard	94577: \$545,000 2 BD - 817 SF - 1942
2078 Trombas Avenue	94577: \$605,000 2 BD - 1,009 SF - 1944
1661 Grand Avenue	94577: \$610,000 3 BD - 1,060 SF - 1946
1096 Auburn Avenue	94579: \$615,000 3 BD - 1,081 SF - 1951
15305 Churchill Street	94579: \$630,000 3 BD - 1,092 SF - 1950
3733 Carmel Way	94578: \$650,000 3 BD - 1,606 SF - 1954
1582 Wayne Avenue	94577: \$670,000 4 BD - 1,968 SF - 1942
380 Bowling Green Street	94577: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,067 SF - 1942
1060 Belleau Street	94579: \$700,000 3 BD - 1,419 SF - 1958
523 Warden Avenue	94577: \$730,000 4 BD - 2,080 SF - 1946
1910 Lomita Drive	94578: \$751,000 3 BD - 2,115 SF - 1968
15568 Baypoint Avenue	94579: \$827,000 4 BD - 2,405 SF - 2000
16621 Selby Drive	94578: \$830,000 3 BD - 1,837 SF - 1965
2093 Fairway Drive	94577: \$1,300,000 8 BD - 3,240 SF - 1963
1049 Via Honda	194580: \$700,000 3 BD - 1,484 SF - 1965

**TOTAL SALES:** 19  
**LOWEST AMOUNT:** \$315,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$630,000  
**HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$1,300,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$652,157

### Castro Valley

18110 Apricot Way	94546: \$814,000 3 BD - 2,248 SF - 2002
18651 Pepper Street	94546: \$875,000 3 BD - 1,562 SF - 2000
19998 Shadow Creek Cir	94552: \$925,000 4 BD - 1,970 SF - 1999
20967 Glenwood Drive	94552: \$935,000 3 BD - 2,197 SF - 1994
18549 Greenridge Court	94552: \$1,125,000
18549 Greenridge Court	94552: \$1,125,000 2,119 SF - 1976
20175 San Miguel Ave	94546: \$1,850,000 3 BD - 756 SF - 1953
7144 Dublin Meadows St	94568: \$540,000 2 BD - 1,007 SF - 1992

**TOTAL SALES:** 8  
**LOWEST AMOUNT:** \$508,000 **MEDIAN AMOUNT:** \$930,000  
**HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$1,850,000 **AVERAGE AMOUNT:** \$1,019,625



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**LANDLORDS** - Advertise your units! A vacancy day is money lost forever ... R. Bowman

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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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• CLEANING & REPAIRS



# 2018: Some Alameda County administrators highest paid in the state

continued from page 5

school an estimated \$200,000 to re-brand with the Grizzly logo.

## March

• On March 14, someone at San Leandro High wrote a school shooting threat on a bathroom wall, leading to a 4-hour campus lockdown and the cancellation of classes the next day. Dozens of worried parents gathered outside the school while police investigated the threat, using police dogs to search the campus. The threat was eventually determined to not be credible.

• A week later, a 15-year-

old student was caught with a semi-automatic gun on campus at Arroyo High and arrested. In May, a 16-year-old student brought a loaded gun onto the San Lorenzo High campus. No one was injured in any of the incidents.

• Mayor Pauline Cutter delivered the annual "State of the City," declaring San Leandro "a city where kindness matters."

## April

• The East Bay Municipal Utility District marked the 112th anniversary of the great San Francisco quake by giving a tour

of their sites around the East Bay and showing off flexible pipes and retrofitted reservoirs to prove they are prepared for the "Big One."

• The Alameda County Sheriff's Office announced plans to take over operations at the REACH Ashland Youth Center, but hundreds attended a standing-room-only community meeting to dispute that plan. Opponents said that kids would be intimidated by an overt police presence at REACH and questioned why law enforcement would be involved in what is essentially a youth social services



TIMES FILE PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Meadow Presley affixed tiles to a mosaic planter with an Ohlone theme in May in downtown San Leandro.

program. Supervisor Nate Miley, who had suggested the sheriff's takeover, withdrew his request but left the door open for the sheriff's office to do so in the future.

• The San Leandro Unified School District was named an Advanced Placement District of the Year by the College Board, an award given to just three school districts in the nation.

## May

• The annual salaries of Alameda County's top employees continued to be among the highest in the state. Administrator Susan Muranishi was paid \$775,000 including benefits, nearly \$300,000

more than the next highest paid county administrator in California. Alameda County Sheriff Greg Ahern's pension and benefits

totalled more than \$630,000 and District Attorney Nancy O'Malley's totalled \$487,000.

see 2018, page 16



TIMES FILE PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

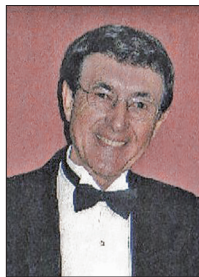
Rebecca Chualong brings lunch for the homeless a couple times a week at Root Park.

## LOCAL DEATHS

### Antone "Tony" Castro

9/9/33 - 12/10/18

Antone "Tony" Castro passed away on December 10, 2018, in San Leandro. He was born on September 9, 1933. He leaves behind his son, David Castro, and wife Teri. His Granddaughters, Kelsey and Madison Olivetti all from Castro Valley. His sister, Margaret Dambley, and Brother-in-law, Earl Dambley from San Leandro. His Nephew, Steve Rodrigues, and wife Denise from Carmichael, CA. His Nephew, Don Rodrigues, and wife Debi from Florida. Two Great-nieces, a Great-Nephew, Cousins, Aunts, Uncles and Friends. Tony was pre-deceased by his parents Antone and Roseline Castro.



Tony was a graduate of San Leandro High School. He learned to play the drums, and formed his own band while still in high school. After graduation he joined the Navy and served during the Korean War. Back in civilian life, he returned to his love of music. He worked professionally for over 60 years. Besides playing in night clubs throughout the Bay Area, he also played in Reno, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, and Palm Springs. He especially enjoyed playing with his band, "Tony Castro and Friends," on the Princess Cruise Line, with his singer, Karen Salentine, and keyboardist, Bob Enos. He will be forever a missing link in the family who loved him. A memorial service will be held on Saturday December 29, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at Santos and Robinson Mortuary 160 Estudillo Ave in San Leandro, CA.

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45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

### ACROSS

- 1 Trumpet
- 5 Recipe meas.
- 8 Arduous journey
- 12 Reed instrument
- 13 Pussy-Cat's partner
- 14 Present
- 15 Freebie
- 17 Wedding symbol
- 18 "Golly!"
- 19 Illuminated
- 20 Actor Tommy Lee
- 21 Automaton, for short
- 22 Not many
- 23 Strictly \_\_ nous
- 26 Excise
- 30 Old Italian money
- 31 Godfather's address
- 32 Greet silently
- 33 Abandon the nest
- 35 Gold measure
- 36 Child
- 37 Whatever number
- 38 Caesar, for one
- 41 Saturnian saucer?
- 42 Locate
- 45 Cabbage salad
- 46 Hidden passenger
- 48 Passport endorsement
- 49 Rowing need
- 50 Foundation
- 51 Annoyingly slow
- 52 Definite article
- 53 Picnic invaders

### DOWN

- 1 "Dukes of Hazzard" boss
- 2 Theater award
- 3 Wander
- 4 Born
- 5 Namely
- 6 Bat a gnat
- 7 Thickness
- 8 Disposable
- 9 Check
- 10 Sea eagle
- 11 Small barrels
- 16 Burn aid
- 20 Lustrous black
- 21 Made to come apart easily
- 22 Merriment
- 23 Sprite
- 24 Zero
- 25 Have a go at
- 26 Coquettish
- 27 Series of skirmishes
- 28 Actress Gardner
- 29 Still
- 31 Pop
- 34 Victory
- 35 Recognize
- 37 Earlier, in verse
- 38 Answer an invite
- 39 Hodgepodge
- 40 Halloween purchase
- 41 Hexagonal state
- 42 Former ugly duckling
- 43 Bridge position
- 44 Spud's buds
- 46 Drunkard
- 47 Lawyers' org.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3



## 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](mailto: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.

**'Time to Question Every Dime The Council Spends'**

Editor:

Well, it must be a record for the San Leandro City Council as it took them less than a month after being re-elected to push for new taxes to cover their past flaws.

When I read the Letter to the Editor last week by Ricardo Trigueros ("Calls for Fewer 'Pointless Government Services,'" *Letters*, Dec. 13) he hit the nail on the head by stating that the Council has mismanaged our tax dollars for years and now because of their actions we are operating in the red and the future shows no way out of this hole.

It's time to question every dime that the Council plans to spend and keep a running total of every wasted expenditure and hold them fully accountable for their actions.

Such a shame that Mr. Trigueros didn't run for a seat on the City Council as I would have been out beating the bushes for him as he sure would have been a breath of fresh air compared to our current mayor and her posse.

—Brent Heath  
San Leandro

**Says North Area Trying to Stop Development on Their Side of Town**

Editor:

Here we go again! Rose Riskind and the rest of the north area NIMBYs are trying once again to stop all development on their side of town. In classic NIMBY fashion they think building on the west side is just fine. Let them deal with the traffic even though we're closer to BART and the new Rapid Bus line.

How much longer are we going to let this angry mob chase transit oriented development away from San Leandro? Our tech transition has been completely destroyed because this group can't imagine paying market-rate rents and is doing everything they can to stop anyone from building market-rate housing. Tech workers making good wages are actually being discouraged from living in San Leandro through their actions. How does that make us look to the rest of the cities in the Bay Area?

It would all make sense except they hate subsidized housing as well. They seem to hate everything. So, look around San Leandro and notice all the "For Lease" signs from Westlake to the Wells Fargo building and ask yourself, how much longer are we going to let the north area NIMBYs stop prosperity in town?

—Gary Langbehn  
San Leandro

**Lee Thomas Thanks Friends for Their Support**

Editor:

To my friends and family, thank you for the support you have given me over the past four years during my term as a City Council member, and through two elections. When I first embarked on this journey, I reached out to you

for support and because of you, I am able to leave office with a record of achievements in place to support youth and families in San Leandro.

While the outcome of the 2018 election was not what we had worked for, I am proud of the work I have accomplished. Together we created programs for our young people such as the Teen Take-over and the Summer Youth Trades Program. We banned flavored tobacco, raised the minimum wage and made San Leandro a Sanctuary City to support and protect those who need us the most. We created stronger ties with working families to ensure that hard working people receive a good wage on projects in our city. And with your support, I was able to lay the groundwork for San Leandro to expand public safety staff to ensure residents remain safe as our city grows.

It has truly been my honor to serve San Leandro residents and the wonderful organizations in the East Bay. I leave this position knowing my accomplishments were possible because of love and support you gave me.

I am grateful to my wife Ida, and our daughters, Kylee and Hailee, for their understanding and support, and the sacrifices they made that allowed me to serve the people of San Leandro. I want to thank every volunteer who walked, talked, donated and put up lawn signs to support me during this election. I appreciate every one of you.

I wish you all the happiest of holidays.

—Lee Thomas  
City Council member

**'Shaking Their Heads' over Leo West's Claims**

Editor:

I'll give in to Mr. West's explanation on the black hole issue. I questioned his understanding of physics due to his poorly constructed, run-on sentence. My apologies.

However, Mr. West, I am sad for you. Because we disagree does not make me your enemy. We are happy to hear all voices but pick one and get your facts straight. Your letters appear unhinged.

This time, we shake our collective heads when you:

1) claim climate change deniers cling to biblical-centric world views. Who are you arguing with here? I don't know if what you say is true. I do know that religious, Sun-goes-around-Earth theories were proven wrong hundreds of years ago and scientists died at the hands of clergy to suppress the facts. Same now but it's the fossil fuel church with the baton. So your statement doesn't help your "climate change is a hoax" stance.

2) claim that local weather observations are used to support climate change theory. No, Mr. West. That's you. You flip-flop here. Climate change science focuses on the global averages and mega-trends.

3) claim I said climate change started 100 years ago. Distortion, Mr. West. My letter clearly said "we were warned."

As shown, Mr. West, you can't keep your facts straight let alone stay on a topic. I'll stop there since nothing I say will change Mr. West.

Readers, try to be better stewards of the planet by turning down your thermostat, if it's yellow let it mellow, brown lawn is the new green lawn, reduce/reuse/recycle, etc.

—John Clouston  
San Leandro

**Earth 'Showing Symptoms' of Climate Change**

Editor:

Come on, guys! Forget about black holes. Keep it simple and focus on the issue. Is climate change real, or is it a hoax? Few of us may be scientists, just as few of us are physicians. But when you're having symptoms that could indicate cancer, do you go to a politician for advice, or do you go to a doctor?

Our earth is showing symptoms that scientists predicted decades ago would occur as our climate warmed: rising ocean levels, more frequent and more destructive hurricanes, severe drought and wind making wildfires more destructive and harder to control.

Ninety-seven percent of scientists worldwide agree that increased climate warming is real and primarily caused by CO2 released from burning fossil fuel. The data is there. Just look at a graph of earth's average yearly temperatures over time, and you can't miss the sudden spike in rate of change right after the industrial revolution. Coincidence?

Yes, 3 percent of scientists disagree, just as you can find a tiny percentage of doctors who claim they aren't sure a high fat diet or smoking increases your risk of cancer and heart disease. Funny thing ... some of the very same scientists who told us cigarettes were safe are now funded by Big Oil to convince us climate change is a hoax.

So, who are you going to believe? Politicians from one political party, addicted to large campaign donations from the fossil fuel industry? The few dissenting scientists who pulled this scam before, when they worked for the tobacco industry? Or the overwhelming majority of scientists around the world, who are telling us that global warming is real and may be irreversible if we don't take action now?

If you don't care enough to learn the facts and act accordingly, I guarantee that your kids are going to care. Do you really want to risk their future?

—Jeri Libby  
San Leandro

**'Appalled' by Ruling that Health Care Act is Unconstitutional**

Editor:

It is appalling when a federal judge in Texas has struck down the Affordable Health Care Act which he claims is unconstitutional. For his action, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which improves the health of American Indians, will be eliminated as well as the majority of Americans losing their health care coverage.

For President Trump to say that the judge's ruling is a victory for the American People shows how hypocritical he and the Republicans are. They claim to be pro-life but want to take away health care from American Indians and the majority of Americans. Their actions need to be stopped.

—Billy Trice Jr.  
Oakland



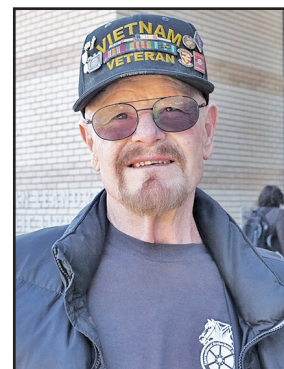
## INQUIRING REPORTER

**What style should not come back?**

— Asked at the Main Library

Presently, the way men and women color their hair blue or red. It looks ridiculous. And tattoos on the face or neck. It looks terrible to me, and when you get older it just looks like bruises.

**Jerry Wheeler**  
San Leandro



The baggy pants that hang down. It doesn't look good on the boys. It's not formal, it looks sloppy.

**Irene Garcia, with son Saul**  
San Leandro



Bell-bottoms. That was a fad, but now in 2018, I don't think it would ever come back. I had a pair of bell-bottoms. It's like you have lampshades on your lower legs over your shoes.

**Christopher Ransom, Jr.**  
Oakland



Back in the late '60s and early '70s, females were wearing these long capes. All the girls started getting them. For those of us who are short, it doesn't do well. It's just funny looking.

**Joanne Mellor, with Roscoe**  
San Leandro



The bouffant hairdo. I used to have one. It just looks too fake and it's a lot of trouble to do. But it was fun at the time.

**Jan Schumann**  
San Leandro





## Pets of the Week



Billy

The pets of the week at the Hayward Animal Shelter, 16 Barnes Court in Hayward, are Billy the cat and Simon the bunny.

Billy is a sweet 3-year-old who loves to lean into your hand for chin, cheek, and neck scratches. He's full of love and just



Simon

enough cattitude to be interesting.

Simon is a young, fun-loving and friendly bunny. He loves to snuggle and cuddle and would love a home where he gets to spend lots of time with his family.

For more information on Billy or Simon, call the Hayward Animal Shelter at 293-7200.

## 2018: San Lorenzo voters pass school bond

continued from page 14

• The City Council decided against placing a parcel tax on the 2018 ballot, saying they didn't want to compete with the school district's parcel tax. Immediately after the election in November, the City Council directed city staff to research putting a parcel tax on an upcoming ballot.

• "Truth Thursdays" returned to the downtown area on the last Thursday of May, June, July, and August and featured food trucks and live music in the space around the 55-foot "Truth is Beauty" statue at the tech campus.

### June

• Thousands gathered downtown for the Cherry Festival, the annual event celebrating San Leandro's now defunct agricultural roots which was first held in 1909.

• The primary election was



TIMES FILE PHOTO BY ANDREW JOSEPH

The Arroyo High basketball team rallied to best crosstown rival San Lorenzo, 68-60, last February.

held and just 20 percent of registered Alameda County voters showed up at the polls. Locally, the San Lorenzo School District passed Measure B, a \$130 million

bond that the district said will be used to update classrooms and improve student access to technology.

• Michael Kitterall, 25, was stabbed to death with a pair of scissors in the Downtown Plaza. Kitterall and a co-worker got into a fight in the parking lot with Michael Mendozaroché, 23, and Alex Fernandez, 23, after they all left a bar downtown. Kitterall was killed in what is San Leandro's only murder so far in 2018. Mendozaroché and Fernandez continue to be held without bail at Santa Rita Jail and have their next court date scheduled for Jan. 4.



Prince Abraham McElligott with mom Edlyn Rodriguez.

Look for Part II covering the second half of 2018 in next week's issue.

## Christmas Eve Services at All Saints

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd, San Leandro will hold two services on Christmas Eve.

At 4 p.m. there will be a Christmas Eve Children's Service with Communion, carols, and lots of fun. All the prayers

in the service have been written for children and families.

The church will also hold a 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Vigil Mass with Communion, carols, and rich solemnity and festivity. For more information, visit [www.saintsalive.net](http://www.saintsalive.net).

## Wrestling: Winners

continued from page 9

Menlo-Atherton

131 pounds – Amanda Decker, Castro Valley

137 pounds – Mary Lopez, Liberty

143 pounds – Joanna Qiu, Albany

150 pounds – Beyonce Gar-

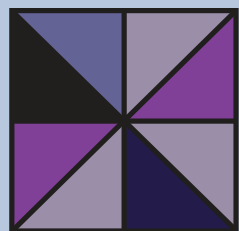
cia, James Logan

160 pounds – Francesca Lopresti, Albany

170 pounds – Abigail Ericson, Menlo-Atherton

189 pounds – Alia Abushi of Arroyo

235 pounds – Lillian McCoy of Casa Grande.



# SAN LEANDRO Connect Monthly



### San Leandro City Council

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter  
Vice Mayor Deborah Cox, District 1

Ed Hernandez, District 2

Lee Thomas, District 3

Benny Lee, District 4

Corina N. López, District 5

Pete Ballew, District 6

City Manager Jeff Kay

### Save the Date:

### City Council Annual Planning Session

Saturday, February 2, 2019  
8:30 am

Senior Community Center  
13909 E. 14th Street

The public is invited to attend and offer input at the City Council's annual planning session. The meeting will include an update on City finances as well as accomplishments from the past year and Citywide goals for the upcoming year.

For more information, please contact Eric Engelbart, Deputy City Manager at [eengelbart@sanleandro.org](mailto:eengelbart@sanleandro.org)

### Save the Date:

### MLK Celebration Oratorical Festival & Poetry

January 21 @ 10:30am  
Senior Community Center  
13909 E. 14th St.

The public is invited to attend the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Festival & Poetry slam. Students will perform original or well-known essays, speeches, or poems honoring MLK, Jr.

### Happy Holidays from the City of San Leandro!

The City of San Leandro wishes the public a happy and healthy holiday season. In observance of the holidays, city hall offices will be closed from December 24th through January 1st, with regular office hours being restored on January 2nd. Police and other essential services will continue uninterrupted throughout this time. The Main Library will observe modified hours during this period; please call the information desk at 577-3971 for more details.



### Holiday Lights Recycling

7:00am - 3:30pm - Now thru January 15,  
2018 Public Works Service Center  
14200 Chapman Rd.

Did you know it can take up to 1,000 years for plastic holiday lights to break down in a landfill? To help address this issue, the City is now offering free holiday lights recycling. San Leandro residents may drop off lights in working or non-working condition at the Public Works Service Center. Lights should be free of all bags, binding and packaging. Extension cords, Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), pre-lit trees, wreaths and garland will not be accepted. For more information, contact the Recycling Hotline at 577-6026.

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### City Departments

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Community Development.....(510)577-3423  
Engineering & Transportation.....(510)577-3428  
Alameda County Fire.....(510)577-3317  
Finance.....(510)577-3376  
Human Resources.....(510)577-3396  
Police Department  
(Non-Emergency).....(510)577-2740  
Library Services.....(510)577-3970  
Public Works.....(510)577-3440  
Recreation & Human Services.....(510)577-3462