



CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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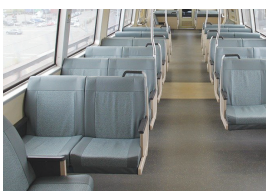
YEAR 32

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

NO. 17

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



EBX Changes
BART's Early Bird Express bus changes start next Monday
Page 2

LIVING



Get Comfortable
Staying in more provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy comfort foods
Page 5

NEWS



Garden Tours
Tours of native plant gardens will begin online this Sunday
Page 12

INDEX

Arts & Entertainment...	11
Classified Ads	8
Crosswords	9
East Bay Living	5
Homes	6
Horoscope	10
Obituaries	10
Opinions	10
Our Town	3
Weather	2

PHONE: (510) 614-1560

ABOARD THE USNS MERCY



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS RYAN M. BREEDEN

Hospitalman Mark Canlas of Hayward treats a patient in an intensive care unit aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy last Thursday. Mercy deployed in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts, and will serve as a referral hospital for non-coronavirus patients currently admitted to shore-based hospitals. This allows shore base hospitals to focus their efforts on COVID-19 cases.

Face Masks Now Mandatory

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

If you are going out in public, make sure to wear a face mask or risk getting a ticket starting today. Alameda County Health officials issued new orders late last week to help control the spread of the novel coronavirus. Enforcement began this morning at 8:00 a.m. and will remain in place until further notice.

The order makes it mandatory for nearly everyone to wear face coverings when around people outside of their own homes.

"Consistent and broad use of a face covering may help to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Alameda County because people may have COVID-19 but not show symptoms or their symptoms are so mild they don't think they have become infected," County Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan said in a statement.

The directive comes at a time when Alameda County and Berkeley registered 1,191 cases of infection and identified 42 deaths associated with COVID-19.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL GOODWIN

County Health officials issued new orders late last week which makes it mandatory for nearly everyone to wear face coverings when around people outside of their own homes.

Officials said they were motivated to issue these protections after seeing a significant and increasing number of suspected cases of community transmissions, especially in senior care facilities.

San Leandro along with Castro Valley and the other unincorporated areas of Alameda County make up more than 200 of the reported

infections; only Oakland and Hayward have more.

Alameda County, which has 1.7 million residents, now has the third-most cases in the Bay Area, behind Santa Clara County at 1,870 and San Francisco at 1,216.

Face coverings can be simple and homemade, made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable

see MASKS on page 4

County Activates Disaster Relief Funds, Website

To help address the growing needs facing residents, community-based organizations, first responders and health care workers, Alameda County has activated two Disaster Relief Funds.

Established after the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., these Disaster Relief Funds have been reactivated a number of times, most recently during California's devastating wildfires.

The County is reaching out to philanthropic, business, private, public non-profits and other partners to support vital needs by donating to the funds.

The first, an Emergency Fund, will provide needed services to those directly affected by the pandemic. All monetary contributions will assist residents that are directly affected by the pandemic, providing emergency relief to families, youth and seniors that may need assistance.

Support will include such needs as emergency childcare, shelter and food aid, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The second, a Recovery Fund, will accept cash donations to purchase supplies to assist first responders, emergency workers and

health care providers. Donations will be accepted from individuals, philanthropy and businesses.

Donors must designate either the Emergency or Recovery Fund along with their donations.

Cash donations may be sent by personal check payable to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund c/o the Auditor-Controller Agency, 1221 Oak St., Room 238, Oakland, CA 94612.

In addition to funds, the county is accepting donations of new personal protective equipment in original packaging of such needed supplies as N95 or P100 Respirator Masks, Surgical Masks, Protective Gowns, Disposable Gloves, Hand Sanitizer, Disinfectants & Wipes, and Goggles & Eye Protection.

To donate, visit: acgovcares.org/#ppedonations

Alameda County
Confirmed Cases = 1,191
Deaths = 42

California
Confirmed Cases = 33,874
Deaths = 1,227
as of April 21, 2020

Eden Drive-Up Clinic

Eden Medical Center has an outdoor drive-up Respiratory Care Clinic for Sutter patients with serious symptoms who have already been screened. (To be screened by phone call 1-866-961-2889.)

A physician in full protective gear sees patients through their open car window or in a chair. For those with symptoms of a virus, a specimen is collected for a flu test and a COVID-19 test.

The physician will listen to each patient's lungs, and if indicated, order an X-ray or CT scan to detect infection. Every person who comes through the clinic has their temperature, respiration rate, heart rate and oxygen saturation checked and each leaves with a personalized plan for what to do if

their symptoms worsen.

• Statewide Testing

At his daily briefing yesterday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said that the state was conducting 14,500 tests per day as of Tuesday and that he expected to increase the daily number to 25,000 by the end of the week, a figure he said was "still inadequate."

The governor also announced a new interactive website (californiansforall.ca.gov) which will be used to sign up those who wish to volunteer in many different ways.

At tomorrow's briefing, Newsom is expected to outline new guidelines on testing and tracking COVID-19 in the state. The briefings are broadcast live each day at noon on Bay Area TV stations.

Castro Valley Weather April 22-26, 2020



Wednesday
Mostly Sunny
High 66° Low 50°



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High 71° Low 56°



Friday
Mostly Sunny
High 75° Low 54°



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
High 71° Low 52°



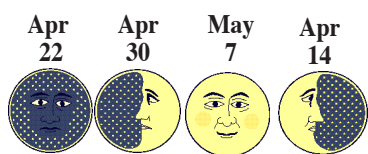
Sunday
Mostly Sunny
High 70° Low 46°

Almanac

Moon Phases



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 08.39
Normal To Date: 18.50
Season Average: 21.22



Sun sets at 7:52 p.m. today, rises at 6:24 a.m. Thursday.

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This ad was funded by ACI Pub Ed



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

BART ridership is down more than 90% these days.

BART's Early Bird Express Changes Start Next Monday

BART service on all 13 Early Bird Express (EBX) bus routes will be reduced or discontinued beginning Monday, April 27, due to decreased ridership during shelter-in-place orders.

In mid-March, the EBX network carried roughly 1,000 riders per day. Recently that number has dropped to as low as 100, a 90% decline in ridership.

Since shelter-in-place was established, BART and its seven partnering bus agencies have been monitoring ridership trends and evaluating potential options to craft a reduced service plan to match the decreased demand.

Partner bus agencies have also indicated that the express service reductions are needed to free up their overall service capacity and sustain their main routes.

Among routes being discontinued is No. 703 from Dublin/Pleasanton Station to the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco.

The new service plan provides at least one trip into San Francisco from each region. This will help to ensure that EBX stays within budget and is able to restore service as shelter-in-place orders are lifted and customers return.

BART staff will conduct in-person outreach on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 27-29, at the Salesforce Transit Center and at 19th St./Oakland Station. Signs will also be posted at all EBX departure stations to inform riders about the changes.

For more info about EBX, visit bart.gov/earlybirdexpress. Phone operators at BART's Information Center are available Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 510-465-2278 to help riders plan their trips and gather feedback.

Sign Up for Senior Chat

Sheltering-in-place can be lonely and difficult to handle for many seniors. The Kenneth Aitken Senior Center invites you to sign up for Senior Chat now! Staff will call you to have a 10 minute conversation and help you stay connected with others.

You can sign up for a time that is convenient for you Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the shelter-in-place.

To sign up, please call Kenneth Aitken Senior Center Recreation Coordinator Jen Tibbetts at 510-750-7861 or Hayward Area Senior Center Recreation Coordinator Tera Maroney at 510-750-7268.

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WITH ALL TIRE PURCHASES

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Caught with Stolen Property and Illegal Narcotics

Sunday, April 19: at 3:15 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 25-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of stolen property, illegal narcotics, and methamphetamine drugs. The man was stopped at a business on Lake Chabot Road near Quail Avenue when deputies approached him and discovered his stash. The man was taken into custody.

Theft Outside of Church

Thursday, April 16: at 6:32 p.m., a 20-year-old man from Hayward was arrested on suspicion of theft from another person at a church on Grove Way near Redwood Road. Deputies were called to the scene following a call about a stash-and-grab incident. The man was stopped in the parking area and taken into custody.

Traffic Stop Ends in Arrest

Wednesday, April 15: at 6:10 p.m., two people from Oakland were arrested following a traffic

stop on Castro Valley Boulevard near Stanton Avenue. Deputies pulled over a vehicle and charged the driver, a 34-year-old man, on suspicion of driving with an expired registration. The passenger, a 33-year-old woman was also charged with possession of illegal narcotics. Deputies took the pair into custody.

Two Charged with Grand Theft

Wednesday, April 15: at 10:11 a.m., deputies pulled over two people from Oakland on suspicion of grand theft auto in front of a drug store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Marshall Street. The driver, a 42-year-old man, was handcuffed and taken into custody. The passenger, a 33-year-old woman, was additionally charged with possession of illegal narcotics. Deputies report the woman was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for her capture on previous charges of auto theft and possession of stolen property. The woman was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending bail.



PHOTO BY MIKE KADY

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office Rhythm Cadets were recipients of one of eight grants from the Rotary Club of Castro Valley. They are shown in their appearance at the 2019 Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade.

CV Rotary Club Awards \$6,500 in Grants

The Rotary Club of Castro Valley has selected eight programs that are making a positive difference in Castro Valley to receive grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

The recipients are Bad Business Model Bikes, Eden Medical Center's Fall Prevention Program, Alameda County Sheriff's Office Rhythm Cadets, Castro Valley Sports Foundation's Trail

Challenge, Ruby's Place, Spectrum's Meals for Seniors program, La Honda Music Program, and A.R.T., Inc.

"The Club is excited to promote all of these wonderful organizations that are striving to make Castro Valley an even better community," said Rotary President Todd Anglin. "The Rotary Club of Castro Valley is committed to supporting outstanding community

programs that align with the goals of Rotary. The Club is excited to promote all of these wonderful organizations that are striving to make Castro Valley an even better community."

The club received thirteen excellent grant applications this year, making the Rotary Grants Committee's selections a difficult challenge.

The Club will fund another

round of grants in October 2020. Details are at www.castrovalleyrotary.org.

The Rotary Club of Castro Valley is currently meeting online on Tuesdays at noon. Links to the meetings are posted at the website above under Upcoming Events.

The Club welcomes individuals who want to make a positive impact locally, nationally, and internationally.

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

CASTROVALLEYFORUM.COM

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Tel: 510-537-1792 • Fax: 510-814-9691

Fred Zehnder, Editor & Publisher
fredz@ebpublishing.com

Howard Morrison, Assoc. Publisher
howardm@ebpublishing.com

Helen Burkett, Advertising Design Mgr.
helenb@ebpublishing.com

Moxie Morrison, Layout Design
moxmore@yahoo.com

Claudette E. Morrison, Business Mgr.
cm@ebpublishing.com

Patrick Vadnais, Classified Ads / Obituaries
patrickv@ebpublishing.com

Mary Florence, Advertising Sales
861-3270 mpominville4582@aol.com

Linda Nakhai, Advertising Sales
lnakhai@comcast.net

Contributors:

Linda Sandsmark

Michael Singer

Amy Sylvestri

Jim Knowles

Gene Osofsky

Carl Medford

Terry Liebowitz

Debbie Tee

Linette Escobar

Thomas Lorentzen

Buzz Bertolero

Bruce Roberts

DMV Will Extend Expiring Driver's Licenses to May 31

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is extending driver licenses expiring during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Licenses that expire between March and May 2020 are now valid through May 31.

All commercial driver licenses, endorsements and certificates expiring between March and June 2020 are now valid through June 30.

The extensions require no individual action on the part of drivers. These drivers will not receive a new card or an extension in the mail. As an option, drivers can request a free temporary paper extension online through DMV's Virtual Field Office (see below) to document their extension.

Californians with a suspended license are not eligible.

Drivers age 70 and older with

expiring noncommercial licenses are receiving an extension in the mail automatically.

The extension does not include medical certificates for commercial drivers, which requires additional administrative actions scheduled in the near future.

California law enforcement has been alerted to the extensions.

The DMV continues to review and process online renewals, and

encourages drivers who are eligible to renew their license online to do so.

The Virtual Field Office, virtual.dmv.ca.gov, builds on the other online services already available to DMV customers at dmv.ca.gov, including driver license renewals.

During the Covid-19 epidemic, the DMV has canceled all behind-the-wheel drive tests to honor social distancing guidelines.

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NEW! Free Family Caregiver Classes now Offered by Video Conference

Since Hope Hospice has had to temporarily suspend our Family Caregiver Education Series and Living With Dementia group classes in light of the region's COVID-19 response, we transitioned the courses to video conference via Zoom technology. Classes remain complimentary to the public in our Tri-Valley and adjacent East Bay service area. Additionally, families who care for a loved one living with dementia and have questions about specific challenges they are facing can request a free private consultation via Zoom.

(925) 829-8770 • HopeHospice.com/family

Masks: Must be Worn in Main Settings

continued from front page

material without holes, that covers the nose and mouth. Medical masks such as the N95 respirators should be reserved for health care professionals and first responders.

The order requires that a face covering must be worn in three main settings:

- Going to – or working in – an essential business: including stores, offices, and government buildings
- Seeking health care: such as visiting a doctor or clinic
- Taking public transportation: including BART, bus, and shared transportation.

Employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers in all these settings must wear a face covering where the public is present or likely to be, and at any time when others are nearby, according to Dr. Pan.

“A face covering may reduce the risk of transmitting the virus that causes COVID-19 when maintaining at least six feet of distance isn’t possible,” said Dr. Pan.

Health officials are asking business owners to refuse service to patrons who do not follow the face covering order. Failure to use a mask in public could also result

in a misdemeanor fine or imprisonment by law enforcement.

The new order has some exemptions. Children ages 12 and younger are not required to wear a face covering, and any child two years old or younger should *not* wear a face covering.

If you are exercising on your own such as walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, you are not required to wear a mask, however you should keep one with you and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others.

The order also does not apply to someone driving by themselves or with members of their family.

PUBLISHER’S STATEMENT

We wish to thank, once again, our loyal advertisers and our friends who have sent donations that have enabled us to continue to print and distribute The Forum this week.

For those who wish to contribute at this time, the best way is to send a check to The Forum, P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501. We hope to have a PayPal link at castrovalleyforum.com soon.

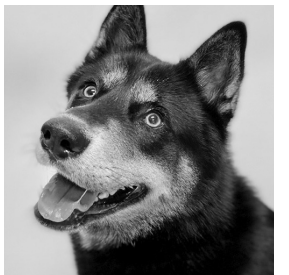
Our ability to print and deliver The Forum on any given week depends on funds available at that time. On those Wednesdays that you do not receive a paper, please visit the website above for the latest news.

—Fred Zehnder, Editor & Publisher

ADOPT-A-PET



WOLFGANG, a 2-year-old German Shepherd mix, is a bit shy. He’s also a couch potato and likes being with people. He needs a patient family to give him some TLC. OK with teens. Hayward Animal Shelter: 510-293-7200.



VADER, a 1 yr old husky mix, is very playful and loves to explore the great outdoors with you. He’s an active, fun dog and would do best in a home with teens and adults. Neutered. Hayward Animal Shelter: 510-293-7200.

New Adult School Director

The Castro Valley School Board appointed Beth Cutter as the Director of Castro Valley Adult and Career Education (CVACE) at last Thursday night’s meeting. She will replace Susie Passeggi, a leader in Bay Area adult education, who will retire at the end of the school year.

Cutter is currently the Assistant Director of Adult and Career Education in the Pleasanton School District where she is actively involved in the Mid-Alameda County Consortium, of which CVACE is also a member.

The working relationship through this consortium is expected to provide for a seamless leadership transition.

Prior to her career in adult education, Cutter served as Assistant Principal for two years in Livermore and taught science in Pleasanton for seven years.

“We welcome Ms. Cutter to the Castro Valley Unified School District,” said Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. “She is already familiar with our excellent adult school program, and we are extremely excited to have her join our team.”

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 185

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO INCREASE RATES CHARGED FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION.

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 by the Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 185, which will amend Castro Valley Sanitary District Code Article V, Regulation of Solid Waste Disposal, Refuse, and Recycling, Sections 5302, 5303, 5306, and 5307.

The proposed Ordinance will increase the rates charged for solid waste collection (e.g. \$1.79 per month for standard 20-gallon garbage cart/up to a 96-gallon organics cart/up to a 96-gallon recycling cart). These changes will be effective July 1, 2020.

The Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors voted on April 7, 2020 at the Castro Valley Sanitary District Regular Board meeting to approve the draft Ordinance and set the public hearing as follows: Akagi – Abstain; Appleton – Yes; Johnson – Yes; McGowan – Yes; Sadoff – Yes.

The above summary constitutes the major highlights of Ordinance No. 185. A reading of the entire Ordinance may be necessary to obtain a full understanding. The full text of the draft Ordinance is available at the Castro Valley Sanitary District website at www.cvsan.org/oan, or, to make other viewing arrangements, please contact the Clerk of the Board Stacy Marcoux at stacy@cvsan.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) intends to amend Sections 5302, 5303, 5306, and 5307 of the Castro Valley Sanitary District Code to increase the rates charged for solid waste collection (e.g. \$1.79 per month for standard 20-gallon garbage cart/up to a 96 gallon organics cart/up to a 96 gallon recycling cart), to become effective July 1, 2020.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on Tuesday, the 5th day of May, 2020, at the hour of 6:30 P.M., at the District Office, 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, in said District, said Board will hold a public hearing to hear and consider all comments, protests and objections to said proposed amendments to the Castro Valley Sanitary District Code. Written protests against the proposed rate increase may be mailed or delivered to Castro Valley Sanitary District, 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546. All protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing and must identify the owner(s) of the property or properties.

Dated: April 7, 2020

ROLAND P. WILLIAMS, JR.
General Manager
Castro Valley Sanitary District

HAVE A LEGAL NOTICE?

GIVE US A CALL:
(510) 614-1558

LEGAL NOTICE

FILED
MARCH 09, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 569449

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930
The name of the business(es):
Sisters With A Purpose at 20074 Rawhide Way, Castro Valley, CA 94552 in Alameda County is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1) Alona Ward, 20074 Rawhide Way, Castro Valley, CA 94552 (2) Donna Rosby, 29 Klondike Ct., Sacramento, CA 95835. This business is conducted by a general partnership. This business commenced N/A.
/s/ Alona Ward, Donna Rosby
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires MARCH 09, 2025
APR 08, 15, 22, 29, 2020
0258-CVF

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Store homemade or takeout leftovers in reusable containers instead of disposables.



Don't forget to use reusable utensils and napkins too.

Visit <http://www.selectmypath.org/gardening/dishes.htm> for tips on dishwashing.

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This ad was funded by Measure D



Spending More Time in the Kitchen

While sheltering-at-home can have its set of stresses, these evenings are allowing many of us more time in the kitchen to cook what your grandmother called "comfort foods." Nothing fancy, just good, hearty dishes that satisfy the appetite and the soul.

Here's a collection of some of the traditional favorites that will bring smiles all around the table during unsettling times.

OLD-FASHIONED MEAT LOAF

- 1-1/2 pounds ground chuck
- 1/2 pound ground pork sausage (seasoned or not)
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup fine bread crumbs
- 1 to 2 large cloves of garlic, pressed
- 1 cup diced sweet onion
- 1/4 cup diced green bell pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 package dry onion soup mix
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste, divided use

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Combine ground beef, pork sausage, eggs, bread crumbs, garlic, sweet onion, bell pepper, oregano, pepper, Worcestershire sauce, onion soup mix, milk, and half of the tomato paste. Gently mix only until combined. Do not overwork the meat or it will become tough.

Form into a loaf. Cover with the remaining half can of tomato paste.

Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Let meatloaf rest 15 minutes before cutting to serve. Yields 8 servings. Great with mashed potatoes and brown gravy.

BROWN GRAVY

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 quart cold beef broth
- Salt and black pepper to taste

In a saucepan, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Add the flour and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes, until the mixture is golden-brown and smells like cooked pie crust. Add the garlic and cook



for 30 seconds. Whisk in a cup of the cold beef broth, and then add the rest of the ingredients, except the salt and pepper.

Bring to a simmer, whisking, and then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Taste, and season with salt and pepper. Serves 8.

SCALLOPED POTATOES

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 5 medium potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced

In a small nonstick skillet, melt butter. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until smooth; gradually add milk. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in cheese until blended.

Place half of the potatoes in a 1-1/2 quart baking dish coated with cooking spray; layer with half of the onion and cheese sauce. Repeat layers.

Cover and bake at 350°F for 50 minutes. Uncover; bake 10-15 minutes longer or until bubbly and potatoes are tender. Serves 6.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 boneless chicken breast pieces
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup flour
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2-1/2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 egg

Bring broth to boil in Dutch oven with celery and parsley.

Sauté onion in olive oil over medium heat until soft, about 5 minutes. Add chicken, onion and salt and pepper to taste to broth. Reduce heat to simmer.

Combine flour, baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt in bowl. Whisk together vegetable oil, milk and egg in separate bowl. Add liquid mixture to dry mixture and stir just until soft dough forms. Do not over-work.

Pat out dough on floured board about 1/3 inch thick. Cut into small rounds with biscuit cutter. Remove parsley and celery from broth and add dumplings. Simmer, covered, until dumplings puff up and are cooked through, about 5 minutes.

MACARONI & CHEESE

- 5 cups cooked macaroni
- 1/2 stick butter
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 cups milk
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper

Melt butter and pour over macaroni in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, mix eggs and milk. Pour over macaroni.

Add cheeses, salt and pepper. Pour into a casserole dish, cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake uncovered for another 15 minutes.

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS

- 8 cups chicken broth
- 2 stalks celery
- 1/2 bunch parsley, tied in a bundle
- 1 onion, chopped

CHOCOLATE PUDDING

- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2-1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 tablespoon butter

In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar, cocoa, cornstarch and salt thoroughly. Gradually stir in about half the milk until smooth, then stir in remaining milk.

Cook, stirring constantly, over medium-low heat, until mixture is thickened and come to a boil, about 5 to 8 minutes. Cook, stirring, 1 minute more. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla and butter until smooth. Pour into individual dessert bowls or a large serving dish.

Chill pudding until ready to serve or serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Makes 4 servings.

AAA Offers Free Roadside Help to First Responders

AAA Northern California is offering free AAA Roadside Assistance service to first responders and healthcare workers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the end of May.

"Offering free AAA Roadside Assistance when they break down is a small way AAA can help get these heroes back on the road to where they're needed most," said Tim Condon, the company's president and CEO.

All first responders and healthcare workers, including those who aren't AAA members, can call 1-800-AAA-HELP if they need

roadside assistance, which operates as an essential service during shelter-in-place orders.

The company is also offering free Virtual Car Seat Inspections with nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians to help expectant families get home safely from the hospital.

With 3 in 4 car seats installed incorrectly, this virtual inspection will help ensure their newest family member is safely secured while they need to be on the road.

For full information, visit calstate.aaa.com/automotive/car-seat-inspections

Cherryland Food Insecurity

For the past eight years, volunteers from unincorporated Cherryland along with Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley and Eden United Church of Christ have been addressing the food insecurity needs of residents in Unincorporated Southern Alameda County.

Recently, the food pantry Comida para Cherryland served 1,000 clients in one hour, and demand is expected to continue leapfrogging prior levels until the shelter-in-place order is lifted.

The Hayward Rotary Club will match dollar-for-dollar gifts up to a total of \$5,000 in support of Comida para Cherryland, operated by Eden United Church of Christ.

A tax deductible donation may be mailed to Eden United Church

of Christ, 21455 Birch St., Hayward, CA, 94541. Please make checks payable to "Eden United Church of Christ" and write "Comida" in the memo line.

Eden Church congregation is also an official partner of the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Every \$5 given provides a bag of nutritious groceries for a family served by Comida para Cherryland.



CONGRATS

Congratulations to Taylor Wade upon graduating from Emerson College, Boston, MA with a BFA in Musical Theater! She plans on pursuing her career in New York; her family and friends are proud of her and all the graduates of 2020 whose lives have been changed due to COVID-19!

Plant Sale Postponed

Eden Garden Club's Annual Plant sale, scheduled for May 16 at the Moose Lodge, has been postponed until further notice.

The plant sale is the club's major fund-raiser for grant money given to local schools in Castro Valley and Hayward to start and maintain school gardens. Please watch for notice of a new date. Call 510-397-1268 more info.

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REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



COVID-19 Slowing New Home Construction

While COVID-19 is certainly making an impact on the local real estate market, many believe we will see the market rebound once the crisis has passed.

Even before the shelter-in-place began, local inventory shortages were pushing prices higher. Most of those who were in the market pre-crisis looking to buy still need to purchase, and while we may see a short-term drop in pricing, it is not expected to be severe.

While many buyers are still firmly engaged, we have seen two groups backing out of the current market: the first segment has lost their down payment due to the stock market crash. Once their portfolios rebound, they will return. The second batch contains those assuming recent events

will cause real estate values to plummet, enabling them to buy at significant discounts. Most experts agree this group will be largely disappointed.

There is one segment of the market, however, that has taken a significant hit which will affect it for a while to come. New home builders.

An examination of new construction communities across the country by Meyers Research revealed a 50% drop in sales in March compared to February.

While construction of new homes has been categorized as essential in some regions, builders must still comply with social distancing mandates. Consequently, only one group of trades should be in a property at one time, dramatically affecting the time it takes to build a home.

As someone who has built

many houses and understands how critical it is for tradespersons to work closely together to accomplish tasks, I cannot imagine trying to build a home with proximity distancing in effect.

With combined housing expenditures (including new home construction, residential remodeling, manufactured home production, existing home sales, rents and utilities payments) making up approximately 15-18% of yearly GDP in the US, consistent housing sector growth is critical for overall economic health.

Currently, new home builder confidence has dropped to a low of 30, putting it deep in negative territory. This does not bode well for the overall housing industry, which has already been experiencing a dramatic shortage of homes – especially in densely populated regions like the San Francisco Bay Area. If anything, this will put pressure on existing home sales to fill the gap and help keep values from plummeting.

As the stated end to the shelter-in-place draws closer, many hoping it will be removed, allowing housing to return to some semblance of "normal."

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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- Currently Pending significantly higher than list price



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If you are a seller that is on the fence as to whether it is the right time to sell, you may want to reconsider. Inventory is very low in Castro Valley and there are many buyers out there who need a home. Call us if you would like to discuss the current market.

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Are Blackberries Right for your Yard?

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

I am looking to plant some blackberries and need some advice on what varieties would be best suited for this area? I am especially interested in the thornless varieties.

Today, there is a renewed interest in growing blackberries and raspberries with the availability of them at the supermarket. They're being planted by a new generation of gardeners, but they're not always suited for every yard.

Before you plant, consider the negative growing points. Blackberries and raspberries



are aggressive growing vines that need to be maintained; otherwise, they'll overtake a landscape, and removing them will be expensive and time-consuming.

They like a sunny location and must be supported with a sturdy trellis. Typically, a fence is used, but this isn't a good idea, as there is no way you can prevent the underground rhizomes from intruding into an adjoining yard. Ultimately, this could lead to a nasty neighbor dispute.

You'll need a four-foot-wide planting area that is at least four feet from any property line. Ideally, it should be in a raised bed so you can control the rogue roots.

The berries form on the second year's growth. Each year, the fruiting canes are cut off at the ground after the harvest. They're replaced on the trellis with the new shoots that have formed at the base of each plant.

Before planting, be sure to add plenty of organic matter like homemade compost or any of the blended soil conditioners. The vines should be watered often and fertilized annually in the spring. They need to be sprayed during the winter to control berry mite, which causes the berries to ripen halfway and be very hard.

The nursery professional at your favorite garden center should be able to assist you with the varieties, but you can't go wrong with Boysenberry, Ollie, or Marion.

And finally, thorny blackberries are heavier producers than the thornless ones. Unless you have a big yard you might want to pass on this.

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

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Check Ahead Before Visiting a Regional Park

By Ned MacKay
Special to the Forum

In an effort to prevent overcrowding with resulting public health challenges and spread of the coronavirus, East Bay Regional Park District is advising the public generally not to drive to regional parks, but instead to walk or cycle to parks close to their homes.

"The public should consider staying at home, walking in their neighborhood, or visiting parks on less crowded days or times," said Park District General Manager Robert Doyle. "No picnicking and group activities are allowed by the 'Stay-at-Home' order from the state, which has been in place for the past two weeks."

Unfortunately, as the coronavirus pandemic continues, more restrictions may become necessary.

As of this writing, trails and open space remain open to the public on a walk-in and bike-in basis. Before you head out to a regional park, it's best to visit

the park district website, www.ebparks.org, for up-to-date information on the situation district-wide.

Click on "COVID-19 Park Updates & Closures" at the top of the home page. And please comply with the rules listed at the website, especially maintaining social distance, packing out trash, and keeping dogs on leash.

Toilets and drinking fountains are off-line, so go before you go and bring your own water.

Of course we're not used to these restrictions when we visit the regional parks and other open spaces. But extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary measures. With everyone's cooperation, we will get through these difficult times and be able to return to a more familiar way of living.

And remember: nature isn't going anywhere. Our beautiful open spaces will still be there for all to enjoy after this health emergency passes.

There's some good news, too. Although all in-the-parks nature education programs in the East Bay Regional Park District have been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, the park district naturalists have still been busy, bringing the world of nature to your living room.

The naturalists have put together two series of videos: "Creature Features," and "Songs and Stories." In each program, a naturalist on camera or narrating gives a lively presentation about some aspect of nature. You can access the programs and other information by visiting www.ebparks.org/DigitalLearning.

Creature feature topics so far have included newts, Julius Squeezer the gopher snake, animal skull identification, birding basics, Tilden pond life, and Deltoid Balsamroot, a beautiful sunflower that is important both as food and as insect habitat.

"Songs and Stories" is a

kid-friendly series led by an on-camera naturalist. The first one featured Morgan Guenther explaining the importance of habitat for all living things, then leading the habitat song.

Both series are interactive, in that viewers can ask questions in the comment section, to which the naturalist staff will respond. These online nature programs are a great supplement to the regular school curricula that students must now experience from home.

Ned MacKay is a columnist for the East Bay Regional Parks District.



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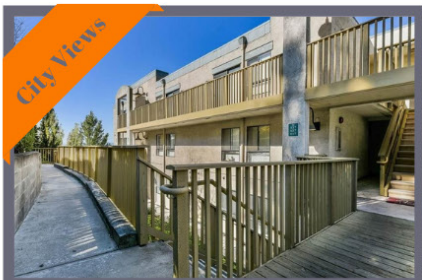
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J&L Real Estate Group wants to thank Castro Valley for its dedication to sheltering in place. Efforts by our community are helping to save lives. We also send a special thanks to all essential workers, medical professionals, grocery and delivery workers and volunteers. Thank you for keeping Castro Valley safe and strong.

Waiting to
sell
your home?

Are you planning to wait to sell your home until after the shelter in place is lifted? If so please call us today for our **free** report on 7 things every seller should be doing right now to prep their home for a post Covid-19 sale.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR
FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM



Discrimination Again

Editor:

It's happening, again. Discrimination against Asian Americans. This time because of COVID-19.

In just a few weeks since its creation, over 1,100 incidents have been registered on Stop AAPI Hate, an online hate crime reporting tool.

This is real. I tend to be super

positive, and yet I feel it, too. It is scary – and this is not the America that I know.

And the thousands of Americans who have lashed out at my fellow Asian Americans are not the Americans I know and love.

The Americans I know have made this country great – creating a vibrant nonprofit sector, launching millions of charitable

campaigns, finding cures for diseases, creating solutions for culture challenges. Now we need these generous Americans to tackle another challenge and lead the way to end this racial scourge.

In this pandemic, our heroes and heroines are frontline workers supporting our lives in health-care roles and other essential services. Many on the frontline are immigrants and include Asian Americans who courageously step up in the midst of hateful rhetoric and violence.

I am asking for your help on the frontline against racial violence. Step up and be a hero, too. Call for an end to these acts.

As Dr. Martin Luther King taught us, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only light can do that."

In the America I know we can all be great. We need your light more than ever. Stop the hate and keep America great.

—Porcia Chen Silverberg
Castro Valley

to the COVID-19 pandemic. I have formed a group of advocates and we have been reaching out to many government officials over the last several days to locate and get the Emergency Aid that was allocated by the emergency order Governor Newsom signed on March 17 (link included below) to the unsheltered residents, specifically focusing on our area, District 4 of Alameda County.

This is going on Day 7 since the Governor signed and released the funding for immediate release of motel vouchers and FEMA trailers to get the unsheltered out of the encampments and streets and into a safe place to shelter in place.

This segment of the population is considered one of the most vulnerable and at risk to have this disease spread throughout their camps and affect the communities as a whole. If we don't get them off the streets and into safe places

during this pandemic... more people will die from this disease.

I am asking for your help to get this out to our communities and push on our officials to release the aid and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Please help us help them. We still wait for this critical aid to be released. Feel free to contact me at teamwanderlust0531@gmail.com or 510-723-4623.

—Melissa Moore
Street Outreach Worker
Castro Valley

Kudos to the Techies

Editor:

In addition to all those brave and selfless responders (doctors, nurses, EMTs, etc.) I believe kudos should go out to all those Techies who have contributed to the various social and group meeting apps that have helped to keep us sane and in contact with each other during a time of Stay-at-home confinement.

While the internet has always been a gift to us all in many ways, it has shown its true worth in these tragic times. It has connected us with loved ones and friends, provided us with a safe method of consumerism, and even offered up humor and entertainment as we all sit at home bored to tears at times. So, it is time to venerate all you nerds out there for your obsessive talents.

—Robert S. Thomas
Castro Valley

Swalwell To Hold Facebook Q&A 1:30 Tomorrow

Rep. Eric Swalwell will hold a Facebook Live Q&A tomorrow, April 23, with special guest Dr. Edward Lee, Executive Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer of the Permanente Federation.

"Our Facebook Live Q&A series has brought guests from across the Bay Area to answer your most pressing questions related to the coronavirus pandemic," Swalwell said. "Having a chance to ask frontline public health experts your questions makes us all safer and better-prepared for what comes next."

The Facebook Live Q&A will take place at 1:30 p.m.

Members of the public and press can join at: Facebook.com/CongressmanEricSwalwell. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance on the event Facebook page.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. We reserve the right to edit. We do not withhold names or publish unsigned letters. Email letters to: fredz@ebpublishing.com or mail to: The Forum PO Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501.

Obituaries

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

may be emailed to: obits@ebpublishing.com or faxed to 510-483-4209. Include a phone number. For help, call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558

Floria Annie Miller

December 30, 1920 - April 8, 2020

On Wednesday morning, April 8, 2020 Floria Miller passed away at the age of 99.

Floria is survived by her two sons, Jeff and David, as well as many family and friends.

She will be greatly missed for her wit and humor, her resiliency and her friendship and gentle spirit.

A funeral service will be held for Floria at the family grave at Holy Cross Cemeteries in Colma, CA Tuesday, April 21, where she will lay in rest with her other family members, may she rest in peace.

Florence Jeanette Givans

Family, colleagues, friends, former students and parents are mourning the passing of Florence Jeanette Givans, a teacher in the Castro Valley School District from 1968 to 2000. Jeanette, as she was called by friends, is described by those who knew her as gentle, warm and kind, a wonderful teacher and mentor who made a difference in the lives of children and adults alike. She was generous, caring, cheerful and fun.



Mrs. Givans was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on Nov. 21, 1936, and died on April 13, 2020, at home in Oakland. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 29 years, Clinton A. Givans. Jeanette taught in Castro Valley for 32 years, touching many lives. She is survived by an adoring family: son Garnett Givans, daughter Felicia R. Ellis and grandchildren Amir, Danny and Darryn. Services are planned for a later date.

Barbara Elaine (Beegle) Journey

Sunrise, November 5th 1944, Neptune, New Jersey
Sunset, March 27th 2020, Castro Valley, California.

Age 75 years, 4 months, 22 days. A beautiful life, coast to coast After a long struggle with "Chronic Lung Disease"

Barb will be dearly missed by Jerry, her husband of 55 years, daughters Mary Shaver (John), Michelle Casaray (Donavon), grandchildren Jessica and Ryan Casaray, and many, many other family and friends. She was a proud member of Alameda Oak Leaf Chapter 8, Order of the Eastern Star, and Nefru-Ari Temple 17, Daughters of the Nile.

In these uncertain and troubled times, a celebration of her life will be deferred to a later time, and will be under the auspices of the above fraternal orders.

Donations in her memory may be made to: Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2425 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95817, attention: Pediatric Orthotics and Prosthetic Service (POPS), which was her project as First Lady of Aahmes Shriners in 2013.



■ Florence Jeanette Givans

■ Barbara Elaine Journey

■ Floria Annie Miller

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Russo To Direct Eden Health

The Eden Health District Board has appointed Pam Russo, a Registered Nurse with a 35-year history in healthcare, as its new director.

Russo worked at St. Rose Hospital in Hayward, including in all clinical areas. During her last 15 years as an administrator there, she oversaw the fundraising arm of the hospital, government affairs, marketing and project management work.

Russo, who replaces Megan Lynch who resigned to attend medical school, was sworn into office last Wednesday following a unanimous vote by the directors.

"I know the importance of being able to respond to critical situations while staying in touch with people and their health needs," Russo stated. "I am focused on working with my colleagues on the Board to meet the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic for the residents of the Eden



Pam Russo

Area."

Russo currently serves as the Executive Director of Hayward Area Recreation & Park District (HARD) Foundation.

A longtime resident of Castro Valley, she volunteers throughout the Eden Area in multiple communities.

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

© 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.



ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You still might have to deal with some lingering confusion that marked a recent workplace situation. But for the most part, you should now be well on your way to your next project.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): A new commitment might demand more time than you'd expected to have to give it. But rely on that special Bovine gift for patience, and stick with it. You'll be glad you did.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): You're earning the admiration of a lot of people who like the way you handle yourself when your views are on the line. Even one or two of your detractors are being won over.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Taking your responsibilities seriously is what you do. But ease up on the pressure gauge, and make time for much needed R & R. Start by making this weekend a "just for fun" time zone.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Some recently uncovered information might make a change of plans inevitable. If so, deal with it as quickly as possible, and then find out what went wrong and why. What you learn might surprise you.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Aspects favor moving carefully and deliberately when making any significant changes. Could be there are more facts you need to know, which you might overlook if you rush things.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): A problem neighbor might be looking to goad you into an action you don't want to take. Ask someone you both respect if he or she would act as an impartial arbitrator for both of you.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): A recent workplace accomplishment hasn't been overlooked by those who watch these things. Meanwhile, start making travel plans for that much-too-long-deferred trip with someone special.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Those money matters continue to move in your favor. Now would be a good time to start putting some money back into the house, both for esthetic as well as economic reasons.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): A changing workplace environment can create job pressures. But, once again, follow the example of your birth sign and take things a step at a time, like the sure-footed Goat you are.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Cheer up. You could soon have the funds you need for your worthy project. Your generous gifts of time and effort are well known, and someone might decide it's time to join with you.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Your inner scam-catcher is right on target, and you're absolutely right to reject that "too good to be true" offer. Meanwhile, something positive should be making its way to you.



Writer and poet, Brittany 'B-Spoke-It' Williams

Post Office Adapts to Distancing

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

You can add coronavirus to the words chiseled in granite over the entrance to the General Post Office in New York City.

"COVID-19 has uprooted many lives and changed daily routines, but delivering America's mail remains constant," said Post Office spokesman Augie Ruiz.

The post office adapted to keep its employees and the public healthy during the pandemic. New measures are in place, including physical distancing, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Letter carriers are now required to maintain a safe distance. If a delivery requires a signature, carriers will knock on the door rather than touch the bell, and instead of asking for a signature on a mobile device, they will simply ask for a name. And then the carrier will leave the package in a safe place for retrieval.

The post office is asking customers not to approach a letter carrier to take a delivery. Instead, allow them to leave the mailbox area before retrieving the mail.

At post offices, new protections have been put in place, including making sure gloves, masks and sanitizing products are available to employees. At offices and processing facilities measures are in place to ensure appropriate distancing, including signs, floor tape and sneeze barriers. All the cleaning at post office facilities is done according to CDC guidelines for the pandemic.

"The post office is closely monitoring the coronavirus disease, as the safety of our employees and customers is our highest priority," Ruiz said. "We are issuing new information to our workforce daily and implementing protocols on CDC guidelines."



Winnie Hall Wright

What's Up at Smalltown

• **TONIGHT, Wednesday, April 22:** Smalltown Instagram LIVE: B-Spoke-It the Poet. Join Smalltown Society as we continue our IG take-over's with writer and poet 'B-Spoke-It,' free at 8 p.m. on Smalltown Society's Instagram & Facebook accounts: @smalltownsociety

• **Thursday, April 23:** Week 2 of "April Artist Collective," Smalltown's Virtual Art Show with an incredible network of makers who create amazing art, a daily digital drop to highlight our community of artists and make it easy for you to shop & support them digitally. Check it out on Instagram: @smalltownsociety

• **Friday, April 24:** Now Playing at The Chabot: 'Bacurau' via Kino Marquee. The Chabot is partnering with Kino Marquee to create a "virtual theater" showing films that would be in theaters currently if not for COVID-19. Their first showing will be of the Brazilian-French film 'Bacurau', winner of the Jury Prize at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. This is a paid experience and supports both The Chabot and the artists behind the film. 'Bacurau' is not-yet-rated by the MPAA, though it is generally considered suitable for audiences 18 and older. Watch online at TheChabot.com

• **Saturday, April 25:** The fun continues this Saturday Night with Chabot Theater's 5th Installment of "LIVE RIFF-Along" from the Chabot BIG screen with "Night of the Living Dead," hosted by the venerable Lord Blood Rah of Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre. Free at 8 p.m. live on The Chabot's Facebook account: @ChabotCinema

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

A.R.T., Inc. Takes Its Art Online

A.R.T. (Artists Relaxing Together) Inc., an organization founded in 1984 by a group of artists at the Adobe Art Gallery in Castro Valley, has launched its first viral art exhibition.

"Our intention is to mount a new album of member-created art every two months," said A.R.T. Inc.'s publicist Valerie Snart. "We want everyone to enjoy the creativity of our members."

To keep within the rules concerning the COVID-19 virus, the group had discontinued all meetings and gallery exhibits, communicating only by emails and phone conversations.

Now, by visiting photos.app.goo.gl/kw8HLaD9DLofh8G1A the public can experience, in their homes, a wide variety of mediums in Exhibition No. 1.

For more information, visit art-inc.org



PHOTOS COURTESY OF A.R.T., INC.

Examples of artwork current on exhibition at A.R.T., Inc.'s website: photos.app.goo.gl/kw8HLaD9DLofh8G1A

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Kendari Maloof

This week's Athlete of the Week is Kendari Maloof, a senior and part of the inaugural CVHS Boys Water Polo Team which started in 2016.

Kendari played all 4 years on the Varsity team as well as club water club. This year, the boys' hard work paid off and the team was invited to the North Coast Section (NCS) for the first time in CVHS Boys Water Polo history.

Kendari will attend Arizona State University on a Dean's Merit Scholarship and will study Criminology and plans to go to law school after completing his undergraduate education. Kendari plans to continue playing water polo while at ASU.

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www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org

School Board Virtual Meeting Tomorrow

The Castro Valley School Board will hold a regular board meeting tomorrow, April 23, with an open session beginning at 5 p.m.

The board will be conducting meetings virtually until further notice. While there will be no specific physical meeting place, public participation is encouraged.

For the agenda and board pack-

et, visit bit.ly/CVUSDBoardMeetings.

To observe the meeting by video conference, please click on LINK on the agenda at the noticed meeting time. Instructions on how to join a meeting by video conference is available at: support.zoom.us/jc/en-us/articles/201362193 -Joining-a-Meeting.

To listen to the meeting by phone, please call at the noticed meeting time 1-669-900-6833, then enter the meeting ID on the agenda, then press #. Instructions on how to join a meeting by phone are available at: support.zoom.us/jc/en-us/articles/201362663 -Joining-a-meeting-by-phone.

To make a public comment, the "Request to Speak Form" (cv.k12.ca.us/publiccommentcard/) will be open to members of the public 30 minutes prior to the public meeting. When it is time for the speakers to address the Board, your name will be called and you will then be unmuted and allowed to make public comments. Speakers should rename their Zoom profile names to their real names to expedite this process. After the comment, the microphone for the speaker's Zoom profile will be muted.

Please contact Aimee Cayere, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent with questions at acayere@cv.k12.ca.us



PHOTO BY GERRY KIFFE

Longtime Natives Garden Tour participant Dale Wolford's garden in Castro Valley.

Tours of Native Plant Gardens Will Begin Online This Sunday

For the next three Sundays, beginning at 10 a.m., East Bay gardeners have the opportunity to take "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tours," online and free this year, hosted on Zoom, and live-streamed on YouTube.

Pre-registration is required at: www.BringingBacktheNatives.net.

Inspiring speaker and author Douglas Tallamy will kick off this event this Sunday, April 26.

Then, in a series of live garden visits, passionate garden owners and the talented designers of the Bay Area's most beautiful and inspiring landscapes will show what's happening in the garden now, feature their favorite natives, describe the native plant gardening resources they use most and provide tips for those just getting started.

Check www.BringingBacktheNatives.net for the exact schedule of gardens to be visited.

Castro Valley resident Mary Cooper, who wanted to get rid of



PHOTO BY PETE VEILLEUX

Mary Cooper's native plant garden contains purple blue California lilac and bright pink currants, which attract native bees and butterflies. This garden will be shown, live online, on this year's Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

that '50s landscape look, and was inspired to plant natives, hired Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds to design and install a garden with boulders, berms, and year-round color.

Out went the junipers, and in went an artistic and fun front garden containing undulating and meandering raised planting areas that provide drainage, mixed yellow and blue decomposed granite, driftwood, and a variety of attractive drought-resistant native plants selected to provide color throughout the year.

The native plants, water feature, and bird feeder attract white-crowned sparrows, house finches, and scrub jays. Recently a bluebird was seen bathing in the fountain. Bees love the sages and hummingbirds adore the California fuchsia.

Salamanders hide in the leaf litter that is left to compost under the trees. Two gravity-fed drip fountains provide water for wildlife.

Dale Wolford, a longtime Natives Garden Tour participant, was ready for the lawn to be replaced by a garden that would conserve water, be colorful, attract bees and butterflies, and have a more formal look than one often sees with native plant gardens.

In summer, heady drifts of red fuchsia, purple lilac verbena, aromatic purple-blue Cleveland sage and coyote mint, and pink rosy buckwheats both complement each other and delight the pollinators.

Raised planting areas provide the drainage most natives need, and retain rainwater on-site, keeping the garden green longer.

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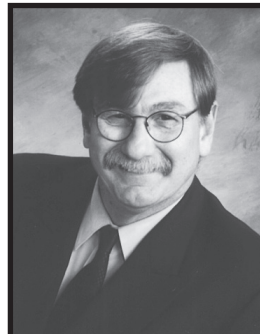


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