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CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 31

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019

NO. 30

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



Concert Series

The 10th Annual Summer Concert series kicks off this Sunday in Hayward

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LIVING



Slice of Heaven

No matter what toppings you choose, pizza still just can't be topped

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NEWS



The Road Ahead

Roadwork on Mission Boulevard to continue through August 9

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PHONE: (510) 614-1560

Postal Worker Reflects On His 30-Year Career

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night prevented Julian Ng from delivering letters and packages to residents of Castro Valley. But after 30 years working for the U.S. Postal Service, Ng is ready for his next adventure.

The long-time carrier delivered his last letter along his regular route on Forest Avenue this past Saturday. Ng told the Castro Valley Forum he plans to travel more with his family starting with a trip next month to Iceland.

"We've been planning this for a while now. I want to see the Northern Lights," Ng says.

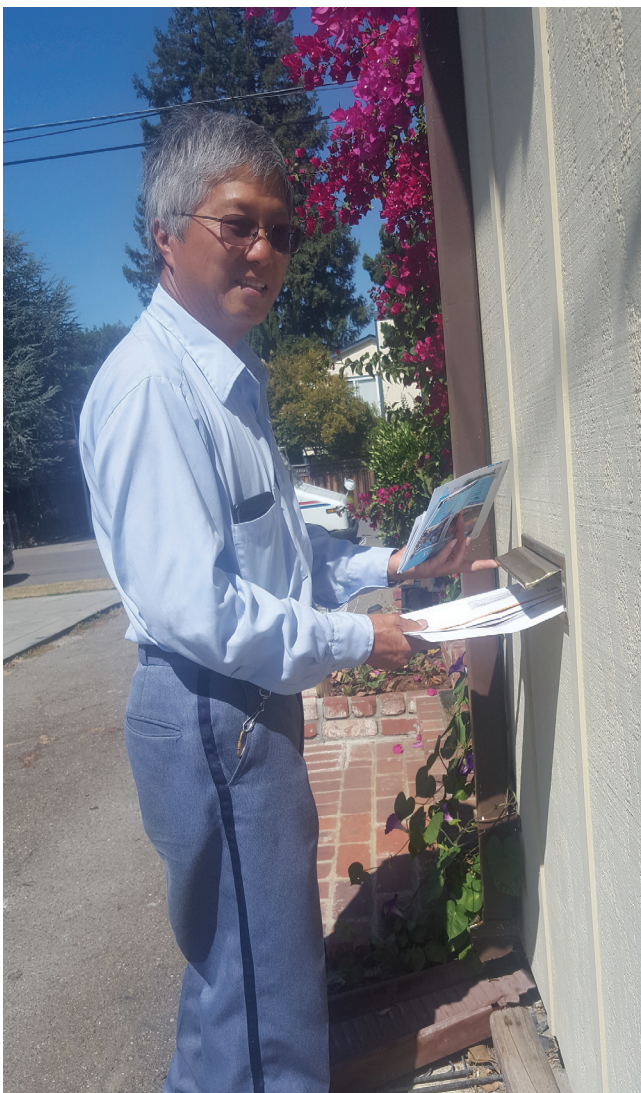
For his service, the USPS presented him with two pins in the shape of stamps, and a retirement watch. But it's the people along his route and keeping connected with the community that Ng says he'll miss the most.

"I've met so many nice people on my routes," Ng says. "It's always great to stop and chat about the neighborhood and hear their stories."

One of his regular customers along Forest Avenue, Lillian Baker, says Ng was really part of the family. She says they shared a common love of the Golden State Warriors, World Cup Soccer, and that he was very considerate when delivering packages to her home.

"I have family from out of town that would stay with me and Julian

see POSTAL on page 7



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SINGER

Julian Ng on his final round of mail deliveries in Castro Valley on Saturday, ending a 30-year career with the U.S. Postal Service. He wishes more people would write and send letters.

Robert Powers Appointed New GM of BART

The BART Board of Directors unanimously appointed Robert Powers to take over as BART's tenth General Manager last week.

Powers, a professional engineer with more than 20 years of experience in the public transportation industry overseeing major infrastructure projects and transportation programs, had been serving as Interim General Manager following the retirement of Grace Crunican earlier this month.

Powers served as Deputy General Manager under Crunican since 2017 and began his seven-year career at BART as the Assistant General Manager in Planning, Development and Construction.

He steps into his new role facing big challenges for the transit system — an increase in violent crime, persistent fare-evasion, sanitation problems and packed trains during commute hours — which have led to dissatisfaction among many riders.

"The Board selected Bob because of his track record of accountability and working through challenges in a creative and collaborative way," said Board President Bevan Dufty. "He has a tremendous understanding of the District's operations, workforce, and aspirational vision for the future and will provide a smooth transition keeping BART focused on the work ahead."



BART PHOTO

Robert Powers

"BART is the backbone of the Bay Area's transportation network and I'll work to transform it into a world-class transit system through partnerships, modernization, and improvements to the customer experience, but there is a lot of work to do," Powers said. "I'll be focused on keeping riders our top priority by providing a customer-centered service and advocating for the financial support needed to serve the region's growing population."

As Deputy General Manager, Powers provided support to the General Manager in the management of all District departments and worked closely with the agency's executives, Board of Directors and board-appointed officers.

see BART on back page

Home Sales Decline Despite Lower Mortgage Rates

June home sales in the Bay Area were the lowest for that month in 11 years, according to new data released last week by CoreLogic.

A total of 7,357 new and existing houses and condominiums were sold in the nine Bay Area counties, down 11.4 percent month over month from May 2019, and down 12.6 percent year over year from June 2018.

Sales have fallen on a year-over-year basis for the past 11 consecutive months. Those declines were in the double digits

from November 2018 through March 2019.

In Alameda County, a total of 1,580 homes were sold last month, down 10.6 percent from May when 1,767 were sold.

The median price paid for all homes sold in Alameda County was \$865,000 in June, up 1.2 percent from May.

"Many buyers began backing out of the market last spring and summer due to a tight inventory, rising prices and increasing mortgage rates," said Andrew LeP-

age, a CoreLogic analyst. "This year, prices have flattened or dipped on a year-over-year basis in many markets, and thanks to lower interest rates many home shoppers face at least slightly lower monthly mortgage payments than they would have a year ago."

"Despite the lower cost for some, plus a healthy economic backdrop, the housing market remains sluggish with activity dropping across the home-price spectrum. This suggests many would-be buyers are still priced

IN ALAMEDA COUNTY, A TOTAL OF 1,580 HOMES WERE SOLD LAST MONTH, DOWN 10.6% FROM MAY WHEN 1,767 WERE SOLD.

out or are concerned about buying near a possible price peak.

"So far, the inventory level indicates the Bay Area has transitioned from a seller's market to a more neutral market, but not an outright buyer's market."

Home sales of \$500,000 or more accounted for 81.4 percent of all Bay Area sales last month, down slightly from 81.5 percent in May 2019 and unchanged from June 2018 on the open market.

—Source: CoreLogic

Castro Valley Weather July 31 - Aug. 4, 2019



Wednesday
Mostly Sunny
High 80° Low 57°



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High 78° Low 56°



Friday
Mostly Sunny
High 75 Low 56°



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
High 82° Low 57°



Sunday
Partly Sunny
High 79° Low 56°

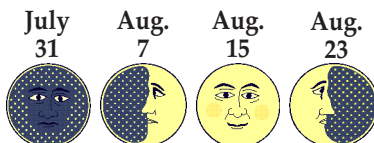
Almanac



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

Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 24.80
Normal To Date: 21.22
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases



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'Jewish Ideas': Jewish Culture School To Open in CV Beginning Next Month

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be holding Jewish Culture School beginning next month.

The school-wide curriculum for the 2019-2020 (Jewish year 5780) will be "Jewish Ideas," covering such topics as Jewish views of justice, learning, family, being a Mensch, Israel or Diaspora and the Jewish Community.

The first session will be on Sunday, Sept. 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Aran's Art Studio in Castro Village. You are invited to learn about the ways Jewish Culture is taught in a hands-on and engaging way, including singing, dancing, and cooking in a secular, humanistic Jewish environment.

Students who attend this first day will paint mezuzahs and hear stories. Enrolled students paint for

free; others pay \$10 per mezuzah.

Throughout this school year, students will be encouraged to discuss among themselves and with their parents topics related to these themes.

Younger children will enjoy crafts related to the concepts while older children will learn the history and literature surrounding these Jewish ideas.

Both classes will learn songs on these themes and, of course, will still be cooking, dancing, and hearing Jewish folktales. Jewish Culture School is open to children aged 5-14 and culminates in a Brit Mitzvah ceremony.

Space is limited, so make your reservations now. RSVP to culturaljews@gmail.com, or call 510-384-8756 with any questions.



A mezuzah

Free Summer Concerts Begin on Sunday

Giant Garage Spiders, Chris Marquis and the Sycamore 129 Blues Band will kick off the 10th Annual Summer Concert series from 1 to 5 p.m. this Sunday, Aug. 4, at Hayward Memorial Park.

The concerts will be held in the outdoor amphitheater behind the Hayward Plunge swim center.

A variety of music, including big band, jazz, rock 'n roll and blues will be presented during the series, and fans are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chairs, a picnic (no alcohol) and enjoy an afternoon in the park with music, art, and dance. Kids of all ages are welcome to come and create chalk art.

Hayward Odd Fellows Sycamore Lodge No. 129 is partnering with the Hayward Area Recreation District (HARD) and local non-profits for the concerts on most Sundays through Sept. 29. Admission is free.

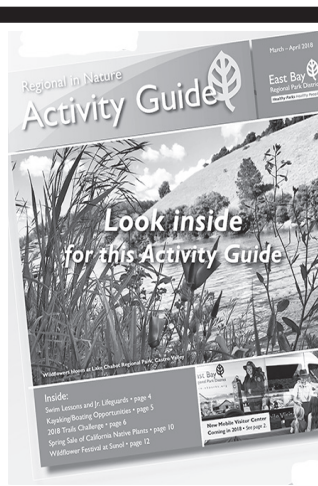
A tot lot is nearby, as is a hiking trail, indoor pool at the Hayward Plunge and tennis courts. There's also plenty of free parking.

Each event will showcase and benefit one of our area's non-profit groups, which do much of the heavy lifting in the community. All donations received at this Sunday's concert will go to benefit the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO) and are tax deductible.

The Aug. 11 concert will feature 3 O'Clock Jump and What's Up Big Band, benefiting the HARD Foundation, and the Aug. 25 concert with Kari & the SweetSpots, Dee Smith and Joe Melchior III will benefit South Hayward Parish.

This issue of the Castro Valley Forum contains the East Bay Regional Park District Sept-October 2019 Activity Guide.

If your copy of the Forum does not include the EBRP Activity Guide, call 510-614-1555 or stop by the Forum office (2060 Washington Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to obtain one.



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'Born Yesterday' at Chanticleers

Jason Berner and Laura Zimmerman as they appear in the Chanticleers Theatre production of the Broadway hit "Born Yesterday." Shows are at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturdays, 6 p.m. on Sundays through Aug. 11. Chanticleers Theatre is located in Castro Valley Community Park at 3683 Qualil Avenue. For tickets (\$25-\$20), visit: chanticleers.org or call 510-733-5483.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

She Fought the Law
Sunday, July 28: at 9:43 a.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 59-year-old woman with no permanent residence on suspicion of disturbing a business, violating the terms of her parole, and resisting arrest. The manager at a drug store on the Boulevard near Yeandle Avenue called deputies after the woman was arguing with a clerk. Deputies approached the woman when she put up a fight. The woman was subdued and taken into custody.

Foot-Stomper Arrested for Spousal Assault
Saturday, July 27: at 6:55 p.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to an apartment on Center Street near Grove Way. There, they arrested a 51-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of spousal assault. The victim claimed the woman stomped on her feet during a heated argument. The woman was taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Warrant Arrest
Friday, July 26: at 1:00 p.m., a 43-year-old man with no permanent residence was arrested as part of a court-issued warrant for his capture. The man was previously charged with battery against an unknown victim. Deputies served the warrant at an apartment on Center Street near Grove Way. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail and held without bail.

Driving Without Headlights
Friday, July 26: at 11:49 p.m., deputies pulled over and arrested a 27-year-old man from Hayward on suspicion of driving without headlights, driving with a suspended license, and driving a vehicle without a required interlock device. The man was cruising on Castro Valley Boulevard near Wisteria Street when deputies pulled him over. Deputies also found the man had an outstanding warrant for a previous charge of domestic see **REPORTS** on page 7

Shoplifter Caught
Friday, July 26: at 11:44 a.m., deputies arrested a 29-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of shoplifting from a drug store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Yeandle Avenue. The man was spotted leaving the store with unpaid merchandise and was detained by security until deputies arrived. Deputies took the man into custody.

Wanted and Intoxicated
Sunday, July 28: at 12:11 p.m., a 38-year-old man from Hayward was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication. Deputies were dispatched to Eden Medical Center on Lake Chabot Road after the man became belligerent at the hospital. The man failed his sobriety test and was positively identified for an outstanding warrant. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$15,000 in bail.

Bus Service Restored at SF Transit Center

Beginning Sunday, Aug. 11, AC Transit District will restore bus service to the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco, where construction crews are making advancements in the reinstallation of bus deck interior finishes – columns, posts, floors, walls, and ceilings.

Transbay bus lines will once again be able to bypass congested San Francisco surface streets by traveling the dedicated bus ramp.

"Following last year's discovery of fissures in the steel beams supporting the bus deck, the AC Transit Board of Directors demanded assurances that repairs of the beams would be unequivocally safe and sound," said AC's Board President Joe Wallace. "The findings presented to our Board provided robust certainties that support restoring service to our 13,000 daily Transbay riders."

AC Transit General Manager Michael Hursh said the district's engineering staff members has observed installation and reviewed girder fabrication, design stresses and inspection reports of the girders at Fremont and First Streets.

"This comprehensive analysis was the foundation I needed to assure that our bus operators, service employees, mechanics, and road supervisors are indeed safely working in a world-class transit center," Hursh said.

AC Transit riders are reminded that operating hours and frequency of Transbay Bus Lines are limited on Sundays. As a result, the full launch of all 26 Transbay Lines and 4 Early Bird Express Lines will resume on Monday, Aug. 12.

For more information about Transbay Bus Lines, trip planning, and ACT RealTime bus location, please visit actransit.org

Thank you CVAF and Billy Bradford!



Just as the Castro Valley Arts Foundation makes a difference through education, enrichment and entertainment, Billy Bradford makes a valuable contribution to our community by giving his time and expertise to refurbish donated bikes to those in need. This year Compass made his labor of love a little easier, when he received a cash donation to help purchase parts.

Carry on my friend.

To your bike fans, "cost is zero dollars and no sense!"



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COMPASS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

CVSan Recycles Day

CANYON MIDDLE SCHOOL
19600 Cull Canyon Road
Saturday, August 3, 2019
From 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Free event for Alameda County residents! *
Bring photo ID or utility bill. 125 lb./15-gal limit per resident. More info at: www.cvsan.org/RecyclesDay

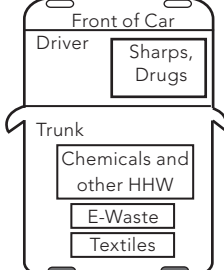
RECYCLE

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Paint
Additives, Latex Paint, Oil Paint, Shellac, Solvents, Stain, Thinners | Adhesives
Caulk, Cement, Epoxy, Mortar, Putty, Stucco, Wood Glue | Auto
Additives, Antifreeze, Batteries, Fuel, Motor Oil, Oil Filters, Waxes | Pharmaceuticals
Prescription/Non-Prescription Drugs. Sharps in approved containers. One free container/resident at CVSan offices. |
| Misc.
Acids & Caustics, Bleach & Cleaners, Fluorescent & LED Bulbs, Household Batteries, Pool & Photo Chemicals | E-Waste
Computers, Printers, Radios, TVs, Other Consumer Electronic Devices with Circuit Boards | Garden
Ant Traps, Fertilizers, Gopher Bait, Herbicides, Pesticides, Rat Poison, Sprays | Textiles
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The Week Ahead

● Friday, August 2: Eden Area Village Meeting

Join Eden Area Village for a Public Outreach Meeting at Hayward City Hall at 2 p.m. this Friday, and meet some of the members. Hear how they are working together to help seniors remain in their homes, active and engaged in our community. For more information, visit edenareavillage.org

● Saturday, August 3: CVHS Football Hall of Fame

These ceremonies scheduled for the Stack Center at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3 have been CANCELED.

● Saturday, August 3: Community Garden Open House

See what your neighbors are growing at Paradise Community Garden, 20095 Mission Blvd. in Hayward this Saturday, Aug. 3, at an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free speaker series at 11 “Improving Your Soil Quality: Tips for the Urban Food Grower” by Rob Bennaton. Snacks throughout the day. Visit vendors for native plants, body work, handmade soaps, community booths, urban farming info. Rent your own garden box. Questions? Call Rick Hatcher at 510-909-4077.

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● Sunday, August 4: Free Summer Sundays in the Park

The 10th Annual Summer Concert series at Hayward Memorial Park (behind the Hayward Plunge) begins this Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. with music by Giant Garage Spiders, Chris Marquis and Sycamore 129 Blues Band, a benefit for the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO). Bring a blanket and enjoy an afternoon of music.

● Tuesday, August 6: Rotary: “EBMUD & Climate Change”

Frank Mellon, of the EBMUD board of directors, will update Rotary Club of Castro Valley members on the activities of EBMUD to deal with climate change, at a buffet lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Redwood Canyon Golf Course, 17007 Redwood Road. The cost of lunch is \$15 and reservations must be made by 9 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 5, by contacting Rotary at cvrotary@iCloud.com or 510-402-5123. More information is available at castrovalleyrotary.org

● Tuesday, August 6: Buon Tempo Family Dinner

The Buon Tempo Club welcomes everyone to a family dinner at 7 p.m. on Aug. 6 at Mt. Tabor Hall, Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. across from the 580 Marketplace. Chef Rich Gorham and crew will be serving a five-course family-style dinner of tri tip. Red and white wine and soda are also included. Happy hour is at 6:00. The dinner is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Make reservations by Friday, Aug. 2, by calling the Buon Tempo dinner line at 510-483-6929 (option 1). For more information about events/membership see our website at www.buontempoclub.org

● Wednesday, August 7: Mothers’ Club 25th Anniversary

The Castro Valley Mothers’ Club invites all current and former members — and interested moms — to celebrate our 25th anniversary on Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. at Twining Vine Winery, 16851 Cull Canyon Road. Free, but please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/y3ob3pnw>. See www.castrovalleymothersclub.com for more info about the club. Contact cvmc-directors@gmail.com with questions.

● Thursday, August 8: Libertarian Party Meeting

The Libertarian Party of Alameda County will hold its next meeting from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on August 8 at The Englander Pub, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro, to discuss logistics for the LPAC Summer BBQ and the LPAC booth at the Oakland Pride Festival Sept. 8. Volunteers welcomed to help staff the booth. Membership not required to attend, no fee, purchase your own food and beverage at The Englander. RSVP at www.facebook.com/LPAlamedaCounty/events/

● Saturday, August 10: 5th Annual Health Fair

The Davis Street Family Resource Center, 3081 Teagarden St. in San Leandro, will have its Annual Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10, featuring a Farmers’ Market, complimentary medical and dental screenings, blood pressure checks, nutrition education, community resources, games, prizes, lunches, and fun for the whole family! For more information, call 510-347-4620 ext. 113 or visit www.davisstreet.org

● Saturday, August 10: CVHS Class of 1964 Reunion

The Castro Valley High School Class of 1964 will hold its 55-year reunion at El Sol Winery, 8626 Lupin Way in Livermore on Aug. 10. The cost is \$35 per person. Send checks to: Judy Loomis Alexander , 819 E. Cromwell, Fresno, CA 93720. To request a flyer or for more info, email 1964cvhs@gmail.com

● Wednesday, August 14: Sons in Retirement Luncheon

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Branch 26, an organization of retired men, will meet Aug. 14 for a social hour at 11 a.m. and lunch at noon at the Fairview Event Center at Metropolitan Golf Course, 10051 Doolittle Drive, Oakland. A guest speaker from the USS Hornet will tell the history of this Aircraft Carrier. Luncheon is \$25, payable by checks to SIR Branch #26. Sponsored guests are welcome at meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Call Ken at 510-537-4804 for information.

● Wednesday, August 14: George Mark Children’s House

A private tour of the George Mark Childrens House in San Leandro is being offered at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14. If you are interested in attending, contact Al Bronzini for details at 510-581-2339 or vabronzini@yahoo.com

● Saturday, August 17: Free Mattress Recycling

The Mattress Recycling Council will hold a free used mattress collec-

tion event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, at 20095 Mission Blvd. at the corner Hampton in Hayward. Visit ByeByeMattress.com for more information.

● Saturday, August 17: SLz Pioneer Cemetery Clean-Up Day

Drop by Usher and College streets in San Lorenzo from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 17, to help preserve our local historic cemetery! Bring gloves, rakes, and water. A hat, sunscreen, eye protection, and sturdy shoes are recommended. The cemetery will also be open during this time for the public to visit the grounds and ask questions.

● Tuesday, August 20: Lions Club Restaurant Walk

The Castro Valley Breakfast Lions Club will hold its annual Restaurant Walk from 6-8 p.m. on August 20. The walk, with most its participating restaurants located in Castro Village, has been a sell-out for the past seven years. Tickets (\$20 per person) can be purchased at the Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce, Cobblers Shoe Repair on Foothill Blvd in Hayward, or by calling Joe at 510-581-2897. Participating restaurants include Don Jose’s, Shari’s, Mr. Pickles, Aroma, Lime Leaf Thai, Loard’s, Rigatoni’s, Starbucks’s, Knudsen’s and Chipotle. Funds from this event are used to support community programs in Castro Valley and Hayward.

Submissions to The Forum

Items for the Community Calendar as well as news submissions must be received by 6 p.m. Friday for inclusion in the following Wednesday’s newspaper. Send information in an email to: fredz@ebpublishing.com

Arts & Entertainment

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Tickets for Center for the Arts events (unless otherwise listed) are available at www.cvcfa.com; or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. (phone 510-889-8961), or at the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue. Tickets for the Center’s entire 2019-2020 Series are available for \$173 to \$209.

● **“The Great American Sh*t Show,”** monologues on life in the age of Trump, written by Brian Copeland and Charlie Varon and performed by them at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Center for the Arts as a therapy session for progressives who’ve been quietly going insane. Developed with and directed by David Ford. For more info or tickets (\$40), visit www.cvcfa.com

● **The Performing Academy Summer Theater** presents “The Little Mermaid” at 5:30 p.m. and “Mary Poppins” at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9, and on Saturday, Aug. 10, “The Little Mermaid at 1 p.m. and “Mary Poppins” at 2:30 at the Center for the Arts.

OTHER THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **“Born Yesterday,”** the Broadway hit that many consider to be the funniest American comedy of the 20th Century, continues at the Chanticleers Theater through Aug. 11, with performances at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday, and Sunday twilight matinées at 6 p.m. For tickets (\$25 adult, \$20 seniors, students and military) visit www.chanticleers.org or call 510-733-5483. Chanticleers Theatre is located within the Castro Valley Community Park at 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley.

ART GALLERIES & ART INSTRUCTION

● **A.R.T., Inc. Members’ Art** will be exhibited in the Lindsay Dirx Brown Art Gallery, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. in San Ramon, from Aug. 2 to Aug 28. A public reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10. There will be no art demonstration in the Adobe Art Center in August. In September we will return to our monthly demonstrations every second Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. As always, the full-filled two hours are free and everyone is encouraged to watch and participate.

● **Superhero Drawing Class:** The Adobe Art Center in Castro Valley is offering a Superhero Drawing Class this Fall. Registration opens today, July 31. In this awesome art class you’ll learn to draw superheroes in action. You’ll practice drawing shapes with shading and 3-D forms, learn to use shapes as building blocks for your figures, make powerful action poses, and practice drawing details to make your superhero look realistic. You’ll watch videos of the world’s best comic artists and see how they sketch and hear about being a professional, including artists who draw Wonder Woman and Black Panther. The class will be held Tuesdays for ages 10-13, and the first and third Saturdays of the month for ages 10 through 100. Register through the Hayward Area Rec District. Visit ArtSpaceCastroValley.com for more info!

HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Dealing with a difficult person can be the kind of challenge you Aries Lambs love. Or it could be an energy-draining exercise in futility. Be certain your goals are worth your efforts.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): The Divine Bovine might be seeing red at having your crisis-resolution efforts overlooked. But others know the truth, and they can be expected to step forward when the time comes.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): You should be well on your way to finally making that important decision. Having the support of loved ones will help when crunch time comes. Keep a positive attitude.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Feeling uneasy about a move might not mean you’re having a case of Cancerian wavering. It could be your inner sense is warning you to reassess your situation before taking action.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): Your pride could get in the way of admitting you might have erred. Best to ‘fess up now before a small mistake turns into a big misunderstanding. Make the weekend a special family time.



VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22): Trying to please someone with a less-than-glowing opinion of something you value could be a waste of time. If you like it, stay with it. The week’s end brings an answer to an old mystery.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22): There might be time to make a change. But be honest with yourself: Is it what you really want, or one you feel pressured into making? Your answer should determine your next move.



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Change is dominant, but so is caution: Proceed carefully, checking each step along the way to avoid encountering any unwelcome surprises that might be lurking along your path.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): It could be a mistake to rely on someone to keep his or her promise without checking out previous performances. What you learn now could save you from a painful lesson later.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Taking a strong stand on an issue you feel is too important to ignore could inspire others to follow suit. The weekend is a good time to socialize with old friends and make new ones.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Your sensitive nature gives you an insight into the problems of someone close to you. Your offer of support could be just what this person needs to start turning his or her life around.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Financial matters continue to need even more careful analysis than usual. Use caution with investment possibilities. A personal relationship might take an unexpected turn by the week’s end.

REGULAR GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

• Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) generally meets on land-use issues on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, and holds general purpose meetings on most 3rd Mondays. Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library Chabot Room, 3600 Norbridge Avenue.

• Castro Valley School Board usually meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4400 Alma Ave.

• Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the District Headquarters, 21040 Marshall Street.

• Alameda County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. in the Supervisors’ Chambers in Oakland.



Pizza: The Stone Age Snack

Pizza, topped with tomatoes, pepperoni and cheese, is only about 100 years old. But the basic idea of pizza actually goes back thousands of years.

It's a direct descendant of the kind of bread people made before there were ovens.

There's not much that's simpler than pizza, which makes it all the more unusual that people shy away from making it at home.

It's satisfying to eat, and surprisingly easy to make from scratch. But just seeing the word "yeast" in a recipe sends many intimidated home chefs to the phone to order from the nearest pizzeria.

To make a great pizza takes a little time, but there's nothing complicated about it. You don't have to buy the fancy utensils like a "peel" or a pizza brick (although both are recommended), nor do you need an oven that approximates a blast furnace. You don't even need one of those little cutting wheels, although they do make slicing the pizza a lot simpler. Any grocer has all the ingredients you'll need.

Other than the crust, pizza ingredients typically include olive oil, a little cornmeal, a variety of cheeses like Mozzarella, Parmesan and Feta, tomato sauce, mushrooms, bell peppers, Italian sausage (cooked ahead), chopped fresh basil, pesto, pepperoni, onions... the list goes on.

PIZZA DOUGH

- 1 (1/4-ounce) package dry yeast
- 1 cup water 110°-115°F
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons cornmeal
- Toppings of Choice

Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup warm water. Sprinkle sugar over and let stand at room temperature 15 minutes or until bubbly. Combine flour and salt in large mixing bowl. Add olive oil to yeast mixture, then pour over flour along with remaining 1/4 cup water. Mix with rubber spatula, then by hand until dough forms a ball.

Turn out onto floured board and knead about 5 minutes by pressing down and away from you with the heel of your hand. Fold the dough back toward you and make a quarter turn. Repeat, kneading for about 10-15 minutes. Dough should feel smooth and springy. Place in oiled bowl and lightly coat dough with the oil. Cover with plastic wrap, then a tea towel. Let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk, 1 to 1-1/2 hours.

When risen, punch dough down with fist and form into a ball. Use immediately or wrap in plastic and refrigerate or freeze. Dough will last 24 hours refrigerated.

To use, cut dough in half and roll out each half to fit a 10- or 12-inch round pan. (Or, if you're feeling brave, pat the dough as flat and as wide as it will go, then punch in a rim about an inch from the edge with your fingertips. Drape the dough over the backs of your fists and gently stretch it by pulling your fists slowly apart, giving the dough a quarter turn after each stretch.) Sprinkle 1 tablespoon cornmeal in bottom of each pan and place dough in pans. Top with topping of choice (but don't overload it) and bake at 425°F 15 to 20 minutes.

TOMATO SAUCE

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes in puree
- 5 basil leaves, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Pinch sugar

In a heavy-bottom saucepan, heat oil and add onion. Cook 2 minutes over low heat and add garlic. Cook another 2-3 minutes. Make sure garlic and onion do not brown. Add remaining ingredients and simmer 20 minutes. Makes enough for 3 or 4 pizzas.

CALIFORNIA PIZZA TOPPING

Pesto:

- 1 cup olive oil
- 2 cups fresh basil leaves
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 tablespoons pine nuts
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Topping:

- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 1 sweet red pepper, seeded and sliced into strips
- 1 green pepper, seeded and sliced into strips
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1/2 pound garlic or sweet Italian sausage
- 3 ounces goat cheese
- 10 ounces Mozzarella cheese coarsely grated

- 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- Pizza Dough

Prepare pesto sauce using a blender or food processor. Combine all ingredients except the cheese. Process, but do not create a puree. Stir in cheese and set aside.

Sauté onions and peppers in one tablespoon olive oil and water in a large skillet over medium heat. Stir frequently until peppers are soft. Drain and set aside. Brown sausage, breaking into pieces as it cooks. Drain off excess fat. Chop coarsely and set aside.

Spread remaining olive oil evenly over a 12-inch pizza pan. Sprinkle with cornmeal. Punch down pizza dough, flatten lightly with a rolling pin, turn and flatten with fingers. Place dough in pans and spread to edges with fingertips. Bake 5 minutes in preheated 425°F oven.

Spread pesto sauce over dough. Crumble goat cheese evenly over pesto. Add onions and peppers, sausage and cheeses. Bake 10-15 minutes until crust is slightly brown and cheese is bubbly.

SMOKEY OLIVE GOUDA & BACON PIZZA

- 3 thick slices smoked bacon
- 1/2 cup yellow or sweet onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 round pizza crust
- 1/2 cup large black ripe pitted olives, thickly sliced
- 1/3 cup julienned well-drained bottled roasted red bell peppers
- 1 cup shredded smoked Gouda cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

Preheat oven to 450°F. Cut bacon crosswise into thin strips. In small skillet over medium heat, cook bacon and onion, stirring occasionally, until bacon is crisp and onion is golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer mixture to paper towel to drain.

Meanwhile, place pizza crust on cookie sheet. Scatter olives and roasted peppers over crust; top with reserved bacon mixture. Sprinkle cheese evenly over pizza.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted. Top with basil or Italian parsley if desired; cut into wedges. Makes 12 appetizer or 6 main dish servings.

Note: If using a pizza stone (brick), put it on the lowest rack, but not the floor, of an unheated

oven, then preheat the oven at the highest possible temperature for at least 30 minutes. Sprinkle cornmeal over the stone before the pizza goes on to prevent sticking.

CHICAGO-STYLE PAN PIZZA

- 8 ounces sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes, drained
- 3/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fennel seed
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Press the dough into the bottom and up the sides of a greased 9x13 inch baking dish.

Crumble the sausage into a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir until evenly browned. Remove the sausage with a slotted spoon, and sprinkle over the dough crust. Sprinkle mozzarella cheese evenly over the sausage.

Add mushrooms and onion to

the skillet; cook and stir until the onion is tender. Stir in the tomatoes, oregano, salt, fennel seed and garlic powder. Spoon over the Mozzarella cheese.

Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over the top and bake for 25 to 35 minutes in the preheated oven, or until crust is golden brown.

Pizza-Making Tips

- If using a pizza stone, place it on a rack in the lower third of your oven, but not on the bottom.

Preheat the oven to 450°F for at least 30 minutes, preferably an hour.

- When using Italian sweet sausage, remove the meat from the links and saute until all redness is removed. Drain on paper towels and add to pizza before baking.

- Saute sliced mushroom in 1 tablespoon of olive oil until just wilted. Add to pizza before baking.

- Have your toppings ready and at room temperature, and work quickly putting them on the pizza. After a minute or so, it will begin to stick and will be impossible to slide off the paddle.

- Tomatoes and other wet foods should be drained of excess liquid. Too much weight or moisture on the dough makes it difficult to cook well.

THE FORUM CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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53				54			55			

ACROSS

- 1 Healthful retreats
- 5 Meadow
- 8 "So be it"
- 12 Hay storage area
- 13 Plant bristle
- 14 Trademarked symbol
- 15 Emanation
- 16 Corral
- 17 Stench
- 18 Third-place medal
- 20 Honolulu's island
- 22 Waste time
- 26 Unexpected victory
- 29 Started
- 30 Nay opposer
- 31 Recording
- 32 Crazy
- 33 Pack away
- 34 Rd.
- 35 One of the Brady Bunch
- 36 Starts
- 37 Jerry Herman musical
- 40 Comic Jay
- 41 Brother of Andrew and Charles
- 45 Reed instrument
- 47 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
- 49 Wings
- 50 Gloomy
- 51 Run-down horse
- 52 Frost
- 53 Connect the _
- 54 Exist
- 55 "SportsCenter" ailer

DOWN

- 1 Thick slice
- 2 Serve tea
- 3 Frizzy hairdo
- 4 Strap hanger
- 5 Boutonniere site
- 6 Ram's mate
- 7 Peeved
- 8 20-Across greeting
- 9 Vary, as a tone
- 10 Freudian concept
- 11 "Neither snow _ ..."
- 19 Pimple
- 21 Toss in
- 23 Grassy plain
- 24 French city
- 25 Some conifers
- 26 Hexagonal state
- 27 Macadamize
- 28 Make absolutely plain
- 32 "Material Girl" singer
- 33 Computer security threat
- 35 Garfield's owner
- 36 Antiquated
- 38 Lecherous looks
- 39 Sill
- 42 Muhammad and Laila
- 43 Freeway access
- 44 TV chef Paula
- 45 Peculiar
- 46 Scary cry
- 48 Rowing tool

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

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Better Business Bureau Shines Light on Counterfeit Products

An in-depth investigative study by Better Business Bureau (BBB) finds that fraudulent consumer goods are ubiquitous, difficult to tell apart from the legitimate products they are counterfeiting, and stem from a large network of organized criminals and credit card processing mechanisms that are willing to support them.

The research shows that 80% of Americans shop online, and the dominance of online retail means nearly anything can be bought online, sometimes at discounts that seem too good to be true.

However, nearly anything available online can be counterfeited, and the research also shows that 40% of people have bought something online that turned out to be counterfeit.

The investigative study – “Fakes Are Not Fashionable: A BBB Study of the Epidemic of Counterfeit Goods Sold Online” – looks at the prevalence of counterfeit consumer goods and the criminal

systems that circulate them. It digs into the scope of the problem, who is behind it, the multi-pronged fight to stop it and the steps consumers can take to avoid it.

The risk of encountering counterfeit goods can affect any online shopper. These goods range from brand-name sunglasses and handbags to golf clubs and consumer electronics, as well as many other kinds of products.

BBB’s report finds that any shippable item with a reputation for quality and sizable markup is a candidate for counterfeiting.

While counterfeit goods often are reputed to be deeply discounted, in reality, counterfeit sellers regularly post prices that are close to the price of the real product, so the prices offered are no longer a signal that the product is counterfeit.

The cost of counterfeiting affects not only consumers who lose money by receiving products not

as advertised, but also the broader U.S. economy. BBB’s report finds that counterfeiting and intellectual property piracy cost the U.S. economy \$200-\$250 billion and 750,000 jobs annually.

One East Bay consumer was interested in purchasing two Hydro Flask water bottles for her daughter and herself. While perusing Instagram, she saw an advertisement for Hydro Flasks at a discounted rate. After clicking on the ad and checking out the website, she thought it looked reputable and professional, and ordered two mugs for \$72.

Two weeks passed and the Oakland-native had still not received her Hydro Flask order. She decided to double check the website she had ordered from and noticed it was actually spelled “hydroflask.com” and when she clicked on the “about” section of the site, the information was written in poor English.

see **PRODUCTS** on back page

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Malea Low, Bianca Petalver & Madison Low

This week’s Athletes of the Week are Malea Low, Bianca Petalver, and Madison Low, who will be attending Castro Valley High School as incoming Freshmen in the Fall. Petalver and the Low twins play for the NorCal Volleyball Club, with Malea on NorCal 13 blue and Madison and Petalver on NorCal 13 black.

They all competed at Junior Nationals, where NorCal 13 Black finished fifth in the National Division, which is the second highest division of the five divisions at Nationals, during the week of July 1-4, in Indianapolis, IN.

The girls previously competed in the Championship bracket of the Northern California Volleyball Association’s 13U Regional Championships, where NorCal 13 blue finished with a Silver medal and NorCal 13 black finished with

Gold, on the weekend of May 4-5, at the San Mateo Convention Center.

NorCal 13 black had finished in first place for the entire 13U Division of Northern California, earning the most points during the Power League season. With their first-place finish, the team earned a National bid to USA Volleyball’s Girls Junior National Championships.

The NorCal Volleyball Club consists of six age divisions ranging from 11U to 16U, that practice and compete to earn bids and trips to Junior Nationals.

The Low sisters have ventured into the world of beach volleyball and Madison has accepted an invitation to attend a USA Volleyball High Performance National Skills Program taking place soon.

CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

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Ambrose Graduates University of Utah

Angela Ambrose of Castro Valley, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Utah on May 2, 2019.

Ambrose was among the more than 8,000 graduates who were honored during the university’s 150th general commencement ceremony.

The University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah.

CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

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LATERAL REPLACEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) is pleased to announce the continuance of the Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP) for the 2019/20 Fiscal Year. \$50,000 in total funding has been approved and the program is scheduled to start **Monday, August 19, 2019** at 7:30 a.m. Financial assistance is available for replacement of more than 50% of the lateral, up to 50% of the total cost of the lowest bid, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per private sewer lateral (lateral) (subject to availability of funds).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Condition Ratings

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

Qualified Contractors

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

For information, please contact Castro Valley Sanitary District
21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 606-1300 | www.cvsan.org/grants



Postal: Ng Reflects on His Career

continued from front page
would get to meet them and keep up with their stories of travel. Everybody loves him,” Baker says.
Ng began the first 10 years of his postal career in Hayward, predominately at the downtown postal station on C Street. For the last 20 years, he’s called Castro Valley is home. He says he’s seen lots of changes in that time.
“We used to sort the mail by hand and then put it in our trucks. Now things are automated. The letters are arranged in our trays for us and all we have to do is check our inventory and deliver them,” Ng says.
The most unusual thing he’s delivered? “A set of car tire rims. That was a big deal. But we have been delivering more and more packages than letters since I started,” Ng says.
In his 30-year-career, Ng says he was only bitten once by a dog—the natural enemy of the postal worker. He says it was a surprise because he had been around the dog so much and he had been talking with its owner when it decided to interrupt the conversation.
As for keeping fit, Ng says he challenged himself to picking up overtime shifts and delivering to



neighborhoods outside of his usual route on Forest Avenue.
“Castro Valley has so many types of houses that you have to try and figure out where the mail box is. Sometimes it’s on the street. Sometimes, it’s near the side of the house.”

Reports: Loaded Firearm, Spousal Assault

continued from page 3
violence. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$20,000 in bail.
Loaded, Concealed Firearm
Thursday, July 25: at 5:28 a.m., an 18-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of illegally carrying a loaded and concealed firearm while under probation and resisting arrest. Deputies stopped the man for questioning in front of an apartment on Center Street near Grove Way when they found the man had a criminal record and a loaded gun. The man was taken into custody.
Thief with a Knife
Wednesday, July 24: at 8:19 p.m., deputies arrested a 31-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of shoplifting and concealing an illegal knife in his jacket. The man was caught leaving a drug store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Yeandle Avenue with unpaid merchandise. Deputies questioned the man when they discovered the knife with a blade longer than 4-inches. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.
Spousal Assault
Tuesday, July 23: at 6:14 p.m., a 65-year-old man from CV was arrested on suspicion of assault on his wife at a home on Keith

Avenue near Natalie Court. Deputies were called to the home after the man’s daughter reported her parents of 26-years were arguing. The man reported that his wife had been drinking and an argument ensued. The wife said the man hit her in the neck with his hand and she fell back into a wall. Deputies reported no visible signs of injury but took the man into custody.
Four Arrested for Drugs, Assault
Tuesday, July 23: at 8:00 a.m., Four people with no permanent residence were arrested on various drug possession and assault charges in the parking lot of the 580 Market Place on East Castro Valley Boulevard. Deputies were called to the scene after reports of an altercation between two women. a 35-year-old woman with a warrant issued for her capture was

charged with assault with a deadly weapon. A 32-year-old woman was also charged with assault and battery, a 27-year-old woman and a 46-year-old man were also charged at the scene. All four were found with either methamphetamine drugs and/or related drug paraphernalia. Deputies transported the suspects to Santa Rita Jail pending bail hearings.
Can’t Stay Away
Tuesday, July 23: at 4:03 p.m., deputies arrested a 56-year-old man with no permanent residence on suspicion of violating a restraining order and violating his probation. The man was hanging outside a restaurant on the Boulevard near San Miguel Avenue when the restaurant manager called to complain of the man who had been asked to stay away. Deputies took the man into custody.
Castro Valley Sports Notes
Castro Valley Independent Sports League
Registration is now open for the 2019 flag football season. Online registration is available at cvisportsleague.org. CVI’s flag football season will begin in August and runs through November. Anyone interested in coaching or learning more about the program can reach out to the flag football coordinator Juan Montalvo at juanmontalvo478@gmail.com
CVHS Football Hall of Fame
These ceremonies, originally scheduled for the Stack Center at Our Lady of Grace Church at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3 have been canceled.

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Nancy K. and Buddy

¹APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are valid as of 06/03/19 and are subject to change after account opening without notice. Interest is paid at tier rates on balances within each tier. Total interest paid is the sum from each tier. Blended APY shown assumes the amount deposited is held in the account for one year. Withdrawing funds before one year will result in a different realized rate. Blended APY for higher tiers: \$1 – \$2,000 is 3.00% APY; \$2,000.01 – \$5,000 is 3.00% - 2.40% APY; \$5,000.01 – \$10,000 is 2.40% - 1.70% APY; \$10,000.01 – \$50,000 is 1.70% - 0.74% APY; \$50,000.01 – \$100,000 is 0.74% - 0.50% APY; \$100,000.01 – \$9,999,999 is 0.50% - 0.20% APY. No minimum deposit required to open an account. Limit one Money Market Select Account and one Money Market Select IRA Account per account number. There’s no fee to join and your membership includes a free savings account. Patelco will deposit \$1 in your savings account upon qualified account opening.

²Bankrate.com 06/03/19.

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WISE UP: RAV4 Hybrid is Smartest SUV on the Block

By Steve Schaefer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

For 22 years and counting, Toyota's RAV4 compact crossover has been a leader. All new for 2019, it offers gasoline-only and hybrid powertrains in several trims. I tested the sportiest one—the XSE all-wheel-drive model.

The fifth-generation 2019 RAV4 has received the same jolt that the Camry and Corolla have—it stands out. The face mimics Toyota pickups with its tough, no-nonsense stance, and the wheel wells have an edginess that would make a Jeep proud. My dark blue "Blueprint/Midnight Black" example, with its black-painted 18-inch alloy wheels, was downright mean looking, especially in low light, when the pretty sparkles in the paint weren't visible.

Toyota says the guiding themes were Adventure and Refined—seemingly very different, but it makes for more fun and a more finely crafted experience.

Powered by a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and a pair of electric motors (front and rear), the RAV4 Hybrid puts out a combined 219 net horsepower—more than the standard RAV4. Electric on-demand all-wheel drive and slightly higher ground clearance (8.6 inches) make this one a good off roader, if you're willing to take it out there.

All RAV4s sit on the Toyota New Generation Architecture (TNGA) platform. It provides many benefits, the most notable being a more comfortable ride and

more responsive handling. The 1.2-inch longer wheelbase and wider front and rear tracks provide more stability, and shorter front and rear overhangs make negotiating tight off-road trails easier. The 57 percent more rigid unibody means no squeaks or rattles while climbing rocks, either.

The TNGA places the powertrain lower in the structure, making the vehicle more stable, and the new parallel-type electric power steering is rack-mounted instead of column-mounted, for enhanced turning response and a more natural feel.

The all-wheel-drive system in the RAV4 Hybrid mounts a separate rear electric motor, which drives the rear wheels when needed. Total torque is up 30 percent from the previous model. Predictive Efficient Drive (PED) monitors your driving patterns to optimize hybrid battery charging. It gathers data and records features like hills and stoplights and adjusts the hybrid powertrain. That's smart.

EPA numbers for the 3,755-pound compact crossover SUV are 41 City, 38 Highway, and 40 Combined. I averaged 37.1 mpg during my test week. The Combined number for gas-only models is 30, so there's a significant difference when you opt for the Hybrid. Green numbers sit at 7 for smog and an exemplary 9 for Greenhouse Gas. Its 223 grams of CO2 per mile is about half the emissions of a "regular" car.

Inside, the new RAV4 sports an angular dash and doors, with rug-

gedness conveyed by tactile rubber on the inside of the door pulls and the dials on the audio system (easy to use with gloves on, too). Billet-style metallic accents and padded dash look classy. The dash sits lower, for better visibility. The seats are redesigned to be more supportive and comfortable.

You know you're in a truck, with upright shapes and a high headliner, but driving the RAV4 is entertaining and comfortable. The standard Entune 3.0 audio system includes SiriusXM Radio and, finally, Apple CarPlay! Oddly, Android Auto is not available.

Like the many other hybrids Toyota sells, this one gives you some information on the dash about how you're driving. The dial shows when you're generating electricity (slowing down and braking), using electricity (during acceleration and climbing hills) and just cruising along. The goal is to encourage deliberate, economical motoring, but you know a vehicle like this is sometimes going to be used just for fun. The Drive Mode setting lets you choose responsible Eco, everyday Normal, or exciting Power. So, go ahead and pick the Power setting for a little while—it'll drop your efficiency numbers a bit, but you'll still be mostly a good citizen.

The Hybrid model comes in four trim grades: LE, XLE, XSE, and Limited. My XSE model—the sportiest of the bunch—flaunted a sport-tuned suspension with tauter springs and shock absorbers. The thing will shoot from 0 to 60 in just 7.8 seconds, too.



Electric on-demand all-wheel drive and slightly higher ground clearance (8.6 inches) make this one a good off roader, if you're willing to take it out there.

You don't need to spend a lot more to drive home the Hybrid model. The base LE is \$25,500 for the gas front-wheel drive model and \$27,700 for the Hybrid. My XSE Hybrid started at \$33,700, but with some significant options, topped out at \$37,899.

Toyota is "the hybrid car company," and the RAV4, already a hit, is a more responsible choice when you drop in the electric motors. In this case, the hybrid is more powerful than the gas version. It's hard to imagine that it won't just get more popular. An all-electric RAV4 isn't likely anytime soon, but you never know.

Steve Schaefer lives in Castro Valley. He has been reviewing new cars in the Times for 27 years.

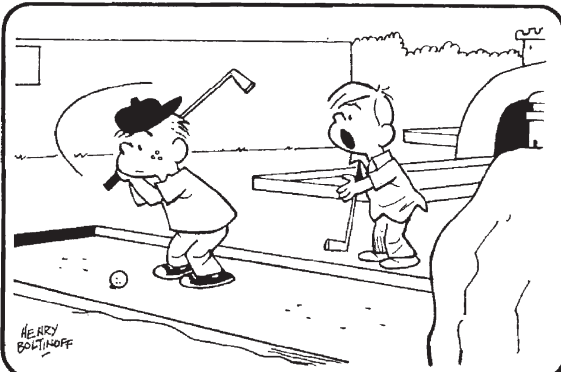


The new RAV4 sports an angular dash and doors, with ruggedness conveyed by tactile rubber on the inside of the door pulls.

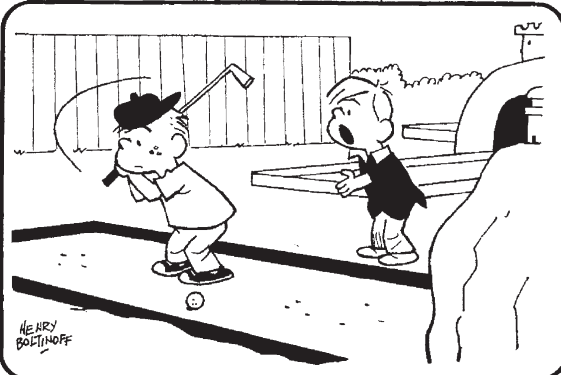
TIME OUT FOR FUN & GAMES

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence has been added. 2. Boy's shirt is black. 3. Bushes are lower. 4. Golf ball has moved. 5. Boy's club is missing. 6. Border around putting green is black.

RIDDLE CARD

1. When is a boat like a pile of snow?
2. What's the difference between a jeweler and a jailer?
3. What word of three syllables specifies the time at which we should dance?
4. What is it that never uses its teeth for eating purposes?
5. Why are money and a secret alike?



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Answers: 1. When it's adrift. 2. One sells watches and the other watches cells. 3. At-ten-dance. 4. A comb. 5. Because both of them are hard to keep.

A "DIRTY" PROBLEM! How many cubic feet of dirt can you remove from a hole that is 6 feet square and 6 feet deep?

Answer: None. The dirt has already been taken out.

DON'T FLIP YOUR LID ON THIS ONE! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all end in LID. The following hints should help:

1. A jar cover (in place).
2. How he crossed the ice.
3. A just conclusion.
4. Lacking vivid coloring.
5. Dirty surroundings.
6. Reverted to wrongdoing.



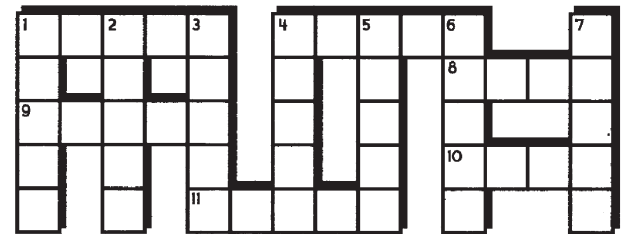
1. LID
2. _LID
3. _ _LID
4. _ _ _LID
5. _ _ _ _LID
6. _ _ _ _ _LID

Answers: 1. Lid. 2. Slide. 3. Valid. 4. Pallid. 5. Squallid. 6. Backslid.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

AN "AT HOME" PUZZLE!



Below are words pertaining to items and objects found in and around the house. These words will complete the puzzle grid provided. Use the trial-and-error method, and try to finish before lunchtime!

- | 4-Letter Words | 5-Letter Words | 5-Letter Words |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| HOSE | CHINA | SHIRT |
| RAKE | NAILS | SINKS |
| | NEWEL | SLIDE |
| | RADIO | SOAPS |
| | ROSES | SOCKS |
| | | STOVE |

Answers: (Across) 1. Sinks. 4. Roses. 8. Hose. 9. China. 10. Rake. 11. Stove. (Down) 1. Socks. 2. Nails. 3. Soaps. 4. Radio. 5. Slide. 6. Shirt. 7. Newel.

AAA Survey: Why Aren't We Plugging in to Electric Vehicles?

By Michael Blasky
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A recent survey reveals that 40 million Americans would consider buying an electric vehicle for their next purchase, but it's unclear when that promise will become a reality.

With only 200,000 all-electric vehicles on the road across the country today, AAA believes it's the public's lack of knowledge and experience with electric vehicles that may be contributing to the nation's slow adoption of the technology.

AAA conducted this survey to understand the disconnect that exists between consumer intent

and action. Like other new vehicle technologies, Americans might not have the full story and that could be causing the gap.

Although Americans remain slow to purchase an electric vehicle, interest in the technology has grown, the survey found.

Earlier this year, AAA Northern California launched the nation's largest all-electric car share fleet, bringing 260 cars into Sacramento to operate the motor club's one-way car share service, "GIG Car Share." More than 20,000 Sacramento residents have downloaded the app in the Gig's first weeks of operation.

As more Americans experience this technology, they'll be more

confident about the benefits of electric vehicles as a reliable, affordable and eco-friendly consumer option.

The fleet of electric Gigs in Sacramento are all 2019 Chevrolet Bolts, which was AAA's Green Car Guide winner for the subcompact category this year.

These cars have 200 miles of range and have a lot of power — not exactly the electric cars Americans remember from a decade ago.

AAA's annual Electric Vehicle survey found interest in electric vehicles remains steady, with 16% of Americans reporting they're likely to buy electric the next time they're in the market for a new or used vehicle.

The slow adoption of electric vehicles might stem from Americans still learning about the performance of electric vehicles compared to gas powered engines.

There are two main reasons most drivers would prefer an electric vehicle. Three quarters of those surveyed were concerned for the environment while 56% said they were looking to go electric because of the lower long-term cost.

The slow adoption of electric vehicles might stem from Americans still learning about the per-

formance of electric vehicles compared to gas powered engines.

According to this survey, 59% of Americans were not aware electric vehicles are more efficient in stop-and-go traffic compared to gas-powered cars.

Those who are still unlikely or unsure about buying an electric vehicle cite some specific reasons:

- 58% are concerned there are not enough places to charge.
- 57% are concerned they'll run out of charge while driving.
- 57% are concerned range is not suitable for long-distance road trips.

Each year AAA produces its Green Car Guide, which rates electric vehicles as well as hybrids

and highly fuel efficient cars based on criteria such as ride quality, safety and performance.

This guide can serve as a resource since it not only provides detailed reviews of each car tested, but also offers robust information on green vehicles. Consumers who are on the fence will find that this guide can be a valuable resource for learning more about electric and other environmentally friendly vehicles.

Winners, detailed evaluation criteria, vehicle reviews and an in-depth analysis of the green vehicle industry can be found at AAA.com/greencar.

Michael Blasky is spokesperson for AAA Northern California.

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY



This large and gracious Shapell home is located near the Clubhouse with pool and tennis facilities, Palomares Hills Park, and Jensen Elementary School. A long list of quality up-grades, an ideal floor plan that is bright and open with a bedroom and bath downstairs.

Home has 2927 sq. ft., 7025 sq. ft lot, 4 bedrooms + bonus room, and 3 baths. Beautiful yard has mature trees, stone sitting area and pathways. A fabulous remodeled chef's kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors in all main living areas, dramatic staircase with wood treads, upgraded dual-paned windows and sliders, efficiency central AC and air filter.



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REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Buyers Changing Behaviors As Market Shifts

As the market slows, buyers are beginning to understand they have a bit more leverage and are adapting their behaviors to compensate.

As little as a year ago, many offers were being accepted with few or no buyer contingencies and completely AS-IS. Buyers had no wiggle room to negotiate — they either accepted the terms or the seller went to the next buyer in line.

Today, as the lines of prospective buyers are dwindling, contingencies are back in place and requests for repairs are

remerging like flowers after the winter thaw.

Since buyers have been trained over the past 8 or so years to expect no negotiations with sellers, this new-found liberty has introduced a host of issues.

As an example, there is a lot of confusion over what constitutes a valid request for repairs. We are beginning to see buyer requests that not only include items such as Section 1 termite or fungus related repairs, but requests for upgrades as well.

While requests to return the structure of a home to functional condition are valid, anything

deemed to be an improvement is not.

Contingencies are also causing problems. We are seeing cases of buyers refusing to remove loan contingencies for fear of losing their deposit if something happens to their loan.

The historic remedy has been for sellers to issue a Notice to Perform, forcing buyers to remove the contingency or have the transaction canceled. In the past, buyers would have been waiting in the wings in anticipation - today, that is not the case, and sellers, happy to be in contract, are more uneasy about putting much pressure on a buyer.

The fundamental issue in a shifting market is the redistribution of risk. In a normal market, risk is distributed equally between the seller and buyer. The seller is taking the risk of removing their home from the market and forfeiting other potential offers while the buyer assumes the risk of losing their deposit if things go sideways.

In a fierce seller's market, the majority of risk is on a buyer, who consequently has no room to maneuver. As the market shifts towards a buyer's market, risk shifts to the seller who in turn loses negotiating power.

It's a balancing act, and so long as everyone plays by the rules, the system works. When either party refuses to play fair and assume the appropriate level of risk, however, frustrations flair.

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.

More Nutrients, Light Needed to Help Flowers Bloom

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

I have several Epiphyllum cactus growing on my patio in pots. The plants are healthy, producing plenty of leaves but I only get a few flowers each year. They get about an hour of filtered sun daily and I fertilize often with 30-10-10. What can I do to get them to produce more

flowers and should I prune them to control their size?

Epiphyllum cacti are actually a type of orchid that is native to the rain forest of Brazil. They're mainly epiphytic plants, meaning that they grow without soil on the sides of trees and in the forks of branches. However, they do grow in containers in well-drained soil.

These orchids have broad flat

stems with serrated edges along with being segmented and joined by a midrib. They're related to the Christmas cactus, also known as Zygocactus, and the Easter or spring variety called Schlumbergera.

All of the Epiphyllum cacti have very large and showy flowers and can reach over seven inches across. Although a spring bloomer, there are some varieties that bloom in the fall. The flowers typically open at night but only last for a couple of days.

Although exotic, Orchid Cactus are easy to grow here in the Bay Area but they're sensitive to the cold in the winter.

The lack of or limited number of flowers that your plants are producing is a nutrient issue. In addition, the limited amount of light is a contributing factor.

The 30-10-10 fertilizer is too high in nitrogen while the potassium percentage is too low. Potassium is the last number

in the fertilizer analysis while nitrogen is the first number. 30-10-10 encourages a plant to be lush and green. I'd switch to the Gro More 6-30-30 Orchid Food or something similar.

Orchid Cactus are not fed year round so I'd feed them February through October, giving them a rest period for the balance of the year.

During the rest period, you encourage buds to set by watering them sparingly for eight to 12 weeks, starting in November. Once buds appear, keep the plant in the same location, as changes in light and temperature by moving them around will cause them to drop its buds and flowers.

When moved indoors, keep the Orchid Cactus away from drafty areas like doorways and heater vents, much like a poinsettia. Keep your plants in bright, indirect light year-round, however they can take some direct sun light first thing in the morning.

An Agrosun Dayspot grow light is suggested to increase the light during the winter months especially if you bring the plant(s) indoors.

Orchid Cactus are pruned annually in the spring months after flowering to control the growth. They're cut between the segments using a sharp and clean knife or pruning shears.

They're also repotted every three-years as orchid cactus prefer to be slightly pot-bound to bloom. And one final note, unlike other flowering plants never repot them while they're blooming.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advance 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. [com/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)



RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

18601 Carlwyn Drive	94546: \$187,500 3 BD - 2,164 SF - 1954
19304 Parsons Avenue	94546: \$300,000 2 BD - 1,802 SF - 1928
21057 Baker Road	94546: \$525,000 2 BD - 1,056 SF - 1976
1926 Grove Way	94546: \$595,000 2 BD - 1,171 SF - 1941
21613 Orange Avenue	94546: \$658,500 2 BD - 834 SF - 1942
5346 Briar Ridge Drive	94552: \$675,000 1,619 SF - 1978
19787 Laurelwood Drive	94552: \$749,000 2 BD - 1,571 SF - 1986
6481 Sunnyslope Avenue	94552: \$789,000 3 BD - 2,445 SF - 1991
20198 Normandy Court	94546: \$810,000 3 BD - 1,353 SF - 1958
4016 Seven Hills Road	94546: \$820,000 3 BD - 1,880 SF - 1948
21102 Ashfield Avenue	94546: \$828,000 3 BD - 1,308 SF - 1955
20071 Catalina Drive	94546: \$860,000 3 BD - 1,306 SF - 1950
3764 Almond Court	94546: \$880,000 4 BD - 2,237 SF - 1950
18860 Parsons Avenue	94546: \$890,000 3 BD - 2,051 SF - 1956
5322 Greenridge Road	94552: \$900,000 4 BD - 1,953 SF - 1964
17817 Columbia Drive	94552: \$985,000 3 BD - 1,906 SF - 1985
17700 Columbia Drive	94552: \$1,140,000 4 BD - 2,154 SF - 1986
25691 Crestfield Circle	94552: \$1,260,000 4 BD - 2,334 SF - 1998
7639 Pineville Circle	94552: \$1,286,500 4 BD - 3,607 SF - 1994

TOTAL SALES: 19

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$187,500 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$820,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,286,500 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$796,763

San Leandro

280 Suffolk Drive	94577: \$240,000 2 BD - 1,043 SF - 1943
15211 Upton Avenue	94578: \$310,000 2 BD - 844 SF - 1947
14473 Doolittle Drive	94577: \$415,000 2 BD - 865 SF - 1979
3869 Yorkshire Street	94578: \$435,000 2 BD - 918 SF - 1987
16632 Hannah Drive	94578: \$518,000 1 BD - 842 SF - 1923
521 Sybil Avenue	94577: \$525,000 2 BD - 1,758 SF - 1981
2464 Cheshire Court	94577: \$565,000 1,371 SF - 1977
12951 Aurora Drive	94577: \$600,000 2,007 SF - 1950
924 Broadmoor Boulevard	94577: \$600,000 2 BD - 779 SF - 1941
400 Davis Street #105	94577: \$600,000 2 BD - 2,145 SF - 1982
16692 Liberty Street	94578: \$610,000 2 BD - 1,232 SF - 1940
1770 142nd Avenue	94578: \$620,000 2 BD - 843 SF - 1942
1698 Lanier Avenue	94579: \$743,000 3 BD - 1,437 SF - 1957
639 Joaquin Avenue	94577: \$750,000 3 BD - 1,334 SF - 1953
1156 Mersey Avenue	94579: \$750,000 3 BD - 1,335 SF - 1950
16707 Selby Drive	94578: \$777,000 3 BD - 2,052 SF - 1955
1610 Regent Drive	94577: \$780,000 3 BD - 2,054 SF - 1969
136 Oakes Boulevard	94577: \$880,000 3 BD - 1,420 SF - 1923
800 Bancroft Avenue	94577: \$1,130,000 3 BD - 1,986 SF - 1939

TOTAL SALES: 19

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$240,000 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$600,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,130,000 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$623,578

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A	—	2-4	380 Garcia Ave.	\$625,000	3/1	Rinetti & Co. RE	Carrie Miles	510-735-5223
C	1-4	1-4	21318 Hobert St.	\$699,000	3/2	Berkshire Hathaway RE	Cathy Brent	510-381-1065
SLZ	1-4	1-4	970 Paseo Grande	\$795,000	3/2	United Brokers RE	Tere Lee	510-305-8827
C	1-4	1-4	17620 Oakshire Ct.	\$999,000	4/2	G.G. Sotheby's Int'l. RE	Sharyn Prakash	510-881-6000
C	1-3	—	27879 Palomares Rd.	\$1,975,000	4/3	J. Rockcliff RE	Kristy Peixoto	925-251-2536
C	1-4	1-4	20545 Forest Ave.	Price not avail.	3/2	Berkshire Hathaway RE	Cathy Brent	510-381-1065

CITY GUIDE

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L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • S = SHEFFIELD VILLAGE • P = PLEASANTON • SLZ = SAN LORENZO • Z=ALAMEDA



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Still Time to Make Additions and Changes to Your Landscape

By Melinda Myers
Special to the Forum

The cool, wet spring delayed planting, deck and patio installations and other outdoor projects. Fortunately, there is still time to complete much of your outdoor work.

Many gardeners missed or saw only limited spring planting due to the weather. You can still add vegetables to your garden, mixed borders and containers. Just check the seed packets for the number of days from planting to harvest. Then calculate the number of days left in the growing season and plant those veggies that have enough time to reach maturity before the first fall frost. Leaf lettuce, radishes, spinach and peas are just a few to consider.

Late August is a good time to patch bare spots, overseed, or start a new lawn. The soil is warm, air temperatures are starting to cool and rain showers are often less intense. This means the grass seed will germinate more rapidly and the young seedlings will thrive in the cooler temperatures.

Fill voids in the garden with fall blooming annuals. These add color to the late summer and fall landscape. Many provide needed nectar for the pollinators, helping them prepare for winter hibernation or their long migration home. Look for nemesisias, pansies, stocks, dianthus and other plants that thrive in cooler weather.

Plant perennials to add color and texture to your landscape throughout the year. Get the most out of every inch of your landscape by selecting plants with multiple seasons of interest. Select perennials with colorful flowers, attractive foliage and seed heads that provide winter interest and food for the birds. Make sure you include a variety of plants to provide spring, summer and fall blossoms for you, the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to enjoy.

Survey your landscape and look for opportunities to use plants to screen unwanted views, maintain desirable lines of sight or create the perfect space for relaxing and entertaining. Remember to look up as you begin this process. Avoid planting trees and large shrubs under overhead utilities. When these small transplants reach their mature size they can create a hazardous situation and require removal or severe pruning that leaves you with an unattractive plant.

As you begin planning- and at least three business days before you put the first shovel in the ground- always call 811. They'll contact all the appropriate companies who will mark the location of their underground utilities in your work area. This helps eliminate the danger and inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable or other utilities while you create a beautiful landscape.

Help new plantings get off to a healthy start with proper care. Check new plantings often

and water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. This encourages deep roots that are more drought tolerant and better able to compete with weeds and tolerate pests.

Spread a layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles or wood chips over the soil surface to conserve moisture, suppress weeds and keep the roots cool and moist. Keep mulch off the crowns of plants and trunks of trees. Mulching now reduces time spent watering and weeding.

Take advantage of the remaining season to make the changes you'd like to see in your landscape. You'll enjoy the added beauty and improvements this fall and for years to come.

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Unknown Fruit Safe to Eat?; Visit Garden Center for Stump Removal Products

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

Q I have a few trees that are producing fruit for the first time. The fruit looks like a cross between plum and cherry. Leaves are a deep purple hue. What is it called, and is it edible?

A This doesn't sound like any commercial type tree but more than likely the fruit of flowering plum.

Flowering plums are thought of as being fruitless, but not all the varieties are. There are three primary varieties or *Prunus* being planted. If the flowers were white, then it's *Thundercloud*. If they're single pink, it's *Vesuvius*. *Blierea* is fruitless with double pink flowers. They're used in jams and jellies.

Q I'm removing the stump of a dead tree, but I don't want to grind it. Are there any 'do it yourself' tree stump removal products? Also, is it possible to plant a lemon in this area?

A Stump removal products are available at your favorite garden center. They use Potassium Nitrate to dehydrate the stump by speeding up the dry rot. Their biggest drawback is time as they take several months to work.

There is no reason to be concerned about planting a lemon tree where the tree once grew. How you remove the stump will have no impact on the growth of any citrus varieties. Personally, I would grind the stump, as it is the fastest and quickest way to

get rid of it.

Buzz Bertolero is an Advance 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/Buzz.Bertolero](https://www.facebook.com/Buzz.Bertolero)



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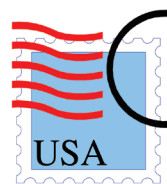


JUST SOLD - Rose Ave., Crockett CA
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COMING SOON: 936 Jean Way, Hayward • \$599,000
Lovely, bright, open floor plan with 3 large bedrooms and 1 bath. Big back yard is private with many mature fruit trees.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR
FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM**Myths About Immigrants**

Editor:

Several persistent myths about immigrants are echoed in recent letters.

First, it is not illegal to cross the border in search of asylum. In fact, both federal law (the Refugee Act of 1980) and international treaty (the 1951 Refugee Convention of the United Nations, of which the U.S. is a signatory) require that the U.S. provide asylum-seekers with a process to plead their case, and entry to the U.S. if criteria for refugee status, as legally defined, are met.

An executive order from the President is not sufficient to overturn either of these obligations.

Second, the vast majority of immigrants do work and do pay taxes here. Most have green cards, visas, and/or social security numbers; their income taxes are deducted from their wages just like anyone else.

Those who work under the table are required to report their earnings and pay taxes, just as non-immigrants are. Some—relatively few—work under false social security numbers; they pay taxes, though they can't ever collect Social Security benefits.

Immigrants who own property pay property taxes. Those who buy

items pay sales taxes.

And third, not all immigrants work in low-paid, unskilled professions. Take a minute to look around. Your bank teller, boss, doctor, child's teacher, the scientist who developed the medicine you depend on, the chef at your favorite restaurant, the person who installs your internet equipment, the person who invented that equipment...? Chances are at least one of these people was born outside this country.

The idea that most immigrants expect non-immigrants to "pay for their care from birth to death" is a myth.

—Mal May, Castro Valley

Lights for Liberty

Editor:

The Lights for Liberty event that took place recently at Peace Corner (what many of us call the corner at Redwood Road and Castro Valley Blvd.) was a wonderful gathering of many people from many walks of life and was so heartening to know there are kind and caring folks here in our own community who are working for the good of all.

Special kudos to Castro Valley Matters, The Eden Area Interfaith Council, and Castro Valley Pride for organizing the event.

I joined members of the Castro Valley (Womens March) Huddle who also participated in this important "Close the Camps" event. And I agree with Michael K. of Castro Valley Matters when he posted, "I'm in awe that my family has the privilege to live in this dynamic and diverse community in the heart of the Bay Area. And from what I've witnessed in the decade of living here, that heart is getting bigger."

—Kathy Padro, Castro Valley

Swalwell Town Hall

Editor:

It was a real pleasure to see Eric Swalwell doing a town hall appearance at my old high school (CV High) so soon after his previous appearance at Castro Valley Pride the weekend before.

Although it's unfortunate he decided to end his campaign to seek the democratic nomination, I hope at least that means there will be a greater likelihood of future local appearances of him.

I want to thank the congressman for his yes vote on the recently passed House Resolution 246 which among other things condemns the boycott, divestment and sanction movement against Israel. Unlike Barbara Lee, Eric Swalwell has chosen to once again take a stand for the truth and fairness and against anti-Semitism.

—David Holsey, Castro Valley

Letters to the Editor must include writer's first and last names, phone number, city of residence, and must be under 300 words. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. We do not publish unsigned or anonymous letters. Email Letters to: fredz@ebpublishing.com or mail to: The Forum, P.O. 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. Brief notices are published free. For help, please call Patrick Vadnais at 510-614-1558

Steven C. Dimick

September 22, 1947–July 9, 2019

Steve was a man of many loves and talents, often combining the two with marvelous results. His primary love was his family: Marianne, his wife; stepdaughter Kristi and husband Mark Pollard; his greatest joys, grandchildren Ava and Jack; and his many, many dogs.

Steve built a successful and fulfilling law practice in Castro Valley, starting in 1983 after graduating from UC Berkeley, Boalt Hall in 1979. He moved his practice to Livermore in 2017 to begin his retirement.

All through his life he enjoyed reading, cooking, music, gardening, traveling, performing and storytelling. Steve spun many a tale at Krayons, where he gathered with friends and colleagues most Friday afternoons for the past 36 years.

Steve's community service work included positions on the boards of the Oakland Opera, San Leandro Community Counseling, HARD Senior Centers (in both Hayward and Castro Valley), and the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce. He chaired the Castro Valley Incorporation campaign in 2002. Steve also supported Marianne's work with Canine Companions for Independence and the Valley Humane Society.

His generosity was partially displayed by the many hours of pro bono legal services he provided the community. Steve was awarded the Wily Manual award for pro bono work by the Alameda County Bar Association. He started a fundraising campaign for the owner of a local donut shop after he was severely beaten during a robbery. Steve often helped the homeless with donations or opportunities for them to work at his office or at his home. On a 2018 trip to burn area of Paradise, Steve served as an ATM machine, walking through the fairgrounds listening to stories and handing out cash to those in need.

Although he had exhibited many fine qualities, Steve was not perfect. Many have said and even more have heard the phrase, "You know how Steve is."

Surviving Steve are his wife Marianne, stepdaughter Kristi (Mark) Pollard, and their children Ava and Jack; brother Rick (Susan) Dimick; two nephews, Carson and Cabot Dimick, and Marianne's large extended family.

A celebration of Steve's life is scheduled for Sunday, August 18th at the Hayward Senior Center, 22373 North 3rd Street, Hayward, California at 4:00 p.m.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to San Francisco Suicide Prevention, P.O. Box 191350, San Francisco, CA 94119; www.sfsuicide.org, or to Canine Companions for Independence, 2965 Dutton Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA, 95407; cci.org.

Rosemary Ragen

May 16, 1928 – July 16, 2019

Rosemary Ragen passed away peacefully surrounded by her three loving daughters, Debra Ragen-Coffman, Pamela McMackin, and Susanne Ragen. She is predeceased by her loving husband of 60 years, Robert (Bob) Ragen, her parents, Erle R. Massey and Julia (Mason) Massey, her brother, Warren Massey, her sister, Alice Massey, and survived by her brother Rick Massey.



Rosemary is survived by her daughter Deb Coffman, her husband Tom, and their children Chelsea and Kyle and his fiancée Jenn O'Rourke, her daughter Pam McMackin, her husband, Don, and their son, Ken, and his wife, Rosie (McBride), and daughter, Sue Ragen, her husband, Scott Muldavin and their daughters, Maureen and Julia.

Rosemary lived her early years in Oakland, California. She attended Sequoia Elementary School and Bret Harte Junior High School. She graduated from Fremont High School where she met the love of her life, Bob Ragen. They graduated together from U.C. Berkeley in 1950. Rosemary was one of only two women who graduated with a degree in Chemistry.

Rosemary and Bob married shortly after graduation, settled in the Hayward hills, and raised their three daughters.

Rosemary worked for Dow Chemical as a chemist after college. After the birth of her children, she became a dedicated full-time Mom. Later she attended Cal State, Hayward, and earned her teaching credential. She taught junior high science and high school Chemistry for 20 years in the Castro Valley Unified School District.

Rosemary was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a dedicated teacher, talented seamstress, devout Christian, and attended the Presbyterian Church throughout her adult years. In her retirement years, she cherished her many hours spent with her children and grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Visitation was held at Sorensen Chapel, 1140 B Street, in Hayward on July 24, and Funeral Services were held on July 25. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Ministry of the Homeless, First Presbyterian Church, 2490 Grove Way, Castro Valley, CA. 94546.

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Marjorie Alberta Rae Bullock

August 1, 1920 - July 11, 2019

"Marge," age 98, a longtime Castro Valley resident, passed away peacefully at her Tracy home on July 11, 2019. She was born August 1, 1920 in Santa Ana, CA to Ernest and Edith (Kuechel) Gommel.

Received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from UC Berkeley. She proudly served as a Navy Nurse, stationed in Alaska during WWII, and continued working as a Registered Nurse until retirement.

Beloved mother, grandmother, GG, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend.

In 98 years she touched so many lives, her accomplishments were many, and her life was full.

She enjoyed sewing, traveling, the theater, baking, reading, attending church, volunteering, bike riding. See's candy, her birthday, watching Dr. Phil, gardening, and spending time with her family.

Preceded in death by her wonderful husbands Edwin Rae (1971) and Harrison Bullock (1993); son Eddie Rae; brother Ernie Gommel Jr; grandson Jacob Isler; and so many loved friends and family.

Those left to cherish her memory include: daughter, Virginia Isler; granddaughters Traci Isler and Amy Locke Isler; sister Dorothy Dimitre (Ted); great-grandchildren James, Caden, and Kendall (Rosie Rae) Isler, and loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Adored by all who knew her. She was a special lady and will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life is being planned for a later date.



Roadwork on Mission Blvd.
Continues Through Aug. 9

Northbound traffic will be reduced to one lane along a 1.5-mile stretch of Mission Boulevard in South Hayward for continuing roadway rehabilitation and repaving today and tomorrow.

The restriction will be from the Hayward-Union City border at Blanche Street to the intersection of Industrial/Alquiere Parkway.

The lane reduction will occur 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and tomorrow, July 31 and Aug. 1, and from Monday, Aug. 5, to Friday, Aug. 9, as part of Phase 2 of the Hayward Mission Boulevard Improvements Project. Two lanes will open to traffic at the end of each day.

Phase 1, from Industrial Parkway to A Street, was completed in 2014. Phase 3, from A Street to the north city limit at Rose Street, is currently in the design phase.

In addition to roadway rehabilitation, the project also includes underground installation of overhead utility wires, new sidewalks and curb ramps, bike lanes and landscaping.

Project funding includes revenue from the sale of land once planned for construction of a State Route 238 bypass freeway and from the Alameda County voter-approved Measure BB transportation sales tax.

Family Caregiver Classes

Hope Hospice is offering a Family Caregiver Education Series at no cost to East Bay residents, covering a variety of topics and providing training, education, support, and caregiver resources.

The first class, Understanding Advanced Illness, will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 10. It will look at a variety of illnesses and provide guidance in determining when curative care may become palliative (comfort) care.

Classes take place at the Hope Hospice office in suite 100 at 6377 Clark Ave. in Dublin. While Hope offers this program for free, donations are gratefully accepted, helping the hospice to provide the service to others.

Those interested should pre-register with Debbie Emerson, at debbiee@hopehospice.com or 925-819-6912. Following class is an optional caregiver support group; bring your own bag lunch.

If you are attending the support group but not the class, please text Debbie upon arrival (925-819-6912), as the building door will be locked after class is in session.

Free parking is available on-site.

For general questions and further information, call 925-829-8770, or visit hopehospice.com/caregivers.



HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

IN UNIFORM

U.S. Air Force Airman Tyler D. Cabral, a 2015 graduate of Castro Valley High School, graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

LEGAL NOTICES

<p>FILED JULY 05, 2019 MELISSA WILK County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 560919</p> <p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930</p> <p>The name of the business: At Your Service Bartending, LLC located at 22990 Palazzo Del Kayla, Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County is hereby registered by the following owner(s): At Your Service Bartending, LLC, 22990 Palazzo Del Kayla, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. This business commenced on July 2014. /s/At Your Service Bartending, LLC This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JULY 05, 2024 JULY 24, 31, AUG 7, 14, 2019 0123-CVF</p>	<p>FILED JUNE 17, 2019 MELISSA WILK County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 560351</p> <p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930</p> <p>The name of the business: Shami Oshun located at 2226 Fernwood Ct., Hayward, CA 94541, in Alameda County is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shami Carroll, 2226 Fernwood Ct., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced on 01/01/2019. /s/Shami Carroll This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JUNE 17, 2024 JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG 7, 2019 0124-CVF</p>
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<p>FILED JULY 11, 2019 MELISSA WILK County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 561119</p> <p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930</p> <p>The name of the business: Alvaro's Construction located at 17980 Almond Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alvaro Prieto M., 17980 Almond Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced on January 2009. /s/Alvaro Prieto M. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JULY 11, 2024 JULY 24, 31, AUG 7, 14, 2019 0121-CVF</p>	<p>FILED JULY 12, 2019 MELISSA WILK County Clerk ALAMEDA COUNTY By-----, Deputy FILE NO. 561154</p> <p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930</p> <p>The name of the business: Marta Kunz Hair at Studio 18 A located at 21060 Redwood Road Suite 200, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marta E. Kunz, 2474 College Park Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced on 06/25/19. /s/Marta E. Kunz This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above. Expires JULY 12, 2024 JULY 31, AUG 7, 14, 21, 2019 0128-CVF</p>
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Kelly Springer
Happy 35th Wedding Anniversary!
Remember, God loves me more than he loves you, because he blessed me with you and you with me.
Love, Dave

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on Tuesday, the 6th day of August 2019, at the hour of 6:30 P.M., at the District Office, 21040 Marshall Street, Castro Valley, in said District, said Board will hear and consider all protests and objections to said report.

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

Dated: July 02, 2019

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

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ADOPT-A-PET



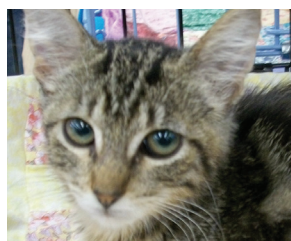
ALLIE is a very playful, energetic adult cat who thinks she's a kitten. She'd do best in a single cat home. Spayed, up to date on vaccinations. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter, 510-293-7200.



PLUTO is a loving, happy-go-lucky 7 years young Chihuahua mix with soulful brown eyes and big floppy ears. Meet Pluto at the Hayward Animal Shelter. For more info, call: 510-293-7200.



LUELLA is a petite kitten at almost 4 months, is affectionate and friendly. She'd love a home with another young cat to play with. More info, email: Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.



RAEYLYNN is a very affectionate, 3 month old Tabby. She loves to snuggle with her foster mom and other kittens. For more info, please email: Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.

BART: GM

continued from front page

He was responsible for overseeing the immediate implementation of Measure RR, the \$3.5 billion infrastructure bond approved by voters, prioritizing the roll out of projects to the point BART's on-time performance improved to 92%.

He was also responsible for multi-million-dollar capital projects such as expanding BART service into Antioch and South Fremont, modernizing stations, and the effort to develop land near our stations to help solve the Bay Area's housing crisis and bring jobs closer to where people live.

Prior to joining BART, Powers held executive level positions for the City of Seattle Department of Transportation and the City of Baltimore Department of Transportation.

He is a licensed Professional Engineer and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and Master of Science degree in Structural Engineering.

Powers will oversee a \$2.4 billion budget and the District's 3,600 employees who serve 407,000 riders each weekday with service at 48 stations in four counties.



Singer/songwriter Wilson Wong will be the special guest performing at THE LAB on Thursday, August 15. Sign up online to perform.

Coming Up at Smalltown

● **Thursday, August 15:** THE LAB: Songwriter and Poet Showcase & Workshop — Sign-ups for performances by email only: info@smalltownsociety.com. THE LAB is a monthly gathering that allows songwriters and poets to workshop and collaborate on new and existing pieces through exercises and brief performances, in front of and among friends. Everyone is welcome! This month's featured artist is Wilson Wong 7:00 p.m.

● **Saturday, August 17:** Pampas Cafe Presents Smalltown Society Art Sessions in the parking lot at Pampas, highlighting local art and the music of singer/songwriter Duke James. Free. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 3483 Castro Valley Blvd.

● **Saturday, August 24:** American Graffiti Screening and Fundraiser. Join Smalltown Society and CVNews at The Chabot as Castro Valley Cruise Night presents a *free screening* of the classic "American Graffiti." We will be collecting donations at the door as well as hosting a raffle to raise money for upgrades for the new, locally-owned Chabot! *Arrive early* with your entire group, no seat saving. Free 3 p.m.

For more details on these events and others, please visit: www.smalltownsociety.com or text "Smalltown" to 797979. Smalltown Society is located at 22222 Redwood Road, CV.

Products: Counterfeit

continued from page 6

The mugs finally did arrive but when they did, they were shipped from China but were low quality and not as advertised.

After some persistence, she was finally offered a refund of \$9.99 if she returned them. She filed a complaint with the BBB and if there is one message she would like to pass on to other consumers, it's that you always need to look at website carefully before buying.

According to BBB's report, 88% of counterfeit goods come from China and Hong Kong, with their smuggling and their online sale via fraudulent websites widely thought to be coordinated by international organized crime groups.

Customs agents seized \$1.2 billion in counterfeit shipments in fiscal 2017, the most current year for which data is available; however, shipping and smuggling methods vary widely, creating major headaches for customs officials.

Inasmuch as counterfeit goods are almost always paid for with a credit card, the fraudulent websites that process these sales make extensive use of the credit card and banking system, with a small number of Chinese banks.

The BBB recommends consumers check the reputation of the seller at bbb.org before making payment and contact the manufacturer for a listing of authorized sellers.

If you believe you have unwittingly purchased counterfeit goods:

Ask for a refund. Victims who don't receive anything when buying online with their credit card, or who receive goods that are counterfeit or not as described, should call the customer service number on the back of their card and request a refund.

Report counterfeit goods by contacting one or more of the following:

- National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center
- Better Business Bureau: Victims can file complaints at bbb.org about online sellers that claim to be in the U.S. or Canada. BBB tries to resolve complaints and may help in getting a refund. There is no cost for this service. BBB also looks for and reports patterns of complaints.

- Online markets: Victims can complain directly to eBay, Amazon, Facebook and Instagram or other online marketplaces. In addition, Amazon has an "A-Z guarantee" for goods sold by third parties on their site; victims who have purchased counterfeit items from a third-party seller can seek a refund.

- Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IC3): The FBI takes complaints about counterfeit goods.

- Federal Trade Commission: You can complain to the FTC by calling 877/FTC-Help or file a complaint online.

The local office of the Better Business Bureau is at 1000 Broadway, Suite 625, Oakland 94607, phone 866-411-2221.

BE FEATURED IN OUR CALENDAR AND ANNUAL REPORT



Sign up to be featured in CVSan's 2020 Calendar and Annual Report! This calendar will be mailed to all Castro Valley addresses in December and will be featured on CVSan's website and social media accounts. We're looking for residents who have **zero waste and/or sustainable lifestyle habits** in their homes. Participants will be photographed and/or video interviewed in a lifestyle setting at their residence.

For questions or to sign up, contact nicole@cvsan.org or by phone at (510) 537-0757 ext. 133.

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