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CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 31

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019

NO. 5

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



Senior Cats

Four older cats, with plenty of love to give, in search of forever homes
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LIVING



Super Bowls

The only rule for game day parties is that there should be plenty of food
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NEWS



Tax Season

The Franchise Tax Board has some advice about your tax preparation
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PHONE: (510) 537-1792



Fifty-six Business students from the Castro Valley High School DECA Chapter form the "DECA Diamond" with their hands during a group photo while attending the Northern California Career Development Conference on January 18 in San Ramon. The diamond is the official symbol of DECA, Inc., a non-profit organization formerly known as the Distributive Education Clubs of America.

DECA: Tomorrow's Leaders

Castro Valley High School business student Olivia Davidson thinks it would be incredible to become a CEO one day, able to pursue something that she's genuinely proud of and passionate about.

The 17-year old senior shares with Katelyn Lance the title of co-president of the CVHS chapter of DECA, a global organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, hospitality, finance and management.

DECA, formerly "Distributive Education Clubs of America," has more than 215,000 high school members worldwide, all driven to win the "DECA Glass" – the trophies awarded at competitions.

Davidson says it takes a certain kind of student to join DECA. During their role-playing events, students have just 10 minutes to read and come up with a solution to a business-related scenario,

and another 10 minutes to present the information to a judge. Written reports range from 10 to 20 pages. Finally, students take a 100-question exam to test their business knowledge.

"There's something about completing a competition that is so satisfying," says Davidson, who's interested in marketing and international business. "You can finally take a step back and look at

see DECA on page 6

MAC MEETING

Santa Maria Redo Begins Next Week

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Some long-awaited construction is beginning on Santa Maria Avenue from Castro Valley Boulevard to Wilson Avenue – approximately from the Village to the high school.

At its Monday night meeting, the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) heard an update on the project from Bill Lepere of the Alameda County Public Works Agency.

Construction on the \$4.4 million project is set to begin next week and continue until September. When it is finished, Santa Maria Ave. will have new high-visibility crosswalks, ramps, curbs and gutters, trees and bike lanes.

The final step will be a new slurry seal for the road itself.

Lepere said that the construction will mean a vastly improved thoroughfare, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists.

"When completed, Santa Maria will be a great link to downtown," said Lepere.

The Alameda County Public Works Agency will be posting project updates at: www.acpwa.org.

The MAC also approved an application from the McDonald's restaurant at 2905 Grove Way to remodel and repaint the building. The council had ejected a previous application for having a monotone gray exterior, but approved the new plans which now include tile and some beige elements.

"The added color helped break this thing up so it doesn't look like a huge box" said MAC member Ken Carbone.

see MAC on page 7

East Bay's 2019 Water Outlook Good Thanks to the Recent Series of Storms

By Mike Pechner
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The recent series of storms that began just before Christmas has boosted California's water outlook to near or slightly above normal for this time of year.

Last year on this date, snow water equivalent in the High Sierra was around 25 percent compared with 103 percent today.

The wet season in the East Bay looks very promising so far with

rain expected in Castro Valley every day this week through Sunday.

Last year, the first half of winter was extremely dry, however the Pacific storm track fueled by a strong westerly jet stream returned in late February through mid-March and produced significant snow in the Sierra and abundant rainfall in lower elevations, filling most local reservoirs and lakes.

Up in the Mother Lode, Pardee Reservoir is 92 percent full to date and will reach its capacity during

the spring snow melt. Comanche Reservoir in the San Joaquin Valley is at a healthy 77 percent of storage.

Local East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) lakes, Briones, Chabot, Lafayette, San Pablo and USL, hold a combined average storage 77 percent for the season so far, putting the total for all of EBMUD facilities at 81 percent.

Since the beginning of the season, rainfall in some local areas is ahead of last year. As of today,

Oakland International Airport has received 8.49 inches of rain which is 79 percent of normal (10.79 inches) for this date. Hayward Airport data shows 5.02 inches of rain, about 55 percent of average.

This winter started out with a weak to mild El Niño pattern which is now decreasing in intensity. What effect that may have on the weather, only time will tell.

Mike Pechner operates Golden West Meteorology, a private long-range weather forecasting service.

Forum Now Adjudicated

The Castro Valley Forum and the San Leandro Times newspapers have been adjudged by the Alameda County Superior Court as newspapers of general circulation and can now publish any county legal advertising, including Fictitious Name Statements for new businesses.

Those interested in legal advertising in either paper should call Patrick Vadrnais at 510-614-1558.

The adjudication was made possible thanks to the number of subscribers who signed up during last year's Loyal Reader subscription program.

Castro Valley Weather Jan. 30 - Feb. 3, 2019



Wednesday
Rainy
High 63° Low 52°



Thursday
Morning Rain
High 60° Low 48°



Friday
Cloudy, Rainy
High 58 Low 53°



Saturday
Rain
High 58° Low 48°



Sunday
Cloudy, Rainy
High 56° Low 42°

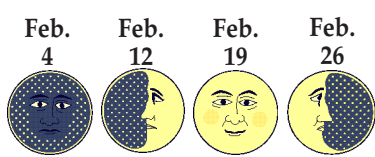
Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 11.29
Normal To Date: 11.34
Season Average: 21.22

Sun sets at 5:31 p.m. today, rises at 7:13 a.m. Thursday.

Moon Phases



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Senior Cats in Need of Homes

Dusty Paws Rescue is fostering four senior cats who have had a bit of bad luck and are now really in need of finding permanent homes.

Sadly, senior cats, and even adult cats, are more often overlooked by potential adopters looking for kittens. But when a person adopts a senior cat, they have a better idea of what to expect because the cat's personality is already formed. A cat is considered to be a senior starting at 7 years old.

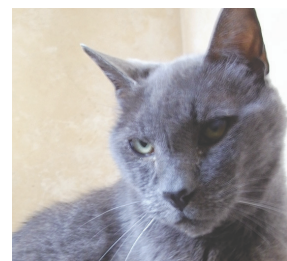
These four seniors have been vetted, spayed and are up to date on vaccinations.

Their stories illustrate what often happens when a cat thinks it has a safe, loving home, but is suddenly abandoned. They have to depend on the kindness of strangers to help them, and that help doesn't always come in time.

Luckily, for these kitties, their first stroke of luck came with the help of Dusty Paws Rescue, and now they need a second stroke of luck to find permanent, loving families.



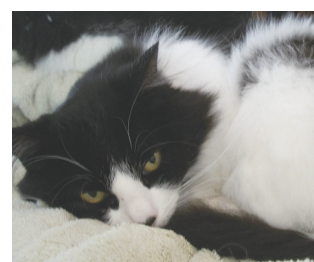
Misty



Olivia



Rae



Daisy

Misty lost her home when her owner moved and dropped her off in a strange, far-away neighborhood expecting her to survive with no guarantee of shelter, water or food.

Alerted to the situation, Dusty Paws volunteers finally located her

at an animal shelter. She had been picked up over a mile from where she was abandoned after wandering for at least two weeks.

She gets along nicely with the other cats in the home as well as the dogs.

see CATS on back page

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D.I.Y. PERSONAL CARE WORKSHOP



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Attend CVSan's FREE Workshop on Friday, February 8th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to learn how to make personal care items such as: cleaning spray, lip balm, and deodorant. Zero waste lifestyle expert Kathryn Kellogg of GoingZeroWaste.com will lead this fun hands-on workshop at the Palomares Hills Clubhouse at 6811 Villareal Drive, Castro Valley.

Registration is limited (and required) so please sign up soon at **www.cvsan.org/ZeroWasteWeek** where you can also view all our engaging Zero Waste Week 2019 events!

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PHOTOS BY CATHY BRESLOW OF BRESLOW IMAGING

Above, members of the 2019 Redwood Christian High School Homecoming Court: front row from left, Freshman Princess Bethany Dominguez of San Lorenzo, Sophomore Princess Ivy Kang of Hayward and Junior Princess Olivia Clausen of Castro Valley; back row, Senior Prince Tyler Gonsalves of Hayward, Senior Princess Vanessa Harris of San Leandro, Queen Tarez Azraei of Castro Valley, King Isaiah Sanchez of San Lorenzo, Senior Princess Maddie Shasky of San Lorenzo, and Senior Prince Evan King of Oakland. Below, Homecoming Queen Tarez Azraei of Castro Valley receives her flowers from her parents and 14 brothers and sisters.



RCHS CELEBRATES 2019 HOMECOMING

Redwood Christian High School honored its 2019 Homecoming Court at the annual Homecoming Games held for the first time in the new Bruce D. Johnson Gymnasium on the Middle and High school campus on Jan. 19.

A parent escorted each member of the Court and honorees were introduced by RCS Superintendent Al Hearne, and High and Middle School Principal Ben Warner, who read letters of tribute from their parents as well as the honorees history at Redwood Christian

Schools.

Homecoming King Isaiah Sanchez and Prince Tyler Gonsalves have been students at Redwood Christian Schools since kindergarten, and Senior Princess Ivy Kang is an International Student from Guangzhou, China.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



Two Arrested at 'Bum Party'

Sunday, January 27: at 10:11 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested two people at an impromptu gathering that deputies identified as a "bum party." A 30-year-old woman from CV and a 31-year-old man from Fremont were apprehended at a vehicle parked at a home on Lake Chabot Road near Rizzo Avenue. Deputies report the pair were found with methamphetamine drugs and paraphernalia used to ingest the drugs. The couple was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Drunk in Public

Sunday, January 27: at 7:13 p.m., a 51-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested for public intoxication. The man was found passed out and laying in the middle of the road in front of the Emergency Room entrance to Eden Medical Center. Nurses reported to deputies that this was the man's fourth time the man had appeared like this in the last few months. The man was treated at the scene and taken to Santa Rita Jail to sober up.

Attempted Theft

Saturday, January 26: at 11:29 a.m., deputies arrested a 42-year-old woman with no permanent address on suspicion of attempted theft of personal property, possession of illegal narcotics, and violating the terms of her probation. The woman was spotted rummaging around a home on Gail Drive near Grove Way when the homeowner called 911. Deputies took the woman into custody.

Traffic Stop Ends in Arrest

Saturday, January 26: at 3:30 a.m., a 38-year-old man from CV was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Deputies pulled the man over at the intersection of Crow Canyon and Cull Canyon Roads following a traffic infringement. The man failed his field sobriety test and was taken into custody.

Storage Robbery Thwarted

Thursday, January 24: at 10:41 a.m., deputies handcuffed and arrested a 19-year-old man from CV on suspicion of attempted robbery from a self-storage business on Castro Valley Boulevard. The man was spotted trying to break into a storage unit on the property. Deputies took the man into custody.

Wanted Men Caught

Wednesday, January 23: at 9:46 p.m., two men with no permanent homes were arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics behind a grocery store at the 580 Market Place shopping center. A 51-year-old man and a 43-year-old man were both identified as having outstanding warrants issued for their capture. Deputies took the pair to Santa Rita Jail pending as much as \$10,000 in bail.

Drug-Fueled Family Assault

Thursday, January 24: at 1:05 a.m., deputies arrested a 47-year-old man from CV on suspicion of assault on a family member, possession of narcotics drugs and violating the terms of his parole. The man was at a parking lot on Heyer Avenue near Center Street when witnesses say the man began assaulting a family member. Deputies took the man into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Reckless Driver

Wednesday, January 23: at 9:11 p.m., a 55-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of reckless driving and avoiding capture after deputies attempted to serve a warrant for his arrest. Deputies followed the man to a business on Rutledge Road near Castro Valley Boulevard after trying to serve the warrant. The man was also found to be in possession of illegal narcotics. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail and held him without bail.

Stolen Property

Wednesday, January 23: at 3:07 p.m., deputies arrested a 41-year-old woman as part of a warrant issued for her capture. The woman was found with stolen property and illegal narcotics outside a storage company on Grove Way near Redwood Road. Deputies handcuffed the woman and took her to Santa Rita Jail without bail.

CVSan's Used Motor Oil Filter Exchange Program

If you change your car's oil and live in a single-family home, you can participate in CVSan's Used Motor Oil Filter Exchange Program starting next month.

Starting Monday, Feb. 18, and ending Friday, March 29, here's how to receive a coupon for a new oil filter in this award-winning program.

1. Drain the used motor oil filter from an automobile, motorcycle, or boat into a pan for 24 hours. This step is important, because filters can hold up to a quart of oil.

2. Place filter in the zippered bag that comes in Waste Management of Alameda County's free motor oil recycling kit. For the kit, contact WMAC at 510-537-5500 or pick one up at CVSan offices at

21040 Marshall St. on weekdays 7 to 11 a.m. and noon to 4 p.m.

3. At least 24 hours before setting out your used motor oil and filters curbside, notify WMAC's Customer Service Center that you will be participating in the program. The center is open from 8 to 5 weekdays at 510-537-5500.

4. Leave the sealed bag next to your used motor oil at the curb and WMAC will collect it on your regular service day.

Residents can receive a maximum of one coupon per household per week during the six-week filter exchange program. The coupon is for a limited time only and expires on April 13.

For more information, please visit: www.cvsan.org/usedoil.

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The Week Ahead

● **Thursday, January 31: Fire, Forests and Our Future**

A free screening of the one-hour documentary “Wilder Than Wild — Fire, Forests and our Future” followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers will be held beginning at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Ave. Learn what has caused an increase in the number and size of wildland-urban forest fires in areas like the San Leandro Creek watershed. No reservations needed.

● **Thursday, January 31: Hawaiian Dance Class**

The Kenneth C. Aitken Senior Center at 17800 Redwood Road is offering a Hawaiian Dance class where you can learn to move your hips Island-style while listening to warm and tropical music, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. tomorrow and every Thursday. For more info, call 510-881-6738.

● **Friday, February 1: Eden Area Village Public Outreach**

Join Eden Area Village at Hayward City Hall this Friday at 2 p.m. for a public outreach meeting of Eden Area Village and hear about how they are working together to help seniors in the Castro Valley, Hayward and San Lorenzo area to remain in their homes, active in the community. For more info, visit edenareavillage.org

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

CASTROVALLEYFORUM.COM

ESTABLISHED: 1989 • CIRCULATION 22,500

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Published every Wednesday by EastBay Publishing Corp.
2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Doing something nice for others is typical of the generous Arian. But be prepared for some jealous types who might try to question one of your more recent acts of kindness.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're eager to take on new responsibilities. But before you do, you might want to check out exactly what would be required of you so that you don't face any "surprises" later.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It might be best to put off an important decision until a fluctuating situation becomes more stable. Recently received news could help resolve a long-standing family matter.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22) If you still have a problem getting that information gap closed, you might consider asking a higher authority to resolve the matter, leaving you free to move on to another project.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) A family matter needs to be dealt with at the start of the week. Once it's resolved, the Big Cat can devote more attention to that new opportunity that seems to hold so much potential.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Pay attention to those nagging doubts. They could be warning you not to make any major decisions until you've checked them out -- especially where money matters might be involved.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A business venture might need more of your attention than you are able to provide. Consider asking a trusted friend or family member to help you work through this time crunch.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A more-positive aspect helps you get a clearer focus on how to handle your time so that you can deal with several responsibilities that are just now showing up on your schedule.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A very close friend (you know who that is!) has advice that could help you work through a confusing situation. So put your pride aside and ask for it. You'll be glad you did.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A workplace situation could turn a bit tense. The best way to handle it is to confront it and deal with it openly. Doing so can help reveal the underlying reasons for the problem.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A colleague's remarks appear to be especially cutting. But don't waste your time or your energy trying to deal with the situation. You have more important things to do.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Support for your work comes as a surprise from someone you thought was critical or, at least, indifferent. Your spouse or partner has big plans for the weekend.

● **Saturday, February 2: Hill & Valley Club Flea Market**

Hill and Valley Women's Club will hold its annual Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday at the clubhouse, 1808 B Street (corner of B and Linden) in Hayward, featuring household goods, clothing and accessories, jewelry, linens, appliances and electronics, books, toys, sewing and craft materials. We will also be serving lunch at our café. Funds raised at this event benefit local charities. This is an indoor sale with plenty of parking available. Come early for the best selection!

● **Saturday, February 2: Understanding Meditation**

Learn to find inner peace and calmness through meditation with Stanford Assistant Prof. Dr. Manish Saggar who returns to the Castro Valley Library at 11 a.m. this Saturday to present a new program on finding relief from stress in these turbulent times. The program will include a short presentation and guided meditation. For more information, call the Library at 510-667-7900, or see Events at www.aclibrary.org/branches/csv

● **Monday, February 4: 'Guitar Jam' for Seniors**

The Kenneth C. Aitken Senior Center at 17800 Redwood Road is offering a drop-in Guitar Jam from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 4 and every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Jam with your guitar and have fun with others. Advanced beginner knowledge required as no instruction is given. Drop in fee is \$2.50. For more info, call 510-881-6738.

● **Tuesday, February 5: Castro Valley Rotary Club Meeting**

Marian Meadows, Coordinator of Behavioral Health at Castro Valley Unified School District, will talk about taking care of students at the new Wellness Center at the next Rotary meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. 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, Feb. 3, by contacting Rotary at cvrotary@iCloud.com or 510-402-5123. More info is available at castrovalleyrotary.org

● **Tuesday, February 5: Ohlone Audubon Meeting**

Debbie Wong, who has been keeping bees for six years, will share tales of beekeeping and how birds react to her hives at the next meeting of Ohlone Audubon at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont. No admission charge and refreshments served. For more info, visit www.ohloneaudubon.org

● **Tuesday, February 5: Buon Tempo Club Family Dinner**

Chef Jessica Gorham Pacheco and crew will be serving a five-course meal of Chicken with Pasta at the next Buon Tempo family-style dinner at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5 at Mt. Tabor Hall, Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd in Castro Valley, across from the 580 Marketplace. Red and white wine and soda are also included. Happy hour is at 6. The dinner is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Make reservations by Friday, Feb. 1, by calling the Buon Tempo dinner line at 510-483-6929 (option 1). For more information about events/membership visit www.buontempo.org

● **Wednesday, February 6: Community Fruit Tree Gleaning**

Come participate in a Castro Valley tree fruit gleaning from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, to save extra fruits and vegetables that otherwise may have gone uneaten. Assemble at CVS San Offices at 21040 Marshall Street to visit pre-approved sites in Castro Valley from which to harvest the extra produce. All gleaned food will be donated to a Castro Valley food pantry. If you would like to volunteer, please call 510-537-0757 ext. 112.

● **Wednesday, February 6: 3-Session Memory Academy**

The Kenneth C. Aitken Senior Center at 17800 Redwood Road will hold a three-class Memory Academy from 1:20 to 2:20 p.m. on successive Wednesdays beginning Feb. 6 for a fee of \$18. Learn ways to adapt to normal changes in the brain, practice activities that work all parts of the brain and techniques to improve memory of names and numbers. Register prior to, or on first day of class. For more info, call 510-881-6738.

● **Thursday, February 7: Parkinson's Support Group Meeting**

The San Leandro Parkinson's Support Group will hold their next meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 7 at the San Lorenzo Community Church, 945 Paseo Grande. The topic will be Community Resources for Independent Living. For more info, call Lona White at 510-276-3119.



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Arts & Entertainment

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Tickets for Center for the Arts events listed below are available online at www.cvcfa.com; or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. (phone 889-8961), or at the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue.

● **Disney's "The Jungle Book Kids"** will be performed by students from Stanton, Proctor and Palomares elementary schools at the Center for the Arts this Friday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., this Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and this Sunday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.. Come enjoy the show and support our budding young actors and actresses. For tickets, visit bactheatre.org/classes/tickets/cvUSD

● **"Not a Genuine Black Man,"** Brian Copeland's legendary hit and the longest-running solo show in San Francisco history, comes to the Castro Valley Center for the Arts for one very special engagement at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16. The show explores Copeland's childhood experiences as a member of one of the only African American families growing up in an almost all-white suburb of San Leandro. *For tickets (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door), see above.*

OTHER THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"The 39 Steps,"** a comedy, farce, melodrama and mystery all mix in this hilarious stage adaptation of the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock movie, opening at Chanticleers Theatre, at 3683 Quail Ave. in Castro Valley, this Friday, Feb. 1. The ingenious assortment of hilarious slapstick shenanigans and creative devices keep the laughs rolling from beginning to end. Curtain time for Friday and Saturday evening shows is 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. (no show on Feb. 3). For tickets (\$25 general, \$20 seniors/students, \$18 Bargain Night Feb. 2), call 510-733-5483 or visit chanticleers.org

● **"Ah Wilderness,"** a nostalgic coming-of-age story by Eugene O'Neill that introduces the Miller Family on the 4th of July in 1906, will be presented by the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward from Feb. 15 through March 3. The play offers a backward glimpse into middle-class family life in turn-of-the-century America, providing a tender, retrospective portrait of small town family values, teenage growing pains, and young love. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays and on Saturday, March 2. For tickets (\$29, senior discounts available), call 510-881-6777

ART GALLERIES & ART INSTRUCTION

● **"Art of Peace"** and **"Hernandez Art & Tattoo"** are now on view at Sunset Gallery at Hayward Center/Adult School, 22100 Princeton St. Room H2, in Hayward through Feb. 28. "Hernandez Art & Tattoo" is a collection of works inspired by Meso-American culture to traditional American tattoo by Adolfo Hernandez, a member of the Hayward Art Council's board. "Art of Peace" is an exhibit featuring artwork made from guns and bullets collected as evidence in crimes. Gallery hours are 10 to 4 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Visit www.haywardartscouncil.org for more gallery exhibits and events.

● **"New Beginnings,"** A.R.T., Inc.'s members-only unjuried (all submissions are accepted) exhibit, is currently on view at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. The judge is Edward Bertolet. The exhibit ends on March 9.

● **"Cultures in Transition: Photos by Oliver Klink,** celebrating the cultures of Asia including Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Mongolia, and India, will be on exhibit through Feb. 15 in the PhotoCentral Gallery, at the HARD District Offices, 1099 E St. in Hayward. For more info, call 510-881-6721 or email info@photocentral.org or visit www.photocentral.org

● **"Celebrate Women!"** presenting the works of over 50 accomplished artists, writers, and musicians, is currently being showcased at the John O'League Galleria in Hayward City Hall until Feb. 8. It is the second regional exhibit of the Northern California branch of the National League of American Pen Women.

● **Artist Open Studio Every Thursday:** Join this informal gathering of artists working together in a friendly and helpful atmosphere. Adobe Art Center hosts provides tables, chairs and easels. \$3. Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redwood Studio 1 at the Adobe Art Center, 20395 San Miguel Ave, Castro Valley.

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 to fredz@ebpublishing.com

Tackling Sunday's Snackfest



According to the Super Bowl party tips published by the NFL, the only rule for game-day food is that there should be plenty of it.

Junk food is required at a gathering like this. Keep in mind that watching a big football game is an acceptable excuse to break any diet.

Dips and one-hand-only foods are absolute necessities. There should be no fumbling distractions – no juggling of dishware or utensils.

ITALIAN MEATBALLS

Vegetable oil cooking spray
2 large shallots, peeled and chopped
1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes in oil, drained (5 or 6)
1/3 cup packed fresh basil leaves
1/3 cup shredded Mozzarella
1/4 cup grated Parmesan
1 tablespoon tomato paste
2 teaspoons crushed red pepper flakes
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1-1/2 pounds ground beef
1 pound ground pork
6 ounces smoked Mozzarella, cut into 36 (1/2-inch) cubes
1/3 cup olive oil
3 cups marinara sauce, warmed

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray a baking sheet with vegetable oil cooking spray. Set aside.

In a food processor, pulse together the shallots, sun-dried tomatoes, basil, shredded Mozzarella, Parmesan, tomato paste, red pepper flakes, and salt. Process until blended.

Transfer the mixture to a large bowl. Add the beef and pork and, using a wooden spoon or clean hands, stir until well combined. Form the mixture into 36 equal-size meatballs (about 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches in diameter).

Insert 1 cube smoked mozzarella cheese into the center of each meatball and form the meat around it, completely enclosing the cheese.

In a large nonstick skillet, heat half the oil over medium heat. Add half of the meatballs and cook, turning occasionally, until well browned on all sides, about 5 minutes. Drain on paper towels. Repeat with the remaining oil and meatballs.

Place the browned meatballs onto the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes for medium doneness. Set aside to cool slightly, and serve with warm marinara sauce. Yields 36 meatballs.

BEER-CHEESE DIP

1/2 cup beer
1/2 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
1 pound processed cheese spread loaf, cut into 1-inch pieces

Mix all ingredients in a 1 or 2 quart slow-cooker. Cover and cook on high for 40 minutes until cheese melts. Stir until mixture is smooth. Scrape down cooker sides. Turn heat to low. Dip will hold for 4 hours if you stir it occasionally. Serve with pretzels, bread cubes or crackers.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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TACO BITES

Cooking spray
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1/3 cup salsa
1 green onion, finely chopped
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon white sugar

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray mini muffin cups with cooking spray.

Mix cream cheese, Cheddar cheese, salsa, green onion, garlic powder, and sugar together in a bowl. Add eggs and mix well; spoon into the prepared muffin cups. Bake in the preheated oven until each taco bite is set in the middle, about 15 minutes. Makes 3 dozen Taco Bites.

EASY CHICKEN WINGS

2 cups brown sugar
1 cup yellow mustard
1/4 cup soy sauce
5 pounds chicken wings, cut into thirds, tips discarded

Mix brown sugar, mustard, and soy sauce together in a bowl. Measure 1/4 cup marinade for basting and transfer to a small bowl; cover and refrigerate.

Place wings in a large resealable bag. Pour remaining marinade over wings, coating well. Seal and marinate wings in refrigerator at least 2 hours and up to overnight.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Remove chicken wings from resealable bag and transfer to a baking sheet. Discard marinade.

Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Baste wings with reserved 1/4 cup marinade; cook, basting every 10 minutes, until chicken is no longer pink in the center, about 30 more minutes. Serve with ranch dressing, if desired. Yields 10 servings.



Celebrating 4717, Year of the Pig

Asians are gearing up to celebrate the Lunar New Year, the time to plan for feasting and family get-togethers, parades and firecrackers that will kick off the Year of the Pig 4717 on Tuesday, February 5.

No holiday is as laden with food symbolism as the Chinese New Year festival. Every dish connotes prosperity, health or good fortune for the coming year.

CHINESE CHICKEN SALAD

1 (16-ounce) package mixed salad greens, washed and drained
1 small carrot, shredded
2 cups shredded, cooked chicken
1/3 cup chopped green onions and tops
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
Soy-Sesame Dressing

Combine salad greens, carrot, chicken, green onions and cilantro in large serving bowl; pour dressing over mixture and toss together to coat all pieces well. Serve immediately. Makes 6 servings.

To make the Soy-Sesame Dressing, combine 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar, 3 tablespoons naturally brewed soy sauce, 1 tablespoon each vegetable oil and Oriental sesame oil and 2 teaspoons sugar in small bowl, stirring until sugar dissolves.

EASY VEGETABLE STIR-FRY

1 tablespoon dry Sherry
1/4 cup bottled teriyaki marinade & sauce
2 teaspoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 large cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 (16-ounce) package frozen stir-fry or Oriental-style vegetable mixture
2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms

Combine Sherry, teriyaki sauce, cornstarch and 1 tablespoon water. Heat oil in hot wok or large skillet over high heat. Add garlic and stir-fry 15 seconds, or until golden brown. Add vegetables and mushrooms; stir-fry 3 minutes, or until vegetables

are heated through.

Stir in teriyaki sauce mixture. Cook, stirring, until sauce boils and thickens and vegetables are coated with sauce. Makes 6 servings.

IMPERIAL NOODLES WITH SPECIAL SAUCE

2 tablespoons soy sauce
2 tablespoons water
1-1/2 tablespoons smooth peanut butter
1-1/2 tablespoons wine vinegar
1 tablespoon sesame oil
1 teaspoon chili oil
1 teaspoon sugar
Pinch of each: minced green onion, fresh ginger and garlic

Combine all ingredients, except noodles, in small bowl and blend well. Set aside.

Bring large pot of water to full boil. Add noodle and cook 10 to 12 minutes. Drain well and rinse thoroughly under cold, running water. Drain again. Transfer to serving bowl. Add soy sauce mixture and toss to blend. Makes 4 first-course servings.

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DECA: CV Chapter Has 83 Members

continued from front page

all of your hard work. I think that we're all proud of ourselves and the work that we have been preparing for months prior."

Although DECA is a huge time commitment, its members are involved in other activities – sports, improv, choir, band. Davidson participates in track and cross country.

The Castro Valley DECA chapter has 83 members who have the opportunity to begin a hands-on professional education.

"From learning the proper dress attire, to writing comprehensive business plans, DECA has taught me so many professional skills that I know will be useful through every chapter of my life," says Davidson.

In March, DECA members will attend the State Career Development Conference in Anaheim. From there, qualifiers from California will attend the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida.



Eagle Scout Jack Singer

Jack Singer, left, receives a United States flag flown from the flagpole of the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii from Troop 722 Scoutmaster Michael Gonzalez. The Troop awarded Singer with his Eagle Scout badge on January 13 in front of family, friends, teachers, and fellow Scouts. Each Eagle Scout must complete an individual community project as part of his requirement. Singer designed and oversaw construction of two portable tables for students with special needs for his alma mater, Chabot Elementary. The U.S. flag is a gift of the Hayward/Castro Valley Kiwanis Club, which is the charter organization of Troop 722.

FROM THE BOULEVARD

Newness, Oldness in Castro Valley

"We think in generalities, but we live in detail."
—Alfred North Whitehead

By Thomas E. Lorentzen
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A favorite place to visit for me is the Village Barber Shop in the Castro Village. It is not only a place to get a good haircut, but a good place to learn about our town and people.

It is the oldest barber shop in town, dating back six decades. Upon entering, one is always greeted with a warm hello. For those of us who have been going there for decades, it provides memories of years past.

Although it is 2019 and a new year, there is still a feel of the 1950's in the barber shop. This sense of the past is nicely coupled with a sense for the present – about what is happening in CV. It is a place where friends greet friends and where news and stories are shared. In this way, it is also an information center, and, in another way, an educational center.

As I walked into the barbershop a few days ago the operator-manager, Al Proietti, greeted me with his normal pleasantness. He shared a used book he recently purchased by the late San Francisco Chronicle writer, Herb Caen. It was published in 1951.

Caen started the book by referencing that the majority of the stories that occur in San Francisco

are unknown ones, at least to the public. They are what happen on a personal and private basis to every individual on every day.

What he described also happens here in CV, as well as in every town in America. It is the diurnal stories of work, families, births, deaths, sports, politics, humor, love, and tragedy that mark the days of our lives.

When the past meets the present, the future and past appear to have much in common – related within the same family of time and its motions. To learn about what is happening in CV, one need only take a chair in the barbershop and participate in the conversation. If lucky, some music may even be performed by one of the barbers.

As I return to the factor of stories noted by Herb Caen, it provides us with a reminder about the stories that are most important to us. These are stories about us and that affect us and the people we know. They are not normally news stories for public awareness, but they are stories that invariably impact us more than the public ones.

It is in this context that it is the "quiet news" and the "quiet history" of our lives that the most important to us. This is where the value of conversation, of family and friendship, as well as community come into play.

It is in a place like the Village Barber Shop that this awareness can be brought into perspective see **BOULEVARD** on back page

Chabot College Opens Its 'Dream Center' Tomorrow

Chabot College in Hayward will hold an official grand opening of its new Dream Center tomorrow morning to provide support, resources, information and referrals for undocumented students.

The center will provide what college officials are calling a "safe and confidential space" where undocumented students will be free to learn about options available to them, including scholarships, financial aid, legal services and workshops, specialized counseling and the laptop lending program.

The grand opening will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dream Center, Building 700 South at 25555 Hesperian Blvd.

Refreshments will be provided. For questions about accessibility or accommodations, please call: 510-723-6714.

The Dream Center will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visit chabotcollege.edu/dreamers for more information on Chabot's Dreamers.



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Tax Season Open: Advice About Your Tax Prep

California's tax season has opened and the Franchise Tax Board is encouraging taxpayers to discuss their individual tax situations with a professional tax preparer to help understand the impacts of federal tax law changes.

Free filing help is available

for many taxpayers with limited incomes. For a list of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program locations throughout the state, visit ftb.ca.gov and click on "Free Filing Assistance."

Unless a tax preparer is an attorney, CPA, or enrolled agent, the person must register with the Cal-

ifornia Tax Education Council in accordance with state law.

Tax Law Changes

The Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will not affect how much Californians pay in state income tax for 2018 or the deductions that can be claimed on a state tax return, but it could make filing state

tax returns more complicated for some people.

Taxpayers who take advantage of the new, higher standard deduction on their federal return will still be able to claim itemized deductions on their state return. Be sure to save supporting receipts and other documentation to support any state deductions claimed.

Taxpayers who did not adjust withholding during 2018 may notice a higher-than-expected federal tax bill. To prevent such a surprise in the future, immediately adjust withholding for tax year 2019.

The IRS offers a handy withholding calculator to assist with planning, available at www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator.



Taxpayers who take advantage of the new, higher standard deduction on their federal return will still be able to claim itemized deductions on their state return.

MAC: Two Other Items Continued

continued from front page

The MAC reminded the McDonald's owners that no advertisements are supposed to be posted on the windows of fast food restaurants in Castro Valley.

In other business, the MAC continued two items: an application to subdivide a parcel into two at the Bay Gospel Hall at 4779 Heyer Ave. and review of the conditional use permit for the storage facility at 8555 Dublin Canyon Road. That property is known for having large electronic billboards visible from I-580 which are the subject of ongoing litigation with the county.

Nominations for Women's Hall of Fame

The deadline to nominate an outstanding local woman to the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame is tomorrow, Jan. 31.

Honorees will be celebrated at the 26th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on March

30 at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland.

Nominations in 13 categories are being accepted: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art; Education; Emerging Leader; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Tradition-

al Careers; Science, Technology, Engineering; Sports and Athletics; Philanthropy; and Youth. (Youth and Sports & Athletics nominations particularly encouraged).

Nominees must live or work in Alameda County. Submit nomination, at: www.acgov.org/whof/.

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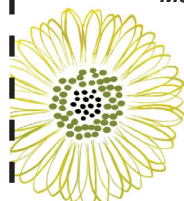


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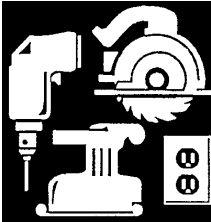
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LETTERS to the Editor

**Sees Wildfire Dangers
Along Crow Canyon Road**

Editor:

Power lines possibly causing wildfires has been in the news. It could happen here.

Many tree branches are inter-

woven with the power lines along the few miles of Crow Canyon Road between Cull Canyon and Norris Canyon.

I'm not qualified to claim this is an accident waiting to happen, but my common sense suggests

this may be the case. Strong winds can bring down these trees and branches, which during a dry period, could create sparks that would be a catalyst.

—Marty Zanfino, Castro Valley

**Urges Opt-Out of EBCE
Electricity Service**

Editor:

In the recent article on the

EBCE bill ("Rate Payers Puzzled by EBCE Bill," Page 1, The Forum, Jan 23), important information was left out.

The board of directors of this new entity are career politicians without any real world experience in energy management. For those select few readers with more historical knowledge than the flavor of this morning's Pop-Tart, we have been down this road before.

In the 1990's the state of California attempted to control the energy market with predictably bad results, i.e. the Enron scandal. Having learned nothing from the experience we are about to embark upon the same ship.

I strongly recommend that all East Bay electrical consumers opt out at their earliest convenience.

—Michael Lindstrom
Castro Valley

**Safer to Ride a Bike than
To Sit at Home**

Editor:

Good on Stacy Spink ("Parents Should Teach Teens 'The Less Driving, the Better'," Letters, Jan. 23) for pointing out the realities of our youth driving in today's society.

He's absolutely right. If you worry about your children's safety, giving them a car is unwise. Teens in particular don't have fully developed brains, so their impulses easily overtake rational control.

This fact takes up chapters in modern works on human behavior. It's particularly ill-advised to buy young males large and powerful cars since they will generally want to show it off to friends, and by the numbers, once there's a group in the car, things often go sour.

There's a whole cocktail of emotions that easily outstrip self control including: wanting to impress, feeling entitled, general impulsiveness, and even a little know effect where morality has been demonstrated to plummet in such conditions.

This community has experienced far too many teen-related car crashes where all involved died, a very preventable tragedy. It should surprise no one that a study from the UK demonstrated that teens are safer riding bicycles than driving cars.

As Spink also points out, it isn't just better for our youth, adults can also benefit a lot from bicycling.

The most widely accepted number now suggests that the average risk to life from accident doesn't begin to compare with the benefits you get from exercise. As they put it "you're 20 times safer riding a bicycle than just sitting at home."

It gets better though; if you follow the safety guidelines of the League of American Bicyclists (and ride like a vehicle), your safety can be about 100 times that of the average rider mentioned above. That moves the benefit to 2,000 times more likely to lengthen your life.

No matter how you slice it, those are some pretty good odds.

—Karl Hodges
Castro Valley



Duke James & The James' Bros Band performing last Friday night at Smalltown's monthly gathering.

This Week at Smalltown

● Thursday, January 31: Affordable Housing Educational Workshop Series

Week #3. Community Based Alternatives: Starting a Community Land Trust in the Eden Area: With home prices and rents on the rise, finding quality affordable housing in the Bay Area continues to be one of the top issues for Eden Area residents. Throughout January we've been discussing topics related to affordable housing such as the housing crisis, what your rights are as a renter, and how community can begin to address the issue. Join us for the third of our three-part Affordable Housing Educational Workshop Series, 6-7:30 p.m. at the San Lorenzo Library 395 Paseo Grande.

For more details on this event and others visit www.smalltownsociety.com or text "Smalltown" to 797979. Smalltown Society is located at 22222 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

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Jay Purchio

Our dearly loved brother Jay Purchio of Castro Valley, age 66, passed away peacefully at home with family and his dear friend Richard, on January 23, 2019, after a valiant fight. He will be deeply missed and life will never be the same.

We want to thank all the Lake Merritt community in Oakland, and you know who you are, who made his daily runs for so many years the best part of Jay's life with your high fives and encouragement.

Also, we want to thank the Down Syndrome Connection of the East Bay. Jay loved his tutoring and Peer Group classes. Donations in his memory can be mailed to the Down Syndrome Connection, 101 Town and Country Dr. Unit J, Danville, CA 94526.

Jay was preceded in death by mom and dad, Jean A. and John J. Purchio. Jay is survived by older brothers Jimmy, Johnny, (his twin) Joe, and sisters Cathy and Jeanne.

A Celebration of Jay's life will be held later this Spring.



Diane Sheppard

Diane Sheppard passed away at age 73 on Wednesday morning, January 23, 2019 in Santa Rosa, CA after a nearly 10 year battle with kidney cancer. She survived her loving husband, Shep, by 5 short months. Elmer Sheppard (known as Shep to most and Sheppy to Diane) passed away at age 91 on Thursday morning, July 5, 2018 in Santa Rosa, CA. Both were long time residents of Castro Valley.

Diane loved her family and making new friends at every turn. Her early years were spent in Texas and Florida before moving to California in 1966. She retired after 22 years from Castro Valley Library.

Shep was Diane's true love. He spent his early years in Ohio and Illinois, and served our Country in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1968 before retiring as Lieutenant Colonel.

They are survived by Jeanette Clayton (Daughter), Danyale Kotur (Grand Daughter), Leticia Vela (Niece) and Jessa Campuzano (Great Niece).

Friends and family are invited to attend the visitation on Thursday, January 31 from 4-8:00 pm at Jess C. Spencer Mortuary, 21228 Redwood Road, Castro Valley. The funeral service will be held on Friday, February 1 at 11:00 am at Jess C. Spencer Mortuary. The burial will follow at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward.

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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.

Email Letters to: fredz@ebpublishing.com or mail to: The Forum, P.O. Box 2897 Alameda, CA 94501

THE FORUM CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- 1 Soybean paste
- 5 Young fellow
- 8 In the thick of
- 12 Pastoral poem
- 13 Hockey surface
- 14 Start over
- 15 Tear
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- 20 Grown-up nit
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- 33 Combat-zone helicopter
- 36 Connection
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- 40 Accumulate
- 43 Empty spaces
- 47 Time away from work
- 49 Largest of the seven
- 50 TV trophy
- 51 Conk out
- 52 Trawler equipment
- 53 Actor Roger
- 54 Peculiar
- 55 Citrus drinks

DOWN

- 1 Nuclear missile acronym
- 2 Concept
- 3 Harmonization
- 4 Senescence
- 5 A cat has nine ____
- 6 Mil. sch.
- 7 Nov. follower
- 8 Melodious
- 9 List of options
- 10 Mid-March date
- 11 Medicinal amount
- 17 Satiated
- 19 Levy
- 22 Baer or Schmeling of boxing
- 23 \$ dispenser
- 24 Born
- 25 Homer's neighbor
- 26 Fun 'n' games
- 27 Compete
- 28 "____ was saying, ..."
- 29 Anti
- 31 Dinner for Dobbin
- 34 English compositions
- 35 Expansive
- 36 Twitch
- 37 Galapagos lizard
- 39 Subsidized
- 40 State
- 41 Jerry Herman heroine
- 42 Pinnacle
- 43 Null and ____
- 44 Secondhand
- 45 Teeny bit
- 46 Back talk
- 48 Altar affirmative

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5

REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Cost Vs. Value Report for 2019 Home Improvement Projects

It is January, and the time of year Remodeling Magazine issues the annual Cost vs. Value Report.*

Based on extensive nationwide research, the report is designed to highlight those remodeling projects that brought the highest return on investment (ROI) in 2018. It also highlights the lowest scoring projects.

It is a helpful guide for homeowners, especially those thinking of improving their homes for a sale.

The report begins by noting that remodelers nationwide took a hit last year as the cost of building materials spiked dramatically. Due to supply shortages resulting from natural disasters and increased tariffs on items such as wood and stone products, prices have skyrocketed nationally, dramatically lowering ROI numbers.

Additionally, the severe shortage of skilled labor is pushing costs upward. Fortunately, the picture is a bit different here in the Bay Area because our extremely high home prices offset improvement costs and produce a higher ROI.

Nationally, the five projects with the highest ROI in the mid-range cost category are as follows:

- Adding a new garage door (97.5% ROI).

Since the garage door covers so much of the frontal surface of most homes, it is the one project that provides the largest overall improvement at the lowest cost.

- A minor kitchen remodel (80.5% ROI)

Projects include new cabinets, solid surface counters such as quartz (granite counters are declining in popularity), sinks and faucets, new flooring, lighting and appliances.

- Addition of a wood deck (75.6% ROI)

With a push for outdoor living,

Fixed Mortgage Rates Unchanged

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage remained unchanged last week for the third consecutive week and essentially at the same level as last spring, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

The long term mortgage averaged 4.45 percent again last week. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 4.15 percent.

Fifteen-year home loans averaged 3.88 percent, also unchanged from last week.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.90 percent, up from 3.87 percent.

decks score well in this survey, and provide a platform for outdoor kitchens, conversation areas and more.

- Replacing exterior siding (75.6% ROI)

While many regions across the country install new siding to upgrade their home's external appearance, local homeowners prefer the use of stucco. It is more impervious to sun and fits better with the style of homes in this area.

- Replacing the entry door (steel) (74.9% ROI)

Steel doors weather extremely well and provide a significant level of security. Some prefer to replace the front doors with a grand entrance (mostly fiberglass)

(71.9% ROI), which might include either single or double doors and windows on one or both sides, depending on space available.

Other upgrades with high returns include vinyl window replacement (73.4%) and bathroom remodels (60.2%), while a master suite addition (59.2%), bathroom addition (58.1%) and a new backyard patio (55.2%) score at the bottom of the heap.

*www.remodeling.hw.net/cost-vs-value/2019/

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.

Watch Out When Planting Berry Vines

By Buzz Bertolero
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Q I've purchased several new blackberry and raspberry plants that I'm planting on a fence. How much sun do they require and will they have berries this coming summer or next year?

A Blackberries and raspberries, also known as cane berries, are not a good choice for many gardens.

Unlike beans and peas, they are aggressive growing vines that need to be contained to prevent the vegetation and roots from becoming a major headache.

You do not want to plant the vines on any property line fence. There is no way to prevent the underground roots from intruding into the adjoining property. This is the beginning of a neighbor dispute that you can't win after exhausting a lot of time, energy, resources and aggravation.

Cane berries are best grown on a trellis structure, in raised beds three to four feet wide and four to six feet off any property line. For this reason, many yards are too



Cane berry vines can turn into briars without proper attention.

small to successfully grow them long-term.

The trellis needs to be sturdy enough to support the weight of the vegetation. I like to use a T-bar style of trellis made out of a four by four post with a two by four cross piece and with a heavy gauge wire running between the posts. The posts are spaced on six-foot centers in the center of the bed.

The plants should be spaced every four to five feet. Cane Berries require six hours of sunlight per day, April through October.



Way up near the top of Center Street, is this amazing custom home on a most spectacular wooded lot that backs up to open space, like having Muir Woods for your backyard. Enchanting meandering stone paths, koi pond, multiple decks, and entertainment areas



18440 Center St., Castro Valley • \$1,159,000

are surrounded by towering redwoods - must see to believe. The house itself is also impressive, beautiful and large with a huge potential for multigeneration/in-law unit on lower level with French doors leading out to expansive private patio. 2 masters bedrooms, 1 up and 1 downstairs. Also a jumbo laundry plus a craft room, 2 brick fireplaces, large country kitchen with updated stainless appliances, and remodeled baths with slab marble. Custom crown mouldings, baseboards, recessed lighting, maple stairs and 5 sets of trench doors enhance the look and feel of quality. New 2-tone paint and rich flooring, tons of upgrades yet still offers upside-potential in one of Castro Valley's most desired neighborhoods.



BRIAN COONEY

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RE/MAX Hall of Fame Award Recipient
Celebrating 30 Years in Real Estate



Rejuvenate Used Soil for Potted Plants

By Buzz Bertolero
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Q I do my gardening in containers on a balcony. Is it possible to recondition the existing dirt or is it necessary to buy new soil each year?

A It's not uncommon for gardeners to reuse the same soil year after year; however, it's important to rejuvenate the soil by adding new nutrients. I'd suggest adding several handfuls of Dr. Earth All Purpose Fertilizer, or similar organic fertilizer to the existing containers. It should

be mixed or stirred into the remaining soil.

Potting soil is added if you need some additional volume.

If you're redoing several pots, you may wish to dump all the soil into a pile and mix in the nutrients all at once; otherwise, just do one pot at a time.

And don't forget, you still need to feed during the growing season.

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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OPEN HOMES

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
FEB. 2nd & FEB. 3rd

CITY	SAT	SUN	ADDRESS	PRICE	BDRMS/BATHS	REALTOR	AGENT	PHONE
A	12-3	—	393 Dowling Blvd.	\$1,188,000	5/3.5	Robert Jones & Assoc.	Matt/Bob Jones	510-798-6401
A	2-4	12-2	224 Bellevue Dr.	\$639,000	3/2	Rinetti & Co. RE	Tianne/Perry Vittoria	510-326-0378

One-Line Open Home Listings run Wednesdays in the Castro Valley Forum (22,500 circ.) and Thursdays in the San Leandro Times (38,500 circ.) for \$25. For more information and a listing form, Call 614-1558. DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT NOON.

CITY GUIDE A = SAN LEANDRO • B = SAN LORENZO • C = CASTRO VALLEY • D = DANVILLE • F = FREMONT • H = HAYWARD • K = CONCORD
L = LIVERMORE • M = MODESTO • O = OAKLAND • P = PLEASANTON • S = SHEFFIELD VILLAGE • W = WALNUT CREEK

All real estate advertised in the Castro Valley Forum is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, marital status, national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The Castro Valley Forum will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate that is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jhaile De Guzman of Canyon Middle School

This week's Athlete of the Week is Jhaile De Guzman, an eighth-grader at Canyon Middle School.

De Guzman participated in the 11th Annual Selma New Year's Bash youth wrestling tournament, regarded as one of the toughest youth wrestling tournaments in California, at Selma High School in Fresno County on Saturday, Jan. 12. This was her first time competing in the tournament, but she wrestled her way into the finals where she won the highly sought Selma Bear statue.

De Guzman currently wrestles for Canyon Middle School and trains with the TriValley Elite Wrestling Club out of Dublin.



CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE



**Youth Baseball and
Flag Football Programs**
www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org



The CVHS Athletic Boosters Trojans Baseball Gala Committee thanks you for your generous sponsorships, donations, and support in making the CVHS Trojans Baseball Gala Fundraiser such an amazing success!

CVHS Trojans Baseball Gala Presented by: Dublin Mazda

Hosted by: Stonebrae Country Club

Sponsored by: JP's Family Restaurant & Sports Bar, Rita's Italian Ice, Golden Gate Marine Industrial, the Castro Family, and the Vucinich Family

Business Donations by: 1856 Productions, Antioch Toyota, Blvd Burger, The Bridges Golf Course, Buffalo Bill's Brewery, Charity Works, Corica Park Golf Course, Crunch Fitness, Castro Valley Cyclery, Danville Brewing Company, Denica's Real Food Kitchen, Discover Chiropractic, Dr David Fosdahl DDS, Eden Bicycles, Fashion Nails Salon, Genghix, Habit Burger Grill, Intero Real Estate, Gigi's Florist, Goodyear, Keller Williams Realty, LaLanne Bootcamp, Los Molcajetes, Martinez Gun Club, Massage Envy, MOD Pizza, Monarch Bay Golf Club, Norman's Grill, North Bay Auto Auction, Oakland A's, Olive Garden, Pampas Café, Paul Milina Salon, Rae Talbot Salon, Redwood Canyon Golf Course, Regal Cinemas, Rigatoni's, Robert's Auto Sales, Rudy's Donut House, SF Giants, Stella&Dot, Southern Comfort Kitchen, Sun Maid Raisin Company, Touchstone Crystal, Trader Joe's, Westover Winery, Whole Foods Market, Yogurt Delight

Special thanks to CVHS, Athletic Boosters, CVLL, CVI, and CV families for their donations, commitment, and support!

Cats: Seniors With Plenty of Love to Give

continued from page 2

Olivia, also 12 years old, was a stray for many, many months after being abandoned by two different people. She is a very confident, friendly cat who loves to sit in laps.

Rae is a lovely seven-year-old tortie gal who recently lost her home and family when her person died and didn't make arrangements for Rae's care. She is friendly, sweet, playful, smart and likes attention from humans, but she was an only cat, and doesn't like to share her person.

Daisy is 7 years old and was abandoned when her owner moved, leaving Daisy and her sibling outside asking neighbors to feed them.

She enjoys being petted and is becoming a lap cat. She has a cute little meow and wonderfully loud purr. She is described by her foster mom as "a little cat with a lot of personality."

Dusty Paws is reaching out to the public to find loving, forever homes for these homeless seniors who truly need a second chance. If you have room in your heart and home for one or two of these seniors, contact Dusty Paws Rescue by email at dustypawsrescue@aol.com or by phone 510-886-8925 and ask for Paulette.

ADOPT-A-PET



ROCCO is a spunky, mature pup at 10 years old. His dream: a laid back home and family who'll take him on adventures. OK with older teens and other dogs. Neutered. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter.



LOLA is 8-years-young and had mammary tumors removed. A survivor, she's loving life! She's independent, likes to explore and loves getting petted. May be OK with young kids. Spayed. Info: Hayward Animal Shelter.



WHITE CHOCOLATE born last April, is a bit shy and loves to burrow into blankets. This beautiful black and white girl just needs a little TLC and patience to blossom. Spayed, chipped and vaccinated. Email Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.



ANGEL rescued as a tiny, dying kitten, is now a sweet, 7 month old tabby teen. She was nurtured by a loving foster family and even sleeps on the bed with them. Spayed, chipped and vaccinated. Email Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.

Boulevard: Newness and Oldness in CV

continued from page 6

as we await a haircut. While there, we can engage with others in conversation, or simply listen or remain silent. It is a matter of choice. In this sense, the barbershop can be like a home experience.

If lucky, we can bump into friends there, such as I sometimes do with Bill Rogers, Jim Smith, Jeff Giuntini, or Phil Berry. For a writer like Herb Caen, or in a far more modest way, myself, it is also a place for hearing and

learning about the stories about the lives of its patrons, as well as the mood and conditions of our town.

As I look at others who habituate the barber shop, it strikes me that they may be having similar experiences. There may even be a young person there, perhaps in the mold of an aspiring Aristotle, who is wondering about life in its multifarious manifestations. If so, then the barber shop, whether it be the Village Barber Shop or another, may actually be a lyceum

from which we can learn much about life itself.

As I conclude, I think of the refrain from a song of decades ago that states "come to the cabaret," which could also state "come to the lyceum," which may be our local barber shop.

Tom Lorentzen lives in Castro Valley. He formerly served on the board of the Institute of Museum & Library Services and the Advisory Board to Southern Oregon University, and has served three Presidential Administrations.

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

2568 Craig Court	94546: \$736,000 4 BD - 1,827 SF - 1949
4971 Kathleen Avenue	94546: \$822,000 3 BD - 1,245 SF - 1954
18745 Lamson Road	94546: \$980,000 3 BD - 2,629 SF - 1945
20029 Mollie Court	94552: \$1,070,000 4 BD - 3,022 SF - 1987
5501 De Marcus Blvd	94568: \$520,000 1 BD - 950 SF - 2007
TOTAL SALES:	5
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$689,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,070,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$822,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$589,400

San Leandro

15925 Maubert Avenue	94578: \$420,000 2 BD - 1,050 SF - 1992
2441 Jamaica Way	94577: \$525,000 3 BD - 1,129 SF - 1961
15120 Crosby Street	94579: \$565,000 3 BD - 1,076 SF - 1948
1237 Gardner Boulevard	94577: \$580,000 3 BD - 1,168 SF - 1942
15256 Wiley Street	94579: \$635,000 5 BD - 1,673 SF - 1952
1012 Marquette Way	94579: \$680,000 3 BD - 1,148 SF - 1956
169 Durant Avenue	94577: \$680,000 4 BD - 1,568 SF - 1944
13881 School Street	94578: \$747,500 3 BD - 1,710 SF - 1956
1332 135th Avenue	94578: \$761,500 4 BD - 1,768 SF - 1949
14697 Saturn Drive	94578: \$835,000 2 BD - 1,918 SF - 1964
17270 Via San Ardo	94580: \$300,000 3 BD - 1,409 SF - 1950
TOTAL SALES:	11
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$390,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$835,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$635,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$619,909

AC Transit to Hold Public Meeting

AC Transit will hold a meeting this evening for bus riders to hear discussions on proposed local fare changes at the transit district's office in the second floor Board Room at 1600 Franklin Street in Oakland.

The meeting, from 6 to 8 p.m., will address future plans to simplify fare schedules in the face of rising operational costs, incentive discounts for up to 50 cents when using Clipper cards, and options for paying for your pass using a mobile fare application.

Riders are invited to provide input during tonight's meeting.

Detailed info on fare change schedules and staff recommendations are available at actransit.org