

VALENTINE'S
DAY SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 14

PRESIDENTS
DAY MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 15

CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 33

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

NO. 6

FORUM

NEWS



Excuse Me, Deer
More animal collisions occur in this period than any other time of year
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NEWS



Sparks Can Fly
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PHOTOS BY MARIA J. AVILA

BART Police Chief Ed Alvarez walks through a train to interact with passengers, a regular routine for the chief who marked his first year as the transit agency's top cop last week. In an interview with writer Melissa Jordan, Alvarez lays out his agenda to make his department the most progressive in the nation.

BART Chief Ed Alvarez On 'Progressive Policing'

By Melissa Jordan
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Ed Alvarez has worked his entire career to meet this moment. Reflecting on his first year as BART Police Chief, Alvarez sat down for an interview in which he laid out an ambitious agenda.

"I want to build the most progressive police department in America," Alvarez said, of the just under 400 personnel under his watch. "Not just the most progressive transit police department. The most of any PD."

Alvarez joined BPD almost a quarter-century ago. It was his first job in law enforcement and he has served his whole career at BART, working his way up through the ranks and making deep connections to the community.

He was appointed as chief on Jan. 1, 2020, and sworn in on Feb. 7, 2020, just one month before the coronavirus was declared a pandemic. His years of experience gave Alvarez the insights to quickly implement many strategic initiatives that already have paid off, with more on the way.

see ALVAREZ on page 3

Plans for New CVSan Facility Fails to Win Approval of MAC

By Amy Sylvestri
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) did not approve a conditional use permit which would have allowed the Castro Valley Sanitation District (CVSan) to build a new facility at 21195 Center Street, on the eastern part of Castro Valley Boulevard.

CVSan wants to use the parcel — a former Caltrans storage yard — to build a two-story, 20,000-square-foot building with office space, equipment storage, a vehicle maintenance bay, and a separate building which would be used to store paint, fuel, and other chemicals.

There would be 72 parking spaces for employees and mem-

bers of the public who had business with CVSan.

In turn, CVSan would leave their current Marshall Street facilities and the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) would take over use of that facility.

HARD board members Louis Andrade and Peter Rosen spoke at the meeting, saying they support

see MAC on page 10

COVID-19 VACCINE

More Eligible, But be Patient

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

More people are now eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine and more mega distribution sites are opening this month, but Alameda County health officials are asking residents for a bit more patience while everyone waits for their turn.

"It's important to know that vaccine supply remains limited and it will take a while to vaccinate everyone in Phase-1b Tier-1," the Alameda County Public Health Department posted Monday on social media.

The new phase includes more than 325,000 people in the county.

Starting this week, people aged 65 and older as well as essential workers in food and agriculture, emergency services, and education and childcare sectors are eligible for the vaccine.

The county is finishing up vaccinating frontline medical staff, first responders, and residents of senior living facilities. At the beginning of the week, more than 183,775 first doses had been administered.

"We've made great progress on vaccinating health care workers in Phase 1a and are happy to be moving forward with Phase 1b," said Dr. Kathleen Clanton, Alameda County's lead on vaccine planning. "Our strategy is to reach people who are at highest risk for severe illness and people who are at high risk for transmission because of where they live or work."

To that end, the county is partnering with FEMA to launch a mega vaccination site at the Oakland Coliseum and an additional site at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Expected to launch on February 16, the two sites are expected to accommodate about 5,000 doses each day. The sites will operate with help from the Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health, and Stanford Health Care health plans.

On a more localized level, vaccine distribution includes what officials are calling points of dispensing (or PODS) with priority

treatment coming to communities with disproportionately high COVID case rates and those who are older, disabled, uninsured, or facing a high risk of exposure.

A total of six PODS are now operating in the county including St. Rose Hospital, Castro Valley Library, Oakland Unified School District and Fremont High School.

The real patience will come in handy when trying to schedule your vaccination appointment. All participating health insurance companies are asking members to either call a dedicated phone number or sign up on their respective websites for a vaccine appointment.

"We know people want to schedule their vaccine appointment through their doctor's office, but we're asking them to book their vaccination online or call our call center," said Sutter Health representative Monique Binkley Smith.

Kaiser and Sutter receive their own distribution of the vaccine directly from the state. The County also shares its vaccine allocation with eight federally qualified health centers and two community health centers. CVS and Walgreens pharmacy customers will be allowing appointments starting this week in California but in selected counties.

If you are eligible for the vaccine, County Public Health officials say they are working with employers and local community groups to issue invitations directly to high-risk workers and communities.

Castro Valley
Confirmed Cases = 2,214

Alameda County
Vaccinations = 183,775
Confirmed Cases = 76,648
Deaths = 1,041

California
Vaccinations = 4,485,166
Confirmed Cases = 3,346,340
Deaths = 44,150

as of February 8, 2021

Castro Valley Weather Feb 10-14, 2021



Wednesday
Mostly Sunny
High 55° Low 40°



Thursday
Showers
High 58° Low 37°



Friday
Cloudy
High 63° Low 39°



Saturday
Afternoon Rain
High 65° Low 42°



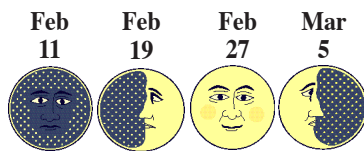
Sunday
Partly Sunny
High 66° Low 48°

Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 03.09
Season To Date: 06.58
Normal To Date: 11.16
Season Average: 21.22

Moon Phases



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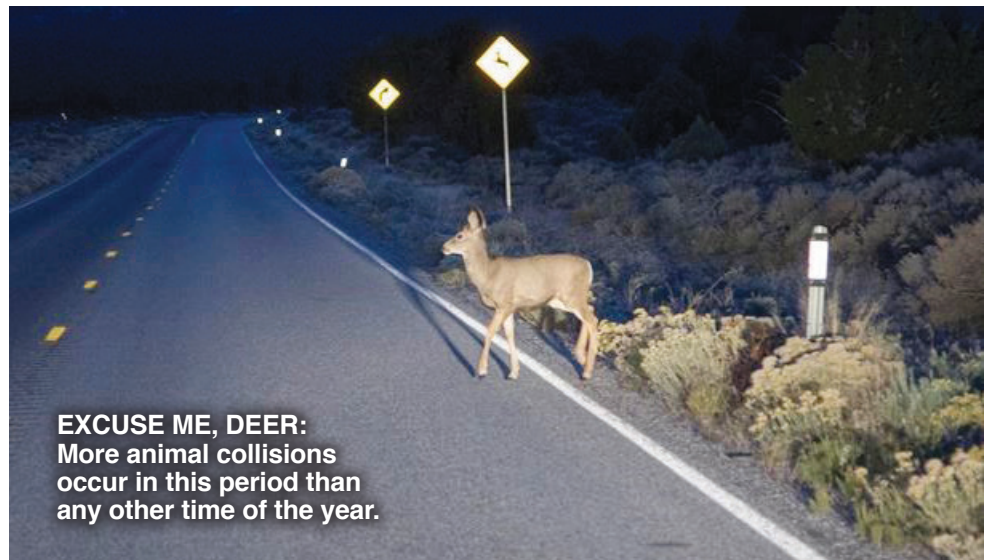
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EXCUSE ME, DEER:
More animal collisions occur in this period than any other time of the year.

Tips to Prevent Animal-Related Collisions

During the winter months, drivers face an increased risk of animal-related crashes as deer and other wildlife begin to migrate and find their way onto highways and into suburban neighborhoods.

As a result, more animal collisions occur in this period than any other time of the year. According to the Insurance Information Institute, there are more than half-a-million deer-vehicle collisions each year. In California last year, the average animal-related auto claim for insurance customers was \$4,525.

"Although deer and other animals are unpredictable, there are actions you can take to help prevent an accident or reduce the damage from an animal collision," said Sergio Avila, AAA Northern California spokesperson.

Be attentive in the early morning and evening. Many animals, especially deer, are most active during prime commuting hours – roughly 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Slow down and watch for other deer to appear. Continuously

sweep your eyes across the road for signs of animals. Deer rarely travel alone, so if you see one, there are likely to be one or more nearby.

Use high beams when there's no oncoming traffic. At night, your brights can help you spot animals sooner. The light reflecting off their eyes may also reveal their location.

Honk your horn with one long blast. A long blast on your horn may frighten large animals away from your vehicle.

see TIPS on back page

FILED
MELISSA WILK

JANUARY 4, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 575574

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Little Imaginations located at 20964 Chester St., Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Danielle D'almeida, 20964 Chester St., Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Danielle D'almeida
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires JANUARY 4, 2026

JAN 20, 27, FEB 3, 10, 2021
320-CVF

FILED
MELISSA WILK

JANUARY 4, 2021
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By-----, Deputy
FILE NO. 575579

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es): Terracil located at 18483 Hastings Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aarthi Natarajan, 18483 Hastings Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.

/s/ Aarthi Natarajan
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires JANUARY 4, 2026

JAN 20, 27, FEB 3, 10, 2021
321-CVF

Student on Dean's List

Lucy Henneker of Castro Valley was named to the Dean's List at Wheaton College for the Fall 2020 semester. To earn this honor at Wheaton, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale. Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. is a coeducational Christian liberal arts college noted for its rigorous academics and consistent ranking among top liberal arts colleges in the country.

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Alvarez: Created New Bureau of Progressive Policing

continued from front page

Notably, Alvarez created a new Bureau of Progressive Policing and Community Engagement that is an umbrella over a growing team of non-armed personnel that includes the Transit Ambassadors and soon will include an additional 20 Crisis Intervention Specialists. They'll focus on connecting those experiencing homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse with services.

The Bureau also will include 10 police officers who will receive specialized training.

Alvarez introduced the first group of BART PD Ambassadors to the public a year ago today, Feb. 10, 2020.

"We're infusing 40 additional bodies into our system," Alvarez said. "These are people who are providing presence, resources, who are extra eyes and ears. We're going to have more presence than we've ever had at BART."

Deputy Chief Angela Averiet, who leads the new Bureau of Progressive Policing, said Alvarez has been a steady hand in a time of great change.

"I think the chief's leadership is a reflection of the resilience of this organization," she said. "Through all the major challenges of the past year, he has led us courageously and transparently and kept us focused on the mission. His creating this bureau speaks to his very forward-thinking way of how law enforcement needs to change and adapt, how we need to make meaningful reforms."



Swearing-in ceremony for BART Police Chief Ed Alvarez on Feb. 7, 2020. At left is Deputy Chief Angela Averiet, whom Alvarez named to lead the new Bureau of Progressive Policing and Community Engagement.

The pandemic and associated economic misery has exacerbated homelessness, stressed an already-fractured patchwork of services, and has exposed disparities in health, safety and other outcomes along race and class lines.

Additionally, the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020 drew worldwide attention and built a movement demanding more accountability from law enforcement.

Alvarez said he was appalled by the abuse of power "and the arrogance" in the Minnesota case — and that he conveys that message to BPD personnel.

"We have to earn the public's trust every day," Alvarez said. "We can't take their trust for granted. We have to do better."

"It shouldn't have happened," Alvarez has said of Floyd's death. "And a lot of departments are

changing how they operate because of it, because of him and the other individuals before and after him. It's been a call to action."

He's committed to meeting the moment by increasing training (which already goes beyond state standards), including the innovative ICAT, or Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics course. ICAT is designed especially for situations involving people who are unarmed or armed with weapon other than firearms, and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis.

Alvarez also has prioritized working collaboratively with the BPD Citizen Review Board and the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, two civilian oversight bodies that provide another layer of police accountability at BART.

"We all have the same goal of making sure BART is safe for the riding public and our employees," Alvarez said.

As a first-generation immigrant, Alvarez is keenly aware of the issues of mistrust that arise when there are disparate impacts from policing, and that BART is not immune from them.

"We need to be treating all people fairly and equitably," he said. "That is my expectation for everyone at BPD. We are here to protect and serve. We will continue to work on building bridges and engaging with the communities we serve."

Melissa Jordan is BART's Principal Communications Representative

Students' Transportation-Themed Art Entries Sought

Alameda County is inviting high school students to make and submit creative art pieces for a new event, "Creation for Transportation: Art for Walking, Bicycling, Carpooling and Taking Transit" all this month.

The program is designed to encourage students to explore different

transportation choices that reduce their carbon footprint, while complying with state-wide health orders.

Art can be created in any medium, such as video (featuring a dance, skit, music or documentary personal testimonial); written poem, or visual art. Students are

encouraged to take photos or videos of their participation and post them on their school's websites and on social media using the hashtag #creationfortransportation.

Students who submit an eligible entry will be entered to win incentives that will be awarded for

a select number of exceptional art projects.

For contest purposes, artwork may include air quality, safety, health, climate change, community, and well-being. Students will have until Friday, Feb. 26, to submit their art at: tinyurl.com/Creation4Transportation.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER



Wanted for Car Theft

Sunday, February 7: at 5:54 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 31-year-old man from Castro Valley as part of a warrant issued for his capture. The man was previously convicted of auto theft and had failed to check with his parole officer. Deputies served the warrant at a business on Grove Way near Redwood Road. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail.

Deputies Serve Warrant

Sunday, February 7: at 3:54 p.m., a 50-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested as part of a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies served the warrant outside a business on Lake Chabot Road near Congress Way. The man was previously charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, reckless driving, driving without valid registration, and driving a vehicle without a required ignition interlock device. Deputies took the man to Santa Rita Jail.

Two Arrested for Drugs, Burglar Tools, Stolen Property

Sunday, February 7: at 4:20 a.m., deputies arrested two men from Castro Valley on various drugs and stolen property charges. The men—ages 35 and 25—were at an apartment on Denning Court near Stanton Avenue when deputies stopped them for questioning. Both men were charged on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia, illegal burglar tools, and stolen property. The older man was also charged with possession of nunchakus. Deputies took the men into custody.

Unlicensed Motorcycle Rider

Friday, February 5: at 10:35 p.m., a 32-year-old man from Castro Valley was pulled over and arrested on suspicion of driving a motorcycle without a proper license. The man was also charged with possession of illegal narcotics and related drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the man while he was driving on Cull Canyon Road near Briar Ridge Drive. The man was taken into custody.

Violated Restraining Order

Thursday, February 4: at 10:32 p.m., deputies arrested a 29-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of violating the terms of a court-issued restraining order. The man was spotted within the 100-foot limit of a property on Center Street near Elaine Court. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him into custody.

Driving Under the Influence

Thursday, February 4: at 10:32 p.m., a 29-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. Deputies pulled the man over in front of a business on Center Street near the Interstate 580 overpass. The man failed his field sobriety test and was taken into custody.

see REPORTS on page 11

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ESTABLISHED: 1989 • CIRCULATION 22,500
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Published every Wednesday by EastBay Publishing Corp.
2060 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577
Corporate Address: P.O. Box 2897, Alameda, CA 94501
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PG&E: The Dangers of Metallic Balloons

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, PG&E reminds customers that sparks – and not just the romantic kind – can fly on February 14 if improperly secured helium-filled metallic balloons come in contact with power lines.

Mylar balloons have a silvery foil coating, which is a conductor for electricity. If the balloons float away and make contact with power lines, they can short transformers, melt electric wires and cause power outages, all of which pose public safety risks.

In 2019, metallic balloons striking electric lines caused 376 power outages in PG&E's service area

alone, disrupting electric service to more than 179,000 homes and businesses.

"We encourage our customers to celebrate Valentine's Day responsibly by securing metallic balloons with a weight that's heavy enough to prevent them from floating away," said Walt Posey, Director, Electric Operations Safety.

Follow these safety tips:

- Use caution and avoid celebrating with metallic balloons near overhead electric lines.
- When possible, keep metallic balloons indoors. Never permit metallic balloons to be released outside, for everyone's safety.

- Don't bundle metallic balloons together.

• Never attempt to retrieve any type of balloon, kite or toy that becomes caught in a power line. Leave it alone, and immediately call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 to report the problem.

• Never go near a power line that has fallen to the ground or is dangling in the air. Always assume downed electric lines are energized and extremely dangerous. Stay far away, keep others away and immediately call 911 to alert the police and fire departments. Other tips can be found at pge.com/beprepared

Your Covid Vaccine Questions, Answered

With Covid vaccinations underway in the United States, many Americans are preparing to get the vaccine to protect themselves and help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

If you're able to get the vaccine, you probably have a lot of questions. Knowing what to expect and how to properly prepare for your appointment can help put your mind at ease.

Vaccine Basics

Covid vaccines approved in the U.S. do not contain the live virus that causes the Coronavirus and therefore you cannot contract COVID-19 from them.

The CDC states these vaccines have been carefully evaluated in clinical trials and are deemed safe and effective by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) with a full advisory committee meeting review for all vaccines.

Preparing for the Vaccine

Getting a vaccination not only protects you, but also the people around you, especially those who are unable to get vaccinated. The CDC offers guidance, summarized below, to help you prepare for your vaccination, whether it's your first or second dose:

1) If you're approved to get a vaccine, talk to your healthcare provider ahead of time. You may be going to a vaccination clinic where your healthcare provider is not directly administering the injection, so if you have questions,



speak with them before your appointment.

2) Do not schedule any other vaccinations within two weeks before your Covid vaccination. If you feel ill before your appointment, call the vaccination clinic and ask if you should still come in or reschedule.

3) Get good rest the days prior to the appointment, especially the night before. Eat a light meal or snack before your appointment and stay hydrated. Rest and good nutrition help prepare your immune system for the vaccination.

4) Ask about side effects. While some people have no symptoms, others may experience headache, muscle/joint pain, chills, fever and fatigue that generally subside after 48 hours. Plan for several low-key days following your vaccination.

5) Plan ahead for post-vaccination care by having the essentials

on hand in your medicine cabinet. According to the CDC, over-the-counter medications like Advil can reduce pain, fever or discomfort associated with post-vaccination, including mild aches or arm soreness.

6) If your vaccine requires two doses, consult with your vaccination clinic or pharmacy to schedule your second dose.

While millions in the U.S. have received the vaccine, availability is currently limited and you may not be able to get it right away.

Continue to take smart safety measures such as washing your hands frequently with soap and water, wearing a mask when out in public, avoiding large crowds, and appropriate social distancing.

For more information about how to prepare for the Covid vaccine visit www.cdc.gov.

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The Lunar New Year's Eve reunion dinner is believed to be the most important meal of the year.

YEAR OF THE OX: 4719

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is China's most important festival. It is time for families to be together and a week of an official public holiday.

Chinese New Year 4719 falls on Friday, February 12, 2021, beginning a year of the Ox.

Celebrations around the world – both literal and symbolic – are underway. Spring cleaning is started about a month prior to the new year and must be completed before the celebrations begin.

Foods during the holiday are symbolic as well. Typically red meat isn't served and one is careful not to serve or eat from a chipped or cracked plate.

Fish is eaten to ensure long life and good fortune. Oranges and tangerines symbolize wealth and good fortune.



- 2 tablespoons distilled white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup sliced green onions and tops
- 2 tablespoons Asian sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds

Cook noodles according to package directions, omitting salt; drain, rinse under cold water and drain thoroughly.

Combine soy sauce, vinegar, ginger, sugar, cornstarch and water.

Heat vegetable oil in hot wok or large skillet over high heat. Add green onions and stir-fry 10 seconds. Add soy sauce mixture; cook, stirring, until sauce comes to a boil. Add noodles; cook, stirring, 1 minute or until sauce returns to boil and noodles are evenly coated with sauce. Remove from heat. Add sesame oil and sesame seeds; toss well to combine. Serves 4.

MOO SHU VEGETABLES

- 1 small cabbage, shredded

- 1 carrot, shredded
- 6 scallions, split in half lengthwise and cut into 1-2 inch pieces
- 1 cup small white mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tablespoon peanut oil or 1 tablespoon canola oil, divided
- 1/4 cup vegetable stock or 1/4 cup water
- 1 teaspoon garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ginger, minced
- 2 - 4 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 cup hoisin sauce
- 12 moo shu pancakes

Warm pancakes as directed on package.

Heat wok over high heat until almost smoking. Add 1 teaspoon of oil and stir-fry mushroom until softened. Remove mushrooms from wok.

Add remaining oil to the wok along with the garlic and ginger. Stir-fry spices 30 seconds, add cabbage and carrots. Continue cooking 2 minutes add 2 tablespoons of soy sauce and taste. Add additional soy sauce if desired.

When cabbage is close to crisp-tender, return mushrooms to the wok and add scallions. If the vegetables begin to stick, drizzle sparingly a little water or vegetable broth.

To serve, let each diner spoon a bit of Hoisin sauce onto a warmed pancake. Top with several tablespoons of the vegetables on top. Roll pancake as you would a burrito or crepe.

Put lots of napkins on the table. Enjoy! Yields 4 servings

A Valentine Recipe that Takes the Cake

Valentine's Day and chocolate have been together since the 1890s when it was the custom for loved ones to exchange heart-shaped chocolate confections.

Things haven't changed much in the decades since, except that we've gotten a lot better at making really incredible chocolate desserts.

Here's one that has become a Valentine's classic.

RED VELVET COCOA CAKE

- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon red food coloring
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda

Filling:

- 8 ounces whipped cream or frozen nondairy topping, thawed

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour two 9-inch round baking pans.

In large mixing bowl, beat but-



ter, sugar and vanilla until creamy. Add eggs and food coloring and blend well.

Cream shortening, butter flavoring, sugar, and eggs until light and fluffy. Make a paste with food coloring and cocoa and add to the shortening mixture.

Mix buttermilk, salt, baking soda and vinegar; add to mixture. Slowly add flour to mixture.

Put batter into 2 greased 9 inch round pans. Bake at 350°F for 25-30 minutes.

Allow to cool completely,

then to assemble, split each layer in half. Place one split layer on serving plate. Spread one-third of whipped topping on one layer. Repeat with remaining layers, leaving top of cake plain. Frost sides and top of cake with frosting. Garnish with chocolate hearts if desired. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 12 servings.

For Cream Cheese Frosting: Combine butter, cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and vanilla. Mix until well blended.



Happy Valentine's Day from the staff of the Castro Valley Forum and the San Leandro Times.



To the moon and back

Happy Valentine's Day
GINA
I love you forever and always
Love ... Rudy

TO MY VALENTINE

ROBIN
Ti amo molto ... Bill

Friends: Glen & Noreen Barth
Honoring your 55th Anniversary
Loving Neighbors Your MAGIC
Grows! Respectfully ...
Kai & Michael

MARYILYNDA
Keep singing Guro
to the music of our Love ... Nagi



Happy Birthday my love
You are my sunshine
Love always ... Celan

GUGLIELMO
Sei il mio partner, mio Marito,
amore mio! Buon San Valentino!
Tua Moglie, Robin

Kimberly and Elizabeth
My two favorite Valentines
I love you both so very much ...
Always will ... Papa Gar

Carolyn & Roger
Happy Valentine's Day
Love always ... Patrick

Ist das Lieben Schon!
Wunderbar Mensch: Kai Stoltz
You always make everything
Better! Love ... Loki & Michael

GOOD FORTUNE SEA BASS

- 1/2 pound skinless sea bass fillet
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped ginger
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup sweet & sour sauce
- 2 teaspoons Asian chili sauce

Sprinkle the sea bass with salt, pepper, ginger and garlic and let stand for 30 minutes or longer in the refrigerator.

Heat a skillet or wok over high heat. Add the oil and sea bass and pan-fry until both sides are browned, about 2 minutes per side. Add the stir-fry sauce and heat until bubbling. Turn sea bass again and cook an additional minute (6 minutes in all). Remove from pan, garnish with green onions and serve immediately. Serves 2.

SESAME-GINGER NOODLES

- 1 pound uncooked fresh Chinese-style thin egg noodles, spaghetti, vermicelli or linguine
- 1/4 cup soy sauce

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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



Home Hardening 101

Recent fires in California have alerted us to the damage that might occur if a wildfire happened to hit our neighborhood.

Those here in the Bay Area who think it could not happen to them are forgetting two important things.

First, we must remember the firestorm that engulfed homes and devastated the Oakland Hills region in October, 1991. Second, we cannot forget the fact that burning embers borne aloft by overheated winds can destroy homes a significant distance from the main fire.

With this in mind, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("Cal Fire") is urging homeowners within fire hazard zones to upgrade their homes to better resist any potential fire-related damage. The name of the process?

Home hardening.

Simply put, "Home hardening" refers to the addition of fire-resistant materials to a property to protect it from catching fire. Common home hardening upgrades include the following:

- Replacing flammable roofs such as wood shingles or shakes with tile, concrete or other less-flammable materials,
- Covering all open vents with metal screens,
- Enclosing eaves with non-combustible materials,
- Covering exterior walls with resistant materials such as stucco,
- Installing dual-paned, tempered glass windows,
- Removing wood decks and patio covers and replacing them with fire-resistant materials,
- Adding screens or gutter

guards to rain gutters to prevent debris from accumulating,

- Covering exposed chimney tops with metal ember screens.

Additionally, Cal Fire is recommending that steps be taken to enhance firefighting activities:

- Ensure you have sufficient faucets on the exterior that can provide water to all exterior parts of your home,
- Ensure your home is readily accessible to emergency vehicles,
- Ensure that the roof has no open holes (especially under the leading edges of the roof) where cinders could land and ignite.

Municipalities that are closer to areas prone to wildfires are also looking at mandating home

hardening into any new home construction. Statewide there is also discussion as to whether or not any new homes should be built in regions prone to fires.

It is a tough call: people love living close to wildland areas and with California's continued need for housing, where do you draw the line?

For now, home hardening is the way to protect your home if you are concerned about potential fires. Even here in the Bay Area, it is a concept that makes sense.

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.

Plant Japanese Maple Anytime

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

I received a Japanese Maple at Christmas-time. Some local backyard gardeners have told me that the ground is not warm enough to plant now, and I should wait until spring. Also, an HGTV program suggested that the best time to plant a tree is in the fall season. So, when do I plant it?

Good news: There are no restrictions as to when to plant Japanese Maples in the Bay Area.

During the winter months, the biggest issue is not temperature, but moisture. As long as the ground is suitable to dig, it's perfectly okay to plant.

Our winters are mild to very

mild. The majority of the Japanese Maples sold in Bay Area garden centers are grown in Oregon. They are shipped not only into the Bay Area but also throughout the U.S.

Cold is a relative term. First off, plants are not affected by the wind chill factor, only by the absolute temperature. That's because plants do not have a central nervous system. There are no horticultural reasons for not planting in December, January, and February.

One final thought, Home and Garden TV programming originates from many different parts of the country. Rarely does the program/host point out to the viewer that there are local variances, and they should check with a nursery professional for what's typical in their area.

Also, when googling information, be aware as to the origin of the information as it may not apply to your yard. We get so much information we end up being handicapped by it all.

Are rose hips edible?

Yes, rose hips are edible. Jams, Jelly, and Rose Hip Tea are the most common uses.

Rose hips are high in Vitamin C, but they are not all created equal, as some hips taste better than others.

Wild roses and the old-fashioned varieties such as the Rugosa Roses and David Austin varieties are the most flavorful. They also yield the largest quantity of pulp because of their large size.

Many modern-day roses – those introduced after 1945 – have a metallic taste besides being small in size. The hips are typically orange to red, but can be black or purple.

Rose hips form after a flower's successful pollination; they contain the flower's seeds and ripen in late summer into the fall. They aren't noticeable until the flowers' petals fall

off; hence, you leave the spent blooms so the hips can form and mature on the plant.

Deadheading eliminates the hips. You harvest the hips from November through January. First, trim off the stems and blossom ends, cut the hip in half, and remove the seeds. The seeds are hairy and have an unpleasant taste. The remaining pulp is washed and left to air dry. They're stored in bags until you're ready to

use them. One cultural note – grow them organically, so they contain no systemic controls for insects, diseases, and pests.

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



WEEKEND GARDENER

Sowing Seeds

It's not too early to sow some flower seeds outdoors, including cosmos, sweet alyssum, sweet peas, California poppies and larkspur. Start seeds indoors in flats for summer vegetables, including tomatoes, squash and peppers.

Perennials

Plant perennials now for early spring bloom. English primroses, day lilies, Shasta daisies and phlox are all good bets.

RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

19100 Karris Lane	94546: \$560,000	3 BD - 2,210 SF - 1977
4078 Greenacre Road	94546: \$850,000	3 BD - 1,124 SF - 1953
18785 Carlton Avenue	94546: \$875,000	3 BD - 1,332 SF - 1953
6300 Ridgewood Drive	94552: \$975,500	3 BD - 1,404 SF - 1990
5682 Cold Water Drive	94552: \$1,070,000	5 BD - 2,420 SF - 1966
17859 Hillside Court	94546: \$1,100,000	3 BD - 1,623 SF - 1970
17775 Mayflower Drive	94546: \$1,131,000	3 BD - 2,076 SF - 1954
3833 Brookdale Blvd	94546: \$1,160,000	3 BD - 1,602 SF - 1953
5228 Tyler Court	94546: \$1,165,000	3 BD - 1,766 SF - 1964
25768 Durrwood Court	94552: \$1,200,000	4 BD - 2,092 SF - 1998
5585 Cold Water Drive	94552: \$1,335,000	3 BD - 1,504 SF - 1965
19262 Heyer Lane	94546: \$1,400,000	4 BD - 3,146 SF - 1967
TOTAL SALES:	12	
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$560,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$1,115,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,400,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,068,458

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Fall in Love With These Valentine's Day Decor Ideas

As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, celebrations may include romantic dinners, Galentine's Day plans or even family fun. The experts at Dollar General have provided a few budget-friendly decor ideas that everyone will love.

Romantic Night in for Two

Make a night in special by adding a few romantic details around the home. Spruce up the dining table with a vase of fresh roses, candles and a decorative tablecloth—all of which is available at your local Dollar General the week of Valentine's Day. Also consider filling the room with colorful heart-shaped balloons and bowls of sweet candies. Dress up a wall or mantle with a banner and some of your favorite photos. Pitch a blanket fort in the living room for a fun indoor movie night. Decorate it with a holiday-themed blanket and pillows to help create a unique and memorable Valentine's Day.

Be Mine, Galentine

For those spending the



holiday with friends, incorporate all the fun Valentine's Day decor into a Galentine's Day celebration. Assemble a picture-perfect balloon arch by taping or stringing together pink, white, red and heart-shaped balloons. Create another space for photos by hanging streamers and a heart-shaped garland from windows or walls. Fill glass vases with red and pink candies for a charming coffee table centerpiece. Lastly, a message board could provide

a fun opportunity for gatherings to express appreciation or positive quotes. This can easily be celebrated digitally by distributing Galentine's Day kits to friends, so everyone can that share in the decorating and celebrating.

DIY Valentine Crafts

For a fun family night in, set aside time to create crafts with the kids. Crafting can be a great way for kids to express themselves, plus their creations can serve as cost-effective

decorations. One example is to hang a paper heart chain, like a garland, above a fireplace or along kitchen cabinets. For this easy and adorable craft, gather red and pink craft paper, ribbon or string, scissors and tape. Cut out hearts and a small hole in a corner to string ribbon or string through. Another fun option is to gather the family to paint glass jars with hearts or sayings. Place tasty treats like cookies or candies inside or use the jars as a vase for flowers.

Don't forget front door decorations! Find the directions to craft an easy DIY Coffee Filter Wreath for the door on DG's crafts web page.

For more holiday decoration inspiration and ideas, visit dollargeneral.com and browse under the Inspiration tab.

By planning ahead and seeking out decoration tips and tricks, anyone can be ready to celebrate Valentine's Day with less stress and hustle.

- Statepoint

Little Change in Mortgage Rates

Long-term mortgage rates remained flat and near record lows last week, according to Freddie Mac's weekly nationwide survey.

Thirty-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 2.73 percent for the week ending Feb. 4, unchanged from the previous week. A year ago at this time, the 30-year rate averaged 3.45 percent.

Fifteen-year fixed-rate mort-

gages averaged 2.21 percent, up slightly from 2.20 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 2.78 percent, down from 2.80 percent.

"Mortgage rates remained flat this week and near record lows, signifying an economy that continues to struggle," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's Chief Economist. "This rate environ-

ment is advantageous for those who are looking to refinance in order to strengthen their financial position. While many have already refinanced, the evidence suggests that upper income homeowners have taken advantage of the opportunity more so than lower income homeowners who could stand to benefit the most by lowering their monthly mortgage payment."

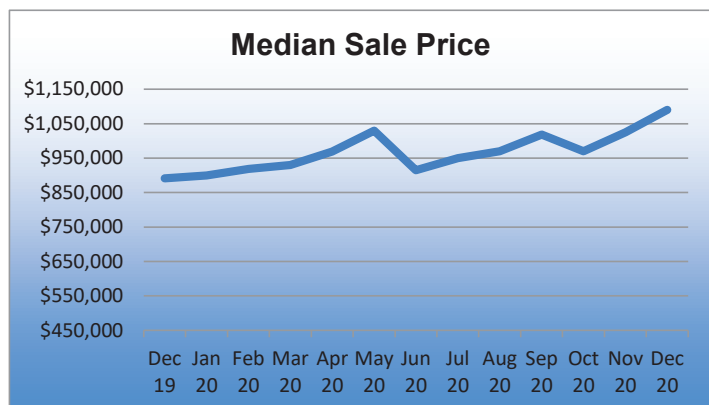


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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR
FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM

Tax Reform Long Overdue

Editor:

I strongly agree with the sentiments presented by Mal May's letter ("A Change in the Tax Code Needed") in the January 20 Forum.

Former President Reagan started us down the road of placing the income tax burden on the middle class and poor, and this process reached a terrible apex during the Trump administration.

Reagan told us that the government was the enemy, this led directly to the ability for corporate America to re-write the tax code for their benefit. Of course, corporate Trump and his cronies took advantage of this for 4 years.

The corporate tax rate was above 45% from 1950 to 1985, this was arguably the most prosperous time in American history. Now the rate is 20% and the United States has the second highest poverty rate in the world among rich nations due to wage inequality, inflation and poor education.

How many people cannot even afford health care in this time of the coronavirus? Income and wealth inequality has allowed the top 1% to own 38% of

stock and the top 10% to own 81%. The bottom 80% own 8% of stock.

It is time to raise the top tax rate to 90% or more for income above certain amounts. Just like raising the minimum wage actually creates more jobs, lowering the maximum wage would free trillions of dollars to help with good job creation.

The \$1 trillion Trump Republican tax cut that went mostly to the top 1% was enough to give every American \$3,000. Another trillion-dollar tax increase on the folks who can easily afford it could wipe out all college debt.

It is time that we understand that taxes are for things that we all decide to do together. It is time to use obscene and unnecessary corporate and personal income for the good of all.

—David Siegel, 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 print unsigned or anonymous letters.

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



Artist's conception of new Castro Valley Sanitary District Facility at 21195 Center Street.

MAC: Discussion of Facility to Continue

continued from front page
the new CVSan facility.

"I believe it's a good project," said Andrade. "This will be a nice, prominent landmark for Castro Valley and very attractive."

Discussion of the project began over two years ago when the makeup of the MAC was almost entirely different. At that time, the project was deemed unacceptable by the MAC, who cited the industrial use element as a reason to disallow the facility at that location.

In a somewhat unusual move, former MAC Chair Marc Crawford spoke up during the public speaking portion of Monday night's Zoom meeting to fill in

the newer members of the council about the project's history, information which was not clear in the agenda packet.

"The MAC said a warehouse use was unacceptable two years ago," said Crawford. "A private owner wouldn't be allowed to build (an) industrial warehouse. There wouldn't be a double standard. CVSan has totally disrespected the MAC for over two years by blowing off the concerns of the council."

MAC member Chuck Moore said he didn't like that this information wasn't included on the background provided and said that CVSan needs to address concerns of neighbors in the area, partic-

ularly the Alikian family who spoke during the public speaking portion, saying that CVSan had approached them about a sit down meeting on the matter, but it has not happened yet.

"If I lived next door, I'd be concerned about the industrial use," said Moore.

In the end, Moore said he would also attend the meeting with the Alikians and the matter of the conditional use permit was continued to a future meeting.

MAC Chair Ken Carbone said he also wants extensive background research made available to the MAC, including all the previous meetings' minutes before they reconvene on the matter.

Obituaries

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Chabot College Opens Financial Assistance Center

Chabot College opened a SparkPoint center last week to serve students and others in the community who are struggling with their finances.

The center is part of the United Way Bay Area's network of

locations that provides free services, including food and rental assistance, to help end the cycle of poverty.

Working one-on-one, the center's coaches help people take control of their finances in three

key areas: increasing income, managing credit and building assets.

The new SparkPoint center offers a suite of services to those working to achieve financial stability, including access to a cam-

pus food pantry hosted with Alameda County Community Food Bank.

For more information, visit www.chabotcollege.edu/student-services/student-equity/sparkpoint/

HOROSCOPE by Salomé © 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

- ARIES (March 21 - 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 - 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 - 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 - 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 - 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 - Sept. 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 (Sept. 23 - 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 - 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 (Nov. 22 - Dec. 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 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 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 (Jan. 20 - Feb. 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 (Feb. 19 - 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.

Community Calendar

● TODAY, February 10: School Board Meeting

The Castro Valley Board of Education will hold an open virtual board meeting today, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m. While the meeting will be held remotely, public participation is encouraged. Instructions on how to join a meeting by video conference is available at: support.zoom.us/jc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting. Instructions on joining a meeting by phone are available at: support.zoom.us/jc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone. The agenda and board packet are available at www.cv.k12.ca.us. For questions, contact Aimee Cayere at acayere@cv.k12.ca.us

● Thursday, February 11: Virtual Valentine's Party

Join a special Virtual Valentine's Day Celebration on Feb. 11 as Spectrum Community Services, Concannon Vineyard and Truffle Shuffle invite you to a fun night making fresh gnocchi and enjoying Concannon Reserve wines from the comfort of your own kitchen, a benefit for Spectrum's Senior Meals Program. Get tickets now at www.SpectrumCS.org and check out an awesome video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=wc16zFBC-Zo&feature=youtu.be

● Tuesday, February 16: Science Lecture: Nuclear Fusion

Physicist John Perkins of the Lawrence Livermore National Lab will discuss nuclear fusion -- a process that powers the sun, the stars and hydrogen bombs -- at the next Castro Valley Science Lecture, at 6 p.m. on Feb. 16. His talk is being presented by the Castro Valley Educational Foundation and the Rotary Club of Castro Valley. Register for the Zoom link at bit.ly/35FFfCn. There will be no Rotary lunch meeting this day. More information is available at castrovalleyrotary.org.

Barbara Jean Rowe

October 6, 1959 ~ January 27, 2021

Barbara Jean Rowe passed away unexpectedly to be with The Lord on January 27, 2021. She had a brain aneurysm which ruptured on December 5, 2020, and was in the hospital ever since.

She was a wonderful mother, treasured grandmother, neighbor and friend to many. Mom was born and raised in the Bay Area, and had resided in Redding for the past two years. She loved her dogs, Foxy and Lady, and all animals. She worked hard her whole life, sacrificed much for her sons and her granddaughters, and was one tough lady who put in a good fight until the end. She had an amazing smile, and a laugh that could make anyone feel happy.

She is survived by her husband, Roger, son, Kevin (Natalie) Rowe, three granddaughters Cali, Sierra, and Autumn, 7 brothers and sisters and many other extended family and friends. She is now in Heaven with her precious son Justin and her adored dog Ladybug. She will be missed forever, and her spirit will live in our hearts for all of eternity.

There will be a celebration of life for her later on in the spring; anyone who would like to be notified about it should contact Natalie at natalierowe@gmail.com.



PRESIDENTS DAY SCHEDULES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Government Operations

All Federal, State, County and City offices will be closed on Monday, except for emergency services.

Business Offices

Financial institutions, stock exchanges and some business offices will be closed.

Stores & Restaurants

Most will be open, but check ahead to be sure.

Public Transportation

BART will run on a Saturday schedule; AC Transit buses will operate on a Sunday schedule.

Garbage Collection

Recycling, organics, and garbage collection services by ACI will operate as usual on Monday. Call ACI at 510-483-1400 for customer service questions, or visit www.alameda-county-industries.com. Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) offices will be closed Monday. Please call 510-506-5821 for sewer emergencies.

Here's a Seal of Approval: Water Authority Builds New Platform Specifically for Seals

By Ned MacKay
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Harbor seals, those sleek and slinky residents of San Francisco Bay, now have a new venue where they can bask after swimming – a floating platform just offshore between Encinal Beach and the USS Hornet museum in Alameda.

Harbor seals prey on anchovies, herring and bottom-dwelling fish in the bay. But they need to get out of the water in a safe place to warm up between swims.

Enter the Water Emergency Transportation Authority, a regional public transit agency.

When WETA moved its maintenance facilities to Alameda, it had planned to destroy an old dock where a few seals often basked. When wildlife advocates objected, WETA financed construction of a floating platform where the seals could haul out.

The platform is 20 by 25 feet, with one side sloped to allow the seals easy access from the water.

Constructed of reinforced concrete with a Styrofoam core, it's the only known floating platform in the world built specifically for seals.

The designer was Dr. Jim Harvey, director of San Jose State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

The seals seem to like it. Up to 80 of them have squeezed together on it, and mother seals have been seen nursing their pups there.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act includes harbor seals. Boaters and kayakers should watch from a distance. If the seals raise their heads, it means that they feel threatened, and you should back off.

They can be seen easily with binoculars from the shoreline Bay Trail.



Harbor seals like to climb out of the water and bask in the sun.

East Bay Regional Park District's Encinal Beach is located at the end of a road off Alameda's Central Avenue, just past Encinal High School and Lincoln Avenue.

For more information and a map, visit www.facebook.com/alamedaseals1. To volunteer and report observations, contact alamedaharborseals@gmail.com.

Fee Collection

Fee collection has resumed at many East Bay regional parks.

To encourage easy public access and use of regional parks and trails during the pandemic, the park district waived collection of all fees in 2020. But the district resumed charging fees on Jan. 4 this year in order to help fund many of the

programs and services that it hopes to reopen when the pandemic subsides.

Fees include parking, camping, fishing and boat launching. Fees may also be reinstated for use of seasonal facilities and services such as swimming, reservable picnic areas, and recreational programs, if these activities can resume later this year.

The basic parking fee is \$5 per vehicle (\$6 at Del Valle south of Livermore). Most regional parks charge no parking or entry fees. And those that do so at major entrances often have other entrances that are free of charge.

Your go-to website for all sorts of useful outdoor recreation in-

formation is www.ebparks.org. Browsing the website, you can find out about the park district's Trails Challenge, get the latest news updates, stay current on programs and policies, download park maps and brochures, and view any of several dozen entertaining nature education programs produced by the district's enthusiastic naturalist staff.

Of course the parks themselves are always open during daylight hours. But with a little advance research on the website, you can make your visit that much more safe and enjoyable.

Columnist Ned MacKay is a retired East Bay Regional Park District employee.

Reports: Domestic Assault

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Domestic Assault

Tuesday, February 2: at 4:06 p.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to an apartment on Anita Avenue near Witcher Street. There, they arrested a 46-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of assault on a family member. The man was taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Stolen Car

Monday, February 1: at 8:23 p.m., a 23-year-old man from Castro Valley was arrested on suspicion of possession of a stolen vehicle and illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the man for questioning as he was parked outside a bank on Castro Valley Boulevard near Redwood Road. The vehicle had been reported stolen. The man also revealed he had a pipe for smoking drugs in his pocket. Deputies took the man into custody.

Restraining Order, Assault

Tuesday, February 2: at 12:05 a.m., deputies arrested a 63-year-old CV man on suspicion of violating the terms of a court-issued restraining order and assault of a family member. The man was spotted at a home on San Carlos Avenue near Stanton Avenue when deputies were called. Before they arrived, the man had assaulted a family member at the scene. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail. The victim was treated at the scene.

Joy Rider

Monday, February 1: at 10:37 p.m., a 40-year-old female with no permanent address was arrested on suspicion of driving a stolen vehicle, possession of stolen property, possession of illegal narcotics, and related drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the woman in the parking lot of a grocery store on Redwood Road near Castro Valley Boulevard. The woman was handcuffed and taken into custody.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Annika Huston

Our Athlete of the Week is Annika Huston. Currently a sophomore at the University of Oregon, the 2019 Castro Valley High School graduate played golf for the Trojans and softball with the Pleasanton independent league on the Jabwire team. As a golfer, Annika was a ranked player with the National High School Golf Association. At UO, Annika is currently studying business and a member of Kappa Delta Sorority.

CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE



Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs

www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org



RECYCLE YOUR USED OIL



HOW TO RECYCLE USED OIL:

1. Curbside - Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) single-family residents can place up to three used oil recycling kits for curbside collection. Kits should be placed between carts on collection day. To request a used oil recycling kit, call Alameda County Industries (ACI) at (510) 483-1400.



2. Certified Collection Centers - All residents can drop off used motor oil and filters at Certified Collection Centers (CCCs). The following are located in or near Castro Valley:

- **O'Reilly Auto Parts**, 2990 Castro Valley Boulevard, (510) 881-0761
- **Jiffy Lube**, 2492 Castro Valley Boulevard, (510) 582-7677
- **Tire Choice**, 3430 Castro Valley Boulevard, (510) 886-9500
- **Kevin Hinkley Auto Tech**, 5269 Crow Canyon Road, (510) 881-1052
- **O'Reilly Auto Parts**, 15604 Hesperian Boulevard, (510) 276-7822
- **Auto Zone**, 17750 Hesperian Boulevard, (510) 481-5010

Visit cvsan.org/UsedOil for more information. Remember, CVSan's Used Oil Filter Exchange Program is February 8th - March 19th!

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HARD District Awards

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors held their 58th annual awards event "virtually" on January 29 to recognize the individuals and organizations who provided outstanding support to community programs and parks during 2020.

This year these individuals and organizations were selected as 2020 award recipients:

- Individual of the Year: Hayward City Manager Kelly McAldoo;
- Organization of the Year: Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League;
- Volunteers of the Year: The Oakman Family;
- Special Recognition Award: Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley;
- HARD Foundation Organization of the Year: Life Chiropractic College West;
- HARD Foundation Individual of the Year: Ric Serriani, Splurge Special Events and Catering;

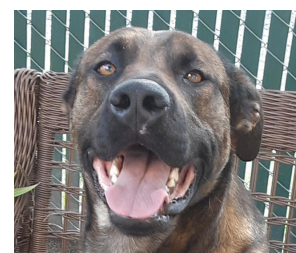
The Board of Directors' Awards program began in 1962 to honor and recognize individuals and organizations who support HARD in its mission to provide quality parks, recreation programs and facilities.

"Without volunteers, partner organizations and supporting agencies, we could not meet our mission," stated Board President Lou Andrade. "We are, without a doubt, incredibly grateful to the countless hours spent by the volunteers and organizations who assist with our programs, along with those individuals who have shown tremendous leadership and are deeply connected to the community we serve especially during such a challenging year as 2020."

ADOPT-A-PET



Lindor is a sassy sweet female bunny who will let you know what she does and doesn't like. She loves people watching from her window, playing in her bunny tunnels, and snacking on timothy hay. Call Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293 - 7200.



Mojo is a 2-year-old male who loves getting attention from people and going on walks. He already knows sit and shake. He would like a home with teens and adults. To adopt Mojo, please call Hayward Animal Shelter: (510) 293 - 7200.



Oreo, a 5 month old black and white tuxedo, is curious about everything and very playful. She'd love to stay with her sister Stella or have another young cat to play with. **Stella** is a sweet, sleek black kitten who also is very active and playful. While she'd love a home with her sister Stella, they can be separated as long as each has another young cat to play with. Spayed, vaccinated, chipped and FIV/FELV negative. Email Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com.



Tips: Animal Collisions

continued from page 2

Use brakes if impact is imminent. If an animal is in your path, stay in your lane. Swerving away from animals can confuse them, so they don't know which way to run. It can also put you in the path of oncoming vehicles.

Always wear a seatbelt. The chances of getting injured when hitting an animal are much higher if you aren't wearing a seatbelt.

Animal collisions are covered by most auto insurance policies,

but only if the vehicle has comprehensive coverage. Contact your insurance agent to ensure you have adequate coverage.

If you're involved in a crash, call law enforcement immediately to help remove the animal. Make note of date, time, location, weather and road conditions.

Take photographs, when safe to do so, to document the incident for insurance purposes.

For more information, visit AAA.com.



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