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FOURTH of JULY



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YEAR 32

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

NO. 27

INSIDE YOUR FORUM

NEWS



COVID Hotline

COVID-19 call center is adjusting its operating hours effective this week
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OUR TOWN



A Reminder

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SENIORS



Big Budget Win

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PHONE: (510) 614-1560



PHOTO: ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

And They're Off!

For the 162nd year, live horse racing returns to the track at the Alameda County Fairground in Pleasanton every Friday through Sunday through July 26. First post is at 2:45 p.m. each racing day. Total prize money over the six weeks of racing is \$2.3 million with five stakes races totaling \$200,000 in prize money. The current Alameda County health order does not allow spectators at the race track, but outdoor patio dining at the Trackside Terrace is available, as is online betting. For more information, please visit: alamedacountyfair.com.

County Hits Pause On Reopening Plan

By Michael Singer
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A recent spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates in the region prompted Alameda County Health officials to postpone the next phase of reopening.

In a statement issued Monday, a County Health spokesperson said the agency is extending its reopening timeline and if things don't improve in the next seven days that it may even recommend pulling back on activities reinstated since June 19, including outdoor dining, retail, and religious ceremonies.

"We are concerned by the increase in local cases, the disproportionate impact on communities of color, local impact of the outbreak at San Quentin State Prison, and the alarming disease trends we see in counties that have opened at a faster rate," Alameda County Health Care Services Agency spokesperson Neetu Balram said in a statement.

Even before the County said it would slow its rollout plans, California Governor Gavin Newsom ordered bars closed in some coun-

ties and the potential for increased enforcement of shelter in place orders.

Alameda County's case rate per 100,000 people increased from 63.2 to 71.1 over the past seven days. This week, health officials recorded an accumulation of more than 5,762 cases of coronavirus infections with 133 related deaths.

As of Monday, San Leandro has 276 infected with COVID-19. Castro Valley reported 181 cases. The rest of the unincorporated area saw 364 cases of COVID. More than 180 cases were identified on Father's Day (June 21) alone.

see PLAN on page 3

Castro Valley
Confirmed Cases = 188

Alameda County
Confirmed Cases = 5,964
Deaths = 135

California
Confirmed Cases = 226,850
Deaths = 6,012

as of June 30, 2020

Take Precautions with Coyotes at Our Local Parks

By Ned MacKay
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

Perhaps because of increased use of parks during the shelter-in-place era, there have been a lot of coyote sightings lately. So here's some information about these furry, four-footed parkland residents.

Coyotes are common throughout the western United States and beyond. They can be found in almost every East Bay regional park, from the inland hills to the bay shoreline.

Adaptable and intelligent, they also prowl nearby suburban neighborhoods, including mine.

Through their eating habits, coyotes help to control the population of animals such as rabbits, ground squirrels, skunks and raccoons. They are pretty much omnivorous; they will also go for fish, birds, reptiles and even insects.

If not the animal itself, you may

often see its distinctive scat, which has a lot of fur mixed in with it from the small rodents that make up its basic diet.

Coyotes resemble smaller, skinnier versions of German shepherd dogs. Generally tan in color, they have long snouts and bushy, black-tipped tails.

Although they look like dogs, coyotes are wild and may occasionally be aggressive, especially if protecting a den.

If you are walking with your dog and see a coyote approaching, it's best to call your pet back to you and put it on leash. Dogs are currently supposed to be on leash at all times in the regional parks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

If a coyote follows you, make loud noises to scare it away.

It's best for both species if coyotes remain wary of humans. So coyotes should never be given

handouts or fed unintentionally by leaving pet food or garbage where they can get to it. Especially if you live near open space, feed your pet indoors and use trash containers with lids that clamp shut.

It's also advisable to keep pets such as cats, rabbits and small dogs indoors. If allowed to run free outside, they can become coyote prey. Large dogs should be brought indoors after dark and should not be allowed to run loose.

Coyotes can and do mate with domestic dogs. Moreover if you let your large dog run free outside at night, it can pack up with similar pets and hunt wildlife in the parks, which is not a good outcome.

For more information about coyotes, check out the California State Fish and Game website, www.wildlife.ca.gov/keep-me-wild/coyote. There's even more at the Washington state site: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/living/coyotes.html>.



Coyotes can be found in almost all of the East Bay Regional Parks, from the inland hills to the bay shoreline.

Castro Valley Weather July 1-5, 2020



Wednesday
Mostly Sunny
High 76° Low 54°



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
High 75° Low 55°



Friday
Mostly Sunny
High 71° Low 53°



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
High 76° Low 55°



Sunday
Mostly Sunny
High 85° Low 54°

Almanac

Moon Phases



Past Week's Rain: 00.00
Season To Date: 08.54
Normal To Date: 21.22
Season Average: 21.22



Jul 4



Jul 12



Jul 20



Jul 27

Sun sets at 8:36 p.m. today, rises at 5:52 a.m. Thursday.

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NEW PROPERTY SALE REQUIREMENTS



Selling your home? All residential, commercial, and industrial properties within Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) boundaries are required to have a Private Sewer Lateral (PSL) compliance certificate when they are sold. This certificate ensures that the property's private sewer lateral (lateral) is in good working order.

CVSan has developed an online portal where property owners can see if their property currently has a PSL compliance certificate. These certificates can also be downloaded and printed through the portal, which is available at <https://permitportal.cvsan.org/>.

Properties that do not have certificates on file are required to replace their lateral or complete a closed-circuit television (CCTV) sewer lateral inspection during the property sale.

If the CCTV inspection shows that the lateral needs to be repaired or replaced, the completed repair work must be approved by an authorized CVSan inspector before the property is sold. After the property has passed its CCTV inspection or has completed the necessary repair work, a lateral compliance certificate will be issued.

To obtain the PSL Compliance Certificate after the close of escrow please visit <http://www.cvsan.org/PSL>

For more information on these new property sale requirements, visit www.cvsan.org/PSL. Questions can be directed to Engineering Technician Evan Choy at evan@cvsan.org or (510) 537-0757 ext. 131.

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This ad was funded by WW Outreach



Reverend Celebrates 60 Years as a Priest

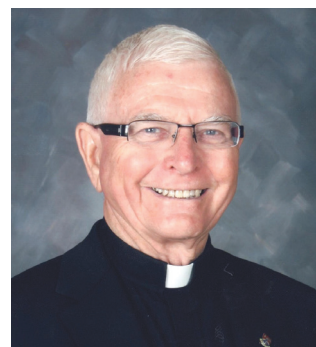
Fr. Terry O'Malley, Parochial Administrator at Transfiguration Catholic Church in Castro Valley, is celebrating 60 years as a priest.

In 1952 he joined the Sacred Heart Congregation of Betharram at the age of 20 and did his Novitiate and studies at their house in North Wales.

Following his Philosophical Studies, he did a year teaching junior children at their prep school in Sambourne, Warwickshire.

Resuming Theological Studies, he was ordained on the 12th of June 1960 at St. Tudwal Church, Barmouth, Gwynedd, Wales.

Further studies in Dublin, Ireland, he taught in and guided



Sampran and later Sacred Heart, Droitwich in Worcestershire for 15 years. Having been appointed to lead the Vice Province, he moved to Garicoits House in Worcester city. Over five years he was able

to travel, work, and learn mainly in France, Italy and the Holy Land.

In 1956 came the call to a Mission in Thailand where he helped to educate young Thais as members of the Sacred Heart. He also helped out at the parish in Hong Kong for a couple of years.

Now in the USA, he has served the Oakland Diocese at All Saints in Hayward, St. Raymond in Dublin and on Aug. 15, 2011 was appointed Parochial Administrator at Transfiguration Catholic Church in Castro Valley.

Next year on the 23rd of October he will also be celebrating his 90th birthday.

—Mel Speed

What's Up This Week at Smalltown Society

● **Saturday, July 3rd:** The 15th Installment of "Live Riff-Along" with the 1962 Soviet-era Sci-Fi film: 'Planeta Bur'! Our Riff-Alongs are the rare moments when you're encouraged to talk during movies! Join the community poking fun at old, campy films. FREE. 8pm LIVE: [thechabot.com](https://www.thechabot.com)

● **Sunday, July 4th:** Quarantine Sundays with Smalltown Society artist Safiyah Hernandez for her newest installment of Quarantine Sundays LIVE and direct from her Instagram and Facebook account. FREE at 2pm Instagram: [@safiyahhernandez](https://www.instagram.com/safiyahhernandez) or Facebook: [@SafiyahHernandezMusic](https://www.facebook.com/SafiyahHernandezMusic)

SUPPORT THE ARTS

Support The Chabot Theater: Online Gift Cards and Merch available at [TheChabot.com](https://www.thechabot.com). Donations to The Chabot can be made via PayPal/Venmo: [@thechabot](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?business=thechabot). Donations to Smalltown Society can be made via PayPal/Venmo: [@smalltownsociety](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?business=smalltownsociety)

COVID-19 Hotline's New Operating Hours

The COVID-19 Telephone Hotline call center is adjusting operating hours to a 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri. effective this week.

The call center, which can be reached at 510-583-4949, will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

Since it was established on

March 20, the hotline – staffed by a multi-lingual team of Hayward City employee volunteers – has answered more than 9,500 calls, providing information about the new coronavirus, the county's shelter-in-place orders, the Hayward Testing Center, changes in City services due to the health

emergency, and new community relief and assistance programs.

The hotline was launched to reduce demand on the Hayward 911 emergency dispatch center and to provide residents, regardless of language or immigration status, a trustworthy source of information and connection to resources.

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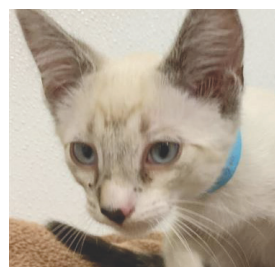
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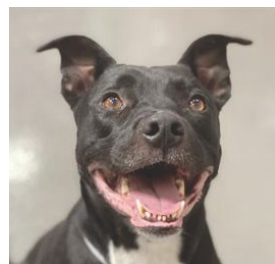
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DUTCHESS is a 4 year old female who walks well on leash and takes treats gently. She would like to go to a home with teens and adults. If interested in adopting, call the Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 283 - 7200.



OPEN LETTER TO COUNTY SUPERVISORS: "It appears inevitable that the County's Black and brown residents and workers will disproportionately bear the brunt of new infections, and increased morbidity and mortality."

Plan: Marginalized Communities Suffer

continued from front page

Daily hospitalizations were decreasing through June 22, but since then County Health says it has seen a daily increase in hospitalizations.

Now with July 4 celebrations this weekend, Balram says residents should limit outdoor picnics and BBQs to household members and social bubbles. Staying at home or close to home is recommended.

"We all play a part in safely reopening our communities and protecting people at high risk for COVID-19 infection and death," Balram says.

Some of those at highest risk were quick to acknowledge the pause as a step in the right direction, but are impatient with the County's response to the pandemic.

In an open letter to County Supervisors, 14 community and health groups including Sin- kler Miller Medical Association,

East Oakland Collective, Roots Community Health Center, Allen Temple Health & Social Services, Urban Strategies, and James A. Watson Wellness Center, voiced their concern that Alameda County Health Care Services Agency had been slow to respond to Black and Latinx communities.

"Because marginalized communities suffer compromised health even in the best of times, it appears inevitable that the County's Black and brown residents and workers will disproportionately bear the brunt of new infections, and increased morbidity and mortality," the group said in a statement.

The letter criticizes the County's slow response to rolling out testing centers, contact tracing, and supplying frontline healthcare workers with personal protective equipment, also known as PPE.

"Black and Latinx communities are often at risk because they provide those essential services. All of us need to do a better job pro-

tecting those who cannot shelter in place," Carolyn Johnson, the executive director of the Black Cultural Zone Collective told the Castro Valley Forum.

At the community level, Johnson added that these non-profits were already organizing testing strategies, outreach, and education in neighborhoods that have been historically ignored.

"Opening up the County too quickly will not help anyone, which is why we are even going door to door to coordinate, communicate, and collaborate these safety precautions to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID in a household," Johnson says.

Health officials are expected to assess the next window of opportunity for reopening recommendations next week.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



A Reminder from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department

All fireworks are illegal in unincorporated Alameda County including Castro Valley. In addition to potential harm to oneself, loud explosions are harmful to the elderly, people with PTSD, and pets. There is also the danger of fire. Sheriff's deputies along with California Highway Patrol and East Bay Regional Park police will confiscate fireworks and potentially issue misdemeanor fines. Call the ACSO non-emergency number 510 667-7721 to report fireworks activity.

Family Fight

Monday, June 29: at 2:32 a.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent deputies to a home on James Place near James Avenue. There they arrested an 18-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of assault on a family member and false imprisonment. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

Stolen Property and Burglar Tools

Sunday, June 28: at 9:12 p.m., Sheriff's deputies arrested a 27-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of stolen property, assorted burglar tools including a picklock, and illegal narcotics with associated drug paraphernalia. The man was hanging outside a drug store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Marshall Street when deputies stopped him for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending bail.

Ignored Restraining Order

Thursday, June 25: at 10:55 a.m., a 31-year-old CV man was arrested on suspicion of violating the terms of his restraining order. Deputies were called to the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant on the Boulevard near Stanton Avenue after the manager recognized the man loitering outside when he had been asked to stay away at least 100 yards by the court. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Assault at Home

Wednesday, June 24: at 9:25 p.m., deputies arrested a 39-year-old man on suspicion of assault on a family member. An anonymous

tip about an altercation sent deputies to a home on Grove Way near Betlen Way. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Drug Paraphernalia

Tuesday, June 23: at 2:47 p.m., a 32-year-old man with no permanent residence was arrested on suspicion of possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the man for questioning outside a business on Castro Valley Boulevard near San Miguel Avenue after spotting him slumped over in the parking lot. The man was taken into custody after deputies found needles and a pipe used for smoking drugs in his pockets.

Pandemic: An Artist's View



We are living in an historic time, and we want to capture that moment in art and poetry. A.R.T. Inc. and the Rotary Club of Castro Valley are partnering to sponsor an online show of artworks, photography, and poems that describe the pandemic in the Castro Valley area. We will accept entries from August 24 to September 6, 2020.

For more information, go to castrovalleyrotary.org.



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Rotary Club of Castro Valley

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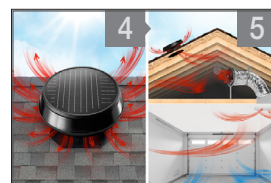
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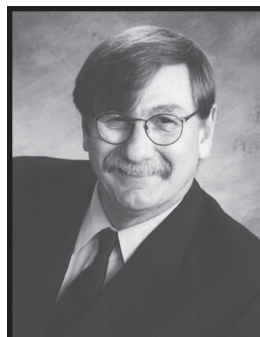
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REAL ESTATE GALLERY

REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



COVID-19 Realities Become Visible

While the beginning of the year started with a bang, the introduction of COVID-19 added wrinkles that have not been fully seen until now.

Due to a significant lack of inventory in the local housing market, prices began to escalate in January 2020 as multiple offers pushed numbers higher. Just when it looked like we were going to see a reversal of the downward trend for 2018 and 2019, the Coronavirus hit and everything changed.

As we all grappled with the new pandemic realities, a few things happened immediately. Some buyers canceled transactions fearing the market would crash. Others lost their down payments due to the plunging stock market and bailed out.

On the listing side, some

sellers retracted homes from the market due to uncertainty and fear of infection. While occupied homes could not be shown at all, and, in some cases, languished on the market, vacant homes that could be accessed went pending at a steady clip.

Clearly, there was a pool of buyers who wanted to buy homes regardless of whether or not we were going through a crisis.

Consequently, the question on everyone's mind has been: "Will we see an actual effect on the market as a result of COVID-19?" It appears that answer is now: "Yes."

May and June are the months we normally see the highest prices in any given year. So far this year, we are seeing a different pattern. 2020 average prices

in San Leandro for single family homes started at \$737,000 in January and rose to \$775,000 in March before dropping to \$741,000 in May.

San Lorenzo started the year at \$728,000, also climbed to \$775,000 before sliding to \$740,000 in May. Same period for Hayward began with \$740,000, bumped up to \$783,000 before settling down to \$741,000.

Castro Valley emerged stronger than the other three, launching 2020 at \$855,000 and aggressively increasing to \$949,000 in April before easing to \$932,000 last month.

The next question is, "Where do we go from here?"

Since no one has been in this situation before, it is extremely hard to say anything for certain. Some have suggested that the normal peak buying season of March to May might be moved out a few months. We simply do not know.

One thing is certain: with no cure and current restrictions, we are still sailing uncharted waters where every day reveals a new real estate reality.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty and a licensed general contractor. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association.



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Coffee Cultivates Rich Soil

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

What is the value of adding coffee grounds to my garden? Can they be spread directly around plants, or should they be composted first? I'm planning on using them around my azaleas and other shade plants, but I don't want to overdo it.

Coffee grounds are widely available, and their primary benefit around plants is as an organic acidifier which makes – or keeps – a soil acid by reducing the pH.

The pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of the soil, a scale that runs from 1 to 14 with 7 being neutral, 6 and below acid, 8 and above being alkaline.

Typically, our clay soil is around neutral (7.0), or slightly alkaline. It varies depending on the water.

Shade-loving plants, along with blueberries, benefit from soil with a pH between 6 to 6.5. Coffee grounds can be liberally spread under the canopy of plants or added to a compost pile.

When applying them directly to the soil surface, they are lightly cultivated into the soil. The mixing of the soil particle

prevents the grounds from forming a moisture barrier or crust. The grounds, along with the other material, break down to form a rich, organic soil amendment or mulch.

Unfortunately, there are no tables available to indicate how much you need to apply to adjust the pH, so they're best used to maintain the current level.

Soil Sulfur or Aluminum Sulfate is the recommended acidifier if you need to make a significant change. Simple pH kits are available at your favorite garden center to test your soil.

Note: One word of warning: Coffee grounds can be harmful to pets, usually dogs, when ingested in large quantity. Caffeine is a problem. It's hard to say what would be a large enough dose be too cause poisoning as the caffeine level varies in the different coffees.

It would be wise to avoid laying large quantities of coffee grounds directly around plants. Instead, bury them in your compost pile. You can also check with your Vet for his or her thoughts. *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.*



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RECENT HOME SALES

Castro Valley

20278 Forest Avenue	94546: \$525,000	2 BD - 1,014 SF - 1981
2879 Crystal Court	94546: \$645,000	3 BD - 1,294 SF - 1978
21296 Highland Drive	94552: \$700,000	4 BD - 1,900 SF - 2006
18550 Carlton Avenue	94546: \$730,000	4 BD - 1,876 SF - 1966
20219 Waterford Place	94552: \$775,000	3 BD - 1,726 SF - 1981
18193 Carmel Drive	94546: \$851,000	3 BD - 1,440 SF - 1962
3461 Brookdale Blvd	94546: \$915,000	3 BD - 1,433 SF - 1952
4788 Proctor Road	94546: \$1,030,000	3 BD - 1,044 SF - 1952
TOTAL SALES:	8	
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$525,000	MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$752,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,030,000	AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$771,375

WEEKEND GARDENER

• Vegetables

Feed your vegetable crop periodically with a mild, balanced fertilizer for bigger and better harvests.

• Add Color, Shade

The first week in July is a good time to add color and shade to the yard. Look for bargains in hibiscus, gardenias, bougainvilleas, white and yellow marguerites, and patio trees in 5-gallon containers.

Brighten up the midsummer months with flowering vines, such as trumpet vines in red, orange or lavender, star jasmine and Hall's honeysuckle.

• Roses

Lightly prune, feed and water roses on a weekly or biweekly basis to encourage them to flower continuously into late fall. Trim faded blooms down to the first 5-part leaf or further to gently

shape the plant. New blooms should appear in about three weeks.

• Lawns

Mow grass often enough to maintain a 2-inch height. Closer cutting in hot weather weakens the turf. Use the grass clippings as mulch around plants, but mix them with leaves or shredded newspapers to keep them from matting.



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Growing Blueberries in Honor of National Blueberry Month

By Melinda Myers
Special to the Forum

It's time to celebrate. July is National blueberry month so enjoy some of these nutritious berries and consider growing a few plants in your landscape.

Don't let a lack of space or poor soil stop you from growing blueberries. Simply plant a few blueberries in containers and enjoy their spring blooms, fall color and tasty and nutritional fruit for snacking, baking and including in

healthful meals.

Blueberries prefer moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Most of us don't have this type of soil. We can, however, create the ideal conditions with a quality potting mix. Or make your own with a combination of sphagnum moss, pine bark and rice hulls or perlite for drainage. Incorporate a slow release fertilizer at planting to provide needed nutrients for 6 to 8 weeks.

Grow one blueberry in a 5-gallon pot with drainage holes. You only need one

plant to have fruit but growing two blueberry plants more than doubles the harvest. Plus, you'll have more flowers and colorful fall foliage to brighten your patio, deck or balcony.

Select a blueberry suited to your growing region or one of the compact blueberry cultivars like Top Hat, Jelly Bean, Blueberry Glaze, and Peach Sorbet. Perpetua is not only compact but produces both a summer and fall crop.

Place your container in a sunny location. Check soil

moisture in your container gardens daily. Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil slightly moist but not soggy wet.

Dress up the container and keep the roots cool and moist with mulch. Cover the soil surface with shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or shredded bark.

Birds are the biggest pest of blueberries. Simply cover the plants with netting as the fruit begins to develop to protect your harvest from hungry birds. This is a much easier

task when dealing with a couple of potted plants versus a large in-ground planting.

You will need to provide a bit of winter protection if your winters are cold. Place your potted blueberries in a sheltered location and cover the container with woodchips to insulate the roots. Or sink the container in a vacant spot in the garden. You can also store your plants in an unheated garage for winter. Just be sure to water the plants anytime the soil is thawed and dry.

And even if you don't get

a big harvest – the flowers and fall color make great additions to any landscape. Visit MelindaMyers.com for tips on harvesting, storing and preserving blueberries.

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



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White Fungus Not Problematic

By Buzz Bertolero
Special to the Forum

Q I recently dug up three dead bushes and noticed the soil had a lot of white stuff mixed in with it. Is it safe to plant in that area again?

A It is common for a white fungus to develop in our clay soils that are generously amended with

organic matter. The white stuff has a stringy texture that can be matted, or it looks like it is weaving its way through the soil particles.

There is no need to worry, although it is a bit of a surprise when you first noticed it. It's Mother Nature at work, breaking down or composting the chunky pieces of organic matter in the soil. It takes some time to break the particles down, depending on

the size. You shouldn't be concerned. New plants are planted without any reservations or ill effects from the fungus.

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



- Dress yourself in safer clothing such as closed shoes, long pants and eye and ear protection.
- Prepare the mowing area: remove rocks, sticks and other debris. Remove children and pets from the area. Mow only dry grass; wet turf can be slippery, and also clogs the mower.
- Spend a few minutes reading the manual to learn how to use the machine safely.
- The engine and exhaust can become extremely hot. Take care when touching the heated surfaces or when handling fuel.
- If the mower stalls, there may still be stored tension in the drive; do not reach in around blades to clear them.

—Brenda Weaver

Source: healthblog.uofmhealth.org

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PHOTO BY MELINDA MYERS



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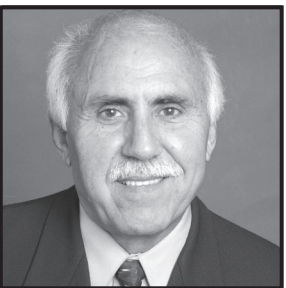
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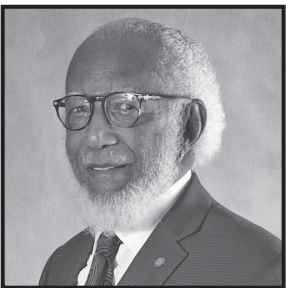
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Columbus: An Open Letter to Governor and Legislature

Editor:

As a son of Italian immigrants, I am stunned and appalled that you would even consider removing the statue of Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella from the State Rotunda. Those monuments not only represent the contributions by Italians to California, but also to our great country.

The toppling of the statue of the great navigator and explorer Christopher Columbus from San Francisco's Telegraph Hill was driven by a mob mentality. It is an insult and an affront to people of Italian heritage, and to the memory of those such as A.P. Giannini who was extremely instrumental in rebuilding San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake.

Whether you agree with it or not, as descendants of Italian immigrants we are entitled to the preservation of our history. The contributions made by Italian's to our state and country are immeasurable and should not be diminished.

I have heard the argument that Columbus was a polarizing figure. Really, ladies and gentlemen of the California Legislature, you were not elected for the purpose of, nor do you have the right of, re-writing history.

The first recorded celebration of Christopher Columbus in the U.S. was in 1792 and he has been celebrated in San Francisco since 1869. In 1891 there was a lynching of 11 Italians in New Orleans; they were murdered by a mob. It was one of the largest mass lynchings in American history.

Although discrimination and abuse of Italian Americans continued, as a people we have moved forward from those dark days of injustices. The attacks on Christopher Columbus are unfair and obscure the reason why Columbus Day matters to Italian Americans. The successes of Italian Americans are being erased by a new wave of bigotry, intolerance, and prejudice by a mob mentality in order to re-write history in their own vision.

Columbus Day holds a special significance for me. October 12, 1942 was the day that my father and mother became naturalized American Citizens.

It was also the date that President Roosevelt announced the lifting of restrictions on non-citizen Italian immigrants who, although in this country legally, at the outbreak of WWII, were declared to be enemy aliens. The President lifted the restrictions, recognizing the loyalty and contributions made to our country by the Italian people. I ask that you please do not erase our proud heritage.

—Velio A Bronzini, Castro Valley

BLM Signs Defaced

Editor:

Interesting what you learn about people and places. I've lived in Castro Valley above Cold Water for 20 years now.

Recently, in addition to a "We Got This" sign posted on the fence (community billboard) leading up Cold Water, someone posted a "Black Lives Matter" sign. I was actually quite proud



of my little neighborhood.

A few days later, the Black Lives Matter sign was gone. I thought perhaps it was just cardboard and fell away. Another day or so passed and the sign reappeared, only to be removed again.

At that point I created a plywood sign of my own - just in case the removal was an act of nature - i.e. a windy day - and not the act of a person in the neighborhood.

Two days later, the plywood sign was flipped, but unable to be completely removed. I repaired it. Another neighbor then added a new sign reading "All Lives Matter when Black Lives matter." Great sign and exactly the point so many seem to be missing.

To my dismay, I awoke this morning to find both signs defaced. Seems many still don't get it. For those who don't, just picture your son or daughter on the ground with a knee on their neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds....

—Reginald Conley, Castro Valley

Urges Postponement of New CVSan Building

Editor:

I attended the June 23 telephonic Special Board Meeting of the Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan). The Board of Directors approved (5-0) to build a \$12M Operations and Engineering Building (formerly known as the Corporation Yard) at Center St. and Castro Valley Blvd. The \$12M cost is after selling the current Administration and Parking Facility at Marshall Street to HARD for \$1.6M.

This is not the time to be spending millions of dollars on a non-essential Corporation Yard. We are currently in the COVID-19 global pandemic. This has resulted in our economy crashing. Some experts say we are in a major recession.

Many local districts are struggling with significant budget deficits, such as our local school districts. The State of California is struggling with a significant budget deficit. The "\$6 billion surplus to a \$54.3 billion deficit is due to COVID-19." Millions of people have lost their jobs, resulting in economic chaos.

Several months back, because of the COVID-19 medical and economic crisis, all members of the Board were unwilling to give themselves a \$10 per meeting raise from \$230 to \$240 per meeting.

I strongly urge that the Board of Directors postpone building this Corporation Yard that will cost the CVSan ratepayers well over 12 million dollars, not to mention the millions of dollars that CVSan has already spent on this frivolous endeavor. This significant expenditure might be better tolerated when the economy stabilizes or improves.

It should be noted that the current CVSan Administration building is only 23 years-old. There is no urgent need to move at this time.

These 12 million dollars, which is being taken from the reserve fund, could be better used toward repairing or replacing CVSan's dilapidated sewer mains.

—Ken Owen, Castro Valley

Without People There's No Economy

Editor:

From the start of this pandemic many people have written to the Forum about "protecting the economy."

As I recall, it was in March that President Trump told us that

The Week Ahead

● Friday, July 3: Drive-Through US Flag Giveaway

Cub Scout Pack 703 will be hosting a drive-through US Flag Giveaway and fundraiser from 4 to 6 p.m. this Friday, in the parking lot between Chabot Elementary School and the Castro Valley Community Center, 19104 Lake Chabot Road. Scouts and their families will be practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Flags are packaged and will be handed to participants by adult leaders. Cash donations are appreciated, but are not required. You can contact Michael Kusiak at michaelkusiak@gmail.com if you have any questions, would like a flag delivered to you, or would like to make a donation online.

● Saturday & Sunday, July 4-5: Recall Newsom Petition Drive

A drive to collect signatures to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom will be held at Redwood Road and Castro Valley Blvd. (in front of the Safeway) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday

● Tuesday, July 7: Rotary Meeting on Zoom

Out-going Rotary President Todd Anglin and incoming President Gary Howard will summarize the past and next year's activities for the Rotary Club of Castro Valley at a virtual Zoom meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday. More information is available at castrovalleyrotary.org.

the "cure," i.e., individuals isolating or quarantining themselves, was worse than the "disease," i.e., the disastrous economic results from the self isolating, quarantining, etc.

Some economist and politicians agreed with President Trump. My questions are: If the economy is so important, where were those very same economists and politicians that could have demanded an early (January would have been a good month to start) and effective scientific response to the pandemic?

Where were all the business people in January that could have demanded a quick and effective response to mitigate the human and economic cost of the pandemic?

Now, why should the rest of us march back to our places of work, play, consuming, etc. and expose ourselves, our families, friends, etc., to the illness and death of the coronavirus?

I agree that our economy is hurting. I also think that the leading economists and politicians failed to protect the very economy they've been so proud of. Let's remember: without people there is no economy.

Good Luck to all of us,

—Jack Aydelott, Castro Valley

Who Really Cares?

Editor:

Mr. Hauer, our local infectious disease expert and constitutional law scholar is now bestowing his wisdom of "herd immunity" upon us in regards to COVID-19 ("Shutting Down vs. Herd Immunity," Letters, June 3). Sounds familiar - Darwin's Natural Selection.

Mr. Hauer may have something this time. Who really cares about grandparents, senior citizens, sick or disabled children? They're all pretty much worthless. Or how about those veterans lying around in VA hospitals, many paralyzed, missing arms and legs, blind, costing us all that money and dragging down the economy.

Wasn't it draft-dodger Trump who called the late Senator John McCain a loser because he was a Prisoner Of War?

We've lost a thousand-plus-and-counting veterans in VA hospitals to COVID-19.

Who cares if seniors have worked all their lives raising families, paying taxes and fighting wars to keep us free? Who cares that many seniors and vets volunteer their time in hospitals, schools, libraries, food banks and taking care of grandkids so parents can work, pay the mortgage and put food on the table?

I am one of those, Mr. Hauer, and some mornings I do feel worthless. But then the phone rings, it's my daughter: "Can I check out the car, it's making a funny noise?" or it's the grandkids calling to see if we need anything from the store, or it's friends calling about a BBQ this weekend. So guess what. Maybe I'm not that worthless and people still care.

So, pass me my second cup of coffee and that damn mask and let's get on with this fight! If we can save one life - be if young or old - it will all be worth it.

—Fred Kopperdahl, Castro Valley

Systemic Hatred

Editor:

The systemic violent violators must be held responsible. The systemic hatred of racism in America has to stop.

The systemic hatred against President Trump has to stop.

United against hate hopefully means all hate.

—Mary Fells, Castro Valley

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



Local Art Shows For View Online

Above, "Dragon," an acrylic by Christina Alin Huang is part of the second online exhibition by A.R.T., Inc. a Castro Valley organization for artists and art patrons. This viral show is presented to keep residents aware of the great artists in their community. It is easy to view, just visit photos.app.goo.gl/93gzxUL5t3XZVz4e8.

Below, "George Floyd," encaustic by Castro Valley artist Winifred Thompson is currently featured in the "Arts & Letters" online exhibit by members of the Hayward Arts Council. The exhibit features art with at least one word of text in any language. A variety of media and poetry is on view at www.haywardartscouncil.org.



SENIORS

Budget Win for Seniors, Low-Income Adults

Q I heard that the proposed California Budget cuts to the Medi-Cal program are now off the table. Is that true?

By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A Yes! Some background: Faced with a proposed \$54 Billion Budget Deficit, last month Governor Newsom had proposed drastic cuts to Medi-Cal and other social programs that serve low income seniors and the disabled.

Fortunately, the California State Senate and Assembly just soundly rejected those cuts included in the

Governor's "May Revise" Budget. Instead, they agreed to a budget deal that would address the deficit by relying, instead, on a combination of drawing on reserves, borrowing from special funds, temporary furloughs for state workers, limiting corporate tax credits and relying upon Congress to pass a relief package for states and local government.

This is very good news. It means that the proposed cuts to Medi-Cal and most other social service programs are now off the table. However, a part of the deal was that the Governor could make these cuts effective July, 2021, if state finances do not approve.

Here is a list of what was saved:

- 1) Home and Community-Based Services (aka, adult day care)
- 2) The Multi-purpose Senior Services Program ("MSSP")
- 3) The In-Home Supportive Services Program ("IHSS");
- 4) SSI/SSP: Current SSI/SSP benefit levels will remain;
- 5) Other Senior Programs: the budget preserves senior nutrition, caregiver resource centers, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, aging and disability resource centers, and Independent Living Centers.
- 6) Increased Income Limits to Qualify for the "Aged, Blind and Disabled Program", slated for August 1, 2020, is still on schedule, which will permit more seniors to qualify for "No Share of Cost Medi-Cal," as well as dental benefits.
- 7) Very important: the deal avoided reinstatement of the old, draconian pre-2017 rules, which allowed the state to recover the



value of Medi-Cal nursing home benefits received during lifetime, which claims often resulted in the forced sale of homes and the displacements of low income families after the death of their loved ones.

This Budget Deal is a very big deal, as the May reductions proposed to target some of the most vulnerable seniors and the disabled.

Unfortunately, the budget did not include extending Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented senior immigrants, but it does include intent language to do so should funding become available.

Saving these programs was the result of an effort by many well-intentioned groups and citizens who called their legislators, and the good will of our Governor and Legislators.

As Hilary Clinton once said, it "takes a Village" to preserve our community.

Gene L. Osofsky is an estate planning and elder law attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at www.LawyerForSeniors.com

Our Routines Are Out Of Sync, Still Stay on Top of Voting, Taxes

By Matilda Charles
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The new ways we shop for groceries is only the tip of the iceberg this year. Thanks to the coronavirus, there are a number of other things we will likely end up doing in a different way.

Many of us have put aside one item on our annual to-do list: filing our taxes. The tax due date was pushed back to July 15, and that date is coming up quickly. If you'll owe taxes and generally send in a cashier's check with your return, you'll need to get that in advance if you don't want to stand in line in your bank.

Many banks are providing services through the drive-up window. Call to ask if you can arrange

for a cashier's check for you at the drive-up. Then, to keep from standing in line at the post office to send it certified mail, check with a UPS store. Many of them can do the full array of post office services, and they're likely to be less busy. Something else to consider: When it's time to vote this year, consider whether you'd rather vote by mail than stand in line. Call your town office and find out how early you need to send in your request for a ballot, as well as return the ballot itself. A number of election offices have secured drop boxes (they look like mail boxes) outside the building. California also has in-person early voting during a designated pre-election day period.

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Spectrum Senior Lunches

Take-away lunches are available curbside for seniors 60 and over at United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., Castro Valley on Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 12:30 p.m. A donation of \$3.75 per meal is suggested. Participants must be registered for the program at www.SpectrumCS.org (or, pickup a registration form on-site). Call 3 days in advance to 510-881-6768 and leave your name, phone number, the day(s) you want to reserve a meal and the location. More info at www.SpectrumCS.org.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Kaysie Watanabe

Kaysie Watanabe is our Athlete of the Week. The Castro Valley native was a 4-year Varsity player on the Girls' Basketball team at Bishop O'Dowd High School.

Kaysie improved her game this year to become a starting Point Guard. The team won the NorCal Section game and was scheduled to go to state competition before the pandemic.

Kaysie will be attending Pacific University in Oregon this fall.

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For more information, visit cvsan.org/HHW.

Check out CVSan's 2020 Calendar for more tips on cultivating a sustainable home, available online at cvsan.org/car.



Please visit cvsan.org for an updated schedule of all CVSan events.

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News Briefs

ACI Offices Now Open

After months of being closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic, Alameda County Industries (ACI) offices at 610 Aladdin Ave. in San Leandro have reopened. Residents and businesses can visit the office to pay a bill, purchase ACI products or ask questions related to ACI services. Social distancing rules are in effect, and a face covering is required for entry. Services are also available at info@alameda-county-industries.com or by calling 510-484-1400.

BART Weekend Closures

Two Hayward BART stations will be out of operation for five weekends this summer and will be linked by a "bus bridge." Closure weekends will be July 18-19; Aug. 1-2; Aug. 22-23; Sept. 5-6-7; and Sept. 19-20. AC Transit's weekend service will still serve the two stations. BART crews will work around the clock on the affected weekends to install more than 4,000 feet of new rails and 700 concrete railroad ties.

CVSan Textile Collection

Castro Valley Sanitary District's second Textile Collection Week, held June 1-5, resulted in a grand total of 34,020 pounds – more than 17 tons – of textiles that were collected and diverted from landfill. Residents set out bagged textiles at the curb for collection by Alameda County Industries (ACI) on their regular collection day. The textiles will be distributed for resale and recycling. The next collection week will be Oct. 5-9. Visit: cvsan.org/Textiles for more.

INDEPENDENCE DAY SCHEDULES

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2020

Government Operations

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

Business Offices

All financial institutions and stock exchanges will be closed. Most business offices, including The Forum, will be closed.

Stores & Restaurants

Some will be open but may be operating on reduced schedules. Check ahead to be sure.

Public Transportation

BART and AC Transit buses will operate on a Sunday schedule on July 4.

Garbage Collection

Garbage collection services will occur as scheduled by Alameda County Industries (ACI). Please call ACI at 510-483-1400 with billing and customer service questions or visit ACI's website www.alameda-county-industries.com.

Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day. Please call 510-506-5821 for sewer emergencies. Visit www.cvsan.org for more information regarding CVSan services and programs.

Graduations and Honors

Arianna Kan of Castro Valley was awarded a bachelor of science degree in robotics engineering with distinction at Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute. WPI celebrated the Class of 2020 with a socially distanced commencement season in place of its traditional 152nd Commencement exercises.

Gier Chen of Castro Valley was named to the Westminster College Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. Chen is majoring in Business Administration and Music as a Second Major. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher. Westminster is a private liberal arts college in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Lucy Henneker of Castro Valley was named to the Dean's List for Spring 2020 Semester at Wheaton College, a coeducational Christian liberal arts college in Wheaton, Ill. To earn Dean's List honors, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher.

LEGAL NOTICE

FILED
MAY 22, 2020
MELISSA WILK
County Clerk
ALAMEDA COUNTY
By: _____, Deputy
FILE NO. 570551

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17900-17930

The name of the business(es):
Happy Rabbit Homestead located at 1650 152nd Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578, in Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amy Coulter, 1650 152nd Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. This business commenced N/A.
/s/ Amy Coulter
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on date indicated by file stamp above.
Expires MAY 22, 2025
JUNE 17, 24, JULY 01, 8, 2020
270-CVF

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