

## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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YEAR 30

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INSIDE YOUR  
FORUM

## NEWS



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Dr. Harry Carter of Castro Valley honored at choir's 40th anniversary

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PHOTOS BY CV ROTARY CLUB

## Spreading Holiday Cheer

Santa Claus and his helpers arrive at the Adult School by fire engine — sirens blaring and lights flashing — as the The Rotary Club of Castro Valley hosted its annual Children's Christmas Party for kids and families living in local shelters. More than a hundred children and adults attended the Dec. 11 event where each child received a personal gift and a word of encouragement from Santa. Dinner was prepared and served by Rotary members Cliff Sherwood, Randy Vanderbilt, Stephen Gray and Dan Willits, and members of the Castro Valley Sanitary District. The party was chaired by Rotarian Mark Poniatowski with help from others in the club and the community. Gifts were provided by the local California Highway Patrol Toy Collection Program and wrapped by student members of the Redwood Christian High School InterAct Club.

## \$10 Million Plan to Assist Homeless OK'd Record Holiday Travel

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has approved a three-year "homelessness action plan" for Castro Valley and other unincorporated areas, including San Lorenzo, Cherryland and Ashland. The plan would include dedicated parking sites for people living in their cars, the construction of tiny homes, a mobile hygiene unit, two winter shelters, a downtown street litter team, and more.

The \$10.5-million plan begins in January on services for the estimated 440 homeless people living in the unincorporated area, said Chris Bazar, director of the county's community development agency at a Board of Supervisors meeting last week.

The plan's basic goal is to meet immediate needs of the homeless by linking them to services including temporary shelter, food, and showers. The overall goal is to reduce the number of people living on the streets, Bazar said.

For every homeless person seen on the street, many more are liv-



FILE PHOTO BY BRUCE ROBERTS

**BIG IDEA:** Tom Flemming, who was long bothered by the plight of the homeless, with one of the "tiny houses" he built last year in his Hayward back yard.

ing in the creeks and in hidden encampments according to data from both the county public works and sheriff's offices. The homeless population has increased in Alameda County by nearly 40 percent just since

According to data from both the

county public works and sheriff's offices, for every homeless person you see on the street, there are many more living in the creeks and in hidden encampments, Bazar said. The county says the homeless population has increased by nearly 40 percent in the past three years.

Last January, the county mapped out these encampments where up to 15 people live together on a semipermanent basis. Many are located along the San Lorenzo Creek. There's one at Cull Canyon in Castro Valley and another by the railroad tracks on Springlake Drive.

One of the first steps of the new action plan will be to contact the residents of the encampments and determine how to best help them, county officials said. The biggest cost identified so far is \$1.2-million to establish three to five safe parking sites where people living in their cars can park overnight. There would be access to restrooms and outreach workers at each site, but locations have not yet been decided.

The county estimates that around 50 people are living in their cars in the unincorporated area on any given night.

The plan also includes \$310,000 in funding earmarked for the "tiny home" project in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot at 2490 Grove Way in Castro Valley.

see PLAN on page 6

The busiest holiday travel season in state history begins this Saturday with AAA predicting that more than 12 million Californians will hit the road during what for many will be a four-day weekend. "There will be almost 700,000 more Californians traveling in 2018 compared with last year, which was the state's previous record forecast, says Michael Blasky of Triple-A.

INRIX, a global mobility analytics company, expects drivers will experience the greatest amount of congestion starting today — as commuters and holiday travelers mix on the busiest roadways. Tomorrow, Dec. 20, will be the nation's worst day to travel.

In addition, more than 1.5 million Californians will take flight, up about 5.5 percent from last year. Expect all major airports to be extremely busy — this is AAA's highest projected air travel since 2003.

## Castro Valley Weather Dec. 19 - 23, 2018



Wednesday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 62° Low 47°



Thursday  
Partly Sunny  
High 58° Low 49°



Friday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 58 Low 41°



Saturday  
Partly Sunny  
High 58° Low 43°



Sunday  
Showers  
High 59° Low 47°

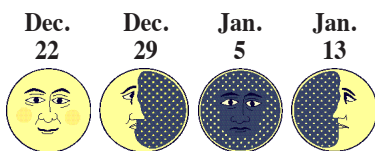
### Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.85  
Season To Date: 06.43  
Normal To Date: 06.19  
Season Average: 21.22

Sun sets at 4:52 p.m. today, rises at 7:20 a.m. Thursday.

### Moon Phases



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## Former High School Performers Teaming Up for New Year's Eve

Third in a series highlighting local talent featured in "Duetto," the Second Annual New Year's Eve celebration at Castro Valley Center for the Arts on Dec. 31 at 6:00 p.m. For tickets, please visit: [www.cvartsfoundation.org.shows](http://www.cvartsfoundation.org.shows)

By Terry Liebowitz  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM



Dr. Maggie Francisco

Children are constantly being asked, "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

Maggie Francisco (CVHS '08) and Erin Sullivan (CVHS '12) credit their opportunities with the choir and drama programs at Castro Valley High School as instrumental in achieving their career goals.

Maggie Francisco headed to University of Pacific majoring in Biochemistry (minoring in music) on her way to becoming an Optometrist.

Erin Sullivan graduated from NYU Tisch in Drama with an emphasis in musical theater and still lives in New York pursuing her dream of earning her living as an actor. She has since expanded her work to include TV/film, and voiceovers.

At the CV Center for the Arts,

Maggie had "many hats" during high school as actress, soloist, stage manager, director. Erin added choreographer to the list.

Maggie's starring role was playing Belle in "Beauty and the Beast," a role she had been prepping for since preschool when she used a diaper for Belle's signature headscarf and her Easter basket filled with Legos to "feed

the chickens" as she mimicked the Disney movie.

Erin showed her interest early too, when she danced on stage as a three year old, entertaining the cast of "King and I" on the Broadway stage where her uncle was performing.

Erin studied at Tamie's Studio and later at Michelle's Dance X-plosion. She played Sharpay in "High School Musical" and Rosie in "Bye, Bye Birdie" as well as choreographed the popular Pops Concerts while at CVHS.

As top students, both women credit their involvement with the arts in giving balance to their lives, engendering confidence and teaching them leadership skills. Come see Erin and Maggie as they return to their alma mater.

Terry Liebowitz is a founding member of the Castro Valley Arts Foundation.

## Toy Shortage at Davis Street

Davis Street Family Resource Center in San Leandro is facing a severe toy shortage for its Holiday Basket program. Some 1,500 children are at risk of not receiving toys for Christmas. The biggest

shortage of toys is for children ages 9-15 although all age appropriate toys are needed. Drop off new, unwrapped toys at 3081 Teagarden Street in San Leandro from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. through tomorrow.



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PHOTOS BY LINDA SANDSMARK

San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir's 40th anniversary concert and gala was held last month at Kehilla Community Synagogue, Piedmont.

## CV's Dr. Harry Carter Honored At Choir's 40th Anniversary Gala

Linda Sandmark  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

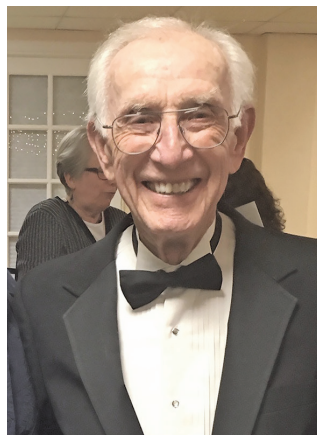
Castro Valley resident Dr. Harry Carter made a special encore appearance last month at a 40th anniversary gala for the San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir, which he founded in 1978.

Carter and the choir's subsequent three directors each took a turn conducting at the event, inviting past choir members to join in the final two pieces.

The choir, which has traveled the world and also gives local performances, practices at Faith Lutheran Church in Castro Valley. They sing a cappella and accompanied masterworks from the 15th through the 21st centuries.

"It all started when my wife Ellen and I went to Europe to teach at the U.S. Army dependents' school in Karlsruhe, Germany. This was 1960 to 1961, and during that year we sang in a German chamber choir," says Carter.

A musical event called "Europa Cantat" was organized by a friend there, in hopes of bridging the continued animosity between the German and French people after WWII.



Castro Valley resident  
Dr. Harry Carter

"They couldn't speak to each other, but they could sing together," Carter says.

When he returned to the states, Carter eventually became a choral music professor at Cal State Hayward. His European friends urged him to bring a choir over to a Europa Cantat, which is held every three years. Carter took up the suggestion, bringing a choir of about 40 Cal State students to a 1979 Cantat in Lucerne, Switzerland.

One of the original choir members, Sarah Cane, joined the group

in her senior year of college.

"The opportunities and adventures brought to a 21-year-old informed my whole future. Over the next three decades, Harry and Ellen took us to Europe 10 times," said Cane in the gala's program notes.

Carter adds, "It was great fun. When we started, we didn't realize that this would still be a choir in 40 years. It was always delightful traveling with them, because we all knew each other.

"We have lots of wonderful memories, and the level of singing difficult pieces was so good. We often did joint concerts with European choirs."

After Carter's retirement, the group was directed by David Stein, Anthony Pasqua and Ofer Dal Lal. Many Castro Valley residents have joined San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir over the years, including the Carter's son Geoff and Canyon Middle School choir director Katie Burke.

The choir gives its final performance for the year, directed by Ofer Dal Lal, this Saturday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. at St. Gregory of Nysa Episcopal Church, 500 DeHaro St., San Francisco.

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



### Spousal Battery

Sunday, December 16: at 9:21 a.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent Sheriff's deputies to an apartment on Grove Way near Center Street. There, they arrested a 39-year-old woman on suspicion of spousal battery. Deputies took the woman into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

### Probation Violation And Illegal Narcotics

Friday, December 14: at 8:37 p.m., a 27-year-old man from San Lorenzo was arrested on suspicion of violating the terms of his probation, possession of illegal narcotics, and possession of methamphetamine drugs. Deputies pulled the man over for a traffic citation on Castro Valley Boulevard near the on ramp for westbound Interstate 580. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

### Wanted Man with A Stolen Vehicle

Thursday, December 13: at 8:21 p.m., deputies arrested a 21-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of a stolen vehicle. The man was also wanted for a related warrant issued for his capture. Deputies served the warrant at a home on Ada Street near Star Avenue. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$5,000 in bail.

### Family Spat in Parking Lot

Thursday, December 13: at 9:30 p.m., a 30-year-old man from San Leandro was arrested on suspicion of spousal battery and damaging a phone used to call for help. Deputies responded to an altercation in the parking lot of a grocery store on Redwood Road near Castro Valley Boulevard. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody. The victim was treated at the scene.

### Wanted Man, Hidden Knife

Friday, December 14: at 1:51 a.m., deputies arrested a 39-year-old man with no permanent address on suspicion of possession of a concealed knife with a blade longer than 2 inches. The man was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for his capture. Deputies stopped the man for questioning outside a business on Castro Valley Boulevard and Marshall Street where they confirmed his warrant. They took the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$5,000 in bail.

### Wanted Man Blasting Music

Friday, December 14: at 3:33 a.m., a 51-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested after deputies pulled him over for blasting his car stereo in the middle of the night. Deputies report the man was wanted as part of a warrant issued for his capture. During their questioning, the man was additionally charged with possession of illegal drugs and paraphernalia. Deputies transported the man to Santa Rita Jail pending \$32,000 in bail.

## Taking Oath of Allegiance

Bahroz Mohamad and wife Husna took their oath of allegiance to become new U.S. citizens at Hayward City Hall on Friday.

Bahroz was recently honored at the White House for his outstanding service in a battle in Afghanistan. He entered the U.S. in 2012 on a special visa for Afghans who served the Army as translators.

The Hayward couple were among 44 immigrants from 19 nations sworn in by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director John Kramar during the morning ceremony.



PHOTO BY SHARON RUMMERY

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# RECENT HOME SALES

## Castro Valley

18110 Apricot Way	94546: \$814,000	3 BD - 2,248 SF	2002
18651 Pepper Street	94546: \$875,000	3 BD - 1,562 SF	2000
19998 Shadow Creek Cir	94552: \$925,000	4 BD - 1,970 SF	1999
20967 Glenwood Drive	94552: \$935,000	3 BD - 2,197 SF	1994
18549 Greenridge Court	94552: \$1,125,000		
18549 Greenridge Court	94552: \$1,125,000	2,119 SF	1976
20175 San Miguel Ave	94546: \$1,850,000	3 BD - 756 SF	1953
7144 Dublin Meadows St	94568: \$540,000	2 BD - 1,007 SF	1992
TOTAL SALES: 8			
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$508,000		MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$930,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,850,000		AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$1,019,625	

## San Leandro

3811 Yorkshire Street #2	94578: \$435,000	2 BD - 918 SF	1987
357 Maud Avenue	94577: \$475,000	2 BD - 1,568 SF	1972
16800 Los Banos Street	94578: \$508,000	4 BD - 1,603 SF	1955
1353 Jean Way	94577: \$515,000	2 BD - 995 SF	1942
891 Martin Boulevard	94577: \$545,000	2 BD - 817 SF	1942
2078 Trombas Avenue	94577: \$605,000	2 BD - 1,009 SF	1944
1661 Grand Avenue	94577: \$610,000	3 BD - 1,060 SF	1946
1096 Auburn Avenue	94579: \$615,000	3 BD - 1,081 SF	1951
15305 Churchill Street	94579: \$630,000	3 BD - 1,092 SF	1950
3733 Carmel Way	94578: \$650,000	3 BD - 1,606 SF	1954
1582 Wayne Avenue	94577: \$670,000	4 BD - 1,968 SF	1942
380 Bowling Green Street	94577: \$680,000	3 BD - 1,067 SF	1942
1060 Belleau Street	94579: \$700,000	3 BD - 1,419 SF	1958
523 Warden Avenue	94577: \$730,000	4 BD - 2,080 SF	1946
1910 Lomita Drive	94578: \$751,000	3 BD - 2,115 SF	1968
15568 Baypoint Avenue	94579: \$827,000	4 BD - 2,405 SF	2000
16621 Selby Drive	94578: \$830,000	3 BD - 1,837 SF	1965
2093 Fairway Drive	94577: \$1,300,000	8 BD - 3,240 SF	1963
1049 Via Honda	194580: \$700,000	3 BD - 1,484 SF	1965
TOTAL SALES: 19			
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$315,000		MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$630,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,300,000		AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$652,157	

## The Week Ahead

### ● Wednesday, December 19: *Free Holiday Concert*

Get your family and friends together for some holiday cheer at a free concert this evening at 7:30. The Castro Valley Adult School Community Band gets rave reviews for its holiday concerts conducted by Kathy Maier. The event will be held in the Castro Valley High School Cafeteria and be followed by free refreshments courtesy of Castro Valley Adult & Career Education.

### ● Saturday, December 22: *Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa*

Drop by the San Leandro Church of Christ at 601 MacArthur Blvd. from 5 - 7:30 p.m. this Saturday to munch on homemade cookies and sip hot chocolate while joining in singing a carol or two. Invite a friend! We'll gather in front of the church building on the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lewis Avenue.

### ● Saturday, December 22: *Woodwind & Brass Concert*

Enjoy live music in the Chabot Room at Castro Valley Library at 2 p.m. this Saturday as two local groups — the Hillside Woodwind Quintet and the Montecito Brass Ensemble — present a program of light classical and seasonal music. Each group will perform individually and the program will conclude with an ensemble performance. Members of

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## Tuesday, December 25, 2018 Christmas Day Schedules

● **Government:** Christmas will be observed as a federal, state, county and city holiday on Tuesday, Dec. 25. Except for emergency services, all government offices will be closed. The U.S. Postal Service, however, will be making some package deliveries.

● **Stores, Offices, Restaurants:** Some supermarkets, restaurants and pharmacies may be open, but most of those will be operating on a shortened schedule, so plan ahead for food and medical needs. All banks and nearly all business offices, including the Forum office in San Leandro, will be closed on Monday.

● **Public Transit:** BART trains and AC Transit buses will operate on a normal Sunday schedule. For other transit schedules (ferries, etc.), visit [transit.511.org/schedules/holiday.aspx](http://transit.511.org/schedules/holiday.aspx)

● **Garbage Collection:** Recycling, organics, and garbage collection services will occur one day later starting on Dec. 26. Residents and businesses with Thursday collection days will have pick up on Friday and those with Friday collection days will have pick up on Saturday. Holiday trees will be collected curbside on January 7-11 and 14-18, 2019. Visit [www.cvsan.org/HolidayTrees](http://www.cvsan.org/HolidayTrees) for more information on collection guidelines.

Waste Management of Alameda County offices, the 98th Avenue Cashier, Hayward Pay Station, and Call Center will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25. For solid waste service questions, call 510-537-5500 (residential) or 510-613-8700 (commercial/business).

● **Castro Valley Sanitary District** offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25. Call 510-506-5821 for sewer emergencies. For other information regarding CVSan visit [www.cvsan.org](http://www.cvsan.org).

the groups are local residents who wish to share their love of music with the community. The groups have performed throughout the Bay Area. No reservations are required. For more information call 510-667-7900, or see Events at [www.aclibrary.org/branches/CSV](http://www.aclibrary.org/branches/CSV)

### ● Tuesday, December 25: *Christmas Concert & Dinner*

Badarikashrama., at 15602 Maubert Ave. in San Leandro, invites you to a Christmas Concert and International Vegetarian Dinner, featuring Indian and other cuisines, and many, many vegan items, at 3 p.m. on Christmas Day. The concert will be by Shubangi Sakhalakar with Vivek Datar. The event is free and open to all. Reservations suggested but no one will be turned away. Call 510-278-2444 for information.

### ● Monday, December 31: *Plethos New Year's Eve Party*

Ring in 2019 with Castro Valley's newest community theatre company — Plethos Productions — and a Talent Showdown with stand-up comedy and musical theatre, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. New Year's Eve at Ristorante Di Parma, 22532 Foothill Blvd. For tickets (\$50, which includes tasty Italian small plates and champagne toast), visit [Plethos.org](http://Plethos.org)

### ● Wednesday, January 2: *Pirate Escape Room Adventure*

Can you beat the clock? The Castro Valley Library presents "Pirate Escape Room Adventure" starting at 12 noon on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Designed for families and teens, you'll work as a team using your wits to solve puzzles, unlock clues and escape the Room to get the treasure. Register you and your family and friends for 1 of 3 time slots: 12 noon for families; 1:30 p.m. for teens; and 3 p.m. for families. Children under 12 must be accompanied by at least 1 adult. For more information or to register, call 510-667-7900 or visit [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)

### ● Tuesday, January 8: *Buon Tempo Family-Style Dinner*

Everyone is welcome to attend the next Buon Tempo Club dinner on Jan. 8, when Chef John Tandi and crew will be serving a five-course family-style dinner of Chicken with Polenta, at 7 p.m. at Mt. Tabor Hall, Transfiguration Church, 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd. (across from the 580 Marketplace). Red and white wine and soda are also included. Happy hour is at 6 p.m. The dinner is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Make reservations by Friday, Jan. 4, by calling the Buon Tempo dinner line at 510-483-6929 (option 1). For more information about events/membership visit [www.buontempo.org](http://www.buontempo.org)

### ● Thursday, January 10: *"Science Fair" Movie Screening*

"Science Fair," an award-winning National Geographic documentary

## REGULAR GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

that inspires students and community involvement in science programs, will be shown free at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 10. The film follows nine high school students from around the globe as they navigate rivalries and setbacks on their journey to compete at The International Science and Engineering Fair.

### ● Saturday, January 12: *Education Funding Rally*

The East Bay Coalition for Public Education will hold a rally for increased funding for education, at noon on Jan. 12 in Frank Ogawa Plaza at Oakland City Hall. Let the incoming governor and legislature know that students deserve better funded schools.

## Arts & Entertainment

## CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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

● **"Duettos" New Year's Eve Celebration**, a magical evening of music, featuring Matthew Liebowitz, guitarist Glen Deardorff, and Maggie Francisco and Erin Sullivan performing Broadway favorites and Billboard hits. The party starts at 6 p.m. with champagne and small bites, followed by the show at 7:30 p.m. (Please, only 21+ may attend.) For tickets, visit [cvartsfoundation.org/shows](http://cvartsfoundation.org/shows)

● **"The Nutcracker,"** Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, will be presented in its full length by the Alameda Civic Ballet as it returns to the Castro Valley Center for the Arts for three performances: at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 22-23. Alameda Civic Ballet is celebrating its 13th production of its Nutcracker ballet this year. *Purchase tickets (\$24-\$38) at [www.AlamedaNutcracker.com](http://www.AlamedaNutcracker.com) or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3601382](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3601382) or call 1-800-838-3006 for these performances.*

## OTHER THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **"Kill Me, Deadly,"** a theatre production of Bill Robens' hilarious film noir spoof, will be performed by students of the Castro Valley Dramatic Arts Academy on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 21-22 at 7 p.m. at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre in Hayward. For tickets (\$25 adults/\$20 students) visit [cvdaa.org](http://cvdaa.org)

## ART GALLERIES & ART INSTRUCTION

● **Learn to Paint with Watercolor:** San Lorenzo Adult School is offering a watercolor painting class on Wednesday mornings with instructor Monica Satterthwaite. All levels are welcome, beginners to experienced painters. The 12-week course is \$75 plus materials. Register in person at the San Lorenzo Adult School, 820 Bockman Road, San Lorenzo. For time and other information, call 510-317-4200.

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

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

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

## Submissions to The Forum

*The Community Calendar is for publicizing the activities of non-profit organizations, local government agencies, charities and community groups. It is not intended to be used for the advertising of commercial events, whether admission is charged or free. Items for the Community Calendar as well as news submissions must be received by 6 p.m. Friday for inclusion in the following Wednesday's newspaper. Send information in an email to: [fredz@ebpublishing.com](mailto:fredz@ebpublishing.com). Do not send flyers or posters as we cannot use them.*

## HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** You might be busier than you had expected right now. But between the socializing rounds and the workplace tasks, there are opportunities for special moments with that certain someone.



**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Your creative approach leads to a quicker-than-expected solution to a workplace problem. Now you can devote more time to that proposal you hope to introduce by midmonth.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Technological glitches create problems early on. But by midweek, all runs smoothly once again, and you're well and truly on your way to meeting all your deadlines.



**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Your energy levels are high, and you feel you can handle everything that comes along. But try to take a break from your hectic pace for some quiet time with someone close to you.



**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Before you pounce on that shiny new opportunity, take more time to check it out to see how much substance actually lies beneath all that glitter. A family member has important news.



**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** A personal situation you thought was resolved resurfaces, thanks to a possibly well-intentioned move that went awry. Deal with it as soon as possible. Accept the help of a trusted friend.



**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** That goal you set way back when is finally in sight. Maintain your focus on achieving it, and don't allow yourself to be distracted by unimportant demands for your attention.



**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** A temperamental flare-up creates negative feelings that need to be dealt with immediately. But things once again go well after the apologies are made and hurt feelings are soothed.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** An early impulsive act causes confusion. But all is smoothed over once explanations are made. Expect a friend or family member to ask for your kind and always wise advice.



**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** You might have to do some juggling of your priorities, as a personal matter appears to require more time and attention. Put your pride aside and accept help from those who offer it.



**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Your creative aspect is strong. Not only does it help you accomplish your goals, but it also inspires others. This could lead to a potentially rewarding collaboration opportunity.



**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Be careful about making major decisions when you're not really committed to them. And resist any pressure to do otherwise. Better to delay action until all doubts are resolved.

# Seniors

## Q&A: Charitable Gifts Under New Tax Law?

*Q. I am wondering if I can still get deductions for charitable gifts under the new tax law? Do you have any thoughts on this?*

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

**A.** Yes. Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, effective this year, the traditional method of making a gift and itemizing your deductions on your tax form, as in years past, may not work.

This is because of the way the new Standard Deduction works: essentially, your charitable and other qualified itemized deductions would need to exceed the amount of the increased Standard Deduction before you would receive a tax benefit for your charitable gifts. Reason: you cannot claim both the Standard Deduction and itemized deductions; you must choose one or the other.

Under the new tax law, the Standard Deduction has been almost doubled: it is now \$12,000 per year for single individuals and \$24,000 per year for a married couple filing jointly.

But, here's the good news: there are some "workarounds" for those who are charitably minded, but also wish to also receive a tax benefit. Here are three:

1. *Bunch Your Deductions and Make Them in Alternate Years.*

For example, if you are single and you normally make up to \$10,000 per year in charitable deductions consider, instead, making \$20,000 per year in charitable deductions in alternating years.

2. *Consider a Donor Advised Fund ("DAF") Offered By a Public Charity.*

Many charities offer DAF's to their contributors. A DAF allows you to contribute what would normally be several years' worth of charitable donations into the fund in one year, and receive a charitable deduction immediately.

Your contribution would then typically be invested and grow tax-free. Meanwhile, you could make donations to charities from that account as time goes on, whether in the year of gift or in following years. Additional contributions to the DAF in later years would also be tax-deductible.

However, you should first

check with your financial advisor to choose an appropriate DAF, selecting one with a good management and investment record. Since the advent of the new law, DAF's have increased in popularity.

3. *Consider a Qualified Charitable Donation Through your IRA.*

If you are at least 70.5 years of age, and already taking Minimum Required Distributions ("MRD's") as required by the IRS, you could arrange to allocate some of your MRD draws directly to a charity of your choice.

The contribution would still count toward your required MRD's, and the distribution will not be included in your gross income, which essentially lowers your overall income tax bill.

However, there are special rules. Notably, the contribution must be made directly from the IRA to the charity; it cannot be made to you initially, with you later turning around and sending the funds off to the charity.

Check with your IRA custodian to see if it offers this service. I understand that Fidelity, Vanguard, T. Rowe Price, and Charles Schwab offer this option to their customers.

Note: the charity must receive the contribution and cash the check before the end of the tax year to make this work. Although you will then receive a Form 1099-R, it is up to you—not your brokerage company—to properly report the contribution as a nontaxable Qualified Charitable Donation.

*Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).*

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## Signs Your Aging Parents Need More Help

Home care agencies often see a surge in calls in late December and early January. Why? Many grown children head home for the holidays and notice their aging parents need some help.

"We usually see a surge in demand for care around the holidays as families get together and adult children notice changes in their parents' well-being and realize they need more support to remain safe and independent in their homes," said Austin Harkness, head of care for Honor, a San Francisco home care company.

Here are ways to tell:

- **If you notice unclean clothes,** that could signal that a parent is having trouble bathing, maintaining personal hygiene or keeping up with household chores such as laundry.

Next, check the kitchen. Open the fridge. You'll notice pretty quickly if there's spoiled food—but your parents may not. The sense of smell diminishes with age, especially after 70. Many seniors can't detect unpleasant odors that would normally tell them it's time to toss last week's meat loaf.

Diminished sense of smell can be an early indicator of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. If you sense something isn't quite right, help Mom or Dad to set up a doctor's visit to see if there's something else going on.



**A visit to your parents can be a chance to assess whether they need help at home to stay healthy and independent.**

- **Have A Look Around**

Your childhood home may look the same as ever—but it may not work as well for older adults. As people age, their environment typically needs simple upgrades to keep them safe.

Significantly reduce fall risks by taping down throw rugs, removing extra furniture, securing electrical cords out of pathways and adding grab bars in the bathroom. Pay attention to clutter as well. Stacks of unopened mail, broken appliances or drooping houseplants may also signal a need for help.

Being unable to manage everyday activities can be a symptom of

depression or of cognitive impairment, which often presents like depression.

If you see any of the above warning signs, you may want to arrange for your parent to see a doctor and for family members or professional caregivers to stop by and help with projects and chores. Just knowing your parents have help and resources can relieve worry, both yours and theirs.

- **Listen Up**

Is the TV or radio volume blaring? Are conversations repeated?

Does Mom keep asking "what?" or just smiling and nodding instead of participating? Don't brush it off. Difficulty following conversations may be a sign of hearing loss, cognitive impairment or both.

Seniors who begin losing their hearing are at greater risk of developing dementia over time since hearing is a brain function. Sometimes, hearing aids stimulate the sounds needed for the brain to restore organization and correctly process sounds.

- **Make Sense of Your Senses**

Talking to parents about warning signs you've noticed isn't fun. But do it anyway. Let them know you want to be involved to help them stay independent for as long as possible. Even if you live far away there's a lot you can do, such as scheduling appointments and finding help with transportation, chores and projects. Talk to nearby family members about how they can help out or set up a visit with a home care agency that can provide ongoing support.

Fear of losing independence keeps a lot of seniors tight lipped. If your parents are open and honest about changing needs, consider it a generous holiday gift. They trust you'll know what to do with it.

—North American Precip Synd., Inc.

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Get your items together and place a **GARAGE SALE** ad in the San Leandro Times and the Castro Valley Forum for as little as \$30.  
To place an ad  
Call **510-614-1558**

## GARDENING

**\*BEAUTY GARDEN LANDSCAPING**  
Design - Construction - Maintenance. Cleanups, New Lawn, Artificial Grass, Irrigation, Patios, Pathways, Brick, Stone, Concrete Fence/Decks. Free Estimates! Lic.#925130. 510-691-8852.

**\*NAVA'S COMPLETE GARDENING:**  
Mowing, trees, cleanup/hauling. FREE estimates. 510-512-5857

**NEED Gardening Service?**  
Check the advertisers in our "Home Servis Directory" and our "Classified Ads" for help!

## GIVEAWAYS

**FREE** - Toilet, complete with tank, valves, and seat. Looks and works great. About 5 yrs old. 510-813-7864.

**Advertise your Home for rent** in the San Leandro Times & Castro Valley Forum  
**DON'T LET ANOTHER WEEK SLIP BY!**  
- A vacancy day is money lost forever -  
To place an ad call **510-614-1558**

## GIVEAWAYS

VIEW the Classified Ads

**Online at**  
**sanleandrotimes.com or**  
**castrovalleyforum.com**  
**IT'S EASY!**  
**For more info call**  
**614-1558**

## HANDYMAN SERVICE

**HANDY PEOPLE.** Any type of job. No job too small. 510-934-1251.

**Handyman Service Unlimited.**  
Honest dependable work at good rates. Carpentry, floors, gutters, plumbing, decks, windows, trees, painting, iron work, etc. FREE estimates. Call Zuri 510-978-6620.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT. FREE**  
Estimates. Residential Interior/Exterior. Roofing, Painting, Concrete, Sheetrock, Fencing, Ceramic Tile, Texturing, Decks, Siding Repair, Bathrooms/Kitchens, Remodeling, Carpentry, Hauling, Cleanups, etc. Jose Cruz 510-294-9017.

**TORRES, A PERFECT HANDYMAN**  
•Honest •Dependable •Responsible  
Painting, Plumbing, Retaining Walls, Fences, Tiles, etc. FREE Estimates.  
510-305-3205

## HAULING SERVICE

**\*SMALL/LARGE JOBS.** Wood, trash, concrete, furniture. Low rates. 510-268-1412/ 510-631-5463.

**HAULING:** Small and Big Jobs. Furniture, Concrete, Wood, Trash, Metal, Demolition. Also house inside/outside cleanups. 510-715-1578.

## HELP WANTED

### GENERAL

#### \*LOOKING FOR WORK?

Check the **Help Wanted** ads in this newspaper.  
*Also: Limited Time Offer!* If you are looking for a job you can run a **FREE** 15 word "Employment Wanted" ad. Ad runs in the San Leandro Times & Castro Valley Forum.  
Call **510-614-1558** to place an ad or for more info.  
(Some restrictions may apply)

#### Do you need some help at your business?

To place an Help Wanted ad call **510-614-1558**  
Your ad will run in and the Castro Valley Forum on Wednesday and the San Leandro Times on Thursday.  
**Find help and support your local newspaper at the same time!**  
- Thank you -

**General office clerical support** for CV based Hansen Landscape. Answer phones, filing, misc paperwork. Applicant must be willing to learn computer payroll, accounts payables and receivables. Pay will increase as you learn our operations. \$16 to \$20/hr to start depending upon experience. PT or FT availability negotiable. PT minimal benefits or FT full benefits. Please email your resume or info about yourself and your availability to Steve Hansen at: Hansen.steve@comcast.net Please do not call.

**Do you love helping people?**  
Carlton Senior Living is the place for you! Now Hiring, various positions and schedules. Walk-ins welcomed 1000 E.14th St. or visit our website [www.CarltonSeniorLiving.com](http://www.CarltonSeniorLiving.com) to apply online.

## HELP WANTED

**Temporary Work** - 2 Job Openings - Starting: 01/15/2019 and ending: 11/15/2019

General maintenance of hives, inspecting hives, bees, frames, treating and fixing as necessary to producing queens. Bee queens need to be replaced regularly to ensure the continuation of beekeeping. The employee needs to have no fear of bees, not be allergic to pollen and bee stings and be able to lift 50lbs repeatedly. Job requires frequent stooping and repetitive movements. The employee also needs to have a valid driver's license to transport hives. Must have an Apiary certification or be able to obtain one in 30 days. Will be working in hot and cold weather. Require 3 months experience as a Bee Keeper. The employer, Corneliu Prelipceanu DBA Elsi Bees from San Leandro/Castro Valley, CA will pay the AEWR rate of \$13.18/hr. The employer guarantees 3/4 of the workdays in the work contract. The work tools, supplies and equipment are provided without cost to the worker, if applicable. Free housing is provided to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of the workday. Transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be provided or paid by the employer upon completion of 50% of the work contract or earlier. Workers interested in the job should contact the Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center, 6300 Village Pkwy, Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568 Phone: 925-560-9439 or your nearest local State Workforce agency and mention job order number: CA 16320659.

#### NEED - MUSIC LESSONS or PIANO TUNING?

Check the Classified Ads under "MUSICAL SERVICES" for help.

## HELP WANTED

### HEALTH CARE

**Direct Care Staff / DSP,** to work with D.D. Adults in care home in San Leandro. Overnights, weekends and afternoons available. Salary+ benefits. 510-563-5140.

## TAX ACCOUNTANT

**Castro Valley** CPA firm seeking tax accountant with ability to prepare complex individual tax returns for 25+ hours/week during tax season. Email resume to: sue.mckinneyt@sbcglobal.net

## HOUSE CLEANING

**\*CONNIE'S NATURAL CLEANING**  
Licensed/ Insured/ Bonded  
Make Your Home a Pleasant and Healthy Environment  
[www.conniesnatural.com](http://www.conniesnatural.com)  
Call **510-506-5053**

**Cristina House Cleaning,** free estimates, senior discount. Bus.-Lic. #121121. 510-825-0459.

### WALTON'S JANITORIAL

Licensed / Bonded / Local  
For a **SPARKLE CLEAN OFFICE** or Home  
Windows • Floors  
• Carpets • Restrooms  
**Phone 352-7948**  
Member of S.L. Chamber of Comm.

## HOUSE SITTING

**Do you NEED A HOUSE SITTER/ Caretaker** from Jan. 4 to April 15. Call Bill 812-225-9046, San Leandro area.

## LOST & FOUND

**FOUND** - Large Orange Tabby cat at E. 14th St. & Davis Street in San Leandro. Call 650-274-5231.

**FOUND** - Large Siamese cat in San Lorenzo. Call 510-276-7440

**PLEASE** help us find our dog "Snowball", 1 yr old male all white 15 lb mixed breed. Lost on 12/7/18 at Stenzel Park in San Leandro. REWARD. Call 415-652-2842.

## MISC. FOR SALE

### ANTIQUES

**Antiques,** collectibles, 1999 Dodge Van, Children's stuff, etc. Don 510-921-8524.

### SPORTS

**Razor Ripstik** Caster Board with lighted wheels, black with orange, in excellent condition. \$25. Call Patrick 510-517-3351.

## VARIOUS ITEMS

**FAWSS**it fold away portable shower, excellent condition. \$1,200 o.b.o. Call 510-363-4219.

All private party ads are prepaid (paid in advance). Use your M/C, VISA or DISCOVER card, mail in your payment, or stop by our office to place an ad.

"MISC. FOR SALE" ads run **3 WEEKS** for the price of 1 week. Call 614-1558.

## MISC. WANTED

**WANTED:** Electric typewriter.... in good condition. Call 510-686-1910.

**WANTED:** Reel to reel tapes (for tape recorder). Call Patrick at 510-517-3351.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE:  
Monday 5:00 p.m.

## MUSICAL SERVICES LESSONS

**EAST BAY MUSICIAN** has moved to: 19067 Lowell Avenue, Hayward. Lessons, Good with Kids. Call 510-427-3955.

**LANDLORDS** - Advertise your units!  
- A vacancy day is money lost forever -  
R. Bowman

## PAINTING SERVICE

### NEED PAINTING WORK?

Check the **TIMES & FORUM** Home Service ads for help. We really appreciate our advertisers!  
Patrick V.

## REAL ESTATE AGENTS



Are you interested in buying or selling a home or property?

Would you like the help of a Professional Agent?

For assistance call ...

**\*SCOTT HARRISON** - Realtor  
Coldwell Banker **510-388-4536**

## RENTALS

## APARTMENTS

**Castro Valley** 2-bedroom, 1-bath, Walk to BART and Village. Gated, laundry, pool, fitness. \$2,395. 510-582-8389.  
[www.bartplazaapartments.com](http://www.bartplazaapartments.com)

**Hayward** 1-bedrooms \$1,425 - \$1,525, 2-bedrooms \$1,695 - \$1,795 (check availability). Patios, balconies, pool, ample parking, storage, spacious. 510-887-6633.

**Hayward** spacious 1-bedroom \$1,200+, 2-bedroom \$1,500+. Balcony, patio, pool. 510-581-4702.

**LANDLORDS** - Advertise your units! A vacancy day is money lost forever ... R. Bowman

## SERVICES

### SELL YOUR CAR OR TRUCK

with a Classified Ad

For more info or to place an ad call **510-614-1558**

San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

**NEED - Handyman Service?**  
Check the Classified Ads under "HANDYMAN SERVICE" for help.

## TREE SERVICE

**\*A CAREFUL TREE SERVICE.**  
Certified. Arborist. Lic.#694067. Trimming, Removals. **FREE Estimates.** Bonded. Call 510-581-7377.

## YOUR INFO

### NEED - MUSIC LESSONS or PIANO TUNING?

Check the Classified Ads under "MUSICAL SERVICES" for help.

**THANK-YOU**  
for supporting the Castro Valley Forum and San Leandro Times!



We greatly appreciate our many advertisers who make it possible for us to publish these newspapers.

## PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE!

[CastroValleyForum.com](http://CastroValleyForum.com)

[SanLeandroTimes.com](http://SanLeandroTimes.com)



# HOME SERVICES DIRECTORY

## Handyman

## HANDYMAN SERVICES

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**(925) 548-4202**

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Sand • Install • Refinish  
Glista • Oil Base  
25 Years Experience

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Call Jeff Today!  
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Lic. #803455

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**House Cleaning Service**  
Family Owned Since 1980

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EMPLOYEES COVERED BY WORKERS' COMP STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE  
Specializing in detailed cleaning tailored to your home  
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BONDED & INSURED • ALL TAXES PAID

## REACH OVER 60,000 READERS

Call today for ad rates and availability.



**HOME SERVICES DIRECTORY**  
Call **614-1558**

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## BANNER ROOFING CO.

★ New Roofs ★ Re-Roofs ★ Roof Repairs ★  
— RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL —

**WE CONTROL YOUR RAIN!**

★★★★

**ALL TYPES OF ROOF REPAIRS**

★★★★

**PROFESSIONAL WORKMANSHIP**

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**LIC # 657692 BBB A+**

**20% OFF**

20% OFF ANY OF OUR ROOFING & GUTTER SERVICES  
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20% OFF ANY COMPLETE OR PARTIAL GUTTER JOB  
20% OFF ANY ROOFING OR GUTTER REPAIR JOB  
ONE DISCOUNT PER HOUSEHOLD

LICENSED / BONDED / INSURED 2424 CLEMENT ST., ALAMEDA

**510-895-4433**

**ROOFING TYPES**  
• ASPHALT SHINGLES  
• FIREPROOF TILE & SLATE  
• CEDAR/SHAKE SHINGLES  
• METAL ROOF SYSTEMS  
• TAR & GRAVEL  
• SINGLE-PLY SYSTEMS

**GUTTER TYPES**  
• SEAMLESS ALUMINUM,  
• PREPAINTED IN 20 COLORS  
• GALVANIZED 5", 6" & 7"  
• COPPER GUTTER SYSTEMS  
• SHEETMETAL FABRICATION  
• OVERHANG SOFFIT & FASCIA  
• CLEANING & REPAIRS

Whatever your specialty, the place to advertise is in the...

## HOME SERVICES DIRECTORY

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## Roofing

**Wonderlin ROOFING SYSTEMS**  
Castro Valley Lic. #642517 Insured/Bonded

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**Over 25 Years Experience**  
Reroofs • Repairs • Inspections  
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**FREE ESTIMATES**

**\$200.00 OFF**  
COMPLETE REROOFING WITH TEAR-OFF  
One Coupon Per Customer Expires 1/31/19

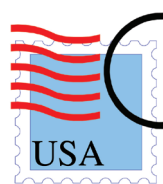
**(510) 538-1530**

*We Specialize in Residential Roofing*



# LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR  
FREDZ@EBPUBLISHING.COM



## Unhappy with Loss of Cull Lake and What's Replace It

Editor:

I'm still trying to find something I like about the briar patch at Heyer and Cull that used to be our beautiful lake.

It's an eyesore at best, surrounded by wire and orange fencing and warning signs. The acres of mud laying just below the surface still in danger of liquifaction by earthquake are fed by a seasonal creek.

There has been no management of wildlife — many turtles found their way to my swimming pool 500 feet uphill of the lake bed, as well as many ducks, rats, raccoons and occasional turkeys, etc.

I love nature and don't mind the visitors. The turtles are relocated to Lake Chabot and life marches on.

I don't feel our millions of tax dollars were well spent on this project and I'm nominating Alameda County as recipient of the "Lump of Coal" award for poor results on a job poorly done.

I live next door to this mess and wish they had thought out the

results better. And yes, I miss our lake.

—Lee Anthony  
Castro Valley

## Castro Valley Science Expanding the Universe for Our Kids

Editor:

Two weeks ago, I was riveted to SpaceFlightNow.com, watching a livestream of the Mars mission InSight as it parachuted and retrofired rockets to touch down in a sandy Mars crater.

We had just sponsored NASA scientist Pascal Lee earlier in the year to come to Castro Valley to talk to our students and community about life on Mars and the challenges of interplanetary travel, and many of these students went on to participate in our first-ever CV Elementary Science Olympiad competition, which included a test on Mars and the challenge of landing an egg safely from a 2.4 meter fall.

This year, we launched our 6th exciting year of Science Olympiad in Castro Valley. Our Elementary students will be building catapults and egg racers in the second Science Olympiad competition, our middle school students are studying thermodynamics, glaciers, game coding, and heredity, and our high school students are learning cryptography, water ecosystems, and building cantilevered beams that weigh slightly more than a quarter but support more than 30 pounds.

We have more teams than ever before, and have engaged a wonderful army of parents and volunteers (*you!*) to teach our students curiosity and perseverance.

In addition to our competitions, we are hosting a free screening of the movie Science Fair at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts on January 10th and a lecture by entomologist Dr. Vernard Lewis at CVHS on March 12th.

In all of this, Castro Valley Science, the non-profit that funds Science Olympiad in Castro Valley, seeks to expand the universe for our kids, to help them master basic science, and connect those fundamental ideas to engineering innovation.

One day very soon, our children will be the ones to take on the new challenges in medicine, energy, technology, and yes, perhaps even spaceflight.

May the bright lights of this holiday season illuminate new discoveries, both personal and educational, as we work together to create new and better worlds. I thank you for being part of our amazing journey.

—Garland Dughi  
Castro Valley

## Calls Statistical Claim of Climate Scientists 'Bogus'

Editor:

Mal May's letter ("Cites NASA: 97% of Climate Scientists Agree that Climate Warming Due to Human Activities," Letters, Nov. 28) quoted a false "factoid." This "97% consensus" is just another popular liberal myth.

This "97%" factoid originally appeared in a "study" by John Cook. The mainstream press loved his "97% consensus" claim. So the news media accepted it, unquestioningly.

Yes, even NASA and the EPA initially fell for the fraud. If fit the government's preferred narrative nicely.

However, the 97% factoid was eventually debunked, first by statistician and economist, David Friedman. In fact, of the papers surveyed, only 1.6% of them clearly supported Cook's claim that man-made CO2 was the primary cause of global warming.

And many scientists who Cook mentioned in his paper, later said that Cook had misrepresented their conclusions. Don't take my word for it. Look up the Forbes article on this issue, from January 6, 2015.

Unfortunately, most of the mainstream media outlets failed to tell us that this "97% consensus" was totally bogus. Very few news outlets bothered to publish retractions. That's why liberals still cling to this myth. It's not their fault. The mainstream media

works very hard to keep people misinformed.

—Peter Hauer  
Castro Valley

## Wonders When Trump Supporters will 'Face Reality'

Editor:

So far, indictments and or guilty pleas for criminal activities have included Trump's personal attorney, campaign chairman and cohorts, and national security adviser. Trump now has 17 separate criminal investigations into his activities going on.

His foundation and university have been found fraudulent. Additionally, trump continues to lie on a daily basis. He continues to tweet bullying remarks like some bratty child. His foreign policy is in shambles, and he adamantly supports violent dictators, while treating allies with disdain. One wonders just what it will take for his supporters to face the reality that they were scammed by a grifter.

—Robert Thomas  
Castro Valley

## A Little Guy's Big Example at Christmastime

Editor:

Every year, Santa Claus and his Helper arrive at the Rotary Club of Castro Valley's Children's Christmas Party by Alameda County Fire Department fire engine. The ride is needed because every year Santa's "sled keeps breaking down on the other side of Castro Valley!"

This year Santa experienced a first that warmed his heart as one of the children (boy 6-8 years old) from the local shelters who are the guests for the party came up to Santa as the party was winding down and said "Your fire engine left. Do you need a ride?"

Made Santa's Christmas that this little guy with everything going on in his life was concerned for Santa. Everyone should follow this little guy's example of caring about others, especially at this time of the year.

Blessed in Castro Valley.

—Santa (aka Bruce D. Johnson, Castro Valley)

## Obituaries

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Castro Valley  
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### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

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

### SARA L. ENNOR LAWYER

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- Benefits, ERISA
- QDROs

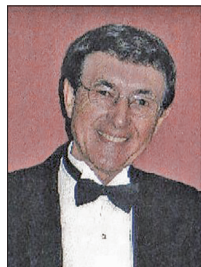
510-633-9985

## Antone "Tony" Castro

9/9/33 - 12/10/18

Antone "Tony" Castro passed away on December 10, 2018, in San Leandro. He was born on September 9, 1933. He leaves behind his son, David Castro, and wife Teri. His Granddaughters, Kelsey and Madison Olivetti all from Castro Valley. His sister, Margaret Dambley, and Brother-in-law, Earl Dambley from San Leandro. His Nephew, Steve Rodrigues, and wife Denise from Carmichael, CA. His Nephew, Don Rodrigues, and wife Debi from Florida. Two Great-nieces, a Great-Nephew, Cousins, Aunts, Uncles and Friends. Tony was pre-deceased by his parents Antone and Roseline Castro.

Tony was a graduate of San Leandro High School. He learned to play the drums, and formed his own band while still in high school. After graduation he joined the Navy and served during the Korean War. Back in civilian life, he returned to his love of music. He worked professionally for over 60 years. Besides playing in night clubs throughout the Bay Area, he also played in Reno, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, and Palm Springs. He especially enjoyed playing with his band, "Tony Castro and Friends," on the Princess Cruise Line, with his singer, Karen Salentine, and keyboardist, Bob Enos. He will be forever a missing link in the family who loved him. A memorial service will be held on Saturday December 29, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at Santos and Robinson Mortuary 160 Estudillo Ave in San Leandro, CA.

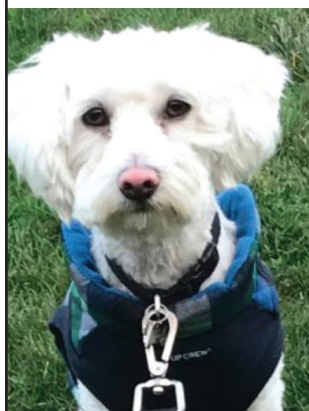


## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 withhold names or print unsigned letters.

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

## LOST DOG



**SNOWBALL**  
was last seen on Friday, Dec. 7,  
in the Stenzel Park area of  
San Leandro.

Call 415-652-2842

**REWARD**

## THE FORUM CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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51				52			53			

### ACROSS

- Trumpet
- Recipe meas.
- Arduous journey
- Reed instrument
- Pussy-Cat's partner
- Present
- Freebie
- Wedding symbol
- "Golly!"
- Illuminated
- Actor Tommy Lee
- Automaton, for short
- Not many
- Strictly \_\_ nous
- Excise
- Old Italian money
- Godfather's address
- Greet silently
- Abandon the nest
- Gold measure
- Child
- Whatever number
- Caesar, for one
- Saturnian saucer?
- Locate
- Cabbage salad
- Hidden passenger
- Passport endorsement
- Rowing need
- Foundation
- Annoyingly slow
- Definite article
- Picnic invaders

### DOWN

- "Dukes of Hazzard" boss
- Theater award
- Wander
- Born
- Namely
- Bat a gnat
- Thickness
- Disposable
- Check
- Sea eagle
- Small barrels
- Burn aid
- Lustrous black
- Made to come apart easily
- Merriment
- Sprite
- Zero
- Have a go at
- Coquettish
- Series of skirmishes
- Actress Gardner
- Still
- Pop
- Victory
- Recognize
- Earlier, in verse
- Answer an invite
- Hodgepodge
- Halloween purchase
- Hexagonal state
- Former ugly duckling
- Bridge position
- Spud's buds
- Drunkard
- Lawyers' org.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

# REAL ESTATE GALLERY

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## It's Beginning To Look Like Christmas

Winter storms are making their mark across the country, a vivid reminder we are officially into the Holiday season.

While most of us have warm homes to snuggle in as we head towards Christmas, we are witnessing a dramatic increase in the numbers of folks who do not.

First, the number of homeless tent encampments appears to be proliferating. Second, recent fires in Butte County destroyed more than 13,000 homes. With so many displaced and needing support, the Central County Realtors want to remind you that this is the Season of Giving. We urge you to focus outward to meet housing needs at home and abroad.

### Give Locally:

As the weather turns colder, the homeless in the Bay Area need additional support. While it is easy to stereotype the homeless, they are real people with specific needs we can help meet. Go to [projects.sfchronicle.com/sf-homeless/how-to-help/](http://projects.sfchronicle.com/sf-homeless/how-to-help/) for a list of organizations you can support.

### Give Statewide:

The Camp Fire in Butte County is officially the deadliest wildfire catastrophe in recorded California history. Fire is no respecter of persons and the devastation has impacted every socio-economic category.

While many want to provide clothing and other items, the most practical support is financial donations. There is also a need for

housing and volunteers. KQED has published a list of support organizations at [www.kqed.org/news/11705542/how-to-help-camp-fire-victims](http://www.kqed.org/news/11705542/how-to-help-camp-fire-victims)

### Give Nationally:

Every year we encounter disasters across our country, including the recent earthquake in Alaska, wildfires in numerous states, tornados in the mid-west, hurricanes on the East coast and more. Go to [www.redcross.org/donate/](http://www.redcross.org/donate/) to learn how to partner with relief efforts across the country.

### Give Globally:

As a family, we have chosen to forego giving gifts to adults and focus instead on providing for the needs of families around the world. We collaborate with [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) to provide funds that will buy a cow or other animals for families in less-fortunate areas.

Other organizations such as [www.streetsofhope.com](http://www.streetsofhope.com) take abandoned boys from the streets and provide them with housing, food, clothing and an education. The boys are taken from a life of despair and given the gift of hope.

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. The true heart of the season is in giving, and it is our desire that you not only have a peace-filled season, but that you also experience the joy that comes from giving to those in need.

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.



### Vegetables

Transplant globe artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, horseradish and rhubarb. Dig the soil when it's not waterlogged. If you squeeze a handful of soil and it stays in a lump, it's too wet to dig.

### Prune

Prune fruit trees and vines this month and next, but only after all of the leaves have fallen. Pruning plants that are not fully dormant leads to disease and damage to the tree tissue. Don't prune rose until mix-January.

May your *Holidays* be filled with joy and good cheer and the *New Year* bring you peace and happiness.

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THIS WEEK HOMES SALES ARE ON PAGE 3.

## OPEN HOMES

SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

**Beautiful Columbia Community**  
6140 Bellingham Dr., Castro Valley  
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## Mortgage Rates Drop to Lowest Point in 3 Months

Mortgage rates dropped significantly last week after several weeks of moderating.

The 30-year fixed rate fell to 4.63 percent last week – the lowest it has been since mid-September. Mortgage rates have either fallen or remained flat for five consecutive weeks and purchase applicants are responding with an uptick in demand given these lower rates.

Fifteen-year home loan rates last week averaged 4.07 percent, down from 4.21 percent. A year ago at this time, the 15-year rate averaged 3.36 percent.

Five-year hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 4.04 percent, down from 4.07.

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## Wishing You Happy Holidays!



As we look forward to 2019, Compass announced four new programs to help our clients and positively impact their home buying and selling experience.

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## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



This week's Athletes of the Week are the 14 members of The Castro Valley Track Club's cross country team. CVTC sent 14 athletes to compete at the USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Nationals, held in Reno, on Saturday, December 8. Congratulations to 17 year old

All-American Isabella Brusco (far left) and her teammates Josephine and Jillian Taylor, Beckom and Garrett Gutierrez, Anna and Maya Dughi, Braelyn Bolles, Madelyn Zavala, Fiona Padilla, Sanjana Kumar, Jason Burge, Moises Rojas, and Elliot Keim.

## CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE



**Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs**  
[www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org](http://www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org)



PHOTO BY PATRICK RYKEN

Pictured above from left to right are: Ryan Brookens, Diego Agron, Kayla Craft, Olivia Gilman-Chun, Makenzie Parajon, Liam Griffith, and Tommy Ryken.

## CV Water Polo's Most Successful Season

The Castro Valley Varsity Water Polo teams completed their third season as a program and are celebrating their most successful season to date, with seven athletes earning Western Alameda County Conference (WACC) All-League honors.

The Varsity boys team (12-14) and Varsity girls team (13-14) both finished fifth in league, their highest league finish to date. The Varsity girls team earned the CVHS water polo program's first, ever, At-Large birth in the North Coast

Section (NCS) Championships.

Post-season honors for the girls were led by, Junior, Kayla Craft, chosen to WACC All-League first team, leading CV in scoring (81 goals), assists (37), and steals (73). Earning WACC Honorable Mention were, Junior, Makenzie Parajon (36 goals, 11 assists, 19 steals) and, Senior, Olivia Gilman-Chun (18 goals, 12 assists, 35 steals), two top field defenders for the Trojans.

Junior, Ryan Brookens led the boys' post-season honors with

second team All-League selection, leading the Trojans in scoring (80 goals), with 29 assists and 25 steals. Honorable Mention was earned by, Junior, Tommy Ryken (55 goals, 32 assists, 19 steals), Junior, Diego Agron (68 goals, 26 assists, 37 steals), and, Junior Goalie, Liam Griffith (227 saves).

With both CV Varsity Water Polo teams returning their number 1 goalies and top four scorers for their 2019 Senior seasons, CVHS look to be challengers for the next WACC Championships season.



PHOTO BY TOM MULLER

**Congratulations to the 2018 CVHS Cross Country Girls Top Qualifiers for the NCS Finals, on Tuesday, November 20, at Hayward High School. Pictured (L-R): Coach Josh, Anya Von Euw, Stephanie Curpene, Jamine Amezcua, Sierra Kasl-Godley, Daisy Avila, Olivia Davidson, Megan Muller, and Coach Dino. The Trojans finished in fifth place.**



Actors from the Castro Valley Dramatic Arts Academy (from left) Cole Johnson, Lola Reed, Colby Bettis and Santiago Sena-Guerra rehearse a scene from "Kill Me, Deadly," this Friday and Saturday evening at the Douglas Morrison Theatre.

## 'Kill Me, Deadly' a Hilarious Take On Film Noir on Friday, Saturday

High school students in the Castro Valley Dramatic Arts Academy will stage Bill Robens's "Kill Me, Deadly," a film noir spoof, this Friday and Saturday, Dec. 21 and 22, at the Douglas Morrison Theatre in Hayward.

Packed with romance, intrigue and murder, this detective noir is a smart parody that will keep you guessing until the end.

The play is set in the seedy underbelly of 1947 Los Angeles, where Charlie Nickels has a hard life as a gumshoe, and things are

only made harder by the murder of a client and the theft of a 300 karat diamond.

With the help of his wise-cracking secretary, Ida, Charlie seeks out the many suspects: smarmy bookworm Clive, equestrian beauty Veronica, snooty butler Wilson, sensitive muscle Louis, and mob boss Bugsy Siegel.

At the center of the case is femme fatale Mona, a nightclub singer who captures Charlie's affections... and suspicions.

The show is directed by Jason

Bolich of CVDA, a nonprofit community youth theatre program founded in 2003. Funds will provide scholarships to students in the program, which never turns away a student for lack of funds.

Performances of "Kill Me, Deadly" are at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 21-22 at the Douglas Morrison Theatre, 22311 North 3rd Street. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$25 adults, \$20 students. To learn more about CVDA or to purchase advance tickets, visit: [cvdaa.org](http://cvdaa.org).

—Cindy Dove

## Smalltown's 2019 Season Announcement

### ● Open Auditions for 2019

Looking for more opportunities to highlight your music? Your art? Your voice? Smalltown Society is currently holding open auditions and reviewing portfolios for the 2019 season. Opportunities to perform at various gatherings and events, or showcase your work at various locations around the Eden area. Email: [info@smalltownsociety.com](mailto:info@smalltownsociety.com) for more info!

### ● Monday, December 31: New Year's Season Announcement Party & Talent Showdown

Ring in 2019 with Plethos Productions! This New Year's Eve Plethos is announcing its 2019 season with a party and a Talent Showdown! Performers will compete in 3 categories - Stand Up Comedy, Comedic Scenes & Musical Theatre. You be the judge. Winners will be awarded in each category. Admission includes Talent Showdown, Italian Small Plates, Champagne Toast, Countdown & Balloon Drop, and Dancing. Ristorante di Parma, 22532 Foothill Blvd., Hayward 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tickets (\$50) are selling fast at [plethos.org](http://plethos.org)

### ● Every Saturday, January 12-February 16: Project Cultiv8

Interested in building your own non-profit organization and implement your philanthropic innovations to improve your community? Come to our FREE workshops featuring executive philanthropists, with the opportunity to receive funding and mentorship to

make your idea into a reality. Project Cultiv8 workshops are open to all high school students ages 14 and older. FREE 10am-12pm. More info at [www.projectcultiv8.org/castro-valley](http://www.projectcultiv8.org/castro-valley)

More details on these events and others visit [www.smalltown-society.com](http://www.smalltown-society.com) or text "Smalltown" to 797979. Smalltown Society is located at 22222 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

## ADOPT-A-PET



**BILLY** is a sweet 3-year-old who loves chin, cheek, and neck scratches. He's full of love and just enough cattitude to be interesting. Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



**SIMON** is a young, fun-loving bunny. He loves to snuggle and would love a home where he gets to spend lots of time with his family. Hayward Animal Shelter. (510) 293-7200.



**SIBLINGS BENJAMIN AND BECKY**, rescued at 2 weeks old after being abandoned by their mom, are sweet and snuggly. Benjamin has beautiful blue eyes and lots of random white hairs in his sleek black fur. Becky has big yellow eyes and jet black fur with a white spot on her chest. Born 9/18/18. Altered, vaccinated and microchipped. Email: [Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com](mailto:Loveallpawzrescue@gmail.com).