



Officer of the year named in Fremont

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December 27, 2022

Vol. 20 No. 51



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### 23rd Balloon Drop

Saturday, Dec 31

11 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 3 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Hundreds of colorful balloons drop to celebrate the New Year around the world

Chabot Space and Science Center  
10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland  
(510) 336-7300

<https://chabotspace.org>

Children: \$29 (\$10 for members)

General admission for adults: \$24

### New Year Traditions

Saturday, Dec 31

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy a mug of hot cider and learn about New Year traditions around the world.

Ardenwood Historic Farm  
34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont  
(510) 544-2797

<https://www.ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood>

### New Year's Eve at Niles Essanay

Saturday, Dec 31

7:30

Screening of Zander the Great, shorts, book signing

Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum  
Edison Theater

37417 Niles Blvd., Fremont

(510) 494-1411

[www.nilesfilmmuseum.org](http://www.nilesfilmmuseum.org)

Tickets: \$8 nonmembers, \$6 members

### New Year's Eve 2023

Saturday, Dec 31

7:30 p.m.

DJ, dancing, hosted bar, Indian buffet dinner

India Community Center

525 Los Coches St., Milpitas

(408) 934-1130

[www.indiacc.org](http://www.indiacc.org)

Adult ticket: \$75, Child ticket: \$40 continued on page 12



## Winter Brick Show

BY ALFRED HU

Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro is currently hosting a Winter Brick Show featuring an exhibit of various LEGO structures in the form of impressive buildings, vehicles, a snowy mountain with a gondola, railway yards, streets, parks and much more.

Johannes Van Galen, who built the amazing LEGO structures at his home, first had a modest collection in the Netherlands, where he is originally from. When he came to California, his son became interested in working with LEGOs. Van Galen then decided to have a little LEGO display at the church which grew over time. Eventually the displays began to take up space on the second floor of the church. These display shows have been continuing for 15 years varying in size and theme.

Some of the LEGO displays took Van Galen a few hours to a few days to construct while some of those without building instructions took him months to complete. His son also helped in the effort. "There are buildings and mountains that are all made up by inspiration. No instructions. Depending on size [those] can take a few days to months of building,"

says Van Galen. He has been working with the local LEGO club, BayLUG, to set up the displays. The club currently has around 200 members (ages 4 years and up) who also design and create LEGO displays limited only by their imagination.

Van Galen expects at least a few hundred visitors to attend the event, and there is an entry fee which supports the Youth and Young Adult Ministry (YAYAM) camps. Furthermore, Van Galen is optimistic that the LEGO display show will continue into the future. "Yes, for sure. As I have been doing this for 15 years now" he mentioned.

If you and your family would like to see these fascinating and meticulously built LEGO structures, drop by the church on a Saturday or Sunday between 12 noon and 4 p.m. This would be a great way to spend a memorable post-holiday weekend.

**Winter Brick Show**  
Saturdays & Sundays, 12 noon – 4 p.m.  
Until January 22, 2023  
Bay Area Family Church  
2305 Washington Ave., San Leandro  
Entry fee: \$5

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# Washington Hospital Service League Offers Academic Scholarships

## Applications accepted now through April 2023



The Washington Hospital Service League has been in existence for 67 years—longer than the Hospital itself. During that time, countless community members have been introduced to Washington Hospital through the efforts of these volunteers. In addition to hours donated at the Hospital, the Service League contributes to the youth of the area through educational and scholarship opportunities.

The Service League's scholarship program has awarded nearly \$368,335 in scholarships since its establishment in 1961. The first scholarship of \$150 was awarded to a nursing student training at Highland Hospital in Oakland.

Today, the Service League grants two \$1,000 scholarships annually, which are renewable for three additional years, based on the student's academic performance and continued focus on health care. A one-time scholarship of \$1,000 for a Washington Hospital volunteer is also awarded. This year, the Service League will also offer three memorial scholarships of \$1,000.

These scholarships are available to students in the Washington Township Health Care District—which includes Fremont, Newark, Union City, and parts of South Hayward and unincorporated Sunol—who are pursuing studies in a health-related field. Students who

currently volunteer at Washington Hospital are also eligible. The scholarships are awarded each year to graduating high school seniors and/or current college students.

By providing scholarships, the Service League hopes to help students with their education and career goals, and in turn, hope they may someday be able to give back to the community by providing health care. Service League Scholarship Chair Dian Zarzycki notes the pleasure they receive by giving assistance and support to budding doctors, nurses and other health care professionals in the local community.

### Qualifications for the Washington Hospital Service League scholarship include:

- U.S. citizen/permanent resident
- Resident of the Washington Township Health Care District or be a current volunteer at Washington Hospital
- Age 22 or younger as of December 31, 2023
- Accepted into an accredited school, college, or university offering a bachelor's or higher degree in a health-related field
- Full-time student, able to provide required transcripts
- Contributor to the community with at least 100 hours of volunteer service or working in a health-related field
- Three letters of recommendation from the Director of Volunteer Services, employer, counselor/advisor, or teacher
- Not have been previously awarded a WHSL health career scholarship.

(See application for detailed requirements.)

Application deadline is Saturday, April 1, 2023. Applications can be found online at <https://www.whhs.com/Scholarships> or picked up at the main desk in the Hospital lobby at 2000 Mowry Ave.



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**Healthy, Happy Holiday Eating**  
Enjoy healthier alternatives for holiday foods. Registered Dietitian offers information on holiday weight gain and how increased activity and food choices can help.



**Anxiety: Stop Negative Thoughts**  
When negative thoughts cycle through your mind over and over, they can have a significant impact on reasoning. Clinical psychiatrist Seema Sehgal, MD, offers perspective and tips on how to stop negative thoughts.

### Coming Soon!



**Shoulder Pain: Causes and Treatment Plans**  
Thursday, Jan. 19, 3:30 p.m.  
The shoulder has more range of motion than any other joint in your body. It is a complex joint, which means a lot can go wrong, resulting in shoulder pain. Medical Director of Washington Sports Medicine, Dr. Russell Nord, will review possible causes of shoulder pain and treatment options.



**Hip Replacements—The Anterior Approach**  
Wednesday, Jan. 25, 4:30 p.m.  
In-person event! Anterior hip replacement is a minimally invasive approach to hip replacement. Dr. Alexander Sah, President of the Anterior Hip Foundation for 2023 will explain the muscle-sparing benefits of this technique.

**Other Video Topics:**

- Joint Pain
- Stroke Awareness
- Washington Township Health Care District monthly board meetings

**Events Information**  
For more information or to register for events, call 800.963.7070 or visit [whhs.com/events](https://www.whhs.com/events).

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# Hip pain getting in the way of living life? Anterior hip replacement surgery might be the solution

Dr. Alexander Sah presents in-person and online event Jan. 25



Getting back to an active lifestyle is possible with hip replacement surgery.

Not all hip aches and pains mean you need surgery. But for some people, hip replacement surgery offers fast and safe relief, and the opportunity to return to many activities that pain has limited. At Washington Hospital's Institute for Joint Restoration and Research, Co-Medical Director, Alexander Sah, MD, is a leading expert on the anterior hip replacement technique. This minimally invasive approach is muscle-sparing and can therefore reduce the risk of hip instability/dislocation and shorten the time a patient must spend in the hospital following surgery.

On Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 4:30 p.m., Dr. Sah will lead the Health & Wellness seminar "Hip Replacements —The Anterior Approach," hosted by Washington Hospital Healthcare System. This seminar will be available for viewing online and, for the first time in two years, in-person attendance will be allowed. Interested community members should visit [whhs.com/events](http://whhs.com/events) to register for the presentation and decide which viewing format is preferred.

At the presentation, Dr. Sah will describe the surgical method and present the latest data on its results. The public may attend the event in person or online, and there will be opportunities for audience members to ask questions. "Hip replacement surgery is one of the most successful procedures in modern medicine," says Dr. Sah, who over the past year has performed over 1,100 joint replacement surgeries. In the January 25 seminar, he will provide an overview of hip arthritis and other conditions that can cause hip pain. Dr. Sah will review nonsurgical remedies as well as the most common surgical treatments.

In his own hip replacement practice, Dr. Sah almost exclusively uses the anterior approach, which has been steadily growing in preference among orthopedic surgeons. "For the past two years, the American Association of Hip Surgeons has reported that over 50 percent of hip replacement specialists in the United States now use the anterior approach," says Dr. Sah.

In the seminar, Dr. Sah will explain why he favors the anterior hip replacement approach. He will show how the approach allows surgeons to avoid cutting through muscle, which can disturb the stability of the hip. "When the hip gets destabilized, a patient has a higher risk for dislocating it. The muscle-sparing benefit of the anterior approach means that the hip is inherently more stable after surgery," he explains.

For hip surgeries that use the posterior approach, patients are positioned on their side, which can make some aspects of their surgery more difficult, such as measuring the patient's leg length. "A major benefit to the anterior approach," says Dr. Sah, "is that patients are positioned on their back. This makes accurate leg measurements easy, as well as allowing the surgeon to use a mobile X-ray machine for real-time implant sizing and positioning during the surgery."

"Using X-ray, I can be extremely accurate in reconstructing the new hip. I can even overlay an X-ray of the healthy hip and use it to guide my reconstruction of the new hip. I do not have to wait until the patient is in recovery to review an X-ray of the final positioning. I am able to assess the procedure in its totality before the patient leaves the operating room."

The outcomes from this level of surgical precision are impressive. The surgery is quick; for most it takes under an hour. Dr. Sah says, "We don't use general anesthesia, which can have longer-lasting side effects, but instead use a spinal anesthesia which is regional and allows the patient to recover more quickly. With the minimally invasive anterior approach, patients can walk on their hip within a few hours. Half of our patients are able to go home the same day. The recovery is so quick that most find that they can drive again within a couple of weeks, and return to their favorite recreational sports after just six weeks."

Deciding to get a hip replacement can be a scary decision for many people. However, Dr. Sah urges, "You should consider doing it when you are healthier, before your hip has become so painful that it is affecting your back, your gait, and your overall physical health. If you are healthier to begin with, your recovery will be faster and more complete."

President of the Anterior Hip Foundation for 2023, Dr. Sah has co-edited with his mentor Joel Matta, MD, Anterior Hip Replacement, an anthology of medical information about the surgical approach (published by Springer, 2022). His Health & Wellness seminar is an opportunity for anyone interested in hip replacement surgery to learn about the latest techniques and get their questions answered by an experienced practitioner.

To learn more, join Dr. Sah for "Hip Replacements—The Anterior Approach," on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 4:30 p.m. To find out where to attend the event in person or how to view it online, visit [whhs.com/Events](http://whhs.com/Events) or call 800.963.7070.



## Virtual Health & Wellness

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*Rescheduled to  
January!*

**NEW DATE:  
Thursday, Jan. 12  
1 p.m.**

### Self-care and Self-compassion: Keys to Well-being

Neglecting self-care can result in feeling depleted, lacking focus, and the inability to care for others. Although challenging, it is important to prioritize time for yourself. Hear from a licensed marriage family therapist about the benefits of self-compassion.

Discover the positive impacts of self-care and which tools will enhance your overall well-being.



**Wajeaha Khan, LMFT**  
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"My mother was in the knitting club, too! Oh, it's fun. We sit and gossip and chit chat."

- Kaye, Watermark Resident, Knitting Luminary



## Tradition is Ageless

Thirty years ago, a group of knitters at Watermark noticed some kids at their local schools needed warmer winter clothes. And so, a tradition began.

11,000 handmade sweaters later, they still get together every week and the walls of their meeting room are covered in photos of kids they've helped, including one little girl who was drawn to a bright pink sweater even though it was two sizes too big. She wore it day in and day out, even to bed. It made her happy.

And that's why they keep knitting, generation after generation. Bringing people joy is one of their traditions – just like creating communities where people thrive is one of ours.

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# Ring in the New Year with a Balloon Drop

SUBMITTED BY  
MARY KATHERINE FRANTZ continued from page 1



The original "Balloon Drop" at Chabot Space & Science Center returns in person on December 31, 2022 to ring in the new year with colorful daytime countdowns.

"We are so thrilled to welcome families back for this magical tradition," said Deputy Director, Liz Austerman, "There's nothing like counting down together and experiencing the joy of a balloon drop in Chabot's Rotunda."

When it's 11 a.m. in Oakland, it will be 2023 somewhere on the planet. To mark the occasion, Chabot will drop hundreds of colorful balloons on eager, waiting children. At the stroke of 11 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, balloons will fall from the ceiling of Chabot, and the celebration begins. Families are invited to stay for the day to participate in fun activities throughout the Center.

The Annual Balloon Drop Celebration began at Chabot Space & Science Center in 2000 as an opportunity for families to celebrate the new year without keeping children awake past their bedtimes. It's also a great way to teach kids about the turning Earth and its time zones.

Tickets for the New Year's Eve Balloon Drop are \$29 per child. For members, tickets are \$10 per child. Accompanying adults require a General Admission ticket. General Admission tickets are available at [chabot.space.org](http://chabot.space.org). Please arrive 30 minutes before your event start time for check in.

### 23rd Balloon Drop

Saturday, Dec 31

11 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 3 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Chabot Space and Science Center  
10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland  
(510) 336-7300

<https://chabot.space.org>

Children: \$29 (\$10 for members)

General admission for adults: \$24

# Cohousing approach to housing crisis

SUBMITTED BY JANE MUELLER

Southern Alameda County, like the greater San Francisco Bay Area, is facing a housing crisis in which high demand and limited supply lead to skyrocketing costs and a lack of affordable options. One approach to solving to this crisis is cohousing.

Cohousing communities offer an alternative to traditional housing that can be more affordable and sustainable. In a cohousing community, residents own their own homes, and they also share common spaces and resources, such as gardens, playgrounds, laundry facilities, and a common house (clubhouse). This arrangement of sharing resources can help to reduce the overall cost of living, as residents are able to share expenses such as solar installation, child care, utilities and maintenance.

This is part of what motivated a group of friends to form Mission Peak Village, the first cohousing community in Fremont. The group has purchased a site in the Irvington District and submitted plans for design review to the city. They have engaged a team of experienced cohousing designers and developers and hope to break ground early in 2024.

"The market has put housing costs way out of proportion for most households," observes Doug Ford, co-founder of Mission Peak Village and longtime Bay Area advocate for affordable housing strategies. "It is urgently necessary to think creatively about both increasing supply and designing to fit contemporary lifestyles."



Cohousing communities can be found all over the world and are growing in popularity. In the United States, there are more than 180 cohousing communities, with many more in development. With a design based on a model popularized in Denmark, the oldest cohousing community in the United States is Muir Commons, completed in 1991 in Davis, California. Muir Commons comprises 26 homes and abundant common spaces, such as a garden and the 3,668 square foot common house with a large kitchen and dining area to accommodate gatherings of neighbors. The community also has a strong focus on sustainability, with solar panels, a greywater system, and shared electric cars. Muir Commons, in fact, has been an early adopter of renewable energy technologies.

In 2002, the community self-funded and installed what was the largest rooftop solar installation in the City of Davis at the time, and in 2019 installed 26 EV charging stations, one for each residence.

Approximately 36 additional established cohousing developments are thriving in Northern California communities, including Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Oakland, Berkeley, Pleasant Hill, Cotati, Petaluma, Santa Rosa and Sacramento. In addition to reduction in overall cost of living, one of the main benefits of these developments is the sense of connection that is often lacking in traditional neighborhoods. In a cohousing community, neighbors are likely to know and interact with one another on a regular basis. This can be especially appealing for

people who are looking for more spontaneous social interaction.

Perhaps counterintuitively, people who identify as introverts say that living in cohousing is a comfortable environment because they don't have to initiate social activity; all they have to do if they want to visit is go down to the community garden or go see what's going on in the common house. Additionally, cohousing communities often have a strong focus on sustainability, which can be attractive to environmentally conscious buyers.

According to a survey conducted by the Cohousing Association of the United States, residents of cohousing communities report high levels of satisfaction with their living situation. In the survey, 87% of respondents reported being "very satisfied" with their cohousing community, while only 2% reported being "not satisfied." In addition, 71% of respondents reported that they feel "a sense of belonging" in their cohousing community, and 83% reported that they have made close friends.

Cohousing communities are a growing trend in the housing market and are likely to continue to be popular in the future.

This article is part of an ongoing series on cohousing. To learn more, visit [www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org).

Memberships in Mission Peak Village are still available. Call Kelli at (510) 413-8446 or visit Mission Peak Village on Facebook, Instagram, or the [www.missionpeakcohousing.org](http://www.missionpeakcohousing.org) website, where you can register for a monthly walk to explore the neighborhood around the future site in Fremont.



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## Fremont's Safe Parking Program:

# A Chilly Morning in the Life of Residents Who Live in Cars

SUBMITTED BY SHIRLEY GILBERT  
PHOTOS BY DAVE FISHBAUGH

It's a cold, sunny Friday morning in November and we're in the parking lot of the Niles Discovery Church. We're here to tell the story of unhoused residents who, because of dire circumstances, are forced to live in their cars and who are part of Fremont's Safe Parking Program.

The program invites car owners to park in four Fremont churches so they can get a safe night's rest along with a healthy breakfast and some companionship with both each other and church volunteers. The other faith-based organizations engaged in the program are: South Bay Community Church, Grace Church Fremont, and Christ the King Lutheran Church. The churches take turns hosting, and November is Niles' turn.

There are several cars in the lot and owners are beginning to stir, leave their cars and chat companionably. They've spent the night safely parked and trying to stay warm. There's a woman in sweats walking an adorable chihuahua, Nickel. Other car owners are getting the kinks out of their bodies and enjoying a short walk before breakfast. Volunteer Susie Claxton suggests we all go into the church to warm up.

Inside, we head to the sunny Fellowship Room. Volunteers Marilyn Singer and Urv Anderson, are in the

kitchen rustling up a breakfast of eggs, hash browns, fruit, coffee cake and coffee. Tables are set with paper plates, and there's a friendly buzz as guests catch up on each other's lives. Singer starts taking individual orders, as she and Anderson can make eggs just about any style they desire.

Here, it's hard to believe folks who live in cars are sometimes feared and shunned. These car residents enjoying friendship and sunshine could be your friends and neighbors.

After breakfast, folks enjoy each other's company before getting back in their cars for the day. Despite their hardships they find joy in being together, feeling hopeful they will one day be back in a home and feeling good that they are able to rest easily at night thanks to the Safe Parking Program.

### What's It Like to Live in a Car? Unhoused Folks Tell Their Stories; part 1

Armando Martinez parks at the churches because he likes the program and the help he gets. He is 63 and has lived in his car for four years. His auto has also fallen on hard times and isn't working. Martinez badly needs another car, but it would cost \$1,000 and he just doesn't have



the money. He is without a home because he was living in a room in Niles that rented for \$800. That amount suddenly went to \$1,300, and he couldn't afford it. Martinez worked 19 years for Olympus America and had to leave because he hurt his rotator cuff. He has a daughter, Analise, and he often visits his parents in San Jose.

He's had a particularly difficult time during Covid. He was dangerously ill with the virus and collapsed in front of a hospital emergency door. A doctor helped him up and Martinez was in a coma for

31 days. When he woke, he was terrified. When Martinez' car was in working order, he parked at Safeway and Denny's, but the police came at 2 a.m. and made him leave. The toughest part of living in a car, Martinez says, is the loneliness. He likes the Safe Parking Program because it puts him in touch with people. "We who live in cars," he said, "need help and we are helped here." His motto is: Never give up. "I always try to keep my head up no matter what happens."

## Governor Newsom Announces Judicial Appointment

SUBMITTED BY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Toni Mims-Cochran, 53, of Alameda County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Alameda County Superior Court. Mims-Cochran has served as a Commissioner at the Alameda County Superior Court since 2016. She was a Sole Practitioner from 2002 to 2016 and an Attorney at the Eviction Defense Center from 2000 to 2002. Mims-Cochran earned a Juris Doctor degree from the San Joaquin College of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Leopoldo E. Dorado. Mims-Cochran is a Democrat.



## Champions of Character

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL KAHOALII

The following Newark Memorial High School athletes were recognized as Champions of Character by their teammates this week:

### Junior Varsity Girls Basketball

Poorvi Sharma brings a positive attitude

and energy to the team each and every day. She gives her best effort no matter the situation and always puts the team before herself.

Izabel Zabellero always has a positive mindset and is willing to learn. She practices during lunch so she can improve her skills and hustles on and off the court.

### Girls Varsity Basketball

Sydney Scott has shown sportsmanship since the season started. She takes the time to not only encourage, but high-five her teammates any chance she gets on and off the court. Even when she's in a bad mood, she still lifts her teammates up and gives her all in practices and games.

Lei Iokepa encourages all her teammates, getting everyone to keep their heads up and play through mistakes. She has been totally engaged and focused during our practice sessions and games.



Izabel Zabellero




Lei Iokepa



Poorvi Sharma




Sydney Scott



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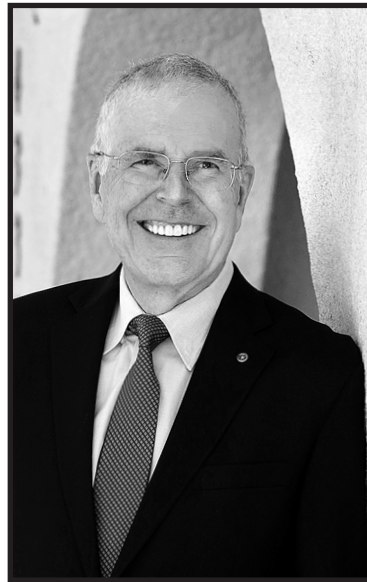
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  - Assist Editor-in-Chief

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**Subject: Reporter/Editor Application**

## International migration drove US population growth in 2022

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. population expanded by 1.2 million people this year, with growth largely driven by international migration, and the nation now has 333.2 million residents, according to estimates released Dec. 22 by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Net international migration -- the number of people moving into the U.S. minus the number of people leaving -- was more than 1 million residents from 2021 to 2022. That represented a growth rate of 168% over the previous year's 376,029 international migrants, with every state gaining residents from abroad, according to the 2022 population estimates.

Natural growth -- the number of births minus the number of deaths -- added another 245,080 people to the total in what was the first year-over-year increase in total births since 2007.

This year's U.S. annual growth rate of 0.4% was a rebound of sorts from the

0.1% growth rate during the worst of the pandemic from 2020 to 2021, which was the lowest since the nation's founding. "It's welcome because we would have been back to almost flatline growth if not for this immigration," said William Frey, a demographer at The Brookings Institution.

Regionally, the Northeast lost almost 219,000 people in a trend largely driven by domestic residents moving out of New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, as well as deaths outpacing births in Pennsylvania. The Midwest also lost almost 49,000 residents, driven in part by people moving out of Illinois and deaths outpacing births in Ohio.

The South gained 1.3 million residents, the largest of any region, driven by population gains in Texas and Florida that approached a half-million residents each. Other Southern states like North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee had among the largest growth in numbers in the U.S. Texas, the second most

populous state in the U.S., surpassed the 30 million-resident mark, joining California as the only other state in this category.

But California lost more than 113,000 residents, and had a population just over 39 million in 2022, in what was the biggest annual decline behind New York's more than 180,000-resident loss. The population decline was driven by more than 343,000 domestic residents moving out of California, and it helped drag down the West region's population gain to only 153,000 residents.

Despite the overall population loss, California had the largest growth of any state in international residents, just a hair's breadth ahead of Florida with more than 125,000 people. California also had the second highest natural increase, only trailing Texas. Births outpacing deaths and the international arrivals made California's population loss smaller than last year, when it dropped by more than 358,000 residents.

The West region in 2022 lost some of its luster as a magnet for domestic migration. Without international migration and a sizeable natural increase from births outpacing deaths, the West region would have lost population due to domestic residents also moving out of Oregon and Washington. Western hotspots like Utah, Idaho and Montana had smaller gains than last year.

Some of the slower growth in the West has to do with the pandemic, which led to fewer people moving, and also the increasing cost of living in places once regarded as cheaper alternatives to California, according to Frey. "There isn't as much magnetism for those classic magnets for moving out of California," Frey said.

Puerto Rico lost 40,000 residents, or 1.3% of its population, due to people moving away and deaths outpacing births, and its population now stands at 3.2 million residents.



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Special Education Para Educators: [www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1652174](http://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1652174)

**Salary Range: \$25.40 - \$30.13/hr: Range 63; (5 Steps; Maximum Reached in 3.5 years)**

Child Nutrition Assistant 1: <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1631254>

Child Nutrition Assistant 2: <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1631255>

**Salary Range: \$20.09 - \$24.90/hr: (5 Steps; Maximum Reached in 3.5 years)**

# Short film highlights Muslim women and U.S. immigration

BY CHARLENE DIZON  
PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF FATEMA BHAIJI

While diversity within the media has become more prevalent, there is a long road ahead. Minorities who strive to break into the entertainment industry aspire to increase opportunities for cultural

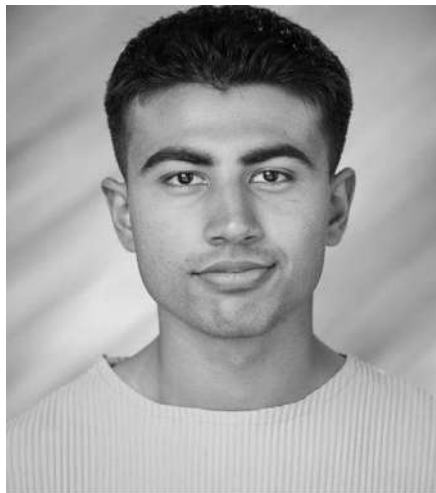
Gawad has been directing since 2014, working on live-action shorts and stop-motion animation that has been featured in film festivals and promoted at the New York City AMC Theater in Times Square. Gawad states, "I pursued filmmaking to cultivate authentic narratives and amplify underrepresented and marginalized communities." Gawad was initially approached by Ibrahim Ahmed, who had begun writing

seeing the family together and how the actors are able to interact." With several writers onboard, the final script has grown into more than Ibrahim could have hoped for. "The initial script that I had versus the one we do now is a night and day difference and that is due to the talents of our writers," he states. "Once you have nuanced perspectives from so many different people, combining them into one adds more depth to the story."

out there and change it ourselves. This short film is a great step in the right direction." Ibrahim, who experienced immigration first hand alongside his family, adds, "My goal is for someone who watches the film to feel less alone. We're all going through the same identity crises that the characters are going through. We're in this together." Addressing these issues through an open lens creates a safe space for those seeking reassurance.



**Anam Ahmed**  
producer, casting director,  
writer, & marketing



**Ibrahim Ahmed**  
actor, producer & writer



**Fatema Bhajji**  
writer & marketing



**Safira Khan**  
writer & marketing



**Zayd Ezzeldine**  
Director of Photography



**Taher Gawad**  
director, writer, & producer



**Ayesha Bakshi**  
marketing



**Matt Gutierrez**  
producer

representation. A group of local young filmmakers is joining this movement by hoping to create a short film on Muslim women immigrating to the United States, titled "Being Sa-rah."

"Being Sa-rah," directed by Taher Gawad, is a short family drama film that follows the story of an immigrant Muslim woman and her efforts to adapt to American culture as well as enter the U.S. workforce. After moving from Pakistan to Los Angeles with her parents and younger sister, Sa-rah watches her father take odd jobs, struggling to make ends meet. Though Sa-rah has a Master's degree in marketing and is currently interviewing for an associate position, her parents suggest she seek professional advice from her cousin Ashaar, who goes by "Ash," a marketing executive and American-born Desi. While Ash compartmentalizes his culture in order to be accepted, Sa-rah attempts to preserve her identity, specifically her hijab. Gawad states, "The film conveys this tug-of-war battle of ideologies that Muslim Americans can relate to and identify with."

the script during his senior year at the University of Southern California (USC) in 2013. Ibrahim was inspired by his mother's story of U.S. immigration and her struggle to find a job. Global events relating to Muslim women and body autonomy were also contributing factors in shaping the story.

The screenwriting process has been a collaborative endeavor of three Muslim women and two Muslim men— Safira Khan, Fatema Bhajji, Anam Ahmed, as well as Taher Gawad and Ibrahim Ahmed. Film buff Matt Gutierrez has taken on the role of Producer. The Director of Photography is Zayd Ezzeldine, an award-winning cinematographer at Chapman University. With the team spread out across the globe, the writers relied on Zoom meetings. Co-writer and Marketing Team member Fatema explains, "When we needed multiple scenes done by the next meeting, we would split up into groups, brainstorm, and then write it together." Hiring actors was another vital step. Casting Director Anam Ahmed states, "Family dynamic is such a crux to the story, so the most important part was

Right now, the team's primary goal lies in funding. As of December 10th, a campaign with the goal of raising at least 80 percent of \$20,000 within 45 days has begun. Proceeds will go directly to acting fees, on-set meals, locations, camera and equipment rentals, post-production, and film festival submissions. Anam states, "Our biggest hurdle is raising that \$20,000. A lot goes into making a film. We wish it could be done easily and with less money, but that isn't the case." Once this goal is reached, the crew will officially have the opportunity to bring the film to life.

Developing a story based on real-life experiences of immigrants and the Muslim community has been a top priority. Having grown up in the Bay Area, Fatema Bhajji states, "There are so many South Asians and Muslims in the community I grew up in and at our local mosque. That's part of the reason why I joined this project— so my community could feel represented on screen." Breaking stereotypes was just as essential. Taher Gawad explains, "No one will change how we are portrayed in the media. We must go

The time and care poured into making this project possible is the film's greatest asset. A movie, whether long or short, requires resources but begins with passion. Gawad states, "It's so important to create films like these to provide hope. When someone sees themselves authentically portrayed in the media, it changes their psychology to a certain degree. They feel seen and recognized." For those who aspire to pursue filmmaking and highlight different cultures' journeys, this team's main advice is to simply go for it. Bhajji states, "The first step is not being afraid to challenge your culture's norms. Because without doing that, we wouldn't have even half the Brown actors, writers, or producers out there that we do now." By bravely taking initiative, a personal experience can become a vessel for diverse representation within the media.

For more information regarding the film and donations, please visit <https://seedandspark.com/fund/being-sarah> Instagram @being.sarah.film

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**News and Notes**  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**SUBMITTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF  
MATURE AMERICAN CITIZENS**

**Around the world in 180 days**

Phileas Fogg went Around the World in 80 Days in the classic 1956 movie. But Fogg was a fictional character and so he didn't make it into the Guinness Book of World Records, recalls the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). But, recently, Laura Massey-Pugh and Stevie Massey circumnavigated the world in 180 days on a tandem bicycle and won Guinness' official recognition for their 18,000-mile triumph. It was the first time that the record keepers awarded recognition for the event to a male-female tandem team. A women's team holds the record for their event, having biked the world in 263 days, 8 hours and 7 minutes; a men's team did it in 281 days, 22 hours and 20 minutes. See a video interview with the riders on YouTube: [www.facebook.com/BBCRadioDerby/videos/3349323005285921/](http://www.facebook.com/BBCRadioDerby/videos/3349323005285921/).

**What'll he do when he turns 9?**

Maddock Lipp of Golden, Colorado is 8 years old and likely to soon receive recognition by the Guinness World Record judges for being the youngest person to have skied the slopes of all the world's seven continents, reports AMAC. According

to Guinness, to date "the youngest person to ski on all seven continents is Victoria Rae White beginning at the age of 9 years 88 days in Zermatt, Switzerland and ending aged 10 years 79 days in Winter Park, Colorado, USA, 16 March 2008." Despite his age Maddock has been skiing for half his life, so far; he put skis on for the first time when he was 4 years old. See video of the young skier on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYi8N4HUYYM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYi8N4HUYYM).

**This is no tall story**

Colombian Edward Hernandez recently surrendered his Guinness World Record title to Azerbaijanian Afshin Ghaderzadeh, reports AMAC. What is the title, you ask? It turns out that Ghaderzadeh is 2.7 inches shorter than the former record holder. He recently measured in as the shortest man on the planet at a height of 2-feet, 1.6 inches compared to Hernandez' 2-feet, 4 inches. Ghaderzadeh was one and a half pounds when he was born; he's 20 years old now and weighs in at 14.3 pounds. See video of Ghaderzadeh on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=j65U14yZO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j65U14yZO).

*The Association of Mature American Citizens is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing membership in Washington, D.C. and in local congressional districts nationwide. More information is available on its website at [www.amac.us](http://www.amac.us).*

**Officer of the year named  
in Fremont**



**SUBMITTED BY FREMONT POLICE ASSOCIATION**

Kudos and high fives are in order for Officer Ralph Meredith, a nine-year veteran with the Fremont Police Department, who has been named 2022 Officer of the Year by the Fremont Police Association. Meredith was nominated for the award based on his exceptional dedication and leadership in the department during the past year.

**New flashing  
beacon lights go  
live in Fremont**

**SUBMITTED BY  
CITY OF FREMONT**

As part of its Vision Zero traffic safety program, City of Fremont has installed new flashing beacon signals at three

busy crosswalks to boost pedestrian safety.

The newest flashing beacon signals are now operating on Mission Boulevard/Ohlone College, Walnut Avenue/Godfrey Place and Paseo Padre

Parkway/Onondaga Way. The lights alert drivers to stop for pedestrians walking across the street.

Since starting its Vision Zero traffic safety program in 2016, Fremont has increased the number of locations with

pedestrian flashing beacons or signals from one to 20. According to city officials, having safe and convenient places to walk helps encourage more "active transportation" for physical health and local travel to nearby schools, parks and shopping.

The new pedestrian safety improvements were funded in part by the Alameda County Measure BB transportation sales tax program.



New flashing beacon lights promote pedestrian safety on Mission Boulevard at the Ohlone College entrance.

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**GET THE SCOOP**

Read today's Kid Scoop page and see if you can find the answer to each of these questions.

**Habari Gani?**

Do you know what that means? **Habari Gani** is how you say **What's the News?** in Swahili. One day you may hear this holiday message as often as you hear Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or Happy New Year. **Habari Gani?** is the ritual greeting of Kwanzaa.

**A Seven Day Celebration**

This year, millions of people are expected to celebrate Kwanzaa, a non-religious event honoring African-American culture and community. The holiday is celebrated for seven days, starting on December 26 and ending on January 1.

- Kwanzaa centers around seven principles:
- Umoja (unity)
  - Kujichagulia (self-determination)
  - Ujima (collective work and responsibility)
  - Ujamaa (cooperative economics)
  - Nia (purpose)
  - Kuumba (creativity)
  - Imani (faith)

The holiday was created in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga, an African-American scholar. Karenga created this special holiday to honor African-American heritage in a celebration of family and community.

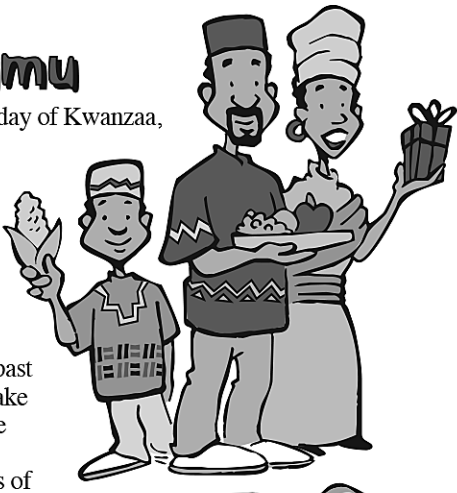
The word **Kwanzaa** means **first fruits** in Swahili, an East African language.

**Symbols of Kwanzaa**

Christmas symbols are the wreath, tree, holly, and more. Hanukkah symbols include the menorah, latkes and gelt. Follow each of the seven mazes below to find the meaning of the seven Kwanzaa symbols.

**Karamu**

On the last day of Kwanzaa, friends and relatives gather for a feast. People come to honor ancestors, review the past year and make plans for the new year. There is lots of good food, dancing and music.



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



**Standards Link:** Social Studies: Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of varied cultures.

**Extra! Extra! Kwanzaa Scavenger Hunt**

Look through the newspaper for pictures, articles or phrases that show the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts/Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

1. What does Habari Gani mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many symbols are there for Kwanzaa?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When was Kwanzaa created?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The Kwanzaa candleholder is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The tradition in Kwanzaa is to give gifts that encourage what?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the word Kwanzaa mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Kid Scoop-doku™**

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **CARING** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

C	I		
A	G		
R		A	
I			
N		C	
G			N

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Each night of Kwanzaa, a candle is lit in the kinara. There are seven candles, one for each night. The candles are called the **mishumaa**. It is said that the kinara holds the light of tomorrow.

Do the math. Color each candle that equals 14 **red**. Color each candle that equals 15 **black**, and each candle that equals 16 **green**.

**Black** is for Africa, the continent African-Americans came from. **Red** is for blood, not shed in vain. **Green** is for hope and knowledge.

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

**Double Double Word Search**

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

KWANZAA  
SWAHILI  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
CULTURE  
CANDLE  
KINARA  
ZAWADI  
IMANI  
DANCING  
HABARI  
UJIMAA  
GANI  
MKEKA

H I E R U T L U C N  
A M E R I C A N A C  
B A E I N A G C A G  
A N L L M E I A R N  
R I B I R R Z N A I  
I A J H F N T D N C  
I U O A A N T L I N  
I Z A W A D I E K A  
M E K S A K E K M D

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**This week's word: GREETING**

The noun **greeting** is a message of friendliness or respect.

Sheana asked, "Habari Gani?" to her friend during Kwanzaa.

Try to use the word **greeting** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**Give the World a Gift**

If you could give one gift to the world, what would it be? Write a letter to the editor telling about the gift you would give.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts/Writing Applications: Write formal letters.

If you were in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove, a lantern and just one match, which would you light first?

ANSWER: The match!

**Write On!**

**Holidays at Your House**

Which holidays do you celebrate during December? How do you and your family celebrate?



# The Fremont CONNECTION



## City of Fremont Holiday Closure Scheduled for Dec. 23, 2022–Jan. 2, 2023 (Police, Fire Services Not Affected)



As in years past, the City of Fremont will be implementing a Holiday Closure for many non-public safety City services. Some City offices will be closed from Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, through Monday, Jan. 2, 2023. City Holidays are observed Dec. 23, 26, 30, 2022, and Jan. 2, 2023, while limited City services will be offered Dec. 27, 28, and 29, 2022. City offices participating in the Holiday Closure will re-open for business on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. This closure will not affect police and fire services.

### Offices that are Taking Part in the Holiday Closure Include:

- City Hall, 3300 Capitol Ave., Building A and Building B (Administrative offices)
- Fire Administration, 3300 Capitol Ave., Building A
- Development Services Center/Permit Center, 39550 Liberty St.
- Maintenance Center, 42551 Osgood Rd.
- All Community Centers and Recreation Buildings
- Age Well Centers at Lake Elizabeth and South Fremont
- Tri-City Animal Shelter, 1950 Stevenson Blvd.

### During the Holiday Closure:

- Parks and Recreation Registration Desk, 3300 Capitol Ave., Building B is open for walk-in registration of recreation programs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 27, 28, and 29.
- Parks and Recreation Division will offer camps and other programs at some facilities. Visit [www.RegeRec.com](http://www.RegeRec.com) for more info.
- Human Services will provide limited services for Youth & Family Services and Healthy Start Program.
- Afghan Elderly Association will provide limited services. Clients should contact their Health Promoter for additional info.
- The Fremont Police Department and Fremont Fire Department will continue to provide public safety services.
- Youth & Family Services will have on-call crisis counselors to respond to youth referred from the Alameda County Crisis Receiving Home and Fremont Police Department.
- The majority of agencies at the Fremont Family Resource Center, 39155 Liberty St., will be open to the public. Please visit the FRC webpage at [city.fremont.gov/frc](http://city.fremont.gov/frc) for individual agency information.
- A minimum number of City staff will be available in an on-call status to provide emergency maintenance services such as responding to storm-related issues.
- The Tri-City Animal Shelter, located at 1950 Stevenson Blvd., will be closed Dec. 23 through Dec. 26, and Dec. 30, 2022 through Jan. 2, 2023, for City-observed holidays. Email Animal Shelter staff at [animal-shelter@fremont.gov](mailto:animal-shelter@fremont.gov) or call 510-790-6640 for urgent matters such as picking up your found pet. Animal Services Officers will be available limited hours.
- Regularly-scheduled street sweeping will occur on Dec. 27, 28, and 29, 2022; weather permitting. No street sweeping on City-observed holidays. (We will make every effort to provide service on a different day.)
- No changes to garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection by Republic Services both weeks.
- The Fremont Tennis Center will be open for public play, weather permitting. There will be some limited holiday public hours; call 510-790-5510 for more info.
- Covia/Home Match will provide appointments by video call or phone. Call 510-289-2080 or email [mkeoduangkham@frontporch.net](mailto:mkeoduangkham@frontporch.net) for more info.

Many City facilities and programs experience a reduction in service demand during the Holiday Closure dates. The City anticipates the Holiday Closure will have little or no impact on service delivery efficiency.

For more information on the Holiday Closure, please visit [city.fremont.gov/holidayclosure](http://city.fremont.gov/holidayclosure) or call 510-284-4093.

## City's Construction and Development Services Unavailable During Holiday Closure

During the City of Fremont Holiday Closure, all construction and development services will be unavailable. More details are available below.

- The City's online permitting portal, Citizen Access, will be unavailable starting Thursday, December 22, 2022, at 5 p.m. through Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 8 a.m. Online requests for permits and building inspections will not be available during this time. This includes planning, building, and engineering permits. Please keep this in mind when planning construction and development projects requiring these types of permits.
- The City has adopted the 2022 building and fire codes, which are effective on January 1, 2023. Applicants who wish to apply for a building/fire permit under the 2019 building and fire codes must submit their request in Citizen Access by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 22, 2022.
- To schedule a building inspection for Tuesday, January 3, 2023, the City's Inspection Scheduling Phone Line will be available starting Thursday, December 29, 2022. The phone number is 510-494-4885. Online inspection scheduling through Citizen Access will not be available until Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 8 a.m.
- General email accounts and phone lines will not be monitored during the Holiday Closure. Staff will not be responding to emails received during the closure. Community members should avoid sending any emails during this time.
- The City's Development Services Center/Permit Center will be closed and reopen on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 8 a.m.

## Coming Soon - City Council Meetings and City Commission Meetings Open to Public Beginning in January

In compliance with new State law (AB 2449), all City Council and City Commission meetings will be held in person beginning in January 2023. A virtual option via Zoom will also still be available for City Council meetings and these instructions will be found on Council meeting agendas. City Commission meetings will only be available in person.

Members of the public wishing to participate in City Council meetings in person are encouraged to wear masks and seating capacity will remain limited in Council Chambers to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses impacting our community. The City continues to monitor public health conditions and associated regulations and will take necessary action to comply with any future health orders.

To view the dates and times of upcoming meetings, please visit our online calendar at [www.fremont.gov/residents/city-calendar](http://www.fremont.gov/residents/city-calendar).

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

## Christmas Tree Recycling Options

Republic Services will offer free curbside Christmas tree collection on Monday, January 2, 2023, through Friday, January 13, 2023. No need to call to request this service; simply use one of the following methods for curbside collection or drop off:

### Green Compost Cart

Cut the tree into pieces so it fits loosely in your green compost cart with the lid closed. Place the cart at the curb on your scheduled collection day.

### Black Landfill Cart

This option is for trees that are flocked, contain fire retardant, or have decorations or tinsel. Please cut up your non-compostable tree, so pieces fit loosely in the trash cart with the lid closed. Place the cart at the curb on your scheduled collection day.

### Curbside Collection

If your tree is less than 6 feet, place the entire tree in the gutter on your collection day. If your tree is more than 6 feet, cut the tree in half and place both halves in the gutter on your collection day. Make sure your tree is in the gutter, not on the sidewalk. Your tree should be free of all decorations when placed in the gutter. This helps keep our storm drains litter-free.

### Drop Off at Republic Services

Between Tuesday, December 27, 2022 and Friday, January 20, 2023, take your Christmas tree to the Republic Services customer center located at 42600 Boyce Road (Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.). Compostable trees may be dropped off for free, while non-compostable trees may be dropped off for a \$5 charge.

### Bulky Collection Appointment

Christmas trees can also be collected as part of a bulky goods pickup. You can schedule a pickup at [RepublicServices.com/locations/california/fremont](http://RepublicServices.com/locations/california/fremont) or by calling 510-657-3500.

Note for Multi-Family Complexes: Please have your Property Manager or Homeowners Association representative coordinate with Republic Services to request a debris box or pickup day for Christmas trees.





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questions@has.edu

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

**Fremont Lab: 5500 Stewart Ave, Ste 108**  
• Mon-Fri, 9:30am-5:00pm

**Union City Drive-Thru: 34800 11th St (BART)**  
• Mon, Wed, Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm

**Did you know?**  
Covid-19, RSV, & Flu A/B survival tips

Tips to avoid getting sick:

- wash hands with soap & warm water for 20 seconds
- avoid touching your face (eyes, nose, mouth) w/ unwashed hands
- disinfect high traffic surfaces: cell phone, steering wheel, door knobs and handles (when did we all last do this?)
- avoid sick people / stay home if you're sick! Merry Christmas!

@mycarelabs

*New Year's Events*

4000 Bay St., Ste B, Fremont  
(510) 573-3633  
<http://madeuptheatre.com/>  
Tickets: \$25  
COVID: Provide proof of vaccination and photo ID; masks encouraged

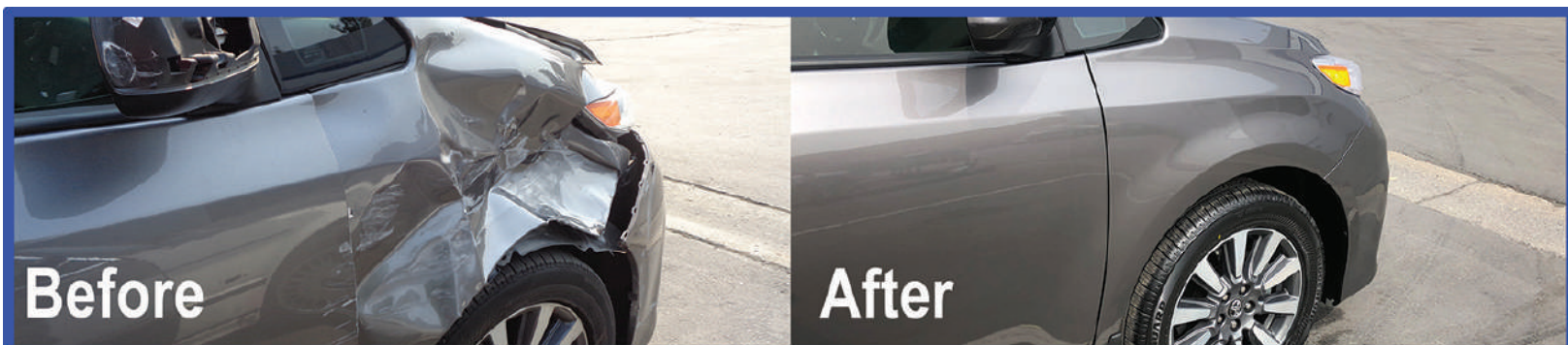
**Pruma's Annual New Year's Eve Dance**  
Saturday, Dec 31  
8 p.m.  
Music by Jibaro Son  
Pruma Center  
616 E. St., Union City  
(510) 489-0513  
<https://prumacenter.org/>  
Tickets: \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door

5K, 10K and Half Marathon  
Lake Chabot  
17936 Lake Chabot Lane, Castro Valley  
<https://brazenracing.com/>  
Registration: \$68 - 95

**First Hike of the Year**  
Sunday, Jan 1, 2023  
Moderate hike along Bayview and Red Hill trails  
10 a.m. - 12 noon  
Coyote Hills  
8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont  
(510) 544-3220  
[www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)

**New Year's Eve Spectacular!**  
Saturday, Dec 31  
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Laugh Track City and audience-inspired improv, enjoy champagne and sparkling cider  
Made Up Theatre

**Brazen Racing New Year's Eve & New Year's Day**  
Saturday, Dec 31 2022 & Sunday, Jan 1 2023  
7:30 a.m.



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# Home & Garden

## A red berry can make your winter garden merry

BY DANIEL O'DONNELL

About 90% of the human population resides in the northern hemisphere primarily because that is where most of Earth's land mass is. Since the Holidays fall during winter for the majority of people, it is easy to see how that season has influenced holiday traditions. Holiday meals in the northern hemisphere are hearty, Christmas trees and wreaths are often fir or pine and the entire tradition of Santa Claus and his reindeer is centered around living at the north pole. Another popular tradition directly influenced by the Holidays falling in winter is hanging red winter berries at the front door or using them in festive centerpieces. Traditionally, holly is used, but there are plenty of other choices that grow well in the Bay Area.

Holiday decorations are only one benefit of growing red fruiting plants. Some of the plants are drought tolerant which makes them an appropriate choice for the Bay Area. Red fruit can attract and feed birds and other wildlife in the winter when food is scarcer. Some of the red fruits are edible for people as well and can expand the diversity of fresh plant foods in your diet. The red berries also add color to a winter garden when most plants with colorful flowers are dormant. Many are evergreen which can provide privacy in the garden as well as a protected winter habitat for wildlife.

Below are five plants that not only produce red berries in the winter but have many other interesting or beneficial attributes.

**Holly:** There are close to 600 different species of holly. Fossil records indicate that holly plants first originated in



Courtesy of Jurgen Howaldt

sub-tropical Asia, but species are now found growing in the wild on every continent except Antarctica. Its first recorded uses in winter celebrations were by Druids, Celts, Romans, and early Christians. Native Americans traded the berries, used them as decorations or for medicinal purposes, used the leaves to brew tea, and the branches to make arrows. There are tree and shrub varieties of holly plants, and once established, many are drought tolerant.

**Toyon:** Toyons are another plant that produces red pomes which look like berries in the winter. They too have tree forms as well as bush forms. Toyons are the only native



Californian plant that is known by its Native American name from the Ohlone people. They made the pomes into jellies or added them to porridge. Later, Spanish settlers used them to make wine and in custard. They are the official Native American plant of Los Angeles, and because their berries are so popular for holiday decorations, the state passed a law prohibiting picking them from both public and private lands without permission. The pomes provide winter food for birds, squirrels, and larger mammals, while the flowers in spring attract bees and butterflies.

**Arbutus unedo or Strawberry tree:** This plant is a large evergreen multi stemmed shrub that can be pruned and trained into a single stemmed small tree. It is native to the Mediterranean region and Western Europe. A single plant can produce hundreds of edible red berries in the fall and winter that can be used for making jams, syrups, liquors or vinegar. The fruit also supplies winter food for wildlife, and the evergreen foliage provides protection. The flowers attract bees which make honey from the pollen and nectar. Called Miele Amaro (Bitter Honey), it has a slightly bitter taste and is considered a delicacy in Italy.



**Nandina:** There are currently over 600 hundred Nandina varieties and more cultivars are created every year.



The evergreen shrub is native to China, Japan and India. Many varieties are drought tolerant which besides its bright red berries is one of the main reasons it is grown in the Bay Area. The same prized berry clusters that people cut and use in holiday floral arrangements and in centerpieces can be toxic to birds. The good news is that birds know this and avoid eating them. Different Nandinas also have varying shades of young green foliage that turn different shades of red ranging from dull to very bright.

**Pyracantha and Cotoneaster:** These two related evergreen shrubs at first glance look very similar. They



both have dark green glossy leaves and in the winter are laden with bright red berry clusters. Both have edible winter berries for wildlife as well as spring flowers which attract butterflies and bees. Both have groundcover or shrub varieties and are drought tolerant. The big difference is that Pyracantha has thorns and Cotoneaster does not. The first choice for many gardeners might be to plant the thornless Cotoneaster as it is less painful to prune and access the berry clusters for holiday arrangements. However, Pyracantha with its thorns makes a great defensive plant for home security.

Seeing red berries in the garden or in decorations around the house during winter can be amazing even without the holiday celebrations. Vibrant color adds warmth to cold grey days. What is nice about growing these plants is that their other benefits will enhance the garden as you wait for next year's explosion of holiday color.

*Daniel O'Donnell is the co-owner and operator of an organic landscape design/build company in Fremont. [www.Chrysalis-Gardens.com](http://www.Chrysalis-Gardens.com)*

## THE ACWD CONNECTION

### NEW YEAR'S WATER SAVING RESOLUTIONS

Ring in the new year with these water conservation tips and practice water savings throughout the year!

- Reduce shower times.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Scrape food scraps off plates before rinsing.
- Convert lawn to water-efficient landscape.
- Turn sprinklers off when rain is in the forecast.
- Install a rain barrel and harvest rainwater from downspouts.
- Inspect your landscape and home regularly for leaks and make repairs if needed.

Have a happy and healthy new year!

For more water saving ideas and rebate information, visit [acwd.org/conserves](http://acwd.org/conserves).



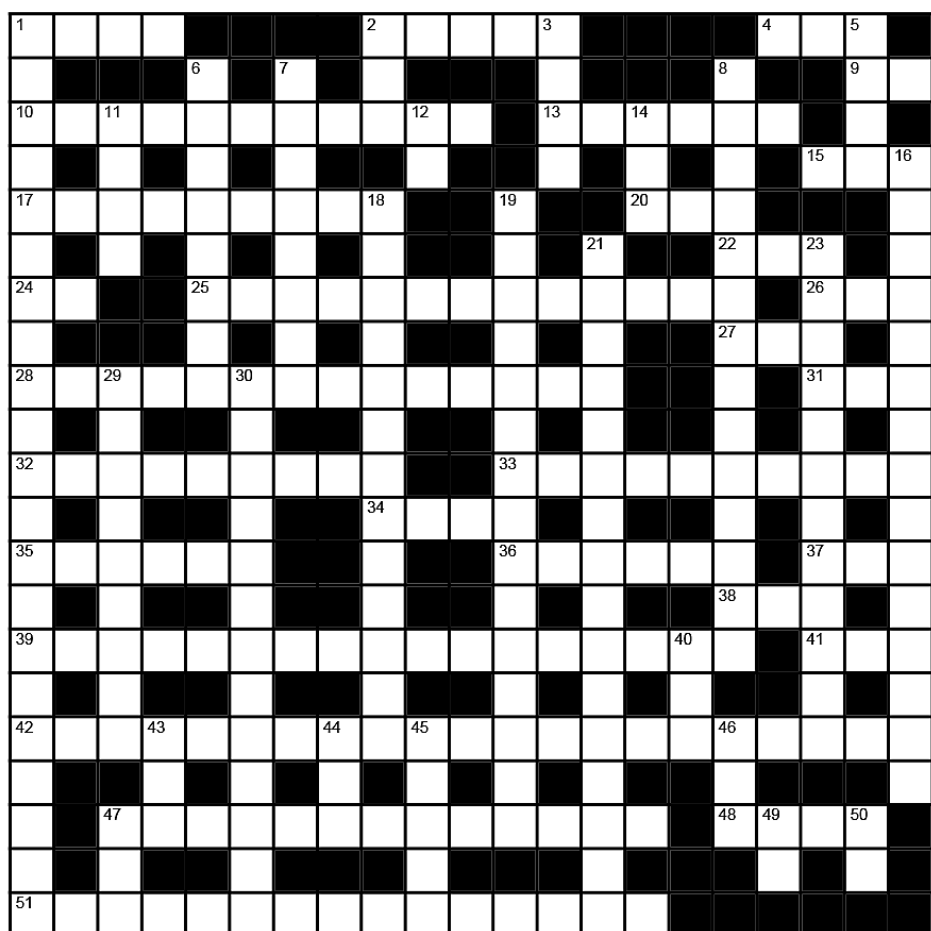
Proud to provide a reliable supply of high quality water at a reasonable price to Fremont, Newark and Union City



2023

# Mind Twisters

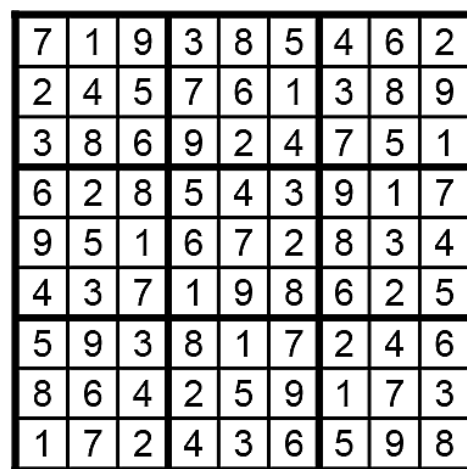
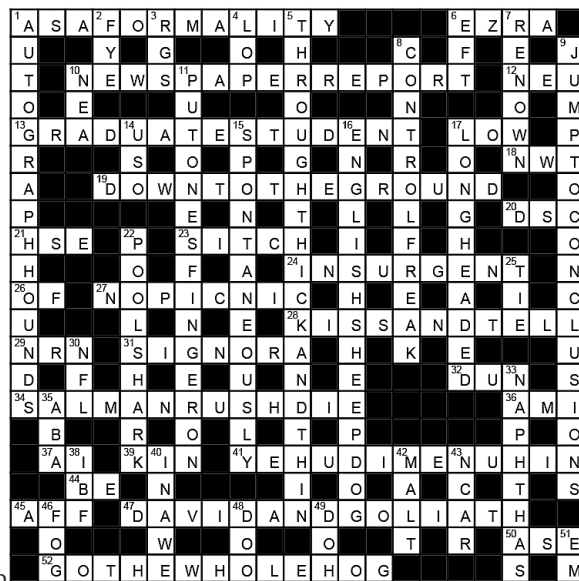
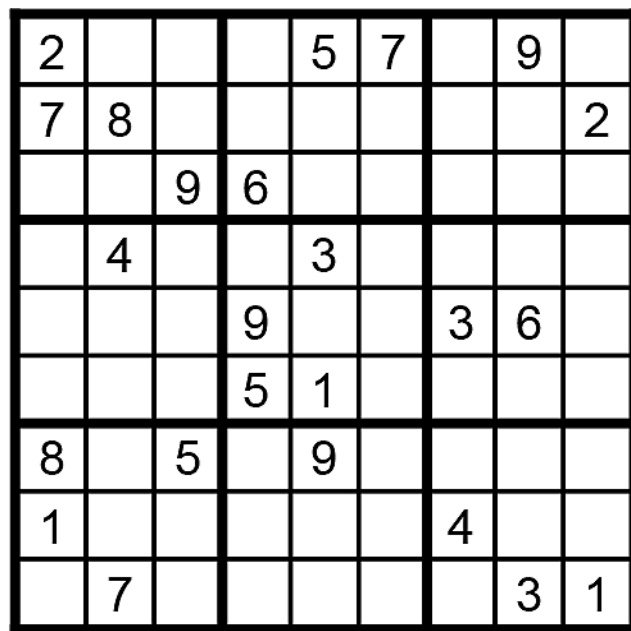
## Crossword Puzzle



- |        |      |  |    |  |
|--------|------|--|----|--|
| Across | 35   | To no avail (2,4)  | 11 | Garden bloom, informally (4)   |
| 1      | 36   | Blood clots (6)  | 12 | "No kidding!" (2)  |
| 2      | 37   | Saturate, in dialect (3)                                       | 14 | UK org. concerned with grubbers and scrums (3)                       |
| 4      | 38   | Kind of bar lic. (3)   | 16 | Don't give an inch (5,4,6)   |
| 9      | 39   | Fun? (12,5)  | 18 | What the starts of the answers to the 12 starred clues make up (7,6) |
| 10     | 41   | Blinking light, maybe (3)                                      | 19 | Ambassador. (15)   |
| 13     | 42   | What "Send" triggers? (9,12)                                   | 21 | Comedy of 1594. (5,7,4)  |
| 15     | 47   | 12th in a US series (7,6)                                      | 23 | Unidentifiable quality (2,2,4,4)                                     |
| 17     | 48   | ___ review (4)   | 29 | Reaches (7,2)  |
| 20     | 51   | Bystanders (15)  | 30 | Punish severely (3-3-7)  |
| 22     | Down |  | 40 | Mid-6th-century date (3)   |
| 24     | 1    | Pro-few's-ness? (7,14)   | 43 | Western Hemisphere grp., en Espanol (3)                              |
| 25     | 2    | Amt. at the bottom of pg. 1 and the top of pg. 2 of a 1040 (3) | 44 | Occupational ending (3)  |
| 26     | 3    | Backside (4)   | 45 | ___-frutti (5)   |
| 27     | 5    | Memorable name in opera. (4)                                   | 46 | Kazakhstan, once: Abbr. (3)  |
| 28     | 6    | Disease caused by a thiamine deficiency (8)                    | 47 | Buddhist discipline (3)  |
| 31     | 7    | Area of vulnerability (4,4)                                    | 49 | Part of "be" (2)   |
| 32     | 8    | Some essentials, unfortunately (9,5)                           | 50 | Spanish definite article (2)   |
| 33     |      |  |    |  |
| 34     |      |  |    |  |

## Sudoku:

Fill in the missing numbers (1 – 9 inclusive) so each row, column and 3x3 box contains all digits.



## Tri-City Stargazer FOR WEEK: DECEMBER 27, 2022

All Signs: This week Mercury goes retrograde, which means 2022 ends with this influence and 2023 begins with it as well. The last time this happened was in the year ending in 2016, and before that in 2009. This week will be a time of reflection and contemplation. We will look back at the challenges we have survived. Although this might introduce a melancholic note, it's actually an opportunity to do an emotional and intellectual cleanse. It's the ideal time to put things in perspective. We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are.

### Aries the Ram (March 21-April 20):

This week you will think more about your relationships with your parents, bosses, and authority figures in your past. You might also think about the dreams you had. You will see goals that you achieved and some that you didn't.

Nevertheless, you are ending this year and beginning the new year with lucky Jupiter in your sign, which can happen only once every 12 years. This is a fortunate transition for you. Instead of focusing on the past, focus on the possibilities for your future. Jupiter in your sign is a great blessing.

### Taurus the Bull (April 21-May 20):

As this week progresses, and your year comes to an end, you might be in touch with people you went to school with before. You might also be in contact with people from previous travels. This is a powerful time, because you are experiencing a time of harvest, a cycle that culminates only once every 30 years. You're proud of your achievements, although some goals did not materialize. Nevertheless, many of your dreams are coming true. Around your birthday in 2023, lucky Jupiter will return your sign to stay until June 2024!

### Gemini the Twins (May 21-June 20):

Life has been unusual for you lately. Normally, fiery Mars is in your sign for six weeks once every two years. However, this year it entered your sign in August and it's still there! Furthermore, at the end of October, it went retrograde and will stay retrograde until January

12, 2023. This is why you feel you are slogging your way through quicksand. Fear not because when retrograde ends in January you will feel like someone took off your training wheels. You will speed forth in happy anticipation, enjoying increased popularity.

### Cancer the Crab (June 21-July 21):

As this year ends, you will think about your closest relationships – current ones and those from your past. Of course, more than most, you have an excellent memory and you enjoy savoring the past. In fact, ex-partners and old friends are probably back in your life this week, and in the beginning of the new year. Enjoy these bonds and connections, and get ready for success! For the first time in 12 years, Jupiter is starting to move across the top of your chart. Let's give it up for Cancer natives!

### Leo the Lion (July 22-August 22):

Many of you are still catching up on old details related to your work. Others are focused on past issues related to health and possibly a pet. You feel like you have a lot of unfinished business. Don't let this cloud how your year ends and new year begins. There is never a point where "everything is done." Mercury retrograde has created delays in your work, which makes you feel stuck. But you're not. In fact, Mercury retrograde can help you tie up loose ends. Use this to your advantage.

### Virgo the Virgin (August 23-September 22):

Many of you are in contact with old flames and kids you haven't seen

for a while. Some might also feel that creative projects have been mired in details and delays. Fear not! Your ambition has been stymied since late October – all the time that Mars has been retrograde at the top of your chart. You have not lost your focus and drive. This will all be history in January. Enjoy fun times with others – children and loved ones. Next year will bring a major turning point in your life.

### Libra the Scales (September 23-October 22):

As this year come to an end, you will give a lot of thought to family issues that transpired this year. This is inevitable because Mercury is retrograde in that part of your chart. You might be tempted to feel blame or regret. Don't waste your time with these unproductive feelings; they won't bring positive change. Jupiter is now opposite your sign, which represents a culmination in your life. You will feel encouraged to go after everything you want. You're entering an extremely productive and growth-oriented year.

### Scorpio the Scorpion (October 23-November 21):

Christmas has been a joyful time; furthermore, you have had an unusual opportunity to be in touch with friends and relatives from your past that you haven't seen for a while. Nevertheless, this particular Mercury retrograde also has you spinning your wheels. Delays, miscommunications and misunderstandings been frustrating and will continue until the middle of next month. Stay on course. Right now, your life is accelerated even though things are a bit haywire. It's all going to come together.

### Sagittarius the Archer (November 22-December 21):

This year is ending with Mercury retrograde in one of your Money Houses. Checks in the mail are late, and the delivery of goods might be delayed. It's also why financial deals are stuck in the mud or require renegotiating. Furthermore, Mars has been retrograde opposite your sign for several months! This has made relations with those closest to you more challenging. The good news is these challenges and delays will end by the middle of next month. In turn, you can expect marvelous opportunities for vacations and opportunities in the arts, entertainment world and hospitality industry.

### Capricorn the Goat (December 22-January 19):

You are ending this year with Mercury retrograde in your sign. Naturally, you will be involved with old friends and ex-partners you haven't seen for a while. You're also dealing with past issues, and frustrated by miscommunications, misunderstandings and silly delays. Flip this around. Use this time to integrate everything from your past. Look at those failures and challenges and realize you don't need to be burdened by them anymore. Be fearless about facing your dissatisfactions. Once you name them and acknowledge them, you can deal with them.

### Aquarius the Water Bearer (January 20-February 18):

This year is ending and your new year beginning with Mercury retrograde. This can be useful time. At this stage in your life, you are

beginning a brave journey of reinventing yourself, whether you know this or not. The strongest way to have a fresh beginning is to know where you've been. Use this week to take stock. Take a look at where you have been because that is going to help you to figure out where you're going. You're creating a whole new world for yourself. Give yourself a map.

### Pisces the Fish (February 19-March 20):

It's been a rewarding time for you recently because you have been in contact with old friends. This has been a reassuring experience. Because you have a chance to do some reflection and think about the past, especially this past year, you will also rethink some of your goals. Many things that you expected when this year began changed dramatically! It's important to know that you are finally leaving your journey through the Dark Night of the Soul. Now you can look forward to a year when you will get richer!



By Georgia Nicols  
www.georgianicols.com.





# Masonic Homes of California



# We're Hiring!

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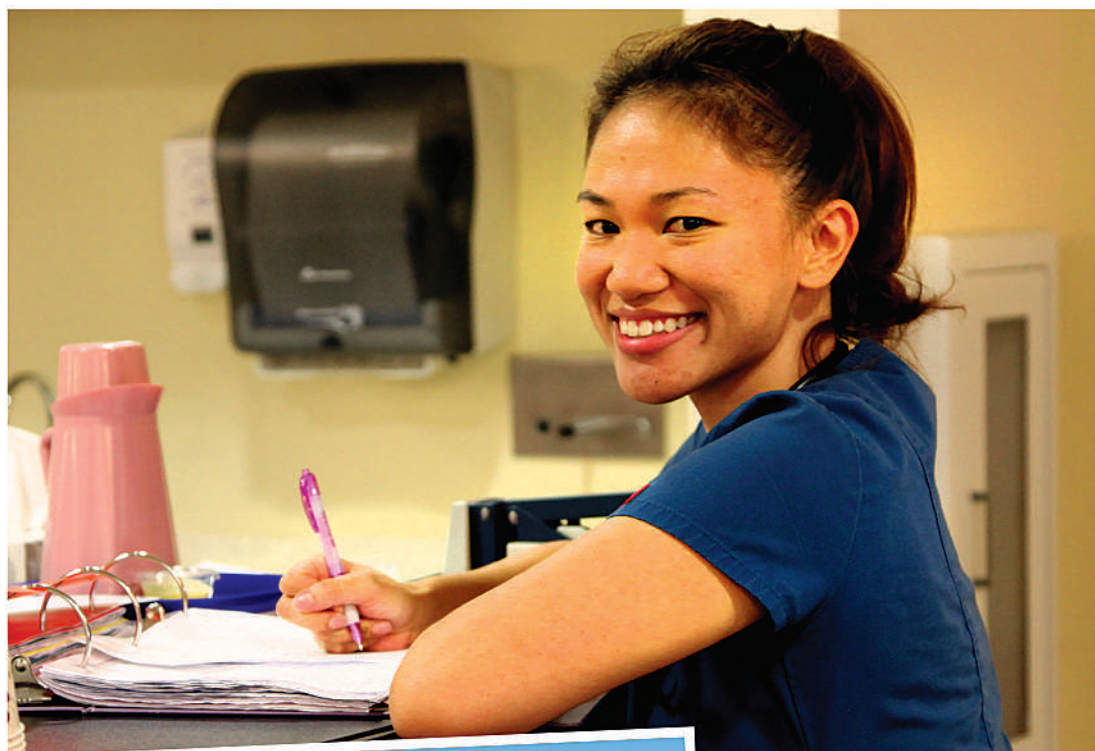
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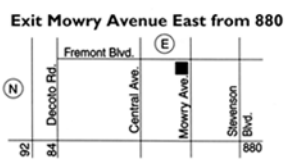


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*Connecting rescued animals with loving homes!*



**Racer is a 1 year old male husky mix who loves spending time with people, playing fetch and with his squeaky toys. He gets along well with other dogs and would like a home with older children. He has been patiently waiting to be adopted since August and his adoption is FREE sponsored by SantaCon Hayward. To adopt call Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293 - 7200**



**Kenny is a laid back male bunny who is easy to handle and enjoys treat puzzle toys and timothy biscuit treats. His adoption is free, sponsored by a generous volunteer. To adopt call Hayward Animal Shelter (510) 293 - 7200.**

\$ = Entrance or Activity Fee  
R= Reservations Required  
Schedules are subject to change.  
Call to confirm activities shown in these listings.

# Arts & Entertainment

## CONTINUING EVENTS

**Tuesdays**  
**Practice Your English--Tuesday Chat! R**  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Improve your English by talking with native speakers  
bit.ly/3TH2keU  
jliu@aclibrary.org

**Tuesdays**  
**Bilingual (English/Spanish) Tiny Tot Story Time**  
9:30 am - 11:00 am  
Kinder readiness class for 0-5 years old  
Union City Family Center  
725 Whipple Rd, Union City  
(510) 476-2770  
bit.ly/3GaTamI

**First Wednesdays**  
**Talkin' Dirt**  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Online Gathering of Gardeners  
Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont (LEAF)  
6501 Niles Blvd, Fremont  
fremontleaf.org/talkindirt

**Wednesdays**  
**Tropics Bingo**  
7:00 pm  
Flash games  
Tropics Mobile Home Park  
33000 Almaden Blvd, Union City  
(510) 471-8550  
the-tropics.net

**First Thursdays**  
**Plethos Comedy Lab \$**  
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Ever-changing lineup of Bay Area comics (18+)  
Castro Valley Market Place  
3295 Castro Valley Blvd,  
Castro Valley  
(510) 901-1001  
castrovalleymarketplace.com  
plethos.org

**Thursdays and Sundays**  
**Animal Feeding**  
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Feed livestock and learn about their favorite food  
Ardenwood Historic Farm  
34600 Ardenwood Blvd, Fremont  
(888) 327-2757  
ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood

**First Fridays**  
**First Friday at Chabot Space \$**  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Planetarium shows, telescope viewings and after-hours access to exhibits  
Chabot Space and Science Center  
10000 Skyline Blvd, Oakland  
(510) 336-7300  
chabotspace.org

**Fridays and Saturdays**  
**Telescope Viewings**  
7:30 pm - 10:30 pm  
Experience the awe and wonder of the Universe  
Chabot Space and Science Center  
10000 Skyline Blvd, Oakland  
(510) 336-7300  
chabotspace.org  
Donation accepted

**Saturdays**  
**Laugh Track City \$**  
8:00 pm  
Improvised games and scenes  
Made Up Theatre  
4000 Bay St., suite B, Fremont  
(510) 573-3633  
madeuptheatre.com  
Please show proof of vaccination

**Saturdays and Sundays**  
**Nectar Garden Exploration**  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Discover native pollinators and plants  
Coyote Hills Visitors Center  
8000 Patterson Ranch Rd, Fremont  
(510) 544-3220  
bit.ly/3UGfdGr

**Saturdays and Sundays**  
**Discovery On Demand**  
10:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Explore, investigate, and craft to satisfy your natural curiosities  
Coyote Hills Visitors Center  
8000 Patterson Ranch Rd, Fremont

(510) 544-3220  
bit.ly/3UGfdGr

**Second Saturday**  
**Lazy Saturdays?**  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Join members of LEAF and tackle various projects,  
Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont (LEAF)  
6501 Niles Blvd, Fremont  
fremontleaf.org/volunteer  
volunteer@fremontleaf.org

**Second Saturdays**  
**Alviso Adobe Tours \$**  
1:00 pm  
Docent-led tours and video presentation  
Alviso Adobe Park  
2087 Alviso Adobe Ct, Milpitas  
(408) 586-3210  
bit.ly/3Wcmgau

**Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays**  
**Showers for Adults 55+ R**  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
One shower per day  
Age Well Center at South Fremont  
47111 Mission Falls Ct, Fremont  
(510) 742-7529  
bit.ly/3rAEedSC

**Mondays**  
**Advanced Math + Science Tutoring**  
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Free high school and college-level tutoring  
Castro Valley Library  
3600 Norbridge Ave, Castro Valley  
(510) 667-7900  
aclibrary.org

**Second Thursdays, September 8 - June 9**  
**Café Dad**  
6:00 pm  
Father and father figures to obtain resources  
HUSD Parent Resource Center Hub  
24823 Soto Rd, Hayward  
(510) 723-3857  
husd.us/hub

**Saturdays, November 12 - February 5**  
**13 Weekly (Grief Share) sessions R**  
9:00 am - 10:30 am  
Prince of peace church  
38451 Fremont Blvd, Fremont  
(510) 793-3366  
popfremont.org

**Friday - Wednesday, November 18 - January 4**  
**Travelling Exhibit "We Are Not Strangers Here"**  
During library hours  
African American Histories in Rural California  
Milpitas Public Library  
160 N Main St, Milpitas  
(408) 262-1171  
scld.org

**Thursday, December 1 - Saturday, December 31**  
**Winter Reading Bingo**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Reading bingo for K-8th grade  
Milpitas Public Library  
160 N Main St, Milpitas  
(408) 262-1171  
scld.org

**First Thursday, December 1 - April 6**  
**Bill Savings Assistance with Spectrum**  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
In-person assistance on how to complete 2022 LIHEAP and/or LIHWAP application forms  
Fremont Main Library  
2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont  
(510) 745-1400  
aclibrary.org/locations/FRM  
bit.ly/3gWSJfq

**Wednesdays, December 7 - November 22**  
**Qi Gong Meditation & Exercise Classes**  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Relieve stress and anxiety by joining Falun Dafa classes  
Milpitas Public Library  
160 N Main St, Milpitas  
(408) 262-1171  
scld.org

**Thursdays, December 8 - June 8**

**Cover to Cover Book Discussion**  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Newark Public Library  
37055 Newark Blvd, Newark  
(510) 284-0675  
bit.ly/3DyAJaM

**Saturday, December 10 - Saturday, December 31**

**Crippsmas Place**  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
70+ houses decorated with lights and cartoon characters, candy canes, photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and live music  
Wellington Pl. Fremont  
crippsmasplace.org  
Donations accepted

**Second Mondays, December 12 - May 8**

**ASL (American Sign Language) Story Signing**  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Preschool - 2nd grade:  
6:30 - 7:00 pm  
3rd - 5th grade: 7:00 - 7:30 pm  
Fremont Main Library  
2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont  
(510) 745-1400  
aclibrary.org/locations/FRM

**First and third Friday, December 16 - Jun 16**

**Mobile Food Distribution**  
10:30 am - 11:30 am  
Available for first 80 families; line up starts at 9:30 a.m.  
Fremont Main Library  
2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont  
(510) 745-1400  
aclibrary.org/locations/FRM  
Bring your own reusable bag

**Wednesdays, December 28 - January 25**

**Folding Books R**  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
Used books makeover project  
Newark Public Library  
37055 Newark Blvd, Newark  
(510) 284-0675  
bit.ly/3DyAJaM

**Second Thursdays, December 29 - June 9**

**Diaper Distribution Program**  
11:00 am  
Diaper and wipes for low-income household  
Hayward Public Library  
888 C St, Hayward  
(510) 293-8685  
hayward-ca.gov/public-library

**Through Sunday, January 1**

**Home for Holiday \$**  
Mon-Wed & Fri: 11 am - 5 pm  
Th 12 noon - 7 pm  
Sat - Sun 10 am - 5 pm  
\$20 adoption fees for adult animals (6+ months)  
Humane Society Silicon Valley  
901 Ames Ave, Milpitas  
(408) 262-2133  
bit.ly/3PGy1DZ

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, December 27**

**Kwanzaa Storytime**  
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm  
Celebrate together with story, song and craft  
Newark Public Library  
37055 Newark Blvd, Newark  
(510) 284-0675  
bit.ly/3DyAJaM

**Tuesday, December 27**

**Teen Writer's Club R**  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Practice writing exercises together  
bit.ly/3VXPXF7

**Tuesday, December 27**

**Build It**  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Join for creative construction with blocks, Legos, and more!  
Castro Valley Library  
3600 Norbridge Ave, Castro Valley  
(510) 667-7900  
aclibrary.org  
Mask required for 2+

**Tuesday, December 27****Game Time**

4:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Bring whole family for quality time together, make new friends and play games  
San Lorenzo Library  
395 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo  
(510) 284-0640  
aclibrary.org/locations/SLZ

**Tuesday, December 27 – Wednesday, December 28****Holiday Drive-In Movies \$**

6:00 pm  
Gate open at 4:30 pm  
December 27: Frozen  
December 28: Abominable  
Gates 8 & 12 off Valley Ave.  
Alameda County Fairgrounds  
4501 Pleasanton Ave, Pleasanton  
(925) 426-7600  
alamedacountyfair.com

**Wednesday, December 28****Bingo night**

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Free to attend, food for purchase  
Chick-fil-A Mowry Avenue  
5245 Mowry Ave, Fremont  
(510) 608-5771  
bit.ly/3WpRmw2

**Wednesday, December 28****Genealogy Help**

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
History Room open for your family research related help  
San Leandro Library  
300 Estudillo Ave, San Leandro  
(510) 577-3970  
bit.ly/3BXWhf3

**Wednesday, December 28****The Journaling Hour**

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Create calendars, trackers and other journaling basics  
Centerville Library  
3801 Nicolet Ave, Fremont  
(510) 795-2629  
bit.ly/3hN2aoy  
Bring your own journal

**Friday, December 30****Newark Comedy Night \$**

8:00 pm - 9:45 pm  
Standup Comedy from established, local up-and-coming stars  
Swiss Park  
5911 Mowry Ave, Newark  
(510) 936-2523  
bit.ly/3HXcfKk

**Saturday, December 31****New Year Traditions**

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
Share your own new year traditions along with hot cider  
Ardenwood Historic Farm  
34600 Ardenwood Blvd, Fremont  
(888) 327-2757  
ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood

**Saturday, December 31****23rd Annual balloon Drop \$**

10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Celebrate strokes of midnight around the world at 11 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 3 pm and 4 pm  
Chabot Space and Science Center  
10000 Skyline Blvd, Oakland  
(510) 336-7300  
chabotspace.org

**Saturday, December 31****12th Annual New Year's Eve Spectacular! \$**

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Enjoy a hilarious improv comedy show to ring in the new year  
Made Up Theatre  
4000 Bay St suite B, Fremont  
(510) 573-3633  
madeuptheatre.com

**Saturday, December 31****New Year's Eve Dance R\$**

8:00 pm  
Music by "Grupo Combate Musical" band, dance and food  
Our Lady of the Rosary Church  
703 C Street, Union City  
(510) 471-2609  
olrchurch.org

**Saturday, December 31****New Year's Eve 2023 R\$**

7:30 pm  
DJ/dancing/hosted bar and Bollywood melodies by saxophone  
India Community Center  
525 Los Coches St, Milpitas  
(408) 934-1130  
indiacc.org

**Saturday, December 31****Bollywood Glitz NYE \$**

7:00 pm  
Dinner buffet, balloon drop, separate kids party, Bollywood DJ and surprise celebrity  
Royal Palace Banquet Hall  
6058 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont  
(510) 690-8900  
Sulekha.com/GLITZ

**Saturday, December 31****Old Skool: City of Fremont NYE**

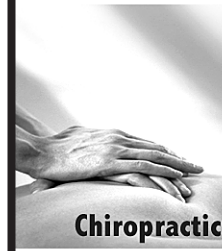
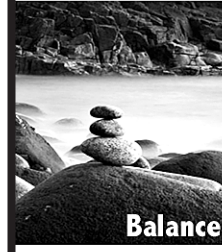
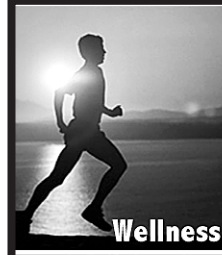
Back-in-the-day throwback jams  
City of Fremont  
3300 Capitol Ave, Fremont  
bit.ly/3HXd9GI

**Saturday, December 31****Winter Wonderland Walk R**

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Warm up with apple cider & learn what animals & plants do to prepare for cold while strolling  
Sunol Regional Wilderness Visitor Center  
1895 Geary Rd, Sunol  
(510) 544-3245  
ebparks.org/parks/Sunol  
Register: 1-888-EBPARKS

**Saturday, December 31****Noon Year's Eve Celebration**

11:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Make crafts, play games, and celebrate new year with music and dance  
Milpitas Public Library  
160 N Main St, Milpitas  
(408) 262-1171  
scld.org



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**Janet Laney, D.C.**

**510-792-9000**

**6170 Thornton Ave., Ste H Newark**

**Saturday, December 31****Kwanzaa Celebration**

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Event located 1st level between Miniso USA and Body Gear  
Newpark Mall  
2086 Newpark Mall, Newark  
(510) 931-5049  
newparkmall.com  
bit.ly/3HYHzZ2

**Saturday, December 31****End of the Year Hike**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Moderate hiking for 7+ years  
Coyote Hills Visitors Center  
8000 Patterson Ranch Rd, Fremont  
(510) 544-3220  
bit.ly/3UGfdGr

**Sunday, January 1****New Year, New View Hike**

9:00 am  
Easy/moderate hikes for 8+ years  
Sunol Regional Wilderness Visitor Center  
1895 Geary Rd, Sunol

(510) 544-3245

ebparks.org/parks/sunol

**Sunday, January 1****First Hike of the Year**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Hike along the Bayview trail and Red Hill trail 7+ years  
Coyote Hills Visitors Center  
8000 Patterson Ranch Rd, Fremont  
(510) 544-3220  
bit.ly/3UGfdGr

**Tuesday, January 3****Sticks & String Knitting Circle**

10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Knit, crochet, sew, and do other things with sticks and string  
Hayward Public Library  
888 C St, Hayward  
(510) 293-8685  
hayward-ca.gov/public-library

# Fremont Friends of the Library BOOK SALE

Fremont Main Library, in the Fukaya Room  
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538

**JANUARY 13, 14, & 15, 2023**

- **Friday, January 13: 2 pm - 6 pm**
- **Saturday, January 14: 10 am - 3 pm**

Most books priced at \$1/ inch, some specially priced.  
Children's material individually priced.  
CDs: from 25 cents, DVDs: from \$1.  
New materials may be added after opening.

- **Sunday, January 15: 12 pm - 3 pm**

Clearance Sunday:  
Only \$5 per paper grocery bag!  
We will provide the bags.  
Books & magazines only in bags.  
CDs & DVDs are 50% off marked price.

**FEATURING:**

Zane Grey (66 volumes)  
Child Craft, copyright 1954 (complete 15 volumes)  
Science & Invention Encyclopedia, copyright 1977 (complete 24 volumes)

**Credit cards accepted, \$10 minimum**  
**Mask required**



## Community unites to brighten holidays for seniors and families

**SUBMITTED BY**  
**SEBASTIAN FOTOUHI**

Davis Street is grateful to community members for their contribution of time, toys, and food to the 2022 Holiday Basket Program. This is one of the organization's key initiatives each year, providing low-income families with access to safety-net services such as emergency food, clothing, housing assistance, and utility assistance, plus special and festive touches to make their holiday bright.

With teamwork across the community, Davis Street provided a fresh turkey, chicken, or

ham, vegetables, and all the fixings for a complete holiday meal to over 1,000 households of families and seniors, and also includes new, age-appropriate toys for about 1,900 children, for a total of about 3,500 served.

Throughout December and up until the distribution day,

volunteers spent countless hours packaging and preparing gift baskets for children. The 2022 Holiday Basket distribution went smoothly thanks to approximately 100 volunteers, comprised of members of Davis Street Board of Directors, local organizations, businesses, and public service agencies.



## Honor Roll

**University of Sioux Falls, South Dakota**  
**Fall 2022 Dean's List**  
• **Aundria Vargas of Hayward**

**Chadron State College, Nebraska**  
**Winter 2022 graduate**  
• **Karen Phipps-Hamilton of Fremont**

## San Leandro Utility Box call for artists

SUBMITTED BY CITY OF SAN LEANDRO

San Leandro is looking for Alameda County artists to transform utility boxes into art pieces celebrating the city's culture. Selected artists will be compensated for their work, and their art will be on display around the city.

Artwork submitted for this call should represent a part of San Leandro's legacy and history—whether sustainability, technology, innovation, or aspects of the city's 150-year history.

The San Leandro Next blog says, "By installing artwork on utility boxes in San Leandro, we create a platform for storytelling and communication, transforming unattractive, obtrusive utility boxes into vibrant art pieces and a topic of interest for the community."

Those interested should submit an application on the ABG Art Group's webpage at <https://www.abgartgroup.com/>. A photo gallery of current utility box art can be viewed at <https://www.sanleandro.org/674/Utility-Box-Art>.

**San Leandro call for utility box art**  
**Through January 15, 2023**  
**<https://www.abgartgroup.com/>**

"It would be impossible to provide this program, significant in size and impact, without the dedication from the community to giving resources of time, goods, and finances to those in need" stated Rose Padilla Johnson, Davis Street CEO. Support for the Holiday Baskets Program helps connect local low-income families, seniors, and other

individuals to Davis Street's integrated services, including access to healthcare for Medi-Cal recipients, free and subsidized childcare for working poor families, and regular food, clothing and other essential care from Basic Needs.

Learn more about Davis Street at: <https://davisstreet.org/>



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**Contact Fudenna Bros. for more information**

**Phone: 510-657-6200**

**Email: [customerservice@fudenna.com](mailto:customerservice@fudenna.com)**

**Office located at 39823 Paseo Padre Pkwy. Fremont CA, 94538**

## Park It:

### New interpretive pavilion at shadow cliffs

BY NED MACKAY

There's a new feature greeting visitors to Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton. It's a 1,000-square-foot outdoor interpretive pavilion, an open-air visitor center with exhibits focused on the park's 116-acre nature area.

"Shadow Cliffs' nature area is a hidden gem in the Tri-Valley," said Park District Board Director Ayn Wieskamp. "The new interpretive pavilion will help inform and connect visitors to the park's lesser-known nature area and all of the recreational opportunities available, including trails for hiking, biking, and nature watching."

Exhibits at the new pavilion highlight the natural and cultural history of the park and its wildlife, plus providing park maps and information about recreational opportunities. The pavilion will be a gathering place for weekend naturalist-led programs starting in January, and school programs beginning in Fall 2023.

Funding for the pavilion came from the state, non-profit sources and individual donations. This included support from California State Parks, a lead gift of \$200,000 from Nancy and

Gary Harrington of Pleasanton, funds from the Regional Parks Foundation, and a generous grant from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation.

Shadow Cliffs is located on Stanley Boulevard just east of downtown Pleasanton. The park is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. November through February, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. May through Labor Day, and 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Labor Day through October. Parking is \$6 per vehicle and there is a \$2 fee per dog.

As 2022 gives way to 2023, there are lots of enjoyable ways to celebrate the New Year in the East Bay Regional Parks. For example, you can learn about the amazing variety of New Year traditions from around the world during a program from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 31 at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont with naturalist Chris Garcia. Examples of New Year rituals include eating noodles, smashing crockery and hanging onions on the door (my preference is a wreath).

The program is drop-in; registration is not required. Ardenwood admission fees apply. Ardenwood is at 34600 Ardenwood Boulevard, just north of Highway 84. For information, call (510) 544-2797.

Contra Loma Regional Park in Antioch will be the venue for a "Last Hike of the Year." It's from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 31, an easy three-miler led by naturalist Jaclyn Caldwell to look for signs of winter and reflect on the events of 2022.

The hike is free and no registration is necessary. Meet Jaclyn at the staging area at the end of Fredrickson Lane. Bring sturdy shoes, water and snacks. Minimum age is six years and parent participation is required. For information, call Black Diamond Mines at 510-544-2750.

Or you can join in a New Year's bird count from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 1 with naturalist Miriam Klingler at Big Break Regional Shoreline in Oakley. The idea is to track what species of birds are overwintering in the Delta. The group will meet at the park's fishing pier, then walk the trails. All ages and skill levels are welcome, although parent participation is required.

Big Break Regional Shoreline is at 69 Big Break Road off Oakley's Main Street. For information, call 510-544-3050.

The informal Let's Get Outside Club plans a hike from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1 at Sunol Regional Wilderness in southern Alameda County, led by naturalist Betty Villalta. The hike is a bit over three miles with a 415-foot elevation gain. Minimum age is eight years, and parent participation is required. Meet at the visitor center. Bring water and a snack or lunch.

Sunol Regional Wilderness is at the end of Geary Road off Calaveras Road about five miles south of I-680 and the town of Sunol. There's a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle. For information, call (510) 544-3234.

The first hike of the New Year at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont will be on Sunday, January 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a moderate walk along the Bayview and Red Hill trails with naturalist Maeron Yeshiwas. Panoramic views of the South Bay are the reward. The hike is free, and no registration is necessary. It is designed for ages seven and older with parent participation required. Meet at the visitor center.

Coyote Hills is at the end of Patterson Ranch Road off Paseo Padre Parkway. There's a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle. For information, call (510) 544-3220.

Wednesday Walks is a series of naturalist-led hikes to explore various regional parks. The Wednesday Walkers' first hike of 2023 will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on January 4 at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline in Richmond with naturalist Susan Ramos.

It's a five-mile hike to the Dotson Family Marsh with eucalyptus, possibly butterflies, bay views, and interesting park history along the way. Bring water and a snack; wear warm clothing and sturdy hiking boots. Meet Susan at the Atlas Road Staging Area. It's over the bridge at the end of Atlas Road off Richmond Parkway.

The hike is a free, drop-in activity; no registration is required. For information, call (510) 544-3187.

There are many other programs planned in the regional parks as 2023 arrives. For information, visit [www.ebparks.org/things-to-do](http://www.ebparks.org/things-to-do).

## "Know Your Limit" and travel safely into the New Year

SUBMITTED BY VERONICA SANTOS

The holidays are fast approaching. As you prepare to celebrate with friends and family, the Office of Traffic Safety and Caltrans want everyone to stay safe on the road and enjoy the holiday season. Here are some ways to know your limit and "Go Safely" into the new year.

It is important to know how alcohol affects you. In California, it is illegal to get behind the wheel with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of .08% or higher. BAC is a measure of your impairment and depends on a variety of factors including height, weight, food intake, drug and/or medication use, fatigue and how fast alcohol is consumed. Based on the number of drinks consumed, gender and body weight, it is estimated that an average of two drinks by a 120-pound female would lead to a BAC over the legal limit, while an average of three drinks by a 180-pound male would lead to a BAC over the legal limit.

Even one drink affects your ability to drive and there is no quick fix to bringing down your BAC. Driving under the influence (DUI) can cost you. The average fine for a first-time DUI is more than \$13,500 in personal and legal fees combined.

Drinking and driving is dangerous and could be deadly. It is critical for everyone to be responsible and plan ahead. In 2020, nearly 12,000 people died in drunk-driving crashes in the U.S., including 1,159, or nearly 10% of all drunk-driving fatalities, in California. We can all make it to and from our destinations safely during the holidays by having a game plan. Designate a sober driver or schedule a ride share to get home safely. If you are hosting a party, do not let your friends or family drive impaired. Make sure that all guests leave with a sober driver. Driving under the influence of any substance that affects your ability to drive safely is illegal. Over-the-counter medications, prescription drugs, illicit

drugs and marijuana can all impair your ability to drive. If you are in your car and suspect that another driver may be driving impaired, call 911. You could save a life.

As you travel during the holidays, remember to also be Work Zone Alert to protect those working on California's highways. Be careful when passing a work zone and obey all road signs. If you see flashing amber lights ahead, move over a lane. If unable to do so safely, slow down. Not only is it the right thing to do; it's also the law. The Move Over Law exists to provide a safer environment when maintenance and emergency vehicles, and tow trucks are stopped along the highways, close to fast moving traffic. You can help them get home safely to their families.

The Office of Traffic Safety and Caltrans wish you and yours a safe holiday season and a happy New Year. Go Safely, California. For more safety tips, visit [www.gosafelyca.org](http://www.gosafelyca.org).

# Community Bulletin Board

**10 lines/\$10/ 10 Weeks  
\$50/Year**

510-494-1999 tricityvoice@aol.com

**Shout out to your community**

Our readers can post information including:

- Activities**
- Announcements**
- For sale**
- Garage sales**
- Group meetings**
- Lost and found**

For the extremely low cost of \$10 for up to 10 weeks, your message will reach thousands of friends and neighbors every TUESDAY in the TCV printed version and continuously online. TCV has the right to reject any posting to the Community Bulletin Board. Payment must be received in advance. Payment is for one posting

only. Any change will be considered a new posting and incur a new fee.

**The "NO" List:**

- No commercial announcements, services or sales
- No personal services (escort services, dating services, etc.)
- No sale items over \$100 value
- No automobile or real estate sales
- No animal sales (non-profit humane organization adoptions accepted)
- No P.O. boxes unless physical address is verified by TCV

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Established 1971  
Meets 2nd Tues in person 7pm  
Meets 4th Tues with Zoom 7pm  
At the Fremont Elks Lodge  
38991 Farwell Dr., Fremont  
Guests Always Welcome,  
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Auction, Refreshments  
www.fremontcoinclub.org  
510-366-1365

**Hope Evangelical-Lutheran Church**  
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A church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession AD 1530 and The Book of Concord AD 1580/1584  
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LC-MS) - English District  
Incarnational. Sacramental. Liturgical.  
Find our service times and social media links on our website:  
**www.hopelutheranfremont.org**  
Rev. Ray Hulett (510) 793-8691 reverendhulett@gmail.com  
**"We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."**

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Down Payment Assistance  
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711 Old Canyon Road, Fremont (Niles District)  
  
The FIRST MONDAY of Every month in 2023  
Doors Open @ 6:00 PM Games Start @ 7:00 PM  
  
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510-755-6348

**SAN LEANDRO HISTORICAL RAILWAY SOCIETY**  
is open to the public each Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. Located at 1302 Orchard Ave, San Leandro, Ca. Outdoor & indoor model trains will be in operation. Information: Eugene 510 963-2965 Model train donations: Bob 510 566-3499

**President's Distinguished Club Newark Toastmasters can help you improve your speaking and leadership skills.**  
We meet via Zoom every Tuesday 7 am - 8 am It's FREE to attend as a guest.  
Info: wmfitts@yahoo.com profricka@gmail.com www.1118.toastmastersclubs.org

**Scholarships for Women**  
**Fremont PEO/UF sponsors scholarships for women entering college, earning another degree, returning after 2+ years.**  
2% education loans.  
**www.peocalifornia.org**  
**peouf150@gmail.com**

**Are you troubled by someone else's drinking?**  
Al-Anon and Alateen Family Groups are here to help!  
Al-anon has but one purpose, to help families and friends of Alcoholics.  
We have Zoom meetings during the Shelter in Place.  
For a full meeting list, please visit <http://alanond17.weebly.com>  
You can also email [easyduz@gmail.com](mailto:easyduz@gmail.com) or call us at 510.276.2270 for more info.

**LOVE to WRITE? WANT to WRITE? WRITER'S BLOCK?**  
**Fremont Area Writers (FAW) is here to HELP!**  
Zoom meeting 4th Saturday of the month (off July & Dec)  
2:00-4:00 PM  
Great speakers! \* All genres! \* Critique groups available!  
Email **scottfrombayside@yahoo.com** for Zoom link before the meeting.  
Writers' Salon meets 4th Monday of the month (occasional exceptions)  
Join us via Zoom 7:00-9:00 PM Read, discuss or just listen.  
Email **up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com** for Zoom link before the meeting.  
Everyone is welcome! [www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

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**www.fffba.org**  
**www.friendshipforce.org**  
**Call or text 510-363-0531**

**Join the American Association of University Women - Fremont Branch**  
Make new friends Create STEM opportunities for girls Arrange STEM summer camps for teens Attend social events Choose students for college scholarships Meet with your book group. Gather for coffee Have Fun  
<https://fremont-ca.aauw.net/>

**TRI-CITIES WOMEN'S CLUB**  
Meets on the third Tuesday Elk's Club on Farwell Drive  
9:15 - Cards & Games  
11:30 - Lunch 1:00 - Program & Meeting Group meeting monthly/bimonthly; bridge, lunch bunch, Rummikub, bocce ball & book club.  
For more info, call 916-217-3074

**Want to see a collection of vintage buses?**  
Visit the Pacific Bus Museum in Fremont at 37974 Shinn Street. View and explore these antiques which were built from 1932 to 1995. Open the first and third Saturday of every month from 10am to 2pm. Children always welcome.  
[www.pacbus.org](http://www.pacbus.org)

**Mission Peak Fly Anglers**  
Join us to meet with those who enjoy fly fishing  
Programs Casting Lessons FlyTying  
**Meetings every 3rd Wednesday 7 pm**  
Fremont Activity Center  
3375 Country Dr, Fremont  
[www.missionpeakflyanglers.org](http://www.missionpeakflyanglers.org)  
email: [fremont.mpf@gmail.com](mailto:fremont.mpf@gmail.com)

**THE HISTORIC SHINN HOUSE**  
1251 Peralta Blvd, Fremont, CA  
Open for public tours \$4 adults, \$2 Children (7-13) on the: First Wednesday of each month, and Third Sunday of each month from 1 PM to 4 PM. Groups of six or more need to make a reservation Groups of five or less are welcome without a reservation We will enforce current local CDC Guidelines All tours are Docent led and last about one hour. More information and large group reservations call: (510) 795-0891

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**2950 WASHINGTON BLVD, FREMONT, CA**  
We welcome you and your family into the life of Fremont First, regardless of your skin color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental capacity, religious background, family configuration, economic means or immigrations status. Check out our website: [www.firstchurchfremont.org](http://www.firstchurchfremont.org)  
See our website to meet us on Zoom

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Variety of activities: Bocce ball, Day trips, BBQ, Dinner, Wine tasting and more.  
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**NEWARK TROOP NEWARK TROOP 186**  
is looking for 6th - 12th grade boys to join us in amazing wilderness adventures, merit badge training, community service, and more! Email the troop at [EvelynMarieLittle@gmail.com](mailto:EvelynMarieLittle@gmail.com) for more info or join us Mondays at 7:15pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Newark"

**Afro-American Cultural & Historical Society**  
Sharing our culture and history in the Tri-Cities and surrounding area  
Meetings: Third Saturday 5:30-7:30pm begin in October  
Newark Library  
37101 Newark Blvd. Newark  
510-793-8181  
[aachstricity.org](http://aachstricity.org)

# OPINION

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What's Happening's Tri-City Voice is a "newspaper of general circulation" as set forth in sections 6000, et. seq., of the Government Code, for the City of Fremont, County of Alameda, and the State of California.

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**WILLIAM MARSHAK**

## A New Year

The sound of this new year ll be a collective sigh of relief as 2022 dwindles to its last few days. As another calendar year begins, although largely symbolic, it signals a renewal of purpose and intent to improve and excel beyond what has been. Many New Year toasts embody this rite of passage including the often-used Irish blessing, "May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future."

American-born poet, T.S. Eliot referenced a New Year with new beginnings: "For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning." And, for those who resolve every year to break old, undesirable habits, a humorous quip... "May all your troubles during the coming year be as short as your New Year's resolutions."

Through sincere and humorous toasts to an advanced number of the calendar, a change of attitude is requisite for many of

us. Resolutions to react to adversity with more composure and understand elements of divergent opinions with respect should be among the promises made to create greater harmony with family, friends and associates. Can this be the resolution that defies short-lived adherence?

Tolerance, patience and respect of community health and welfare has been sorely tested by a pandemic that has been reticent to relent. On the political and social scene, virtual gatherings and meetings are slowly including face-to-face encounters. The effect has been a reemergence of community activity and oversight. Effective vaccines have changed the health landscape, but COVID and other health issues remain a challenge for the new year.

Speed is an essential component of the news business but fact checking to preserve truth is essential. Trust was, and remains, a crucial element between consumers and media. The public felt it could rely on most reporting by news organizations as fair and impartial, based on supportable facts. The concept of "alternative facts" was left to sensationalistic and extreme commentaries, considered entertainment rather than serious journalism. As the pressure of speed and other forms of communication surpassed veracity, even honored and trusted news sources have become suspect. Currently,

sensationalism threatens the entire news industry, freedom of the press and our democracy.

Tri-City Voice understands that although world, national and state events are extremely important, our publication will remain committed to the communities we call home.

We have all, at one time or another, suffered the consequences of fleeting attention to New Year resolutions. But, in the midst of a pandemic, the aftermath of a brutal campaign year and civil unrest, this may be a good time to pay special attention to attitudes and introspection. Some New Year resolutions compare this moment to a new book, yet to be written; let's write a good one! Although only a tick of the clock's second hand separates the old year from the new, in that moment, we can all join a toast attributed to Oprah Winfrey... "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

Tri-City Voice echoes the words of Albert Einstein: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."

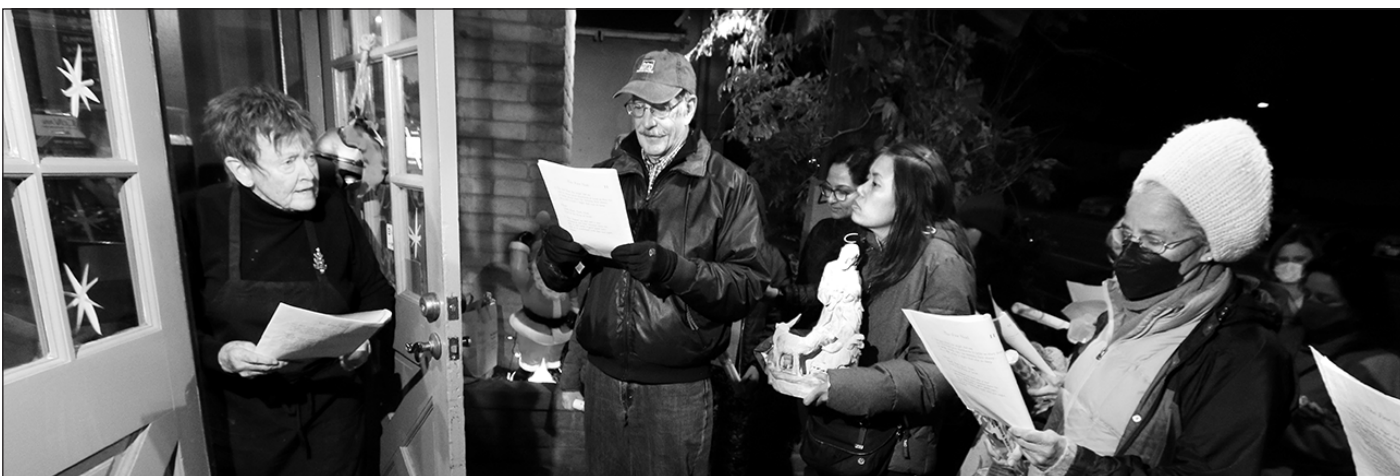
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**William Marshak**  
**PUBLISHER**

# Las Posadas

**BY STAFF**  
**PHOTO BY VICTOR CARVELLAS**

In 2022, Fremont Cultural Arts Council and Old Mission San Jose held the 40th Las Posadas procession in Fremont. Different local musicians performed each night in a combination of virtual and in-person events. On December 15, carolers proceeded from the steps of Mission San Jose to Mission Coffee on Washington Boulevard, carrying a crèche on the Holy Family. The performance that night was from Kristy Del Rio and her Merry Band. The final night of Los Posadas was December 23, with an organ concert at the Mission from Ron McKean. We are looking forward to the 41st Las Posadas in 2023! Learn more at: <https://fremontculturalartscouncil.org/events/las-posadas>.



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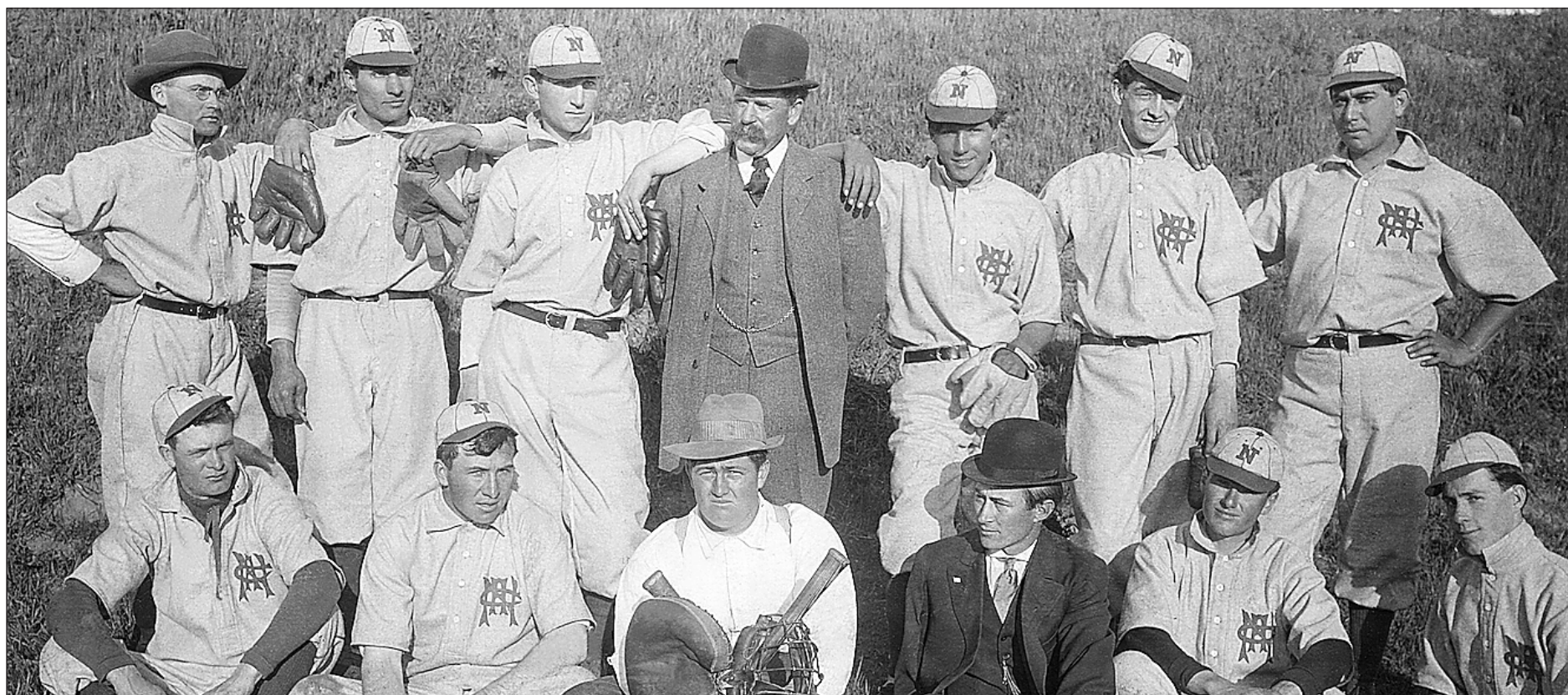
# Tri-City History in Photographs

By KELSEY CAMELLO, FOR THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY

## #12: Baseball Teams

Team (noun): A number of persons forming one of the sides in a game or contest. In this case - baseball.

Let's explore local history through themes and photographs. Have a topic or idea you'd like us to explore? Email us at [info@museumoflocalhistory.org](mailto:info@museumoflocalhistory.org)



Niles, 1911: Niles Baseball Team - Early on in Niles, baseball could be played at either Mayhew's field (opposite the original Niles Station location) or on Sullivan's field (where the Sullivan underpass is now located).



Newark, early 1900s: Wedgewood Baseball Team.



Warm Springs, 1916: Warm Springs Baseball Team.

Centerville, July 4, 1911: Centerville Baseball Team, in newly acquired uniforms, pictured before the July 4th game against Mill Valley.



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**LETTERS POLICY**

The Tri-City Voice welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Only the writer's name will be published. Letters that are 350 words or fewer will be given preference. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and style.  
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1940 Peralta Blvd., Fremont  
www.fremontchapeloftheroses.com



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www.fremontmemorialchapel.com

**Isabella Kirschner**  
Resident of Newark  
Nov. 12, 1929 – Dec. 13, 2022  
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

**William Davis**  
Resident of Fremont  
Dec. 28, 1958 – Dec. 14, 2022  
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

**Evelyn A. Coyoca**  
Resident of Mountain House  
Nov. 25, 1948 – Dec. 12, 2022  
Fremont Memorial Chapel

**Leno Joe Grine, Jr.**  
Resident of Fremont  
August 1, 1958 – December 11, 2022  
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

## Age Adjustment Act aids People with Disabilities

SUBMITTED BY CHRISITAN DALY, STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma and CalABLE, California's savings and investment program for people with disabilities, applauded the passage of the ABLE Age Adjustment Act included in the Congressional Omnibus Spending Bill. CalABLE advocates have urged Congress to act on expanding access to ABLE accounts by raising the age of disability onset limits for ABLE eligibility. First introduced by Rep. Tony Cárdenas (CA-29), H.R. 1219 will amend the Internal Revenue Code to raise the age threshold from 26 to 46 for tax-favored ABLE accounts beginning January 1, 2026. Previously, only individuals with a qualifying disability prior to age 26 were eligible to open an ABLE account.

"The federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014 was the most significant legislation for people with disabilities since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, nearly 30 years ago," said Treasurer Ma, who also chairs the CalABLE board of directors. "Through savings in ABLE accounts, Californians with disabilities have purchased homes, paid for educational expenses, covered out-of-pocket medical costs, and so much more. CalABLE's impact will be even greater with the passage of the ABLE Age Adjustment Act, giving millions of veterans and others who became disabled later in life the opportunity to achieve financial equity."

CalABLE accounts are a relatively new financial tool for people with disabilities. CalABLE allows people with disabilities to have money that is not counted towards asset limitations set by means-tested benefit programs like Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income. These asset limits prevent people with disabilities from saving money beyond \$2,000 and planning for their future.

For more information about CalABLE or how to open an account, visit [www.calable.ca.gov](http://www.calable.ca.gov). To stay in touch, please follow CalABLE on Facebook at California ABLE Act Board, Instagram at @wearecalable, Twitter at @wearecalable, and LinkedIn at CalABLE



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July 17, 1948 – December 22, 2022

**Dorothy McCowen**  
Resident of Fremont  
March 9, 1927 – December 21, 2022

**Dorlores Lenfert**  
Resident of Newark  
September 24, 1932 – December 21, 2022

**Shivkumar Chaudhari**  
Resident of Fremont  
May 3, 1976 – December 21, 2022

**Barinder Ahluwalia**  
Resident of San Jose  
May 30, 1938 – December 20, 2022

**Muktaben Javia**  
Resident of San Jose  
November 12, 1932 – December 19, 2022

**Kalawatiben Dharnidharka**  
Resident of Dublin  
August 1, 1947 – December 18, 2022

**Diane Peterson**  
Resident of Newark  
April 27, 1936 – December 17, 2022

**Kameshwar Eranki**  
Resident of Fremont  
June 29, 1968 – December 16, 2022

**Marilyn Hanesworth**  
Resident of Fremont  
November 29, 1937 – December 13, 2022

**Daniel Bega**  
Resident of Fremont  
February 14, 1938 – December 13, 2022

**Paul Mancuso**  
Resident of Milpitas  
September 10, 1944 – December 12, 2022

**Norberto Devera**  
Resident of Fremont  
February 18, 1952 – December 11, 2022

**Baolin Wu**  
Resident of Milpitas  
June 24, 1935 – December 11, 2022

**Justin Nelson**  
Resident of Fremont  
June 23, 1979 – December 11, 2022

**Srekanth Jaldi**  
Resident of Milpitas  
October 2, 1985 – December 11, 2022

**Martin Crowningshield**  
Resident of Union City  
December 31, 1938 – December 10, 2022

**Ram Bajaj**  
Resident of Oakland  
August 16, 1929 – December 9, 2022

**Chris-Edward Brandt**  
Resident of San Leandro  
April 10, 1943 – December 9, 2022

**Naman Bharadwaj**  
Resident of San Francisco  
February 15, 1993 – December 8, 2022

**Upendrabhai Patel**  
Resident of Livermore  
December 25, 1939 – December 7, 2022

**Mary Williams**  
Resident of Union City  
February 16, 1920 – December 7, 2022

**Natarajan Ramasamy**  
Resident of Newark  
June 21, 1943 – December 6, 2022

## Chris-Edward Paul Brandt

Resident of San Leandro

April 10, 1943 – December 9, 2022

Chris-Edward Paul Brandt, 79, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2022 in Castro Valley, CA after a brief illness.

Chris was born on April 10, 1943 in Tallahassee, FL and grew up in Yonkers, NY. He attended Regis High School in New York City and graduated from Iona Preparatory in New Rochelle, NY. He completed coursework at Manhattan College in New York City prior to joining the US Army in May 1966. He achieved the rank of Sergeant, earning the Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After his Army service, Chris began working in a middle management position at General Foods in White Plains, NY before transferring to San Leandro, CA in 1970. He worked for General Foods for 25 years before moving to Savin Corporation prior to retiring.

He married Madelyn (Lynn) Coggins on March 18, 1972 and purchased a home in Fremont, CA where they lived for many years. Though they later divorced, Lynn remained a presence in Chris' life and generously provided support to him.

Chris was a big sports fan and particularly loved the Baltimore Orioles, New York Jets, and New York Rangers. He supported his children in their activities, including volunteering as a baseball scorekeeper and CYO basketball equipment manager, in addition to attending many dance recitals. Chris passed along his love of music to his children, who spent many weekends listening to his collection of old 45's. He loved to give extended hugs and was quick to share a big



smile, especially when he spent time with his favorite dogs Sherlock and Finn.

Chris was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Albert Cudney and Kathryn Elizabeth Cudney (Hoss), and his sister Kathleen Cecile Cudney.

Chris is survived by his daughter Patti Cudney of Fremont, CA; son Michael, daughter-in-law Kandice, granddaughter Holyn, and grandson Daxton of Chula Vista, CA; daughter Denise Cudney of Ramona, CA; son Matthew, daughter-in-law Jessica, and granddaughter (due January 2023) of Reseda, CA; brother Kevin Cudney and sister-in-law Dorinda of Broomfield, CO; and eight nieces and five nephews.

A private burial will be held in January 2023. A celebration of life will be planned in spring 2023.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or the American Heart Association.

## Justin Mitchell Nelson

Resident of Fremont

June 23, 1979 – December 11, 2022



Justin Mitchell Nelson, 43 was sent to heaven on the morning of December 11, 2022 in his sleep at home. He was born June 23, 1979 in Alameda County to his parents Roxanne and Dennis Nelson. He was the baby of 6 children.

Justin was an amazing husband, father, son, brother, uncle, nephew and friend. He took pride in all those titles. In 2007, Justin met Teri at 24 Hour Fitness and they were married in 2015. He leaves behind his daughter Everleigh (5) and unborn child coming this summer he was so excited about. Justin is survived by his loving wife Teri, his mother Roxanne, 3 brothers: Brent, Reid and Josh and his 2 sisters Shannon and Sommer along with all his nieces,

nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins he loved so dearly.

Justin was an introvert and kept his circle small, but his heart was huge. He was always willing to help out his friends and family when needed no questions asked. You could always find him on the ground with the kids being silly and playing whatever imaginary game was going on. Justin had a lot of pride in his work he did over the years in carpentry with his brother Reid, and once again when he shifted into the collision industry with his brother in Law George. He loved his motorcycles, especially his Harley enjoying the windy roads of La Honda, or whatever back roads he could find with his brother and brother-in-law during their adventures. The roads and the beach were his calm place when he needed to ground himself from the world. Everleigh and Teri were Justin's world as he always said, and you often found them together, even just at home making memories. Extremely loyal and protective of those he loved, Justin was devoted to his family and standing up for his beliefs, morals and values.

Justin's memorial services will be held on Wednesday December 28, 2022 at 2pm at Berge Pappas Smith Chapel of the Angels in Fremont. He will later be laid to rest at Irvington Memorial Cemetery surrounded by his family.



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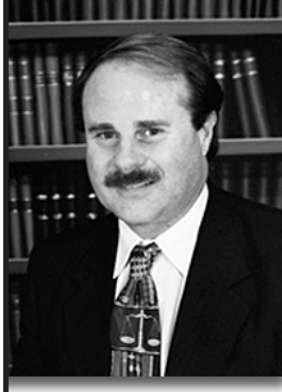
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**NASA Mars lander InSight falls silent after 4 years**

BY MARCIA DUNN  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS AEROSPACE WRITER

It could be the end of the red dusty line for NASA's InSight lander, which has fallen silent after four years on Mars.

The lander's power levels have been dwindling for months because of all the dust coating its solar panels. Ground controllers at California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory knew the end was near, but NASA reported that InSight unexpectedly didn't respond to communications from Earth on Dec. 18.

"It's assumed InSight may have reached the end of its operations," NASA said late Dec. 19, adding that its last communication was Dec. 15. "It's unknown what prompted the change in its energy." The team will keep trying to contact InSight, just in case.

InSight landed on Mars in 2018 and was the first spacecraft to document a marsquake. It detected more than 1,300 marsquakes with its French-built seismometer, including several caused by meteoroid strikes. The most recent marsquake sensed by InSight, earlier this year, left the ground shaking for at least six hours, according to NASA. The seismometer readings shed light on Mars' interior.

Just a week prior, scientists revealed that InSight scored another first, capturing a Martian dust devil not just in pictures, but sound. In a stroke of luck, the whirling column of dust blew directly over the lander in 2021 when its microphone was on. The lander's other main instrument, however, encountered nothing but trouble.

A German digging device -- meant to measure the temperature of Mars' interior -- never made it deeper than a couple feet, well short of the intended 16 feet. NASA declared it dead nearly two years ago. InSight recently sent back one last selfie, shared by NASA via Twitter on Dec. 19.

"My power's really low, so this may be the last image I can send," the team wrote on InSight's behalf. "Don't worry about me though: my time here has been both productive and serene. If I can keep talking to my mission team, I will -- but I'll be signing off here soon. Thanks for staying with me."

NASA still has two active rovers on Mars: Curiosity, roaming the surface since 2012, and Perseverance, which arrived early last year.

Perseverance is in the midst of creating a sample depot; the plan is to leave 10 tubes of rock cores on the Martian surface as a backup to samples on the rover itself. NASA plans to bring some of these samples back to Earth in a decade, in its longtime search for signs of ancient microscopic life on Mars.

Perseverance also has a companion: a mini helicopter named Ingenuity. It just completed its 37th flight and has now logged more than an hour of Martian flight time.

**Working Widower**

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

BY RUSSELL GLOOR, NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISOR, AMAC FOUNDATION

*Ask Rusty – Can I get survivor benefits while still working?*

*Dear Rusty: I lost my wife several years ago and I qualified for Social Security Spousal benefits. Unfortunately, because of my income, I have not been able to take advantage of this benefit. I am currently 64 and still working. I believe I have until the age of 70 to receive this. Is there any way to claim any of this before I start taking my Social Security in a couple of years?*

**Signed: Working Widower**

Dear Working Widower: Your entitlement to surviving spouse benefits from your wife actually never expires so, you can wait until you stop working full time, or until you reach your full retirement age (FRA), to claim your benefit as a widower.

Social Security's "earnings test" lasts until you reach your full retirement age which, for you, is 66 years and 8 months. That is the age at which your earnings from working will no longer affect your Social Security benefit. So, you can simply defer claiming your survivor benefit until you reach your FRA, or until you stop working full time and won't exceed the annual earnings limit (the earnings limit changes yearly; for 2023 it is \$21,240). But there is no way to avoid the earnings test if you're collecting SS benefits of any kind before you reach your full retirement age. If you collect your surviving spouse benefit early and exceed the earnings limit, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by), and if your work earnings are high enough it can temporarily disqualify you from receiving SS benefits. The penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is also less severe in the year you reach your FRA.

You might take some comfort in knowing, anyway, that taking your survivor benefit before your FRA would mean it would be reduced (by 4.75% for each full year early) but waiting until you reach your FRA to claim it would mean you'll get 100% of the survivor benefit you're entitled to (the same amount your wife was entitled to when she died). And you can claim your survivor benefit (only) first and collect that, while allowing your personal SS retirement amount to continue to grow, up to age 70 if you wish. You should strive to maximize whichever benefit will be highest -- your own, or your survivor benefit -- and collect that benefit for the rest of your life. If you choose to claim your survivor benefit at your FRA and switch to your own higher amount at 70, your personal SS retirement benefit at 70 will be almost 27% more than it will be at your full retirement age. That would be a good way to avoid the earnings test, maximize both benefits, and secure the highest possible Social Security benefit for as long as you live.

Whether waiting until 70 to claim your own SS retirement benefit makes sense depends on whether it will be higher at age 70 than your survivor benefit at your FRA, and on your life expectancy. Average life expectancy for a man your current age is about 84 and you would break even moneywise at about age 81 if you wait until age 70 to claim your own SS retirement benefit. So, you'd get the most in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until your FRA to claim your survivor benefit and - if it will be higher - waiting until you're 70 to claim your own SS retirement benefit. The choice is yours to make but longevity is the key, so you should carefully assess your potential life expectancy, including your family history, your current health, and your lifestyle to help you decide.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

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**LETTERS POLICY**

The Tri-City Voice welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Only the writer's name will be published. Letters that are 350 words or fewer will be given preference. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and style. [tricityvoice@aol.com](mailto:tricityvoice@aol.com)



### Newark Police Log

SUBMITTED BY NEWARK PD

Monday, December 19

• At about 2:32 p.m. officers responded to a report about a strong-arm robbery of a USPS letter carrier near Haley and Bettencourt streets. Police said neighbors interrupted the robbery and assisted the postal worker. Two suspects fled the scene in a vehicle which officers spotted nearby and began pursuing for about 2.8 miles, ending on southbound I-880 before the Mowry Avenue exit. Fremont Police responded to assist and located the vehicle as it re-entered Newark at southbound I-880 and Stevenson Boulevard. The vehicle drove north onto Balentine Drive, then hit the curb in the 39000 block and stopped. Two suspects fled on foot, but were apprehended by police after a brief foot chase. The driver, identified by police as Imran Siddiqui, 18, of Union City was arrested on suspicion of robbery of a mail carrier, evading a peace officer and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was booked into Santa Rita Jail. The other suspect, identified by police as a 16-year-old male juvenile, was arrested on suspicion of robbery of a mail carrier and booked at Alameda County Juvenile Hall.

### Hayward Police Log

SUBMITTED BY HAYWARD PD

Sunday, December 4

• At 10:00 p.m. officers responded to a report about a shooting near the 25000 block of Carlos Bee Blvd. Upon arrival, officers found evidence of a shooting, then located the male victim at a local hospital where he went for treatment. The suspects fled the scene before officers arrived. An investigation is continuing.

Tuesday, December 6

• At 6:54 p.m. a male standing in a parking lot near the 300 block of Southland Mall was

approached by an unknown person who brandished a handgun and took property from him, and then fled in a vehicle. The case is being investigated as a robbery.

Thursday, December 8

• At 8:51 p.m. a female was sitting inside her vehicle near the 200 block of Whipple Road when an unknown person arrived and forcibly took property from her, and then fled the scene. The case is being investigated as a robbery.

Friday, December 9

• At 12:36 a.m. officers responded to a report about an in-progress burglary near the 300 block of W. Tennyson Road. Upon arrival, officers found a man inside a business which had been broken into. The man was taken into custody.

## Carjacking leads to police pursuit, collision

SUBMITTED BY FREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Three juveniles were arrested in connection with a carjacking from the parking lot of a Fremont shopping center on December 18 that led to a police chase and a collision resulting in a major injury.

The incident started at about 5:08 p.m. when a suspect physically confronted a female outside a store in the Sundale Shopping Center on Stevenson Boulevard and Blacow Road and took her car, then sped away in it. About 45 minutes later officers located the carjacked vehicle elsewhere in Fremont with three occupants inside. When they tried to stop the vehicle, the driver sped away. Officers pursued the vehicle to I-680 where it traveled southbound into Santa Clara County and eventually collided with another vehicle near the Landess Avenue exit in Milpitas.

A passenger from the uninvolved vehicle was ejected and sustained major injuries and was taken

to a local trauma hospital and later reported in critical condition. California Highway Patrol handled the collision investigation.

Fremont police officers arrested three juvenile suspects who were inside the carjacked vehicle. Later, as part of the investigation, the carjacking victim could not identify any of the juveniles as being involved in the initial carjacking.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office charged the juvenile driver, a Hayward resident, with two felony counts: fleeing a pursuing police officer causing great bodily injury to a person and possession of a stolen vehicle. The other two juveniles were released from custody with no criminal charges.

An investigation is continuing. Police are asking anyone who witnessed the carjacking or has information that can help, to call Detective Jake Blass at (510) 790-6900 or send an email to JBlass@fremont.gov.

## Rising water cost impacts Tri-Cities

By JACK ALCORN

Fremont, Newark and Union City residents are slated for an increase of more than 8% for the cost of water. Alameda County Water District (ACWD) has proposed rate hikes that will begin in March if the Water District Board of Directors approves the pending fee increase. A public hearing on the rate hikes will be held at 6 p.m. February 9.

The water district implemented a surcharge of 79 cents per unit of water this summer to cover the cost of promoting restrictive water use. ACWD's Public Affairs Department stated that the surcharges helped, but more funding is needed to pay for rising labor, operational and water purchase costs.

Most of the state remains in a drought emergency. Chemical costs and supply chain issues were also cited as factors contributing to the need to raise the water price. About 20% of the district's water is bought from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, while 40% comes from the California State Water Project.

An initial 4% rate hike in the spring would be followed by another 4% increase in 2024, effecting

a total 8.16% rise in cost for consumers. ACWD contracted independent analysts to review the agency's finances and obligations. Four work sessions over the past year determined the specific operational burden and proposed a cost increase resolution.

ACWD said that the average residential bill would still be the 9th lowest of 30 Northern California water agencies. The average Tri-City household consumes around 200 gallons of water each day, with a monthly bill of about \$132. The slated increase would raise the price to \$143 per month in 2024.

Alameda County Water District provides potable water to 345,000 customers in the Tri-City area and operates with a current budget of \$176 million. The community consumes roughly 36 million gallons of water per day. The next meeting of the Alameda County Water District is January 12. The Board will vote on the fee increase immediately following the February hearing. Meeting information is available at acwd.org.

## Fremont City Council

December 13, 2022

Consent Calendar:

- Certify the November 8, 2022 Election Results.
- Approve Specifications and Award of Contract to JJR Construction, Inc. for the 2023 Citywide Concrete Repairs and Intersection Ramps Project.
- Authorize a contract compensation increase for Brightview Tree Care Services and West Coast Arborists for On-Call Tree Trimming, Groundwork and Debris Removal.
- Consider an amendment to the Employment

Agreement between City Manager Karena Shackelford and the City of Fremont.

Mayor Lily Mei	Aye
Raj Salwan	Aye
Teresa Cox	Aye
Yang Shao	Aye
Teresa Keng	Aye
Jenny Kassar	Abstain
Desrie Campbell	Aye

### Union City Police Log

SUBMITTED BY UNION CITY PD

Tuesday, December 13

• At about 12 noon Officer Roberts made a traffic stop on Whipple Road and Ithaca Street. When he approached the driver, Roberts saw a set of brass knuckles. The driver was cited and released at the scene on suspicion of illegal possession of a weapon.

Friday, December 16

• At about 6 p.m. officers responded to a disturbance in a business in the 30000 block of Industrial Parkway. The suspect entered the lobby and struck the victim with a metal cane. A co-worker detained the suspect until officers arrived, and they ultimately placed the suspect under arrest on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

Sunday, December 18

• At about 9:30 p.m. officers responded to a report about a retail robbery in the 900 block of Whipple Road. Five suspects had entered the store and demanded money and tobacco products from the clerk who opened the cash drawer and gave the suspects cash before they fled on foot. The victim described the suspects as three Black male adults in their late teens to early 20s and all wearing masks. The fourth suspect was described as a Hispanic male about the same age as the others. There was no description of the fifth suspect. There were no injuries reported; an investigation is continuing.

Auto burglaries and vehicle thefts

• Police reported 17 auto burglaries between December 5 and 18. Seven of those burglaries occurred at Union Landing shopping center and the rest in residential areas. Additionally, there were 21 reported vehicle thefts between December 5 and 18 with five vehicles recovered as of December 23

### Alameda County Fire Department

SUBMITTED BY ACFD

Monday, December 19

• More than 25 firefighters were called to help extinguish a two-story fire in a four-unit residential building on the 4000 block of Miramonte Way in Union City. The fire was successfully extinguished and no injuries were reported, but because of damage some families were displaced. An investigation is continuing.

Wednesday, December 21

• At 11:02 a.m. twenty firefighters responded to a residential structure fire involving the attic space on the 2000 block of Sydney Way in Castro Valley. They extinguished the fire within 30 minutes; no injuries were reported.

### BART Police Log

SUBMITTED BY LES MENSINGER AND BART PD

Sunday, December 18

- At 2:43 a.m. police made an outside arrest of a man suspected of driving under the influence northbound on I-880 at Mowry Avenue in Fremont. Police identified the man as Collins McMurray, 30, of San Leandro. He was booked into Santa Rita Jail.
- At 11:55 a.m. a man identified by police as Victor Green, 44, of San Francisco was stopped on suspicion of lodging on BART property near Warm Spring/South Fremont station. A record check showed three warrants. He was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail.

Monday, December 19

• At 1:21 p.m. a man identified by police as Justin Townsel, 34, of Oakland was detained at Bay Fair station in San Leandro on suspicion of demanding money from BART patrons. A record check showed a felony warrant. He was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail.

Tuesday, December 20

• At 1:29 p.m. a man identified by police as Russell Brown, 29, of Hayward was stopped at Milpitas station on suspicion of fare evasion. A record check showed three outstanding warrants. He was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

Thursday, December 22

• At 12:53 p.m. officers at Milpitas station conducted a welfare check on a male who appeared to be suffering from an apparent drug overdose. They administered four doses of NARCAN; arriving medical personnel started CPR, but the male was declared dead at 1:48 p.m. No foul play was suspected.

### Hayward Unified School District

December 14, 2022

Action Items:

- Student discipline
- Donations
- Board Policy Annual Reading: Intra-district open enrollment
- 2022-23 First Interim Financial Report

Consent Items:

- Appointments, changes of status, waivers, retirements, leaves of absence, and terminations
- October 2022 warrants and \$10K summary
- Annual establishment of board stipend
- Overnight study trips
- Expulsion Report Quarter 1
- Provisional internship permit
- Declaration of items for surplus disposal and destruction of records
- Approve Memorandums of Understanding (MOU).
- Approve Contracts (All Divisions)

President April Oquenda	Aye
Peter Bufete	Aye
Gabriel Chaparro	Aye
Ken Rawdon	Aye
Sara Prada	Aye

# US probing automated driving system use in 2 Tesla crashes

By TOM KRISHER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS AUTO WRITER

The U.S. government's highway safety agency said Dec. 22 it will send teams to investigate two November crashes in California and Ohio involving Teslas that may have been operating on automated driving systems.

The probes bring to 35 the number of crashes investigated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration since 2016 in which either Tesla's "Full Self-Driving" or "Autopilot" systems likely were in use. Nineteen people were killed in the crashes.

The California crash occurred on Thanksgiving Day involving eight vehicles on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The driver told authorities that the Tesla Model S was using the company's "Full Self-Driving" software, according to Highway Patrol report obtained by CNN. The Ohio crash happened Nov. 18 near Toledo, when a Tesla Model 3 crashed into an Ohio Highway Patrol SUV stopped on a roadway with its emergency lights flashing.

A message was left Dec. 22 seeking comment from Tesla on the latest NHTSA action. The company based in Austin, Texas, has disbanded its media relations department. The agency said Dec. 22 that it sent the team to the California crash after gathering information from law enforcement officers and Tesla.

The eight-vehicle crash happened about noon, closing two lanes and clogging traffic on the holiday. Nine people were treated for minor injuries including a child who was hospitalized, according to CNN, which got a copy of the crash report through a public records request.

The Tesla Model S driver reportedly told the California Highway Patrol that the company's "Full Self-Driving" system was operating when the crash occurred, and that it braked unexpectedly while traveling at 55 miles per hour. The Model S shifted into the far-left lane, then braked to 20 mph, causing the pileup, CNN said the report stated.

In the crash near Toledo, an Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper and another motorist were injured when a Tesla Model 3 struck the rear of the police SUV parked on a road with its emergency lights flashing. The Toledo Blade reported that the highway patrol report didn't address whether any automated systems were operating. NHTSA has been investigating Tesla automated systems for 6 1/2 years without taking enforcement action.

Michael Brooks, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, a watchdog group, said it's long past time for the agency to seek a recall. "The question is what's the threshold number of injuries and deaths and cars driving stupidly that we have to see before NHTSA finds that there's some sort of defect in these cars?" Brooks asked.

Brooks said NHTSA has only published information on one of the Tesla crash investigations and called on the agency to be more transparent. A message was left for a NHTSA spokeswoman seeking comment on the length of the investigations.

In addition to the crash investigation teams, NHTSA already has two formal investigations open into Tesla's advanced driver assistance systems. One involves complaints that the vehicles brake unexpectedly for no reason, and the other stems from crashes into emergency vehicles parked on roadways with lights flashing.

NHTSA hasn't made public any enforcement actions on either probe. The agency also has ordered automakers and tech companies to report crashes involving automated systems.

In the "phantom braking" investigation, the agency said that more than 750 Tesla owners have complained that cars operating on the partially automated driving systems have suddenly stopped on roadways for no apparent reason.

In opening the probe, the agency said it was looking into vehicles equipped with automated driver-assist features such as adaptive cruise control and "Autopilot," which allows them to automatically brake and steer within their lanes. "Complainants report that the rapid deceleration can occur without warning, and often repeatedly during a single drive cycle," the agency said. Many owners wrote in their complaints that they feared a rear-end crash on a freeway.

Although Tesla calls one of its systems "Full Self Driving," even CEO Elon Musk concedes that it's not ready to drive itself. The other system, called "Autopilot," keeps a car centered in its lane and a distance away from vehicles in front of it. In both cases Tesla says these are driver-assist systems and that drivers must be ready to intervene at all times.

Critics say humans become too reliant on the systems when they're not capable of handling all situations.

# Children's medicine shortage hits as flu season picks up

By TOM MURPHY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS HEALTH WRITER

Caring for sick children has become extra stressful recently for many U.S. parents due to shortages of Children's Tylenol and other medicines.

Doctors and other experts say the problem could persist through the winter cold-and-flu season but should not last as long as other recent shortages of baby formula or prescription drugs. They also say parents have alternatives if they encounter empty store shelves.

## Here's a closer look: What's happening

An unusually fast start to the annual U.S. flu season, plus a

spike in other respiratory illnesses, created a surge in demand for fever relievers and other products people can buy without a prescription. "There are more sick kids at this time of year than we have seen in the past couple years," said Dr. Shannon Dillon, a pediatrician at Riley Children's Health in Indianapolis.

Experts say that's the main factor behind the shortages, which vary around the country and even within communities. "At this point, it's more like toilet paper at the beginning of the (COVID-19) pandemic," Dillon said "You just have to look in the right place at the right time."

# San Leandro Unified School District

December 13, 2022

## Consent Agenda:

- Approve the updated Adult Education Salary Schedule and revised job descriptions for Director of Nursing and Vocational Nursing Theory Instructor
- Approve the updated Substitute Salary Schedule
- Approve the renewal of BrainPOP Licenses
- Approve quotation to purchase cameras for the new buildings at Muir Middle School
- Close out the completed San Leandro High School Courtyard project
- Approve fees for Bancroft Middle School Courtyard project
- Approve Jones Construction contract for the portable restroom at Halkin Elementary School
- Approve Fix All, Inc. contract for Halkin Elementary School marquee project
- Approve purchase orders for new San Leandro High School gym project

- Approve K&W Electrical contract for Washington Elementary School sign project
- Approve Anderson Carpet & Linoleum change order for McKinley Elementary School flooring project
- Approve JL Construction change orders for Muir MS modular classroom project and new Lincoln Campus project
- Approve IES proposal to complete the replacement of all thermostats for San Leandro Unified School District (SLUSD) at elementary, middle and high schools
- Approve of Renewal Agreement between SLUSD and Instructure for CALPADS Certification Support for school year 2022-2023
- Approve purchase of Viewsonic interactive panels from STS Education.

President James Aguilar	Aye
Peter Oshinski	Aye
Monique Tate	Aye
Evelyn Gonzalez	Aye
Jackie Perl	Aye
Diana Prola	Aye
Leo Sheridan	Aye

# Musk says Twitter in precarious position, defends cost cuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elon Musk is defending his massive cost-cutting at Twitter as necessary for the social media platform to survive next year, due in part to debt payments tied to his \$44 billion takeover of the company.

"This company is like, basically, you're in a plane that is headed towards the ground at high speed with the engines on fire and the controls don't work," Musk told a late-night audience on a Twitter Spaces call Dec. 20. That's after Elon Musk said earlier in the day that he plans on remaining as Twitter's CEO until he can find someone willing to replace him in the job.

Musk's announcement came after millions of Twitter users asked him to step down in an online poll the billionaire himself created and promised to abide by. "I will resign as CEO as soon as I find someone foolish enough to take the job!" Musk tweeted. "After that, I will just run the software & servers teams."

Since taking over the San Francisco social media platform in late October, Musk's run as CEO has been marked by quickly issued rules and policies that have often been withdrawn or changed soon after being made public.

Musk said Dec. 20 that he "spent the last five weeks cutting costs like crazy" and trying to build a stronger paid subscription service because otherwise Twitter might be at a roughly \$3 billion loss next year. He in part blamed the \$12.5 billion in debt tied to his April agreement to buy the company, as well as the Federal Reserve's recent interest rate hikes.

Some of Musk's actions have unnerved Twitter advertisers and turned off users. He has laid off more than half of Twitter's workforce, released contract content moderators and disbanded a council of trust and safety advisors that the

company formed in 2016 to address hate speech and other problems on the platform.

The Tesla CEO has also alienated investors at his electric vehicle company over concerns that Twitter is taking too much of his attention, and possibly offending loyal customers.

Even more unnerving for investors, Tesla shares are plummeting. Shares of Tesla are down 35% since Musk took over Twitter on Oct. 27, costing investors billions. Tesla's market value was over \$1.1 trillion on April 1, the last trading day before Musk disclosed, he was buying up Twitter shares. The company has since lost 58% of its value, at a time when rival auto makers are cutting in on Tesla's dominant share of electric vehicle sales. Shares fell again Wednesday, Dec. 21. A single share of Tesla that cost about \$400 to start the year, can now be had for less than \$140.

Musk sought to defend some of his recent Twitter decisions on the Twitter Spaces call. "They may seem sometimes spurious or odd or whatever," Musk said. "It's because we have an emergency fire drill on our hands. That's the reason. Not because I'm naturally capricious. Or at least, aspirationally, I'm not naturally capricious."

Musk, who also helms the SpaceX rocket company, has previously acknowledged how difficult it will be to find someone to take over as Twitter CEO. Bantering with Twitter followers earlier in the week, he said that the person replacing him "must like pain a lot" to run a company that he said has been "in the fast lane to bankruptcy."

"No one wants the job who can actually keep Twitter alive. There is no successor," Musk tweeted. As things stand, Musk would still retain overwhelming influence over platform as its owner. He fired the company's board of directors soon after taking control.

Drugmaker Johnson & Johnson says it is not experiencing widespread shortages of Children's Tylenol, but the product may be "less readily available" at some stores. The company said it is running its production lines around the clock.

In the meantime, CVS Health has placed a two-product limit on all children's pain relief products bought through its pharmacies or online. Walgreens is limiting customers online to six purchases of children's over-the-counter fever reducing products. That limit doesn't apply in stores.

Aside from over-the-counter products, the prescription antibiotic amoxicillin also is in short supply due to increased demand, according to the Food and Drug Administration. The drug is often used to treat nose and throat infections in children.

## What to do

Check first for alternatives in the store if some products aren't available. Generic versions of brand-name products are "perfectly safe and often a much more affordable option," Dillon said.

Other stores nearby also may have better options. Manufacturers say there are no widespread national shortages of these medications, according to

the Consumer Healthcare Products Association. A family doctor may know which stores have decent supplies.

A doctor also may be able to tell parents whether they can try alternatives like crushing the proper dose of a pill version and mixing it with food or chocolate syrup. Doctors say parents or caregivers should not try this on their own, because determining proper doses for children can be tricky.

"You don't need to experiment at home," said Dr. Sarah Nosal, a South Bronx family physician. "Your family doctor wants to talk to you and see you."

## Going without

Doctors also caution that fevers don't always have to be treated. They are a body's natural defense against infection, and they make it hard for a virus to replicate.

Dillon noted, for instance, that a fever may not be intrinsically harmful to older children. However, parents should take a newborn under 2 months old to the doctor if the child has a fever of 100.4 degrees or more. And doctors say any child with a fever should be monitored for behavior changes.

Instead of medicine, consider giving the child a bath in

lukewarm water. Cold water makes the body shiver, which can actually raise the temperature. Put fans in the child's room or set up a cool mist humidifier to help their lungs. Nosal also said two teaspoons of honey can help control coughs in children older than a year. Avoid using honey for young children because it carries a risk of infant botulism.

## When will supplies get better?

Shortages might last in some communities until early next year. Resolving them can depend on whether there are enough workers at warehouses and stores to deliver the product and stock the shelves, noted Erin Fox. She researches drug shortages and is the senior pharmacy director at University of Utah Health, which runs five hospitals.

Fox said there are no problems at factories or a lack of ingredients contributing to current shortages. Those obstacles can lead to long supply disruptions. "I don't expect this to last a year or more like some of our other shortages do," she said.

AP Health Writer Matthew Perrone in Washington contributed to this story. Murphy reported from Indianapolis.

### Fremont Fire Department Log

SUBMITTED BY FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tuesday, December 20

• Morning crews responded to a blaze in a two-story retail/commercial building at 43341 Mission Blvd. A nail salon was on the first floor and a real estate business was upstairs. Before firefighters arrived, a nail salon employee safely exited the building with non-life-threatening injuries and was later examined by paramedics. No other people were inside the structure. The cause of the blaze, which involved both floors, is under investigation.

Fremont firefighters work to extinguish a blaze in a commercial building on Mission Boulevard. Credit: Fremont Fire Department/Facebook



### San Leandro City Council

December 19, 2022

**Action Items:**

Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Map and adopting Zoning Code amendments related to the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update. Passed 7-0

**Items Removed from Consent Calendar:**

- Authorize a non-professional services agreement with Year Up, Inc. for Workforce Development Interns in 2023. Passed 7-0
- Accept grant terms and authorize appropriations for Thrasher Skate Park Improvement and Memorial Park Improvement Project. Passed 7-0
- Authorize amendments to purchase, sale, disposition and development agreements with Cal Coast Companies LLC, Inc., and authorize a promissory note and deed of trust for the Shoreline Development Project. Passed 6-0-1 (Ballew, recusal)

**Consent Calendar:**

- Approve the San Leandro Police Management Association (SLPMA) Memorandum of Understanding for the Period Covering January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028.
- Approve the San Leandro Management Organization (SLMO) Memorandum of Understanding for the Period Covering January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028.
- Authorize a Side Letter Agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of San Leandro and San Leandro City Employees Association (SLCEA) to amend terms for Public Safety Dispatcher classifications and the SLCEA salary schedule.
- Authorize a consulting services agreement with TAIT & Associates, Inc. for the PWSC Replace Fuel Tanks Project.
- Authorize an amendment to the consulting services agreement with Nichols Consulting Engineers for the Annual Street Overlay/Rehabilitation Project.
- Approve an extension of the legal services agreement with Meyers Nave through December 31, 2029.
- Authorize Microsoft Enterprise agreements with Dell Technologies for fiscal years 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- Approve appropriations for the management of Monarch Bay Golf Club.

Mayor Pauline Cutter	Aye
Pete Ballew	Aye
Victor Aguilar	Aye
Bryan Azevedo	Aye
Fred Simon	Aye
Deborah Cox	Aye
Corina Lopez	Aye

### Milpitas City Council

December 6, 2022

**Other Business:**

- Received staff report on Draft Water Rates Study and directed staff to proceed with community engagement on proposed rates; identified date for public hearing as March 7, 2023.
- Appointed Brian Stelling as Interim Fire Chief.

**Consent Calendar:**

- Authorize a letter in response to the October 7, 2022 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Final Report "If You Only Read the Ballot, You're Being Duped".
- Receive an update on the American Rescue Plan Act programs and provide direction to staff.
- Accept the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and other related annual audited reports for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2022.
- Authorize a Master Encroachment Agreement with Bandwidth Infrastructure Group for installation of network facilities within public right-of-way.
- Execute documents for the sale of the residential property located at 600 S. Abel Street Unit #208.
- Appoint Roger Lee as Interim Public Works Director.
- Amend the Zoning Map of the City of Milpitas to change the zoning classification from Heavy Industrial to Light Industrial for parcels east of South Hillview Drive extending 1200 feet southerly from Los Coches Street.
- Amend the Milpitas Municipal Code and add a new subsection relating to Outdoor Dining.
- Award a construction contract to G&G Builders Inc. for the rehabilitation of up to eleven City Parks projects.

Mayor Rich Tran	Aye
Carmen Montano	Aye
Anthony Phan	Aye
Karina Dominguez	Aye
Evelyn Chua	Aye

### Mission Peak re-leased to East Bay Regional Park District

By JACK ALCORN

Fremont City Council has completed a 2-year negotiation for the future of its popular east side nature preserve. By a vote of 6-1, the Council recently approved a 20-year lease extension for East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to maintain and manage the city owned Mission Peak Regional Preserve. The 900 acre park provides access to more than 3,000 acres of state park hiking trails and amazing views from a 2,500 foot summit. EBRPD has managed the site since 1978. In 1993 Fremont renewed the lease for 27 years. When it expired in July 2020, monthly agreements continued temporary oversight by EBRPD. For the past two years, city staff have worked to develop a new long-term lease agreement. Council and community concerns over many issues have caused the council to consistently reject draft agreements.

Traffic snarls, parking hassles and curfew enforcement have troubled the park's enthusiasts for years. The parking lot at the park's staging area has only 43 spaces and is regularly at capacity on weekends. Park goers must navigate a residential neighborhood to get there, which has caused many problems for the residents of that subdivision.

In addition to community input, council hesitation over the lease has centered around three bargaining points: control of operating hours, council review of EBRPD performance and discretion to build a new parking lot.

After much contention between the two agencies and months of fiery public comment at hearings for the issue, the Fremont Council finalized a workable agreement with EBRPD at the December 6 city council meeting. Allowing public participation rendered debate over operating hours moot. City power over construction permits provided balance to the potential parking lot plans of EBRPD. And EBRPD capacities that outweigh City resources encouraged the Council to acquiesce maintenance control.

The park is accessible with parking through Ohlone College (43600 Mission Blvd. ) and has a staging area and entrance with limited parking on Stanford Avenue between Mission Blvd. and Weibel Dr. The Stanford Avenue staging area is also the western access to the Ohlone Wilderness Trail, a 29-mile hiking and riding trail through some of southern Alameda County's most beautiful wilderness. Visit the mission-peak website for hours, activities and other information.

### A new year and new laws

By ROB KLINDT

It has been a busy year for California lawmakers. The 2022 Legislative session ended with almost 1,000 bills signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom. A boost in the state's minimum wage, enhanced bicycle safety and relaxed rules for jaywalkers are just some of the laws that will kick in during 2023.

**Here is a rundown of a dozen of the new laws taking effect on Jan. 1, 2023:**

- Minimum wage: Senate Bill SB 3 (2016) will raise California's minimum wage to \$15.50 per hour for most workers. This latest boost is the final step in a part of the state codified automatic annual minimum wage increases tied to inflation passed in 2016.
- Pay equity: Senate Bill 1162 requires employers with 15 or more employees to include salary ranges for open jobs available to applicants and employees. It also sets new pay data reporting requirements based on gender and race.
- Bereavement Leave: Assembly Bill 1949 lets workers to take up to five days of bereavement leave from their work for the death of a close family member, such as a spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, child, sibling, grandparent or grandchild.
- COVID-19: Assembly Bill 2963 requires employers to continue providing employees with COVID-19 exposure notifications until 2024.
- Jaywalking: Assembly Bill 2147 prohibits police officers from stopping or citing people for jaywalking unless they are in immediate danger of a collision with a vehicle or bicyclist.
- Bicycling: Assembly Bill 1909 allows bicycles to cross streets on pedestrian signals and prohibits cities and counties from enforcing bicycle license

laws. It also requires vehicle drivers to change lanes, when possible, to pass bicycles.

• Catalytic converters: Senate Bill 1087 prohibits people from buying a catalytic converter from anyone except an auto dismantler, repair dealer or a seller who can provide documentation they own the device. Additionally, Assembly Bill 1740 requires recyclers to get a copy of the title from the vehicle that the catalytic converter was taken from.

• Retail theft: Assembly Bill 2294 lets police keep people convicted of theft from a store in custody if they are suspected of organized retail theft. Previously, they were given a written notice or citation and released.

• Stolen goods: Assembly Bill 1700 requires the state to set up a website for people to report items they suspect are stolen and being sold on the internet.

• Police officers: Senate Bill 960 stipulates that people are no longer required to be citizens or permanent residents of the United States to become police officers in California. Instead, they only need to be legally authorized to work in the U.S.

• State holidays: Three optional new state holidays will be recognized, including Lunar New Year (Assembly Bill 2596), Juneteenth (AB 1655) and Genocide Remembrance Day, (Assembly Bill 1801).

• Broadband: Senate Bill 717 sets a plan for deploying broadband, including expanded wireless access, throughout the state to provide improved connectivity for low-income and underserved communities.

To read the full text of these and other new laws starting in 2023, visit the California Legislative Information website at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

### Fremont recruiting artists for popular boxART program

SUBMITTED BY CITY OF FREMONT

Attention, students, photographers and graphic designers: the City of Fremont is looking for new artists to paint and design images on traffic signal control boxes in the city. The theme for the images is "Sustainability."

The deadline to make submissions is Monday, January 30 at 12:00 noon. For details, visit the boxART Call for Artists website at [city.fremont.gov/boxartcall](http://city.fremont.gov/boxartcall).

**Fremont call for utility box art Through January 30, 2023**  
[city.fremont.gov/boxartcall](http://city.fremont.gov/boxartcall)



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