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December 26, 2023

Vol. 22 No. 52



by Tham Nguyen

New Year's Event Lineup

If you are looking for a New Year's activity look no further. We have gathered fun and local events below. For those looking for family friendly activities, a late-night show, or want to end the year on a healthy note, it's all in our New Year's Event Lineup.

New Year's Craft Saturday, Dec 30

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Drop by the library and complete a New Year's craft.
Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley
(510) 667-7900
aclibrary.org/locations/CSV/

Noon Year's Eve Party Saturday, Dec 30

11 a.m. – 12 noon
Celebrate early with refreshments, crafts, and activities.
Centerville Library
3801 Nicolet Ave., Fremont
(510) 795-2629
<https://aclibrary.org/locations/ctv/>
Free: tickets given out 15 minutes before event begins

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Annual Balloon Drop Celebration

SUBMITTED BY CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER

Ring in the New Year without staying up all night!
On New Year's Eve, head over to Chabot Space and Science Center and celebrate strokes of midnight around the world at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.! Kids will count down and celebrate with hundreds of colorful balloons dropping from above.
This popular annual event regularly sells out, so be sure to get tickets early!

Annual Balloon Drop Celebration
Sunday, Dec 31
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Chabot Space and Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland
(510) 336-7300
<https://chabotspace.org>
Members: \$10 per Child
Guests: \$29 per Child



Longtime Ohlone prof transitions to Dean

BY STEPHANIE GERTSCH
PHOTOS COURTESY OF RAKESH SWAMY

In January 2024, Ohlone College will welcome a new Dean of English, Communication, and Deaf Studies, who is also a familiar face around campus: Professor Rakesh Swamy. He brings a wealth of experience as a teacher, including 22 years as English Learning Center Coordinator at Ohlone, as well as a wealth of life experience—he is of Fijian-Indian descent and went to college in Hawaii before moving to the Bay Area with his family. Swamy's wife Shirley works in Computer Science, while Swamy teaches in the Humanities (a type of relationship diversity that feels iconically Bay Area). Meanwhile, his daughter is a biomedical engineer, and his son an 11th grader at American High.

Swamy appreciates the mix of cultures in the Bay Area. "The Bay Area is so diverse that you fit right in. You don't miss too many of the things that you're used to growing up." He adds, "I know where my ethnic stores are! I go to Costco, and there's a section on Indian food."

One of Swamy's favorite classes to teach is World Mythology, because it lends itself so well to diversity in the classroom. He says, "Right now my students are doing presentations on areas I cannot cover because World Mythology is so vast. They're doing presentations of Japanese mythology, celtic mythology, European mythology."

He encourages his students to explore mythological concepts in the world beyond the classroom. He explains, "One of the first things I do in the classroom is I take brand names, I take names of places." For example, The Pegasus Center in



north Fremont is named after the mythological winged horse.

Swamy continues, "I tell my students, 'Look around you. You'll see these words, you'll see these places, statues, and so on. They're all connected to mythology and what you're studying. It's not some fantasy thing you are reading. It's all around you.'"

As Swamy has been teaching at Ohlone for 25 years, he is already well integrated into the college and community. So taking on the role of Dean is a change, but he already has established relationships with the departments he'll be working with. "I'm providing the leadership, the budget, overseeing paperwork, evaluations, and all of that. But a lot has to do with working in collaboration with the director and the faculty and staff in the department."

Providing support is a major part of that. "As a faculty, I've felt sometimes that there's no one I can go to, so I think we need that person and I'll be that person in that role."

Swamy has worked as the English Department Coordinator, and is currently transitioning to Dean from English Learning Center Coordinator—but where does Deaf Studies fit in? As Swamy explains, "If you look at the commonalities between all the

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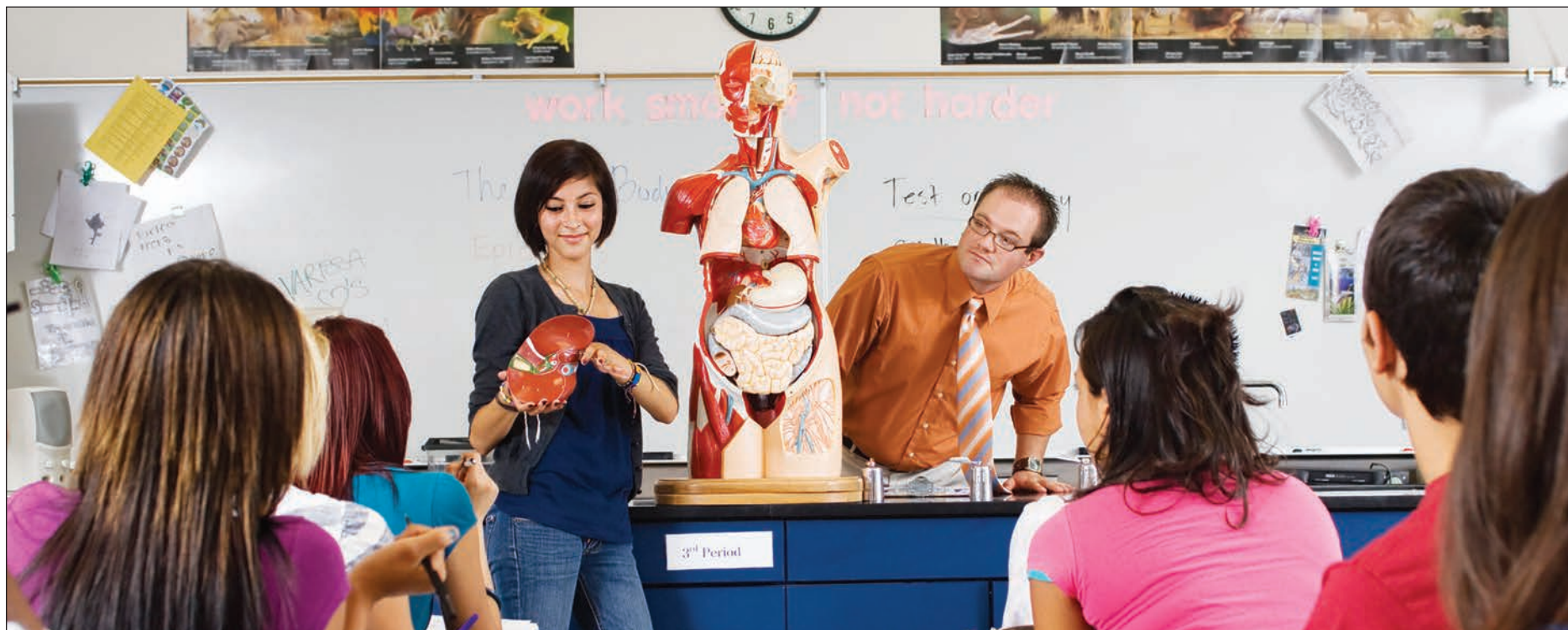
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Washington Hospital Service League Offers Academic Scholarships

Applications accepted now through April 2024



The Washington Hospital Service League has been in existence for 68 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 \$383,905 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, 2024.
- 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 Monday, April 1, 2024. 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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Opening Doors to Empower Victims of Interpersonal Violence
Betty Goodwin, DNP, RN, AGCNS-BC, CEN
Emergency Room

Empowering Victims of Interpersonal Violence
Learn about the screening process for abuse stemming from domestic violence, human trafficking, or elder and child abuse. This presentation includes a special message from Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments (SAVE).



Genetic Testing For Breast Cancer Risk
Bogdan Eftimie, MD
Hematology - Oncology

Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer Risk
Genetic mutations can increase the risk of breast cancer. Hematologist-Oncologist, Dr. Bogdan Eftimie, explains how genetic testing can help identify individuals who may be at higher risk and what you can do with this knowledge.

Coming Soon!



Cervical Health: Why is it Important?
Thursday, January 11, 11 a.m.

This presentation will cover the importance of cervical health, including recommendations of pap tests and the HPV vaccination.



Naloxone: A Lifesaver in the Opioid Crisis
Thursday, January 18, 2 p.m.

What is naloxone (Narcan) and how can it save lives? This seminar will explore the urgent need for naloxone in our communities and its remarkable ability to reverse opioid overdoses.

Other Video Topics:

- Joint Pain
- Stroke Awareness
- Washington Township Health Care District monthly board meetings
- Diabetes Education
- Timely health topics such as COVID-19 and wildfire safety
- And so much more!

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

Visit Us!
[YouTube.com/wwhsInHealth](https://www.whhs.com/wwhsInHealth)



Be Prepared During This Opioid Crisis

Emergency Medicine Expert to Present Benefits of Naloxone

Naloxone (also known by the brand name Narcan) is an emergency treatment designed to rapidly reverse the effects of a life-threatening opioid overdose. Last year, Narcan nasal spray was the first naloxone product approved by the U.S. FDA to be available over the counter. Now that Narcan is readily available, anyone who has it in their first aid kit or carries it with them can save a life.

"People who think an opioid overdose could never happen to someone they know are mistaken," warns Medical Director of Washington Hospital Emergency Department, Dr. Kadeer Halimi. "The countrywide opioid overdose epidemic, recently fueled by the availability of fentanyl, affects everyone regardless of gender, age, race or socioeconomic status. We see victims of opioid overdose every week in our ED, some who we unfortunately cannot resuscitate, and all of

them could have been helped by someone with Narcan."

Washington Hospital Healthcare System (WHHS) will present a live online seminar, "Naloxone: A Lifesaver in the Opioid Crisis," on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. with an introductory message from the Hospital's community partner, Haller's Pharmacy. To watch this 30-minute presentation on Facebook, sign in to your account, then go to Facebook.com/WashingtonHosp. Or you can watch it without an account at YouTube.com/whhsInHealth. If you cannot watch it live, the seminar will be available the following day on YouTube.

The seminar will cover risk factors of opioid overdose and physical signs that someone has overdosed including respiratory failure, small pupils, unresponsiveness, and bluish skin. How to

administer Narcan and who should have it on hand will also be discussed.

Opioids are a type of drug including strong prescription pain relievers like oxycodone, hydrocodone and tramadol. The illegal drug heroin is also an opioid. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than heroin. Drug traffickers often mix fentanyl into other drugs because it is inexpensive to manufacture and a little goes a long way. Many overdoses are a result of someone unknowingly consuming or even just having skin contact with fentanyl, and a very small amount (2 mg) can be deadly. Administering Narcan nasal spray immediately reverses the effects of these opioids with no adverse side effects, and no harm is done if it turns out the person is actually experiencing another medical emergency, not an opioid overdose.

In addition to recommending people have Narcan in their first aid kits at home and in their cars, Dr. Halimi wants the community to know it is important to call 911 immediately after reviving an overdose victim with Narcan. "Opioids have a longer half-life than Narcan, so even if a person receives a dose of Narcan which is effective for 30 to 60 minutes, it can wear off before the opioids in a person's system does," he explains.

Community awareness about lifesaving naloxone (now available in most pharmacies) is critical in the Tri-City Area as well as across the U.S. Share this upcoming seminar date and time with loved ones. To learn more about this important overdose reversal agent, check out Narcan.com. For more information on Dr. Halimi or the WHHS Emergency Department, go to whhs.com.



SAVE SOME NALOXONE

Naloxone (Narcan) can temporarily reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

"People who think an opioid overdose could never happen to someone they know are mistaken,"
—Kadeer Halimi, DO



Virtual Health & Wellness

facebook.com/WashingtonHosp
youtube.com/whhsInHealth

Thursday, Jan. 11
11 a.m.

Cervical Health: Why is it Important?

This presentation will cover the importance of cervical health. Topics include importance of and recommendations for pap tests, as well as the vaccination available to decrease risk of cancer caused by human papillomavirus (HPV).



Chung-Kuang "Timothy" Lin, MD
Family Medicine



If you cannot join live, the presentation will continue to be available on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

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A new Bay Area resident's first glimpse of the U.S. was through the windows of a BART train

SUBMITTED BY
BART COMMUNICATIONS

Katelyn Breaty and her family immigrated from the Philippines ten years ago. She got her first glimpse of the place she'd call home from the windows of a Richmond-bound BART train.

Breaty was seven at that time and hadn't yet learned to speak English. Through her young eyes, the terminal at San Francisco International Airport was a mess of chaos and kinetic energy. "I had no idea what was going on. I just hopped on BART," she said. "I'd never experienced anything like it."

Though Breaty had ridden trains before, she'd never been on a system like BART before. She said, "Everything about the system mesmerized me since day one." The speed of the trains – and the ease with which they stopped at each station – was especially memorable. From there on out, she took BART to learn the lay of the land.

Since their arrival in the U.S., Breaty's family has lived in Martinez, Vallejo, Daly City, San Francisco, Hayward...the list goes on. Every time they moved, BART was a lifeline for Breaty, keeping her connected to the friends she left behind.

"BART was the driving force that helped me escape the suburbs, that made me feel free," she said. "Having grown up poor, BART has been a getaway from my life that enables me to go somewhere fun, exciting, fulfilling."

Before immigrating to the U.S., Breaty lived in urban centers, including Manila in the Philippines and Bremen, Germany. She said moving to the suburbs was "crushing and dehumanizing," and learned quickly that in America, "cars are prioritized over people." Taking BART to San Francisco or Berkeley or Oakland was an escape from all that.

Once, when she was ten years old, she snuck out of the house and took BART to meet friends in San Francisco. She'd never taken the train by herself before, but she figured it out. Her parents were understandably upset when she returned home, but also "glad and amused I was able to navigate the system myself." From then on, they started giving her more freedom to go out on her own because "they knew I'd find my way home," she said.

Today, Breaty relies on BART to get to class at the City College of San Francisco, where she's working toward a degree in computer science. On her BART ride to CCSF, she works on assignments for class

and projects for her web development consulting business. She even makes time on the train to work on a complete model of the BART system she's building in Roblox, a virtual game platform and creation system.

Now that she's sixteen, Breaty has her driver's license. But, she said, "I take BART over everything."

"I would rather sit and look out the window of a train than be behind the wheel looking at standstill traffic," she said.

Recently, she and her parents were going shopping in Walnut Creek. Her mom didn't want to take the train, so Breaty made a bet that she and her dad would beat her to Walnut Creek on BART. "She was still looking for parking when we started eating," she said. "Even with a bus bridge that weekend, we got home before her, too." Breaty said the friendly bet persuaded her mom to start riding BART for non-work-related trips.

She said, "BART has made me an advocate for public transportation and urbanism." When the new service schedule came out this past September, which increased weeknight and weekend service, she told everyone she knows: If you're not already taking BART for leisure, you should start now.



Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service

SUBMITTED BY ALLISON RODACKER

Volunteers are wanted for a wildlife habitat cleanup effort scheduled for MLK Day on January 15, 2024. Meet at Don Castro Regional Recreation Area in Hayward and spend the morning picking

up litter to beautify the area. Wear work clothes and sturdy shoes, and bring gloves if you have them. Bring water and a snack. Trash pick up gear, tools, and loaner gloves will be provided.

This is a way to earn community service hours—community groups are

welcome! This event is for volunteers age 10 and up; those under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Volunteers 18 and under will need to have a parent or guardian sign a waiver at check in on the day of the event. For more information, contact Jennifer Trevis of Alameda County Clean Water Program at Jennifer.trevis@acrcd.org.

There are 30 volunteer spots for this project available. Register at: <https://alameda-county-unincorporated-area-cwp-volunteers.ticketleap.com/>.

Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service
Monday, Jan 15
9 a.m. – 12 noon
Don Castro Regional Recreation Area
Meet at check-in table in parking lot
22400 Woodroe Ave., Hayward
Jennifer.trevis@acrcd.org
<https://alameda-county-unincorporated-area-cwp-volunteers.ticketleap.com/>



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News and Notes

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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Tis the season to be grumpy?

For the most part “champions” are acclaimed, cheered and envied. Not so for the Gay family of Union Vale, New York. In 2012 they adorned their home with a record 346,283 Christmas lights. In 2014 they lit up the neighborhood with 601,736 lights. And, this year, they set a new Guinness Record when they covered their home with 720,426 lights. It's not just the bright lights that are making some of their neighbors grumpy, it's also the tens of thousands of drive-by visitors they attract. See the luminous display on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ERDAJT/videos/860307385734463/?ref=embed_video&t=32

All's well that ends well

The Richardson family chihuahua, Bean, escaped from his Staten Island, New York home recently and wound up dodging traffic on the busy Staten Island Expressway. It was a close call but drivers slowed down when they saw the pooch.

Kaitlyn McGinley got out of her car and chased Bean on foot. She said “The dog ran under my car and hid under my tire. Someone gave me a bag, and I scooped him up and put him in the car.” See the runaway Chihuahua on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTio_3txwwE

One cat's leap for life

They say that Coco the cat was spooked by a dog and chased up a utility pole on a roadway in Newfoundland, Canada. He was up there for some two hours as utility workers tried to rescue the frightened feline. Just as they got close enough to grab him, Coco took advantage of his nine lives, jumped for his life, made a soft landing and headed straight for home. His owner, Alice Reid, told reporters, “He's going to have to get used to being in the house more.” See the daring leap on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-L4gB3q4Rus>

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.

District Level competition for an opportunity to win a \$2,500 college scholarship.

“The Essay Contest is designed to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live,” Essay Contest Chairman Darryl Reina said. “As Optimists, it is our goal to bring out the very best in each of them.”

For more information and application, that includes the official rules, students may go to [Optimist.org/documents/2023/programs/23-24_essay_application.pdf](https://www.optimist.org/documents/2023/programs/23-24_essay_application.pdf)

Completed Essays and contest applications must be received by midnight on January 19, 2024. Essays and applications are to be sent via email to Darryl Reina, Chairman, at darryl14r@aol.com. For more info call (510) 917-4060.

Winners will be notified and recognized at an Optimist Club meeting on February 14.

Optimist Club Essay Contest
Deadline: January 19, 2024
Email applications to:
darryl14r@aol.com

Enter 2023-2024 Newark Optimist Club Essay Contest!

SUBMITTED BY
DARRYL REINA

Calling all Tri-City students! The annual Newark Optimist Club (Club #20261) Essay Contest is now underway. The Club is encouraging Tri-City area students to contemplate the phrase: “Optimism: How It Connects Us.”

The contest is now open to Newark, Fremont, and Union City students who are under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2023, and have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent. There is no minimum age.

The top three Club essays will receive cash prizes (\$200, \$100, \$50) and medallions, with the first-place essay advancing to the



Ohlone College President/Superintendent Charles S. Sasaki with Students

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How PBMs are hurting your local pharmacy

BY KAREN KERRIGAN

Across the country, local pharmacies are boarding up.

A major new study from McKinsey found that the number of independent U.S. pharmacies has declined by half since 1980—leaving just 20,000 in business nationwide. Those that remain are reporting their slimmest profit margins in a decade.

These closures are bad for local communities and patients' health. When small, independent shops close, patients lose access to the pharmacist who personally knows many local residents. They have personal knowledge of their health conditions, prescribed medications, and the potential interactions those medicines might have with new ones. Local communities may also lose a convenient place to get a flu shot, other immunizations, or blood pressure screening.

Fortunately, lawmakers across both parties are aware of the plight of local pharmacies and the consequences of their diminishing numbers. That is why bipartisanship has rallied behind nearly three dozen bills during this session of Congress. These bills aim to curb the power of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)—the giant, secretive middlemen that have played a role in driving drug prices higher and independent pharmacies out of business.

PBMs negotiate discounts from drug makers on behalf of insurers. In exchange, pharmaceutical companies receive favorable inclusion of their products on a plan's formulary. PBMs also administer reimbursements from the system's payers—insurers, federal and state governments, and corporations—to providers, including pharmacies and clinics.

Their ostensible role in the health system is to lower drug costs and save consumers money. Instead, PBMs have made the system increasingly complex, enabling them to extract outsized revenue from it while crowding out the small mom-and-pop

drugstores that have long supplied a variety of community needs.

There are three big PBMs—CVS Caremark, Express Scripts, and OptumRx—that control around 80% of the market for prescription drugs.

Today's biggest PBMs are vertically integrated with drugstore chains and their mail-delivery services, as well as the biggest insurance companies. That creates additional opportunities for advantageous self-dealing.

Drugstores buy medicines wholesale, but PBMs decide how much pharmacies get reimbursed for dispensing medications to patients with insurance. There's no legal requirement for PBMs to provide equal reimbursement, so they can favor affiliated pharmacies while leaving independents out. PBMs also coordinate with their affiliated insurance companies to steer plan enrollees to their own pharmacy groups.

They do so by restricting where patients can access specific medicines or requiring patients to refill their prescriptions at an affiliated pharmacy, no matter which drugstore supplied the original dose. PBMs can also encourage insurers to push unaffiliated pharmacies out-of-network so patients face higher prices if they stick with their neighborhood drugstore.

As one would expect, the operations of these middlemen lack transparency. Rules for the disclosure of contractual and other arrangements are practically nonexistent.

PBMs have also taken on the role of quality-control enforcer in prescription dispensing. Purportedly, this is to incentivize high-quality service. In reality, PBMs use their audits to justify “clawing back” fees, including from small, independent pharmacies.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, some PBMs even revoked reimbursements for failing to obtain patient signatures. These clawbacks, called “direct or indirect remuneration fees” (DIR fees), wreak havoc on the small-business finances of independent drugstores.


It's time PBMs were required to make their negotiations public and allow patients fair access to the local pharmacy of their choosing.

Karen Kerrigan is the president and CEO of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. This article originally appeared on dcjournal.com.

Honor Roll

Central Methodist University
Winter 2023 Graduate


• Damarac Andrews of Castro Valley
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science



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www.FremontBotanicals.com

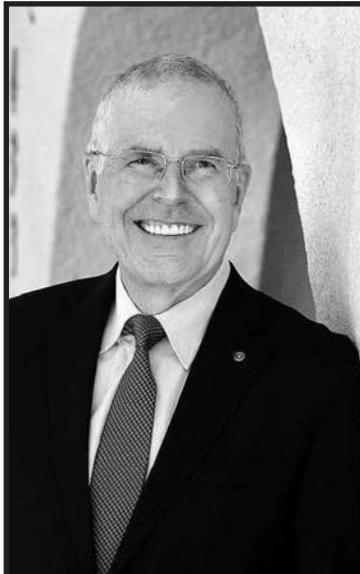
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Engage in a discussion on civic engagement

SUBMITTED BY
SHIRLEY GILBERT



Principal Speaker
Cheryl Cook-Kallio

January 6 is a date that is etched in our consciousness, and will be, for all time, connected with the siege by a violent mob on the U.S. capital. To prevent this ever happening again, an urgent call has gone out for greater civic education and engagement and a better understanding of what it means to be an American.

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City (LWVFNUC) invites you to a panel discussion on the topic of civic engagement and its importance for the future of our democracy. It will take place on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Niles Discovery Church in Fremont.

The panel will help define what civic engagement means in the 2020s. Some of the questions to be discussed: Why is civic engagement so important today? What should civic engagement for the 2020s entail? How can young people best develop civic readiness? And what are the challenges and how can we overcome them?

The League brings together a panel whose experience offers fresh possibilities for making civic engagement relevant and impactful. The Principal speaker is Cheryl Cook-Kallio, a 39-year veteran teacher specializing in high school civics. She has a long history of public service and volunteerism and has an M.A. in

history with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution.

Ben Sanders, Civics Education Director for the Alameda County Office of Education will moderate the panel, which will also include Julie Dunkle, founder and director of the LWVFNUC Youth Voter Movement and Fatima Khawaja, student leader at James Logan High School.

Also joining the discussion will be Newark City Council Member Matthew Jorgens and Assembly Member Alex Lee of District 24, which covers part of Alameda and Santa Clara Counties.

You won't want to miss this stimulating conversation on a topic that is so important to every citizen.

Discussion on Civic Engagement
Saturday, Jan 6
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Niles Discovery Church
36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont
Open to the Public and Free of Charge
<https://my.lwv.org/california/fremont-newark-union-city>

Fremont's Active Transportation Plan Enters Phase 3



SUBMITTED BY
CITY OF FREMONT

The city's Active Transportation Plan (ATP) development has now entered Phase 3. The Phase 1 Survey and Phase 2 Interactive Map have officially closed. The ATP is the next five-year strategic plan to encourage and promote active transportation use for all ages and abilities. Over 500 survey entries were received, and more than 900 comments posted on the interactive map. The city appreciates all the information the Fremont community shared about their experiences walking

and rolling in the city, as well as their help to identify areas where issues and opportunities exist.

The city's ATP team plans to presented an update on the plan process and an overview of the feedback received so far at the Mobility Commission meeting December 20 Phase 3 of the project involves developing a draft ATP that will be circulated for public comment in spring 2024.

To learn more about the ATP, sign up for email updates, and view the interactive map, visit the ATP MyFremont webpage: www.my.fremont.gov/active-transportation-plan

Bay Philharmonic Holiday Spectacular—A Sold Out Show!



SUBMITTED BY
KARIN CONN

Bay Philharmonic broke sales records with their "Holiday Spectacular," which took place on December 17 at Chabot College's Performing Arts Center in Hayward. The East Bay orchestra filled the hall with over 1,400 guests for the first time, exceeding their October show "Broadway's Best" sales goals by 150%.

"A Holiday Spectacular" featured Erica Gabriel (Vocalist), Deanna Loveland (Vocalist and Harpist), Steve Pietkiewicz (Pianist), San Francisco Girls Chorus, Yoko's Academy of Dance and Performing Arts, and Ballet Folklórico México Danza all backed by the 50-piece Bay Philharmonic.

"This growth is unbelievable," says Jung-Ho Pak, Conductor and Artistic Director of Bay Philharmonic. "No other orchestra has this kind of increase in sales. We've doubled our numbers since last year and are on track to sell out all our remaining concerts. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude."

The BayPhil's next show is their "Celtic Celebration" with Irish and Scottish music and dancers on March 17, which also happens to be St. Patrick's Day. There will be a spirited pre-show gathering with beer and festivities.

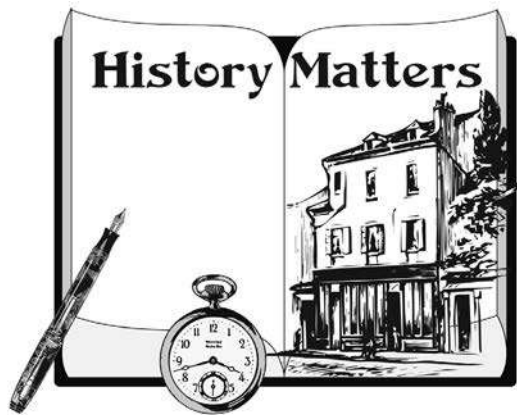
Then, on June 23, BayPhil will present its dramatic and highly entertaining show of famous symphonic music with "Tchaikovsky's Gold," featuring award-winning pianist Jon Nakamatsu.

Pak added, "This holiday season, we invite people to give a world-class live music experience by gifting tickets to our "Celtic Celebration" and "Tchaikovsky's Gold" shows for all the music-appreciators on their list. Like our other audiences who experience our shows for the first time, we guarantee they'll be blown away."

The Bay Philharmonic moved their season to Chabot College earlier this year, including affordable ticket prices starting at \$25, video projections during the show, excellent acoustics from all seats, and free parking.

Bay Philharmonic
<https://bayphil.org/>





BY JOHN GRIMALDI AND DAVID BRUCE SMITH

December 16 through 31

American Renaissance Man

A phenomenal polymath, Benjamin Franklin was - perhaps - the most peripatetic of all the Founding Fathers: a statesman, diplomat, and philosopher, he published periodicals, Poor Richard's Almanack -- which sold 10,000 annually between 1732-1758 -- pamphlets, and a two-volume autobiography. In the scientific sphere, he invented the still-available Franklin Stove (1741); 1750's Lightning Rod; the flexible catheter (1752) and bifocals (1784). According to History.com, Franklin was just 12 years old in 1729 when he "became the official printer of currency for the colony of Pennsylvania." He published Poor Richard's just three years later "along with the Pennsylvania Gazette, one of the colonies' first and best newspapers. In 1757 he went to London representing Pennsylvania in its dispute with England and later spent time in France. He returned to America in March 1775, with war on the horizon. He served on the Second Continental Congress and helped draft the Declaration of Independence. He was also instrumental in persuading the French to lend military assistance to the colonies. He died in Philadelphia in 1790."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Walter Isaacson's Benjamin Franklin: An American Life.

Royal Refusal

On December 23, 1783, George Washington resigned as Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, and retired to Mount Vernon. In a pithy announcement to Congress, he declared: "Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation, I

resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence, a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task; which however was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven." History.com writes there were "political factions" in Congress that "wanted Washington to become the new nation's king" but by declining the offer and resigning his military post at the end of the war fortified the republican foundations of the new nation." Six years later, he ascended to the presidency.

The Grateful American Book Prize suggests The Return of George Washington: 1783-1789 by Edward J. Larson.

Labor Day Inception



The Knights of Labor.

On December 28, 1869, the Knights of Labor had -- what may have been -- the first Labor Day ceremonies, but it wasn't until 1884 that the American Federation of Labor declared First Monday-In-September Observance. Over time, acknowledgement of the holiday has had a deep impact. According to History.com, "in the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories, and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages. People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks."

This feature is courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is an annual award given to authors who have created outstanding works of historical fiction or nonfiction for seventh to ninth graders. Visit them at gratefulamericanbookprize.com.

City seeks winter item donations

SUBMITTED BY CITY OF FREMONT

As the winter rains begin, individuals experiencing homelessness are in great need of warm, dry clothing and other necessities.

The City of Fremont is partnering with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) to ask the community to lend a helping hand this winter and donate items for our unhoused neighbors. The items will be distributed through city programs and services, such as CleanStart and the Safe Parking Program, and shared with BACS to ensure items get in the hands of those who need them most as quickly as possible.

A Homeless Services Needs List is available online for those who would like to donate items. The items most needed are the following: Undergarments, T-shirts, Sweatpants, Sweaters, Sleeping bags, Tarps, Tents. All clothing items should be in adult sizes from small to XXXL.

If you have questions, please contact Paula Manczuk-Hannay

in the City's Human Services Department at (510) 574-2088 or by email at pmanczuk-hannay@fremont.gov.

Every donation, no matter how small, can help ensure that our neighbors have the essential items they need to stay warm and safe this winter. If you have already donated items or plan to do so, thank you for your support and for giving back!

For other ways you can help, including making a monetary donation online, please visit the City's How to Help webpage at www.fremont.gov/residents/homeless-response/how-to-help.

Drop Off Times & Locations

BACS Wellness Center
Wednesday, Dec 27 – Sunday, Dec 31
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
40963 Grimmer Blvd., Fremont

City of Fremont Human Services
Friday, Dec 29
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
City Hall Building B
3300 Capitol Ave., Fremont

Junichi Kakutani completes Honolulu Marathon



BY STEPHANIE GERTSCH

In our November 21 issue, we ran the story "Challenging marathons, mountains, and disability," on Junichi Kakutani's journey battling SpinoCerebellar Ataxia. In spite of having a progressive disease that affects the nervous system and causes difficulties with coordination and balance, Kakutani is determined to make the most of his mobility while he still has it—continuing with his Kendo training, and planning to climb Mt. Fuji and walk the Honolulu Marathon.

On December 17, Kakutani posted an update to his GoFundMe: He completed the Honolulu Marathon! His goal was to finish the race in 18 hours, and his actual finishing time was 9:46:20.

Congratulations, Mr. Jun! We are wishing you the best for all your future endeavors.

Junichi Kakutani's current GoFundMe can be searched on the website (www.gofundme.com) under "Mr. Jun's Mr. Fuji & Marathon Challenge." Read the previous article here: <https://tricityvoice.com/11-21-23/>.

The Carbonator

SUBMITTED BY DAVE MASON

Groundbreaking Technology Being Used to Reduce Wildfire Risks

Wildfires are a significant hazard in the Bay Area. But in the East Bay, a new machine called a carbonator is being used by the East Bay Regional Park District to fight fire with fire, literally. The carbonator was recently started up for the winter season.

The carbonator is currently being used at Anthony Chabot Regional Park to dispose of vegetation from a large 365-acre fuels reduction project. In 2020, the Park District found over 1,500 acres of dead and dying trees within its parks caused by drought stress and climate change.

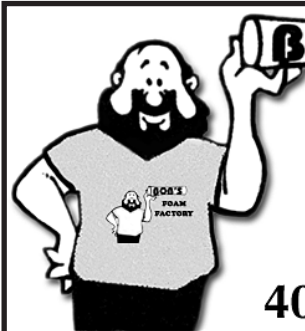
The carbonator burns organic matter at extremely high temperatures (about 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit) using very little oxygen to dispose of vegetation, which results in very low greenhouse gas emissions. The carbonator is a climate-friendly disposal method, especially compared to the

conventional open pile burning or transporting loads long distances off-site in diesel trucks.

"The project at Anthony Chabot Regional Park is a first-of-its-kind project in the Bay Area," said Park District General Manager Sabrina Landreth. "As the largest regional park district in the nation and a local leader in wildfire prevention, we knew we needed to find an innovative solution for disposing of the vegetation from our fuels reduction projects."

The resulting material, called biochar, is being used within the Park District as a soil enhancer. Biochar from the carbonator is being used at the Park District's Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont to enhance soil health and crop productivity, amongst other District locations.

"The carbonator is an innovative fuels reduction tool to address wildfire risks and combat climate change," said Chief Aileen Theile. "We are always looking for innovative ways to address wildfire dangers and reduce wildfire risks for the community."



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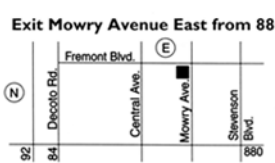
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continued from page 1

Longtime Ohlone prof transitions to Dean

different languages—we have communications, we have Deaf Studies, we have English—the real goal is reading and writing and communicating well. So it makes sense.”

Swamy has taught Deaf students in his classes during his time at Ohlone, and he will also be working with the new Director of Deaf Studies, Ardavan Guity, who is fluent in sign language and knowledgeable of Deaf culture.

Fremont is unique in having the California School for the Deaf, which provides early childhood through 12th grade education. Swamy notes, “I think that’s an advantage for Ohlone, having a good Deaf Studies program here on campus, and having a feeder school like the

Fremont school of the Deaf. So that really helps bring those students in and work with them.”

Another issue to continue addressing is balancing in-person and remote classes in an evolving pandemic. “There’s been a big challenge in bringing the students back into the classroom. We’ve seen the numbers increase in in-person classes, but there’s this balance of in-person and online. I think that would be one of my challenges: trying to hit that balance. We still have students that like staying online. And then there are difficult classes that we encourage students to take in person.” He admits, “I wouldn’t survive taking math in an online class!”

When he’s not supporting Ohlone students and teachers,

Swamy makes time for hobbies, recently picking up the guitar again. “When I was back in the islands, I used to play the Ukulele and the classical guitar, but I stopped. I just didn’t have time, working on my career and going to graduate school and all that. As I get older, I think my desire to go back to that music is there.”

One constant as Swamy changes roles is his appreciation for the scenic Fremont Ohlone campus, especially in late winter and early spring when the hills turn green. Even the many steps provide an opportunity: “Now that I’m getting older, I need to get exercise. Sometimes I get lazy. So I park way down.”

Ohlone College
www.ohlone.edu

Bollywood Glitz

SUBMITTED BY
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Instant Karma invites the Bay Area to their New Year’s Eve party – featuring a dinner buffet, open bar, midnight countdown and balloon drop, DJ, and singing and dance performances. There will be a separate party for the kids. Dress in your best bling bling style!

Bollywood Glitz
Sunday, Dec 31
7 p.m. Dinner
9:45 Dance party
Dinner buffet and open bar,
DJ, dance performances,
giveaways
Royal Palace Banquet
6058 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
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events.sulekha.com
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A HOLIDAY FAMILY CRAFT! GRAHAM CRACKER GINGERBREAD HOUSES

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

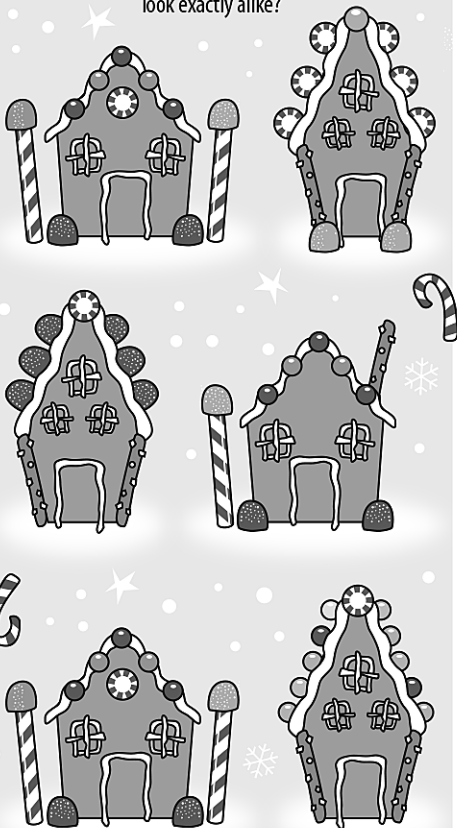


INSTRUCTIONS:

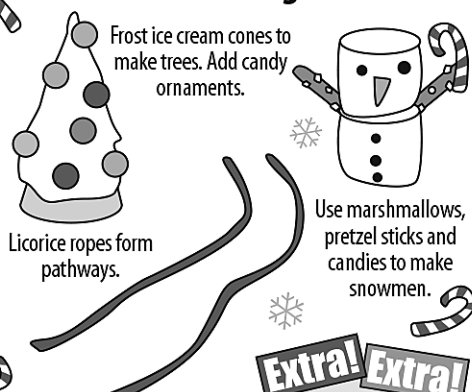
1. Make icing by mixing 2 cups powdered sugar with 3 to 4 tablespoons milk. Whip until it is the consistency of toothpaste.
2. Using a **gentle** sawing motion, carefully cut the corners of two graham crackers with a bread knife.
3. Next, carefully cut a full size graham cracker in half.
4. Put icing in zipper plastic bag. Snip a tiny hole in a bottom corner of the bag.
5. Squeeze a line of icing from bag along edge of graham cracker wall.
6. Attach graham cracker wall as shown.
8. Keep attaching walls and roof panels with icing.
9. Frost roof and sprinkle with coconut flakes.
10. Use icing and pretzel sticks to make a fence for your house.

Seeing Double

Gingerbread houses come in an endless variety of shapes and sizes. Can you find the two gingerbread houses that look exactly alike?



More decorating ideas!



Use the code to discover the two most important ingredients in making a gingerbread house.

■ = A □ = E ▣ = I ○ = N ▨ = P
 ◆ = C ◻ = G ▽ = M ▩ = O ◼ = T

▨ ▣ ◻ ▽ □ ▩ ▨ ▩

and

▣ ▽ ▣ ◻ ▣ ▣ ▣ ▣ ▣

Extra! Extra! Holiday Cards

Make your own holiday cards or gift tags by clipping out words and pictures from your newspaper or printing them from the online edition. Paste these onto paper to make into a card or gift tag.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Fill in The Blanks!

Ask a friend to come up with three nouns (person, place or thing) and three verbs (action words like swim and walk). Use them to fill in the blanks in this story. Read it aloud to share some holiday humor!

NOUN 1: _____

NOUN 2: _____

NOUN 3: _____

VERB 1: _____

VERB 2: _____

VERB 3: _____

Ricky Reindeer wanted to get a special gift for his friend Sadie Squirrel. He walked deep into the forest, and was surprised to find a shiny, new _____ in the snow.

NOUN 1 _____

He picked it up and started to _____ back home. He wrapped the gift in _____ and put a nice big _____ on top.

NOUN 2 _____

NOUN 3 _____

Sadie was thrilled with the gift. She was so happy, she began to _____ around in the snow. Ricky was happy, too. So he began to _____ merrily while jumping for joy.

VERB 2 _____

VERB 3 _____

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand text from context clues.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many candy canes can you find in this box?

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?

SPRINKLE
CRACKER
PRETZEL
COCONUT
GRAHAM
ZIPPER
HOUSES
DOUBLE
SAWING
IDEAS
ICING
SUGAR
CANDY
MILK
WHIP

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

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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **CONSISTENCY**

One meaning of the noun **consistency** is the degree of firmness or stickiness.

The mud was the **consistency** of bread dough.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Winter Clues

Look through the newspaper for ten or more clues that it is winter in your town. Write a paragraph describing the winter holidays in your town. Incorporate words that you found in the newspaper.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Use descriptive language that clarifies and enhances ideas.

Who delivers Christmas presents to gingerbread men?

ANSWER: Crisp Kringle

Write On!

I built my house of ...

Finish this sentence and then write five details about your home.



The Fremont CONNECTION



Christmas Tree Recycling Options



Republic Services will offer free curbside Christmas tree collection on Monday, January 8, 2024, through Friday, January 19, 2024. Calling to request this service is not required for most collection options; 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, and free of all decorations. This helps keep our storm drains litter-free.

Drop Off At Republic Services

Between Tuesday, December 26, 2023, and Friday, January 19, 2024, take your Christmas tree to the Republic Services customer center located at 42600 Boyce Road (Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 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 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.

City of Fremont Holiday Closure

Scheduled for Dec. 25, 2023–Jan. 2, 2024 (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 Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, through Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. City Holidays are observed Dec. 25 and 26, 2023, and Jan. 1 and 2, 2024, while limited City services will be offered Dec. 27, 28, and 29, 2023. City offices participating in the Holiday Closure will re-open for business on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024. 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 (* to re-open on Jan. 10, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.)
- 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 RegeRec.com for more info.

Human Services will provide limited services for Youth & Family Services, Family Resource Center, and Healthy Start Program.

Afghan Elderly Association will not be providing services.

Youth & Family Services will have on-call crisis counselors to respond to youth referred from the Alameda County Crisis Receiving Home.

Family Resource Center (FRC) buildings ABCD and EFGH will be closed for tenting and fumigation on Friday, December 29, 2023, through Tuesday, January 2, 2024, and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Some agencies may be closed for additional days. Please call ahead to the agency you need. View agency phone numbers at city.fremont.gov/frc.

The Fremont Police Department and Fremont Fire Department will continue to provide public safety services.

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.

Regularly-scheduled street sweeping will occur on Dec. 27, 28, and 29, 2023; weather permitting. No street sweeping on City-observed holidays. (We will make every effort to provide service on a different day.)

The Tri-City Animal Shelter, located at 1950 Stevenson Blvd., will be closed on City-observed holidays Dec. 25 and 26, 2023, and Jan. 1 and 2, 2024. Email Animal Shelter staff animalshelter@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.

There will be no garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection by Republic Services on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Collection service will be delayed one day during these weeks due to holidays. (Friday services will occur on Saturday.) Call 510-657-3500 for more information.

Addressing Services will be suspended during the Holiday Closure. Addressing



services will resume on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

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.

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 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 Friday, December 22, 2023, at 5 p.m. through Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 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.

- To schedule a building inspection for Wednesday, January 3, 2024, the City's Inspection Scheduling Phone Line will be available starting Friday, December 29, 2023. The phone number is 510-494-4885. Online inspection scheduling through Citizen Access (fremont.gov/citizenaccess) will not be available until Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 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 3, 2024, at 8 a.m.

Who to Call for Services in Fremont

Alameda County Water District

Report Water Main Breaks: (510) 668-6500

PG&E

View or report power outage: 1-877-660-6789

If you see downed power lines, leave the area immediately and call 9-1-1. Then, call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District & Alameda County Public Works Agency

Report Flooding of Alameda Creek: (510) 670-5480

Union Sanitary District

Report Sanitary Sewer Emergencies: (510) 477-7500

City of Fremont

- *Fallen Tree, Debris (on side of road), or blocked storm drains*

Maintenance Services
(7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.): (510) 979-5700

Fremont Police Non-Emergency
(After hours): (510) 790-6800, ex 3.

- *Flood and Fallen Tree/Obstacles in middle of road*

Fremont Police Non-Emergency
(510) 790-6800, ex 3.

- *Traffic Signal Outage*

Fremont Transportation Engineering:
(Business hours): (510) 494-4745

Fremont Police Non-Emergency
(After hours): (510) 790-6800, ext. 3

In an emergency, call 9-1-1. Contact Fremont Police Non-Emergency Services at: (510) 790-6800, ex. 3



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Historic levee breach opens 300 San Francisco Bay acres to tidal marsh restoration

**SUBMITTED BY
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

On December 13, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project partners and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opened a 300-acre former industrial salt pond to the Bay with a celebration marking the 20th anniversary of their joint restoration venture. This major milestone event is part of an ambitious 50-year effort to restore 15,000 acres of historic wetlands to tidal marsh and other habitats.

Tidal marsh once ringed the South Bay and cushioned the shore from storms and tides. But over the course of the 20th century, approximately 85% of San Francisco Bay wetlands, over 150,000 acres, were lost to development. Restored tidal marshes help to absorb floodwaters and buffer against sea level rise, support wildlife and improve water quality by filtering pollutants.

“The restoration of the South Bay Salt Ponds is the most ambitious wetland restoration project on the West Coast,” said California State Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Amy Hutzel. “It is

thanks to the many people who have supported this project over two decades that we are able to breach the Ravenswood R4 pond [in Menlo Park] today, opening hundreds of acres to the tides and currents of San Francisco Bay. The benefits of today’s breach will be felt by the wildlife that make their homes in tidal salt marshes, the adjacent communities that are now better protected from coastal flooding, and all of us who will get to watch this habitat come to life over the coming months and years.”

“Partnerships like the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project allow us to develop collaborative solutions and bring innovative initiatives into the future,” said Matt Brown, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge provides critical habitat to several endangered species, including the California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse and western snowy plover. The restoration work here is protecting and restoring habitat for each of these species, which is significant not just for us today, but for future generations too.”



By Charles Anderson

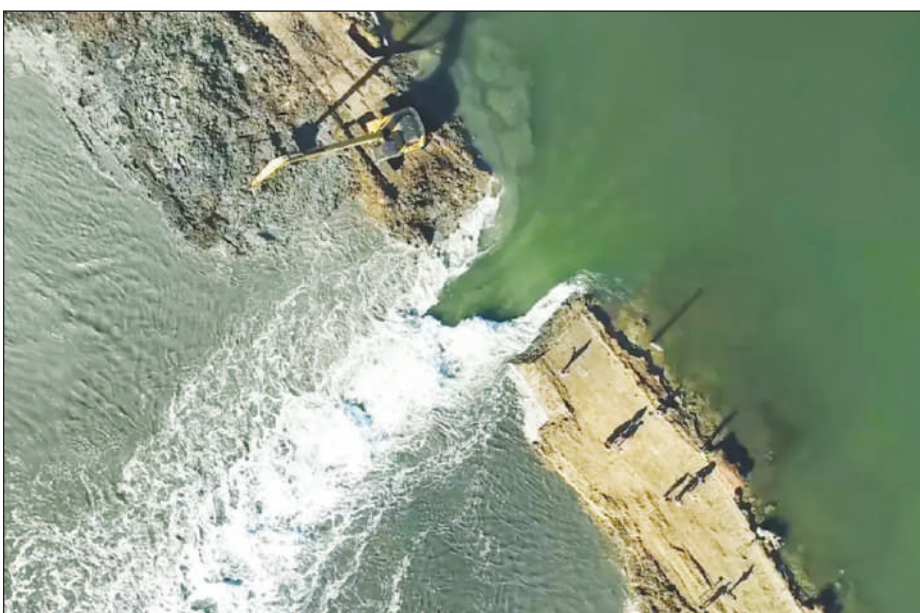
With this breach, the Restoration Project, the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast, has opened over 3,300 acres across the South Bay to allow nature to regrow tidal marshes, transforming former industrial salt ponds into a thriving mosaic of wetlands and creating habitat for endangered species and other wildlife. Restoration is working: since the project began, endangered salt marsh harvest mice and Ridgway’s rails have returned to early restoration sites to live and reproduce. Through the Restoration Project, partners have also enhanced 700 pond acres, built nearly seven miles of recreational trails, a kayak launch and several viewing and interpretive areas, and opened the shore to public access. A new public trail is expected to open at Ravenswood in 2024.

The South Bay Salt Ponds were acquired in 2003 from Cargill Inc. in a deal brokered by the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, a long-time champion of the restoration effort. The 15,100-acre property transfer represents the largest single acquisition in a larger campaign led by multiple partners to restore

40,000 acres of lost tidal wetlands to San Francisco Bay.

The \$13 million restoration effort at Ravenswood included accommodating a key component of the Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Flood Protection project, ensuring that the work is beneficial to wildlife and the surrounding communities. Funding was provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California State Coastal Conservancy, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Meta. Services were donated by California Wildlife Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Save the Bay, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and the City of Menlo Park.

The Restoration Project is a collaborative effort with federal, state and local agencies – for more information, visit www.southbayrestoration.org.



By Jack Morris

Home & Garden

Include Gardening in Your New Year's Resolution



BY MELINDA MYERS
PHOTO COURTESY OF
MELINDAMYERS.COM

The New Year is filled with resolutions that usually involve dieting and exercise. Gardening is a great way to help accomplish those two resolutions, while also improving your mood, reducing blood pressure, managing anger, maintaining flexibility, and more.

Start the new year with a plan to incorporate healthy vegetables into your containers, gardens, and meals. Growing vegetables encourages you to eat more fresh produce and maximizes the benefits. You'll be able to harvest the vegetables at their peak of ripeness for the best flavor and maximum nutritional value. Plus, you control what, if any, chemicals are used in your gardens and containers.

Involve family and friends during the planning process and continue supporting each other in this healthful endeavor throughout the year. Research has found that making gardening a more social

experience can intensify the physical and mental health benefits. Even sharing your surplus produce with others can reap greater health benefits.

Begin by growing a few microgreens this winter. These fast-growing nutritious greens are easy to grow and do not require much space or special equipment. Just repurpose some fast-food containers, fill them with a seed starting mix or quality potting mix, and plant the microgreen seeds. Many garden centers, catalogs, and organic food coops sell microgreen seeds and sprouting seeds.

Grow a few pots of herbs in a sunny window or under artificial lights. Herbs are a healthy way to add flavor to winter meals. Start them with seeds or purchase transplants to shorten the time to harvest.

Plant these in a container with drainage holes filled with a quality potting mix. Follow the directions on the seed packet or plant tag for planting and care information. Once they are at least four to six inches tall, you can begin harvesting. Just make sure there will be enough leaves left on the plant to support new growth.



Look for new ways to prepare and incorporate vegetables into your diet. You'll find lots of recipes online and in cookbooks available from your library.

Start a list of vegetables you want to include and those that are suitable to grow in your location. Your state's extension service has information on what vegetables will thrive in your area and tips on when and how to plant and care for them.

Take stock of your current seed inventory. Make a list of any seeds and transplants you'll need to buy to boost the nutrition of your garden harvest. Greens like spinach, collards, Swiss chard and kale, carrots, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and red cabbage are among the most nutritionally dense vegetables.

Consider growing those plants that are most productive and cost-effective for the available space. Look for vegetables like tomatoes and sweet peppers that produce an abundance of fruit from just one plant. Adjust your harvest techniques to keep plants like broccoli and greens producing beyond the first harvest.

Once your list matches your gardening space, it is time to draw up a garden plan. If you are new to gardening, consider starting small and expanding over time. You will need sufficient time for planting and throughout the growing and harvest season to maintain, harvest, and utilize all the vegetables you grow.

Starting your nutritional gardening practices inside this winter will help generate momentum and keep you focused on your nutrition goals throughout the growing season.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



THE ACWD CONNECTION

Main Cleaning Program to Begin in January 2024

The Alameda County Water District is scheduled to clean select water mains in the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City to improve water quality and remove sediment buildup in pipes that may cause discolored water. This is part of the vital service provided by ACWD to ensure that all customers receive high quality water.

Cleaning will occur at various locations throughout the service area from January through June 2024; Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (excluding holidays).

To find out when the water main on your street will be cleaned, please visit acwd.org/maincleaning or call our Operations Department at 510.668.6500. Any program updates and future notifications will be posted on the Main Cleaning webpage.

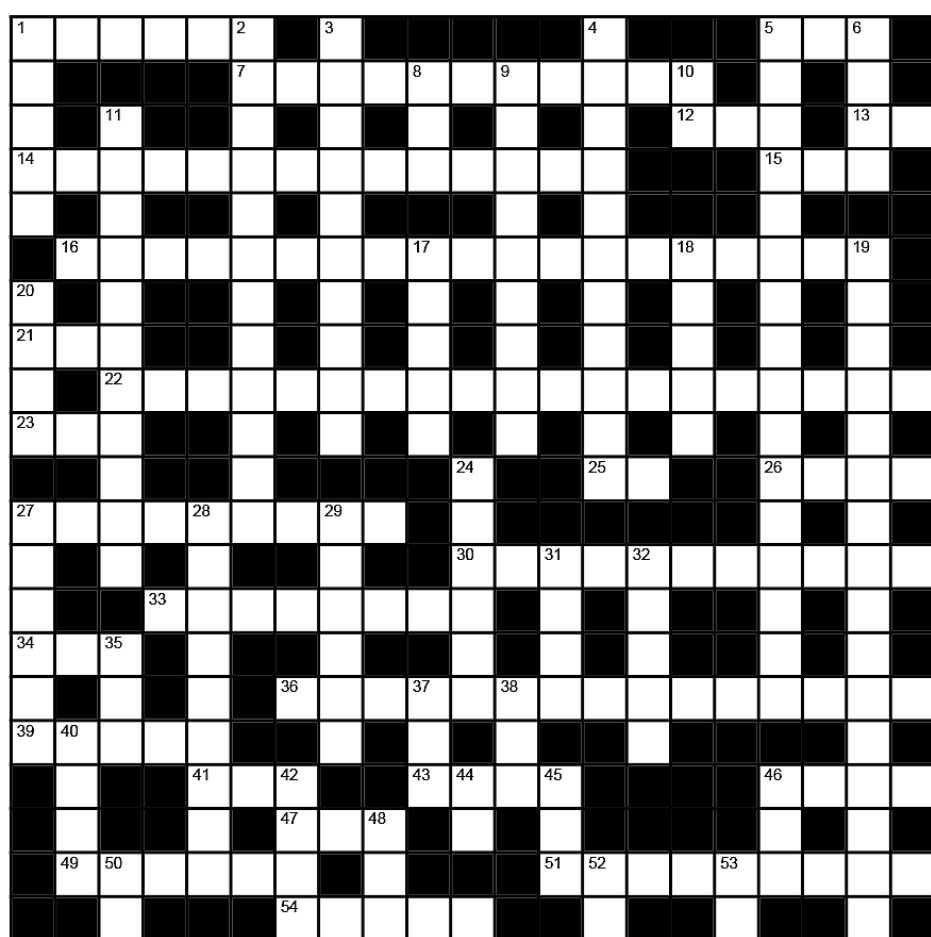


Proud to provide a reliable supply of high quality water at a reasonable price to Fremont, Newark and Union City



Mind Twisters

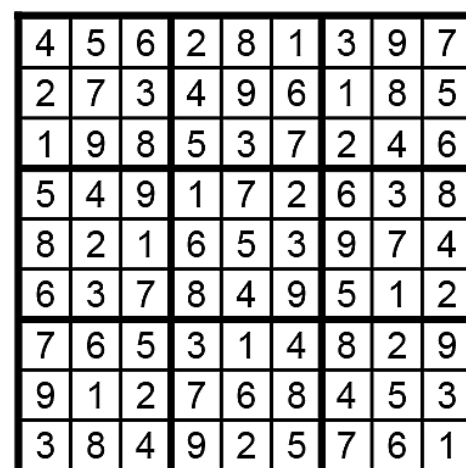
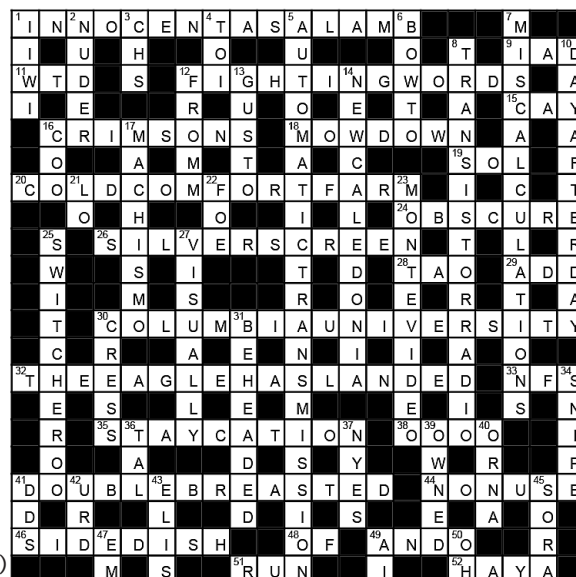
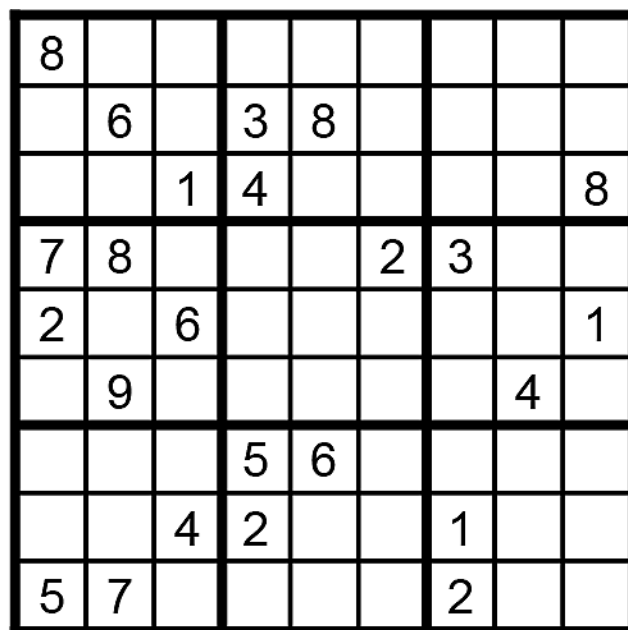
Crossword Puzzle



- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----|---|
| Across | UK (4) | 20 | Epic poet (4) |
| 1 "Don't quit your ___!" (3,3) | 46 Chicago's Emanuel (4) | 24 | Chinese nut (6) |
| 5 With it, once (3) | 47 Historic Scottish county (3) | 27 | Without (4,2) |
| 7 Workaholic's lack (7,4) | 49 Steamboat builder Robert (6) | 28 | Opinion (9) |
| 12 AOL rival (3) | 51 Ruing the day, perhaps (9) | 29 | Ancient Greek lyric poet (6) |
| 13 "That hurt!" (2) | 54 Cetyl alcohol. (5) | 31 | Anjou alternative (4) |
| 14 Visit the track? (1,3,2,3,5) | | 32 | Bowl-shaped drinking vessel (5) |
| 15 Weapon (3) | Down | 35 | Never, in Neuss (3) |
| 16 *Warning against recklessness (6,4,4,5) | 1 Couch (5) | 37 | Blanched (3) |
| 21 It may finish second (3) | 2 Nonsense (12) | 38 | Deck (out) (3) |
| 22 Compassion, figuratively (4,2,5,8) | 3 Unpopular hours (5,5) | 40 | Colorado Springs inits. (4) |
| 23 ___ good turn (3) | 4 Trunk item (5-3,3) | 42 | Punish, in a way (4) |
| 25 Initials of the Rough Rider (2) | 5 Spicy stew (9,7) | 44 | "No kidding!" (2) |
| 26 Assortment (4) | 6 Subatomic particle (4) | 45 | Invader Zim's foe (3) |
| 27 In the opposite order (4,5) | 8 Former Mideast inits. (3) | 46 | Harshly reprimand, casually (3) |
| 30 Cigar wrapper (7-4) | 9 Miscellanies (9) | 48 | *Place to get clean (3) |
| 33 Like an angel (8) | 10 Dorothy's aunt (2-) | 50 | Above (2) |
| 34 One of Alcott's "Little Men" (3) | 11 One in a book of 20, perhaps (6,5) | 52 | Spanish definite article (2) |
| 36 Midnight (3,8,4) | 17 Scoff at (5) | 53 | "Captain ___" (1986 Michael Jackson role) (2) |
| 39 Fire, to Felipe (5) | 18 Climbs a rope (5) | | |
| 41 Games grp. (3) | 19 "Amen to that, brother" (3,4,1,8) | | |
| 43 Modern chicken coop from the | | | |

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 26, 2023

All Signs: Some years, the planetary aspects for the holiday season are stressful. Nevertheless, this year, even against the tragedy of suffering all over the world, we have a Christmas miracle because the holiday energy is bursting with feelings of goodwill and joy. Those of us who can share happy times with family in this holiday season are fortunate. Family is love. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone!

Aries the Ram (March 21-April 20):

This year, as every year, the holiday season is a powerful time for you because the Sun is always at the top of your chart, which means you look good to everyone! Therefore, people admire you even if you don't do anything special. Mars will ignite your desire to travel. Meanwhile Venus is in a part of your chart that can attract money to you, especially through a spouse, business partner, or financial institution. (Good time to seek a loan.) Venus will also heighten affection in romantic relationships. Enjoy your good fortune!

Taurus the Bull (April 21-May 20):

This is a lovely week for you because lucky Jupiter is still in your sign, which is fortunate for you in personal terms, and fair Venus is directly opposite your sign, which is the best position it can be for all your relationships. This placement of Venus allows you to more easily express your affection, which is something everyone likes to hear. Disputes about shared property, inheritances, debt or money owed to you might be a factor at this time. You might also have disagreements about how money is being spent.

Gemini the Twins (May 21-June 20):

This is a happy holiday season because you feel proud. You have achieved something important. Quite likely, it's the culmination of something you've been wanting for a long time. Your patience with partners and close friends might be tested because fiery Mars is opposite

your sign, where it will stay until January 3. Think of this as a blessing because it gives you the opportunity to cultivate patience. Fortunately, Venus promotes warm feelings of well-being with coworkers. It also gives a boost to your health, though it does make delicious food irresistible.

Cancer the Crab (June 21-July 21):

While everyone is enjoying the good feelings that this holiday week provides, you will have to deal with the Full Moon in your sign on Boxing Day. (The 26th) This means your emotions will be heightened a day or two prior, and the only thing you can do is accept it and be gracious. You're not the only one; everyone will feel heightened emotions at the beginning of the week. The good news is that once the Full Moon peaks, problems that have been building towards that time seem to magically disappear!

Leo the Lion (July 22-August 22):

This is a fast-paced time for you because you might be busy with your job as well as holiday festivities. Fortunately, you have the energy to meet the demands. Nevertheless, Venus is in a part of your chart that will welcome guests. You will enjoy redecorating and making your home attractive. You will be fond of having congenial people around you, while Mars in a different part of your chart will make you want to seriously party! This placement of Mars will mean you have to be patient with kids.

Virgo the Virgin (August 23-September 22):

You are fortunate at this time of year because you're the only sign that has the Sun sitting in the most playful part of your chart during this holiday season. Every Virgo wants fun and recreation right now! Your attitude to relationships is more light-hearted. Your interest in children is stronger. Another lovely advantage is fair Venus is in your House of Communications sweetening your words with everyone. Expect family you haven't seen for a while for the holidays.

Libra the Scales (September 23-October 22):

Your focus on home, family and private life continues. Nevertheless, both Mercury and Mars will make you want to get out and hustle with short trips, visits, and shopping. Because of Mercury retrograde, you will run into people you haven't seen for a while. Meanwhile, despite classic holiday spending, this is actually an excellent time for you to attract money. Naturally, you will be buying pretty things. You'll be able to do whatever needs to be done because Saturn is helping you to work hard to achieve what you want.

Scorpio the Scorpion (October 23-November 21):

Life is busy! You're out there doing last-minute shopping, and handling appointments, errands and short trips. Fortunately, you will look like you're taking all this in your stride because with Venus in your sign, you appear charming, attractive and diplomatic. Some of you are working hard to earn money, because you're spending it! With Jupiter opposite your sign, close friends and partners are supportive. Having someone in your corner makes all the difference in the world.

Sagittarius the Archer (November 22-December 21):

You continue to be focused on money and cash flow. Like every Sagittarius, you have moneymaking ideas because you like to think big! With fiery Mars in your sign, you have lots of energy to get things done. However, when Mars is in your sign (something that can happen only once every two years for about six weeks), you might get filled with pent-up energy. This is why it will be wise to get outdoors. Mercury retrograde has slipped back into your sign now, so you might hear from ex-partners and friends.

Capricorn the Goat (December 22-January 19):

You're in fine shape for the holiday season because the Sun is in your sign boosting your energy and giving you a strong sense of wellbeing. The Sun will attract people and favorable situations to you. Fair Venus is in your House of Friendships encourages good times. This will be an especially lovely holiday season for parents and grandparents because your time with children will be enriching and joyful. This is important to you because more than most signs, you have strong family values.

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

Although there are influences in your chart, for example Mars in your House of Friendships, that encourage physical activity with others, right now the Sun hiding in your chart means you're happy to take things easy. In many ways, you feel introspective at this time of year. This is an excellent time to think about what you want for your new

year ahead (birthday to birthday). Fear not. No one thinks you're being a Scrooge. With Venus at the top of your chart, it's apparent to everyone that you want to get along.

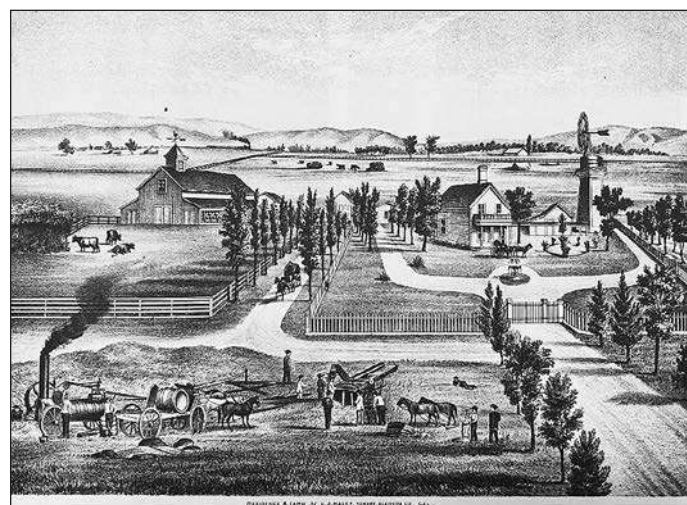
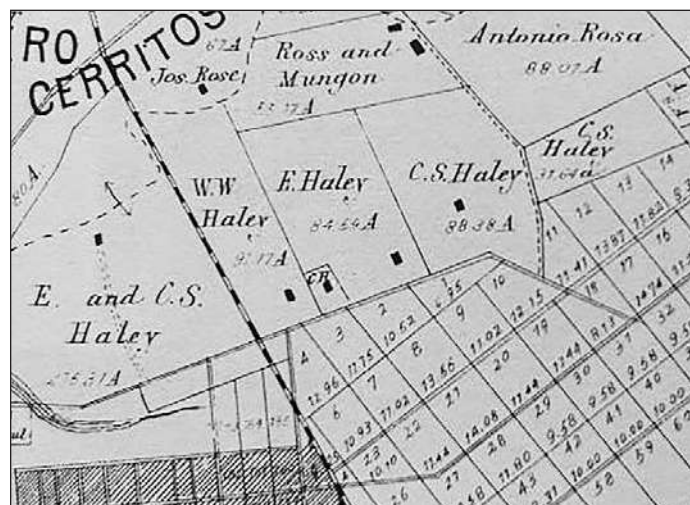
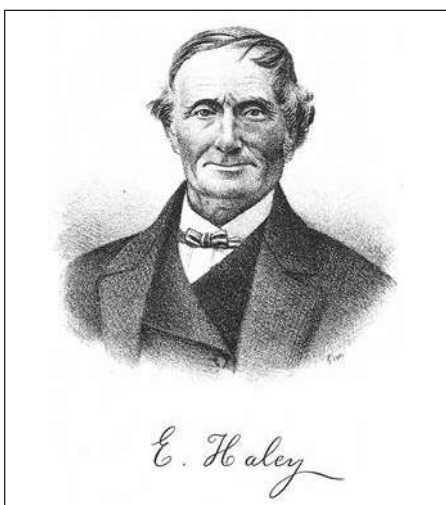
Pisces the Fish (February 19-March 20):

This is a busy, social time of year for you! Many of you are enjoying the company of friends, groups, and organizations more than usual. Not only that, your ambition is aroused, which means you're going after what you want both professionally or in your personal life. If you can travel for pleasure, by all means do so because Venus wants you to escape somewhere with sunny skies and white sands. Fortunately, you will find time with friends to be rewarding.



By Georgia Nicols
www.georgianicols.com

Tri-City History - Street Names #11: Haley Street



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

Haley Street: A street in Newark that runs south from Jarvis Avenue to Mayhews Landing Road.

In the interest of being festive this December, a search ensued for a local street name with history that ties into the season. While many streets named after trees (that's one way to go, right?) were found dotting the maps in Fremont, Newark and Union City, a certain moniker immediately jumped off the page—Haley...Ebenezer Haley of Newark, to be exact. “Bah, humbug!”

The history of Ebenezer Haley and his family bears no real relation to the holiday season, aside from the coincidence of the man's first name, but the history is still worth telling. Unlike the fictional Ebenezer from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, upon Haley's death in December 1897, it was reported that he'd lived an “honest and upright life, had won universal respect, [and that his death had] cast a gloom over the community.”

In 1849, Haley (born 1801) traveled from Nova Scotia, Canada aboard the ship Mary Jane to California in search of gold. Among the passengers was Benjamin B. Redding, famed settler of Redding, California. Haley came from a line of pioneers; his great-great-grandfather had immigrated from England to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636, and his

grandfather immigrated from New England to Nova Scotia in 1762. Tackling new territory was in Ebenezer's DNA. Haley spent a few years in gold country before settling in Washington Township in 1852. After three years, he returned to Nova Scotia to settle his affairs and bring his family back with him to California. In 1855 he settled permanently on his farm in Newark, where he remained for the rest of his life. He was one of the earliest permanent pioneer settlers of Newark.

Addressed simply as “Eben” by his friends and family, Ebenezer Haley was known and respected throughout the township. Never one to be tied up in politics, he spent his days farming his pear and apple orchards, tending to the wheat and barley, and stock and dairy cattle that filled the family's extensive acreage. His

wife, Mary Lee Scott Haley was active in local church and social affairs, and she too was well-liked by her community.

Ebenezer and his sons Caleb and William owned nearly all of the land north of Mayhews Landing Road right up to the Patterson Ranch line. In 1896, William subdivided his land to sell off, and through it he laid a road, which became Haley Street. Today you can drive on Haley Street, walk along it, or maybe you even live there, and if you do, may you have a happy and festive season, and a Happy New Year!

Let's explore local history together! Have a topic or idea you'd like us to look into? Email us at info@museumoflocalhistory.org.



LWV Fremont, Newark & Union City

SUBMITTED BY ANGELINA REYES, CO-PRESIDENT

Alameda County Sheriff's Oversight – AB 1185

On October 9, 2023, KTVU reported that an Oakland man, who back in 2021 was left for dead for several days at Santa Rita Jail. New allegations are emerging that deputies of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department falsified daily prison check records to make it seem like they were checking in on him, when in fact, they did not provide meaningful care. KTVU obtained body camera footage showing that Maurice Monk was found half naked on his bunk, lying dead for at least three days. When deputies finally opened his door, medications and trays of uneaten food lay scattered on the floor. Monk had been motionless on his bunk for so long that the red print reading “Alameda County” on the front of his jail-issued T-shirt had stained his chest, according to an internal sheriff's report.

Elvira Monk of Oakland, a home health care aid and one of Monk's sisters, was quoted as saying, “It feels like they treated

my brother like a dog, like an animal. For them to treat him that way and for him to die that way by himself and lie there for that many days, it's disgusting.”

Monk was jailed two years ago after missing a court appearance during the pandemic and not being able to raise bail. He was arrested for arguing with an AC Transit bus driver for requiring him to wear a mask. Monk suffered from schizoaffective disorder, and whether appropriate medications were available is unclear. Monk was officially declared dead of hypertensive cardiovascular disease on November 15, 2021. He also suffered from diabetes and high blood pressure. Monk and another incarcerated individual died on the same day at Santa Rita Jail. Their families state that both men suffered from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

In April 2023, KTVU reported that in their analysis of autopsies, 66 people have died while incarcerated at Santa Rita since 2014. Maurice Monk is only one example. A report from the U.S. Department of Justice on the number of deaths, and lawsuits arising from the sheriff's operations in Alameda County, underscores how critical it is to

balance the powers of Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) with effective independent oversight. A community oversight board can be a vital component in ensuring that ACSO, jails, and public protection overall, function with appropriate checks and balances, transparency and accountability.

Effective January 2021, Assembly Bill 1185 (AB 1185) authorizes each county to create a sheriff oversight board. In turn, the board is authorized to issue a subpoena when deemed necessary to investigate a matter within the board's jurisdiction.

The League of Women Voters of California supports the establishment of a community oversight body for the Sheriff's Office in Alameda County (ACSO). The Alameda County Council of the League of Voters (ACC) is comprised of the six local Leagues, and in July 2021, those six Leagues began contacting each member of the County Board of Supervisors urging them to implement AB 1185 and establish a community oversight board. The first to meet with the group was former Supervisor Richard Valle. Under his leadership, the process began.

Newly-appointed Supervisor Elisa Marquez has stepped in to continue this work. Along with Supervisor Miley, she conducts the Public Protection Committee where implementation slowly progresses.

ACC continues to urge appropriate oversight of ACSO, which includes the Board of Supervisors adopting the following four components:

1. Independent legal counsel

This is recommended so that the oversight board is separate from the interests of the county. Current county counsel would represent the county in lawsuits whose interests may be at odds with the oversight board.

2. Oversight board membership

The oversight board should be independent of the specific interests of law enforcement and the county. ACC recommends the board consist of residents from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

3. Selection panel

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) appoint a selection panel that can ensure a transparent process by which residents selected for the board are evaluated for their qualifications, diverse experiences and knowledge, and preparedness to assume responsibilities. The BOS would appoint candidates recommended by the panel.

4. An Inspector General with subpoena power

The Inspector General will provide professional, full-time investigation assistance to the oversight board.

For the past several years, ACC has joined with a number of groups advocating a sheriff oversight board. The six League of Women Voters in Alameda County are a part of the California Coalition for Sheriff Oversight, which includes the ACLU, Coalition for Police Accountability, Faith in Action

East Bay, Livermore Indivisible, and Tri Valley Democrats.

Allyssa Victory of the ACLU, Northern California states, “State law mandates that county boards of supervisors oversee sheriffs' offices. AB 1185, which took effect in 2021, gave counties the authority to establish civilian oversight boards to assist supervisors in that role. It is a proactive step towards enhancing sheriff accountability and transparency. The boards can also help sheriffs by conducting community outreach, handling civilian complaints, and providing policy recommendations.” For more information, visit www.aclu.org.

If you agree that AB 1185 needs to be implemented in Alameda County, contact the Board of Supervisors at www.acgov.org/clerk.

The oversight advocacy coalition will hold an educational Town Hall Meeting on January 10, 2024.

Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday, Jan 10
6:30 p.m.

In-Person & via Zoom
Glad Tidings International COGIC
970 Glad Tidings Way, Hayward

Registration:
<https://bit.ly/AlamedaSheriffOversight>

continued from page 1

New Year's Event Lineup

New Year, New You Hike

Sunday, Dec 31
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Three-mile hike with 500 ft elevation gain—wear closed-toed shoes, bring water
Sunol Visitor Center
1895 Geary Rd., Sunol
(888) 327-2757
www.ebparks.org/parks/sunol
Parking fee \$5

(510) 544-3220
www.ebparks.org/parks/coyotehills
Parking fee \$5

Annual Balloon Drop Celebration

Sunday, Dec 31
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Four balloon drops to celebrate with kids!
Chabot Space and Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland
(510) 336-7300
<https://chabotspace.org>
Members: \$10 per Child
Guests: \$29 per Child

End of Year Hike

Sunday, Dec 31
10 a.m. – 12 noon
Coyote Hills
8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont

New Year Traditions

Sunday, Dec 31
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Enjoy a mug of hot cider and learn about New Year traditions worldwide.
Ardenwood Historic Farm
34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont
(510) 544-2797
www.ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood
Park entry: \$2-4

Bollywood Glitz

Sunday, December 31
7 p.m. Dinner
9:45 Dance party
Dinner buffet and open bar, DJ, dance performances, giveaways
Royal Palace Banquet
6058 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
(408) 579-9426



events.sulekha.com
Tickets: \$89-\$159

New Year's Eve Spectacular

Sunday, Dec 31
7:30 p.m. Doors open
8 p.m. Show starts
Improv comedy show (for adult audiences) with party favors, champagne, and cider

Made Up Theatre
4000 Bay St., Ste B, Fremont
(510) 573-3633
madeuptheatre.com
Tickets: \$25

Age Well Center Building Closure

SUBMITTED BY
FREMONT HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Fremont's Lake Elizabeth Age Well Center will be undergoing some extensive remodeling during its holiday closure. The Age Well Center's closure is being extended and will not be able to reopen until Wednesday, January 10.

All classes, activities, and lunch scheduled on these dates are cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Our Holiday Closure will begin Monday, December 25 and

we will reopen on Wednesday, January 10 at 8 a.m.

Meals for Wednesday, January 10, Thursday, January 11, and Friday, January 12 can be ordered starting on Friday, December 22 at 9 a.m.

As a reminder, these holiday closure dates are only for the Age Well Center at Lake Elizabeth.

The Age Well Center at South Fremont Holiday Closure will begin Monday, December 25 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3 at 8 a.m. If you would like to visit the South Fremont location, they can be reached at (510) 742-7540 and are located at 47111 Mission Falls Court.

Again, we apologize for the inconvenience, appreciate your cooperation, and look forward to seeing you on January 10. Happy Holidays!

New Year's Eve Spectacular

SUBMITTED BY
MADE UP THEATRE

Made Up Theatre is hosting its 13th annual "New Year's Eve Spectacular!" At 8 p.m. on December 31, enjoy a hilarious improv comedy show to ring in the new year!

It's time to bid adieu to 2023 with BIG laughs! Join us for an improv comedy show with two unique acts! The first act will feature Laugh Track City, where your suggestions will inspire fast-paced improv games and scenes similar to TV's "Whose Line Is It, Anyway?". The second act will feature a fully improvised movie based on an audience suggested title. We'll even do a simulated countdown, so you can

have time to get to your final destination to countdown to midnight.

We'll provide party favors and celebrate with a special champagne and sparkling cider toast to celebrate the new year!

Note: This show may contain adult language and situations that may not be suitable for a young or sensitive audience.

New Year's Eve Spectacular
Sunday, Dec 31
7:30 p.m. Doors open
8 p.m. Show starts
Made Up Theatre
4000 Bay St., Ste B, Fremont
(510) 573-3633
madeuptheatre.com
Tickets: \$25

Explore the charm and enchantment of Niles district

Explore the charm and enchantment of Niles district, where history meets vibrant modernity. Nestled in the heart of Fremont, Niles Boulevard offers an unforgettable experience with its three blocks of antiques, collectibles, and a plethora of exciting attractions that will captivate your senses.

For the antique enthusiasts, Niles Boulevard is a treasure trove waiting to be discovered. Step into a world of nostalgia as you peruse through a wide array of vintage finds, from exquisite furniture pieces to unique collectibles that tell stories of the past. With multiple antique dealers showcasing their finest selections, you're bound to find that perfect piece to add to your collection or adorn your home.

But Niles Boulevard is so much more than just antiques! Prepare your taste buds for a culinary journey like no other. Indulge in delectable delights at the various restaurants and cafés lining the street. From charming bistros serving up mouthwatering dishes to cozy coffee shops brewing aromatic blends, there's something to satisfy every craving.

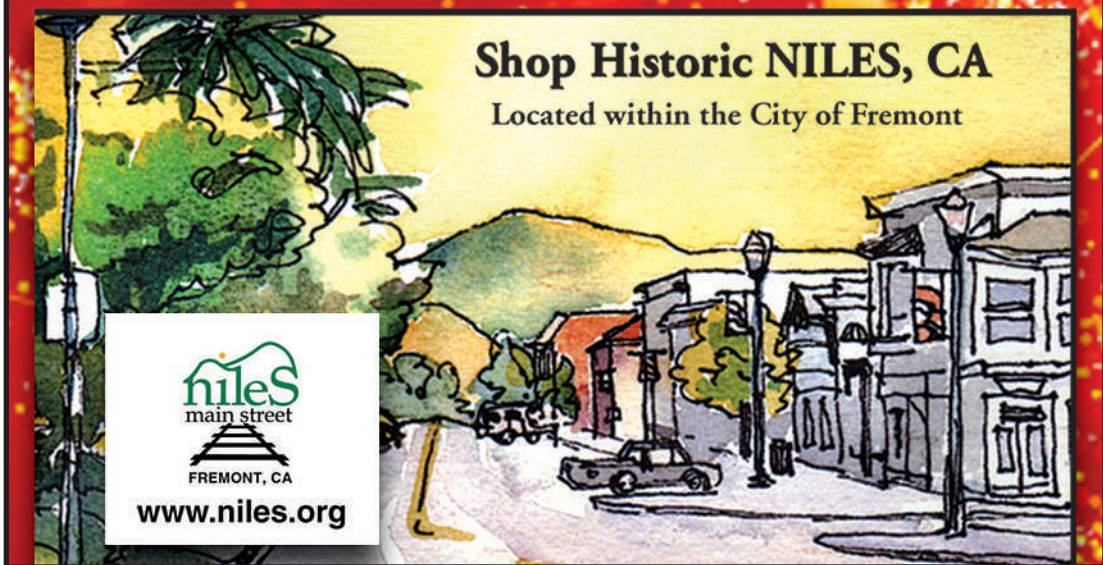
Need to stock up on groceries or grab a quick treat? Look no further than the conveniently located grocery store and ice cream shop. Whether you're seeking fresh

produce for a homemade feast or simply want to savor a scoop of artisanal ice cream on a sunny day, Niles Boulevard has you covered.

Immerse yourself in the local arts scene at the renowned Fremont Art Association. Admire breathtaking exhibitions, connect with local artists, or even take part in workshops to unlock your own creative potential. The association is a hub for artistic expression and a must-visit destination for art enthusiasts.

And don't miss a visit to the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, a true gem for cinema lovers. Step back in time and discover the birthplace of silent movies, with captivating exhibits and screenings that pay homage to the early days of the film industry. It's an experience that transports you to a bygone era and provides a fascinating glimpse into the history of the silver screen.

Whether you're a local resident or a visitor exploring Fremont, Niles Boulevard promises an unforgettable experience. Lose yourself in its charm, indulge in its culinary delights, immerse yourself in art and history, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Come and discover all that Niles Boulevard has to offer – your gateway to an extraordinary adventure!



SPORTS

Castro Valley High School girls wrestling



SUBMITTED BY
LADY TROJANS WRESTLING

Castro Valley girls wrestling did amazing at our home tournament. We won our tournament with 137 points. Six placers with three champions, and two OW. Congratulations Maya and Mikayla on winning Outstanding Wrestler.

Congratulations to Junior Varsity wrestlers in doing extremely well. Junior Varsity 2-1st place (Rhian and Idara), second place (Misheel and a third place finish (Kaylin). Emily and Madilyn went 2-2. For Varsity: three champions form Trujillo, Pak and Marquez. Third place finish for Bazem, fourth place Rhoe and Thomas. Way to go team!

Holiday Skate at Sharks Ice

SUBMITTED BY SHARKS ICE FREMONT

Get into the holiday spirit this season by ice skating with your friends and family. Sharks Ice facility in Fremont is open for public skate with special hours, including adult only hours, in December. Sharks Ice is also offering 10% off all Sharks merchandise through the end of the Holiday Ice for the perfect gift for that Sharks fan.

For more information visit www.sharksiceatfremont.com.

Annual Wild Mushroom Warning

SUBMITTED BY
DAVE MASON

With the return of winter rains, visitors may have noticed mushrooms popping up in the Regional Parks. Mushrooms are an ecologically important part of our parklands and can look beautiful – but some of them contain dangerous toxins.

The death cap (*Amanita phalloides*) and western destroying angel (*Amanita ocreata*) are two of the world's most toxic mushrooms, and both can be found in East Bay Regional Parks during the rainy season.

The death cap and western destroying angel mushrooms contain amatoxins, molecules that are deadly to many animals. Symptoms may not appear until up to 12 hours after consumption, beginning as severe gastrointestinal distress and progressing to liver and kidney failure if treatment is not sought immediately. Both mushrooms can be lethal to humans and pets if consumed. They are mainly

associated with oak trees and can be found growing anywhere oak roots are present.

The death cap is a medium to large mushroom that typically has a greenish-gray cap, white gills, a white ring around the stem, and a large white sac at the base of the stem. Although the death cap is mainly associated with oak trees, it has been found growing with other hardwoods. It was accidentally introduced to North America on the roots of European cork oaks and is now slowly colonizing the west coast. The death cap is not native to California.

The western destroying angel is a medium to large mushroom that usually has a creamy white cap, white gills, a white ring around the stem that can disappear with age, and a thin white sac at the base. It fruits from late winter into spring. It is associated exclusively with oaks. Unlike the death cap, it is a native California mushroom.

The Park District urges the public to be safe and knowledgeable about toxic mushrooms when encountering

them in the parks. Collecting any mushrooms in East Bay Regional Parks is not allowed.

Pet owners should contact a veterinarian immediately if they suspect their pet may have eaten a toxic mushroom.

While the death cap and western destroying angel mushrooms are responsible for most cases of mushroom poisonings in California, deadly toxins can also be found in *Galerina* and *Lepiota* mushroom species, which also occur in the Bay Area. For more information about toxic mushrooms, visit www.ebparks.org/safety/trails/toxic-mushrooms.

Learn More About Fungi at the Tilden Fungus Fair:

Celebrate the fruits of winter! View hundreds of local mushroom specimens, mingle with the mycological community, and enjoy presentations by guest speakers at this two-day special event.

Tilden Fungus Fair
Saturday, Jan 20 – Sunday, Jan 21

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 a.m.

Tilden Nature Area

600 Canon Dr., Berkeley

(510) 544-2233

www.ebparks.org/events/tilden-fungus-fair



Death Cap

Western Destroying Angel

Mission San Jose School of Guitar

43255 Mission Boulevard, Fremont CA 94539

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and in person instruction

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Advanced
Guitar Instruction

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510-661-9147

Arts & Entertainment

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

CONTINUING EVENTS

Tuesdays

East Bay Games Meet

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
German/Euro style board games and card games.
Swiss Park
5911 Mowry Ave., Newark
(510) 936-2523
meetup.com/east-bay-games
sfdavidkaye@yahoo.com

Tuesdays, November 7 - December 26

Lego Time

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Use your imagination and engineering skills to create your own LEGO® designs.
Centerville library
3801 Nicolet Ave., Fremont
(510) 795-2629
aclibrary.org/locations/CTV/fremontneighborhood@aclibrary.org
Supervision required for kids 7 and under.

Tuesdays, January 2 - April 30

Bilingual Family Storytime / 中英雙語故事時間

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Features movement, sing, and action! 雙中英語故事書, 兒歌, 手指謠, 玩遊戲.
Milpitas Public Library
160 N Main St., Milpitas
(408) 262-1171
For babies, preschoolers, and toddlers.

Tuesdays, September 19 - May 28

It's Storytime

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Stories, finger plays, nursery rhymes, songs, and musical instruments.
Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
(510) 745-1400
aclibrary.org/locations/FRM/fremontchildrens@aclibrary.org
For kids ages 18 mos - 6 yrs.

Tuesdays

Mobile Food Distribution with Tri-City Volunteers

11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Bring your own bag.
Fremont Adult and Continuing Education
4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont
(510) 793-6465
tri-cityvolunteers.org/food
First and Third Tuesdays of the month

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Activities for people with Parkinson.
Age Well Center at South Fremont
47111 Mission Falls Ct., Fremont
(510) 742-7529
issuu.com/hsdept
mtorrez@fremont.gov

Wednesdays

Tropics Bingo

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

Wednesdays, October 11 - December 27

Manitas en Acción

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Combination of reading books, hands-on crafts and learning about culture in Spanish.
Newark Public Library
37055 Newark Blvd., Newark
(510) 284-0675
aclibrary.org/locations/NWK/

Thursdays, December 21 - December 28

Family Board Game Night

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Drop in for a family game night!
Centerville library
3801 Nicolet Ave., Fremont
(510) 795-2629

Thursdays, December 28 - January 25

Stay N' Play!

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Make friends, play with toys, and explore arts and sensory stations
Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
(510) 745-1400
Ages 12 - 36 months along with caregivers.
Free tickets.

Thursdays, December 21 - May 23

Homework Help Center

3:45 pm - 5:45 pm
For students in grades K - 8.
Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
(510) 745-1400
Drop-in.

Thursdays - 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#events
Admission fee applies.

Thursdays and Saturdays

Story Time

10:30 am - 11:00 am
Picture book story time
Banter Bookshop
3768 Capitol Ave. Ste. F, Fremont
(510) 565-1004
bit.ly/3VFpbz

Thursdays and Tuesdays, November 9 - May 23

Literacy Enrichment Program R

4:00 pm - 5:45 pm
Supporting struggling readers through personalized lesson plans and one-on-one tutoring.
Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
(510) 745-1400
aclibrary.org/locations/FRM/fremontchildrens@aclibrary.org
Email to register.

Fridays, December 1 - December 29

Woodland Wonderland

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Join us after school to learn about a new plant or animal of the oak woodland.
Del Valle Visitor Center
7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore
(510) 544-3146
Age: 3 yrs +, Mixed.

Fridays, January 20 - January 5

Knit & Crochet Circle

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Learn knitting and crocheting.
Milpitas Public Library
160 N Main St., Milpitas
(408) 262-1171
scld.org/locations/milpitas

Fridays, December 29 - February 16

Qi Gong Meditation & Exercise Class

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Falun Dafa classes provided by the Classical Arts Foundation.
Milpitas Public Library
160 N Main St., Milpitas
(408) 262-1171
Language: English, Ti ng Vi t, 國語 / 普通话

Fridays, December 29 - May 10

Go: The Game R

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Go is an ancient game of strategy. To learn the game or play.
Union City Library
34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City
(510) 745-1464
All ages and levels are welcome!

Fridays - Sundays, November 24 - January 7

3 Crosses Church Christmas Village & Ice-Skating Rink \$

3:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Family activities, ice skating, food trucks and more!
3Cross Church
20600 John Drive, Castro Valley
Skating tickets are available online and in-person.

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/events

Saturday - Tuesday, December 2 - January 9

Winter Reading Game

10:00 am
Complete your game board to collect your prize and enter the prize drawing.
Centerville library
3801 Nicolet Ave., Fremont
(510) 795-2629
<https://aclibrary.bibliocommons.com/events/6567ec2f1abde5420061cfe4>
Check for library's open hours.
Open for all ages.

Saturdays

Laugh Track City R\$

8:00 pm
Series of improvised games and scenes
Made Up Theatre
4000 Bay St. suite B., Fremont
(510) 573-3633
madeuptheatre.com

Saturdays

Free Beginner Pickleball Lesson

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Free pickleball lesson for beginners, taught by a USPA professional.
Hall Memorial Park
304 La Honda Dr, Milpitas
(408) 586-3210
All ages. Drop-in. Weather permitting.

Saturdays, September 9 - December 30

Computer Crew: Teen Tech Help

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
One-on-one tutor on basic tech issues.
Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley
(510) 667-7900
aclibrary.org/locations/csv/castrovalley@aclibrary.org

Saturdays, May 27 - December 30

Divine Satsang Sabha

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Know techniques of living a virtuous, harmonious, & meaningful life.
SMVS (Shri Swaminarayan Mandir)
36665 Cedar Blvd, Newark
(650) 585-5325
smvs.org/centers/centerdetail/106

Saturdays - Wednesdays, December 9 - December 27

Cripps Place

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Enjoy the holiday displays, sparkling lights, festive decorations, and more.
Cripps Place
Cripps Place, Asquith Place, Nicolet Court, Wellington Place, Perkins Street, and the stretch of Nicolet Avenue, Fremont
www.crippsplace.org
The event is located on Wellington Place and surrounding streets.

Sundays - Saturdays

Recreational Swim \$

12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Attractions may vary.
Silliman Activity and Family Aquatic Center
6800 Mowry Ave., Newark
(510) 578-4620
bit.ly/3nxx0is

Sundays

Weekly meditation Session R

8:30 am - 9:30 am
Explore the effortless way to ultimate bliss.
India Community Center
525 Los Coches St., Milpitas
(408) 934-1130
samarpanmeditationusa.org
info@indiacc.org

Hayward Animal Shelter



510-293-7200

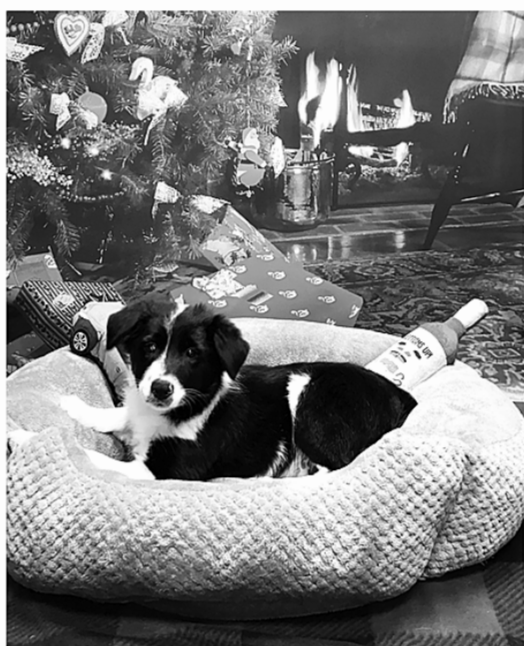
www.HaywardAnimals.com

16 Barnes Court, Hayward
(Near Soto & Jackson)

Connecting rescued animals
with loving homes!



Chloe is a 8 week old mostly white Border Collie. Chloe is looking for her home to grow into that special dog. Chloe can be a great working dog, or can be a great family pet with lots of activity. To meet or adopt Chloe contact Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



Mary is a 8 week old mostly Black Border Collie. Mary is looking to be that special someone's pet that has tons of energy and can do a job if needed. Mary is a little clumsy but will get more agile the older she gets. To meet or adopt Mary contact Hayward Animal Shelter at 510-293-7200.



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Contact Fudenna Bros. for more information

Phone: 510-657-6200

Email: customerservice@fudenna.com

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

Fremont Cares: Helping Our Unhoused Community Members Navigate a Path Home

SUBMITTED BY CITY OF FREMONT

In September 2020, City of Fremont opened the Housing Navigation Center (HNC) in partnership with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) as part of our strategic approach to address the growing homelessness crisis. Located adjacent to City Hall, the HNC provides a clean, safe, and calm environment for those experiencing homelessness while they receive help finding stable, permanent housing.

The HNC continues to significantly impact lives, and we are pleased to share the inspiring stories of three participants who were able to find a path to their new homes with the help of this innovative program.

Paul

“Paul” had been experiencing homelessness since the summer of 2021 and had the opportunity to enroll in the HNC in March 2022. Through the program, staff connected Paul to non-cash benefits and helped him apply for senior affordable housing opportunities. After only eight months, Paul was selected for an apartment and moved into his new home.



Gus

“Gus” spent nearly two decades incarcerated before being released without a home to go to. For most of his adult life, he battled substance abuse, and his criminal history became a barrier to employment and housing. While at the HNC, Gus faithfully attended substance abuse meetings to maintain his sobriety. Working alongside staff, he connected with Bay Area Legal Aid and had his

misdemeanor charge expunged from his record. He eventually secured a full-time job as a security officer for a major retailer, and in March 2023, Gus signed a lease for an apartment in Newark.

Ruby

“Ruby” became homeless in 2013 due to an abusive relationship mixed with alcoholism which, according to Ruby, created a wedge between her and her family. When she arrived at the HNC in August

2021, she didn't think family reunification was possible. After nearly a year in the program, staff worked with Ruby to contact her mother and unfortunately learned her mother was ill. Staff supported Ruby while she traveled to Oregon several times to visit her mother and further supported her family reunification by helping her find a home in Oregon. In March 2023, Ruby signed a lease agreement and now happily lives in Oregon.

The city is proud of the continued work being done at the HNC—ultimately, it's all about helping community members like Paul, Gus, and Ruby find their way home.

About Fremont Cares

The City's Fremont Cares storytelling series aims to shed light on the real-life experiences of Fremont's unhoused residents, highlight the homeless response services provided by dedicated City staff and partner agencies, and inspire others to get involved and help.

www.fremont.gov

State Water Board approves criteria for recycled water

SUBMITTED BY RESTORE HETCH HETCHY

On Wednesday, December 20, California's State Water Resources Control Board formally adopted criteria for recycling wastewater (calmatters.org).

The Water Board's rules are a big deal, a very big deal, and they provide California's cities a clear and definite alternative for

assuring a reliable water supply. But the action has been expected for some time—after all, communities in southern California have already committed billions of dollars and have begun constructing recycling projects.

Recycling wastewater is not entirely new. Singapore has been recycling wastewater for more than 20 years, a technology its Prime Minister promoted by drinking “NEWater” on television (latimes.com). And Orange County has been recycling wastewater for decades as well, although those supplies have been injected in aquifers before being extracted and treated for use.

The Water Board's new rules allow wastewater to be treated and stored in local surface reservoirs or delivered directly to customers. Any skeptics might want to visit a recycling plant to see the extensive process, which

includes that same nanofilters used for desalination. (Pushing recycled water through the nanofilters requires a fraction of the energy that desalinating seawater requires.)

Recycling is expensive indeed. In some cases (e.g. San Diego), however, the cost of recycling is a large part of the cost of reducing pollution of its beaches from wastewater plants. Obviously recycling wastewater would reduce pollution in San Francisco Bay as well as enable restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park—something we argued in an editorial opinion in the San Francisco Chronicle last year after a toxic algae bloom killed tens of thousands of fish.

Restore Hetch Hetchy believes San Francisco needs to modernize its water system so that Yosemite National Park can again be made whole. We've emphasized groundwater banking as a lower

cost alternative to recycling (or expanding Calaveras Reservoir)—but recycling wastewater would indeed provide a huge water quality benefit to the Bay.

As we explain in Yosemite's Opportunity: Options For Replacing Hetch Hetchy Reservoir (2022): “The recent investments that California's cities have made in groundwater, recycling and local surface storage would replace Hetch Hetchy Reservoir more than 15 times over. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has the opportunity to pursue any or all of these technologies.” Not a drop of supply need be lost!

Restore Hetch Hetchy
<https://hetchhetchy.org/state-water-board-approves-criteria-for-recycled-water/>

Fremont City Council

**December 5, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Consent Calendar

- Adoption of an ordinance of the City of Fremont amending various chapters of Fremont municipal code Title 17 (Subdivisions) and Title 18 (Planning and Zoning) to comply with State law and implement programs 16, 17, 18, 32, 34, 36, 37, 44, 45, 46, 69, 74, 76, and 91 of the City's 2023-2031 Housing Element.

Mayor Lily Mei	Aye
Desrie Campbell	Aye
Teresa Cox	Absent
Jenny Kassan	Aye
Teresa Keng	Aye
Raj Salwan	Aye
Yang Shao	Absent

Community Bulletin Board

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\$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

FREMONT COIN CLUB
Established 1971
Meets 2nd Tues in person 7pm
Meets 4th Tues with Zoom 7pm
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Rd, Fremont
Guests Always Welcome,
Enjoy Show N Tells, Drawings
Auction, Refreshments
www.fremontcoinclub.org
510-366-1365

MISSION PEAK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
Welcomes YOU!
We are a spiritual community of open minds, nurturing growth and healing in ourselves, and all people. Together we strive to live compassionately and courageously as we work to build a nonviolent, just sustainable world. We welcome you and your family to join us on this journey. We meet Sundays at 10 a.m. in Cole Hall, located at 2950 Washington Blvd. in Fremont and online at www.mpuuc.org/Zoom
Learn more about us at www.mpuuc.org

A-1 Comm. Housing Svcs.
A HUD Approved Agency
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Presented on ZOOM
Learn the process of homeownership.
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Please register www.a1chs.org or call 510.674.9227

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 in-person and zoom meetings.
Visit <https://alanond17.weebly.com/> for a full meeting list.
You can also email easyduz@gmail.com or call us at 510.276.2270 for more info.

Scholarships for Women
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Fremont Stamp Club
Meet 2nd Thurs. each month
Cultural Arts Center
3375 Country Dr., Fremont
Interesting discussions, trade, silent auction
fremontstampclub@gmail.com
www.fremontstampclub.org
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Friendly & fun group open to men & women.
Variety of activities: Bocce ball, Day trips, BBQ, Dinner, Wine tasting and more.
Free newsletter. For information 925-803-1313
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Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf (MLCD)
MLCD is an independent congregation in partnership with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School.
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School (Meeting in Mosley Chapel) 38451 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, CA
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. - **Sunday Worship:** 11:00 a.m.
Church Office: 510-499-8473 or 510-516-9566
Email: mlcdeaf@yahoo.com OR gomez.andylorena@sbcglobal.net
You can find us at: Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf-YouTube
"Where people gather...to worship, learn and share the love of Jesus"

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Experience a country and its culture with local hosts; meet global visitors.
Guests from Chile in 2023
Many outbound trip possibilities
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www.ffsfba.org
www.friendshipforce.org
Call or text 510-363-0531

EARLY RISERS start your Tuesday with a boost of energy. Join the NEWARK TOASTMASTERS from your home 7 am - 8 am via Zoom.
Boost your communication, leadership & personal growth skills.
It's FREE to attend as a guest.
Info: wmfitts@yahoo.com
profrocka@gmail.com
www.1118.toastmastersclubs.org

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

ABWA - Pathfinder Chapter American Business Women's Association
Provides opportunities for women for leadership, education, & networking.
Virtual meetings - 3rd Wednesday of each month.
6:45 pm to 8:30 pm.
Call Donna at 510-299-4332 or send email to pathfinderabwa@gmail.com
www.abwa-pathfinder.org

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

Fremont Cribbage Club
Meets to play weekly, every Weds.
We play a Cribbage Tournament starting at 5PM. at BRONCO BILLY'S PIZZA at 41200 Blacow Road, Fremont
We welcome experienced players and will work with new players hoping to learn the game.
Email: Accgr43@gmail.com
For more information.

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

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
protecting and preserving your benefits
Meets at Noon the 4th Friday at Fremont's Age Well Center at Lake Elizabeth
Come meet new and old friends, discuss developments regarding your benefits, share your experience and knowledge and get involved.
For info:
www.NARFE.org or 800-456-8410 (5am-2pm PT M-F) or leave msg for Jeannie at 510-792-6327

Tropics BINGO Every Wednesday Games start 7pm
33000 Almaden Blvd. Fremont
Buy-In \$10
Flash games \$100-\$500
90% Payout
Profits go to local Charities the-Tropics.net

BINGO BINGO BINGO
Niles Canyon Mobile Estates
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
\$7.00 - 6 pack; \$1.00 Bonanza; \$1.00 Blackout; \$1.00 Hot Ball; \$2.00 Daubers

Community Resource Fair January 14, 2024 2pm-4pm
Location: Bridges Community Church (gym) 505 Driscoll Road, Fremont
Hosted by: the Jesus and Justice Collective
Connect with some amazing local organizations that are fighting to make a difference in our community and see how you may get involved!
Learn more at: jesusandjusticecollective.org/events/

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For dates, go to our website
Please register at www.a1chs.org call 510.674.9227

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See our website to meet us on Zoom

Community Resource Fair January 14, 2024 2pm-4pm
Location: Bridges Community Church (gym) 505 Driscoll Road, Fremont
Hosted by: the Jesus and Justice Collective
Connect with some amazing local organizations that are fighting to make a difference in our community and see how you may get involved!
Learn more at: jesusandjusticecollective.org/events/

Serious Mental Illness Free 8-week course for caregivers of someone with a serious mental illness starting Jan 6, 2024, from 9:00-11:30 in Fremont.
Registration is required. Contact: Joe Rose at 510-255-3903 or Email F2F@NAMIacs.org
<https://www.NAMIacs.org>
<https://www.NAMI.org/f2f>

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

BINGO - BINGO... LETS YELL BINGO!!! Fremont Elks Lodge (510-797-2121)
38991 Farwell Drive - Fremont
Every Thursday - Doors open @ 4:30pm.
Flash/Strips start 6:00... Regular Paper games start 6:30pm.
Packs: 1/\$20 2/\$25 3-5/\$30 6-8/\$35 9-12/\$40
FREE COFFEE - WATER - POPCORN
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OPINION



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WILLIAM MARSHAK

Sounds of a New Year

The sound of this new year will be a collective sigh of relief as 2023 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."

The famous 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?

Our tolerance for patience and respect of community health and welfare has been sorely tested by a pandemic. The effect has been a reduction of community activity and oversight. Effective vaccines have allowed open council and board meetings as well as the resumption of many community activities. Hopefully, residents will continue to engage with each other and remain aware of proposals, changes and votes by their elected representatives.

We have all, at one time or another, suffered the consequences of fleeting

attention to New Year resolutions. But, in anticipation of an especially 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

San Leandro City Council

December 18, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Action Items

- Adoption of an Ordinance to Establish Compensation of Councilmembers; and Mayor. Passed 5-1-1 (Ballew, Nay; Reynes, Absent)

Consent Calendar

- Amend San Leandro Municipal Code Chapter 1-2 Departments to Reflect the Current Structure of City Departments
- Amend San Leandro Municipal Code Section 1-3-110 to Modify the Community Police Review Board's Membership Structure
- Accept the 2022-2023 Section 115 Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust and Pension Trust Investment Report for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2023
- Approve the Annual Update of the City OPEB and Pension Funding Policy
- Accept the Annual Report on Receipt and Use of Development Impact Fees for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

- Approve the California State Library's Fiscal Year 2024 California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) English as a Second Language (ESL) Grant in the amount of \$23,488 for the Enhancement of ESL Programming as Part of Project Literacy

- Approve the California State Library's Fiscal Year 2024 California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) Grant in the amount of \$86,818 for the Continuation of the Project Literacy Adult and Family Literacy Services

- Award a Construction Contract to Tricon Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,655,573 for the Washington Manor Park Pool Renovation, Project No. 2023.3400

- Authorize an Agreement between the City of San Leandro and the San Leandro Improvement Association in an amount not to exceed \$304,000 for the management and operation of the San Leandro Cherry Festival for Two Years with the Option for Three (3) One-Year Extensions

- Approve an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget Adjustment for the Community Safety Ambassador Project and the Beautify San Leandro Project

- Approve the Posting of the Local Appointments List of Board and Commission Vacancies in 2024



Palestine supporters gathered in front of San Leandro City Hall December 18. Photo by Jack Alcorn

- Accept the FY 2022-2023 Annual Review of the Rent Review Ordinance and Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance
- Accept the 2022 Housing Element Annual Progress Report

Mayor Juan Gonzalez	Aye
Victor Aguilar	Aye
Bryan Azevedo	Aye
Pete Ballew	Aye
Xouhoa Bowen	Aye
Celina Reynes	Absent
Fred Simon	Aye

Introduction to Primary Election Ballot Measure

SUBMITTED BY
ANGELINA REYES,
CO-PRESIDENT

Presidential Primary Election – March 5, 2024 Ballot Measure B

At the recent meeting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors (BOS), a call for

election to coincide with the Presidential Primary on March 5, 2024, was approved. Thus, the voters residing in Alameda County will vote on Ballot Measure B which will update the AC Charter relating to recalls. Section 62 of the Charter has not been updated since 1926 making those procedures in this section substantially different than what

the California State Election Code for recalls directs. Aligning these procedures will add transparency and clarity that include procedures to address current irregularities for initiating the process. The update includes the signature gathering procedure as Section 62 on this procedure has been declared unconstitutional. Adopting state law would also establish

reasonable and workable procedures and timelines that reflect current population numbers and other requirements. Any outstanding recalls in process will not be impacted if all required signatures are submitted before to March 5, 2024. All six LWV Leagues in Alameda County are in support of this effort to update recall procedures in Alameda County.

Visit our website for more information:
<https://lwvcs.clubexpress.com/>

ADJUDICATION:

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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Hayward City Council

December 12, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Consent

- Accept Transmittal of the Annual Mitigation Fee Act Report (AB1600)
- Authorize the purchase of two plunger valves from Core & Main LP in an amount not-to-exceed \$155,850 as part of the 250-foot zone for pressure reducing strategy at Decoto Pump Station Project No. 07074
- Authorize to apply for a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan for the Water

- Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) Improvements - Phase II Project No. 07760
 - Accept and appropriate \$515,000 in Awarded Transportation Fund for Clean Air Funding from the Alameda County Transportation Commission for the Winton Avenue/D Street and Tennyson Road Corridors Signal Timing Project for construction of traffic signal infrastructure and implementation of adaptive signal timing
 - Approve the plans and specifications and call for bids for the Hayward Police Department Locker Room Building Project No. 06926
 - Appropriate additional funds in the amount of \$120,000 from Transportation

- System Improvement - Fund 460 for the Traffic Signal Upgrade at Huntwood Avenue, Project No. 05737
 - Approve Addendum Nos. 1,2,3 and 4, rejecting the bid from CWS Construction Group, Inc. and awarding a construction contract to Rodan Builders, Inc., for The Stack Center - Phase I Project, Project No. 06960, in the amount of \$8,699,000 and authorizing an administrative change order budget of \$871,000
 - Authorize an agreement with LookingPoint for Implementation of Network Refresh in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,340,126
 - Authorize a professional services agreement with Clifford Moss in an amount not-to-exceed \$90,000 Plus Direct Communications Expenses Estimated at \$155,000 and with Fairbank, Maslin,

- Maulin, Metz & Associates (FM3) in an amount not-to-exceed \$45,750 for education and outreach services relating to a potential early extension of the ½ cent Local District Sales Tax and Appropriating Funds for these Agreements
 - Adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 4, Article 12 of the Hayward Municipal Code regarding spectators at illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mayor Mark Salinas | Aye |
| Angela Andrews | Aye |
| Ray Bonilla | Aye |
| Dan Goldstein | Aye |
| Julie Roche | Aye |
| George Syrop | Aye |
| Francisco Zermeno | Aye |

Newark City Council

December 14, 2023

Consent Calendar

- Approve the 2024 Local Appointments List and distribution
- Execute a Contractual Services Agreement with MNS Engineers, Inc. for Construction Management Services for Central Avenue Overpass project
- Approve an agreement with Forensic Logic LLC, a SoundThinking Company for Crime Tracer software
- Approve the Second Amendment to the Contractual Services Agreement with Client First Consulting Group, LLC for technology consulting services
- Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Contractual Services Agreement with West Coast Arborists, Inc. for tree maintenance services
- Approve a side letter agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Newark and the Newark Police Management Association to provide for compensation to the Police Lieutenants for the certain overtime work associated with the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program grant
- Accept the Annual and Five-Year Mitigation Fee report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 and approve findings for



Mayor Hannon swears in Patricia Pitpitan to the Planning Commission. Photo by April Ramos

- each development impact fee that the City of Newark imposes on development projects
 - Approve a side letter with the Newark Police Association to provide temporary benefits relating to the temporary critical staffing schedule
 - Authorize the deletion of one full-time equivalent Lead Public Safety Dispatcher and the addition of on full-time equivalent Public Safety Supervisor
 - Approve a Contractual Services Agreement with ICS Integrated Communication Systems for audio/video equipment and services
 - Authorize the purchase of two dump trucks for the Public Works Department Maintenance Division directly from an auto dealership
 - Authorize the second amendment to the Contractual Services Agreements with Community Planning Collaborative and authorization amendment of the 2022-2024 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 to provide funding for consultant services related to the 2023-2032 Housing Element
 - Approve reappointment of Eric Hentschke to the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Mayor Michael Hannon | Aye |
| Vice Mayor Sucs Collazo | Aye |
| Mike Bucci | Aye |
| Luis Freitas | Aye |
| Matthew Jorgens | Aye |

Fremont Police Log

SUBMITTED BY FREMONT PD

Tuesday, December 5

- A victim went to the Red Hawk Ter area to meet a woman he met online and was robbed by four subjects with firearms. The subjects took the victim's belongings and cash. The victim ran and hid from the subjects, hearing them looking for him. Upon returning to his vehicle, the victim discovered that it had been ransacked and vandalized, with the window smashed.
 - Officers responded to multiple calls regarding a vehicle collision on Omar St. Officers determined that the driver was under the influence and had crashed into multiple parked vehicles. After being treated at a nearby hospital, the subject refused to leave. When officers arrived, the subject threatened to burn the building down, then lit a napkin on fire and threw it on the ground. Assisting security guards stomped out the fire quickly, and officers arrested the subject.
- Thursday, December 7**
- Officers responded to a report of a possible dead body at an apartment complex on Fremont Blvd. The decedent was inside the apartment on the floor, indicating obvious signs of death. Fremont Fire Department arrived later and pronounced the subject deceased. Drug paraphernalia was located on the scene.
 - Security from a car dealership on Christy St. reported seeing two vehicles attempting to ram out of the property gates. The vehicles successfully rammed through the gates and fled as officers arrived. Officers eventually located both vehicles

fleeing elsewhere in the city, each reaching speeds of 120 mph. The car dealership provided tracking information, and officers located both vehicles in separate cities and arrested two subjects.

Friday, December 8

- A motorist reported that another driver had brandished a firearm at him after driving recklessly during a road rage encounter near Mission Blvd. and I-680 North. Officers eventually caught up to the subject vehicle, and the driver advised that he did have a gun in the vehicle. Officers recovered a non-serialized firearm and arrested the driver.
- Dispatch received a report that a subject was waving a handgun in the Peralta Blvd. and Dusterberry Way area. The subject was heard saying he was going to shoot someone and was accompanied by another subject, both traveling on foot. Officers flooded the area, but could not locate either subject.
- A subject vehicle confronted a victim vehicle in the bike lane near Fremont Blvd. and Innovation Way regarding a road rage incident. The subject exited his vehicle and opened the victim's door, yelling and punching him in the face. The subject then stole the victim's backpack. This case remains under investigation.

Saturday, December 9

- Officers responded to the 35000 block of Morley Pl. regarding a disturbance. The reporting party's brother was under the influence and breaking items in the backyard, refusing to leave. The reporting party had an active restraining order against the subject. Officers arrived and arrested the subject.

Monday, December 11

- Officers assisted Hayward Police Department and Union City Police Department with a perimeter and search. A subject had fired shots during an armed robbery and also at an officer during a vehicle pursuit. The subject was later located in the area by Hayward Police Department.

Bay Area Affordable Housing Bond Community Meeting

SUBMITTED BY ALAMEDA COUNTY

Join Supervisors David Haubert and Elisa Márquez on Monday, January 8 from 6:30 p.m. - 8p.m. at the Fremont Library to learn and share your thoughts about a possible \$10 to \$20 billion Bay Area-wide affordable housing bond sponsored by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) for the November 2024 ballot.

If approved by the voters, the regional bond will provide billions of dollars for the construction of an estimated 45,000 affordable homes, serving over 500,000 residents over the coming decades. This measure will also raise billions for preservation of existing affordable housing and ensure protection for at-risk tenants. General obligation bonds are funded through property taxes, so a \$10 billion bond would place a tax of \$10.26 on \$100,000 in assessed value—or about \$100 per year for a million-dollar home.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors District offices are partnering with the County Housing and Community Development Department on public information and input sessions.

Please reserve your space at tinyurl.com/register-for-in-person (in person) or tinyurl.com/register-for-online (online)

Translation service options are available in the registration. For ADA accommodations, please contact our offices: District 1 at district1@acgov.org or 510-272-6691 and District 2 at district2@acgov.org or 510-272-6692.

Affordable Housing Bond Community Meeting
Monday, Jan 8
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Fremont Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
tinyurl.com/register-for-in-person
tinyurl.com/register-for-online

BART Police Log

SUBMITTED BY BART PD

Wednesday, December 13

- At 4:57 a.m. a man identified by police as Exal Barrajas, 40, from Hayward was taken into custody at Hayward station. Barrajas was booked into the Alameda County Jail for failure to register as a sex offender.

Saturday, December 16

- At 3:35 p.m. officers at Bay Fair station identified Mayci Morgan, 24, from Missouri. Morgan was found to have an active felony warrant out of Greene County Sheriff's Office, Missouri for forgery with willful extradition. Greene County SO confirmed the warrant. Morgan was placed under arrest and booked into Santa Rita Jail.
- At 9:41 a.m. officers at Warm Springs station identified Derrick Bedford, 33, from Stockton. Bedford was found to have an active domestic restraining order prohibiting him from being with his partner. Bedford also had two active felony warrants out of Santa Clara County. Bedford was booked at Santa Rita Jail for violating a protective order.

Sunday, December 17

- At 11:36 a.m. officers identified Jeromy Smith, 48, from San Francisco. He was contacted

for fare evasion at Milpitas station and taken into custody. Smith was booked into Santa Clara County Jail in San Jose for an outstanding arrest warrant.

Monday, December 18

- At 8:00 a.m. officers at Castro Valley station identified Randall Stovall, 29, and took him into custody. Stovall was booked into Alameda County Jail for failure to register as a sex offender and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- At 12:24 p.m. officers at San Leandro station identified Louis King, 44, from Hayward. King was taken into custody and booked into the Alameda County Jail for possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

- At 8:57 a.m. officers at Fremont station identified Edward Martinez, 27, from South San Francisco. Martinez was taken into custody and booked into Alameda County Jail for indecent exposure. Martinez was issued a prohibition order in relation to this event.

Tuesday, December 19

- At 9:47 a.m. police identified Arthur Pakman, 33, from San Francisco at Fremont station. Pakman was taken into custody and booked into the Alameda County Jail for an outstanding arrest warrant.

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Seeking part-time workers for mostly outside work (leaf-blowing, sweeping, raking). High school students with permits may apply.

To apply, email customerservice@fudenna.com or call 510-657-6200

Electrical Engineer (Entry-Level), Lam Research Corporation, Fremont, CA.

Desgn, dvlp, modify Elctrcl hardware systms. Req. Master's deg or foreign equiv in Elctrcl Engg, or rel; OR Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Electrcl Engg or rel + 2 yrs exp in electrcl engg role. Salary: \$127,234 - \$144,000/yr. Please email resume to resumes@lamresearch.com & ref Job #8688.

Newark Police Log

SUBMITTED BY NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Monday, December 4

- 12:56 a.m.: Officers contacted a 27-year-old female out of San Lorenzo sleeping near trash cans. Officer Herrera determined that she was too intoxicated to take care of herself and placed her under arrest. She was booked into Santa Rita Jail.
- 9:05 a.m.: Officer C. Torres investigated a burglary in

progress at a warehouse in the 38000 block of Cedar Boulevard. Officers conducted a high risk stop of the suspect vehicle and recovered stolen property from the warehouse. A 52-year-old male out of Fremont was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail.

- 11:18 p.m.: Officer Norvell arrested a 35-year-old male out of Newark for a warrant and brandishing a knife at a security guard. He was booked into Santa Rita Jail.

Tuesday, December 5

- 11:59 p.m.: Officer Smith located a 26-year-old female out of Sunnyvale slumped over the steering wheel of her vehicle while stopped in the roadway of Cedar Boulevard. She was determined to be driving under the influence and assaulted the

officers as they attempted to take her into custody. She was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail.

Wednesday, December 6

- 6:18 a.m.: Officer Williams responded to a report of a male subject tampering with locked bicycles at an apartment complex. During his investigation, he located and arrested a 29-year-old male out of Newark for possession of drug paraphernalia. No bicycles were stolen, and the suspect was issued a citation.

Thursday, December 7

- 11:35 AM: Officer Williams located a stolen vehicle driving on Cherry Street and attempted an enforcement stop. The vehicle fled from officers out of the city and a pursuit was not initiated.
- 7:07 p.m.: Officer Kapu located a stolen vehicle on

Cedar Court. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of a 26-year-old male out of San Jose and a 50-year-old female out of San Jose for possession of the stolen vehicle. Both were transported and booked into Santa Rita Jail.

Friday, December 8

- 7:10 p.m.: Officer Riddles arrested a 45-year-old male out of Newark for a felony warrant and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into Santa Rita Jail.
- 11:04 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a subject causing a disturbance in the 36100 block of Cherry Street. Officers located a 64-year-old male out of Newark in the roadway and arrested him for possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into

Santa Rita Jail.

Sunday, December 10

- 12:03 a.m.: Officer Riddles arrested a 51-year-old male out of Newark for violating a served restraining order. He was booked into Santa Rita Jail.
- 1:53 p.m.: Officer C. Torres investigated a domestic disturbance on Beutke Drive and ultimately arrested a 44-year-old male out of Newark and booked him into Santa Rita Jail.
- 8:24 p.m.: Officer Swadener investigated a report of a restraining order violation on Inverness Drive. He located and arrested a 53-year-old female out of Newark and booked her into Santa Rita Jail.

LIFE CORNERSTONES

Birth

Marriage

Obituaries

For more information
510-494-1999
tricityvoice@aol.com



Fremont Chapel of the Roses
(510) 797-1900 FD1007
1940 Peralta Blvd., Fremont
www.fremontchapeloftheroses.com



Fremont Memorial Chapel
(510) 793-8900 FD 1115
3723 Peralta Blvd. Fremont
www.fremontmemorialchapel.com

Jeremy Randall Martin
Resident of Fremont
September 13, 1997 – December 15, 2023
Fremont Memorial Chapel

Filomena C. Weaver
Resident of Fremont
August 10, 1947 – December 16, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Salote Lousi
Resident of Fremont
May 14, 1958 – December 16, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Maria Humberta Nunes
Resident of Hayward
September 8, 1938 – December 10, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Manuel Velez
Resident of Union City
July 23, 1946 – December 12, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Thomas Quillen
Resident of Hayward
April 11, 1943 – December 4, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Ludovico A. Zonio
Resident of Newark
December 25, 1937 – December 3, 2023
Fremont Memorial Chapel

Godofredo Divinagracia Manuel
Resident of Newark
April 24, 1937 – December 4, 2023
Fremont Memorial Chapel

Richard F. Durand
Resident of Newark
February 28, 1936 – December 1, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Robert "Bubba" Becerra
Resident of Fremont
February 15, 1959 – November 28, 2023
Fremont Memorial Chapel

Francisco G. DaCosta
Resident of Union City
January 5, 1940 – November 30, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Cesar A. Medina Herrera
Resident of Fremont
August 31, 1948 – November 23, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Alicia Higuera Miramontes
Resident of Union City
July 20, 1929 – November 25, 2023
Fremont Memorial Chapel

Cesario "Johnny" Pabellon, Jr.
Resident of Hayward
June 20, 1945 – November 24, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Laverne Miller
Resident of Newark
July 3, 1937 – November 21, 2023
Fremont Chapel of the Roses

Dolores Mae Greer "Nani"
Resident of Fremont
April 28, 1935 – October 14, 2023
Fremont Memorial Chapel



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(510) 656-1226
40842 Fremont Blvd, Fremont

Hubert Shaw
Resident of Mt. View
December 16, 1970 – December 20, 2023

Parvathy Ajjampurlakshmi
Resident of Fremont
August 24, 1937 – December 19, 2023

Jackie Scott
Resident of Fremont
December 30, 1929 – December 16, 2023

Roland Bruneau
Resident of Fremont
August 11, 1958 – December 15, 2023

Narinder Kaur
Resident of Fremont
July 28, 1942 – December 15, 2023

Ellen Skala
Resident of Fremont
March 16, 1933 – December 14, 2023

Theresa Ebbler
Resident of Fremont
May 15, 1942 – December 14, 2023

Jyoti More
Resident of Milpitas
November 27, 1974 – December 13, 2023

Virginia Oliveira
Resident of Fremont
January 19, 1929 – December 12, 2023

Radha Tenany
Resident of Dublin
April 22, 1937 – December 11, 2023

Han Luong
Resident of Fremont
July 3, 1950 – December 10, 2023

Sreenivasulu Anumakonda
Resident of Fremont
July 25, 1964 – December 8, 2023

Gary Lyons
Resident of Newark
July 7, 1946 – December 8, 2023

Jackie Hughes
Resident of Fremont
February 3, 1938 – December 8, 2023

Amalia De Bermudez
Resident of Fremont
August 29, 1934 – December 8, 2023

Sampatraj Ranka
Resident of Cupertino
January 4, 1947 – December 6, 2023

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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

Joan Salsedo

Our beloved Joan Salsedo was born on November 6th 1938 in Mount Judea, Arkansas by her mother Goldie Ardith Hudson and father Lowell Anthony Hudson. Joan was the oldest of six siblings. The Hudson family came to California permanently in 1950 from Arkansas. Joan married Andrew Salsedo on January 16th 1958. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister and aunt. She loved spending time with her family and enjoyed visiting with her grandkids and great grandkids. Joan was also best known for her amazing cooking. Just four days after her 85th birthday Joan Salsedo went home to be with the Lord on November 10th, 2023. She was our angel on earth and now our angel in heaven.



Joan is survived by her beloved husband Andrew Salsedo, two loving sons Anthony and Rodney, sister Connie, five grandchildren Dominica, Brandon, Roxanne, Reychl and Jessica. Her four great grandchildren Vincent, Vanessa, Brantley and Braxton.

Deborah Susan Anderson

Resident of Fremont

August 19, 1949 – November 28, 2023



Deborah Susan Anderson, 74, of Union City passed away at home surrounded by family on November 28, 2023. A resident of Fremont for over 50 years, she had recently moved to a retirement community in Union City after a 20-month long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Deborah ("Debbie") was born in 1949, in Seattle, Washington to Harold and Jessie Dolstad. Debbie grew up in the many parts of the U.S. and Australia, including Ohio, Louisiana, California, Melbourne, and Sydney. She received a leaving certificate (Diploma) from Abbotsleigh Anglican School for Girls in Wahroonga, Australia. She later returned to the U.S. to earn an A.A. Degree from Monterey Peninsula College, a B.A. in history and lifetime teaching credential from San Jose State University.

She married William "Andy" Anderson in 1968 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in

Monterey, CA. Shortly after marriage they moved to San Jose to pursue work and continue education.

Debbie had been interested in teaching from an early age. She was a devoted educator with a love for kindergarten and early childhood education, for which she received an additional teaching certificate. She taught in the San Jose Unified School District and after moving to Fremont, became the founding director of Our Savior Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten. She went on to teach in the Fremont Unified School District where she had spent 20 of her 37 years in the teaching profession.

In retirement, Debbie had more time for golf, which she had started as a teenager, took up painting lessons and enjoyed traveling extensively. She was also involved in church activities and exercise classes.

Debbie is survived by her loving husband Andy, son Brian Anderson and his wife Joy, daughter Rebecca Anderson and partner Stephanie, and many cousins in Washington and Georgia.

Friends and family are invited to a memorial service Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 38451 Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Donations on behalf of Debbie's memorial may be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (pancan.org) or Compassion International.

Senior Helpline

(510) 574-2041

Serving individuals 60+ and their families in Fremont, Newark and Union City, CA

Care coordination, paratransit assistance, counseling, health promotion and caregiver support.

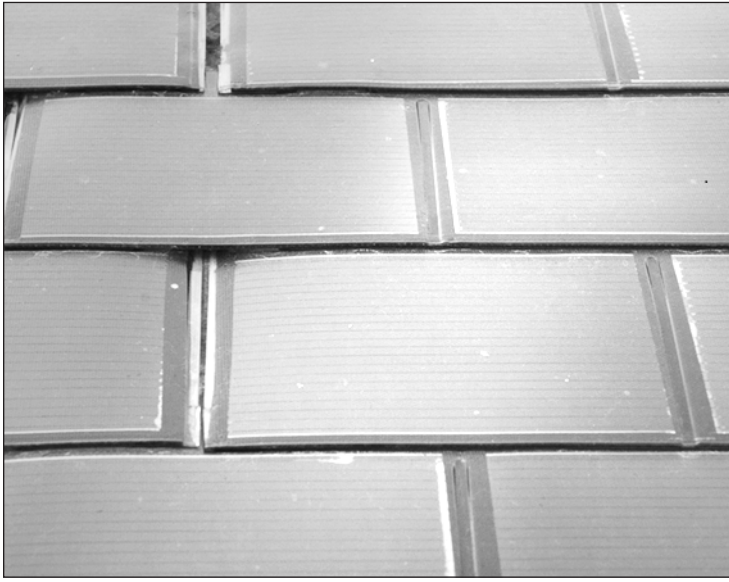


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Solar Shingles Come Of Age



Shingles: Solar shingles are perfect if you need a new roof and want to go solar at the same time.
Photo Credit: Tai Viinikka, FlickrCC

EARTHTALK Q&A

BY RODDY SCHEER AND DOUG MOSS

Dear EarthTalk: My roof needs replacing and I'm also thinking about getting solar panels. Do solar shingles make sense or are they still too newfangled to trust?

--Peter. H., Boston, MA

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Deed of Trust
Power of Attorney
Affidavit of Death
of Trustee, Joint Tenant

R. L. JOHNSON ATTORNEY AT LAW

**38750 Paseo Padre Parkway
Suite C-7, Fremont**

M-F 10-7
Evening & Weekends
By Appointment

Going solar is becoming an increasingly appealing choice for homeowners looking for sustainable energy solutions. Solar shingles are an innovative and aesthetically pleasing alternative to traditional solar panels, thanks to advancements in solar technology. However, whether they're a good fit for you depends upon a number of factors.

Solar shingles, or solar roof tiles, are a great way to add renewable energy to your home without sacrificing curb appeal. They blend in seamlessly with your existing roof, so you won't have to worry about them looking out of place. Solar shingles are also a great way to increase the value of your home.

Solar shingles are becoming increasingly common in new construction homes, and they're also a great choice if your old roof needs repair or replacement. Combining the installation of solar shingles with your roof renovation accomplishes two things at once. However, solar shingles tend to be more expensive up front compared to traditional solar panels; you'll have to crunch the numbers with the help of one or more local installers to see what makes the most financial sense for you. Definitely get a few bids to make sure you're getting a fair deal.

Since solar shingles haven't been around as long as conventional photovoltaic panels, they don't have much of a track record of reliability. That said, solar shingles tend to last longer and are more resistant to the elements than photovoltaic panels, as they are designed to be part of the actual structure of the roof itself. If you can't find any with a warranty of less than 25 years, keep looking. If you're contemplating the move to solar shingles, proceed with caution and do your homework regarding different manufacturers' products and warranties—and find/read real customer reviews.

The suitability of solar shingles also depends on your geographical location and the direction your roof faces. It's important to figure out how much sunlight your roof gets throughout the year to determine how much energy solar shingles can generate. If your roof doesn't get enough sunlight because of shade or its position, the effectiveness of solar shingles may be reduced, making them less cost-effective. Google's free Project Sunroof website lets you see if your roof would be a good host for solar panels or shingles.

While solar shingles definitely cost more than photovoltaic panels—typically at least twice as much—it might pencil out if you need roofing tiles replaced anyway. The best way to find out is to interview and get bids from roofers, solar installers and others well-versed in the technology.

Some of the leading manufacturers of solar shingles include CertainTeed Solar, Luma Solar, SunTegra, GAF Energy's Timberline Solar and, yes, even Tesla. The latter's solar shingle solution is the priciest of the bunch—\$70,000 isn't unheard of for one of for Tesla's Solar Roofs—but may be the most reliable given the company's head start in the business and huge cash reserves.

ONLINE CONTACTS

- *Project Sunroof*
<https://sunroof.withgoogle.com/>
- *Tesla Solar Roof*
<https://www.tesla.com/solarroof>

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Returning to work

Ask Rusty – I'm returning to work; what should I do about Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year. I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration. Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way? I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67. For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit. Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily.

Dear Un-retiring: You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 (to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later). If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your full retirement age (the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA). At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA, will give you time credit for all months your full retirement were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained (with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record). That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working, or until your FRA, or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid. In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

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) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF FREMONT HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (HARB) OF THE CITY OF FREMONT WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS...

WITHERLY LANE HOMES - 830 Witherly Lane - PLN2023-00143 - To consider a Discretionary Design Review Permit...

SUNDERER BOOT SHOP - WELLS FARGO STATION - EMERGENCY DEMOLITION - 43341 Mission Boulevard - PLN2023-00285 - To consider a request to demolish the fire-damaged Sunderer Boot Shop...

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV054165 Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA...

JOEL PULLEN, INTERIM SECRETARY HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD



BULK SALES

NOTICE TO CREDITOR'S OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

ESCROW # 0126021663 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license is about to be made.

Escrow No. 120-32715-CM (1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code)

Escrow No. 120-32715-CM (1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF FREMONT ART REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ART REVIEW BOARD OF THE CITY OF FREMONT WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL...

BOXARTI ART SELECTION - To consider and select artwork for the boxARTI program; and to consider an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)...

MARK HUNGERFORD FREMONT ART REVIEW BOARD



CIVIL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23CV054165 Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA...

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA CASE NO. D23673032-D DEPT. 18B Elvia Corella Rodriguez, Plaintiff vs. Santiago Tovar Amezcua, Defendant...

DIVORCE If you want to defend this lawsuit, you must do all the following within 21 days after this summons is served on you (not counting the day of service)...

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code) Escrow No. 120-32715-CM

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

Fictitious Business Name(s): SALON H K BEAUTY, 47946 WARM SPRINGS BLVD., FREMONT, CA 94539, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602777

Fictitious Business Name(s): BHANDAL PIZZA DBA MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA, 5333 THORNTON AVE., NEWARK, CA 94560, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602774

Fictitious Business Name(s): THREE SISTERS PIZZA LLC DBA MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA, 5255 ORKNEY CT., NEWARK, CA 94560, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602287

Fictitious Business Name(s): SABIS TRANSPORTATION, 39605 STEVENSON PL. 129, FREMONT, CA 94539, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602543

Fictitious Business Name(s): A FLOR DE PIEL ARTESANAL JABONES, 26 HUNWOOD WAY APT 2, HAYWARD, CA 94544, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602800

Fictitious Business Name(s): FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, INVENTORY AND OTHER ASSETS of that certain business located at: 5030 MOWRY AVENUE, FREMONT, CA 94538...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602183

Fictitious Business Name(s): 1. FREMONT DYOT LLC 2. FREMONT TOYOTA, 5851 CUSHING PARKWAY, FREMONT, CA 94538, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602167

Fictitious Business Name(s): CITY MANS, 3884 DECOTO RD, FREMONT, CA 94555, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602257

Fictitious Business Name(s): FRIEND AND CHAMPION, 36312 CORONADO DR., FREMONT, CA 94536, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 602332

Fictitious Business Name(s): DUA ENTERTAINMENT, 34275 QUARTZ TERRACE, FREMONT, CA 94555, County of ALAMEDA...

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 601889

Fictitious Business Name(s): SEVENTH ELEMENT HUSING, INC., 38170 MARTHA AVE., FREMONT, CA 94536, County of ALAMEDA...

GOVERNMENT

FY2024-2026 CDBG Notice of Fund Availability

Micro-Enterprise, Housing Repair, Public Services, and Capital Funding Para informacion en español, por favor llame a Leticia Leyva a (510) 574-2072...

- 1. Affordable Housing Needs - Create affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate-income households throughout the City of Fremont.
- 2. Community Development Needs - Provide critical services to low and moderate-income people...

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING

The Proposal Overview will be held as follows: Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

Location: City of Fremont Training Room 3300 Capitol Avenue, Fremont, CA 94538

- 12. Request for Proposals (RFP) materials will be available on ZoomGrants, through the City of Fremont website...
- 13. Proposal Overview If you wish to be on the mailing list, please contact Noelle Tolentino...

CNS-3768312#

Notice is hereby given that this is an Online Bid Process; only bids submitted through the online portal will be accepted.

RFP #90238 On-Call And As-Needed Underground Storage Tank System

Vendor Outreach: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 10:30AM - To Attend Online: Join via Microsoft Teams or Call-in (audio only)...

CNS-3767302#

CITY OF UNION CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CITY PROJECT NO. 17-29

Sealed proposals for the work shown on the plans entitled: UNION CITY BLVD. BIKE LANE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, CITY PROJECT NO. 17-29, will be received at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Union City...

CNS-3758742#

CHP Log

SUBMITTED BY
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY
PATROL HAYWARD AREA
OFFICE

Tuesday, December 12

• Officer Ocampo and Officer Hackbarth located an abandoned, crashed vehicle, blocking the #1 lane of I-880 Southbound, north of "A" Street in Hayward. Witnesses observed three, young males flee from the vehicle towards city streets. Officer Bonasea and Officer Cuellar responded to the area and located three males matching the reported descriptions. The three subjects were detained and one subject was arrested for being in possession of a stolen firearm. Another subject was transported to the hospital for a broken arm.

While searching the white Lexus, a stolen, loaded firearm was located and recovered. Upon further investigation, the Lexus was determined to be stolen out of Hayward and was tied to an earlier burglary call in San Leandro. The incident is still under investigation by CHP Hayward.

Thursday, December 14

• Officer T. Rodriguez and his Field Training Officer, Officer Brown, conducted an enforcement stop on I-880 Northbound, north of Washington Avenue in San Leandro. While contacting the driver, Officer T. Rodriguez established probable cause to search the vehicle. During the vehicle search, a loaded Glock 17 with an extended magazine and Glock auto switch (making the pistol automatic) was located. The driver was arrested on felony gun charges and booked into Santa Rita County Jail.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Ask Rusty – Are Spousal Benefits Always a Factor?

BY RUSSELL GLOOR,
NATIONAL
SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISOR,
AMAC FOUNDATION

Dear Rusty: Both my wife and I have worked our entire lives. When we retire, will we both be entitled to full benefit amount each, or will there always be a spousal factor in there? Also, how are those benefits calculated—based on your highest salaries throughout your career, or your ending salaries when you retire?

Signed: Looking Ahead

Dear Looking: Prior to retiring from work is a smart time to investigate how Social Security will fit into your golden years. To answer your second question first, each person's personal SS retirement benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over their entire lifetime, with earlier years adjusted for inflation. The person's Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME) – essentially the person's lifetime average inflation-adjusted monthly earnings amount – is first determined. Using AIME, the person's Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) is calculated using a special benefit formula which will yield a PIA of about 40% or less of the person's AIME. The PIA is the amount received if benefits start in the month full retirement age or "FRA" is attained (as you can see, Social Security likes acronyms).

Since you and your wife were both born after 1959, FRA for both of you is 67. The age when you claim benefits, relative to your FRA, determines how much you'll get. Claim before FRA and your benefit is reduced; claim after your FRA and your SS retirement

benefit will be more (up to age 70 when maximum is reached); claim at your FRA and your benefit will equal your PIA – the full (100%) amount you've earned from a lifetime of working.

Spouse benefits only come into play if the PIA for one of you is less than 50% of the other's PIA. In that case, the spouse with the lower PIA gets a "spousal boost" to their own SS retirement benefit when claimed. The amount of the "spousal boost" will be the difference between the lower PIA and half of the higher PIA, but the amount of the "spousal boost" (as well as the person's own SS retirement amount) will be reduced if benefits are claimed before full retirement age. Any time SS benefits are claimed before full retirement age, those benefits are permanently reduced.

If one spouse is entitled to a "spousal boost" from the other, the spousal amount will reach maximum at the recipient's full retirement age. Thus, if the lower earning partner's highest benefit will be as a spouse, then that spouse should not wait beyond their FRA to claim. If, instead, the lower earning partner's own SS benefit at age 70 is more than their spousal amount, waiting longer than FRA to claim could be prudent, depending on life expectancy.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security benefits should consider many things, including financial need, work status if claiming before FRA, marital status, and life expectancy. But it is your lifetime earnings which determines your SS retirement benefit amount, and it is how your FRA entitlements compare to each other that determines whether spousal benefits will be paid.

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THE ROBOT REPORT

Boston Dynamics turns Spot into a tour guide with ChatGPT



The team gave Spot's arm a hat and googly eyes to make it more appealing. Picture Source: Boston Dynamics

BY BRIANNA WESSLING

Boston Dynamics has turned its Spot quadruped, typically used for inspections, into a robot tour guide. The company integrated the robot with ChatGPT and other AI models as a proof of concept for the potential robotics applications of foundational models.

In the last year, we've seen huge advances in the abilities of Generative AI, and much of those advances have been fueled by the rise of large Foundation Models (FMs). FMs are large AI systems that are trained on a massive dataset.

These FMs typically have millions of billions of parameters and were trained by scraping raw data from the public interested. All of this data gives them the ability to develop Emergent Behaviors, or the ability to perform tasks outside of what they were directly trained on, allowing them to be adapted for a variety of applications and act as a foundation for other algorithms.

The Boston Dynamics team spent the summer putting together some proof-of-concept demos using FMs for robotic applications. The team then expanded on these demos during an internal hackathon. The company was particularly interested in a demo of Spot making decisions in real-time based on the output of FMs.

Large language models (LLMs), like ChatGPT, are basically very capable autocomplete algorithms, with the ability to take in a stream of text and predict the next bit of text. The Boston Dynamics team was interested in LLMs' ability to roleplay, replicate culture and nuance, form plans, and maintain coherence over time. The team was also inspired by recently released Visual Question Answering (VQA) models that can caption images and answer simple questions about them.

A robotic tour guide seemed like the perfect demo to test these concepts. The robot would walk around, look at objects in the environment, and then use a VQA or captioning model to describe them. The robot would also use an LLM to elaborate on these descriptions, answer questions from the tour audience, and plan what actions to take next.

The demo that the team planned required Spot to be able to speak to a group and hear questions and prompts from them. Boston Dynamics 3D printed a vibration-resistant mount for a Respeaker V2 speaker. They attached this to Spot's EAP 2 payload using a USB.

Spot is controlled using an offboard computer, either a desktop PC or a laptop, which uses Spot's SDK to communicate. The team added a simple Spot SDK service to communicate audio with the EAP 2 payload.

Now that Spot had the ability to handle audio, the team needed to give it conversation skills. They started with OpenAI's ChaptGPT API on gpt-3.5, and then upgraded to gpt-4 when it became available. Additionally, the team did tests on smaller open-source LLMs.

They fed the robot's gripper camera and front body camera into BLIP-2, and ran it in either visual

question answering mode or image captioning mode. This runs about once a second, and the results are fed directly into the prompt.

To give Spot the ability to hear, the team fed microphone data in chunks to OpenAI's whisper to convert it into English text. Spot waits for a wake-up word, like "Hey, Spot" before putting that text into the prompt, and it suppresses audio when it is speaking itself.

Because ChatGPT generates text-based responses, the team needed to run these through a text-to-speech tool so the robot could respond to the audience. The team tried a number of off-the-shelf text-to-speech methods, but they settled on using the cloud service ElevenLabs. To help reduce latency, they also streamed the text to the platform as "phrases" in parallel and then played back the generated audio.

The team also wanted Spot to have more natural-looking body language. So they used a feature in the Spot 3.3 update that allows the robot to detect and track moving objects to guess where the nearest person was, and then had the robot turn its arm toward that person.

Using a lowpass filter on the generated speech, the team was able to have the gripper mimic speech, sort of like the mouth of a puppet. This illusion was enhanced when the team added costumes or googly eyes to the gripper.

How did Spot perform?

The team noticed new behavior emerging quickly from the robot's very simple action space. They asked the robot, "Who is Marc Raibert?" The robot didn't know the answer and told the team that it would go to the IT help desk and ask, which it wasn't programmed to do. The team also asked Spot who its parents were, and it went to where the older versions of Spot, the Spot V1 and Big Dog, were displayed in the office.

These behaviors show the power of statistical association between the concepts of "help desk" and "asking a question," and "parents" with "old." They don't suggest the LLM is conscious or intelligent in a human sense, according to the team.

The LLM also proved to be good at staying in character, even as the team gave it more absurd personalities to try out.

While the LLM performed well, it did frequently make things up during the tour. For example, it kept telling the team that Stretch, Boston Dynamics' logistics robot, is for yoga.

Moving forward, the team plans to continue exploring the intersection of artificial intelligence and robotics. Meanwhile, these models also help provide cultural context, general commonsense knowledge, and flexibility that could be useful for many robotic tasks.

Brianna Wessling is an Associate Editor, Robotics, WTWH Media. She joined WTWH Media in November 2021, and is a recent graduate from the University of Kansas. She can be reached at bwessling@wtwhmedia.com

Older Americans to pay less for some drug treatments

BY AMANDA SEITZ, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of thousands of older Americans could pay less for some of their outpatient drug treatments beginning early next year, the Biden administration announced Thursday December 14.

The White House unveiled a list of 48 drugs - some of them injectables used to treat cancer - whose prices increased faster than the rate of inflation this year. Under a new law, drugmakers will have to pay rebates to the federal government because of those price increases. The money will be used to lower the price Medicare enrollees pay on the drugs early next year.

This is the first time drugmakers will have to pay the penalties for outpatient drug treatments under the Inflation Reduction Act, passed by Congress last year. The rebates will translate into a wide range of savings - from as little as \$1 to as much as \$2,700 - on the drugs that the White House estimates are used every year by 750,000 older Americans.

The rebates are "an important tool to discourage excessive price increases and protect people with Medicare," Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, the administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, said Thursday in a statement.

As it readies for a 2024 reelection campaign, the Biden administration has rolled out a number of efforts to push pharmaceutical companies to lower drug prices. Last week, the White House announced it was considering an aggressive, unprecedented new tactic: pulling the patents of some drugs priced out of reach for most Americans.

"On no. We've upset Big Pharma again," the White House posted on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, last week, just hours after the announcement.

The U.S. Health and Human Services agency also released a report on Thursday that will help guide its first-ever negotiation process with drugmakers over the price of 10 of Medicare's costliest drugs. The new prices for those drugs will be negotiated by HHS next year.

With the negotiations playing out during the middle of next year's presidential campaign, drug companies are expected to be a frequent punching bag for Biden's campaign. The president plans to make his efforts to lower drug prices a central theme of his reelection pitch to Americans. He is expected to speak more on the issue later today at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Washington, D.C.

Pacific storm dumps heavy rains, unleashes flooding in California coastal cities

BY EUGENE GARCIA AND JOHN ANTCAK, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pacific storm pounded parts of Southern California on Thursday December 21 with heavy rain and street flooding, adding to hassles as holiday travel got underway.

The downpours targeted coastal Ventura and Santa Barbara counties northwest of Los Angeles County, swamping areas in the cities of Port Hueneme, Oxnard and Santa Barbara.

Rainfall rates exceeding 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) an hour unleashed flash flooding in Ventura County, the National Weather Service said. Later in the morning, streets began filling with water in parts of Santa Barbara as the storm delivered another deluge.

The city of Port Hueneme issued evacuation orders for residences on four streets and warned of potential evacuations on four other streets. About 60 houses were affected by the orders, all in a senior citizen community, said Firefighter Andy VanSciver, a Ventura County fire spokesperson. An evacuation center was set up at a college gymnasium.

Three people from the senior community were taken to hospitals out of an abundance of caution, and there were multiple rescues of drivers from flooded vehicles, he said.

The city of Oxnard said in a social media post that many streets and intersections were heavily impacted. "Please stay off the city streets for the next several hours until the water recedes," the post said.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for Oxnard and the city of Ventura at 1:28 a.m. due to a high-intensity thunderstorm, but no tornado activity was immediately observed, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office said in a social media post.

The storm swept through Northern California earlier in the week as the center of the low-pressure system slowly moved south off the coast. Forecasters described it as a "cutoff low," a storm that is cut off from the general west-to-east flow and can linger for days, increasing the amount of rainfall.

The system was producing hit-and-miss bands of precipitation rather than generalized widespread rainfall. Forecasters said the low would wobble slightly away from the coast on Thursday, drawing moisture away and allowing some sunshine, but will return.

The San Diego-area weather office warned that rather than fizzling, the storm was gathering energy and its main core would move through that region overnight through Friday morning.

Meanwhile, Californians were gearing up for holiday travel and finishing preparations for Christmas. The Automobile Club of Southern California predicted 9.5 million people in the region would travel during the year-end holiday period.

The Northeast was hit with an unexpectedly strong storm earlier this week, and some parts of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont were still digging out from rain and wind damage. Parts of Maine along the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers were hit especially hard.

Floodwaters were receding throughout northern New England, though some localized areas were still in the flood stage, said Jon Palmer, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. Flood warnings were also still in effect in parts of Maine and New Hampshire, he said.

At least four people died in Maine as a result of the storm. The storm cut power to 400,000 customers in Maine, and restoration was still underway Thursday morning.

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

May Mobility places autonomous vehicle bet on retirees

THE ROBOT REPORT

BY STEVE CROWE

Considering the recent challenges faced by the industry, any incremental progress in autonomous vehicles seems extra important these days. Ann Arbor, Michigan-based May Mobility said it's deploying fully driverless vehicles at a retirement community in the Phoenix metro area. This will be the first time passengers can ride in the vehicles without a human safety driver inside. Starting on December 19, two autonomous minivans will be available to a select group of early riders who live in Sun City, a retirement community home to 39,931 people, according to the 2020 census, which is about 14.4 square miles in size. To start, May Mobility said its minivans will cover about 4.5 miles of Sun City, bringing the early riders to a variety of spots such as resident buildings, medical centers, and "other key locations." Sun City offers a much simpler driving environment than, say, San Francisco. May Mobility is betting this laid-back environment gives it a better opportunity to avoid some of the edge cases causing issues for robotaxis lately.

The service will be free to early riders. May Mobility has been testing this service with human safety drivers at Sun City since April 2023. Now it'll be removing that human backup safety driver. There will be remote human teleoperators in the loop. Here is how they'll be involved, according to May Mobility: "At present, each vehicle will be monitored by an individual tele-assist operator to ensure vehicle safety. If remote operators need to take over during remote assistance, the vehicle will come to a stop if it is not already stopped. Then the tele-assist operator will select the best maneuver for the situation so that the vehicle can continue autonomous operations but will not be able to directly steer the vehicle."

"Today, we take the key step of beginning rider-only operations, a cornerstone for our commercial growth and expansion moving forward," said Edwin Olson, CEO and co-founder of May Mobility. "We believe it is critical to work closely with our key strategic partners, regulators, insurers, and riders, as we roll out our technology step-by-step." Like all companies developing autonomous vehicles, May Mobility has had its challenges. But those pale in comparison to what we've seen from Aurora, Cruise, TuSimple, and others in 2023 alone. The question going forward is whether partnerships with retirement communities, college campuses, and other public transportation systems are enough to pay the bills. In these cases, May Mobility gets paid by the cities it's operating in or by transit agencies. This is the opposite of being paid with individual fares, which is the model for Cruise, Waymo, and other developers building out robotaxi

services for the public. Optimus Ride and Voyage were two autonomous vehicle companies that also focused on retirement communities. But neither had commercial success. Voyage was acquired by Cruise in 2021, but its operations were quickly shut down. And Boston-based Optimus Ride had its IP and engineers acquired by Magna International in early 2022.

If the early results in Sun City are positive, it will be the first of "many communities globally" that May Mobility wants to roll out a similar service. It believes its approach is more scalable than others, and that it can be the first profitable company developing autonomous vehicles. Looks like we're about to find out.

Steve Crowe is Executive Editor, Robotics, WTWH Media, and chair of the Robotics Summit & Expo and RoboBusiness. He is also co-host of The Robot Report Podcast, the top-rated podcast for the robotics industry. He can be reached at scrowe@wtwhmedia.com



Autonomous minivan. Credit: May Mobility

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