

The Diablo Gazette

Arts, Entertainment and All That's *Good* in Our Communities
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*Happy Holidays
 Are Here Again*

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Book Review, Movie and Streaming Review, Calendar of Events by City p.6 & 7 and much more...

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2023 Merrily Comes to a Close

On the cover, horse and carriage rides were one of the popular activities of the evening at Concord's Tree Lighting and Mayor Sing-along on December 1 at Todos Santos kicking off the holiday season.

Meanwhile Martinez had a beautiful holiday parade that night. Photos of each event are in this edition.

The Holiday season is such a perfect way to close out a year. But doesn't it feel like the year 2023 just flew by? I look forward to what 2024 will bring.

One change coming for the Diablo Gazette starts with this edition. For those reading a printed copy, you may notice that it seems a bit different. As I write this, I have not seen the impact, but we are to be slightly smaller in size. This is due to a change in our printers. The San Francisco Examiner is now printing The Diablo Gazette.

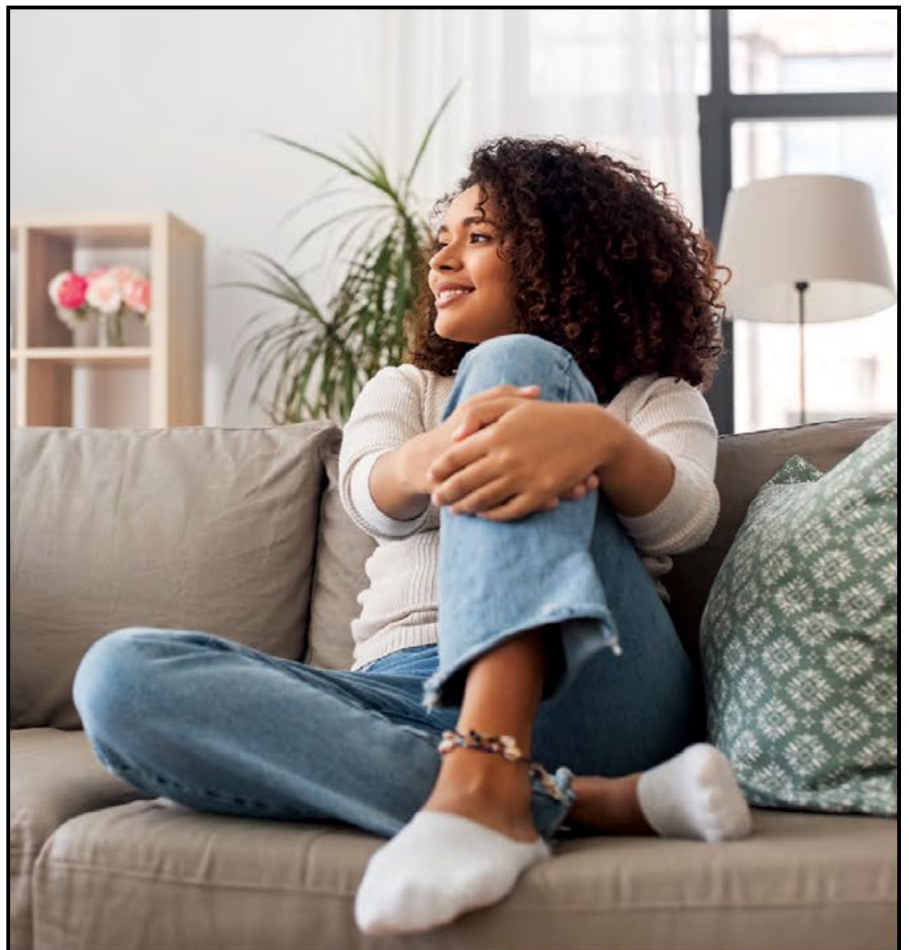
I am looking forward to what this new relationship may bring.

Columnist Hedgecock to Speak on Birds Down Under

On December 7, our columnist Jill Hedgecock will be giving a presentation to the Mount Diablo Audubon Society (soon to be renamed Mount Diablo Bird Alliance). By profession, Hedgecock was an environmental scientist and recently traveled to New Zealand. Her presentation "New Zealand, Great Walks and Great Birds," will be at 7:30-8:30 pm. Public is invited and it is free. Come to the Civic Park Assembly Hall, 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek.

Enjoy the rest of this year, thank you for reading the Diablo Gazette all year.

Happy Holidays!



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Enjoy Holiday

Decadence with an All Port Dinner

The holiday season is the time we splurge. We buy expensive gifts, eat decadent food, and drink special wines. This dinner features port-style wines paired with rich foods like roast duck and Chocolate Lava Pudding Cups. It will make any occasion special.

Port-style wines are named for their birthplace, Portugal. They are considered Port if they are made from grapes grown in the approved Portuguese region, or "port-style" if they are made from grapes grown anywhere else.

The style was created when Portuguese producers needed to prevent the spoilage of their wine on the long journey by ship from Portugal to England. The solution was to add alcohol to the wine just before the sugar had all fermented out.

Start your meal with a lighter style port, like a Ruby Port; it has the perfect balance of sweet and sour. Prepare a salad of arugula, morello cherries, tangy blue cheese crumbles, and top with a Sweet Walnut

Dressing. The wine's acid stands up to the vinegar in the dressing, and the bitterness of the walnuts and arugula are balanced by the sugar in the wine.

The main course of roast duck can handle the tannins and alcohol in port-style wines with its high fat and salt content.

Further, the Cherry-Port Reduction complements the sweetness and echoes the fruit flavor of the wine. Finish the plate with roasted potatoes and simply prepared green vegetables. Any red Port or port-style wine is great with this meal.

Rarely do I recommend chocolate desserts and wine, but port-style wines are the exception. If you can find a zinfandel port, it is exceptionally good with dark chocolate. I find these gooey pudding cups have just the right texture and flavor. So, go on. Pair Up!

Maria Terry is a Certified Sommelier and Wine Educator in Northern California. lasommellerie@gmail.com

SWEET WALNUT DRESSING

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons. peanut oil
- 1/4 cup walnuts, chopped fine
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/2 cup Italian dressing

DIRECTIONS

On a low flame, sauté walnuts in oil until slightly brown. Add honey and maple syrup to pan. Simmer 5-7 minutes. Remove from flame. Add Italian dressing and mix well.

Yield: About 1 cup

ROAST DUCK WITH PORT-CHERRY SAUCE

INGREDIENTS



Duck:

2 (5 to 5 1/2 pounds each) ducks, innards and wing tips removed

6 quarts chicken broth

Kosher salt

1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Port-Cherry Sauce:

12 dark sweet cherries, thawed,

halved

1 cup chicken stock

1 cup beef stock

1/2 cup Port

1 fresh thyme sprig

1 tsp. Cornstarch dissolved in 2 tsp water

1/2 cup or 1/2 stick Butter cut into 1/2" pieces

DIRECTIONS

Allow ducks to come to room temperature for 20 minutes. With a fork, prick the skin without piercing the meat. This will allow the fat to drain off while the ducks cook.

Meanwhile, in a very large stock pot which can hold the two ducks, heat the chicken broth with 1 tablespoon of kosher salt until it boils. Add the ducks very carefully and bring the stock back to a boil.

If there isn't enough stock to cover the ducks, add very hot tap water to cover. If the ducks float to the top, place a plate on top to keep them immersed. When the stock comes back to a boil, lower the heat and simmer the ducks in the stock for 45 minutes.

When the ducks are finished simmering, skim off enough duck fat from the top of the stock to pour a film on the bottom of a 14" x 18" x 3" roasting pan. This will keep the ducks from sticking when they roast.

Carefully take the ducks out of the stock, holding them over the pot to drain. Place them in the roasting pan, pat the skin dry with paper towels, and sprinkle with 1 teaspoon of salt and the pepper.

If you have time, allow the ducks to sit at room temperature for 30 minutes to allow the skin to dry.

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. (Be sure your oven is very clean, or it will smoke.) Roast the ducks for 30 minutes. While the duck is cooking, prepare the sauce.

Bring cherries, chicken stock, beef stock, Port and thyme sprig to boil in a heavy medium saucepan over high heat. Simmer until mixture is reduced to 1/2 cup, about 15 minutes.

Add cornstarch mixture to Port-cherry sauce. Bring to simmer, whisking constantly. Add butter 1 piece at a time, whisking until butter is melted before adding next piece. Season sauce to taste with salt and pepper.

Remove ducks from the oven and allow them to rest covered with aluminum foil for 20 minutes.

Serve warm with sauce.

Yield: 4 servings



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CHOCOLATE LAVA PUDDING CUPS

INGREDIENTS

- 4 1/2 ounces best-quality bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 8 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3 large eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour

DIRECTIONS

Melt chocolate and butter in the microwave. Whisk every now and again until melted. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, sugar, and flour until just blended. Gradually whisk in the melted chocolate mixture.



Set aside.

Preheat the oven to 400°F about half an hour before you want to eat the puddings. Cook just before serving.

Pour the mixture into 4 to 8 oven proof containers (depending on the serving size you want) and place them on a baking sheet in the oven for 10 to 12 minutes, until the tops are firm and cracking slightly and the edges set. Serve immediately.

Yield: 4 - 1cup servings,
6 3/4 cup servings or 8 1/2 cup servings



Three Reasons To Sell Your House Before the New Year

As the year winds down, you may have decided it is time to make a move and put your house on the market. But should you sell now or wait until January? While it may be tempting to hold off until after the holidays, here are three reasons to make your move before the new year.



available inventory to meet their needs. A recent article from Investopedia says:

“... if your house is up for sale in the winter and someone is looking at it, chances are that person is serious and ready to buy. Anyone shopping for a new home between Thanksgiving and New

Year's is likely going to be a serious buyer. Putting your home on the market at this time of year and attracting a serious buyer can often result in a quicker sale.”

Use Your Equity To Fuel Your Move

Keep in mind that homeowners today have record amounts of equity. According to CoreLogic, the average amount of equity per mortgage holder has climbed to almost \$290,000. That means the equity you have in your house right now could cover some, if not all, of a down payment on the home of your dreams.

And as you weigh the reasons to sell before year-end, it is important to remember the reasons that sparked your desire to move in the first place. Maybe it is time for a new home in a location that suits you better, one that offers the perfect space for you and your loved ones. Or perhaps your needs have evolved over time. A local real estate agent can help you determine how much home equity you have and how you can use it to achieve your goal of making a move.

Bottom line, listing your home before the new year can offer unique benefits. Less competition, motivated buyers, and your equity gains can all play to your advantage. Reach out, and let's achieve your goals before winter sets in. Courtesy keepingcurrentmatters.com.

Get One Step Ahead of Other Sellers

Typically, in the residential real estate market, homeowners are less likely to list their houses toward the end of the year. That is because people get busy around the holidays and sometimes deprioritize selling their house until the start of the new year when their schedules and social calendars calm down. But that gives you an opportunity to get one step ahead.

While other homeowners may hold off until after the holidays, selling now can help you get a leg up on your competition. Start the process with a real estate agent today so you can get your house on the market before your neighbors do.

Get Your House in Front of Eager Buyers

Even though the supply of homes for sale did grow compared to last year, it is still low. That means there are not enough homes on the market today. While some buyers may also delay their plans to move until January, others will still need to move for personal reasons or because something in their life has changed.

Those buyers are still going to be active later this year and will be seriously motivated to make their move happen because they need to. Unfortunately, the challenge they will face is a shortage of

Let Citrus Brighten Up Your Holidays

by Deb Morris, PACIFIC COAST FARMERS' MARKET ASSOCIATION

Move over evergreens, t's citrus time. Whether eating whole, adding to delicious holiday recipes, or creating festive home decorations, oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, lemons, and pomelos are here to brighten up the holidays.

Serve them sliced fresh in salads and desserts, juice them for holiday beverages, dressings, and marinades, or decorate them with cloves for holiday centerpieces. Make a batch of orange nut bread, lemon bars, or lemon pound cake with citrus glaze. Toss together sliced red onions, orange and grapefruit segments, spinach leaves, and a balsamic vinaigrette for a refreshing salad. Slice fresh citrus and add to your favorite fruity red wine for a winter sangria.

Citrus is ideal for fragrant, colorful holiday decorations

Stud large oranges with cloves in interesting designs and add to a decorative bowl. Swirl colorful ribbon throughout and add a candle or two.

Tie small tangerines, kumquats, and lemons to a fresh wreath at your front door for fragrance and color. Add to fresh garlands throughout the house.

Add lemon (or orange) juice to water in a shallow bowl and float thin slices of lemon or orange and eucalyptus leaves to add fresh fragrance to your room.

Select an array of citrus – lemons, oranges, limes – and intersperse with garland, pinecones and cinnamon sticks along your fireplace mantle. Add a string of LED lights.

Sour Candied Citrus Peels

Use as candy, in baking, in salads, or as cocktail garnishes

4 large oranges, 3 grapefruit, 6 lemons or limes, halved through stem ends

3 cups sugar, divided

2 tablespoons citric acid (8-10 tablespoons of lemon juice)



Tear out flesh from all citrus halves, being careful not to create any holes in peels. Remove the pith, as much as you can. Save flesh for another use, cut peels into 1/4-inch strips.

Bring peels and 4 cups water to a boil in a large saucepan and cook for 5 minutes. Drain and return peels to pan. Repeat the process twice more, using fresh water each time. Return peels to pan; add 2 cups sugar and 2 cups water.

Bring to a boil and cook until peels are soft and translucent and vibrant looking, 30-40 minutes (about 10 minutes longer for grapefruit, or 10 minutes less for lemons or limes).

Drain and transfer peels to a wire rack set inside a rimmed baking sheet; chill until cool, about 15 minutes.

Whisk citric acid and remaining 1 cup sugar in a medium bowl. Add peels; toss to coat. Return to rack; let sit at room temperature for 1 hour. Toss peels again in sugar mixture. Return to rack; let sit 4-12 hours to dry out.

Citrus peels can be candied one month ahead. Store airtight at room temperature.

Winter is the perfect season to find the greatest assortment of California citrus produce at a farmers' market. Local farmers offer a variety of mandarins, oranges (both blood oranges and cara cara oranges hold colorful surprises inside), Meyer and Eureka lemons, Oro Blanco and Ruby Red grapefruit, tangelos, Minneolas, tangerines and others. So to all, Merry Citrus!



Keep Your Digits to Yourself

The Internet is a weird and scary place where anyone with a computer and a “hacker” app* can access your computer, send you a bogus email billings, or suggest device driver updates you do not need, then they access your private data, place worms and bots that take over your digital life. Hackers' sticky fingers can lookup your passwords, gain access to bank and brokerage accounts and generally mess up your life. How do you keep their fingers off your stuff?

At first blush, it seems to be a massive undertaking for users to protect the computer's digital world but with a little practice and some forethought it is really easy these days to protect yourself. It is much easier today than it was just a year or two ago to secure your digital world. Take your time, ask questions, call your trusted local computer tech, and do not panic.

Your first line of defense is your brain, so use it. It is a normal human reaction to respond to something that is not right. For example, you receive an email, and it states you purchased something for a ridiculous amount, but you know you did not. Your first reaction may be to call the “tech support” phone number listed and dispute the charge. Resist this urge.

Do not call them.

If you are genuinely concerned about the bogus charge, log on to your bank or

credit card company to see if a charge was actually made. Do not call the number provided by the suspicious email.

2FA is an additional security to protect from unauthorized prying fingers. Embrace what is called two factor identification or 2FA. Most major Internet providers offer this option (AT&T does not have 2FA – I suggest switching to another provider) in their “settings” tab.

2FA is a method of verifying who you say you are. Many hacks occur by the hacker faking your identity. 2FA sends an authentication code to your cell phone, since you are the only one that can open your cell phone, it assures the site that it is you. Copy the code and insert it into the verification request. You have just identified yourself as the real, not fake, user. This prevents hackers from false validation.

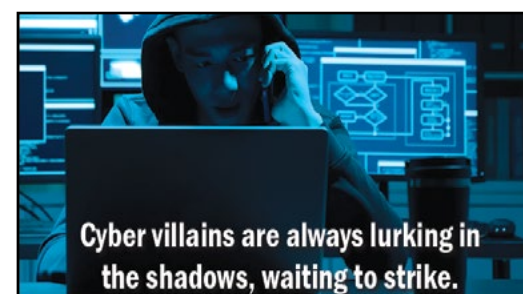
If you suspect you have been hacked or you have called the number suggested in the email, the first thing to do is panic. No, do not panic, run a virus scan. Next, change your passwords. All of them and do not repeat any. Write them down, better yet use a password manager such as Bitwarden to secure all passwords. Did you know if a hacker gains access to your computer they can read all the passwords stored in your browser(s). A password manager adds a level of security that if they

get into your computer, they need a “master” password before they can gain access to your browser stored passwords.

In addition, have a great, not a free, antivirus app or program. We suggest SentinelOne EDR or other Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled detection and remediation software. Run the scans and remove all (remote) access programs that are not native to Microsoft. If you have responded to an email suggesting that you have been hacked, do not call the number they have provided. Do not allow unknown third party “techs” into your computer. Once they are in, they install malicious software so they can finger your computer anytime they wish.

Now, go do the right thing.

*Example of hacker apps available on the Internet according to Bing-bot: AndroRAT, cSploit, DroidSheep, Hackode, Kali NetHunter, etc.



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calendar of events

CLAYTON

CLUBS

Concord NorCal Helping Hands Lion's Club.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator/details?id=148928>

Rotary Club of Concord.

<http://www.concordcarotary.org>

Cars 2nd Chance, vehicle / car donation programs turning vehicle donations into cash for charities administered by the Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary Charitable Fund. <https://cars2ndchance.com>

EVENTS

Thru 2023, Wednesdays & Sundays, "Life in Clayton 1850-1870." 2-4 PM. 6101 Main St., Clayton. Visit claytonhistory.org.

LIBRARY

December 6, Bingo Schmingo Music.



Wednesday, 2 - 2:45 p.m. Children's Program. Join musician/storyteller Kathleen Rushing for lively, interactive songs and stories and dances, suitable for the entire family.

December 7, Teen Thursday – If You're Board Switch it Up!

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Teen Program. First Thursday of the month get your game on at the Clayton Library. You can play one of the Library's Switch games like Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros., and Just Dance or you can play one of our fun tabletop games. For Grades 6-12.

December 16, Clayton Memory Café.

10 - 11:30 a.m. Adult Program. Participate in cognitive activities designed to perk up memory. These gatherings are free and open to all older adults with or without current memory concerns. A small snack will be provided. If you have a food allergy or restriction, please contact the library at least 24 hours prior to your visit. Attendees must be accompanied by a caregiver or loved one for the duration of the Memory Café if assistance or supervision is required.

December 20, Sandscape Craft with Lisa Taft.

Wednesday, 2 - 2:45 p.m. Children's Program. Create your own Sandscape in a jar. Best for ages 3 and up. No registration required.

December 21, Teen Thursday – Diamond Painting.

4 - 5 p.m. Teen Program. Come spend a relaxing hour diamond painting at the library! This craft is quickly rising in popularity, and now you can give it a try. We have kits for you to start and take home to finish! Register online or by calling the Clayton Library. For Grades 6-12

Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Rd. For more information please call 925-673-0659. <https://ccclib.org>

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<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator/details?id=148928>

Rotary Club of Concord.

<http://www.concordcarotary.org>

EVENTS

December 9, East Bay Card Show

Sports cards, Collectibles. 10 AM - 5 PM. Concord Plaza Hotel - 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord. www.EastBayCardShow.com

December 9, Concord Toy and Collectible Show.

11 AM - 5 PM, We are thrilled to invite you to be a part of the Concord Toy and Collectible Show, presented by D and C Toys and Collectibles. Admission \$5. Under 10 FREE Concord High School, 4200 Concord Boulevard, Concord. <http://www.dctoysandcollectibles.com/>

December 9, Merry Maker's Winter Faire, 11 AM-5PM, Join us for a festive celebration filled with holiday cheer, delicious food, and delightful crafts. This in-person event promises to be a winter wonderland for all ages. Explore the vibrant stalls, where local artisans will showcase their unique creations. From handmade ornaments to cozy knitted scarves, you'll find the perfect gifts for your loved ones. Todos Santos Plaza, 2175 Willow Pass Road, Concord

December 16, Wreaths Across America,

10 AM, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 1525 is holding a Wreaths Across America event to lay as many wreaths across the 2600 Veteran graves. Memory Garden, 2011 Arnold Industrial Drive, Concord. To buy a wreath visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/161119/Overview/

Thru December 20, Christmas Toy Drive,

Tuesday - Saturday between the hours of 10am and 7pm. Please bring an item down to Blessed Barbershop, 1900 Monument Blvd. Concord

Thru December 21, aRt Cottage Holiday Boutique, 11 AM - 5 PM,

aRt Cottage: 2238 Mt. Diablo Street Concord.

Thru December 23, Salvio Street Night Market,

Every Saturday, from 5 - 9pm, the inaugural Salvio Street Night Market uses the all new Salvio Street promenade and fountain courtyard in Salvio Pacheco Square, right in front of Hop Grenade. Designed to provide an eclectic and lively outdoor shopping space for all to enjoy, the market will focus on unique vendors and products and showcase local talent, crafts, clothing, music, and more!

December 30, Black and White

Black Tie Gala, 7 PM - 1 AM, Join us as we invite you to celebrate the holiday, ending finale, black-tie gala enjoy complementary champagne and hors d'oeuvres, while listening to live. DJs played the latest in R&B, Neo soul and hip-hop. Hilton Hotel Concord, 1970 Diamond Blvd, Concord. Tickets: <https://www.blacktieexcellence.com>

Thru January 6, 2024,

Illuminated sculptures, created by Local Edition Creative. FREE. Downtown Concord.

Thru February 14, 2024, Ice at the Veranda

is returning this winter. Tickets may be purchased online in advance or on-site, on a first-come, first-served basis. The Veranda, 2001-2003 Diamond Blvd, Concord. <https://shoptheveranda.com/ice/>

December 7, National Pearl

Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony at Cal State University, 4700 Ygnacio Valley Road, Concord, 3:35PM. Beacon Lighting at 5 pm. For more information call, 925-685-0953

FARMERS MARKETS

Pacific Coast Farmers Market

<https://www.pcfma.org>

Todos Santos Plaza.

Tuesdays, 10AM- 2PM Year Round

LIBRARY

December 6, BYOB (Bring Your Own Baby) Book Club,

10:15 AM- 11:15 AM, Are you the parent or caregiver of a child under four? Want to talk about books written for adults and meet in a baby-friendly setting? Please join us! Copies of the monthly book are available at the Concord library.

December 9, Nutcracker Storytime with Contra Costa County

Ballet Centre, 11 AM - Noon, Join us for a special Storytime with the Contra Costa County Ballet Centre. We'll enjoy a Nutcracker ballet-themed Storytime, and a mini performance. Dance attire, including tutu's are encouraged.

December 11, Gingerbread

House Workshop: A Holiday STEAM Program, 6 - 7 PM, Join us and build your gingerbread house. Registration required.

December 12, Monthly Movie

Night: Last Christmas (2019), 5:30-7:30 PM, Join us for monthly movie night, a program for adults, at the Concord Library! All movies are rated PG-13. We'll be showing Last Christmas (2019) rated PG-13

December 29, Noon Year's Eve

Party at Concord Library, 11:30 AM- Noon, Join us for a Noon Year's Eve party with party hats and dancing at the Concord Library! 11:30 am - 11:45

am: Make a party hat craft (While supplies last.) 11:45 AM - 12:10 pm: Countdown to Noon Year's Eve and balloon drop. *Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. For full list <https://ccclib.org>*

MARTINEZ

CLUBS

Martinez Rotary Club meets weekly, 5-6 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward Street., Martinez <http://www.martinezrotary.org> Pleasant Hill. <https://pleasanthillrotary.org/>

EVENTS

December 7-15, Community

Menorah Lighting, All Day, Congregation B' nai Shalom and Downtown Martinez and Co. present the Annual Hanukkah Community Celebration! Traditional lighting of the menorah will be done every evening at dusk at the Main Street Plaza. <https://downtownmartinez.org/hanukkah-celebration>

December 9, Santa Beer Crawl,

1 - 4 PM, Dust off your Santa suits and ugly Christmas sweaters because it's time to head to Downtown Martinez for some holiday cheer! Downtown Martinez & Co. hosts the annual Santa Beer Crawl on the streets of Downtown Martinez. Come join the jolliest bunch of Santas this side of the bay as they walk around the downtown corridor of Martinez, sampling craft breweries stationed participating small businesses along Main Street <https://downtownmartinez.org/santa-beer-crawl>

FARMERS MARKETS

Pacific Coast Farmers Market

<https://www.pcfma.org>

Sundays, 9AM-1PM, Year Round.

700 Main St. Martinez.

LIBRARY

December 9, 16, 23, Martinez

Library Storytime, 10 AM - 10:30 AM, Build early literacy skills with stories, songs, finger plays and fun. Stay after for playtime or a simple craft. Content focused on ages 1 to 5. All ages and abilities welcome.

Martinez Library: 740 Court St, Martinez. For full list <https://ccclib.org>

PLEASANT HILL

CONCERTS/MUSIC EVENTS

December 9, General meeting

of the California Writers Club-Mt. Diablo Branch. 11 AM- 2PM., Come dressed in your holiday attire and prepare for these and other special events! Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. To register for the meeting online, visit <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/meetings-and-workshops>.

EVENTS

December 2, Light Up the Night

Pleasant Hill, 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. This fun family event commemorates the start of the holiday season with several fun activities, including

December 2023

music, dancing, crafts, train rides, Christmas tree lighting, visits with Santa, hot chocolate, and more. Crescent Drive in downtown Pleasant Hill.

December 6, Winter Holiday Festival FREE! 5 - 8 PM. Enjoy the most magical Winter Holiday Festival in Contra Costa County! Enjoy a variety of fun play experiences including winter-festive themed rooms with hands-on activities, live youth performances, Santa meet & greet and family rides on the Winter Express train. Special feature: Astro Botanicals Illuminated Art Exhibit Experience. Don't miss this wonderland of wintery fun sure to delight the whole family! Pleasant Hill Community Center (indoors & outdoors), 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill

December 7, Diablo View Orchid Society's Annual Holiday Celebration, 6 - 9 PM. Take an opportunity to get to know our members in a more social environment as we celebrate the holiday season. An annual membership of \$30 (tax-deductible) for the year provides an opportunity to learn engage with upcoming speakers and participate in our upcoming orchid show and sale in the spring. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr. Pleasant Hill

December 16, Girl Scout Gingerbread House Building and Hot Cocoa Party. 2 - 3:30 PM. Join us to build some gingerbread houses and enjoy some hot cocoa while learning about Girl Scouts and how to get involved, form troops and HAVE FUN! Free event. Hillcrest Congregational Church, 404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill

LIBRARY

December 5, 19, Anime Club, 2:45-3:45 PM, Enjoy different anime shows with other teens (12 to 18). Shows will be decided by the group, with snacks provided by the Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month during the school year.

December 7, 14, Sewing Studio Basics, 3-5 PM, Learn to sew in the library makerspace! In this beginners workshop, you'll learn the basics of how to use a sewing machine and create a simple project to take home! For tweens and teens, 9 yrs to 18 yrs, no experience necessary.

December 9, 16, 23, 30 Lego Builders Club, 2-4 PM, Build your own unique Lego creations! With Duplo for small hands to Technic for advanced creators. No registration required. All ages and abilities welcome.

December 11, Diablo Regional Band Concert, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Join us for a festive winter concert with the Diablo Regional Concert Band. No registration required. This event is free to attend and is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library.

December 12, Winter Magic Show, 6:30-7:30 PM, A magic show inspired by the most magical season of the year, a time of shorter days, colder nights, and annual

celebrations of light. Come warm yourself this season with a little fun and a whole lot of wonder! All ages are welcome.

December 29, New Year's Ball, 11-11:30 AM, Get ready to party like it's 2024! We'll be celebrating the New Year with bubbles, balloons, music, and movement! Best suited for ages 2-5 with a caregiver. All ages and abilities welcome.

Pleasant Hill Library, 12 Monticello Avenue. For more information please call 925-673-0659. <https://ccclib.org>

WALNUT CREEK EVENTS

December 9, 10, Handcrafted Holiday Sale 2023, Shadelands Art Center - Auditorium, 111 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek

December 4, Pet Night With Santa, 4-7 PM, Be picture pawfect with Santa! Get your four-legged friend's photo taken with Santa. Please come prepared to clean up after your pet. Broadway Plaza, 1275 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. Book now: <https://whereissanta.com/mall/0070>

December 10, Grand Menorah Lighting, 4PM - 6PM, event Paza, Join the Chabad of Contra Costa as they light the 1st candle on the tallest Menorah in Contra Costa! Live Music, Juggling Show, Crafts, Latkes, Donuts, Hot Chocolate and more. Broadway Plaza, 1275 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek

December 16, Open Aire Artisan Faire, 11 AM - 5 PM, Come to lovely Broadway Plaza to enjoy our Makers Market Fair! We are rounding up the Best Local Makers and Great Vibes! Stop by and enjoy live music, great food, and incredible products from local makers! Shop small and support your community, you won't want to miss this! Broadway Plaza Street, Walnut Creek - between Nordstrom & Macy's.

December 29, Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society, 8-10PM, Fares: \$5 Adults \$3 Seniors and kids 6-12. Under 6 FREE. 2751 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek (in Larkey Park). www.wcmrs.org

FARMERS MARKETS

Contra Costa Certified Farmers Market
<http://www.cccfm.org>

Sundays 9AM-1PM, Year Round. Locust Street between Cole and Lacassie St <http://www.cccfm.org>

Diablo Valley Farmers Market
North Wiget Ln. and Mitchell Dr. Shadelands, Walnut Creek, Saturdays 9AM-1PM Year Round 1799 Locust St. <http://www.cafarmersmkts.com/diablo-valley-farmers-market>

Rossmoor Farmers Market
Rossmoor residents and their families only. Fridays 9AM-1PM, Golden Rain Rd. <http://www.cafarmersmkts.com/rossmoor-farmers-market>

LIBRARY

December 6, Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin, 10:15-11:15 AM, Ní Hào! We hope that

you will join us for a fun filled Mandarin Bilingual Storytime the first Wednesday of each month. This Storytime will introduce your little ones to the beauty of the Mandarin language through story, play and song.

December 9, Friends of Ygnacio Valley Library Holiday Book Sale, 9 AM-5 PM, Fill your gift list without breaking the bank! The Friends of the YV Library Holiday Book Sale features hundreds of new and nearly new books. A wide range of topics will be available, including: Art, Fiction, Holiday and more.

December 11, Kid's Holiday Trim a Tree Party!, 3-5 PM, Come one, come all to the Friends of the Ygnacio Valley Library Kid's Holiday Trim-A-Tree Party! Make decorations for the Library holiday tree and for yourself. Craft supplies and refreshments will be provided.

December 13, 20, 27 T(w)een Game Night, 2-4 PM, Join us at Ygnacio Valley Library, as we host Game Night (in the afternoon). We will have board games, card games, and a Nintendo Switch. Play, watch, or socialize, this event is open to all Teens and Tweens.

Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek

December 6, Read to a Dog, 4:30-5:30 PM, Kids aged 6-12 are invited to sign up for a one-on-one reading session with a therapy pup. Bring a book from home or grab one from our shelves. Prior registration is not required. Sign-ups for 15-minute time slots will be on a first-come basis.

December 8 & 10, The Diablo Women's Chorale presents "Under A Winter's Sky", celebrating the magic of winter and the holiday season. December 8 at 7:00 p.m. and December 10 at 3:00 p.m. at the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. An uplifting program performed alongside live musicians and a children's choir. Advance ticket purchase information at diablowomenschorale.org or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiabloWomensChorale>

December 11, 18 Tai Chi, 10:15-11:15 AM, T'ai-chi Ch'uan is an ancient Chinese art which combines meditation in movement and healthful exercise. The training includes the practice of a 37 posture form which teaches relaxation, balance and strength.

December 12, Charged Particles, 7 - 8:30 PM, Just back from a 7-day 7-concert tour of the U.K. with special guest renowned jazz trumpet superstar Randy Brecker, Bay Area saxophonist Tod Dickow and the Charged Particles trio are looking forward to their return to the Walnut Creek Library.

December 13, Kids Movie Matinee, 4-6 PM, Join us for a family-friendly movie afternoon! We will be watching Disney's Frozen II (2019), rated PG.

December 18, Mindful Mondays

Yoga Series - with Krystol, 6:30-7:30 PM, Join us Monday evenings to practice Yoga in a comfortable and friendly setting. We meet in person, upstairs, in the Oakview Room at the Walnut Creek Library.

December 28, Mario Kart Tournament for Teens and Tweens, 1:30-3 PM, Face off against your friends in Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch! There will be candy and snacks, and prizes for first place and runner up. In the Library Tech Center, for teens and tweens, 12+.

Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N Broadway. For more information please call 925-673-0659. <https://ccclib.org>

LESHER CENTER

December 7-21, A Christmas Carol, Brimming with music and dance, love and laughter, and spectacular special effects, it's no wonder the critics have called it "THE Christmas Carol to see in the Bay Area."

December 9-2, A Visit to the North Pole, Join Santa and Mrs. Claus in the North Pole, during this immersive, live theatre experience. Watch as the holiday magic brings a smile to your entire family! In this exclusive visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in their kitchen and workshop, your group of up to 6 members will enjoy a private meeting and photo opportunity.

December 15, The Biggest Gift, by the Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, Did you send your letter to Santa? Then why has he not received it? No letters - No Christmas. Join the fun and laughter as Tucker the elf and the toys set out to save Christmas.

Leshar Center for the Arts 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, <https://www.lesherartscenter.org> Tickets: (925)943-7469 Wed-Sun Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Other Cities

EVENTS

December 7, January 4, SIR Branch 19 will hold its Monthly Luncheon, 11 AM, Pittsburg Elks' Lodge, 200 Marina Blvd., Pittsburg. This will be the Annual Holiday Luncheon with entertainment, raffles and a special meal. Members are invited to bring guests. www.sirinc2.org/branch19 925 338-1996 for more information.

December 9-10, Great Train Show - Pleasanton, 10 AM- 4 PM 250+ Tables of Trains for Sale, Exhibitors from Across the Country, Huge Operating Model Train Displays, Free Workshops and Demonstrations, Free Test Track - Test Run Your Trains at the Show. Admission: \$12.00 for Adults, Kids 11 and under are Free!, Cash only at the door. Alameda County Fairgrounds-2005 Valley Ave, Pleasanton. <https://www.trainshow.com/gtspages/gts-show-landing-pages/pleasanton-12-23>

SUBMIT YOUR CALENDAR ENTRIES by the 20th of the month before Issue month. diablogazette@gmail.com



The Concord Veterinarian

Who Uses Chinese Medicine

Ever seen a dog or a cat with multiple needles sticking out of their bodies while they just sit relaxing? Ever heard of sick animals being treated with acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine or receiving chiropractic help...here in Concord? Then witness the surgery of veterinarian Dr. Wendy Wallace DVD, CUA, CUFT, ACVHM, at the SAGE hospital on any given day, you will see amazing things.

More impressive than her academic qualifications are the results Wallace is achieving with her animal patients. In many cases where Western medicine has had limited effects, her use of traditional Chinese approaches has been nothing short of miraculous.

Originally from Southern California, Wallace has worked in and around Concord and Walnut Creek for almost 30 years. She completed her undergraduate degree at Cal Poly Pomona. While there, she became a livestock judge for large farm animals.

She received a master's in animal science at the University of Minnesota and was awarded her doctorate in veterinary medicine at UC Davis in 1987.

After starting her work in Castro Valley and Walnut Creek with a veterinarian colleague, Wallace opened the Four Seasons Hospital in Lafayette.

She was already developing a passion

for Integrative Medicine, taking a holistic approach to treatment. She was exploring how to integrate both Western and Traditional Chinese Veterinary medicine and began seeing remarkable results with her own dogs and many other canine sports patients. Animals in highly active and demanding activities such as hunting and agility competitions can sustain significant trauma.

Wallace trains her own dogs for agility, a sport where you direct your dog through a pre-set obstacle course within a certain time limit. As the official veterinarian she accompanied the USA American Kennel Club Agility Dog Team in Europe to compete in Germany and Italy. By accident, one of the selected dogs had to withdraw and Wallace was asked to use one of her own dogs as a replacement and advanced to the finals.

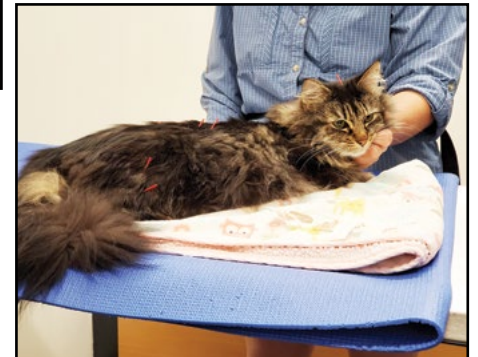
Convinced that the Western approach



to animal medicine was limited and might not be asking the right questions, she set out not only to inform herself, but to become qualified in alternative treatments.

In 2003, she became certified in Veterinary Chiropractic followed by certifications in Food Therapy from the Chi Institute (2012) and in 2016 completed the certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine.

Wallace told me about an incident early in her career examining a goat that could not move naturally or jump due to some abnormal birth defect. In obvious pain, the family that owned it were at their wits end not knowing what to do or if the goat could be



saved. Within hours after receiving manipulation and acupuncture, people were crying as they watched the animal behaving almost normally. No medications or surgery were used.

"So, what all do you actually do?" I asked.

Continued p.15



Gifts To Avoid Giving Pets

Including gifts for pets during the holiday season is a wonderful gesture, but it is important to do so safely. It is best to avoid the temptation to wrap the gift and leave it within reach of your pets. Wrapping paper, ribbon, string, yarn, and bows can cause an intestinal blockage if enough is consumed. Also, these package decorations can often pose a choking hazard.

Handmade toys are a wonderful idea but be aware of potential hazards. Instructional do-it-yourself videos to make adorable stuffed animal pet toys may be tempting to try, but toys with bells, beads, rubber bands, buttons, or plastic eyes that your cat or dog can easily bite off and swallow should be avoided. Once the stuffing is loose on plush toys or the squeaker has been extracted, it is time to dispose of them.

Edible homemade treats can come with their own dangers. You might be surprised to learn that cats are lactose intolerant, so it is best to avoid milk and dairy products. Grapes, raisins, caffeine, onion, garlic, and fatty foods should not be ingredients in dog and cat treats. Even bones that can splinter or cause pets to choke can turn a holiday treat into a nightmare trip to the emergency vet.



For birds, avoid toys that have painted surfaces. Never give a parrot soft or brittle plastics which can cause intestinal blockages, penetrating wounds, and poisoning. Leather components should be vegetable tanned. Metal hardwood should be stainless steel or nickel-plated. Rabbits may love to chew on wood, just make sure it is not varnished, and stay away from plastic toys of any kind. On the other hand, plastic toys are usually okay for fish aquariums but beware of sharp edges. Because water breaks down metal over time, it is best to avoid placing metallic objects in a fish



tank.

So, what low-risk and low-cost gifts are suitable? Every pet has its own preferences and energy level, but in general, tug toys made of natural or organic cotton rope are an excellent choice for dogs. Paper bags and boxes are great options to entertain cats. Pinecones make good chew toys for rabbits.

Planet Pleasures offers a variety of environmentally friendly bird toys. Ping pong balls that a fish can push around might be a welcome addition to aquariums. Shop around for toys that best

suit your pet's personality and read the reviews for any potential hazards.

While we are on the topic of safety, numerous brands of dog and cat food produced by TFP Nutrition including but not limited to Star Pro, Farm Dog, Farm Cat, Exclusive Signature, Retriever brands, Red Flannel, Meow and More, and Hill Country Fair have been recalled or withdrawn due to Salmonella contamination.

If you have any of these products or any pet food produced by TFP call 1-866-311-1323. Also, Mid America Pet Food has voluntarily recalled 5-, 15- and 40-pound bags of Victor Super Premium Dog Food, Select Beef Meal & Brown Rice Formula. Call 1-888-428-7544 for additional information.

Wishing you and your pets a safe and happy holiday season!

Jill Hedgecock is a local author of several novels featuring animals. "Between Shadow's Eyes" and "From Shadow's Perspective" feature a ghost-seeing Doberman. "Rhino in the Room" and the sequel "Queen of the Rhino" include information about safari animals. All available on amazon.com.

Brookfield Presents Conceptual Land Use and Phasing Plans for CNWS

For those keeping tab on the next chapter of the Concord Naval Weapons Station development, this is your update. You can find a complete presentation on the website Concordreuseproject.org.

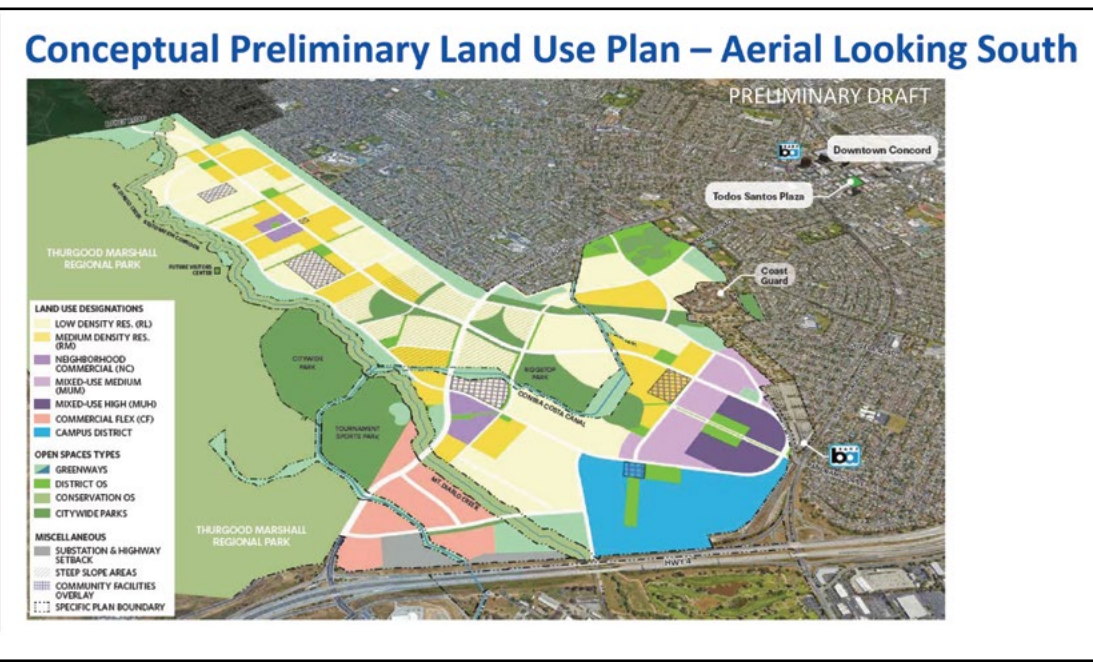
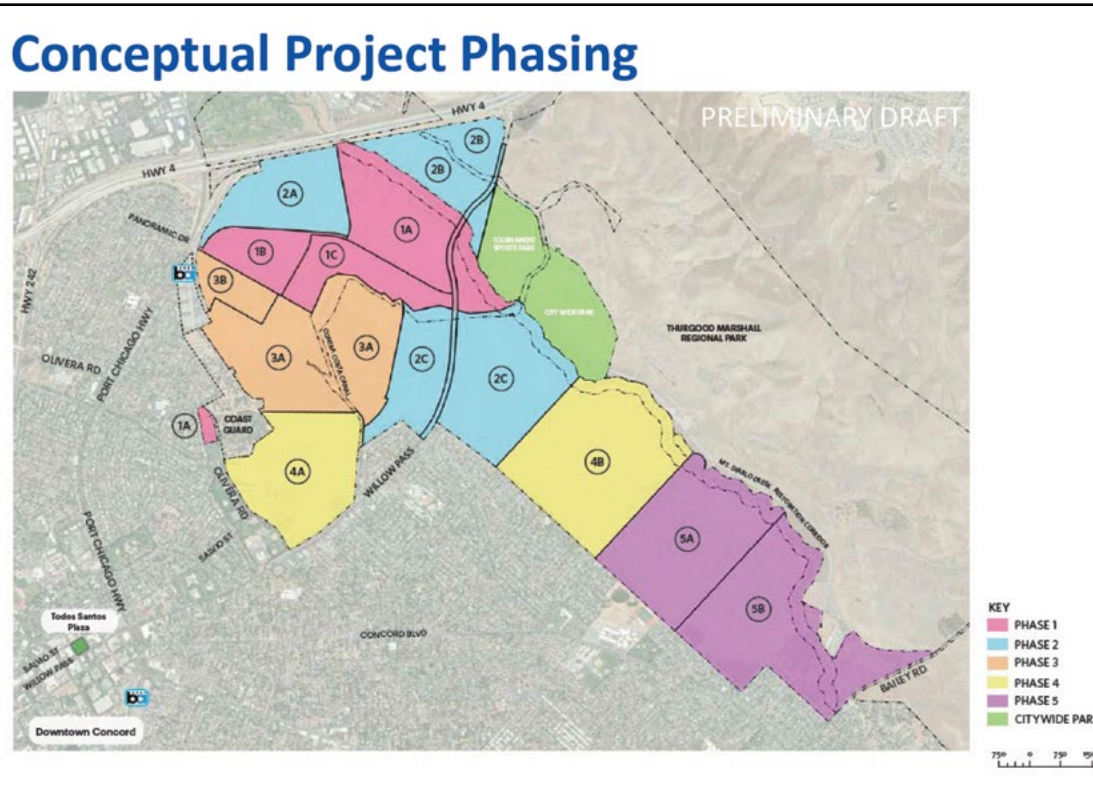
Master Developer Brookfield, now called BCUS Acquisitions LLC's, has been diligently meeting with residential groups, city leaders and organizations in a community outreach effort to hear ideas and concerns regarding the future development of the Concord Naval Weapons Station. With that information they presented a Conceptual Land Use Plan and phasing forecast to the Concord City Council on November 14.

The Conceptual Land Use Plan is a preliminary framework to get Council's and community's broad acceptance of the development strategy as it pertains to the order of the upcoming construction of infrastructure and land use. Brookfield is on the fast track to present a term sheet in January 2024. But before that can happen, they must determine the financial feasibility of the project.

The LRA team (Local Reuse Authority) and Brookfield are in the process of negotiating the business terms of the Term Sheet. The conceptual land use plan serves as the basis for determining the numbers (acreage/units/square footage) and dollars (revenue/costs) that drives the conceptual financial proforma demonstrating a project that works. Staff anticipates returning to Council with a Term Sheet on January 16, 2024.

"Our hope is that we do all the things people would like us to do and has been talked about in the past. That's our goal," stated Josh Roden, President of Brookfield Properties Development, Northern California Land & Housing.

If it seems this is moving along faster than the previous two Master Developers, that is because it is. While Brookfield may be the third Master Developer to attempt this project, they reiterated several times in the presentation that they are not starting from scratch. Brookfield is efficiently capitalizing on nearly two decades of previous work that is still in place.



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In the presentation, Brookfield listed the basic design principles that will be guiding the project.

They plan to build the backbone streets that are neighborly and incorporate mixed land use. Working with the existing landform will minimize grading and environmental challenges.

They expect to integrate a variety of transportation choices with the flexibility to adapt as society modifies its transportation priorities over time. This will help avoid a situation of having to retro fit infrastructure with integration of changing pedestrian and biking infrastructure, for example. Open space and environmental areas will be utilized to frame neighborhoods.

As for affordable housing, they expect to weave a range of housing opportunities and choices throughout. "We firmly believe people should not be able to be identified by your income."

Brookfield stated that their idea

is to build in activation, and design communities around it.

Open space is currently planned with 644 acres and 171 towards a sports tournament complex and citywide park, in addition to Thurgood Regional Park.

PHASING

The City has required that the development pays for itself, which puts a massive financial outlay for Brookfield. Phasing allows them to sell homes as they build out. It also follows the order of when property will be transferred from the Navy to the City to assure access to the land.

The project is expected to happen in five phases. Several area maps were displayed overhead to illustrate the various stages of development and the order in which each should happen. With various land use graphics, Brookfield laid out infrastructure, phasing of development, and mapped green space, parks, and density areas numbered in projected order of development.

Phase 1A, 1B, 1C will begin in North Concord TOD (Traffic Oriented District) and include rebuilding Willow Pass Road and early infrastructure connecting from Bart to Willow Pass. This is where much of the higher density home construction will reside. In a previous community session, Roden stated this area also has the most existing infrastructure in place reducing significant upfront financial liabilities.

Phase 2 will develop the planned 120 acres set aside for campus district. Brookfield suggests the campus be reoriented from previous plans due to its land formation and proximity to Bart station. No Councilmember objected to this alteration.

Phases 3, 4 and 5 will be years down the road. It is projected the infrastructure alone may take five years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"We believe deeply in community outreach, this is the best way to design communities," Roden told Council. Brookfield has hired Keadjian and Associates of Walnut Creek, to assist with future outreach efforts to the community. The agency is experienced with military base reuse projects.

Once the Term sheet and specific plan is approved, then Brookfield and Keadjian will aggressively ramp up outreach efforts for a couple of years while all final plan approvals are achieved.

Expect to see them at community events, neighborhood meetings, pop-up booths at Farmers Markets and other events, Online with a dedicated and social updates, newsletters, email, and community surveys during this period.

"As we meet with community and different stakeholders and learn more about the project, the plan will change." Roden cautions.

The council and public commented after the presentation bringing up some important concerns.

In one comment from the public, Hope Johnson expressed concerns about the project establishing a community benefit district, that would make it likely to impact property taxes for all residents. Councilmember Obringer also reiterated the concern. "This project is supposed to pay for itself."

You can expect to hear more on that issue as more additional plans emerge.

This preliminary plan simply covers only basic direction. Vibrant elements will come out in the specific plan while keeping to the priorities of providing affordable housing, job creation and safety.

The entire development may take as much 40 years to complete contingent on many unknown and unforeseen future economic, technological and political challenges. And all of this will be contingent on successful financial underwriting.

For more information visit <http://concordreuseproject.org>

bookends
by Fran Cain

In Shadow's Reflection

by Jill Hedgecock

"In Shadow's Reflection" by Jill Hedgecock (2023, Goshawk Press, paperback, 374 pages, \$13.99) is the third book in the young-adult series about Sarah Whitman, an orphan now about to turn eighteen, and her ghost-seeing red Doberman, Shadow. On the surface, Sarah's life seems to have finally settled into a routine after she lost her father to cancer, has been regularly haunted by sometimes malevolent spirits, has successfully fought to become emancipated, and has survived a murder attempt in the previous books.

Reliable Shadow keeps Sarah grounded with affection, security, agility classes, and a degree of normalcy. Sarah helps with the care of her guardian, Mr. O'Shawnessy, despite the jealousy of his granddaughter, "Mar-gar-et". Sarah is discovering young love with her sweet boyfriend, Paul, and his new puppy, Arlo. But the ghosts won't stay away.

Well-meaning Paul presented Sarah with a DNA testing kit encouraging her to learn something about her mysterious mother who died in childbirth. Sarah's father had refused to talk about her mother even to reveal her maiden name. Her father's sister, Sally, in Arizona,

is the only relative she is aware of.

A ghostly man and woman that Sarah cannot identify are suddenly appearing to her. Perhaps coincidentally, Aunt Sally, who had always ignored Sarah, starts frantically trying to contact Sarah. Sally warns her to avoid talking to Jolene, a woman identified as a relative from the DNA test. Meanwhile, Jolene is desperately trying to contact Sarah to the point of stalking her. Instead of providing some clarity, the DNA testing may have opened a can of worms.

Before Sarah has an opportunity to unravel the mystery of Aunt Sally, Jolene, and the new ghosts, she is subpoenaed to testify against Claudia Griffin, the woman from the first two books who is now in prison for murder and on trial as an accomplice in the attempted murder of Sarah. Rightfully Sarah is fearful of seeing Griffin again.

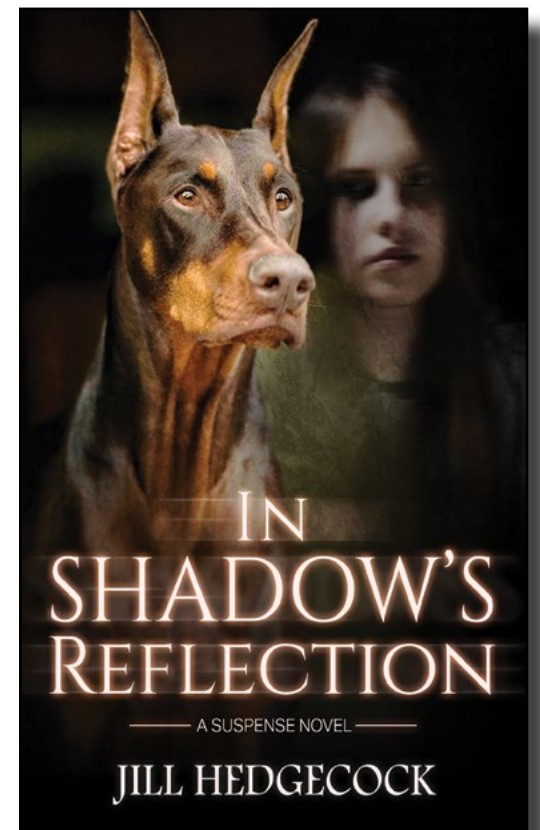
While at court, a major earthquake creates havoc and Griffin escapes during the confusion. She kidnaps Sarah, drugs Shadow, and threatens the lives of the people who try to help Sarah.

Sarah is physically unharmed from the earthquake, but she cannot extricate herself from Griffin's

obsessive and maniacal grasp. After many struggles and near-death mishaps, Sarah finally returns home to clean up the mess from the earthquake only to discover an even bigger bombshell has blown apart what's left of her world: a terrible family secret involving the women, the ghosts, and the DNA tests.

Hedgecock's thrilling story has more twists and turns than a labyrinth. Sarah's bravery is tested repeatedly in this fascinating trilogy. Hedgecock imbues Sarah with admirable qualities in a young-adult heroine. Readers will appreciate Sarah's ability to compartmentalize her life's challenges. She is self-disciplined, gracious, and, most importantly, forgiving. Only when pushed to her absolute limit does she succumb to emotion and realize she needs help to work through her dilemmas.

Jill Hedgecock, a regular contributor to The Diablo Gazette. Check out the first two Shadow books, "Between Shadow's Eyes" (2019, Goshawk Press) and "From Shadow's Perspective" (2020, Goshawk Press), and her novels, "Rhino in



the Room" (2018, Goshawk Press) and "Queen of the Rhino" (2022, Goshawk Press). Jill returns to bookends next month. Contact her at jillhedgecock.com.



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Killers of the Flower Moon

Whenever Martin Scorsese puts out a new project, you can count on two things: the subject matter will be well researched and the movie will have a long running time. His current film, "Killers of the Flower Moon," delivers both.



Ernest is no stranger to committing light crimes, but the questionable dealings in Osage County make him a bit uncomfortable. He enjoys spending time with Mollie (Lily Gladstone), as his

uncle requested, but when citizens begin to be mysteriously murdered, Ernest has to face some hard truths about his situation.

DiCaprio and Gladstone play beautifully off of each other and their relationship is compelling to watch. Lily Gladstone turns in an amazing performance, and the quiet hurt, anger, love and anguish illustrated on her face are award-worthy.

With a running time of three hours and 26 minutes, this film can be a challenge to sit through without interruption. The story moves well, but you may want to skip any movie treats, especially drinks, if you plan to not miss a minute.

If you are unfamiliar with the subject matter of the film, prepare yourself for some difficult history. While it may be upsetting to know these events really happened, this movie has beautiful cinematography with powerful performances that will reward you for staying in your seat.

Rated R In Theaters

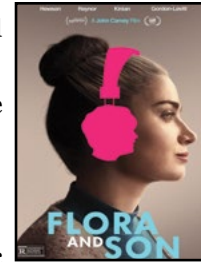
Two of Scorsese's favorite actors are Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, and he once again relies on their skills as top-notch actors, this time to tell the true story of the Osage tribe in Oklahoma.

In the 1920's, the Osage Nation lived peacefully and unnoticed until the day they struck oil. This changed life for their community. They could suddenly afford nice cars, live-in household staff and be taken seriously as businessmen. Of course, all the money and attention bring out some unscrupulous players such as William Hale (Robert De Niro). Hale presents himself as an ally to the Osage people, but he has a nefarious plan to slowly bilk them out of their fortunes.

Hale convinces many of his employees to marry Osage women with the intention of inheriting their money and property. This plan extends to his nephew, Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio), a recent transplant to the area.



Flora and Son



Flora (Eve Hewson) is told by the authorities that if her fourteen-year-old son Max (Orén Kinlan) messes up once more, he will definitely have to serve time. As a young single mother, Flora struggles to connect with her teenage son. On her way home, she discovers a discarded acoustic guitar that she gets repaired and presents to Max. Max balks at the gift. He is currently envious of the young man in the neighborhood who makes rap videos in the parking lot of their building complex. This kid has cool clothes and is surrounded by pretty young girls.

Flora makes repeated efforts to get her ex Ian (Jack Reynor) to engage with their son Max, but to no avail. Ian spends most of his time being resentful of his missed musical career caused, in his mind, by Max's birth. When Max spends time with his dad, however, it is a fun laid-back time with little parenting involved. This leaves Flora to do the heavy lifting in raising Max and she questions whether she is up to the task.

One night, in an act of boredom and desperation, Flora unearths the discarded guitar and decides to research lessons online for herself. She finds most of the teachers cheesy or weird until she stumbles upon Jack (Joseph Gordon-Levitt). Jack has a laid-back style and calming presence that Flora finds exactly what she needs during this challenging

time. Ian and Max think it is silly that Flora has taken up the guitar, but she becomes serious about it as well as her online time with Jack. The film devises creative ways to deal with a main character who is not physically there. Jack is in California and Flora is in Ireland, presenting

an opportunity to experiment with Jack as a vital character even though he is only portrayed through a computer screen.

It is intriguing to see a portrayal of a young mother who parties, cusses and has one night stands, but who also takes care of her son and is invested in his well-being. She makes her mistakes, but is devoted to finding a way to connect.

Writer-Director John Carney has made several movies with music as the main theme. Here, he shows how it can bring people and families together. Regular people can follow their passions and it can fill a void without involving stardom. It can be fun and gratifying and shine a light on your little part of the world.

"Flora and Son" has been out since September and the film is still getting buzz. Two of the songs were recently submitted for Oscar consideration.

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Around Martinez



Senator Bill Dodd Awards Non-Profit of the Year to Loaves and Fishes

by Brianne Zorn, Mayor, City of Martinez

Every day of the week, the five dining rooms operated by Loaves and Fishes in Contra Costa County serve nutritious meals to our neighbors dealing with food insecurity. In November, the Loaves and Fishes dining room in Martinez had a special guest, Senator Bill Dodd. Senator Dodd was joined by the Martinez City Council to recognize Loaves and Fishes as Nonprofit of the Year for Contra Costa County for their outstanding dedication to providing community-based food programs.

Since being founded in 1983, Loaves and Fishes has served nearly six million free, hot and nutritious meals and groceries. Over the past 40 years, they have expanded their services to include meals, groceries, mobile services, to-go meals during COVID, and partnership with other non-profits to extend their safety-net of services to all their clients. Today, Loaves and Fishes services have increased 400% from pre-pandemic levels serving over 2,400 meals daily and distributing hundreds of pounds of groceries each week.

There are many opportunities for the Martinez community to volunteer their time to support Loaves and Fishes during this holiday season:

Dining Room Volunteer Shifts in Martinez are 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., seven days a week.

The Central Kitchen in Pittsburg engages volunteers to assist the Head Chef.

To volunteer, visit: www.loavesfishescc.org/volunteer

Culinary Training is Ideal for Students

Did you know that Loaves and Fishes also offers a Professional Culinary Training program? They accept applications year-round and also offer job placement assistance. This is a wonderful opportunity for students (including high school students) to jump start their career in the culinary industry while doing good for the community.

Visit Loaves and Fishes online at www.loavesfishescc.org or in person at 835 Ferry Street in downtown Martinez.

I wish you a very happy holiday season. Enjoy time spent with friends and family. And pay it forward with kindness.



Bill Dodd presenting Non-Profit of the Year Award to Loaves and Fishes



Hanukkah Community Celebration at Main Street Plaza.

Congregation B'nai Shalom and Downtown Martinez and Co. present the Annual Hanukkah Community Celebration! Traditional lighting of the menorah will be done every evening at dusk December 7-15 at the Main Street Plaza. On December 9 attend at 5:15 p.m. to light the menorah and celebrate with music, sufganiyot, and family fun.



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As Search Begins for New Finance Director, a Picture of City Hall Dysfunction Emerges

by Craig Lazzeretti, *Martinez News And Views*

As the city of Martinez begins the search for a new finance director next month, the City Council got a snapshot on Nov. 15 about the recent state of affairs in the division responsible for managing the city's books and budget.

It wasn't pretty.

Assistant City Manager Lauren Sugayan, who has been serving as acting finance director since August, described a dysfunctional situation plagued by multiple unfilled positions, outdated processes, significant backlogs in all accounting functions, including behind-schedule monthly bank reconciliations, and a general lack of trust, communication and cohesion within the division "that broke down the proper day-to-day coordination that needs to happen to run a healthy finance department."

All in all, she described the condition of the division at the time she assumed responsibility for it as "very concerning." Even tasks as rudimentary as bill paying and payroll were beset with problems and confusion, Sugayan told the

council.

"There was really no North Star guiding how we do our business," she said.

The summary to the council came in the context of a proposal to restructure the division, which currently is part of the Administrative Services Department, into a standalone department in which the new finance director will report directly to City Manager Michael Chandler. A staff report accompanying the presentation laid out the problems and restructuring proposal.

The city is also enlisting the services of a professional recruiter, Peckham & McKenney, in December to aid in the search for a new finance director, who will clearly face a daunting task upon taking the reins, though Sugayan pointed to some strides over the past several months in righting the City Hall ship. The city has promoted two finance employees and hired four new finance staff, reducing its reliance

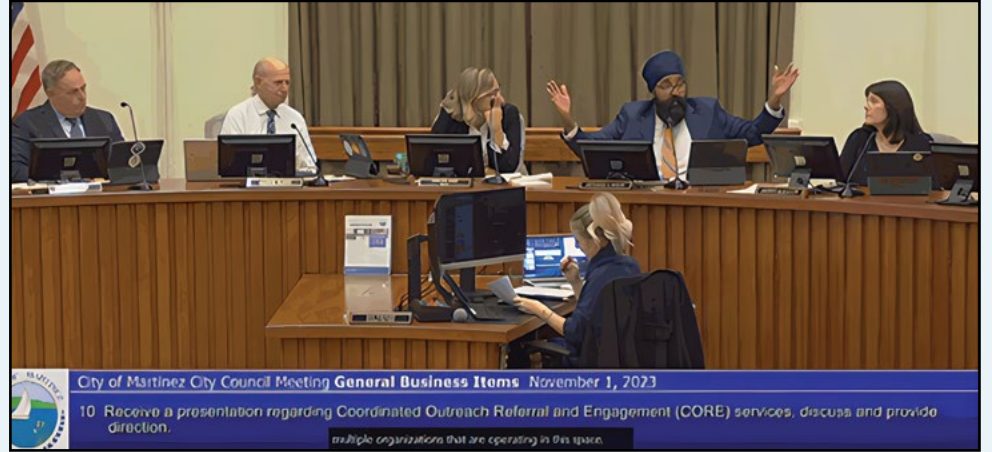


Photo: City of Martinez City Council Credit: Contra Costa News

on temporary workers who had been carrying out most of the division's functions, she said.

"That's all great news, but the new director will have to spend a lot of time making sure they're continuing to learn and on-board on the job," Sugayan said.

To address the problems with trust and team cohesion, the staff came together recently to vote on values and norms. "It's been kind of

refreshing that we're all once again working together and communicating more effectively," she said.

Although the job market remains tight for candidates who possess the skills to run a city's finances, Sugayan said city leadership is "fairly optimistic" that there will be some strong local applicants, while Peckham & McKenney plans to cast a wide net in the recruiting search.

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Saturday, December 16 11am-4pm
Sunday, December 17th 11am-4pm
Tuesday, December 19th Noon-4pm
Thursday, December 21st Noon-4pm
Friday, December 22nd Noon-6pm
Saturday, December 23rd 10am-3pm

Martinez Tree Lighting and Parade in Pictures

by Thomas Rimpel



Seven Local Shopping Statistics You Need to Know

Low prices and convenience are among the many reasons why even the most conscientious of shoppers continue to patronize huge, national businesses.

However practical these reasons might be, there are even more practical arguments for whittling down your non-local shopping habits. Here are seven reasons to shift your consumer habits to be more local shopping-centric.

1. Small local businesses generate \$68 of local economic return

for every \$100 spent with them. Meanwhile, spending the same amount at a non-local business like a national chain only generates \$43.

2. Over \$9.3 billion would be directly returned to our economy if every US family spent just \$10 a month at a local business according to Huff Post.

3. Businesses with fewer than 100 employees make up 98.2% of all US employers, and businesses with fewer than 20 employees make up 89% of US employers. Local

shopping means, indirectly or directly, that you are not only keeping community businesses open but also community members employed.

4. Small businesses donate 250% more than large businesses to community causes. Additionally, 52% were planning to donate to charity. So, when you shop with local businesses, you're putting money back into your community's economy, but not simply in a nondescript, economical way.

5. Low sales or limited cash flow, due to lack of business, responsible for 25% of local business closures. We all need to do some more local shopping if we want this disheartening statistic to change.

6. Of Americans' shopping budgets, 65%, is still spent in-store. This shopping statistic indicates that online shopping is not near the threat to local businesses as large retail chains are. Consumers still majorly hesitate in making online purchases. The primary reasons given for this are shipping costs, the inability to try the product in advance of the purchase, difficult to return processes, and concerns about privacy.

7. According to a consumer poll, 61% shop at local businesses because of their unique product



selection. This is the most cited reason for choosing a small business over a large chain.

Although few consumers can shift their spending to local business shopping exclusively, buying a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop instead of Starbucks, or visiting a trusted garage instead of Pep Boys can be a boon to your local economy and even the environment. Participating in local shopping events such as Sip and Shops, or Santa Beer Crawl, and others is equally important. Even a positive Google or Yelp review can lead to more local business for your home community.

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Veterinarian Continued from p.8

“I like acupuncture,” she said. “It can be used for many conditions. I use it to treat dogs with arthritis and joint inflammation. For example,

dogs with hip dysplasia or degenerative joint disease are good candidates for acupuncture. Dogs with chronic back pain and even dogs with serious spinal cord conditions can also benefit from acupuncture.”

“But you also use Western Medicine?”

“Yes, even I have had a knee replaced,” she joked. “Although acupuncture can reduce pain and inflammation associated with many medical conditions, traditional medicine is the first line of treatment for infection, cancer, and major organ disease. However, some issues associated with cancer, or the side effects of cancer treatment (chemotherapy and radiation) such as tissue inflammation, nausea, and decreased appetite, can be helped using acupuncture.”

“Dogs with diabetes, kidney or liver failure, pancreatitis, Cushing’s disease, and Addison’s disease have experienced a decrease in nausea and increase in appetite after acupuncture sessions. I believe that if acupuncture or acupressure cannot cure a dog’s condition, they may at least make it more tolerable.”

“And what about Herbal Therapy, how does that work?”

“It’s a huge industry and gets better by the year as we learn more and more about herbal approaches. They have been developed for managing almost all conditions that currently challenge conventional veterinary medicine, including epilepsy, chronic kidney failure, hormonal disorders, allergic skin disease, liver failure, and inflammatory bowel disease. Other herbs may simply support the normal function of healthy organs by acting as tonics.”

also worked with some extraordinary exotic birds. But one of my more unusual patients was a female tortoise that was unable to lay her eggs.”

Among her many experiences, perhaps the most surprising was with a dog.

“I had to do surgery on a dog that had a stomach obstruction and when I made the first deep incision, I saw this blue eye looking straight at me. I almost had to get out the medical dictionary. Then I realized what it was; the dog had swallowed a rubber ducky!”

I could have listened for hours to this energetic and passionate lady. She explained that in addition to working as a vet, it was essential to be a warm, caring and sensitive human being.

“I must never forget,” she said, “there is an owner attached to each pet.”

Wendy continues to work her four Shetland sheepdogs, together with two White Dorper sheep on her land in Clayton.

For five years she has given back to her old school in Davis and has created a scholarship for a needy and deserving student. She is also happy to allow serious students to shadow her as she demonstrates her use of Chinese medicine.

Wendy Wallace may be your average neighbor, but she is also a remarkable veterinarian.

Before the Lindsay Wildlife Center in Walnut Creek had its own veterinarian, Wallace did a great deal of work for them, some cases being quite unusual.

“On one occasion, I had to perform dental work on a mountain lion. I



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81 Years and Still Singing: Diablo Women's Chorale Presents "Under A Winter's Sky"

Get ready to embark on a musical journey that transcends time and tradition with the Diablo Women's Chorale (DWC). Founded to aid the war effort and raise morale in the throes of World War II, DWC has consistently performed since its first concert in March 1943.

Now in its 81st year and one of the San Francisco East Bay's most enduring secular choral groups, DWC continues to attract women from all areas of the East Bay who share a musical passion for spreading joy.

Their popular Fall 2023 winter/holiday concerts will take place on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 pm at the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue in Walnut Creek.

The December concerts will include memorable pieces such as "A Medieval Fa La La", written by Reginal Wright and performed with handbells, Douglas E. Wagner's "All on a Cold Winter's Night", adapted from the English Folk song, "Greensleeves", and the beautiful "A Christmas Star" from the 1992 film "Home Alone 2", composed by John Williams with lyrics by Leslie Bricusse.

Other seasonal songs include the haunting "Walking in the Air" from the 1982 animated film "Snowman", written by Howard Blake, a whimsical "Little Saint Nick", written by Brian Wilson and Mike Love from The Beach Boys, and "Shalom", an ethereal song of love and peace written by Dan Forrest. These and many additional harmonic songs are performed alongside live musicians with some joined by the angelic voices of a children's choir.



Director Erin Fishler brings an MA in Jazz Vocal Studies and her Grammy-nominated vocal work and teaching experience to the stage. Accompanist Rebecca Hass, a skilled pianist, teacher, and composer with a BA in Music, contributes her experience and talents to the performance.

Advance ticket purchase information is available on the diablowomenschorale.org website, and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/diablowomenschorale>. DWC welcomes new members in January and August and presents concerts in late spring and December each year.

This concert is a perfect opportunity to embrace winter and the magic of the holiday season through the joy of music — "Under A Winter's Sky."

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Sarah Norton Passes Away 144 Years ago!



Sarah married Noah Norton in Michigan in 1858. And came out west with several of her children landing in Nortonville which was named after her husband. She was an extraordinarily strong, religious and progressive woman of those times. She was the midwife of the coal fields as well as surrounding towns. She was also able to keep the money she earned from her midwife duties after filing legal paperwork with the courts. And she owned two, possibly three, homes within

the coal field area. Noah Norton left the coal fields in the late 1860s to go live with his family in Berkeley. His family sued Sarah for different things after Noah left. Noah died early 1870's and is buried in the Webster plot in Mountain View Cemetery.

According to the Contra Costa Gazette, Sarah was sought after by Morgan James from the town of Clayton to help with the delivery of a baby. Morgan James brought a horse with him to fetch Sarah Norton. Sarah's friends asked her not to ride the horse to Clayton.

Morgan James and Sarah got a horse and buggy together and made their way through the Mt Diablo foothills to the town of Clayton.

On October 5, 1879, Sarah died in a buggy crash on her way to Clayton. Her body was mangled from being thrown and crushed by the buggy as gruesomely described in this excerpt from the Contra Costa Gazette article.

"the mangled body of the poor old lady

under the buggy, with neck broke, left leg broken in three places, thigh dreadfully torn and a piece of the thigh entirely thrown out and lying apart from the limb; both arms broken the right below the elbow, and the left, both above and below, and the body otherwise much lacerated and bruised."

It is always really good to talk about Sarah Norton as the remarkable person she was. For those who are familiar with the Black Diamond Mines and the "white witch" folklore, that lore refers to Sarah. White witches certainly are entertaining to talk about, but I prefer to remember Sarah Norton for her extraordinary achievements in vividly harsher times.

NOTICE OF TIME APPOINTED FOR PROVING WILL.
STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA. In the Superior Court. In the Matter of the Estate of SARAH NORTON, deceased. Notice for publication of time appointed for proving Will, etc. Pursuant to an order of said Court, made on the 10th day of January, A. D. 1880, notice is hereby given, that
Saturday, the 7th day of February, A. D. 1880, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, and the Court Room of said Court, at the Court House in the town of Martinez, County of Contra Costa, have been appointed as the time and place for proving the Will of said Sarah Norton, deceased, and for hearing the application of George B. Miller for the issuance to him of Letters Testamentary, when and where any person interested may appear and contest the same, Dated Martinez, January 10th, 1880
 J.A.D. 17 L. C. WITTENMYER, Clerk.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Mrs. Sarah Norton, a lady 68 years of age, who resided at Nortonville, and was the widow of Noah Norton, from whom the town takes its name, was killed last Sunday afternoon by the runaway of a horse and the overturn of the buggy in descending the hill grade from Nortonville to Clayton. Mrs. Norton was a professional midwife and was on the way to answer a call for her services at Clayton, in company of Morgan E. James of that place, the messenger who had been sent to summon and bring her over. . . .
 mess and a part of a buggy shaft. This report left no room for doubt that the buggy and Mrs. Norton had been thrown down the steep declivity somewhere along the descending road grade over which the boys had just passed. And so it proved, as, on searching back, the buggy was found bottom up in the ravine at the foot of the 40° slope, some 300 feet below the road, and the mangled body of the poor old lady under it, with neck broken, left leg broken in three places, thigh dreadfully torn and a piece of the thigh bone entirely thrown out and lying apart from the limb; both arms broken, the right below the elbow, and the left, both above and below, and the body otherwise much lacerated and bruised.
 . . . the deceased came to her death by being thrown from a buggy in which she was riding with one Morgan E. James, and that the accident resulting in the death of the deceased was due to the culpable negligence of the said James. . . .
 It is presumed the verdict is based upon evidence that James knew and had been warned that the horse could not be trusted to drive in single harness, and was not considered safe to go in harness, even with another horse that was accustomed to going in team.

Edited from Contra Costa Gazette, October 9, 1879.



Envision Contra Costa 2040

Imagine a Contra Costa in 2045 that is an inclusive community where residents feel safe and secure in their homes. Where Housing is affordable at all income levels. Each community has benefitted from an equitable growing economy that is sustainable and just. All residents enjoy clean air and have access to safe and reliable public transportation. The County's natural landscapes are still preserved. Actions were taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve community resilience, and adapt to climate change.

The 2045 Contra Costa County General Plan seeks to make this vision a reality.

For the first time since 1991, Contra Costa County is updating their General Plan. The 2045 General Plan is the County's primary policy tool to guide physical changes in the unincorporated areas of the county over the next 20 years.

The Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) has led this update process, which started in 2018. DCD held 35 workshops with policymakers and advisors, 97 community and stakeholder meetings which 1,270 people attended, and 4,600 comments were submitted online.

Out of the input, four major themes emerged to guide the 2045 General Plan, which are: environmental justice, community health, economic development, and sustainability.

The environmental justice policies expressed in the 2045 General Plan are meant to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of communities that have experienced historic discrimination, pollution, and social and economic disadvantages.

The community health policies promote healthy lifestyles and reduce exposure to pollutants.

The economic development policies aim to develop the County's workforce, and support and attract sustainable businesses that create living wage jobs.

The sustainability policies encourage the conservation of natural resources, improve resiliency, reduce pollution, and protect the environment.

DCD has released the draft 2045 General Plan, where eight elements address the four major themes: stronger communities, land use, transportation, conservation - open space and working lands, public facilities and services, health and safety, growth management, and housing.

Land use will examine the planned uses for each parcel in the unincorporated areas of the County. It should be noted that each of the incorporated cities has its own general plans for parcels within city limits. The land use section looks at the development standards and density for future development.

Since each unincorporated community has its own unique characteristics and specific needs, the 2045 General Plan includes 22 community profiles. These profiles set a vision and guide to the specific needs of each of the unincorporated communities. In District IV, the community of Contra Costa Centre is included.

With these significant updates and changes, I encourage all county residents to provide input and submit your comments on the 2045 General Plan. There is a dedicated website for this work: <https://envisioncontracosta2040.org/>. Here you will find draft plans and upcoming public meetings that you are welcome to attend. The deadline for submitting comments is January 31, 2024.

Draft Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan & Climate Action Plan 2024 Update

OVERVIEW

Our Vision for Contra Costa County in 2045:

- Communities are inclusive, close-knit, thriving, and engaged.
- All residents feel safe and secure in their homes and neighborhoods.
- Housing is affordable for everyone and no one is left without a home.
- All communities benefit equitably from a growing economy that is sustainable and just.
- All residents live in communities where they breathe clean air, are not burdened with toxic exposures, and have an opportunity to pursue healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Everyone enjoys safe, affordable, and reliable public transportation that takes them where they want and need to go: to good-paying sustainable jobs, quality schools, affordable grocery stores and essential services, recreation, and health care facilities.
- There are parks, community centers and gardens, small businesses, and faith spaces available to serve everyone in the diverse population.
- The county's scenic landscapes and unique natural features are preserved.
- Focused and ambitious actions are taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve community resilience, and adapt equitably to a changing climate.

Below-Market Rate Home For Sale, Apply By Dec. 15

City of Concord Maximum Income Limits (2023)*								
Some affordable housing units are restricted based on income. The table below shows income limits for 2023 (effective June 6, 2023).								
Household Size	30% AMI Extremely Low	50% AMI Very Low	60% AMI Lower	70% AMI Low	80% AMI Low	100% AMI Median	110% AMI Moderate	120% AMI Moderate
1 Person	\$31,050	\$51,800	\$62,160	\$72,520	\$78,550	\$103,550	\$113,905	\$124,250
2 Persons	\$35,500	\$59,200	\$71,040	\$82,880	\$89,750	\$118,300	\$130,130	\$142,000
3 Persons	\$39,950	\$66,600	\$79,920	\$93,240	\$100,950	\$133,100	\$146,410	\$159,750
4 Persons	\$44,350	\$73,950	\$88,740	\$103,530	\$112,150	\$147,900	\$162,690	\$177,500
5 Persons	\$47,900	\$79,900	\$95,880	\$111,860	\$121,150	\$159,750	\$175,725	\$191,700
6 Persons	\$51,450	\$85,800	\$102,960	\$120,120	\$130,100	\$171,550	\$188,705	\$205,900
7 Persons	\$55,000	\$91,700	\$110,040	\$128,380	\$139,100	\$183,400	\$201,740	\$220,100
8 Persons	\$58,550	\$97,650	\$117,180	\$136,710	\$148,050	\$195,250	\$214,775	\$234,300

*Based on Area Median Income (AMI) in the Oakland Metropolitan Statistical Area
Income Calculations: This information is based on amounts provided by HUD and CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). It is updated annually in the spring. 60% = 1.2 x 50% AMI.

The City of Concord announced that it has contracted Bay Area Affordable Homeownership Alliance (BAAHA) to hold a Below-Market Rate Homeownership (BMR) lottery for a new property located within the Bancroft Grove subdivision at 1881 Whitman Road. This newly constructed 4-bedroom home is available to households earning 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below. The sales price of the home is \$360,000.

The new home is a single level, four-bedroom, 1,266-square-foot home, with an attached 456-square-foot two-car garage and a solar panel system. The home is projected to be ready sometime in January 2024.

Qualifiers must submit applications by Friday, Dec. 15. To view its floor plan or review program eligibility requirements go to Bay Area Affordable Homeownership Alliance website at www.myhomegateway.org.

On Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Attend the "Eye of Diablo" Beacon Lighting Ceremony

On December 7th, Mount Diablo's Beacon will be relit by a survivor of Pearl Harbor supported by a Save Mount Diablo team.

The Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Chapter 5 are pleased to co-sponsor this 60th Annual National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Beacon Lighting Ceremony with Save Mount Diablo; California State Parks; and California State University, East Bay.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony to pay tribute to the lives that were lost and honor our surviving veterans of Pearl Harbor. The ceremony will be held at the California State University, East Bay Concord Campus, at 4700 Ygnacio Valley Road in Concord.

Viewing of the new USS Arizona exhibit at the CSUEB Concord Campus will be available from 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM and for a limited time post ceremony. The ceremony will commence at 3:45 PM in the Oak Room. Pearl Harbor Survivor Earl "Chuck" Kohler is expected to attend.

The program begins with the posting of colors and pledge of allegiance by the Historical Forces Association, and national anthem, sung by Monique Belusa.

Robert Phelps, PhD, former Executive Director of California State University, East Bay Concord Campus will give opening remarks, followed by a welcoming by Cynthia Zefeldt, Administrator for the campus

Ted Clement, Executive Director for



The Mount Diablo Summit Beacon at sunrise. Photo by Ted Clement.

Save Mount Diablo, will give ceremonial remarks, and then Clint Elsholz, Acting Diablo Range District Superintendent, will give district remarks.

Alan Kalin, Colonel, U.S. Army (ret.), will then speak, followed by a patriotic song by Monique Belusa. Pearl Harbor Survivor Earl "Chuck" Kohler will be introduced by Wayne Korsinen, honorary member of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors. Earl "Chuck" Kohler will speak about his experiences on December 7, 1941.

Afterwards, Frank Dorritie of Bugles across America will perform "Taps." At 5 PM, the Beacon will be lit.

"The Beacon lighting is a tribute to those individuals that lost their lives at Pearl Harbor," remarked Earl "Chuck" Kohler, Pearl Harbor Survivor.

The ceremony is also an opportunity to honor the survivors.

The ceremony will also be broadcast on Contra Costa Television available to watch on Comcast channel 27, AT&T/Universe channel 99, and Astound 32 and 1027, or online at www.contracostatv.org.

The Beacon on Mount Diablo was originally installed and illuminated in

Shop Concord e-Gift Card Program Sells Out in Two Days

Community e-gift card program keeps dollars local to benefit businesses and residents

The City of Concord and the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce has relaunched the popular "Shop Concord" e-gift card program and quickly sold out the first weekend. The program was designed to support the city's small businesses by encouraging residents to shop locally through the winter and holiday season. "Shop Concord" helps local businesses increase their sales while also benefiting consumers and providing a boost to the local economy.

"Shop Concord" was supported by a \$10,000 contribution from the City of Concord to supply a bonus gift card with every purchase. Consumers receive a free \$50 "Shop Concord" bonus card with every original \$100 gift card purchase, or a bonus \$25 card with every \$50 gift card purchase, or a bonus \$10 card with every \$20 gift card purchase until the allotted bonus \$10,000 is distributed. The program launched on November 20 and those funds lasted two days.

It is a testament to the program's resounding success with local shoppers. "It's great we are able to relaunch the 'Shop Concord' program," said Mayor Laura Hoffmeister. "Our previous holiday relaunches have helped build growth and momentum for the program and helps us achieve our objective of supporting the local economy."

The initial 'Shop Concord' program launched in November 2020, with 978 e-gift cards purchased for a total of \$31,020 in value. Local businesses saw the momentum and reaped the benefits. Now, with eight programs launched in the past three years to show continued support for the local economy, the total amount of gift cards

1928 to aid in transcontinental aviation. It is one of the four guiding beacons installed along the West Coast by Standard Oil of California and is the only one known to still be operational.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Beacon's light was extinguished during the West Coast blackout, for fear it could enable an attack on California. It stayed dark until Pearl Harbor Day in 1964, when Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander in Chief of Pacific Forces during World War II, relit the Beacon in a commemorative ceremony and suggested it be illuminated every December 7th to honor those who served and sacrificed.

Since that day, Pearl Harbor veterans and their families have gathered every December 7th to see the Beacon light shine once again.

The Beacon now shines brighter than ever since it underwent an extensive

distributed is more than \$219,000 in value.

"The Shop Concord program has been an overwhelming success since it was originally launched in November 2020 to support our local business community that experienced significant setbacks due to the pandemic," said Kevin Cabral, President/CEO of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce. "This holiday season, this program will inspire a new wave of support for our local business community, and we are thrilled we can partner with the City of Concord to support our business community in this way."

In the past 12 months, 833 of 883 total cards purchased have been redeemed for an impressive 95% redemption rate. The cards purchased can be redeemed at any participating Concord business.

"Take advantage of the Shop Concord Program," said Sifu Steffani Tomizaki, Co-Owner/Manager for Tomizaki's Champions Kung Fu. "It's a great way to support local businesses. We have had folks have use it for classes, private lessons and merchandise."

Concord local business owners can sign up anytime for free to participate in the "Shop Concord" program. Instructions for how to become a participating merchant are online at www.concordfirst.com/shop-concord.

restoration process in 2013 (thanks to a campaign led by Save Mount Diablo) to ensure it continues to shine for many more years. The Pearl Harbor Survivors now know that the Beacon will shine long after they are gone.

The Beacon is lit at sunset and shines all night on this evening each year. Beginning in 2022, it is also lit on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. On Sunday, April 11, 2021, Save Mount Diablo concluded a year of lighting the Beacon weekly to bring light and hope to our region during the worst of the pandemic.

Save Mount Diablo has restored, maintained, and operated the Mount Diablo's Summit Beacon, the Eye of Diablo for many years, and the organization is grateful to provide this service to our communities despite the time and cost involved.





Jeff Wan
Mayor, Clayton
Jeff.wan@claytonca.gov

CLAYTON NEWS

Reflections of the Year

As I approach the end of my rotation as Mayor and the end of the year, I wanted to use my last column to review some of the things the City has accomplished over the past year. I have written about each of these as they occurred at my website, jeffwanforclaytoncitycouncil.net; however, I thought it worthwhile to gather them all in one place.

Quality of Life

We approved a resolution in support of Our Neighborhood Voices, a grassroots movement to truly restore local control for housing matters.

By delaying increases in speed limits around town, we took advantage of a new state law allowing us to preserve our existing speed limits.

We approved security enhancements for City Hall at the request of our Police Department

We moved public comment on non-agenda items to the beginning of the agenda allowing more people to participate in our meetings.

Staff Operations and Efficiency

We made several operating improvements to increase staff efficiency.

We updated our antiquated process for signing physical checks.

We closed City Hall to the public one

day per week to allow staff-focused time to work.

We polled city staff and asked them what technology or tools they could use to make their work more efficient and approved funding for several of these items including maintenance and police equipment.

We updated Council guidelines to reduce the burden on staff and formalize how agenda items are brought forward.

Approved implementation of agenda management software.

Approved implementation of public works communication tool to make it easier for the public to report issues around town.

Executed a contract to outsource business license administration.

Completed a comprehensive review of our Maintenance Department to establish a service level baseline.

Completed a comprehensive review of the Oakhurst Geological Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) activities and assessment of the GHAD overall. This work provides essential documentation as we move forward on how to address service-level issues.

We hired a full-time City Manager and filled other key staff vacancies.

We approved an update to our

Housing Element as required that is pending approval from CA HCD (Housing and Community Development.)

We adopted a policy on City Sponsored Special Events to add clarity.

We prepared an organizational master calendar for all departments to help assess levels of service.

Revived National Night Out

City Finances:

We updated our Investment Policy and began more robust reviews of our investments, shifting to higher-yield products.

We were awarded a 1% interest loan to fund the largest infrastructure work in Clayton since Oakhurst was constructed. This project will install solar for City facilities, replace lighting throughout the City, install electric vehicle charging, and install water efficiency tools to reduce excessive waste.

We negotiated and approved an updated agreement with Republic Services complying with new State requirements.

We conducted a fee study and updated our Master Fee Schedule to capture actual costs and provide a mechanism for fees to always match actual costs. By updating our policies,

we have made all future fee activity more efficient.

While these are many things to accomplish in a single year, there remains a great deal more ahead of us.

When the people of Clayton re-elected me in 2022, I made a commitment to not push for any tax increase unless it was a last resort. I pursued a more measured and prudent approach. This meant going through a comprehensive process to first understand if there was a problem, determine the scope of the problem, the causes of the problem, and evaluate potential solutions. Only then could a course of action be decided upon and executed. I wrote in detail about this assessment process in my November 3 submission on my website.

It certainly has been an exciting year and there is more to come. Gathering the information necessary to assess where we are as a City allows us to make smarter choices, have more thoughtful conversations, and ultimately coalesce around a better approach that works for the City.

After we complete these assessments, the City will need to determine how to align its revenues with its spending and service delivery and make choices on the levels of each. I look forward to the discussion as we continue to move forward.



Laura Hoffmeister
Concord Mayor
cityofconcord.org

2023: A Year of Accomplishments

As another year draws to a close, I am feeling proud of the work we have accomplished as a City. I have been honored and proud to have been serving as Mayor this past year. Our top priorities for 2023 included launching a homeless strategic plan, continuing to fix our roadways, enhancing public safety, and determining the next steps for the development of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station. I am pleased to state we have succeeded on the above and much more.

Homeless Strategic Plan Near Finalizing

With the help of an 11-member working group, we are close to finalizing our Homeless Strategic Plan, and how we might allocate \$5.4 million of one-time ARPA funds that we have committed to help address homelessness.

Road Improvements

Construction on our roadways was pretty robust this year. Thanks to the Measure V funding, we got started on a five-year pavement improvement plan. Some of the roads completed: Treat from Oak Grove to San Miguel. Oak Grove, Grant/East Street, Willow Pass from Landana to Highway 4, along

with many other areas – and we have many more planned for 2024.

Staffing

Through an extensive recruitment campaign and efforts to make competitive offers, our number of sworn staff is back up and our team is out there proactively building strong relationships with our residents and businesses.

More Tools for Concord Police

Our automatic license plate reader cameras and drones continue to be a “force multiplier,” helping our officers to find suspect vehicles in real-time and to help find missing persons and solve crimes.

Naval Weapons Development is Back on Track

Through a new public process, we were able to select developer Brookfield Properties for the job as Master Developer for the former Naval Weapons Station. We are now in the process of negotiating a Term Sheet which we expect to consider at a special meeting on Jan. 16. Then over the next two years, Brookfield will work with the community on the preparation of a Specific Plan for the reuse of the area, including various

environmental studies.

Rent Stabilization and Other Policies

We also drafted a rent stabilization and just cause for eviction ordinance, which will be considered at our Dec. 12 Council meeting; successfully completed and received State approval for our Housing Element Update; implemented stricter tobacco sales policies to protect youth; have two market-rate multifamily buildings completed and other affordable apartment projects downtown under construction, and there has been so much more.

More Support for Local Non-Profits

We were able to set aside and distribute \$7 million to 22 local nonprofits through our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from Congress. Some of the funds are already at work in the community.

The Concord Youth Center was allotted \$1.5 million to help fund renovations of the Former Big C building, which will allow program expansion to serve more youth and add swimming and basketball programs to the CYC offerings.

Meals on Wheels received \$700,000 to expand a Breakfast Bag Program to provide a total of 51,800 breakfast meals over the next 18 months for seniors in our area.

The Concord Historical Society received \$469,000 to complete the restoration of the site construction.

Initial emergency cash awards of up to \$2,500 were made available to 120 very low-income families with children 12 or younger to help stabilize their housing due to past-due rent or bills related to Covid impacts, reducing the potential of additional homelessness in our community.

Serving as your mayor this year has been a true honor. I sincerely appreciate the trust that you and my Council colleagues have placed in me, and I am enormously proud of what we have accomplished together. As the Council rotates the Mayor position annually and my turn is completed, I will be continuing my work on the City Council, just not holding the gavel and writing this monthly column.

I wish you all a safe and joyful holiday season. Merry Christmas, and a healthy, Happy New Year!

Thank You to our Advertisers and Readers for making 2023 a success. Happy Holidays from The Diablo Gazette



Unleash The Concord Adventure

by Beth Javens, President & CEO

Good news, local tourism is bouncing back as more folks are opting for the charm of smaller cities, over larger urban areas.

Visit Concord is the heartbeat of tourism in Concord. We are dedicated to enticing visitors to stay in our hotels, savor local cuisine, enjoy vibrant live music, and attend family-friendly attractions.

Time for Guests to Explore, Shop and Savor

Encourage visiting friends and family to make the most of their time while in Concord. Make certain your guests take advantage of our specially crafted Stay N' Play packages in the comfort of Concord hotels. (Most are pet-friendly, too.) Guests will be rewarded with enticing perks like gift cards, restaurant coupons, and exclusive merchandise. More details are available at <https://www.visitconcordca.com/>

During the coming holidays, start them off with sessions of retail therapy at The Veranda, Willows, and Sunvalley Shopping Centers.

Or dive into nature's embrace with outdoor adventures on Mount Diablo, Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, and an array of hiking and biking trails.

Be sure to savor the diverse flavors of over 30 countries at our culinary hotspots, explore craft beer havens, and embark on the nationally acclaimed Concord Taco Trail.

Holiday Joy And Local Delights

'Tis the season for joy and gift-giving. Drop by the Concord Visitors Center inside Salvio Pacheco Square, 2151 Salvio Street, for a treasure trove of holiday gifts, featuring delectable Rachel Dunn Chocolates and signature Concord merchandise. Explore the Taco Trail and Beer Trail Swag and support local vendors offering unique items. We are here on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

And here's a tip for your Saturday nights – until December 23rd, head over to Salvio Street Night Market at the fountain courtyard in front of Hop Grenade. Between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., you can shop for specialty crafts, clothing, music, and more from seriously talented locals.

Visit Concord welcomes new team member

We are excited to welcome our newest team member, Russ Emerson. Russ is a native of California and graduate of St. Mary's College. As our Sales and Business Development Manager, Russ will be responsible for bringing us fresh partnerships and opportunities to attract even more visitors to Concord either for a day or an extended stay.

Happy Holidays!



Dear Santa, a Mayor's Wish List

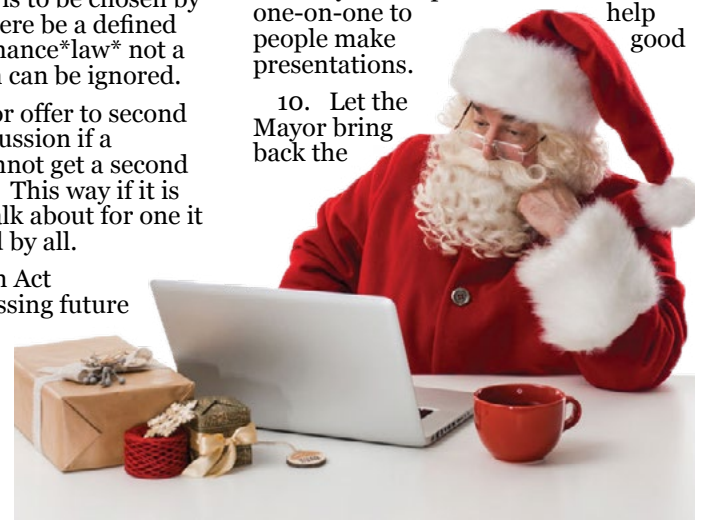
May the new Mayor in Concord get these wishes:

1. Allow the Mayor to be chosen by the people in a vote not the Council.
2. If the Mayor is to be chosen by the Council, may there be a defined rotation in an Ordinance*law* not a simple policy which can be ignored.
3. Let the Mayor offer to second any motion for discussion if a Councilmember cannot get a second from someone else. This way if it is that important to talk about for one it should be respected by all.
4. As the Brown Act restricts both discussing future agenda items as an item on the agenda and prevents three councilmembers discussing an item off the agenda combined with the normal protocol that it takes three votes to put something on a future agenda by Councilmembers. I call this the Brown Act Catch 22: you cannot discuss it unless it is on the agenda and it takes three votes to put it on the agenda, but you are not allowed to have three Councilmembers talk together outside of the meeting on a subject. Therefore, you then have the Mayor agree to give any item recommended by two councilmembers for a future agenda to be supported to make the third critical vote to get on a future agenda. This way if it is important to two to have it on the agenda, they will get the third support even though it cannot be discussed at the time proposing for the future.
5. Let the Mayor have regular open office hours on Mondays at City Hall from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. Let the Mayor have an open meeting at Peet's Coffee at Oak Grove and Treat from 11:00 a.m. to noon every Saturday.
7. Let the Mayor plan a meeting in one of the five districts at least once a month.

8. Let the Mayor offer to meet with anyone on anything within the scope of the City's authority.

9. Let the Mayor offer to go over any future public comments one-on-one to help people make good presentations.

10. Let the Mayor bring back the



Mayor's Art Gallery for students from Elementary through High School so the art can be displayed outside of the mayor's office.

11. Let the Mayor establish a Historic Minute presentation at Council meetings to help provide for a more culturally educated community.

12. Let the assignments of the standing committees of the Council be done on a rotational basis so that no one is forced to be on the same two committees year after year.

13. Let the Mayor bring forth the "Mayor for a Day" with a student.

14. May the Mayor be given the strength to deal with the insanity of those that would ignore our nation's pledge to be "indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

The above are the pleas of Edi Birsan and not to be confused with the written ramblings of request translated by ChatGP or some other anti-Santa Claus A.I. hiding in the world wide web.

Local Youth Gymnasts Compete in National "Future Star" Competition



10-year-old Jordan Nelson, Walnut Creek, qualifies for the USA Gymnastics National Development Team.

Six boys from Ultimate Sports Connection (USC) gymnastics of Concord competed in the Region 1 Future Star competition in Temecula, Calif. in October.

Region 1 is comprised of California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii and is consistently one of the top regions, out of nine regions, in USA Gymnastics.

"Future Stars" is a USA Gymnastics elite track program that few gymnasts compete in since gymnasts must be very advanced for their age to perform the difficult routines required to participate. It is a difficult track that produces gymnasts onto USA Gymnastics National Teams.

Concord was well represented as USC competed with more gymnasts at this event than any other gymnastics club in Region 1. Congratulations on their success.

In the 7-year-old division, USC gymnasts Bryson Kennedy of Pleasant Hill placed first. Ollie Harper of Pleasant Hill placed third, Camden

Green of Concord placed fourth, Fedor Ershov of Moraga placed fifth, and Andrew Bynum of Martinez placed sixth.

In the 10-year-old division, USC gymnast Jordan Nelson of Walnut Creek, placed second and qualified to the USA Gymnastics National Future Star Championship held on November 17 at the USA Olympic Training Center located in Colorado Springs. At this championship event, Nelson finished 11th qualifying him onto the USA Gymnastics Junior National Development Team (Top 16).

"I'm honored and privileged to coach some of the best-of-the-best gymnasts who are all on a path towards someday becoming competitive nationally and internationally," Coach Eric Totman stated. Needless to say, Ultimate Sports Connection could not be prouder of their gymnastic stars.



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Garden Enemy # 1, Rodents

Did you experience fruit and vegetable theft this past growing season? The number one question asked of Master Gardeners in their farmer's market booths this summer was, "What's eating my fruits and vegetables?" If the answer is not "My family", then the other answer would be rodents. If you have tree squirrels or ground squirrels nearby, forget about harvesting apples, pears, peaches or plums. If you have Norway rats in your garden, you can abandon all hope for tomatoes, squashes, any fruits including citrus, or (as my lovely wife found out) landscaping plants like succulents and irises.

Rodents are garden enemy number one at my home these days. In addition to tree squirrels and rats, my common pests include gophers, voles, and deer mice. Other Contra Costa gardeners have also complained about rabbits (not a rodent) and ground squirrels.

How can you identify which critters are causing the destruction? The UC Integrated Pest Management website (<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/>) is a great source for identification information. It includes rodent pest photos, scat identification, favorite target foods, and information on how to control pests without the use of poisons.

Home gardeners should exclude pests when possible. Setting up physical barriers to keep pests out will save you from the unpleasant task of trapping these destructive creatures when exclusion is not practical. I described my



Naked Gardener practicing exclusion.



Non-native tree squirrel enjoying a plum (photo shutterstock)

method of excluding tree squirrels and rats from my small fruit orchard and raised veggie beds in last June's Naked Gardener column.

Exclusion also works for other climbing/flying species such as raccoons, gray foxes, opossums, and pesty birds. If you extend your perimeter fencing at least 18 inches below ground level, exclusion also works for burrowing rodents such as mice, voles, gophers, and digging non-rodents such as rabbits, and skunks.

Trapping rodents in the garden can be effective but poses its challenges. It is a learned skill, but many great pest-trapping instructional sites are available if you search for "rodent

trapping".

What I value about trapping is that you know when you have caught a destructive creature – there is no uncertainty. My favorite traps for rodents are both Victor mouse or rat traps for non-accessible areas, and for garden areas accessible to kids, pets, and other non-targeted creatures, I use snap traps hidden in boxes with two rat-sized access holes.

The downsides to trapping are that you must dispose of dead, icky things (wear gloves), and that you should have a strong stomach if you wait too long to dispose of the dead thing (use nose plugs).

If your conscience prevents you from trapping and killing little furry creatures,

live traps could be a good alternative for the larger pests. My favorites are Have-a-Heart cage traps. But keep in mind that it is illegal in California for owners to transport live-trapped animals off their own property. Take them to your property line and scare them off. They most likely will not return.

Trapping and extermination services also exist in Contra Costa if you are willing to pay for professionals. Please insist that their services do not use environmental poisons though. Beneficial predators do occasionally help with rodent control, and we do not want helpful predators such as hawks and owls poisoned, right?

Seasonal Note: Late fall (now) is the most important time of the year to control future generations of produce-destroying rats and other rodents. Only the smartest and fittest of rodents over-winter in the garden, typically in man-made structures adjacent to the garden. If these over-wintering adults survive to spring, they can generate 4-6 additional

litters of 8-10 "pups" each next season. Check for rat poop (scat) and tunnel entrances around the foundation of your home, in dark, mostly inaccessible spaces, storage sheds, and wood piles.



Enclosed and lockable rodent snap trap is safe and effective.

Traps can work for you now and year-round to reduce next year's threats.

Rodent control is a cringe-worthy garden topic, but an increasingly valuable skill in today's gardens. If you live in suburban Contra Costa and think that you do not have destructive rodents, you just have not found them yet.

Email your comments and questions to: NakedGardener@diablogazette.com. In some cases, these may appear in future columns.



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Views of the Valley

Photos by Micah



Singing of the National Anthem at Veterans Day Ceremony



"Goodness Victoria" by Shaye Maxey and Jeffrey Geronimo, Concord's newest mural on the Rockin' Robbies' building on Colfax, by Creative Concord. Photo by John Grubka.



The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who were busy with their photo ops at the Martinez Sparkle Sip and Shop event on November 25.



Club "Българе" called the most talented Bulgarian dance team in the Bay Area hosts dance classes at A Touch of Europe in Concord every Monday.



Rachel is serving a glass of Epidemic Ales's DD-214 special ale brewed specifically for and served on Veterans Day to honor the military. The ale is named after the form DD-214 that one must file when leaving the military.



Early holiday shoppers flock to Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park's Holiday Boutique at the Senior Center on November 4.



Elves, reindeer, Santa, buggy rides, performers and more were all present for Concord's Tree Lighting and Mayor Sing-Along on Dec 1 at Todos Santos Park.



Are Your Eyes Feeling Old?

Is age to blame for your declining vision? Maybe you can improve it. We have been trained to believe that visual acuity (our ability to see something clearly) can only decline, especially as we age, but that is simply not true. It is no different than strength training. It is true that elasticity and metabolism can be impacted by age, stress, or lifestyle, but just as a person can remain fit and strong well into later life, you can also keep your vision sharp. But it does take work.

There is a world of vision training available but for starters, let me introduce you to a simple drill, Near-Far Eye Jumps.

First, check your vision currently as a baseline assessment. If you are wearing glasses, it is best to take them off for this, assuming you can see something. But if you cannot, keep them on.

If distance vision is a challenge for you, just look at something far away and rate how clear things look. For near vision, pick up anything with writing on it, and measure how closely you can bring it to your face and still see the writing clearly.

Now try these eye jumps. We are going to work out our cilia muscles, the muscles that adjust our lenses to focus at different differences.

To do this drill, bring your finger as close to your face as you can see it without straining. Pick a target off in the distance, ideally over 20 feet away. Jump your eyes from near target to the far target as quickly as you can but as slowly as you need to in order to keep the targets clear and your body to stay calm. Do 10-20 jumps.

Then recheck your vision. Was there a change? If you notice an improvement with clarity with this drill, do this exercise multiple times a day and watch the world continue to clear up.

If you do not notice a change, try going faster or making the targets a bit more challenging. If nothing still happens, this may not be the drill for you. There are many more exercises to try if you are interested.

If you actually notice a decline in your visual clarity from this drill, this is valuable information. There is a good chance your eyes

are draining your energetic resources. You may benefit from some support in training your eyes.

The bottom line, your eye muscles are no different than your biceps in that they need to be trained if you want them to work well, especially as you age. So, get those eyes moving.

Scan the QR code to see this drill in action.



Scan the QR code for a video demonstration.



Be a Santa to a Senior



While we are focusing on all we are thankful for, we recognize that there are many who could use a little help this holiday season.

The "Be a Santa to a Senior" program has helped provide more than two million gifts to over 750,000 seniors in North America over the last two decades. The program delivers gifts, but more importantly, reminds older adults that someone is thinking of them.

Our office will be adopting seniors at The Heritage & Plaza Tower in Concord. If you

would like to be assigned a senior to adopt this holiday season, please contact our office and we will provide you with the name and wish list for an elderly member in our community.

You can email: betterhomesasst@yahoo.com or stop by our office at 6160 Center St, Ste E in Clayton to pick an ornament with a senior's name. All donations will be due by Thursday, December 14.

For more information about "Be a Santa to a Senior" please visit their website at: www.beasantatoasenior.com

Happy Holidays!

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Clayton Market Update

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
107 La Encinal Ct	\$1,039,000	2135	4/2.5	10/25/2023
250 Jeffrey Ranch Pl	\$1,050,000	2545	4/2.5	10/26/2023
50 Mt Olympus Pl	\$960,000	2619	4/2.5	10/30/2023
1509 Haviland Ct	\$850,000	1574	3/2	11/6/2023
1104 Peacock Creek Dr	\$1,500,000	3199	4/3	11/17/2023
628 Julpun Loop	\$725,000	1235	2/2	11/17/2023
8015 Kelok Way	\$1,350,000	2843	5/3	11/21/2023

Concord Market Update

Address	Sales Price	SF	Bed/Bath	Sales Date
5795 Pepperridge Way	\$1,300,000	3186	5/3.5	10/31/2023
1911 Gilardy Dr	\$832,000	1500	3/2	11/2/2023
4493 Barbary Ct	\$1,075,000	1726	3/2	11/6/2023
5450 Concord Blvd #A8	\$335,000	794	1/1	11/13/2023
1777 Clayton Way	\$885,000	1476	3/2	11/14/2023
3642 Crenna Ave	\$860,000	1557	4/2	11/16/2023
1121 Glenwillow Lane	\$1,380,000	2624	4/3	11/16/2023

Holiday Schedule

There will be no pick on Christmas and New Year's Day.
All collections will take place one day later than regularly scheduled.
Friday collections will take place on Saturday

December

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30
NO SERVICE Christmas Day	Service for Monday Customers	Service for Tuesday Customers	Service for Wednesday Customers	Service for Thursday Customers	Service for Friday Customers

January

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6
NO SERVICE New Year's Day	Service for Monday Customers	Service for Tuesday Customers	Service for Wednesday Customers	Service for Thursday Customers	Service for Friday Customers

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FINGERS 1000MG TINCTURE FOR A PENNY

~~\$25.00~~

\$01.00

*VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 26TH, 2023
*COUPONS CANNOT BE STACKED
*MUST BRING IN COUPON FOR PROMOTIONS

VIEW OUR
MENU NOW!



**GET 10 ITEMS
FOR THE PRICE OF 7!**

7 ITEMS

10 ITEMS

*VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 26TH, 2023
*COUPONS CANNOT BE STACKED
*MUST BRING IN COUPON FOR PROMOTIONS
*IN-HOUSE PRODUCTS ONLY

**GET 4 ITEMS
FOR THE PRICE OF 3!**

3 ITEMS

4 ITEMS

*VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 26TH, 2023
*COUPONS CANNOT BE STACKED
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*IN-HOUSE PRODUCTS ONLY

**GET 6 DRINKS
FOR THE PRICE
OF 4 DRINKS!**

4 DRINKS

6 DRINKS

*VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 26TH, 2023
*COUPONS CANNOT BE STACKED
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*IN-HOUSE PRODUCTS ONLY

