



CARMEN RUSCA
Around Castro Valley

CV teacher honored by county

LOTS OF GOLD STARS ³⁵⁰ for Castro Valley schools this week.

First up, the Alameda County Office of Education has named Canyon Middle School teacher Lee Ann Chinn as the English Learner Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes her outstanding contributions, which serve to improve the lives and educational achievement of English language learners in Alameda County.

Chin has worked in the Castro Valley Unified School District for 20 years. She not only teaches English Language Development classes but is actively involved in the ELAC (English Learner Advisory Committee) and PALMS (Postsecondary Access for Latino Middle-Grades Students) programs. She has also served as activities director and as adviser to the newspaper and yearbook.

At the district level, she is noted for her support and coaching of other CV teachers as the district's English Learner Instructional Support Teacher and has been instrumental in developing and implementing the Castro Valley English Learner Plan. The district describes her as the consummate professional, demonstrating a commitment to her students and colleagues while demanding excellence of herself.

Also demonstrating excellence in education, three Castro Valley elementary schools — Jensen Ranch, Palomares and Stanton — have been named California Distinguished Schools. Vannoy Elementary also received honorable mention. Kudos and congratulations to all.



It was so popular last year that the Castro Valley Library is bringing back the secret to growing beautiful irises.

Iris expert and CV resident Steve Klitzing will present the "World of Irises Gardening Program" from 1 to 3 p.m. today. Gardeners will learn all sorts of helpful info such as how to select, grow and propagate these popular garden flowers. With more than 1,000 named varieties, there is certainly an iris that is perfect for anyone's garden.

The event is free, and no registration is necessary. For more information, call the Library Information Desk at 510-670-6280, or see Events at www.aclibrary.org/branches/csv. The Castro Valley Library is at 20050 Redwood Road and is wheel chair-accessible.



Forget crab feeds! Here is good news for ravioli lovers.

The Buon Tempo Italian-American Club/CV Moose Lodge will host a benefit ravioli feed at 5 p.m. March 7. Happy diners can enjoy three types of ravioli — all you can eat — plus salad and garlic bread.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Castro Valley Moose Lodge building fund. Dancing and fun follow dinner. It all takes place at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge, 20835 Rutledge Road. For more information, call 510-483-6929.

Around Castro Valley normally runs every other Friday. Reach Carmen Rusca at aroundcv@sbcglobal.net.

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