‘Animal House’ revived for a cause
Greenbrook fundraiser parades through the neighborhood ➤ page 18

Preserving old Diablo
Historic committee hopes restored home will inspire others ➤ page 7

‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’
Alamo residents speak out against incorporation ➤ page 5

Why they love Elliott’s ➤ page 16
Draeger’s invites you to see why we have received Best of the Best and Reader’s Choice awards from local and national media. We create a food-shopping experience unlike any other, and are thrilled to be opening our new location at Blackhawk Plaza.

Help us celebrate with festivities starting Friday, October 12, 2007

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Friday, October 12
7:00 am: Store Opens
10:00 am: Ribbon Cutting & Blessing of Store
11:00 am – 4:00 pm: Antique Dreyer’s Truck with original driver Ed Archer handing out free samples
Concert Series Drawing Winners Announced
7:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Far Niente and Nickel & Nickel wineries

Saturday, October 13
10:00 – 11:00 am: Kent Family Magic Circus
11:00 am – 4:00 pm: Dreyer’s Ice Cream Cart with free Samples
1:00 – 3:00 pm: Clover’s “Clo the Cow”
12:00 – 3:00 pm: Wine Tasting and Special Guest Appearance – Meet Winemaker and Owner Paul Hobbs of Paul Hobbs Winery
12:00 – 1:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
2:00 – 3:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
4:00 – 7:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Silver Oak Winery

Sunday, October 14
11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
11:00 am – 4:00 pm: Dreyer’s Ice Cream Cart with free Samples
12:00 – 3:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Duckhorn Winery
1:00 – 2:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
3:00 – 4:00 pm: Kent Family Magic Circus
4:00 – 7:00 pm: Wine Tasting featuring Justin Winery

Draeger’s Cooking School Events:
Friday October 12th, Saturday October 13th and Sunday October 14th
Free cooking demos held all day featuring Residence Chef Instructors: Bill Hutton, Erin Maffit, Teri Dien, Brad Touchette and Abigail Bursak.

Saturday October 13th, 12:00 – 2:30 pm
Tony Gemignani
Tony Gemignani is an eight-time world pizza throwing champion with television appearances that include The Tonight Show. He’s the Owner/ Chef of Pyzano’s Pizzeria in Castro Valley.
Demo – FREE!

Saturday November 10th, 1:00 pm
Cat Cora
Cat Cora is the first and only female Iron Chef on the Food Network’s Iron Chef America. She authored Cooking From The Hip and Cat Cora’s Kitchens. Pre-register by calling (650) 685-3704 or www.draegers.com/DCS.
Demo – $70.00

Saturday November 3rd, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Alice Waters
Don’t miss this rare opportunity to meet the legendary Alice Waters in Blackhawk as she autographs copies of her latest book, The Art of Simple Food. Book(s) must be purchased at Draeger’s (any location).
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Q: Which of the seven deadly sins do you most enjoy?

Sloth because I love to sleep. I don’t get to as much anymore with my 15-month-old. Lust and gluttony just make me want to go to sleep. So it all goes back to the same thing.

Dan Fernandez
bar manager

Probably greed. It would inspire me to make a lot of money and I wouldn’t have to get up at 4:30 every morning and go to work. I’d say it’s better than lust because when you have money you can get all the sex you want.

Gary Dorsey
tire serviceman

Lust. Everything else has a negative connotation. Lust is all good. Everyone feels better afterward and people are nicer. I don’t want to eat all day or sleep all the time. Once you’re done sleeping you just want to sleep more.

Sarah Lane
student/barista

Which one don’t I enjoy?

Taylor Vogel
student

Pride. It feels good to have pride in yourself and your family or your girlfriend. But not too much. There’s a limit. You don’t want to come off conceited.

Armando Gallegos
food server

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ABOUT THE COVER

Elliott’s 100-year anniversary proves the beloved bar has stood the test of time. So just what’s so special about this neighborhood saloon and its cast of regulars? Photo by Natalie O’Neill. Design by Shannon Corey.

Vol. III, Number 23
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**Harry Osmus**

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**Enjoy the Art in the Park this weekend**

The Town of Danville and the Alamo Danville Artists’ Society (ADAS) are hosting the ninth annual Art in the Park Festival on Front Street in Danville from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this weekend, Oct. 6-7. Sixty artists will feature works in painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics and fine jewelry.

The free event is part of the California Highway Patrol's Roundup in the Ramon Valley Unified School District, said Norma Webb, ADAS’ festival coordinator. Approximately 3,000 to 4,000 attended last year’s festival, which raised around $12,000. Artists give 10 percent of their sales to the schools.

Webb said people enjoy the event, which is satisfying for the artists who normally work alone.

“They are really tickled and so enthused,” she said. “I love it. I’m an artist and I got involved to meet people.”

Artists come from all over the Bay Area, with quite a few from Danville, Alamo and San Ramon, Webb said. Painters will showcase visual displays in oil, watercolor and pastel. There will also be color and black-and-white photography. Six jewelers will exhibit hand-tooled silver, bracelets, gemstones and broaches.

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I-680 shut down for several hours

**Wednesday after chemical spill**

Interstate 680 was closed in Dublin around 7:40 a.m. Wednesday after a pickup truck carrying swimming pool chemicals overturned on 680 northbound near the 580 interchange.

The chemicals were scattered across all lanes of the freeway.

“Chemicals included chlorine and acid,” said Officer Scott Voe of the California Highway Patrol.

A hazardous materials team cleaned up the spill, and people were advised to keep their windows closed.

The driver suffered minor injuries and was treated at Valley Care Medical Center in Pleasanton, said CHP Officer Steve Creel.

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**Danville Library to be closed Monday**

The Danville Public Library, 400 Front St., will be closed Monday, Oct. 8, for Contra Costa County Library all-staff training. It will reopen per its regular schedule at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Call 837-4889.

**McNerney to host grants conference**

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th), is holding a grants conference tomorrow to provide information for organizations about the availability of federal grants. Expert panelists will include business, civic and government leaders from throughout District 11, including the following:

- Michael Ekin, Assistant District Director for Entrepreneurial Development, U.S. Small Business Administration;
- Tom Guarino, Public Affairs Manager, PG&E; and

The conference will take place from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Oct. 6, at the San Ramon Valley Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. It is free and open to the public.

At McNerney, will hold Congress at Your Corner, designed to allow meet constituents, in the outdoor plaza at Garex Pizza in Blackhawk.

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**Passports again needed for Mexico and Canada**

On Oct. 1, the State Department reinstated the requirement that U.S. travelers bound for Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda carry a passport. That requirement was temporarily lifted in early June after the State Department mandated passports to visit these regions but was unprepared for the onslaught of passport applications.
Alamo residents speak out against incorporation

No need for change is general sentiment

by Natalie O’Neill

The saying “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” summed up the argument old-time Alamo residents used to ignite a formal anti-incorporation movement Thursday night at Alamo Women’s Club.

A turnout of more than 30—the bulk of whom had spent at least 25 years living in Alamo—highlighted a desire to see cityhood efforts squelched. The goal of the meeting was to get input, gather funds, and assign leadership positions.

“I like Alamo just the way it is. We know exactly what we’re going to get from the county, we don’t know what we’re going to get from incorporation,” said Tony Carnemolla, who opened the meeting with a speech. But cityhood supporters say Alamo does need fixing. It takes too long to make road improvements, too much Alamo tax money goes to county administrative fees, and traffic control—now done by the California Highway Patrol—could be better. Alamo planning decisions are also better made by people who live in Alamo, they say.

Still, members of the newly born anti-incorporation movement said there’s no point to having local planning control in the form of a city council, when most of the land has already been developed.

“We’re 90 percent built out. What are you gonna control? We’re land-locked by the park, Walnut Creek and the watershed,” said one speaker, Phil Erickson, who added that preventing big houses wasn’t enough to make him want to incorporate.

But future development in the form of subdivisions, privately owned land, “monster houses” and

Hearing for Windmill Farms

Decision expected in two weeks

by Natalie O’Neill

More than 40 Windmill Farms supporters gathered at a hearing Tuesday to send the county health department the message that the open-air market is a clean, safe establishment and isn’t in need of four walls.

Health services employees also made their points, noting bulk food and cut melons are more likely to be contaminated in the market’s outdoor environment. No decision was made Tuesday.

“It could go either way,” said Jason Smith, a 33-year owner of Commerce are sponsoring “Danville Rocks,” a music event to attract tourney attendees to visit downtown.

“I wouldn’t call it a block party but I would call it a celebration of the LPGA,” said Wayne Wickham, president and executive director of Discover Danville.

Town and chamber staff will man a booth during tournament play, handing out fliers and giving out information about what Danville has to offer. The local groups organized Danville Rocks to offer more entertainment for people downtown.

“The whole goal is to tell people what’s going on and get them downtown,” said Jill Bergman, town economic development coordinator.

Danville Rocks will be from 6-9 p.m. Three bands will perform on Friday and four on Saturday. Wickham said. The musicians will be playing on Hartz, Railroad and Prospect avenues.

Additionally, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley will hold an LPGA event open house on Saturday and showcase a 17-piece big band and a golf history display.

“We want them to come downtown; we want them to eat,” said Melony Newman, president of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce. “We want people to come down and patronize our businesses. That’s for sure.”

The 12th annual Long Drugs Challenge, which is being held at Blackhawk Country Club for the second year in a row, began yesterday, Oct. 4, and ends Sunday, Oct. 7.

Qualifying golfers from the Ladies Professional Golf Association will be playing at the event. Lorena Ochoa, the No. 1-ranked female golfer in the world, will be there, competing with the LPGA’s finest.

The tournament’s purse is $1.1 million, with $165,000 going to the winner.

Danville had bands playing in different venues downtown last year also but has upped the ante in promoting the music this year to increase patronage. Bergman hopes the increased promotion will make a difference.

“We wanted to make it fun,” she said.

Contact Jordan M. Doronila at jdonoria@DanvilleWeekly.com

Former coach comes home

Mike O’Gorman, football coach at San Ramon Valley High School in 1957, walks onto the field Friday night with his team from that year who were in town for their 50-year reunion. The Wolves defeated Amador Valley High, 23-13, in the exciting game. Monte Vista also prevailed against Granada, 49-35. For photos of the 1957 and the 1977 teams and football action, visit DanvilleWeekly.com.

Danville Weekly • October 5, 2007 • Page 6

A pickup truck touting a slogan in favor of an Alamo MAC greeted attendees of an anti-incorporation meeting last week.
Town reviewing plans for south Hartz building

by Jordan M. Dortonila

Alamo developer Brad Blake has submitted plans for the vacant building on the 500 block of Hartz Avenue in Danville, which most recently housed the San Ramon Valley Times.

His plans include tearing down the old structure and erecting a 11,000-square-foot two-story building.

The first floor would house either a restaurant or a retail outlet, which fits into the Danville General Plan for spreading commercial business downtown. The second floor would be used as office space, Blake said.

“I purchased it because I like downtown Danville,” Blake said. “It’s consistent with the classic design of downtown Danville.”

Blake, a partner of Blake Hunt Ventures, bought the property several months ago, he said. His personal company Blake BNB purchased the building. His plans include tearing down the old structure and erecting an 11,000-square-foot two-story building.

“I hope the approvals would be obtained by the end of this year,” said Blake. “It’s up to the town.”

Blake Hunt Ventures and Castle Companies own the Rose Garden Center, adjacent to Navle’s Garden Center on Camino Ramon at Sycamore Valley Road. The center’s residential portion is owned by Castle. Its commercial section is a joint venture by Castle and Blake Hunt Ventures.

“It’s a small town” without a big commercial district, is their priority.

Most advocates of incorporation don’t want to see Alamo’s character change, Kenber said.

“The contrary, (incorporation) offers the best chance of letting Alamo be Alamo,” its Web site notes. “By making all our decisions through a locally elected council, it is the Alamo community that decides how we move forward.”

An initial financial feasibility study shows that an incorporated Alamo would receive 35 percent of its revenue from property tax, 19 percent from state vehicle license fees, and 11 percent from sales taxes, along with other smaller revenues including franchise fees.

The initial study was done by an independent contractor and indicates property taxes would need to be raised. The study can be viewed at www.alamoinc.org.

Residents at the meeting, even with the study, they believe taxes will be raised and the burden will fall on the homeowners.

“We just plain can’t afford it,” said Virgie Jones, a 59-year resident, who encouraged listeners not to sign a petition that would set forth a second feasibility study, this time by the state Local Agency Formation Commission.

Supporters of incorporation note that if the town can’t afford it, then that’s what the LAFCO feasibility study will show. Signing the petition is agreeing that the study should be conducted, not necessarily that incorporation should go forward.

LAFCO is a state regulatory commission that prevents small districts and non-viable cities from being created. The last Alamo incorporation effort was shut down by LAFCO, before a vote could be taken. Back then it was a county agency and supporters said there was a conflict of interest with the county. It is now regulated by the state.

If cityhood’s supporters gather 2,500 signatures, the study will take about one year to conduct. If it is approved, a vote will occur, likely in spring of 2009.

To find out more about anti-incorporation efforts, contact Tony Carnemolla at 984-7006. To find out more about the pro-incorporation movement, visit www.alamoinc.org or call Chris Kenber at 838-2296.
Saving more than a home

Historic Preservation Committee hopes Diablo buyers will be inspired by restoration

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Bob Tiernan could be a poster boy for preserving historic homes in Diablo. He was cheered by residents of the exclusive community as he personally led a team to restore Casa Blanca, built in 1925, to its former glory instead of tearing it down and building a modern-day mega-mansion.

“I grew up on the street, one of four boys,” said Tiernan, and he’d been exploring the neighborhood since he was 8 years old. His parents, now in their 80s, still live there and he was visiting them when he spotted the sign in front of 1897 Calle Arroyo: It showed a sprawling super-sized mega-mansion designed to replace the stately old home, which was showing its age but had been elegantly designed for the setting in the 1920s.

Tiernan gazed at the wonderful old estate that he recalled from his boyhood adventures. He checked out the construction and found it to be sturdy and most of the home salvageable.

“I said, ‘I could save this house,’” he recalled thinking. The reality of the undertaking gave him pause, and he said his mother finally gave him “the gumption and ‘kick in the pants’ I needed to muster the guts to buy and restore the home to its original 1920s grandeur.” Now he speaks with enthusiasm, even love, about quitting his job and assembling the group of contractors and craftsmen the old house deserved. He did extensive research on the era, including watching movies from the 1920s and ‘30s to check out the background in each scene.

Tiernan threw open the doors of Casa Blanca on a recent Sunday afternoon to show he appreciated those who, while he was in the throes of renovations, passed by and called out encouragement or gave a thumbs-up. Visitors toured the house plus enjoyed wine and hors d’oeuvres on the spacious patio with a view of the golf course across the road.

The Diablo Historic Preservation Committee sponsored the open house and charged $20-$25 per visitor to benefit its programs.

“We try to educate people about the architecture and the historic treasures we have here, built from 1914 to 1935,” said Mugs Freeman, a past president of the committee. She said a list compiled in 1981 showed 69 historic homes; today only 44 remain. New owners don’t always appreciate the historic elements or architectural highlights of an older home and want to tear it down to replace it with a larger one, such as the developer had planned for this lot.

Freeman said members of the Diablo Historic Preservation Committee attempt to convince new owners to at least maintain the street view, even while adding.

➤ Continued on page 9

Honig Winemakers Dinner
Tuesday, October 23rd

6:30 pm Reception
7:00 pm Dinner
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Plus Judged Art show in the Community Center

Funded in part by UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA, Danville Branch
Bob Tiernan points out features on a portico from a 1918 home in Burlingame that now serves as the entry to Casa Blanca.

Jeanne Porter of the Diablo Preservation Committee and her husband Bob check in visitors at the open house.

Tiernan pointed out that his renovated treasure, at 2,800 square feet, has everything a newer home can offer—fuel-efficient heating and air-conditioning, internal vacuum, instant hot water heater, remote-control lighting systems, cable, phone and wireless Internet, built-in flat screens and surround sound speakers. The kitchen is state-of-the-art, handcrafted in the style of a 1920s home, with all the appliances hidden behind solid birch doors. This is the only room that has been enlarged but Tiernan retained the charms of the original home, which features make some people think Julia Morgan may be the architect.

All of the interior and exterior doors, windows, screens, hardware and floors have been restored and refinished. The great room has its original specially crafted iron chandeliers and sconces, and the fireplace patina has been honed by decades of heat and flames. The banister rail leading upstairs is the original, Tiernan noted, and did not even need cleaning. An upstairs sleeping porch is also completely original, and he said the previous owners would roll their double bed through the French doors to sleep outside on warm summer evenings.

“I pay my bills out here,” he said, pointing to the wicker furniture.

Tiernan has not only restored his home to its original splendor but has added other period pieces to the property. The gas lamps, now electric, were used in the late 1800s in San Francisco. The stones on the patios are from the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco which underwent a renovation last year. Tiernan purchased a total of 2,200 stones and loves to recall their journey, after being quarried in Ireland, serving as ballast on California-bound ships from 1860-1900.

While searching a salvage yard for a claw-footed bathtub, he came across a portico from a 1918 home in Burlingame. It now welcomes visitors who pass underneath and cross a teak bridge over the creek to walk back in time to the beauty of Diablo 1925.

Weekly visits West Virginia

Bill and Sandra Moody enjoy historic Harpers Ferry in West Virginia with best friends Jeff and Kathy Goldstein, former Alamo residents—and the Danville Weekly.

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Oversized bank deposit
by Dolores Fox Cardelli

A truck became stuck in the drive-through portion of the US Bank on San Ramon Valley Boulevard around noon last Wednesday when the 65-year-old woman who had just rented the vehicle tried to take a shortcut.

The 10-1/2-foot truck became jammed under the nine-foot ceiling of the bank and she came to a grinding halt. Both dimensions were clearly marked, said police.

The “shortcut” resulted in a delay of several hours, as she waited for Public Storage in San Ramon, where she’d rented the truck, to arrive to let air out of the tires and tow the truck forward, said Sgt. Kevin Daley of the Danville Police Department.

No one reported the incident to the police but Officer Michael Carson was driving by and noticed the mishap. He stopped and reported it back to the station.

“She was a little distraught,” said Daley, who was the sergeant on duty and went to observe the scene firsthand.

He said the driver checked out the inside of the truck, entering through the back, and it appeared undamaged. The bank had a chunk of stucco knocked off and scratches on the ceiling. Luckily, Daley said, when she’d rented the truck a few hours earlier, she had also taken out the insurance.

“I’ve seen trucks stuck on roads underneath freeways and in bank overpasses,” said Daley. “I used to work by Sunvalley Mall and I’ve seen them stuck there several times. Every time they’d do the same thing—let the air out of the tires.”

The US Bank manager said the drive-through window has been closed for a number of years.

Parents seek equal school upgrades

Measure A funds renovated fields at Greenbrook, John Baldwin, added computers

by Natalie O’Neill

When it comes to school modernization projects, “leveling the playing field” has taken on two meanings.

Greenbrook and John Baldwin elementary began the school year with newly renovated sports fields as part of Measure A, a $260 million bond, prompting parents to speak up about the importance of equality in district school improvements.

Parents and coaches of children who use the baseball field at Alamo Elementary have been pointing to uneven surfaces and flooding for months, in hopes of getting upgrades. And some feel the school is in need of field repair just as much as its neighboring two Danville elementary schools.

“Sports teams use the field extensively. There have been dryness and divots—kids have twisted their ankles,” said Vicki Koc, former Alamo Parks and Recreation Committee member.

Terry Koehne, spokesman for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, said Greenbrook and John Baldwin elementary received the field improvements because portable classrooms—used while building the new schools—damaged the old fields.

“We look at things from a community standpoint. Equity is one of our highest priorities,” he said.

In general, sports facilities aren’t included in school modernization bonds.

“It’s a tough sell to the voters,” Koehne explained.

School Board Trustee Joan Buchanan broached the subject of fairness at a September school board meeting, after getting district-wide updates on new equipment, field renovations and facilities for the new school year.

Her concern was that with all of the modernization projects in the past five years, some schools were behind in their technology.

“There’s a huge inequity there. Are we going to address that in any way?” Buchanan said.

This is an issue the committee needs to take a look at, she said after the meeting. She also noted that field issues could be addressed with additional funds.

Greenbrook and John Baldwin elementary, which were erected in 1976 and 1968, were entirely rebuilt by fall 2006. New classrooms, computers and furniture came along with the package.

The schools were given top Measure A priority because they had been designed in a pod shape that required students and teachers to walk through each others’ classrooms. They didn’t meet district size and configuration standards.

“We were in dire need when we passed the measure,” Koehne said.

The last Alamo Elementary renovation project was completed in 2000, through Measure D, and the school received a new classroom wing and a multi-purpose room—but no sports facility upgrades.

When Measure A passed in 2002, Alamo Elementary was not considered a top concern, when placed next to older facilities with leaky roofs and inefficient layouts.

“It comes down to priorities,” Koehne said.

The Measure A Oversight Committee, which advises the school board, determines which schools are given measure A funds by visiting the locations, getting feedback from facility managers and engaging in lengthy dialogue with members of the community.

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Perspective
EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Tired of campaigns yet? And we’re not even talking about the candidates running for the presidential primaries. We’re referring to local politicians tying themselves to popular causes that might pay off in November. That is, a year from November.

Supporters of Alamo incorporation are quite visible, asking for signatures to present their case to the Local Agency Formation Commission to see if a city of Alamo would be viable. Opponents of Alamo incorporation are getting their arguments out there, too. And Windmill Farms has spent the last few weeks getting signatures on a petition to present to the county for permission to remain an open market and continue selling cut fruit and melons.

The Windmill Farms effort seemed like a pretty cut-and-dried campaign for a store to prove its service to the community rather than a political effort. Until Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., District 15) got involved. He stood out on San Ramon Valley Boulevard last week collecting signatures and sporting a big sign that read: “Help Guy Houston save Windmill Farms.”

Houston’s assembly position is termed out, and he is running for Contra Costa County District 3 supervisor. His signs didn’t mention his run for supervisor but what else could have been his intention as he included his name on the signs in the highly visible spot? It was as much a self promotion as when he marches down Hartz Avenue during the Fourth of July Parade, crossing from one side of the street to the other shaking hands of supporters.

We support Windmill Farms’ quest to stick with business as usual and are happy to see anyone campaigning for it. And we are glad things are going so well in the state of California that our assemblyman could use his recess to gather signatures for his friends—with his own name in big bold letters.

Supports Alamo incorporation effort

Dear Editor:

I am amazed at some letters I have read from other Alamo residents. It seems writers are unwilling to make an effort to improve or even help maintain the quality of life we enjoy in Alamo. Comments like “There are special interests” or “It will cost too much” are poppycock!

We moved into the unincorporated area of Walnut Creek in 1972. At that time Alamo was a very quiet and desirable area, with little traffic. In 1989, we were able to move to Alamo and are glad we did. Have we seen change? Yes! Lots of it and not all good. Have we tried to “lobby” our county representatives for help on various matters? Yes, with virtually no success. The county’s redistricting plan in 2001 virtually “disfranchised” us.

Other writers talk about the “increased costs.” Yet they have no idea whether incorporation is viable or not. I am supporting the incorporation movement because it is being done responsibly. First, a study to confirm that “city-hood” is viable and fiscally responsible, and if so, then a “vote” by all registered voters after the facts are in.

I believe Alamo residents are far more qualified to determine Alamo’s needs, no matter who the county supervisor is, since their responsibility is to all residents of the district, then to the county as a whole, not Alamo.

We need to focus on how we can help make Alamo a better place to live. It’s good now, but we need to ensure it stays that way or even make it better. I have talked with several residents in other small communities in our county and none of them has said, “Gee, I wish we hadn’t incorporated.” In fact all of them are happy they did. So I am asking my friends to support incorporation process so we, too, can be “masters of our own destiny.”

Bob Connelly, Alamo

Facts about Alamo

Dear Editor:

Honest disagreement over the merits of Alamo incorporation is a normal part of the democratic process. However, that disagreement should be based upon facts, not misstatements like those in Robert Myrhe’s letter to the Weekly last week.

An incorporated Alamo will generate an operating surplus each year for the first 10 years, according to the independent study available to anyone on the AIM Web site (www.Alamoinc.org). We will not be FLAT BROKE (Myrhe’s capitals).

We will not have to hire a new police force or buy police cars if we contract for police services with the county like Danville has for over 25 years. But it will be our police force under our control.

Anyone who reads the study will see immediately that sales taxes are not the principal source of revenue for an incorporated Alamo. Property taxes are 35 percent of the total, vehicle license fees are 19 percent and sales taxes, at around $1 million per year, are 11 percent. This vehicle license fee revenue isn’t available to us or the county today—it is only available to incorporated cities.

Danville and San Ramon get it, Alamo doesn’t.

For reasons that are unclear, the small number of opponents of incorporation don’t want a more detailed study to be done to confirm the facts—what are they afraid of?

Please sign the petition to initiate the LAFCO study and let’s have a debate based upon facts, not upon scare tactics and factual misstatements.

Barbara Munkner, 35-year Alamo resident

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We support Windmill Farms’ quest to stick with business as usual and are happy to see anyone campaigning for it.
Launching a ballot for creation of a new city is no grade school task. First, ballot writers must minutely define the proposed city’s boundaries to include the maximum Yes votes and shut the door on the No’s.

Money ranks next. The various sources of tax funds must add up to a budget to pay the new city’s expenses and be convincing to the county’s Local Agency Formation Commission where sharp eyes can dampen the whole scheme. Getting past LAFCO signals when the work really starts. Organizing a campaign, recruiting advocates willing to stop playing golf or cutting their lawns, raising campaign money, and guaranteeing every voter is personally contacted and given literature makes creating a new city a sweatshop job.

Take my word for it. I was co-chair of the 1973 Alamo cityhood campaign, and was one of five elected city councilmen in the city that wasn’t elected. This was the last attempt of four planned but only three actual elections for Alamo’s incorporation, dating back to 1964. In 1967, when the Danville area was included (before Danville had its own city election) the proposed city’s name would have been “Danville,” but cityhood lost by 966 votes. Most of these self-government efforts were pabulum, as I suspect were meeting the equal importance is the political sympathy of our nearby neighbors, which can easily see the gravitational influences of Danville. Our shoulder-to-shoulder communities are the archetype of similarity, assuring a happy marriage, which would not be the outlook if, say, Danville’s coffee-drinking society that fills the sidewalks at noontime were asked to merge with the fast-growing, commercial-industrial San Ramon city to the south. Of course, the political punch that annexation would gift to both communities. No longer separate small towns but now a huge city size, its voice would be louder in Martinez, even in Sacramento, when dealing with refractory agencies.

What we’re talking about here is changing the hard-line rule of the county for the more sympathetic help of incorporated self rule. Developers lined these rights-of-way with a thin layer of concrete, presumably without county specification. Over the years this cheap construction has seen serious cracks in the concrete and water leakage, and the easements have filled partially blocked by an accumulation of mud, weeds and leaves. Who is responsible for cleaning up these messes? Not us, the county says; the supervisors have created no budget for it.

Frankly, I’ve come to think of incorporation as a fee insurance policy—insurance that the mounting costs of county government and the pressures of population growth will play minimal political damage in the town I’ve called home for half a century. There are two ways to acquire this insurance policy. Incorporation or be annexed to Danville.

There are already backers of this second option. One is Robert Myhre, whose property runs between the Iron Horse Trail and Danville Boulevard. His principal point: City infrastructure would already be provided by a proven record of successful local government. He, too, has been around here for a while, a half-century or more. One can easily see the gravitational influences of Danville. Our shoulder-to-shoulder communities are the archetype of similarity, assuring a happy marriage, which would not be the outlook if, say, Danville’s coffee-drinking society that fills the sidewalks at noontime were asked to merge with the fast-growing, commercial-industrial San Ramon city to the south. Of course, the political punch that annexation would gift to both communities. No longer separate small towns but now a huge city size, its voice would be louder in Martinez, even in Sacramento, when dealing with refractory agencies.

The difference in incorporation and annexation is like a comparison of seeing an independent doctor-specialist or going to a hospital with a hundred doctors. You can be treated well both places but the hospital can treat more complaints you should have known but didn’t. This is not to say Alamo has an unknown rash of problems, but the insurance policy we’re being asked to buy offers a bigger payoff if it’s issued by Danville.

Annexation doesn’t mean the loss of Alamo’s name, its post office or its ZIP code. Geographically, maps would show the increased boundaries of Danville but also the name Alamo. A good example of this is Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County. Incorporated in 1987, Santa Clarita comprises four separate towns—Newhall, Valencia, Canyon Country and Saugus—all continuing to have their own post offices and ZIP codes. If you ask a resident of Santa Clarita where he lives, he answers with the name of his local community, not Santa Clarita.

Alamo’s growth since the last incorporation vote has been less startling, about 30 percent, and all living in upper income homes. Which is not to say we don’t have troubles. It took three years to get the county public works department to put the tiny Andy P. Young Park in the town’s center in condition to install a memorial plaque for a dedication ceremony. Outranging that complaint is the uncertainty we have in the county’s authority to decide zoning and land use applications. Bureaucrats and laws by local developers. I spent three hours one night auditing the public meeting of the Redondo Beach Planning Commission whose recommendations were passed on to the city council. Despite some split votes, the city’s interests, not the county’s, dominated the proceedings.

It was a valuable lesson. The negativity in Alamo’s past incorporation efforts was a misunderstanding of the role local decision making plays in local society. The closer Alamo can get to home rule —either as an independent city or annexed by Danville—the better opportunity it has to perpetuate the special qualities of our life here in the friendly, beautiful and comfortable community of Alamo.

Roy S. Bloss is a 52-year resident of Alamo. In 1973 co-chairman of San Ramon Valley’s campaign to incorporate as a city; author of numerous history books; co-founder in 1975 of San Ramon Valley History Society; and president of Association for the Preservation of Danville Boulevard.
**POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS**

**POLICE LOG**

The Danville Police Department made the following information available from its incident summary report:

**Wednesday, Sept. 26**
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on St. George Rd. at 8:07 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, at U.S. Bank on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:43 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Gerbera St. at 12:40 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:50 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:54 p.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 12:58 p.m.
- Battery on Danville Blvd. at 1:14 p.m.
- Felony hit-and-run on northbound I-680 onramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 6:52 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Midland Way at 9:21 p.m.
- Identity theft on Cambrian Way at 11:59 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 27**
- Auto burglary on Westfield Ctr. at 7:44 a.m.
- Petty theft on Verde Mesa Dr. at 8:29 a.m.
- Identity theft on San Ysidro Ct. at 10:25 a.m.
- Identity theft on Cambrian Way at 2:16 p.m.
- Vandalism on 500 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:45 p.m.
- Vandalism on Waterman Cir. at 4:54 p.m.
- DI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Holbrook Dr. at 9:46 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 28**
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and southbound I-680 at 7:44 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Sycamore Valley Rd. at 2:37 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Brookside Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:26 a.m.
- Identity theft on El Dorado Ave. at 10:51 a.m.
- Felony embezzlement on La Gonda Way at 2:20 p.m.
- Petty theft on E. Linda Mesa Ave. at 4:13 p.m.
- Vandalism on Town and Country Dr. at 5:29 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 9:40 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Alegre Ct. and Panaiso Dr. at 10:37 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 29**
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on Verona Ave. at 2:26 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Tassajara Ranch at 8:09 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10:06 a.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Ambience Way at 6:14 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Green Valley Rd. and Verde Mesa Dr. at 8:57 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Sherburne at 10:04 p.m.

**POLICE BULLETIN**

**Cocaine, drinking lead to arrest**

Police arrested a 21-year-old man for allegedly being drunk in public, and they also suspect he snorted cocaine, outside a new nightclub in Danville last week, said police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Officer Anthony Maldonado and Sgt. Dan Hoffman caught Travis Tunney of Walnut Creek behaving under the influence in Blend’s parking lot on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, at 1:50 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 23. They made contact with him after being informed by a caller that Tunney was acting odd. Craig said. They stopped him to see if he had symptoms of being intoxicated.

Police said the suspect was losing his balance and had a white powdery substance inside his nostrils. Tunney combated the officers as they conducted their investigation, reports said. A short struggle ensued but the police subdued and handcuffed him without anyone getting harmed.

Tunney continued to fight as he was taken into custody, attempting to head butt the police and kicking the car window, according to reports. Police interviewed him further, and the suspect admitted to snorting cocaine early in the evening. They took him to Martinez Detention Facility.

“These are serious situations that can escalate into someone getting hurt if they are not handled correctly,” Craig said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

**OBITUARIES**

**John Ruskin Thornberry**

John Ruskin Thornberry, 85, a resident of Pleasanton since 1969, died Sept. 23. He most recently lived at Lorvin care home.

He was born March 3, 1922. He was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and retired from Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Co. He served in the U.S. Army and was a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member in the Purdue Alumni Club, the VFW, the American Legion and spent 20 years as a scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America, and achieved a Life Master in duplicate bridge. His hobbies included dancing, stamp collecting and volleyball.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Phyllis; by his son Tracy; his son David and wife Vicki; his daughter Linda Heasell and husband Gary; his daughter Diane Stockwell and husband Phillip; and seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held Sept. 29 at Christ Community Church in San Ramon. Donations may be sent in memory of John Ruskin Thornberry to Kaiser Permanente Hospital-Hospice, 200 Muir Road, Martinez 94553.
A man was talking so loudly on his cell phone as he unloaded her basket of groceries and had them scanned. After the total came up, she pulled out a credit card, wiped it, signed the charge slip the checker held out for her, and wheeled out her groceries. All without interrupting her conversation. What bothered me was that she conducted the entire transaction without even making eye contact with the clerk. It was tempting to run after the customer, demand her attention, and inform her that the clerk was not a robot, as she’d treated her, but a person. But instead I turned to the clerk, who was looking rather unhappy. Does that happen often? I asked her. Are customers frequently so engrossed in their own lives and conversations that they can’t even look up from their conversations to smile and acknowledge her, much less mouth “Thank you”? She said she gets a few each day like that, but the ones that really bug her are those who only look up to say they want help out. At least this woman said she’d treated her, but a person. But back to Safeway. As much as I sympathized with the clerk who was treated as less than human, I must also say there are times that I, as a customer, have been ignored while the checkers talk to each other. What time are you getting off? How was your weekend? etc., as any co-workers might do except in this case there is a customer standing right there—me. But at least they turn to me at the end, and say, “Thank you, Mrs. Ciardelli. Did I say it right? Have a nice day!” I always respond that, yes, they said it right, whether they did or not. (I think it would be easier, for all of us, if they went back to the generic “Ma’am.” You, Mrs. Jones, may not understand.)

But usually the clerks do focus on the customer. Did you find everything all right? No? Jason, please run and find a quart of peanut oil for this customer. And some seem to enjoy their jobs and their customers. Just as some customers act as though the interaction at the checkout stand is the highlight of their day. Put down the cell phone and live in the moment. I find the interaction can be pleasant—and informative. Did you know that some shoppers spend more than $1,000 at one crack buying groceries?

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli can be e-mailed at editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.
Original owner Hiram Elliott wouldn’t turn the saloon into a speakeasy during prohibition, so the bar became an ice cream parlor in the 1920s.

Elliott’s was called Eagle Bar until the 1920s and today the sign is a landmark on Hartz Avenue. It’s frequented by war vets in the early afternoon, a blue collar crew in the evening, and singles at night.

Regular Jim Lennon jokes with bartender Ruthie Nelson during the weekday cocktail hour, where draft beers are an unheard of $2.50.

Current owner Dale Stockbridge chats with one customer about the bar’s quote book, which contains funny and outlandish one-liners from staff and patrons from over the years.
The afternoon barflies were turning out to be a bunch of straight-talking, wise-cracking blue collar joes. Just the way Elliott's bartender Ruthie Nelson likes 'em.

A mixed bag of proud old war vets, hard-skinned curmudgeons and familiar friendly faces out the male-to-female ratio at a bar which typically stands on a Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Hen; 15; Ruthie: I'm looking up from the tonic she was mixing, the no-nonsense bartender—who's an ex-Marine herself—caught me gazing at her way out. "Are you leavin' me?" she said, with a big warm smile. With a nod, "Oh, you're breakin' my heart."

Ruthie and her throng of loyal daytime guys are one of many casts of characters Elliott's Bar, which is turning 80 this year, has hosted over the last century.

Ruthie's our favorite. Nobody messes with Ruthie," claimed Bob Harris, who comes by in the afternoon during the week.

The wide, no-nonsense bar, stressing the need for a woman's touch. "I'm treated like you're family, she said. "I've seen sports bars that are just plastic," he said, "It's just new faces," Stockbridge says.

A fabled past
If there's one thing Elliott's has, it's a past. And, oh, the stories.

The bar was originally called Lawless Saloon and was bought by Hiram Elliott, a horse jockey, in 1907. Back then, it was called Eagle Bar and was on Front Street until it moved to Hartz around 1915.

"Hiram did buy land there from his father-in-law, John Hartz. It's altogether possible that the elder Hartz helped him get those properties," said Beverly Lane, a San Ramon Valley historian.

After Hiram passed away, Elliott's was supervised by his widow Tillie. Her sons Duane and Gordon worked seven days a week behind the bar.

Rumor has it, Tillie was a stickler. She lived in a house that would now be behind Primo's restaurant and, before development in Danville, she could see the saloon from her doorstep. If Duane and Gordon turned off the lights of the bar too soon "she'd either be on the phone or down here" to make sure they didn't close early, current owner Dale Stockbridge said.

Between prohibition, the family kept the business alive by turning it into an ice cream parlor, as opposed to selling liquor out the back as some saloons did.

In 1925, the bar was a popular spot for volunteer firefighters, as it was just a hop and a skip from the fire station on Hartz.

Over the years, Stockbridge has heard stories about this scene.

"The fire alarm would go off and the place would clear out. They would leave their drinks and their money at the bar and go fight the fire. When they came back, everything would be how they left it," he said.

Patrons used to ride their horses to the bar and one man was even arrested for trying to ride his horse drunk. "Police would hide away, but let the horse—who knew the route home—go free," Stockbridge said.

The Elliott family sold the bar to Vera Hutchison and Tony Glenn, a former Oakland Raider, in early 1977, according to "Historical Persons and Places in the San Ramon Valley" by Virgie Jones. This was three months after the current owner started working there as a bartender. It was no surprise to see members of the football team hanging around Elliott's in the 1970s. It was the mid 1970s when the hours were extended from around 8 o'clock until 2 a.m.

Since then, the bar has picked up popularity, in part due to the extended hours and its transition into a popular nightlife meeting point for singles in the Valley.

Historians say the playwright was sober when living at the Tao House, where no liquor was allowed. It was most likely his son, Eugene O'Neill Jr, who was making the appearances at Elliott's.

As for what's changed over the years? "It's just new faces," Stockbridge says.

Today, customers and employees explain there are several different groups that frequent the bar.

"There's three different shifts to this drinkin' factory," Ruthie said.

First there is the early shift, with typically retired men and war veterans, or "cranky old bastards" as one customer put it. Evidence of a strong vet following hangs on the wall in the form of a sticker that reads, "Give war a chance."

Then comes the cocktail crowd around 3 p.m., mostly hard-working blue collar guys celebrating the end of a workday. This is a jeans and T-shirts, Budweiser type of pow wow.

After that, there's the night scene. Depending on the evening, this can be a complete transition. There are more singles, women and often young people home from college. There's more music. And more shots.

On this particular Tuesday afternoon, however, there was hardly a raucous word in the room. A few jokes bounced back and forth. Beers were sipped. Some sort of sports game was on T.V.

Between a frequent "What-can-I-get-you-honey?" from Ruthie, the conversation turned to the typical subject of wood staining, when one regular summed up why patrons adore the bar so much.

"Everybody knows everybody," regular John Musante said. Then a pause. "This place is special."

Seems some of the wisecracking straight-talkers had a soft side after all—at least when it came to reminiscing about their favorite neighborhood watering hole.

For birthdays, bridal showers or friends who want to have a unique party—arrange a private party at Bollinger Nail Salon.
There are a lot of things one might see on any given night on St. Helena Drive in the Greenbrook Neighborhood of Danville. A parade, complete with prom queens, togas and a “Deathmobile,” doesn’t usually fall on that list.

But such was the case when a group of Greenbrook Elementary School families held an “Animal House” party as part of a fund-raising effort to support the school. Last spring, six families banded together to offer a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be a part of John Landis’ classic comedy, right in their own neighborhood. The party created some of the highest bidding of the night during the school’s annual auction and once it was sold, the planning got under way.

It all culminated on a Saturday night in September when the families who bought the party arrived at the Gamma Beta Rho Sorority house (actually the home of Greg and Kelly Sharkey). The “pledges” all had to wear beanies and go through hazing before taking part in the Faber College Homecoming Parade.

Lea McSweeney, one of the planners, went throughout the neighborhood in the days beforehand and left fliers for the residents, asking them to help make the parade special by coming out and waving at the group as it marched by. So on Saturday night, several dozen residents were out on the sides of the road for the event. It was an extraordinary effort, which even featured members of the Charlotte Wood Middle School music program providing a marching band to complete the scene.

Of course the icing on the cake was the appearance of the Deathmobile. A black Suburban decorated with fangs and towing an actual float. Those familiar with the movie will remember that the float held an occupant. Dennis McSweeney filled in for the late John Belushi as Bluto Blutarsky, popping out of the cake-shaped float in full pirate regalia and leading the partygoers into the “cafeteria” of the Delta House.

“It was a great night. There were lots of costume changes, and some surprises,” said Lea McSweeney. “I think everybody had a lot of fun. It was fun for us to do it.”

While this group of party planners—which also includes the Letts, Simonich, Esch and Teevens families—has earned quite a reputation as throwing the party to bid on at the school’s annual auction, the Animal House party was very likely their swan song.

“A lot of our kids have moved on to Charlotte Wood, so we’re going to have to start doing things there,” said McSweeney.

Looking around at all of the toga clad people laughing and chatting in front of her “frat house” she laughed and said, “But we are definitely going out with a bang.”

Famous John Belushi role reprised for school fundraiser

Story and photos by Geoff Gillette

Danville hosts ‘Animal House’ parade

Jim Garrahan pushes his wife Julie in a shopping cart, recreating one of the more memorable scenes from the 1978 movie classic, “Animal House,” for a fundraising effort to support Greenbrook Elementary School.

Jonelle Teevens, Perry Teevens and Lea McSweeney lead the parade along St. Helena Drive in the Greenbrook neighborhood.

Partygoer Scott Jordan arrives in full toga ensemble.

The “Deathmobile” thunders into the neighborhood.

Page 18 • October 5, 2007 • Danville Weekly
Afters months of hot sun and clear skies, rain is in the making. Cooler and shorter days are not far behind. As the fall season approaches, my culinary instincts turn to soups and stews. They are hearty meals and the perfect dishes “to warm your inside,” as my grandmother used to say.

I often wonder who discovered caviar as a delicacy … or fois gras. What ingenuity led to cheese soufflés or pancakes? I’ll leave those questions for future columns but stews … I get stews. Stews were obviously created by a woman—a woman trying to use up all the leftover, less-than-fresh-picked vegetables, or a trying to use up all the leftover, less-than-fresh-picked vegetables, or a woman trying to improve the flavor of some tough, smoke-dried bear, tiger or buffalo meat. As for my grandmother used to say.

“...to warm your inside,” according to Wikipedia. “The ingredients of a stew may be cut into larger pieces than those of a soup and retain more of their individual flavors; a stew may have thicker liquid than a soup, and more liquid than a casserole; a stew is more likely to be eaten as a main course than as a starter, unlike soup; and a stew can be cooked on either the stovetop or in the oven, while casseroles are almost always cooked in the oven, and soups are almost always cooked on the stove top.” Sounds reasonable to me...

“Like soups, stews are very forgiving, which means you can be creative in the proportion of ingredients and mix of combinations you use. That allows for a lot of culinary license to create your own recipes, something a cook loves to do. The key to great stews is allowing them to simmer for sufficient time for any meats to get tender and for the flavor of all the ingredients to emerge and blend well.

So, as the cool weather comes upon us, try one of my stew recipes. Online is an all-time favorite of cooks everywhere, a classic Brunswick stew; the other is below, a relatively new addition to my recipe library. While you’re at it, try serving your stew in individual bread bowls. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the built-in complementory bread.

Jacqui lives in Danville with her husband, Nina Simone, and volumes of cookbooks and recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at jlovemarshall@yahoo.com.

Creating a Bread Bowl
• Start with a crusty, round bread, e.g., sourdough, French, etc. Use one large bowl for a family or individual bowls per person.
• With a sharp, serrated knife, slice off top of bread from top to about 1 inch down. Gently cut around the edges of the bottom section, leaving about a 1-inch border on bottom and sides.
• With hands, remove chunks of bread and set aside for eating with meal. Voila! Ladle in soup or stew just before serving.

RECIPE

Savory Autumn Stew
(serves 4)

1 large (about 2-1/2 lbs.) butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 1-inch pieces
3 carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
3 parsnips, cut into 2-inch sticks
1 fennel bulb, halved, cored and cut into 1/4-inch thick slices
12 brussel sprouts, trimmed and cut in half
Salt & freshly ground pepper

1. Heat oil in a saucpan over medium heat. Cook sausage, stirring until it breaks into smaller pieces and is no longer pink. 7-10 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon and set aside.
2. Retain 2 Tbsp. of the rendered fat; raise heat to medium high. Add onions and cook, stirring, until golden, 6-8 minutes. Add tomatoes, pepper, and simmer over medium high heat until the vegetables are tender, 8-10 minutes. Add brussel sprouts and cook, covered, about 5 minutes more.
3. Uncover and cook, stirring occasionally until stew thickens, about 10-15 more. Season with salt and pepper to taste; serve hot.

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A movie review of what’s

**The Brave One**

Rating: R for strong violence, language and some sexuality.  
Run Time: 2 hours. 2 minutes.

Jodie Foster’s fierce, Oscar-worthy performance isn’t the big surprise in Neil Jordan’s revenge thriller. The two-time Academy Award winner (“The Silence of the Lambs,” “The Accused”) has a career of astonishing work, bringing an intelligence to challenging roles that place her in jeopardy.

But remember this? John Hinckley was obsessed with Foster and “Taxi Driver,” the 1976 movie in which she played a teenage prostitute. Emulating Travis Bickle’s plot to assassinate a presidential candidate, Hinckley bought a cheap pawnshop gun and shot six rounds of bullets at President Ronald Reagan in 1981, wounding press secretary James Brady. How ironic that Foster would agree to play a female version of Robert De Niro’s lonely man. Her Erica Bain in “The Brave One” is Travis Bickle—but without the context that encourages viewers to question whether vigilante killings are the work of a sociopath or a hero.

The movie is a masterwork of craft, manipulating viewer emotions and pushing buttons to elicit unthinking responses and unabashed bloodlust. Screenwriters Roderick Taylor, Bruce A. Taylor and Cynthia Mort could not have created a more sympathetic character than radio host Erica Bain, who mesmerizes listeners with her poetic “Street Walk” stories of New York, the safest big city in the world. A vicious attack in Central Park leaves her fiancé (Naveen Andrews of television’s “Lost”) dead and her so badly wounded that she becomes a shell of her former self, a stranger walking among the living. Foster’s voiceover narration reveals her character’s innermost thoughts, and the actor brings likeability and smarts to the role of victim. The result? Instant, vicarious identification with the protagonist.

Viewers think what Erica thinks. Viewers see what Erica sees. Philippe Rousselot’s camera pulls us into Erica’s fearful frame of mind like no other movie. Tilted angles and jangled camerawork accompany her every hesitant step as she wills herself down the narrow hall of her apartment building toward the front door that opens to mean streets. Flashbacks of the attack, stylized to look like the video footage taken by one of the muggers, never leave her thoughts—or ours.

So when Erica buys a gun illegally for protection and kills a man in self-defense, who would object? When the Big Apple’s finest can’t find her attackers or when she waits seemingly forever for help at a police station, who can’t feel her frustration? As Erica turns into a “Death Wish”-style judge, jury and executioner, Neil Jordan’s (“The Crying Game”) assured direction positions the viewer with her for every trigger pull of that 9mm automatic pistol.

More disturbing is the depiction of NYPD detective Mercer (Terrence Howard of “Hustle and Flow”), a good cop who strikes up a friendship with Erica while trying to catch the vigilante killer. To this day, director Martin Scorsese and screenwriter Paul Schrader disagree about whether Travis Bickle’s killing spree defines him as saintly or sick, and the ambiguous ending of “Taxi Driver” encourages viewers to ponder issues ranging from gun control to justice. “The Brave One” only panders to base instincts.

—Susan Tavernetti

For more movie reviews or local show times, go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com
Giving drug offenders a second chance

Teenagers’ use of drugs and alcohol has always been a concern of parents and school administrators. Determining the appropriate methods of punishment for these infractions, however, is not always certain. The San Ramon Valley High School administration and athletic director, along with parents in the community, recently came together in a lunchtime roundtable discussion requested by the PTSA Healthy Choices Team to review the school’s and district’s new direction of disciplinary measures regarding students’ illegal alcohol and drug use. The purpose of the new policy: “to empower teens to make healthier choices.”

Until recently, each high school in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District had its own way of dealing with violations of the Code of Conduct. This year, all the high schools in the district along with the district office are in the process of drafting a new protocol of discipline to be more on par with one another. “We need to move toward consistency between schools, using uniform language between all four high schools,” said Scott Gerbert, Program and Grant Coordinator for the district.

The SRVUSD Code of Conduct (currently in place at all local high schools) outlines expectations for co-curricular and extracurricular activity participants, including a minimum GPA of 2.0, minimum attendance on days of events, and, most notably, abstinence from tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug and steroid use. The district aims to take the direction of progressive discipline, allowing students who have broken the code to have a second chance in order to make the situation a learning opportunity.

The new plan mandates that instead of being automatically kicked off an athletic team for a first offense, the student will continue practicing with the team, face a three-week suspension from games, and must display appropriate behavior, including no tardies or unexcused absences. In addition, first-time offenders must promptly attend three counseling sessions with an approved therapist that will be paid in full by the school in hope that the student and the family will move forward themselves with further treatment.

For a second offense (if committed during the season of a sport), the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of his or her high school experience. “The second time we’re not looking at, ‘I made a mistake.’ We’re looking at, ‘I have a habit,’” said John Raynor, athletic director at SRVHS.

Those who commit infractions in the off-season, however, are not subject to school discipline. This has upset parents who are disturbed that their children play sports with other students who, for example, wear probationary ankle bracelets for an off-season or off-campus offense. As explained at the meeting, the SRVHS administration feels the penal system has already in a sense made sure the offender is safe and able to reenter the system and participate in school activities, and that the reason a student may wear such a bracelet is really none of the school’s business. Though the school does not get involved when alcohol and drugs are used off campus (contrary to policy in the past), it is important for students to remember that they represent their high school both on and off campus.

The concept of giving students a second chance is definitely an important one. It is not surprising (and some may argue, not even detrimental), for a student to experiment with using various substances in high school. Teenagers make mistakes—it’s part of growing up, learning, and moving on. By providing a second chance, schools allow their students the opportunity to learn from their mistakes without feeling completely discouraged. Though some undeniably strict disciplinary measures are in fact taken, the school does not at all consider a student a lost cause, and works toward helping the student make healthier choices in the future.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O’Hara, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School who spends her free time going to concerts, enjoying her friends, and playing the piano. E-mail her at ohara5@comcast.net.

Teenager Sam Abbott’s friends held a memorial “salute” for him Sept. 15, including (l-r) Mac McCuskey, Hal Strunk, John Goerl, Nate Greene, Herb Johnson, Lee Halverson and Vern Neller. Proceedings were directed by VFW Commander Tony Carmemolla and Chaplain Hugh Keith. Speakers included Karen Steeper, Dawn Miller, Tom Hawkins, Nate Greene (a fellow aircraft engineer) and his son Doug. They said Abbott, 85, was a light-hearted part of the coffee group, always ready with a joke that was tongue in cheek, plus always ready with an opinion about Danville. He was a stalwart worker on the Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee of San Ramon Valley and loved to tell war stories, including to students in the Exchange Club History Club. More than 100 people attended the memorial.

Danville residents launch winery

After years of planning and development, Damian Rae Winery in St. Helena has officially been launched by Danville residents Sharol and John Tarabini. Damian Rae wines are handcrafted and available in limited quantities. “We source fruit from California’s top vineyards and then put it in the hands of talented professionals who nurture the grapes and patiently coax out their fullest potential,” said John Tarabini, president. The Tarabinis, veterans of the corporate world, say they have married the best practices of their business experiences with an uncompromising passion for quality winemaking.
Alamo-Danville Artists’ Society
This club will continue its art exhibit of local paintings through mid-November, at the Danville Town Offices. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, at 510 La Gonda Way, Danville.

Ninth Annual Art in the Park
Alamo-Danville Artists Society and the Town of Danville will host the ninth annual Art in the Park from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 6-7, at the Town Green, 400 Front St., Danville. Over 60 artists exhibiting in their booths in the park including watercolor, oil, acrylic, clay work, photography, jewelry and glass. Admission is free. Call 828-9170 or visit www.adas4art.org.

Auditions
Aladdin and His Lamp of Life
Role Players Ensemble Theatre will hold an audition for “Aladdin and His Lamp of Life” at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6. Roles that are available are 4 males ages 18-50 (one role in drag), 6 females ages 5-8. Prepare 24 bars from an up tempo song, and be dressed to move. Performances will be Saturday, Oct. 6, at 2 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m., at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. The day will include martial arts Tae Kwon Do Demo Team will host their first-ever United States Goodwill Tour of Danville to promote Danville as an international location for families. Call 828-1775 or visit goewaste.com.

Events
Contra Costa Coin Show
Diablo Numismatic Society will host the Contra Costa Coin Show from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit www.danvilletoastmasters.org.

Danville Fall Crafts Festival
Event for Danville interested in making new friends and a great place to learn about crafts. Register at 351-7605 or visit www.danvillerotary.org.

Exhibits
The First Families of Our Valley
The Museum of the San Ramon Valley presents “An Indian Life Exhibit: The First Families of Our Valley” until Nov. 13, at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Museum hours are 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m., Saturday, 837-3750 or visit www.museumsv.org.

Fundraisers
Diablo Ballet at Barnes & Noble
Support the Diablo Ballet by shopping at Barnes & Noble from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at Barnes & Noble, 1149 S Main St., Walnut Creek. A percentage of every sale made with a special Bookfair voucher will be donated to Diablo Ballet’s PEEK Program that offers in-school dance education curriculum and free dance performances to students and families in under-served areas. Call 943-1775 or visit www.diabloballet.com.

Enjoy Art in the Park this weekend
Alamo Danville Artists’ Society and the Town of Danville will host the ninth annual Art in the Park from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 6-7, at the Town Green, 400 Front St., Danville. More than 60 artists will exhibit at booths in the park including watercolor, oil, acrylic, clay work, photography, jewelry and glass. Activities will include live music, face painting, children’s hands-on art and more. Admission is free. This event raises funds for grants to art teachers in the San Ramon Valley School District. Call 828-9170 or visit www.adas4art.org.
Kids and Teens

Book Signing with Michael Hoye
Rakеств Books will host children's author Michael Hoye, from 10 a.m. - noon, Monday, Oct. 26, at Rakestival Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. He will be signing his latest Herman Tantamoxo Adventure, "Time to Smell the Roses." Call 837-7337.

Lectures/Workshops

Catholic@Work Breakfast Event Cancer Survivor, Terry Healey, will speak on "Lessons Learned in Life Are Gifts" from 7-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is $20 for members, $25 for non-members. Visit www.catholicatwork.org.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Group The Wellness Community will host a 12-week workshop for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesdays, until Jan. 23, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Parents meet concurrently. Call 933-0107.

Nutrition and Cancer Treatment Learn to maximize your nutrition during and after cancer treatment from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Learn what to eat, even when you don’t feel like it, ways to hydrate and get your specific nutritional issues addressed. Call 933-0107.

Taking Control of Your Health Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host a presentation by Dr. David Roche called "Take Control of Your Health" from noon-1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce offices, 777 Peters Ave. This event is free and open to the public. Call 846-5858 or visit www.pleasanton.org.

Holiday

8th Annual Animal Lover’s Boutique Feline Medical Center will turn its lobby into the 8th Annual Lover’s Boutique, from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, at Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Proceeds will benefit the Valley Humane Society’s Just Like New fund. Call 846-2512.
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From 9:30-10:30 a.m., Thursdays, until Nov. 9, at the Wellness Community, 3206 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 903-0107.

Literary Events

Children’s Author Day Polka Dot Attic will host a Children’s Author Day from noon-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Polka Dot Attic, in the Danville Hotel Courtyard. Seven children’s authors and illustrators will read books. This event is free.

Danville Library Book Club Danville Library hosts a book club that meets at 11 a.m., on the second Thursday of every month, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Future book selections are: Locked Rooms by Laurie R. King, Oct. 11; The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri, Nov. 8; and The Other Sideboy Girl by Philippa Gregory, Dec. 13. Call 837-4889.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a New Best Friend Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 837-7043 or visit its Web site at www.tvar.org.

American Art Dance Lois Flood will perform “Reminiscence: American Art Dance of Isadora Duncan” from 2-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4, at Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Cost is $8 for adults, $5 for students and seniors. Call 736-2277.

Free Computer Instruction The Danville Library is offering free computer instruction on Word, Excel, PowerPoint or the Internet by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit the Danville Library Information Desk or call 837-4889.

Recycle for Breast Cancer Recycle for Breast Cancer is open every Saturday and Sunday a week accepting free dropoffs for computers, monitors, cell phones, laptops, servers and TVs, at 31 Beta Ct., Suite C, San Ramon. Call 735-7203 or visit www.recycleforbreastcancer.org.

The Energy Primer for Kids The Energy Primer for Kids is a 25-page booklet of simple facts pertaining to current energy issues and is useful for adults that are evaluating energy related claims of politicians. For a free copy, write to Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583. A speaker is available for groups wishing to hear about the global warming propaganda. Call 837-7612.

On Stage

“Defiance” Set on a U.S. Marine Corps base in North Carolina in 1971, two officers, one white and one black, are on a collision course over race, women, and the high cost of doing the right thing. The play runs Sundays and Thursdays, Oct. 25-Nov. 25, at Playhouse West, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Tickets are $26-30. Call 942-0300 or visit www.playhousewest.org.

Actors Benefit Performance Ruthless! The Musical “Ruthless!” is a hilarious musical that parodies The Seed, Gypsy, All About Eve and others at 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11, at Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are suggested donation of $10. Proceeds will benefit the cast, 5050-1278 or visit www.danvilleteatre.com.

Hank Williams: Lost Highway Center Repertory Company presents a musical story of the legendary Hank Williams, “Lost Highway” until Oct. 6, at Center Repertory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are $14-38. Call 943-7469 or visit www.crcoca.org.

Political Notes

Obama Volunteer Meeting Please join other CD11 volunteers to discuss campaign strategy and volunteer opportunities for presidential candidate Barack Obama from 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 15, at a private residence in Danville. Call 837-7096.

Support Groups

Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery is a forward-looking and balanced Christ-centered recovery program for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the program starts at 7 p.m., every Friday, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Childcare available for ages 5-11. Call 925-5100 or visit www.eastbayfellowship.org.

Find Help For Addiction Problems with drug or alcohol addiction in a loved one? Don’t know whom to turn to for help? Contact Drug Rehab Resource for a free confidential consultation to find the help you need. Call (888) 649-1594 or visit www.drug rehabresource.net.

Newly Formed Proactive Group for Women Support Group for FIBRO, IFF and Chronic Pain meets 12:30-2:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. Call 234-5621 or e-mail dashah@msn.com.

Tri-Valley Parkinson’s Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson’s Disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of each month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5363 Sunol Blvd. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

Volunteering

Friends of Discovery Discovery Counseling Center has received more than $2 million, thanks to Friends of Discovery. The organization is looking for volunteers who can commit eight hours per month in the Thrift Station, 496 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call Le Anne, 837-7988.

Handbell Choir Seeks Ringers The Agape Ringers are seeking teens and adults with musical backgrounds to rehearse from 7-9 p.m., Thursdays, in Danville. For information, call Margaret at 837-6371.

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa This organization is looking for volunteers to help serve in East County. The group is seeking positions open: men and women to provide companionship and practical support for terminally ill patients and families, licensed hair stylists and certified massage therapists. Call 987-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospicecc.org.

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**Sports**

**PREP SCHEDULE**

**Friday, Oct. 5**

**Football**
San Ramon Valley at Granada, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 9**

**Women’s Golf**
San Ramon Valley at Foothill, 3:30 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Dougherty, 3:30 p.m.

**Women’s Tennis**
San Ramon Valley at Amador, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.

**Water Polo**
San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

**Women’s Volleyball**
San Ramon Valley vs. Dougherty, 6 p.m.
Monte Vista at Amador, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 10**

**Women’s Tennis**
San Ramon Valley at Berkeley, 3:45 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 11**

**Women’s Golf**
San Ramon Valley at Dougherty, 3:30 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 3:30 p.m.

**Women’s Tennis**
San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

**Water Polo**
San Ramon Valley vs. Cal High, 3:45 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 3:45 p.m.

**Women’s Volleyball**
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 6 p.m.
Monte Vista at Foothill, 6 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 12**

**Football**
San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 7 p.m.

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**Winning in a Fury**

The Division 1, U12 Girls Mustang Fury soccer team captured the 2007 Blues Cup Championship on Sept. 1-3 in Irvine, defeating Force SC, 3-0; Las Vegas 2-0; and tying West Coast FC, 0-0; and Utah SPARTA, 2-2. In the semis, the Fury controlled possession and scored early in the second half to edge out the always tough San Diego Surf. The finals pitted the Fury against West Coast FC, and the Fury controlled possession defeating their opponents 1-0 in a game where temperatures reached 113 degrees.

Team members are (back, l-r) Coach Ashley Iorio, Kat Hupke, Erika Perez, Jessica Gillespie, Alyssa Hervatt, Dana Outcalt, Ashley Christensen, Makenna Kummer, and Coach Fritz Scharff, (front) Erin Donnelly, Jaime Sporos, Madi Casteline, Melissa Lewis, Allie Dutto, Chelsea Arnold, and Sarah Peterson. Not pictured: Zoey Bauman and Rayan Takemoto.

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**Girls golf takes to the hill**

Monte Vista High School girls varsity golfer Sara Banke drives a ball facing San Ramon Valley High last week at Round Hill Country club. The Mustangs prevailed, 223-310.
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- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
- **HOME SERVICES**
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**254 Miscellaneous**

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Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, high index, UV protection, anti-chaff lenses, case, lens cloth for only $58. Also available: Rimless, Titanium, Progressives, Sunlens, Rx-coating, etc. Call 925-298-1315

Sawmills
from only $2,990. Convert your Logs to Valuable lumber with your own Homemade portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.HomeMills.com

Steel Buildings

---

**340 Child Care Wanted**

- Are you our Parent?!?

---

**345 Tutoring/Child Care**

PRIVATE FRENCH TUTORING

---

**115 Announcements**

Considering Adoption?
We match Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living Expenses Paid. Tol Free 24/7 Alyce’s One True Gift Adoption. 866-459-3369. (Cal-SAC)

Considering Adoption?
We match Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Tol Free 24/7 Alyce’s One True Gift Adoption 866-459-3369. (IANN CAN)

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**MARKETPLACE**

**PREMIUM CLASSIFIEDS**

BEGIN YOUR WEEKLY ADVENTUR

Combining the reach of the Web with print ads going to over 80,000 readers!

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**INDEX**

- **BULLETIN BOARD**
- **FOR SALE**
- **KIDS STUFF**
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
- **HOME SERVICES**
- **FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE**

---

**130 Classes & Instruction**

Daniele Boot Camp for Women
Discover Your Inner Athlete! Outdoor Exercise Class Women of all fitness lev.

e, 1hr/day, 3.4 days/week. 457-4587

Carmel@515 East
daniele@515 East

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**115 Board**

Fashion Show
The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly
Classified Advertising

deadline is:

Tuesday 12 Noon
through the business office
925-600-8040 x12

Tuesday 11:59 PM
through Fogster.com

Avoid the last-minute rush -
Place your ad early!

---

**330-355**

**KIDS STUFF**

---

**133 Music Lessons**

HARP LESSONS FOR ALL AGES

Try something new and cool this Fall

Call Bennetta Heaton (925) 846-4241, located in Danville

---

**254 Miscellaneous**

58 Prescription Eyeglasses
Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, high index, UV protection, anti-chaff lenses, case, lens cloth for only $58. Also available: Rimless, Titanium, Progressives, Sunlens, Rx-coating, etc. Call 925-298-1315

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**MARKETPLACE**

**PREMIUM CLASSIFIEDS**

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Combining the reach of the Web with print ads going to over 80,000 readers!
605 Antiques & Art Restoration
A Labor of Love
Antique Furniture Restoration & Repair
925-462-0383
Impressive Quality & Integrity of Workmanship
fogster.com

719 Remodeling/Additions
719 Remodeling

GET CRIME TRAINED

RICHARD'S HEATING
RICHARD'S HEATING

SEARAZ
Source for Environmentally Safe, Reliable and Affordable Construction for All Zones. Newbuilding, Structural, Green building practice. Lumber, Stone, Granite, Castables, Waterblasts, Electrical, Outdoor kitchen FREE IN-HOME QUOTES (925) 895-8160 www.searaz.com (Cal-SCAN)

715 Cleaning Services
715 Cleaning

133 CUMBERLAND AVENUE
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 460-0500
(925) 339-4084

Display Advertising
Display Advertising

12/2007

Pleasanton Weekly - October 5, 2007 - Page 27
825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Danville: 3 BR/2 BA - $584,900
Great Home Must See, 3 BR/2 BA - $535,000
Pleasanton, 2 BR/1 BA - $599,960
www.williamsteam.net/Gorgeous Home

830 Commercial/Income Property

Private Investor Needed
for a real estate loan. 57% loan-to-value, $180,000 6% APR for 6 months.
Call 800-456-7492x2031 for Recorded Information. DBA: Lic#01144148. Cal-SCAN

OFFICE SPACE/PLEASANTON
Office space available in Pleasanton professional office building. Great location with plenty of parking. Approximately 500 sq. feet, with central air/heat, alarm system, and like new with recent new paint and carpeting. Rent is $2550.00/mo. All outside maintenance, garbage, and water included. 100% paid by renter. For further information or to see space, please email request with phone number for return contact or call: 925-462-2600

Retail SubLease
Downtown Pleasanton Retail-10 mos Sublease w/opts 3K+ soft prime Man S. loc $4876/mos MSG 925-487-4707

840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares
Redfreak.com
#1 Timeshare Marketplace. Rent, buy, sell, review, New Intelligence exchanged. Compare prices at 5000+ resorts. BUY or do anything, visit www. Redfreak.com, consider options. Cal-SCAN

Timeshares

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Neville
This 1-1/2 year-old, neutered male tabby housecat is a beauty. He has sleek, brown fur with a big, beautiful white bib and white paws. And look at those expressive eyes! Neville is affectionate, playful and 12 pounds of action! Neville gets along well with other cats and enjoys playing with toys and climbing his cat tree. Neville (# 10667) is available for adoption at the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open Wed and Thurs. from 1 to 8 p.m., Fri, through Sun. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 479-9670 or visit www.eastbayspca.org.

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

GARAGE FOR RENT - Pleasanton
Secure indoor garage on Vineyard
925-846-7000

Arizona Land Liquidation
Near Tucson. Football Field Sized Lots. $5 Down/ 5% Interest. $159/mo. (518.959) local. Free Information. Money Back Guarantee! 1-800-662-6103 Op #10, Cal-SCAN

Arizona’s Best Bargain

Colorado

Colorado Mtn. Ranch
1st time offered, 35 acres, $49,900. Priced for Quick Sale. Overlooking a majestic lake, beautifully treed, 360 degree mountain views, adjacent to national forest. EZ terms. 1-888-664-9023, Cal-SCAN

Montana Land and Cabin
40 AC: Country Road, $69,900 40 AC with New Cabin! $599,900 160 AC! $599,900 160 AC! 5900 AC! 4280 Beautiful views, trophy elk and deer, lots of water, great bird hunting. Ideal location. Owner financing available. Call Western Shores Land Co. anytime 888-361-3006 or visit www.WesternShoresLand.com (Cal-SCAN)

Nevada 5 acres

New Mexico

New Mexico

Washington

885 Real Estate Services

UCB Real Estate Services

Ed Antenucci
Owner/Broker
Buying, Selling or Investing?
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Real estate advisor with over 22 years experience & over 3,700 homes sold!
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ed@homenisunder.com

Find Out Your Home’s Value
24 hours a day. Browse free: http://www.eastbayfreehomevaluations.com Sponsered by Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate

Bank Foreclosures
Homes from $200K! 1 1/2 bedroom available HUD, REOs, REOs, etc. These homes must sell! For listings Call: 1-800-425-1620 ext. 3241. (IAN CAN)

Roommates.com
All areas. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (IAN CAN)


THE TRI-VALLEY’S FREE CLASSIFIED WEBSITE TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO WWW.FOGSTER.COM

Fogster.com the printed version of the instant online marketplace
OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2007

ALAMO
462 Crest Avenue Prudential Relocation to P. Robinson for $1,250,000
101 Post Road Brown Trust to R. Sut for $1,300,000

DANVILLE
3044 Fostoria Circle Morgan Stanley to S. Gunson for $373,500
726 Genoa Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to T. & P. Tang for $1,195,000
648 Griffon Court Seller(s) Name Not Available to P. Police for $1,330,500

For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to: www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate

SAN RAMON

1 Bedrooms
63 Edgewood Dr. $1,595,000 Sun 1:30-4 Keller Williams 260-2508
2 Bedrooms
182 Bell Street $1,200,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 968-1452
3 Bedrooms
288 Orchard Dr. $1,199,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-5404
4 Bedrooms
1117 Aves Court $1,095,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6541
5 Bedrooms
3460 Ruby Court $990,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145
6 Bedrooms
2362 Wescovey Court $950,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 968-6004

BLACKHAWK

1 Bedrooms
61 Berkshire Lane $1,230,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145
2 Bedrooms
51 Brook Field Place $1,095,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145
3 Bedrooms
3607 Prospect Dr. $1,000,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145
4 Bedrooms
3630 Prospect Dr. $850,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145
5 Bedrooms
4370 Myrose Lane $750,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145
6 Bedrooms
3007 Myrose Lane $650,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145

DANVILLE

1 Bedrooms
5043 Rugby Dr. $499,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 586-0009
2 Bedrooms
518 Blackhawk Ct. $495,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-0145
3 Bedrooms
120 Montair Ct. $1,695,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
4 Bedrooms
3003 El Cerrito Dr. $1,425,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6541
5 Bedrooms
3008 El Cerrito Dr. $1,249,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6541
6 Bedrooms
3007 El Cerrito Dr. $1,095,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6541

SAN RAMON

108A Norris Canyon Pl. $417,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508
6213 Lakeview Cir. $629,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6541
124 Cortona Dr. $579,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6541
202 Tempo Pointe Ln. $624,950 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411
981 Springview Cir. $579,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-8411
4549 Sweetgale Dr. $489,500 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6541
440 Hampton Ct. $494,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 655-0456

BLACKHAWK

206A Toscana Way $1,080,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
721 Bowen Ct. $1,095,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
88 Shaw Pl. $719,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
2212 Maindenhay Dr. $181,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
6820 Aderbar Ct. $185,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
3161 Wrangler Rd. $386,000 Sun 1-5 Keller Williams 735-7653
27 Rainbow Bridge Ct. $489,950 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653
2463 Canyon Lakes Dr. $884,950 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653
1120 Bellingsham Square $848,000 Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-2289
507 Brir Oaks Dr. $848,500 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 683-1452

DANVILLE

3106 Tewksbury Wy. $1,080,000 Sat/Sun 1:30-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 336-6577
721 Bowen Ct. $1,095,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
88 Shaw Pl. $719,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
2444 Talavera Dr. $749,950 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
6820 Aderbar Ct. $185,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
2212 Maindenhay Dr. $181,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
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2463 Canyon Lakes Dr. $884,950 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653
1120 Bellingsham Square $848,000 Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-2289
8003 Montair Ct. $1,148,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 683-2289

WALNUT CREEK

1 Bedrooms
8003 Montair Ct. $719,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
106 Westfield Circle Seller(s) Name Not Available to Robert D. Atkinson for $570,000
3 Bedrooms
1320 Sunset Ct. $989,500 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
3663 Alamo Ct. $1,249,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411

DUBLIN

3106 Tewksbury Wy. $1,080,000 Sat/Sun 1:30-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 336-6577
721 Bowen Ct. $1,095,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
88 Shaw Pl. $719,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
2444 Talavera Dr. $749,950 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
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1120 Bellingsham Square $848,000 Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-2289
8003 Montair Ct. $1,148,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 683-2289

Pleasanton

3 Bedrooms
3644 Sweetwood Ct. $569,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
3637 Tice Creek Dr. $515,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 736-6411
4 Bedrooms
3637 Tice Creek Dr. $515,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 736-6411

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms
3644 Sweetwood Ct. $569,000 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-6411
3637 Tice Creek Dr. $515,000 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 736-6411

For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to: www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate
Jim Black
Custom Construction Lending Team
925-285-4898 Cell and Best
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1-866-410-3089 Direct Fax
James_Black@countrywide.com
www.meetjimblack.com

Countrywide’s One-Time Close construction to permanent loan offers financing for repairs and renovations on an existing primary or secondary residence.¹

- Only one application, one closing and one set of closing costs.
- As little as 5% down payment and minimal to no closing costs for qualified borrowers.
- Pay-off and consolidation of multiple liens on the existing property.
- Construction terms up to 18 months.
- Loan proceeds are disbursed based on percentage of work complete.
- Interest-only payments during the construction phase based only on outstanding balance of construction funds.
- Conversion from the construction loan to permanent loan eliminates the need to shop for permanent financing when construction is complete.

¹ Minimum project size is $50,000. Additional restrictions may apply, call for details.

Countrywide Financial Corporation is America’s #1 Home Loan Lender® and a member of the prestigous Standard & Poor's 500 and Fortune 500.

251 Montair Dr., Danville
Private and Serene Westside Danville,
Custom built home, single story 4,465 sq. ft. 5 bed + office/4 bath on 1.5 acre fully landscaped yard. 40 ft. long waterfall cascading into sparkling pool, 9,000 gallon koi pond, views galore! Very private yet close to downtown Danville.

$2,099,000

Pat Abshire
925-285-1582

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM
Sara Schmitz
Certified Relocation Specialist & Realtor
(925) 858-4384

They feel like homes—not townhomes!
Desciminating buyers looking for a home, come look at these!
Both within walking distance of shops, restaurants, the Blackhawk movie theater, and open space trails. Pick the one that is RIGHT for YOU!

1865 sq.ft. 4 bd/2.5 bath, updated kitchen, first floor laundry. All appliances included! End unit with no rear neighbors. Lovely landscaped private courtyard. Bright, light, high ceilings, spacious. Priced at $664,950
423 Sutton Circle
Sara.Schmitz@PruRealty.com • www.SaraSchmitz.com

2122 sq.ft. 3 bd/2.5 bath with spacious grassy yard. Duet style townhome with second floor laundry. All appliances included! Hardwood floors in kitchen and family room. Master with jaccuzzi style tub. Priced at $695,000
31 Mountain Valley Place

OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM
LIST YOUR OPEN HOME HERE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th># of Bedrooms</th>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Price of property</th>
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Day, Date & Time Open
Agent Name
Real Estate Agency
Phone Number

DEADLINE IS TUESDAY 10 A.M.
FAX TO: (925) 837-2278
OR E-MAIL TO : OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com

Name: ____________________________
Daytime Phone Number: ______________

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Walk To The Beach!

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Exclusively Represented by the Reuter Group. *Prices, terms and conditions subject to change without notice. Select home sites only. Upgrades apply to certain units. See sales consultant for details. Effective 9-28-07

Danville Weekly • October 5, 2007 • Page 31
BLACKHAWK
Elegant Dream Home in Blackhawk $2,349,000
Gourmet kitchen, butler’s quarters, 5893+/-sf, 5bd, 3-full/2-half baths, 5-car garage. Private yard backs to open space. Stunnning pool & spa.
J. McFall & K. Harris 925.786.3396/817.9079

ALAMO
Rare Stonegate Gem $1,898,000
Lovely 4bd, 4.5ba home in prestigious gated community w/low HOA fees. Built in 1990 with almost 4700sf and beautiful views. 3-car garage.
Michael Kwiatkowski 510.612.8008

DANVILLE
Privacy & Seclusion Close to Town $1,095,000
Panoramic views of Mt. Diablo and Valley from this beautifully redone contemporary home. 3bd, 3ba, slate floors, soaring ceilings and more.
McDougall Team 925.672.2499

ALAMO
Roundhill Country Club $1,499,000
Absolutely stunning single story with views & privacy. Remodeled granite kitchen, updated baths, shutters, wood floors, new pool/spa/waterfall, 3-car.
Joyce, Glen & Monica 925.837.7110

DANVILLE
Absolutely Stunning! $1,449,000
5bd, 5ba, 3-car garage. Numerous upgrades throughout: custom paint, crown molding & woodwork, plantation shutters, marble flooring, more.
Khrista Jarvis Team 925.855.4065

DANVILLE
French Country Custom $1,389,000
Drop-dead gorgeous 4bd, 2ba home in Sycamore on private 9-home greenbelt with all new systems, stunning upgrades & a glorious setting.
Loraine Ward 925.855.4123

DANVILLE
Beautifully Appointed $1,329,000
4bd, 3ba with loft. Open floor plan, master on first floor. Spacious landscaped yard backing to open space. Situated on .35+/-acre lot.
Catherine Kaufer 925.586.5456

ALAMO
Picturesque Lane on Westside $1,150,000
Built in 1967, 1376+/-sf, spacious .41+/-acre lot. 2bd, 2ba featuring a fireplace, dining room, kitchen w/built-in breakfast nook.
Chris Campbell Team 925.838.5700

DANVILLE
Immaculate! $1,074,900
4bd, 2ba, 3-car garage, gorgeous hardwood floors, new double pane windows throughout, updated baths and kitchen. A must see!
Lisa and Greg Doyle 925.855.4046

DANVILLE
Picturesque Lane on Westside $1,150,000
Built in 1967, 1376+/-sf, spacious .41+/-acre lot. 2bd, 2ba featuring a fireplace, dining room, kitchen w/built-in breakfast nook.
Chris Campbell Team 925.838.5700

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Immaculate! $1,074,900
4bd, 2ba, 3-car garage, gorgeous hardwood floors, new double pane windows throughout, updated baths and kitchen. A must see!
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