

Oak Hill Park plans

Town OKs design for community center by the lake > **page 5**

Vol. 1, Number 42 • February 17, 2006

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welcomes second
generation of tykes

> **page 14**

Danville

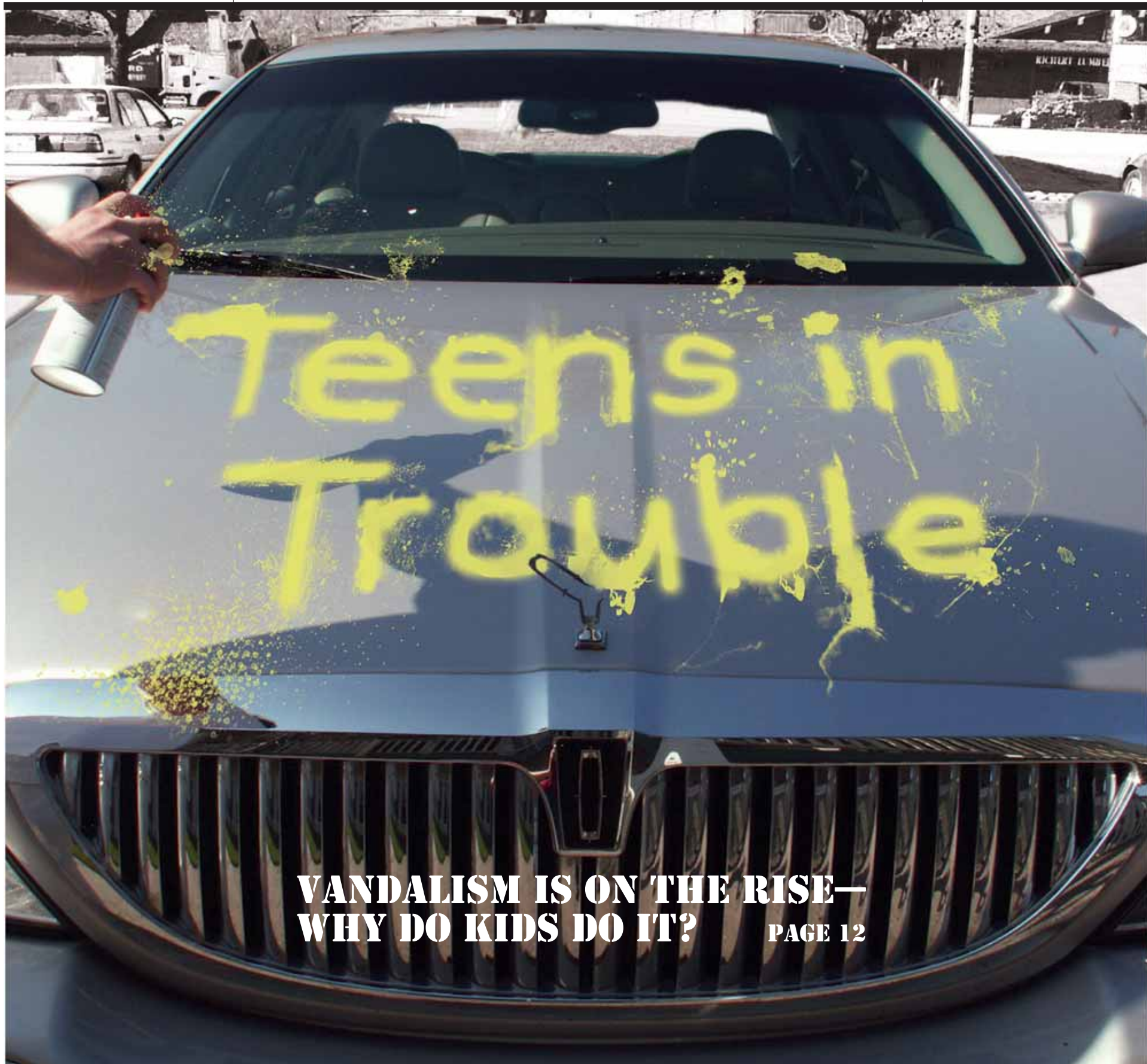
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> **page 9**



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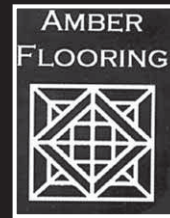
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Q: What do you like the most about living here?



I grew up here and moved away but now I'm back and live close enough to downtown that I can walk to the grocery store and all the shops, which makes it very nice. I like living here because it's a serene and peaceful place. I especially enjoy the Iron Horse Trail.

Jodi Brast
hairdresser



I like the fact that it is so community and family oriented. It's a great place to live and we definitely don't take that fact for granted.

Jeff Brotman
commercial real estate



It's a charming, quiet place with a cozy feel to it but at the same time an interesting place to live. There's a warm feeling; people are nice and seem very close-knit. I really enjoy the great bike trails.

Shelly Rosenblum
engineer with
Environmental Protection Agency



I like the stores; I do my grocery shopping at Andronico's and like to go to Trader Joe's. The parking is easy, which makes it nice. I like to shop and then get coffee at Peet's. The people here are interesting and intelligent. Also I have family that lives here.

Don Baker
consulting engineer



I've lived here for 50 years. I think Danville is a quaint place with a lovely ambiance and the people are friendly. I enjoy all the new young families with their little children. I live near town and enjoy being able to walk to all the shops.

Grace Caluwe
retired from
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

COMPILED BY JUDY STEINER

ABOUT THE COVER

Just why do teens in this area resort to vandalism? This week's cover story explores the problem. Cover design by Jason Lind.

Vol. 1, Number 42

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$25 per year (\$40 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. © 2005 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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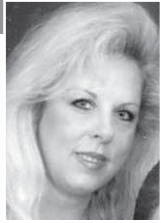
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ I’m just overwhelmed
with grief. It’s very hateful.
I’m so devastated. ”

—Sparky George, whose pickup truck was spray-painted
with two black swastikas. See story, page 12

Red-legged frog postpones meeting

Furious residents filled the Town Meeting Hall on Tuesday night and insulted the Danville Planning Commission for delaying a public hearing on developing the Weber property. The commissioners said they needed time to review new information, such as making sure the red-legged frog will not be endangered. Davidon Homes proposes to turn a 15-acre farmland that backs up to Oak Hill Park into 22 family homes and dedicate 3.7 acres to Danville. Some neighbors are upset because the original owner, Lucille Weber, who still lives on the property, wanted it to remain open space.

“Personally, it was the right thing to do to delay the hearing,” said David Trisko, a resident who lives near the property. “There’s so much more information coming in.”

But the majority said they felt cheated because they came on Valentine’s Day to speak. They also said the commissioners failed to look at traffic flow problems in the staff report.

Students reveal ‘Oval of Light’

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Green Valley Elementary School last week revealed their sculpture, “Oval of Light.” Since last year, 15 students from Jill McKinnon-Endicott’s class have been chiseling a piece of stone into the large oval.

The sculpture will be auctioned off at a Green Valley Elementary fundraiser Feb. 25 at the Round Hill Country Club. Each class creates a work of art for the auction, 25 projects in all. Last year, the auction raised \$175,000. Proceeds go to the Green Valley Learning Fund, which helps pay for computers, art programs, music instructors and librarians.

**Chance to donate blood**

The office of Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho will host a blood drive from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24, in its parking lot at 309 Diablo Road.

“I hope that all of our local communities will come and donate blood on Feb. 24,” said Piepho. “It is especially important to do so since blood supplies are typically lower during the winter months due to holiday and travel schedules.” For more information, call 820-8683.

Preview of O’Neill documentary

The Eugene O’Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service, which manages the Tao House where O’Neill lived and wrote in Danville, is arranging a special public preview of American Experience’s “Eugene O’Neill: A Documentary Film.” It was produced by renowned filmmaker Ric Burns, and Arthur and Barbara Gelb, O’Neill biographers and historians. They will all be present to give short lectures on the playwright and the making of the film.

The two-hour documentary presents “a sweeping portrait of O’Neill’s life and work, set within the context of the tormented family relationships and extraordinary social and cultural upheavals that shaped him.” The preview will begin at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 3, in the AT&T complex in Bishop Ranch, 2600 Camino Ramon. For reservations, call 820-1818.



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**SAN RAMON REGIONAL
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Correction In the story “Blended Families” in the issue of Feb. 3, the name of Tresa Griffin, PTA council member, was incorrectly stated as Tresa Griffin-Gallagher.

Town OKs design for community center

Oak Hill Park project will feature classrooms, meeting room and ballroom

by Geoff Gillette

After two years of discussion and planning, a new community center slated for Oak Hill Park may be moving forward. The Danville Town Council gave its approval of the design for the new building and an OK to staff to begin the process of seeking bids, at its Feb. 7 meeting.

Council members heard from five presenters during an hour-long discussion of the design. William Wood of William Wood Architects led off, laying out the plans for the 6,370-square-foot building. The proposed structure will be ranch style and will house classrooms, a meeting room, office, kitchen, storage and a ballroom capable of seating almost 200 people.

"We want it to be more user friendly so it can handle all the needs of the community," Wood said.

Landscaping for the new facility will be a wide variety of plant life, mingled with the redwood trees at the edge of the lot. Wood said he was working to make the building mesh with the surrounding park. Part of that effort translated into building materials. Wood said plans for the new community center are environmentally friendly, using about 80 percent "green" materials.

Council members questioned the project's effect on traffic and the

cost of construction.

"On the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) we were looking at a project from 4,000 to 5,000 square feet," said Vice Mayor Mike Shimansky. "This is closer to 6,400 square feet. Why the difference?"

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo explained that the committee members who had been working on the plans for the last two years had to expand on the original idea in order to get everything they were looking for.

"When the subcommittee began working with the architect, they began to incorporate certain factors into the plan," Calabrigo said, "the size of the ballroom, the storage."

Calabrigo added that the increase in size will have a commensurate effect on the price tag for the new building. Initial estimates placed the cost at between \$2 million and \$2.25 million. New estimates have placed that cost more along the lines of \$2.5 million to \$3 million. When Shimansky requested an exact cost, Calabrigo responded that in all likelihood there will not be a solid price until the project goes out to bid.

Councilman Mike Doyle said he knows the key players in the planning process and they are all of "high quality."

"I've been around here a long time," Doyle said. "If I see a building going up with Bill Wood's name on it, I just close my eyes because I know it's going to be great."

He went on to compliment fellow council members Newell Americh



WILLIAM WOOD ARCHITECT

and Candace Andersen for their role in the planning. They, along with members of the Parks and Leisure Services Commission, the Arts Commission, town staff and consultants were responsible for the design for the new community center.

After further discussion, Shimansky summed up his feelings on the project.

"I've been a little negative on some of the things," he said. "I love the diagonal parking, I love the green building; 80 percent I think is great. I have some concerns about the size. I think it's too big for Oak Hill Park. I think it's too expensive to be putting in our park."

"But if I'm weighing everything, I think it's pretty good and I can support it."

Andersen moved to approve the design plan, Doyle seconded it, and the plan was approved unanimously. ■



DOLores FOX CARDELLI

A rendering of the design for the new community center (above), which will replace the current building at Oak Hill Park.

Parking lot plans

Planning to begin on school district land on Stone Valley

by Jordan M. Doronila

Trustees unanimously approved a resolution to hire consultants to plan the new parking lot at Monte Vista High School at last week's school board meeting.

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District will now begin designs for a new parking lot to make more room for Monte Vista students who drive to school. Also, school officials are considering placing a signal in the appropriate spot, board members said.

"We're giving them a place to park that's safe," said Trustee Joan Buchanan.

She said the district is working with several consultants to plan the new lot, and a final design should be ready within the next couple of months. The district plans to build 400 new parking spaces across Stone Valley Road from



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Robert Storer, who has been lauded for his Willow Commons affordable housing project, with one of its residents, Clara Mae Emmel.

Storer lauded for housing project

Developer says grandfather was his inspiration

by Jordan M. Doronila

Aladino Pellegrini built an enduring home, made of a strong work ethic, honesty and firm handshakes, that provided wealth for his impoverished family in Hayward. Naturally, his grandson Robert Storer—now a Danville developer and resident—wanted to build on what his grandfather had started.

"There's not a day I don't think about him," Storer said.

So he, his brother David Storer and Bob Morris built Willow Commons, an affordable housing complex for the elderly and disabled in Danville. And he serves as a diver for the Sheriff's Office and dove in the water near Alameda looking for the car of Zehra Attari, an Oakland pediatrician who died in an underwater accident a few months ago.

"My whole life was about doing the right thing," he said.

State Sen. Tom Torlakson (D., Antioch) recently granted Storer the Contra Costa County Affordable Housing for Every Generation Award for his local project. Every Generation is a nonprofit organization that seeks to create friendly communities for the elderly.

Storer, who has been on the Danville Planning Commission since 2000, will receive the national award March 6.

Also, the Danville Chamber of Commerce named him Businessman of the Year at its installation and award ceremony at the Diablo Country Club a couple of weeks ago.

Storer, co-owner of Pellegrini Construction in San Leandro, opened Willow Commons, a 22-unit complex at the eastern end of Hartz Way, in December.

He said he promoted his local project to Livermore and that city looked at his housing complex as a model to create apartments in a reasonable price range. Now he has partnered

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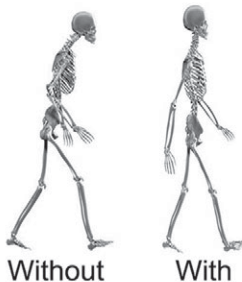
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Parking lot

► Continued from page 6

the Monte Vista campus.

"Parents have said to the board that 'We're hoping to move forward with this,'" Buchanan said.

As enrollment at Monte Vista continues to swell, on-campus student parking gets more challenging to provide and manage. In 2004-5, the total enrollment at Monte Vista was 2,322 with 491 students in the senior class. In 2005-6, the school has an estimated 2,592 students and 614 seniors.

The rise in student population is partly due to the tremendous growth in Dougherty Valley. The students who will attend Dougherty Valley High School, slated to open in 2007, are being diverted to Monte Vista.

The district owns 10 acres of land directly across from the high school from the former Humphrey Ranch property, where it will build the parking lot.

Some residents in the surrounding neighborhoods have expressed opposition and concerns that a new lot will increase traffic. But Buchanan said the new parking lot has nothing to do with an increased traffic flow.

She said kids are already there at the school. She added that Monte Vista is not a shopping center that attracts commuters.

When the Humphrey family decided to sell the property on Stone Valley Road, it first agreed to sell 9.6 acres to the school district. It was matriarch Marge Humphrey's way of giving back to the community.

Walnut Creek-based developer Davidon Homes eventually purchased the entire Humphrey Ranch property. In buying the property, Davidon also took on the obligation to the school district. While 9.6 acres will be used for the school's projects, 24.43 acres will be used for houses; the remaining 61.83 acres will be dedicated open space.

The school district paid \$4.7 million for the land with funds from Measure A.

The Humphrey family, in addition to the money from the sale of the land, will receive more if all 39 Davidon houses are built. The family has agreed to return \$2 million of the \$4.7 million to the school district upon completion of the 39 homes.

The district also plans to build a new synthetic soccer field for Monte Vista on the property. ■

Housing project

► Continued from page 6

with another developer to start building affordable housing in Livermore.

Willow Commons apartments, which took a year to build, are reserved for independent seniors who are ages 55 and up with an annual income under \$57,000. It also helps if they have children living nearby, he said.

"I want parents of kids who live in Danville," said Storer.

The complex contains 22 units, with 19 already occupied. Storer said there is a common area where residents can gather.

"It's very social," he said. "We try to encourage you to come out of your apartment."

Being close to the restaurants and shops in downtown Danville benefits adults living with disabilities and seniors, he said.

The complex directly abuts Sycamore Place on Laurel Drive, an attractive 74-unit affordable housing complex for seniors built by non-profit Bridge Housing in 2003 almost entirely with state and federal funds.

Willow Commons, though designated affordable like apartments in Sycamore Place, is owned and operated by Storer's for-profit business.

Storer said his company worked with the Town of Danville and officials from the Contra Costa County Housing Authority to make the complex affordable for seniors. The town has granted Willow Commons higher density zoning. But Storer still has to pay building and permit fees now that the apartments are up and running, which total \$150,000.

"People are excited as hell to live here," said Storer. "Danville did such a nice job."

"Danville needs this kind of project," he added. "It's difficult to do."

The Commons rent has been designated affordable based on a mod-

erate rent base for Contra Costa County. It includes studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, all with different layouts. The rents range from \$970 to \$1,540.

But growing up, Storer didn't know the different between affordability or expensive.

He and his brother David and their sister Lisa grew up in Hayward, and he recalls harvesting walnuts as a boy. Their father was Hungarian and died when Robert was 9. His grandfather Aladino Pelligrini took over as a father figure and raised the family.

Robert Storer said his grandfather told him it was important to put in a good day's work and encouraged him to fix or put things together himself.

"People are excited as hell to live here. Danville did such a nice job."

—Robert Storer,
developer of Willow Commons

His grandmother helped him find a wife. She told him he was looking for a woman in all the wrong places and suggested he meet a girl named Sandra, who lived nearby and came from a good family, he said.

But Sandra's mother wanted her to meet an Italian who spoke the native tongue. Storer—25 at the time—didn't speak Italian, and Sandra's mother denied him meeting her daughter. So his grandmother came with him to Sandra's home, and Sandra's mother finally let Storer in.

"It was love at first sight for me," Storer said when he first met her. Sandra and Storer dated for two years, and eventually married. "I eventually grew on her after a couple of years." ■

Oily rags burst into flames

Fire damages second floor of Danville home

Hot oily rags combusted into a raging flame that burned a second floor of a large two-story home in Danville last week. Spontaneous combustion ignited the rags that caused the fire, said San Ramon fire officials.

"It's somewhat common," said Battalion Chief Mike Brown. "This happens six times a year."

No one was hurt, he said. But he added that there is \$140,000 worth of property damage to the home, which value he estimated at \$5 million.



LUCA HURST

The incident occurred at 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9, on El Pintado Road. Contractors were remodeling and using rags, which contained natural oils such as palm and seed.

After finishing some of their tasks, they put the rags into a construction trailer next to the home. Later, the rags heated up from a lack of airflow, said Brown. A

chemical reaction occurred and a spontaneous combustion resulted from the heat buildup.

The combustion ignited a fire that burned the construction trailer and spread to the second floor of the home. The fire was contained to the north side of the house.

—Jordan M. Dronila

Rekindling the passion for science and math

'Expanding Your Horizons' targets girls for workshops

by Kevin Zhou

Girls who want to learn more about a future in math and science are in luck. The 27th annual "Expanding Your Horizons" conference, an event aimed at increasing middle and high school girls' interest in the two subjects, is scheduled to take place Saturday, Feb. 25, at the SBC Administrative Center in San Ramon.

"The goal is to inspire young women to pursue both an education and a career track in science and math," said Ann Willoughby, one of the two organizers. "That's through positive role models and positive experiences."

For this year's conference, approximately 600 girls are expected to attend from the San Ramon Valley, Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin school districts. There is a \$20 registration fee.

Girls attending the conference will have the opportunity to participate in two 90-minute hands-on workshops. The activities range

from growing crystals to learning about different types of radiation. There will also be a Lego Robotics course where the girls can build a robot and control it.

"It's not just a bunch of talking heads," said Willoughby. "The girls actually get to get in there and do stuff."

The conference will feature Cynthia Hennigan, a petroleum engineer advisor for Chevron, as its keynote speaker.

"We always have a keynote speaker that comes somewhere from the math or science industry," said Yuki Ohashi, the other organizer.

Scientific Jam, a local rock 'n' roll band, will provide entertainment for the day. The band, which essentially puts science into its music, will also be on hand to perform scientific demonstrations.

The day will culminate in a career fair where attendees will be able to interact with individuals in the medical, veterinary, law enforcement and military professions.

"All these people are professionals. They are mentoring out of love," said Willoughby.

In the past few years, the event has received a large amount of

positive feedback.

"The girls have a great time, so it's a success that they're learning something and enjoy coming," she said.

"It is very personally rewarding because we now have girls who are professionals that were some of the early attendees of the program. Having gone through college, they're now working professionals committed to mentoring young women," added Willoughby.

"Expanding Your Horizons" is a nationwide program designed to open career pathways for girls in math and science. The Tri-Valley event, which is sponsored by Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories, is one of the oldest in the country.

The event was launched in response to the small number of women who were entering the two industries.

"By the time they are in college, a lot of girls are not pursuing the fields and going into them from a professional standpoint," said Willoughby. "The challenge is to segue middle school and high school interest into the college education and the career path."

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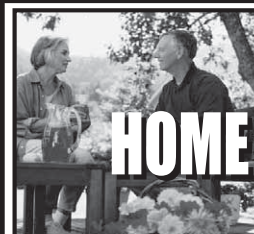
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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Rick and his picks



Rick Hirshberg and I sat in front of Starbucks on Monday talking about his business. His eyes kept wandering across Hartz Avenue. "Oh! That lady, she started to walk past, then she backed up and went inside," he said, smiling broadly. He was keeping an eye on his shop—Rick's Picks.

Rick opened his store—"great deals everyday!"—in September 2004. It carries a diverse assortment of merchandise: things you need and a lot you didn't know you needed but can't resist at those prices. Bargain hunter Sally Socolich tagged the store "a gem."

I discovered it when I needed a frame for an old family photo and my friend Judy suggested I try Rick's Picks. Since then I have dropped in for kitchen utensils, ceramic dog dishes with paw prints, gifts and food items—and just for fun. Rick e-mails customers twice a month about what is on sale and what is new.

Rick, 45, is originally from Boston. He began to work in retail soon after graduating from University of Vermont. He learned about deep discount retailing working for Towle Silversmith while managing its eight factory outlet stores in the Northeast. He earned his MBA at Boston University, then his wife Rene, who was from Monterey, persuaded him to move to California in 1991. They first lived in San Francisco and Rick opened an outlet store in Vacaville called Silver and More. He added stores in Gilroy and Milpitas, but after 10 years began winding down those businesses to partake in the dot.com boom, at buylink.com.

Rick was living in Danville when

he spotted the vacancy next to Elliott's. "I always wanted to open a store like this," he said. "The timing was right. The store was available, and I could always get the product."

Rick feels it's important to stock name brands. He carries Beanpod Candles, European Soaps including Pré de Provence, Kennebunk Throws, Cuisinart, Dr. Dean Edel reading glasses, with prices 40-80 percent off suggested retail. He also said it's important to be open seven days a week and until 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays because a lot of people stop in after eating downtown. "When it's busy, we stay open later," he said.

He also believes in customer service. "It's fun to see people get excited when they're getting a good deal," he said. "The trick is to have what people need." He said a lot of seniors stop in to buy his 99-cent greeting cards. "People tell me they need a 'Rick's Picks fix.'"

His background in sourcing and closeouts gave him valuable connections. When he learned about a container of Scandinavian Design furniture, he bought 20 pieces. "In hindsight I wish I had bought the whole container," he said. A shipment of Natuzzi leather couches and sectionals also went fast.

Rick said luckily Rene grew up with a father in retail so she understands the long hours. She accompanies him to San Francisco shows and weighs in on what to buy. Their daughter Jamie, 10, advises him on toys.

If you haven't seen Rick in the store, you may know Johnson Nguyen, assistant manager and

merchandise. He's a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and was hired even before the store opened. "I love knowing the customers," Johnson said. "And I'm always on my toes. I do a million things at once."

On Monday, Jessica Ford carried a big straw laundry basket to the checkout stand. She said she stops in every time she is running errands without her two children. "I've bought frames and toys, stuff for my home," she said. She was tempted by some of the dog items but then remembered she didn't have a dog.

Randy Coyner checked out a candle as soon as he walked in. "I come in here whenever I have Starbucks coffee," he said. "I've bought Christmas gifts, a bird feeder, candles."

"Everyday people come in who have never been here before," Rick said. Of course it takes a lot of transactions for a shop to thrive so he is always looking for new ways to make sales and provide service.

I have to go back soon. I saw a trio of Three Banditos salsas—mild, medium and hot—with bottle top bandito heads that will look darling on my daughter's kitchen counter. ■

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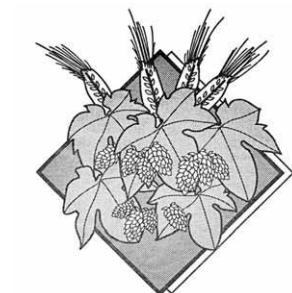
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Mustangs, Wolves girls end soccer season as co-champions

Monte Vista boys win first league soccer championship since 2000

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

The Monte Vista and San Ramon girls soccer teams battled Feb. 9 for the East Bay Athletic League championship and the game ended in a 1-1 tie. As a result, both teams were crowned co-champions of the competitive EBAL.

Coming into the game the teams were tied for first place with the Mustangs overall record being 17-3-4 and 9-0-3 in the league and San Ramon having a 20-2-2 overall record and 10-1-1 in the league. Melissa Buich scored for the Mustangs and Heather Vandevanier converted a penalty kick for the Wolves with nine minutes to play to secure the tie and co-championship.

The teams could meet again in the North Coast Section 3A playoffs that began Wednesday. Monte Vista was named the No. 1 seed in the tournament and will play the winner of Clayton Valley/Livermore on Feb. 18 at Monte Vista. San Ramon received the No. 3 seed and will play the winner of Castro Valley/Hayward on Feb. 18 at San Ramon.

Boys soccer

On Feb. 10, the Monte Vista boys soccer team beat San Ramon 3-1 to win its first league championship since 2000. This was the eighth straight win for the 18-4-1 Mustangs to finish 9-2-1 in the league and claim first place. The Wolves led the league for most of the season but with this loss fin-

ished with an 8-2-2 league record and 16-5-2 overall.

Jack Griffin led the Mustangs with one goal and two assists for the Mustangs. Both teams will now advance to the North Coast Section playoffs that began Feb. 15. No. 3-seeded Monte Vista will face the winner of Livermore/Hayward on Feb. 18 at Monte Vista. No. 5-seeded San Ramon was to play College Park on Feb. 15 at San Ramon.

Boys basketball

On Feb. 8, the San Ramon boys basketball team lost to Granada 61-55 to shake up the league standings. San Ramon is now 16-6 overall and 6-2 in the league. They are tied with Foothill in second place, one game behind Monte Vista.

Brandon Adams led the Wolves with 20 points. On Feb. 10, the Wolves rebounded with a victory over Livermore 71-38. They are now 7-2 in the EBAL. Brandon Adams led all scorers with 18 points.

Monte Vista remained in first place with a win over Livermore 72-38. Its overall record is 16-6 and 7-1 in the EBAL. Corey Higgins led the Mustangs with 15 points.

Girls basketball

On Feb. 7, the Lady Wolves basketball team lost to Granada 68-63 and is now 6-2 in the EBAL. Meghan Yetman led the Wolves with 19 points. The Wolves rebounded with a victory Feb. 10 over Livermore 61-27 to run their record in the league to 7-2. Yetman led all scorers with 13 points.

The Lady Mustangs beat Livermore 51-33 to go 6-2 in the EBAL. The Mustangs are one-half game behind San Ramon, in second place. ■

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday

Boys basketball: Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball: Monte Vista at Foothill, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Girls basketball: Monte Vista vs. San Ramon, TBA

Tuesday

Girls basketball: San Ramon at Cal High, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Amador Valley, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Boys basketball: San Ramon vs. Cal

High, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista at Amador Valley, 7 p.m.

Thursday

Boys tennis: Monte Vista vs. Cardinal Newman

Girls lacrosse: Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24

Girls basketball: San Ramon at Monte Vista, 7 p.m.

Boys basketball: San Ramon vs. Monte Vista, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Boys tennis: Monte Vista at Amador Valley

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The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$25 per year (\$40 for two years) are welcome from local residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40/year.

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Fixing the disconnect

Are vandals really criminals? Or are they otherwise good youngsters who somehow do not see the connection between their actions and the consequences?

What youths may see as a "prank" often has serious consequences, both in the money spent to repair damages and in the inconvenience to many people as the damage is repaired. There is also a psychological impact to the victims, the hurt feelings when one's property has been wantonly damaged. The injured party inevitably asks: Why would someone want to do this to me?

In 2005, some 55 cases of vandalism were reported in Danville. Assuming that many "minor" incidents, such as teepeeing, go unreported, this is a very high number of crimes to be committed in a community that otherwise is safe and low in crime.

"Crime" is the key word here. Vandalism is a crime, another fact that pranksters do not seem to appreciate. It is a crime against its immediate victims and a crime against society. Some of it is just plain ugly—such as defacing vehicles with swastikas. Other times, it's totally destructive—such as trashing the home economics room at Charlotte Wood Middle School. Both incidents were hurtful, in terms of feelings and money spent to repair the damages.

It is up to parents to make sure their children see the connection between damaging property and the results. When parents are told their children have committed vandalism, their first reaction often is one of denial. Of course parents would like to believe their children incapable of criminal behavior that is, at best, obnoxious and anti-social.

An important part of parenting is making sure your children see the connection between actions and their consequences. It doesn't matter if youths are bored, trying to be cool, reacting to peer pressure or are unsupervised because their parents are unavailable. Vandalism and property damage are crimes. Parents must face the reality of their children's actions and fix the "disconnect."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Children show awareness

Dear Editor:

My daughter, a 10th-grader at Monte Vista High School, wrote a poem for an English class. It gave me insight into the fact that perhaps our children get the severity of what is going on significantly more than they verbally express.

"War"

by Mariana Gerontides

War is never easy.

We tremble with fear, but our bravery shines through.

War is never safe.

We sacrifice our lives for a cause while fighting at the front line.

War is never humane.

For war is a cruel act of violence always resulting in pain.

War is never painless.

Combat usually ends in mass destruction of broken hearts and shattered bones.

War is physically draining.

Our legs refuse to move, our hands tremble, our bodies are a thin skin stretched painfully over repressed madness, over an almost irresistible, bursting roar.

But a bond is built among us men.

Fear passes through us when thinking about which one will be the first to join the heavens.

Even in deadly situations we are positioned at the front-line.

We conjure all our strength to fight hard through each day.

Only to wake up, and fight through more emotional and physical heartache.

War is never easy.

Diane Gerontides, Danville

THE POINT OF THE PEN



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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Identity thefts reported in Danville

Two separate incidents of identity theft have been reported during the past two weeks in Danville, and police are warning residents to take appropriate precautions against making their personal information available to criminals.

Police Sgt. Ron Bradley said the first occurred over the past few months. A resident ordered a credit report and when it arrived learned that more than \$10,000 had been charged to accounts set up in their name through Chase Bank and Bank of America. Bradley said the thieves were able to set up the accounts by getting hold of the victim's personal information. Bradley did not specify what information was utilized or how the thieves came to possess it.

The second incident was similar, although no dollar loss was reported. The victim's personal information was stolen and used to open a \$7,000 credit account with Dell Computers. Bradley said the only reason the scheme did not work was that the victim already possessed a similar account. When the thieves attempted to open the second account, company security was notified, which led to a notification of the victim.

Bradley said there are several things a person can do to protect their information from identity thieves. First, purchase and use a paper shredder.

"Credit card applications, mailers, fliers, anything that has your name, address, Social Security number, should be run through the shredder prior to

going in the recycle bin," Bradley said.

Similarly, safeguarding your mail will also help to keep that information secure.

"If you have the curbside mailboxes, make sure you empty them in a timely fashion," he said. "There are people who will cruise around stealing mail from mailboxes, then going through it for information that can be used to establish credit."

Bradley said one piece of information you should always try to keep private is your Social Security number. "Don't give it out unless you know who you are dealing with," he said.

This advice also applies to Internet transactions. Many scam artists have taken to utilizing so-called "Phishing" scams to hack into people's bank accounts. In such a scam, the victim will receive an e-mail purportedly from their bank or a company like eBay, claiming they need to "verify" information on the account. Usually they will use a scare tactic, such as, "Someone has recently tried to access your account."

"This legitimizes the phisher and scares the victim into cooperating," Bradley said.

Another danger is from spyware. "Keep your anti-spyware software up to date on your computer," Bradley cautioned. "If someone is able to get access to your computer, they can see where you've gone, what you've typed. They can get access to a whole lot of information about you that way."

If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information, Bradley suggested sending it on to the bank or company that supposedly sent it to see if it is legitimate.

—Geoff Gillette

POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

- Petty theft on Blackstone Dr. at 8:26 a.m.
- Misc. burglary on Old Orchard Dr. at 10:04 a.m.
- Grand theft on Sycamore Valley Rd. West at 11:58 a.m.
- Petty theft on Diablo Rd. at 1:02 p.m.
- Disturbing the peace on Santa Clara Dr. at 2:07 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:24 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9

- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 10:47 a.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Remington Lp. at 12:28 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Joaquin Dr. at 2:45 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Lawrence Rd. at 3:41 p.m.
- Driving under the influence (DUI), misdemeanor, on Alamos Dr. and Amigo Rd. at 10:33 p.m.
- DUI, misdemeanor, on Diablo Rd. and Front St. at 11:03 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 10

- Burglary on El Pintado Rd. at 8:02 a.m.
- Malicious mischief on Front St. at 8:28 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Rassani Dr. at 2:43 p.m.
- Grand theft on Love Ln. at 3:20 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11

- DUI, misdemeanor, on Diablo Rd. and I-680 southbound off-ramp at 1:21 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Diablo Rd. at 7:21 a.m.
- Malicious mischief on Diablo Rd. and Front St. at 10:42 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Camino Tassajara and Diablo Rd. at 12:54 p.m.

- Accident, property damage, on La Gonda Wy. at 2:09 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 12

- Credit card fraud on Jonathan Ridge Dr. at 11:13 a.m.
- Malicious mischief on Rose Av. at 11:54 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Turrini Ct. at 12:07 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Blemer Rd. at 1:56 p.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on Rassani Dr. at 3:04 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Stowbridge Ct. at 6:46 p.m.
- Injury accident on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:47 pm.

The Office of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department's Valley Station in Alamo made the following information available.

ALAMO

Tuesday, Feb. 7

- Petty theft from vehicle on Ashford Ct.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Kirkcrest Rd.

Sunday, Feb. 12

- Burglary-residential on Justin Morgan Dr.
- Vandalism-felony on Limestone Rd.

BLACKHAWK

Wednesday, Feb. 8

- Malicious mischief on Red Pine Ct.

Saturday, Feb. 11

- Disturbance on Silver Oak Pl.

DANVILLE

Saturday, Feb. 11

- Auto burglary on Sheffield Cr.

ROUNDHILL

Thursday, Feb. 9

- Disturbance on Biltmore Dr. and Royal Oaks Dr.

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Teens in Trouble

VANDALISM IS ON THE RISE — WHY

Boredom. Rebellion. Anger. No respect. Poor parenting.

Danville residents speculate these are some of the reasons why a small number of teenagers destroy, deface and pillage property in town.

In January, teenagers ransacked a home on Blackhawk Road during a party and burglarized \$100,000 worth of items, including jewelry, computers and other electronic devices, Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel said. Additionally, they poured detergent in the homeowner's aquarium, killing the tropical fish.

"It's a waste," Wenzel said. "There's no point."

They also damaged another \$2,000 worth of property, he said. Police say they have an eyewitness, but he is afraid to talk because he fears retribution from the young burglars, said Detective Neil Rafanan.

Two weeks ago, teens spray-painted two black swastikas and the initials "SRVH" for San Ramon Valley High School on a creamy yellow pickup truck in Danville, said Sparky George, the owner.

"I'm just overwhelmed with grief," said George, who is proprietor of Sparky George Classic Auto and Restoration in San Ramon. "It's very hateful. I'm so devastated."

He added that the damage done to the truck is going to cost \$4,000 to repair.

In December, a couple of teens trespassed in the home economics room at Charlotte Wood Middle School over a weekend and smeared butter and brown molasses over the doorways, police said. They also emptied cinnamon on the computers and scattered food debris on the floor, Rafanan said.

The perpetrators attend Charlotte Wood, police said, and a total of \$2,500 in damage was done.

And the list continues.

There was the museum break-in last November where a 15-year-old Danville boy broke glass, made paint stains, and destroyed two mannequins at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Damages were estimated at \$5,000.

Last month, teens threw rocks through eight car windows in one day. They also slashed tires with sharp objects, Wenzel said.

He believes it was also local teens who have tainted the Danville Public Library and other areas in town with graffiti.

In 2004, there were 40 cases of felony vandalism. And in the following year, the number had risen to 55.

With so many resources and opportunities available to kids, residents wonder why youths would spend their time defacing property, causing others to spend thousands of dollars repairing the damages.

"Yes, this quiet suburban town does have problems," said Wenzel.

'THEY DO IT BECAUSE IT'S COOL'

Danville teenagers said young vandals crave acceptance. "It's peer pressure," said Matt Bitting, a senior at San Ramon Valley High School. "They think it's cool."

"They have expectations that 'I am going to be cool if I smash this,'" said Neal Howard, a junior, who plays football. He said many kids face pressure when they want friends.

Some teens think boredom makes kids vandalize.

"There's not anything to do in Danville," said Ally Austere, a San Ramon Valley sophomore.

"They're bored," added Danielle Ruud, a junior.

Others think vandals are trying to make their mark.

"They're trying to make a statement," said senior Kevin Neal. "They're rebelling against authority. I don't agree with it."

"Maybe they don't have respect for places around here," said Claire S., Austere's friend, also a sophomore.

SO MANY KIDS; SO MANY REASONS

School board members and district officials said there are many reasons why local kids vandalize. But they said that it's a small number of teens who cause trouble and the majority in the Danville area are good kids.

"It's a question that we all ponder," said Terry Koehne, community relations coordinator for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

"It's a very small percentage of kids in the valley that vandalize property," said Greg Marvel, school board member.

He also noted that teens who behave in an antisocial manner come from all economic and social backgrounds.

"Socio-economics have nothing to do with it," he said.

He added that popular culture and entertainment greatly influence antisocial behavior. "It's 'if it feels good, you do it,'" he said.

IT'S TOO COMPETITIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

Some who live and work in the school district believe communities such as Danville are too competitive, especially academically. As a result of being too entrenched in a competitive cycle, kids become angry and lash out when they fail to meet their parents' expectations, said local teachers, parents and therapists.

"The pressure is heavy in areas such as Danville," said Jill McKinnon-Endicott, who teaches fourth and fifth grade at Green Valley Elementary School. But she added that many of the teenagers that she works with—such as those in her theater group—are mature and wonderful.

"It's just a cry for help, reaching for something," she said about why some teens vandalize property. "It's

displaced anger."

She speculated that perhaps some of the students who fall short of meeting the expectations of their parents or schools may become alienated and lash out by vandalizing property.

Therapists from the Discovery Counseling Center in Danville echoed McKinnon-Endicott's comment.

"They need a release from their frustration," said Jo Maglalang-Young, a counselor at Discovery Counseling Center who works with children in the district. "They don't have an outlet."

Both Maglalang-Young and her fellow counselor Jodina Jacks said teens have to deal with a lot of homework and academic pressures, and they have difficulty meeting their parents' expectations.

Neil Howard, a senior at San Ramon Valley High, said if kids can't live up to their parents' expectations or be accepted by their peers, they then become lonely.

ARE PARENTS DOING ENOUGH?

Some people asked whether parents are hard enough on their students. They said they give their children too much freedom, or they fail to establish a strong bond with them.

Teens with too much freedom often have no respect for people and their property, they said. And youths who are alienated from their families feel out of place, lack a sense of self, and become angry and lash out, such as damaging property.

Danville resident Sparky George, whose truck was spray-painted with swastikas, had strong words to say to parents in the community.

"Kids get away with what they want," George said. "Parents stopped being parents. It's sad. They're afraid of their kids."

George said vandals don't respect property because they do not respect themselves.

"They owe it to their children and society to demand the children to respect other people and themselves," he said.

Maglalang-Young and Jacks said there is a lot of stress on teens, which is created by conflict with their parents. They said there is often a lack of communication between them. Many parents struggle with the responsibility of parenting, and they lack the knowledge of how to raise their children, they said.

Many are also busy with work and are rarely home, leaving less time for their kids, the counselors said.

As a result of lacking a strong foundation and feeling alienated, some teens feel depressed and angry. They may express their feelings in various ways, such as vandalizing, dropping grades, isolation, sleeping disorders or even cutting their own wrists.

The world that many kids grow up in can be confusing, teachers say. Some get lost.

DO KIDS DO IT? by Jordan M. Doronila

"They don't have values," said McKinnon-Endicott. "So many students are handed money rather than time. It's very hard for kids to get a perspective."

"They have so much," she added. "They say you need a village to raise a child. The village is broken down, big time."

"Teenagers are searching for meaning," said Tresenia Griffin, Danville parent and vice president of parent education for the San Ramon Valley Council of Parent Teachers Associations. "Some teens don't feel empowered."

"Adults are still having acceptance issues," she added.

SOLUTIONS, ANYONE?

How to stop kids from disrespecting property is a perplexing question. Nonetheless, adults feel that they can change how they think, and in turn, how they act.

George said the Danville Merchants Association and other local businessmen have banned together and put out a reward for more than a thousand dollars for anyone who has information about who spray-painted swastikas on his truck.

Discovery Center counselors suggested that parents take the time to find out what's going on with their family and their children. Both teens and their parents may want to spend time self-reflecting over their lives.

They also said teens and adults should use respectful language when they talk to one another. Instead of losing control, yelling and using vulgar language, one can say, "I take responsibility. But when you do this, I feel (____)," they said.

Jann Blackstone-Ford, co-author of "Ex-Etiquette For Parents," a Discovery Bay resident, said parents need to watch their children closely when they get older, especially when they enter high school.

She said a common misperception among many parents is that when their children get into high school, they can relinquish monitoring them. But there is so much available to them that may be harmful.

"We need to change the way we supervise our kids," Blackstone-Ford said.

She suggested one way for parents to keep closely tuned with their kids is by checking up on them periodically throughout the day by cell phone.

Trustee Marvel said he hoped parents, churches and schools teach teens "to do the right thing."

District officials said they hope the opportunities available to kids will deter them from bad behavior.

"We provide viable options for teens and after-school programs," said Koehne. He said the more engaged teens are in activities or other projects of interest, the less likely they are to engage in destructive action, such as vandalism.

"Safety is our highest priority," he added.

"Teens are searching for love and acceptance," said Griffin. ■



HEALING PLACE CHURCH

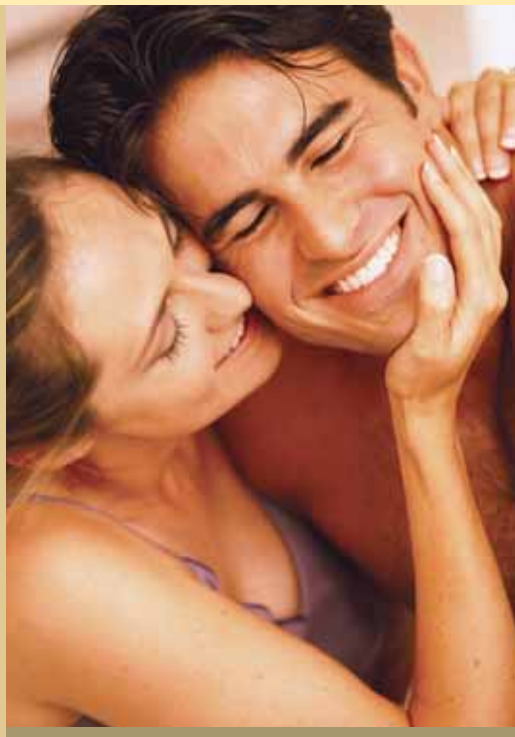
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THE DANVILLE GRANGE - 743 Diablo Road - 925.217.1249 - healingplacechurch.org
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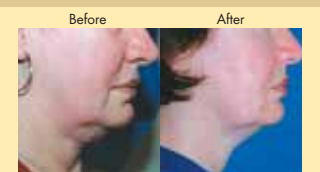
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online edition
Danville
W E E K L Y . C O M

One big happy 'family'

Family-run Diablo Hills Country School celebrates
25 years of educating preschoolers

story and photos by Cheri Eplin Molnar



Best buddies (left) Eunice Rocha and Halie Fraser enjoy Diablo Hills Country School.



Longtime staff members have been at the school from 19 to 25 years; (rear, l-r) Sue Peavy and Pat Hover; (front) Mary Castro and Sherrie Fredrickson.

With close to half of the state's children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in preschool and childcare, choosing a place can be downright confusing. Most parents agree that preschool helps their child learn how to get along well with others, and they hope that a program will build basic academic skills needed for kindergarten. And in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, the pressure to prepare children for a notoriously aggressive academic program can feel overwhelming.

Mary Bengtson, owner and founder of Diablo Hills Country School, says the true value in preschool lies in the "unscheduled and unplanned lessons, which encourage use of imagination and creativity."

That philosophy is one of the main reasons parents in Danville continue to choose Diablo Hills, a preschool that just celebrated its 25th anniversary Feb. 9.

Mary Bengtson and her husband Dave left Dallas, Texas, a quarter of a century ago and moved to Danville when Dave was promoted in his job with Southern Pacific. Mary worked at another preschool and found that many times her ideas of how to teach children differed. With her husband, and

colleague Sherrie Fredrickson, (who is still working as a preschool teacher at Diablo Hills) she opened up her own school, originally in a location behind Golden Skate. That first year there was a waiting list of more than 250.

Shortly after that, in 1981, they purchased the country farmhouse in Danville and began to live out a dream—providing quality care with a focus on including families in their vision.

"This was a family house before we bought it—the previous owners wanted the property to go to a family and were ecstatic to know that it would continue to have children running about," said Mary Bengtson.

"The success of our school is how we treat parents, children and staff—like family," Bengtson said. "We don't have a high turnover like other schools and we're very proud of that."

Thousands of children have been touched over the years and some return to teach and enroll their own children starting a second generation. Mary and Dave's own children, Angie and Bryan, grew up helping to cook, teach and clean at the preschool. Bryan is now a practicing attorney in Walnut Creek. And Angie, after earning a degree in child development from Davis, earning her MBA from St. Mary's College, and working in a consulting practice for many years, is now the director of programs at Diablo Hills Country School and plans to enroll her own 1-year-old daughter next year.

This unique husband-wife-family team has appreciated one of the major changes since running the school—the involvement of dads, due to more flexible schedules and heightened awareness of the importance of involvement from dads.

"We're seeing dads dress up for Halloween and getting a lot more involved with all the activities offered," Dave noted, and Mary added, "We need more male figures in child care."

Another significant change in education has been the shift to encourage a more formalized, structured style of teaching in order to prepare children for kindergarten.

"I still feel children need creative play and should be encouraged to use their imagination," Mary said. "Our program is developmental and age appropriate."

The school offers many opportunities for exploration and understanding, in keeping with the fact that 90 percent of brain growth occurs before a child even steps foot into kindergarten. Dramatic play takes place daily with a makeshift kitchen that could later be changed to a post office, lots of drawing, painting and coloring. Children also practice with the alphabet, from forming the shapes of letters in shaving cream on a table to traditional pencil-to-paper practice. Specific activities like rolling out dough and baking heart-shaped cookies for a thematic unit such as Valentine's Day change weekly.

"The success of our school is how we treat parents, children and staff—like family."

—Mary Bengtson, owner and founder of Diablo Hills Country School

AT THE MOVIES

CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill: 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (687-1100)
Century 14 Walnut Creek: 1201 Locust St., Walnut Creek (937-7025)
Blackhawk Movie 7: 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0368)
Crow Canyon 6: 2525 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon (820-4831)
Hacienda Crossings 20/ Regal Imax Theater: 5000 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin (560-9600)
Vine Cinema: Corner of First and South O streets, Livermore (447-2545)
Internet address: For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at <http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/>

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Brokeback Mountain (R)	Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:10, 6:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:35 p.m.
Capote (R)	Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 3:30, 9:40 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:40 p.m.
Chronicles of Narnia (PG)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:35, 6:50, 10:05 p.m.
Curious George (G)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:25, 4:40, 7, 9:15 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:15 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:40, 11:15 a.m., 12:50, 1:25, 3:10, 3:40, 5:30, 6:05, 7:45, 10 p.m. Open Captioned Fri 11:15 a.m., Sat 1:25 p.m., Sun-Mon 11:15 a.m., 6:05 p.m.
Date Movie (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:55 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:55 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 1:50, 4, 7, 9:10 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., noon, 1, 2:25, 3:25, 4:45, 5:50, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:40 p.m.
Eight Below (PG)	Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 2, 4:40, 7:20, 10 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:30, 11 a.m., 1:20, 1:50, 4:20, 4:50, 7:20, 7:50, 10:10, 10:40 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Mon 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:20, 7, 9:30 p.m., Tues 2:45, 5:10, 7:40 p.m.
Final Destination 3 (R)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:25 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:25 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 7:35, 8:05, 10:10, 10:35 p.m.
Firewall (PG-13)	Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:15 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:10, 11:40 a.m., 1:55, 2:20, 4:35, 5:05, 7:10, 7:40, 9:50, 10:25 p.m.
Freedomland (R)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50 p.m.
Hoodwinked (PG)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:45 a.m., 1:05, 3:30, 5:40 p.m.
Last Holiday (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 8:10, 10:45 p.m.
Nanny McPhee (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:40, 4:25, 7, 9:40 p.m.
Pink Panther (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:35 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues noon, 2:15, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:30 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 12:15, 2:05, 2:50, 4:25, 5:15, 7:05, 7:55, 9:35, 10:20 p.m. Open Captioned Tues 2:05, 9:35 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri-Mon noon, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:20 p.m., Tues 3, 5, 7, 8:55 p.m.
Roving Mars (G)	Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6 p.m.
Something New (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 5:20, 10:20 p.m.
The Matador (R)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 2:35, 8 p.m.
Underworld: Evolution (R)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 8:15, 10:45 p.m.
Walk the Line (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:55 p.m.
When a Stranger Calls (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 3, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40 p.m., Mon-Tues no show 9:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55 p.m.

► Continued on page 16

Presenting the Past



School days in Tassajara Valley

The first Tassajara Grammar School opened in the 1860s, long after Bret Harte left the area. In 1889 the second Tassajara School House (shown in 1912) was built on Finley Road and it looks just the same today. It was saved and restored by the Tassajara community and is now operated and maintained by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. The Museum of the San Ramon Valley provides a unique third-grade school program, which will open Feb. 28.

—Courtesy Museum of the San Ramon Valley

Here's the scoop.

The Danville Weekly has an opening for a general assignment reporter to cover news and write feature stories about the communities of Danville, Alamo, Diablo and Blackhawk. Journalism degree and some experience preferred. The Danville Weekly is part of Embarcadero Publishing Co.; our compensation package includes full medical/dental benefits and a 401(k) plan.

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BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

You're a Sweet, Potato!

One of my favorite vegetables is the sweet potato. It is yummy, healthy and versatile in its culinary use. While sweet potatoes are available nearly year-round, they are most plentiful and tasty in the fall-winter seasons when they reach the peak of their sugar content. Americans commonly use the terms sweet potato and yams interchangeably but most of what we consume in the U.S. are sweet potatoes, not yams. The actual yam is large (some up to 100 pounds), grown in Africa and Asia and seldom seen in western cultures. Still "candied yams" on a Thanksgiving menu sound a lot more inviting than "candied sweet potatoes."

My memories of sweet potatoes are fond and go back to my childhood. My grandmother always seemed to have a sweet potato growing in a jar on her kitchen windowsill but my older cousins used old potatoes with the sprouting "eyes" to scare me away from my share of Big Momma's freshly baked cakes. My mother kept potatoes—both white and sweet—in our kitchen cupboard as a staple food. Being my "mother's daughter," I am inclined to do so as well. I feel as if I'll never go hungry as long as I have a sweet potato or two in my pantry. Unfortunately, since the recent "carbs-r-not-us" diets, sweet potatoes (well, potatoes of every kind) have earned a bad name but I have remained a loyal fan. Let me try to improve their reputation.

In most homes, sweet potatoes are served only at Thanksgiving and Christmas, which is unfortunate given their high nutritional value. Their bright orange color is one hint—they have high quantities of beta-carotene and other carotenoids. They also offer substantial amounts of vitamins C and B6, manganese and some potassium. Sweet potatoes come in two basic varieties: the moist ones, which are plump, have orange flesh and fairly thin skins, and the dry ones, which have yellow flesh, tan skin and are thinner. The fiber value of either is good but I prefer the orange-fleshed sweet potato for its smoother texture and creamier taste.

While I love making recipes with sweet potatoes, my absolute favorite way to enjoy them is as a side vegetable—hot and steamy right out of the microwave. I add a chunk of butter and let it melt throughout the flesh. Then I eat the whole thing, skin included! (Some add sour cream but be forewarned: That can be overpowering to the potato's natural flavor.) Now that current diet experts advise that some carbs in our diets are good, make the sweet potato a staple in your kitchen and family's meal regimen. Most of all, enjoy!

Here are some tips for buying, storing and cooking sweet potatoes along with a few of my favorite sweet potato recipes:

• What to Look For

Select sweet potatoes with similar size and shape to make them easier

to cut and so they will reach doneness at the same time. Choose firm ones with no sprouting, softening, wrinkling (signs of aging) or decaying areas. Because canned or frozen sweet potatoes have significantly less nutritional value, use only when fresh ones are unavailable.

• How to Store

Most will keep for up to a month in a cool, dry place (55-60 degrees); two weeks or less if kept at room temperature. They should never be kept in the refrigerator; otherwise their natural sugars convert to starch, hastening the loss of their sweetness. Don't wash the potatoes until just before use to retard spoilage.

• How to Prepare

Scrub the potatoes well under cold running water before cooking. **Bake:** Pierce the potato several times with a fork. Place potatoes on a piece of foil to catch any oozing. Bake in a 400-degree oven, 30-60 minutes depending on size.

Boil: Keep skin on and slip off after boiling. Bring pot to boil and boil until done. Cook whole potatoes for 15-35 minutes; boil chunks for 10-15 minutes.

Microwave: Pierce the potato several times with a fork. Place on a paper towel and microwave. Cook medium potatoes for 5-9 minutes; four potatoes for 10-13 minutes.

Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage-car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes. E-mail her at Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com.

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Toiletries		

I can come and pick it up at your house or work or you could drop it off too.

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Sweet Potato Pie

(Serves 6-8) The classic Southern pie with two crust variations.

Ginger-Graham Crust:
1-1/3 cups graham cracker crumbs
3 Tbs. sugar
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
Pinch salt
5 Tbs. unsalted butter, melted
3 large eggs
Using a food processor, pulse graham crackers, sugar, ginger and salt until finely ground. Add butter; pulse until mixture forms large, moist crumbs. Press into a 9-inch pie pan.

Coconut-Oat Crust:
3/4 cup quick cooking oats
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup shredded coconut
1/4 cup vegetable oil
2 Tbs. ice water
Mix oats, flour and coconut. Stir in oil and water to form dough. Press into a 9-inch pie pan.

Filling:
1/2 cup sugar
3 large sweet potatoes
1/2 cup half-and-half
1 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground allspice

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare pie crust as desired.
- Boil 3 large sweet potatoes in a large saucepan covered with water; cook until tender, 15-20 minutes. Drain, peel and cut into chunks. Purée potatoes in a food processor to produce 1 3/4 cups of purée; cool.
- In a large bowl, whisk together eggs and sugar until combined. Add sweet-potato purée, half-and-half, lemon juice, vanilla, salt and allspice; whisk until completely smooth. Pour filling into crust; smooth top with a rubber spatula.
- Place pie on a baking sheet, and bake until filling is set, 40 to 50 minutes. Transfer pie to a wire rack to cool completely, about 2 hours. Pie can be prepared up to a day ahead and refrigerated; serve chilled or at room temperature. For an extra treat, serve with freshly-whipped cream, made with a dash of cinnamon.

Diablo Hills

► Continued from page 16

"High-quality preschool programs help children grow socially and emotionally, as well as cognitively," said Sean Casey, acting executive director of First 5 Contra Costa. "They learn to share and work in small groups, get along with others and develop a 'learning is fun' attitude—skills children will need in school and well beyond."

So Diablo Hills Country School continues, the result of the founders using imagination and creativity to encourage it in the young ones. ■

Preschool on June ballot

In June 2006, there is a ballot initiative to offer quality preschool programs for all California 4-year-olds whose parents choose to enroll them. "Preschool for all is an idea whose time has come," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. "Solid research tells us that investing in preschool is not only the right thing to do for our children, it is an investment that will pay tremendous economic and social dividends in the long run. Preschool for all just makes sense."

As of 2001, 43 percent of U.S. 3-year-olds and 66 percent of 4-year-olds were enrolled in some form of preschool program. These percentages are three times as high for 3-year-olds and twice as high for 4-year-olds as they were in 1970.

Art

Blackhawk Art Gallery Exhibit

The Blackhawk Art Gallery in Danville will launch its new show featuring sculptor Nola Proll and painter Bruno Aguirre with a reception from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, in the Blackhawk Plaza, Crow Canyon and Camino Tassajara. For more information, call 736-5640 or visit www.blackhawkartgallery.com.

Clubs

Interested in Toastmasters?

"Around the World in 80 Minutes" is a chance for people interested in what Toastmasters is all about to come see the value of public speaking. The Danville Toastmasters club will have speakers from South Africa, India, Vietnam, China, Japan, Canada, Mexico, and Latin America at this special event. It will begin at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the DVC Campus at the Crow Canyon Place, room 217, in San Ramon. For more information, visit www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com.

Concerts

Youth Music Festival

Danville musicians are participating in the Pleasanton Youth Music Festival at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartickets.org.

Events

Blood Drive

Supervisor Mary N. Piepho's Contra Costa County District 3 Blood Drive will be from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24, in the Red Cross Bus parked in the lot at 309 Diablo Road in Danville. To make an appointment, call Karyn at 240-7260.

Contra Costa Rose Society

Yuka Johnson of Hida Tools in Berkeley will demonstrate and talk about "Hand and Gardening Tools from Japan," at 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, in Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call 681-1551 or visit www.ccrose.org.

Oscar Party 2006

California Independent Film Festival Association is presenting a fun-filled evening complete with the live broadcast of the Academy Awards. Enjoy food, drinks, hors d'oeuvres and wine. This event is to benefit the Danville International Children's Film Festival. Doors open at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 5, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets must be purchased in advance, \$25 per person. Call 314-3463.

Pre-Dating Single Professionals

A pre-dating event - facilitated so there's no awkwardness, no pressure, no embarrassment - is being held from 6:20-10 p.m., Monday, Feb. 20, at Vic Stewart's, 850 S. Broadway, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$34, with a discount for ACE members. For more information go to www.ace-club.com or e-mail scott@ace-club.com.

Tuskegee Airmen Onboard the USS Hornet

Commemorate "Black History Month" onboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet with veterans of the legendary, first all-black fighter squadron, Tuskegee Airmen, at 1 p.m., Saturday,

Feb. 18. Museum admission is \$14 for adults and \$6 for children (5-17). A special price of \$20 for a family (up to four people) is being offered on this day. The USS Hornet Museum is located at 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. For more information call (510) 521-8448 or visit www.hornet-events.com.

Fundraisers

Children's Skin Disease Foundation

The Children's Skin Disease Foundation is holding an evening of dinner and gaming to help children's wish come true. Make your own wish come true by taking home one of the fabulous auction items. Cost is \$100/person. The event is from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, March 4, at the Round Hill Country Club. Call 736-5039 or visit www.csdff.org.

Wheelchair Foundation Charity Ball

The Wheelchair Foundation Charity Ball, a black-tie event featuring hors d'oeuvres, dinner by Scott's Seafood, silent and live auctions, and dancing to live music, is being held from 5 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Blackhawk Museum. For more information, call 648-3829 or 280-9679 or visit www.wheelchairfoundation.org.

Health

Free Heart Screening

Receive a free heart screening from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road in San Ramon. Physicians will be available to discuss screening results. Call (800) 284-2878.

Kids & Teens

Prof. I.M. Smart's Physics Show

Professor Smart shrinks his head, has toilet paper flying, juggles, and has his hair standing on end, all while demonstrating the principles of physics at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Children's Reading Room, Danville Library, 400 Front St. For information, call 837-4889 or visit www.ccclib.org.

Lectures/Workshops

Christine Pelosi to address San Ramon Valley Democratic Club

Christine Pelosi, daughter of Nancy Pelosi and director of the AFSCME PEOPLE/New House PAC 2006 Congressional Candidates Boot Camp, will speak at the SRV Democratic Club on Thursday, Feb. 23, at Mudd's Restaurant. Hors d'oeuvres and open bar at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., the Platform for Democrats will be presented. Open to all. Cost is \$18. Make reservations by Feb. 20, with checks to Mudd's; mail to Judy Link, P.O. Box 818, Diablo 94528. Space is limited.

Forum on Danville's Future

The Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Danville will host a forum on "The Future of Downtown Danville - Opportunities and Challenges," from 7:30-10 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Danville Town Hall. This event is free, but reservations are required. To register, call 314-3395 or visit www.danvilleca-chamber.com.

Worship Music Workshops

Music workshops for worship will be held all day Saturday, Feb. 25, at the

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. Call David Zehnder at 820-7580 or visit www.heartfeltmusic.org/events.html.

Miscellaneous

Hats Off America 10K Run/5K Walk

The Hats Off America (HOA) Red T-shirt 10K Run/5K Walk will be held beginning at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive in Danville, rain or shine. The entry fee is \$35 per person. All runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and food after the run. HOA is a nonprofit organization that raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. For information and to register, contact Sparky George at 855-1950 or e-mail thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

On Stage

'My Fair Lady

The Diablo Light Opera Company presents the music and magic of Broadway in "My Fair Lady," at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Feb. 17 through March 18 at the Hofmann Theatre, Dean Leshner Regional Center For The Arts, 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek. Call 943-7469 for tickets or order online, www.dlrca.org.

Petite Kaleidoscope Performance

The Next Step Dance Studio presents "Petite Kaleidoscope," a performance by talented young artistic performers, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. in Danville. Tickets are \$17 adults; \$12 children under 12. Call 314-3463.

'The Merry Widow

The Livermore Valley Opera is presenting "The Merry Widow" by Franz LeHar at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18 and 25, and 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19 and 26, at the Livermore Performing Arts Theatre, Livermore High School, 600 Maple St., Livermore. For advance tickets, \$25-\$40, call 960-9210.

'The Music Man Jr.

Curtain Up! Productions presents "Music Man Jr.," a shortened version of the beloved classic "The Music Man," at 3 and 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. in Danville. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 314-3463.

Sports

Crow Canyon Swim Team

Registration is Sunday, Feb. 26 for the upcoming Summer swim season. Pre-season conditioning and clinics start soon. Contact Dan Cottam at 735-5700 for more information.

Mustang Soccer League

Online registration will be held for the Mustang Soccer League from Feb. 1 through March 31. Fees are \$175 per player, except for the U6 Mustang Pony Program which is \$100 per player. For more information, call 831-1323 or visit www.mustangsoccer.com.

Support Groups

Adults Who Have Lost a Parent

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa will offer a workshop for adults who have lost a parent from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday evenings, Feb. 21 through April 14, at its administrative offices, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. For more information or to register, call 887-5678 or visit www.hospicecc.org.

Are You Looking ... for a Primary Care Physician?



Dr. Stephen Pratt, is now accepting new patients at Oak Tree Internal Medicine P.C.

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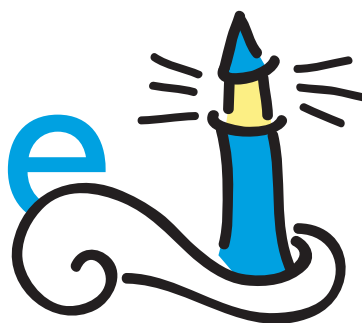
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INDEX

- **BULLETIN BOARD**
100-155
- **FOR SALE**
200-270
- **KIDS STUFF**
330-355
- **JOBS**
510-585
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
600-690
- **HOME SERVICES**
700-799
- **FOR RENT/
FOR SALE
REAL ESTATE**
801-860

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

* DEADLINE *

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Tuesday 12 noon
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Tuesday 11:59 PM
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- Avoid the last-minute rush -
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Auditions 2/4 & 2/11

Chronic Pain Support Group

Construction2006

& Green Construction2006! Register for FREE EXPO PASS for the April 12-13 show held at the San Jose Convention Center at www.ConstructionEvents.com (925)218-2225 (Cal-SCAN)

Setting Limits and Gaining Cooperation Grace Manning-Orenstein, PhD

SRVUMC and the Methodist Preschool present renowned family therapist and parent educator Dr. Grace Manning-Orenstein

Wednesday, February 15
9:15 to 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday, March 8
7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

On discipline—specifically how to set limits for your child and gain his/her cooperation while fostering self-esteem, understanding your child's temperament, helping to manage feelings, and developing teamwork with your parenting partner.

Dr. Orenstein has years of experience helping parents learn principles of limit-setting and how to apply them. She is executive director and founder of "The Link to Children" (TLC), an Oakland-based child and family advocacy organization.

Child care available with prior reservations at the Church office: (925) 837-5243

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5353 Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton

Tickets are \$40 per person, \$75 for two or \$350 for table of 10 and may be purchased through:

www.ClawsForPaws.com
email: events@TVAR.org
Mail check to: TVAR Crab Feed
PO Box 11143,
Pleasanton, CA 94588
or call 925-803-7043 for details

All proceeds benefit TriValley Animal Rescue (TVAR) Programs for Homeless and Abandoned Animals

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135 Group Activities

Fibromyalgia Arthritis Support

140 Lost & Found

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Vintage Remington Typewriter - \$30

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245 Miscellaneous

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Pet of the Week



Good morning, Sunshine.
Rascal is a 6-year-old combination tabby and white short-hair Manx with a mellow personality. Rascal likes to be close to people but he doesn't demand a lot of attention. His ideal home would be one in which he provides companionship as an "only cat." For more information about Rascal (pet #6335) visit the Valley Humane Society. The society is open 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and noon-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, located at 273 Spring St. in downtown Pleasanton. For more information, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumanesociety.org.

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BA - \$1495

Livermore, 3 BR/1 BA - \$1550.00 m

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homes). Phil Quinton, Priority Realtors
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San Ramon, 5+ BR/3 BA - \$1,159,999
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3/2/2,1835sf,1Acre,30 min E.of
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Mountain area. Outdoor lover's dream!
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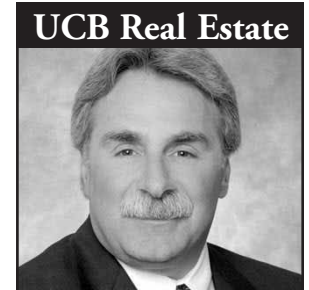
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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 12	Total sales reported: 5	Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$499,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,050,000	Lowest sale reported: \$371,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,900,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,225,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,650,000
Average sales reported: \$962,125	Average sales reported: \$1,820,000	Average sales reported: \$738,522

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
246 Abigail Circle P. & M. O'Neill to G. Pacheco for \$890,000	307 West Meadows Lane Y. & Y. Yakubov to Vunderman Trust for \$745,000	S. Scheiner for \$703,000
16 Alamo Springs Court Corrie Development to M. Elwishahi for \$1,200,000	5 Willowmere Road Jones Trust to Enea Brothers for \$850,000	1315 Alma Avenue #422 Alpine of Alma Development to R. Selinger for \$389,000
2000 Camino Ramon D. & S. Kirby to A. & M. Sardesai for \$751,000	104 Woodvalley Court Aragon Trust to A. Hyatt for \$767,500	1572 Candelero Drive L. Caldwell to B. Gleason for \$592,000
459 El Rio Road M. & B. Newman to W. Scram for \$850,000	141 Dean Road M. & K. Ferrero to D. & M. Christensen for \$2,000,000	3035 Citrus Circle Citrus Walk Limited to S. Tolmanov for \$790,500
3068 Fostoria Circle T. & A. Low to H. & V. Karsatar for \$503,000	1490 Pine Tree Drive K. Rajan to D. & K. McKean for \$1,050,000	3039 Citrus Circle Citrus Walk Limited to J. Tam for \$522,500
1 Hunters Terrace R. & N. Bradford to P. & M. O'Neill for \$1,900,000	142 Smith Road C. Arai to D. & N. Brookshire for \$1,925,000	3041 Citrus Circle Citrus Walk Limited to R. Durkin for \$519,000
1025 McCauley Road Lohec Trust to R. & A. Braunscheidel for \$1,590,000	165 South Avenue L. & L. Johnson to J. & K. Crist for \$1,900,000	341 Cordelia Way S. Stuart to S. Vanslyck for \$670,000
414 Stoneybrook Court D. & L. Nicholls to E. & C. Kliphahn for \$1,000,000	2132 Stone Valley Road S. Qureshi to J. Fox for \$2,225,000	3149 Eccleston Avenue J. & K. Wheat to B. Smith for \$700,000
464 Sycamore Circle Nemer Trust to M. Benet for \$499,000	1315 Alma Avenue #261 Alpine of Alma Development to	3520 Eris Court Kosturos Trust to K. & E. Rajan for \$1,275,000
		2631 Grande Camino Jardine Trust to A. Ho for \$1,020,000
		3025 Mayhew Court #6 D. Rogoff to S. Peterson for

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME FOR FREE!

OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME HERE

City _____		
# of Bedrooms _____	Street Address _____	\$ Price of property _____
Day, Date & Time Open _____	Agent Name Real Estate Agency _____	Phone Number _____

DEADLINE IS TUESDAY 10 A.M.

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Name: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Space available only basis

Danville
WEEKLY

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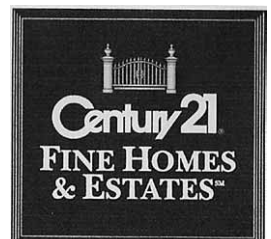
420 Olive Ct, Brentwood

Comfortable, newer home in Garin Ranch close to schools and park in superb area! No rear neighbors, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, over 1700 sq ft. Open floor plan with nice upgrades. Roomy garage with workshop area. Nice sized rear yard with concrete paver patio. **Offered at \$536,000**



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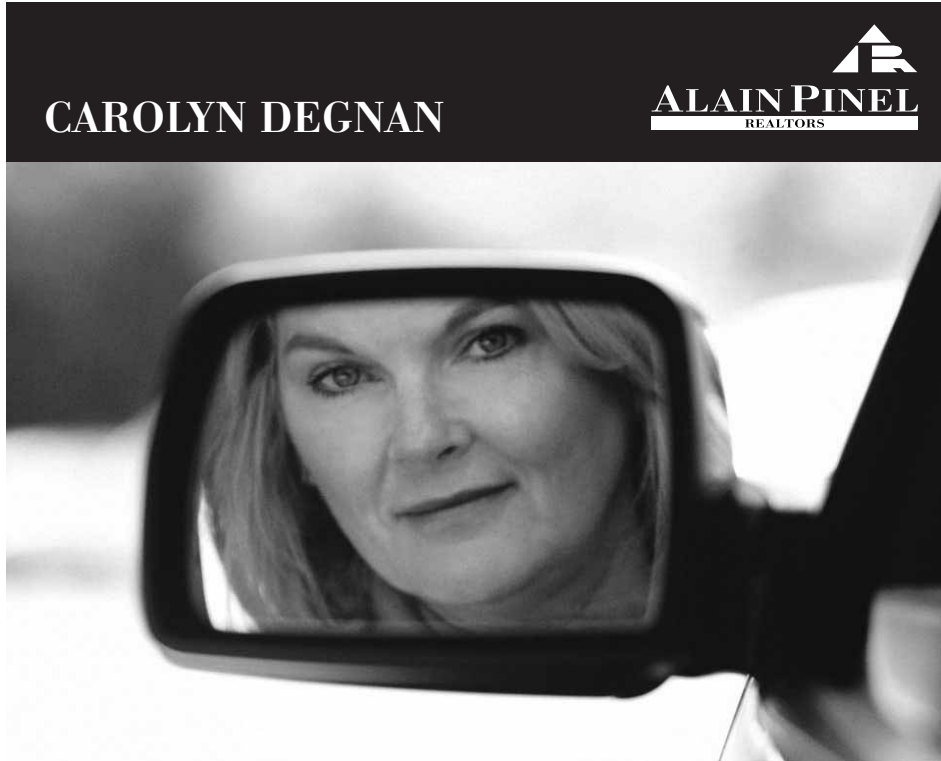
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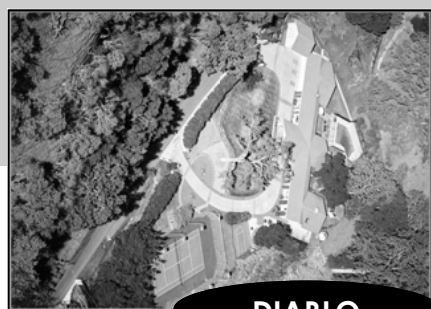


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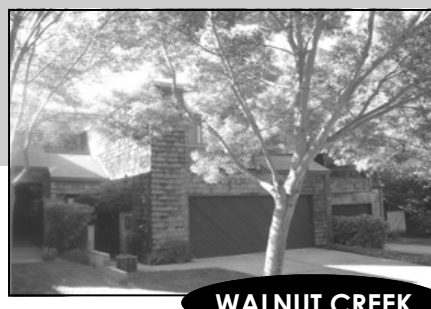
Offered at \$5,250,000



HERCULES

100 Skelly
New Listing! 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. One story corner lot home with amazing views of the Bay. Great neighborhood and close to transportation. Priced to sell. Call now for your private showing.

Offered at \$649,000



WALNUT CREEK

554 Monarch Ridge
Sweet! 3 bedrooms. 2.5 baths, plus loft. Updated Summit Ridge home. Kitchen and baths with brushed maple cabinetry. Granite counter. New stone tile floors. Neighborhood backs to open space.

Offered at \$879,000



ALAMO

154 Alamo Square
Fresh! 2 bedrooms. 2.5 baths, plus loft. Gorgeous townhouse with views of Las Trampas. Beautifully updated kitchen and baths with multiple designer touches. Be the first to view. Call now for a private showing. This is the one you've been waiting for in Alamo Bridge.

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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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please email: OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com

Danville

2 Bedrooms

- 421 Sycamore Hill** \$649,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes Danville 791-4273
- 404 Camino Arroyo W.** \$650,000
Sat 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA 314-2414
- 407 Oneida Ct.** \$665,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 984-1787

3 Bedrooms

- 1548 Harlan Dr.** \$1,049,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. The Mees Team 855-6410
- 663 Sheri Ln.** \$1,125,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4162
- 536 Sycamore Cir.** \$575,000
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Empire Realty 324-9700
- 1947 S. Forest Hill Pl.** \$655,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Pacific Union GMAC 963-3959
- 1833 N. Forst Hill Pl.** \$679,999
Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21 Heritage 846-7997
- 416 Oneida Ct.** \$725,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 984-1787
- 63 Woodvalley Dr.** \$792,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 251-2556
- 1344 Fountain Springs Cir.** \$825,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord 895-2804
- 685 Paradise Valley Ct.** \$839,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 837-5679

4 Bedrooms

- 106 Carole Meadows Ct.** \$1,379,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 831-3321
- 106 Windover Dr.** \$1,575,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 736-1666
- 141 Lawnview Cir.** \$649,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5017
- 1075 Lehigh Valley Cir.** \$849,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 683-9799
- 265 Stetson Dr.** \$949,990
Sun 2-4 p.m. ReMax Accord 735-7653
- 14 Woodranch Cir.** \$999,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Empire Realty 217-3112

5 Bedrooms

- 30 Devonshire Ct.** \$1,225,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 984-3060
- 826 Casita Ct.** \$1,289,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. King Brothers Real Estate 736-7007
- 230 Lyon Ct.** \$1,479,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 846-6500
- 742 Danville Blvd.** \$1,495,999
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 998-9747
- 2 Maplewood Ct.** \$1,498,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 360-0350
- 205 Morris Ranch Rd.** \$1,538,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 998-1371
- 9 Creeledge Ct.** \$1,989,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 360-0350

Diablo

4 Bedrooms

- 2065 Diablo Rd.** \$1,499,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 785-6219
- 21 Calle Del Casarillo** \$1,950,000
Sat 2-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 984-3060
- 21 Calle Del Casarillo** \$1,950,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 984-3060

Alamo

4 Bedrooms

- 925 Underhill Dr.** \$2,095,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 838-4300
- 504 Oakshire Pl.** \$3,699,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 785-6219

5 Bedrooms

- 407 Red Wing Dr.** \$1,749,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4107
- 23 Darlene Ct.** \$1,849,000

Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord 362-1649

Blackhawk

3 Bedrooms

- 35 Sugar Pine Ln.** \$1,099,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4072

4 Bedrooms

- 3765 Deer Trail Ct.** \$1,495,000
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 683-6058
- 64 Blackhills Pl.** \$Upon Request
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 838-4300

Walnut Creek

1 Bedrooms

- 1431 Marchbanks Dr., #4** \$310,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4075

2 Bedrooms

- 1919 Ygnacio Valley Rd., #36** \$375,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 648-5354
- 47 Iron Horse Ln.** \$679,900
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Interio 487-2629

3 Bedrooms

- 1877 Holland Dr.** \$539,950
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4110
- 554 Monarch Ridge** \$879,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Heritage Real Estate 984-3060
- 1172 Mountain View Blvd.** \$980,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 984-3060

4 Bedrooms

- 1942 Highridge Ct.** \$849,990
Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 339-3500

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms

- 3875 Crow Canyon Rd.** \$469,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 788-5827
- 236-F Canyon Woods Wy.** \$529,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4072
- 18 Spring Garden** \$638,239
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 648-5319

3 Bedrooms

- 301 Caraway Ct.** \$1,019,950
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 899-8651

3 Bedrooms

- 313 Bellflower Dr.** \$729,950
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4072
- 744-7 Lakemont Pl.** \$748,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. ERA Premier 487-5138
- 2548 Rockhampton Rd.** \$761,500
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4020

- 115 Shadowhill Cir.** \$774,999
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 876-4459

- 3019 Sombbrero Cir.** \$777,000
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 736-4155

- 135 Enchanted Wy.** \$782,500
Sat noon-3 p.m. Empire Realty 984-1787

- 2440 Millstream Ln.** \$795,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 251-2521

- 5260 E. Lakeshore Dr.** \$825,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 648-5346

4 Bedrooms

- 127 Corral Cir.** \$1,030,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 945-4677
- 1946 Hollyview Dr.** \$1,089,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5050
- 200 Oakham Ct.** \$1,099,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 890-4834
- 73 Elmwood Dr.** \$809,990
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Hometown GMAC 426-3815
- 109 Pebble Pl.** \$919,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 251-2559

- 164 Victory Cir.** \$959,900
Sun 2-5 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5044

- 266 Sunridge Dr.** \$969,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 216-7092

- 1357 Kellybrook Ct.** \$979,950
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 876-4459

- 413 Donner Wy.** \$984,500
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 968-1452

5 Bedrooms

- 361 Adelaide Hills Ct.** \$1,249,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 785-1386

- 3059 Hastings Wy.** \$1,273,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4179

Dublin

2 Bedrooms

- 10725 Wallace Ln.** \$534,900
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 413-1068

- 3275 Dublin Blvd., #406** \$559,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 855-4125

- 4613 Sandyford Ct.** \$587,500
Sun 1-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 736-4155

- 3295 Monaghan St.** \$595,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 831-3390

3 Bedrooms

- 8715 Augusta Ct.** \$675,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord 600-7653

- 5228 Charlton Ct.** \$778,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 251-2553

4 Bedrooms

- 4143 Cardena Ct.** \$849,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 968-1452

Sunol

2 Bedrooms

- 2559 Kilkare Rd.** \$749,950
Sun 1-4 p.m. Windermere Properties 963-8871

Pleasanton

1 Bedrooms

- 829 D Division St.** \$369,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Interio 251-2556

2 Bedrooms

- 8113 Arroyo Dr., #4** \$379,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 260-2220

2 BedroomsTownhouse

- 8062 Arroyo Dr.** \$385,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord (888) 454-1010

- 5375 Black Ave., #4** \$537,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Pleasanton Valley Help-U-Sell 462-5950

- 4147 Moller Dr.** \$655,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC 426-3813

3 Bedrooms

- 5168 Willowview Ct.** \$669,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. ReMax Accord 249-1112

- 3937 Petrified Forest Ct.** \$744,000



OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

1548 Harlan Drive, Danville

This beautifully appointed showcase home is not to be believed-everything is new & high-end quality! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths w/1996 sq. ft. on a 9222 sq. ft. lot in the popular Greenbrook neighborhood. The Town of Danville has approved plans to add on 2 more bedrooms, 1 bath and a bonus room. This home features over \$300,000 in remodel upgrades. This includes a large gourmet kitchen w/cherry cabinet, granite slab, travertine floors, top of the line stainless appliances, vaulted ceilings & a 9 ft. island. The home has dual panes, Cherry floors, all newly bullnosed & retextured walls & ceilings, built-in speakers, custom woodwork/pain & so much more! The yard is professionally land/hardscaped front & back with flagstone patios, a Tahoe Blue pool, waterfall, cobblestone paver patio with built-in lights & an outdoor kitchen with a barbeque, frig, sink & sideburner-all w/granite top! This one has so much to offer- Don't miss it!

Offered at \$1,049,950

Call for further details

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ALAMO

Top Of The Hill **\$3,699,000**
Roundhill North area. This 7400+/-sf estate is set on .6+/-acre with amazing views. Amenities include French limestone flooring.
Dale Schroeder **925.785.6219**



ALAMO

Desirable Jones Ranch! **\$Price upon request**
Spectacular home situated on nearly 2 acres with breathtaking views of Mt. Diablo and the valley below. 6bd, 5full/2half baths, nearly 6700sf.
Dave Bauer **925.855.4040**



BLACKHAWK

Phenomenal Pepperwood Estate **\$2,799,000**
Private end of court location surrounded by open space. Large granite and stainless kitchen, downstairs master and office, pool, spa, and much more.
Bonnie King **925.855.4072**



DANVILLE

Country Home On 2+Acres **\$2,075,000**
6 year old, 6bd, 3.5ba custom beauty in city limits with attached in-law set-up complete with kitchen and separate entrance. 4-stall barn, 2800+/-sf workshop.
Ralph Sessa/ Khrista Jarvis **925.858.5233/ 925.855.4065**



ALAMO

Bryan Meadow Beauty **\$1,749,000**
Stunning remodel on private .58+/-acre with 5bd (1 used as office with built-ins), 3ba, hardwood floors, slab granite, pool/spa, 2 fireplaces. Gorgeous!
Jim Sours **925.855.4107**



BLACKHAWK

Park-Like Setting **\$1,699,000**
Located within the prestigious gates of Blackhawk, this gorgeous 5+ bedroom, 3 bath home features 4000+/-sf. Grounds with trees, pool, sports court.
Khrista Jarvis **925.855.4065**



DANVILLE

Turn-Key In Magee Ranch **\$1,639,000**
4bd plus office, 3ba, gorgeous granite kitchen, open floor plan, freshly painted. Park-like backyard with play structure and hot tub, backs to open space.
Julie Whitmer **925.855.4033**



DANVILLE

Gorgeous Magee Ranch **\$1,575,000**
Lovely lot backing to open space. 4 bedrooms plus library, 3.5 baths, loaded with upgrades, granite kitchen and a sparkling pool.
Carol Erbert **925.736.1666**



ALAMO

New Listing On One-Half Acre **\$1,395,000**
Charming 4bd, 3ba family home on fabulous half-acre+/-lot. Travertine marble entry, newer windows and a limestone patio with arbor. Close to freeway.
Ralph Sessa **925.858.5233**

Danville
Blackhawk

15 Railroad Avenue
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle

925.855.4000
925.648.5300

