

New career for baby boomers

Peace Corps targeting 50-plus age group at library session > **page 18**

Builder presents plans for orchard

Development would include four-story hotel and stores

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Vol. III, Number 28 • November 9, 2007

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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Alamo incorporation folks get their signatures

Now supporters must raise funds for LAFCO study

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INT'S

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IDPLAN

Danville building department makes sure home improvements go smoothly

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Streetwise

ASKED AT HARTZ AVENUE AND PROSPECT AVENUE

Q: Would you like to be famous? In what way?



I'd like to be a famous rock star because then I could travel all over the world and meet interesting people. I play the piano.

Olivia Molineux
junior at Carondelet High School



Yes, I would like to be famous. I'd like to be a philanthropist and do good for a lot of differences causes, and make other people happy.

Ed Schumann
insurance



I don't think I'd like to be famous. I like to lead a quiet life. I don't want to be in the public eye.

Judy Howard
retired



My No. 1 dream is to give a lot of money to Children's Hospital Oakland. I tell my husband that if I win the lottery that's the first thing I would do. We haven't had to go there with our children but we've had friends who have needed them.

Renee Molineux
homemaker



I'd like to be a famous professional rugby player so I can play alongside my favorite players, like Paul O'Connell who plays Munster Rugby, in Ireland.

Michael O'Connor
junior at De La Salle High School

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

ABOUT THE COVER

Danville residents need a permit to remodel, make additions or alter plumbing or electrical wiring. It's important to have the proper permits before starting to do the work. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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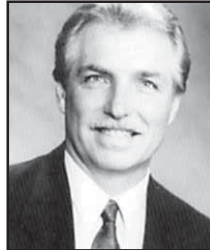
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It's not like we're giving a tax cut to Paris Hilton.”

— Aaron Stone, spokesman for U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney, on the proposed change in inheritance taxes for small farms and businesses. See story, page 10.

Veterans Day specials

For Veterans Day 2007, the communities of the San Ramon Valley will honor military service veterans at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Performing Arts Center at San Ramon Valley High School. Also, a Museum of Military Memorabilia is on display at the Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., from 1-4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9; 10:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; and 10:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

Danville residents Georgia and Paul Cantrell are heading up a Veterans Day weekend-long fundraising mission to benefit Operation Second Chance, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help make rehabilitation easier for wounded soldiers. They met some injured soldiers on a cruise last January and were so impressed that they felt inspired to help.

Twelve wounded soldiers are coming from Walter Reed Hospital, and will attend a Veteran's Day Heroes Welcome Rally at 1 p.m. today at Pier 33 in San Francisco. Tomorrow, Saturday, they will attend the Goodguys Rod & Custom show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, which will include a benefit concert at 2 p.m. On Sunday, they will attend Veterans Day services.

In observance of Veterans Day, schools and Town of Danville offices will be closed Monday.

Meet the 'King of Christmas'

Mark Roberts, a nationally known creator of collectible Fairies, Santas and Elves, will appear at Elegant Clutter in the Livery in Danville from 12:30-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, to meet fans and sign his creations for collectors.

“From our sales records, we know there are many collectors in the Danville/San Ramon/Alamo area,” said Mary Burczyk, owner of Elegant Clutter.

Roberts will talk about starting his company 23 years ago to create hand-crafted fairies and other magical characters, which have earned him the title, “King of Christmas.” He is also promoting the special Healing Heart, Spirit of Hope and Make-a-Wish fairies he has created to benefit charitable causes.

Scouting for food next weekend

Thousands of Scouts, from first grade Tiger Cubs to teenage Scouts and volunteers, will be going house to house Saturday, Nov. 17, to collect food for families who are less fortunate. Residents are asked to donate canned and nonperishable food that will be delivered to the Food Banks of Contra Costa and Solano counties, which supply food to more than 200 agencies.

The annual Scouting for Food Drive helps people with the basic essential of life—food. Each month, Bay Area Food Banks serve more than half a million people, 48 percent of whom are children, through food pantries, children's programs, shelters, soup kitchens, residential programs and other emergency providers.

Last year the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, Boy Scouts of America collected 209,088 pounds of food but chairman Jeff Hart and marketing chairman Mark Curtis announced that the target this year is 220,000 pounds.



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Alamo incorporation folks get their signatures

Now supporters must raise funds for LAFCO study

by Natalie O'Neill

The Alamo cityhood effort is on to the next chapter. Petitioners for the Alamo Incorporation Movement gathered 3,100 signatures in two months—one-third of the time allotted—and submitted the petition to the Local Agency Formation Commission this week.

Advocates needed to acquire support from 25 percent of the Alamo voting population, or about 2,400 people. They provided an extra 700 signatures to cover the margin of error.

From here, the movement needs to come up with \$250,000 to fund a LAFCO study to determine whether incorporation is feasible. If the

agency gives the go-ahead, a vote would then occur.

"I think we have a phenomenally dedicated group who realizes this needs to be presented to the voters," said David Bowlby, spokesman for AIM.

Petition chairwomen Vicki Crockett and Barbara Munkner and their committee gathered signatures door-to-door, at neighborhood meetings and outside Safeway in Alamo Plaza.

"We are building momentum," said Vicki Koc, AIM chairwoman.

But as incorporation supporters celebrate their first victory, a formal anti-incorporation group is get-

► Continued on page 7

Plans for orchard include four-story hotel

Developer gets feedback from Town Council and residents

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Danville Town Council approved a motion at its meeting Tuesday that allows developer Sid Corrie to conduct a study to assess if his plans for developing seven acres on Camino Ramon fits in with the locale.

"This is just the start of the process," said Kevin Gailey, town chief building planner. "It's a glorified pre-notification that something is coming down the road. No application has been submitted."

Sid Corrie is considering developing residential and commer-

cial property on seven acres of Danville's 16-acre walnut orchard, which is owned by Armand Borel, 78. Corrie purchased the option to buy the seven acres on the northern side of the orchard on Camino Ramon, across from Costco, for an undisclosed amount in June 2004. The option runs through June 2009.

Corrie's plans include a four-story, 140-room upscale hotel, a self-storage facility and a mix of general retail, restaurant and office spaces. He also wants to build single-family homes.

► Continued on page 7



Releasing the raccoon

Chainsaw sculptor Glen Sievert turns a dying oak into a work of art in Alamo, at a private residence near Las Trampas Center. The 44-year-old-artist, whose famous carved bears can be spotted everywhere from the Iron Horse Trail up into Blackhawk, said, "In Danville, everybody goes, 'You're the bear guy!'"

His pieces range from \$300 into the thousands and he'll create raccoons, bears, squirrels, eagles and any other animals people request, as long as he's capable. He doesn't map out his work, but sculpts as he goes, using the natural curves and knots of the tree for guidance.

"I don't have a plan. I freehand everything. And no, I don't mess up," he said.

Most of his commissioners find him through word-of-mouth, but call (707) 354-0729 or visit www.chainsawsculping.com to contact him directly.

School superintendent announces retirement plans

Kessler talks about his 13 years of challenges and accomplishments in the San Ramon Valley School District

by Jordan M. Doronila



Superintendent Rob Kessler is retiring from the San Ramon Valley Unified School District after 13 years of service. He announced his decision last week.

Being a school superintendent wasn't always easy. There were times when Rob Kessler lay awake all night wondering about the district budget or a personnel issue.

"Sometimes, I do a very good job on weekends being able to leave my job and be with my family and friends," said Kessler, superintendent of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

Then there were times he found himself "waking at 3 in the morning, essentially at work."

Now, Kessler, 60, plans to retire at the end of the school year, he announced to the school board last week.

The district academically ranks

eighth in the state. Under Kessler's 13-year tenure, the district's schools have been renovated, academic performances have improved, and finances have been balanced.

"We've been lucky to have a superintendent to be as good as Rob," said Trustee Paul Gardner. "He's a great educator."

"He grasped the issues of school financing," he added. "He could make recommendations about educational value and could make recommendations on how we were going to pay for things."

Kessler, who lives in Albany, said he was leaving because he wanted to explore other life possibilities.

"The timing was right for me," he said. "We accomplished what we set out to do."

Currently, he teaches an educational leadership course for teachers and school administrators at California State University, East Bay. He is also looking into consulting and executive coaching.

"There are so many opportunities," he said.

He noted he has plenty of positive accomplishments in the district. Helping administrators and students solve problems, as well as developing trust and rapport with district constituents, are among his great achievements. In addition, several bond measures have been passed to upgrade and modernize schools. Also, schools have opened in Dougherty Valley under his leadership.

"He's got a lot to be proud of," said Trustee Greg Marvel.

He also created a public relations position, which is filled by Terry Koehne.

"The district never really ever had anyone to talk about the district and figure out partnerships," Kessler said. "The community has responded with a better understanding."

"Local Realtors will tell you one of the main reasons why people move here is because of the quality of schools," he added.

Kessler said he enjoyed being around an extraordinary group of staff members to solve problems.

However, he also faced a tremendous amount of pressure being head of a district that is a \$200 million-per-year business with more than

► Continued on page 10



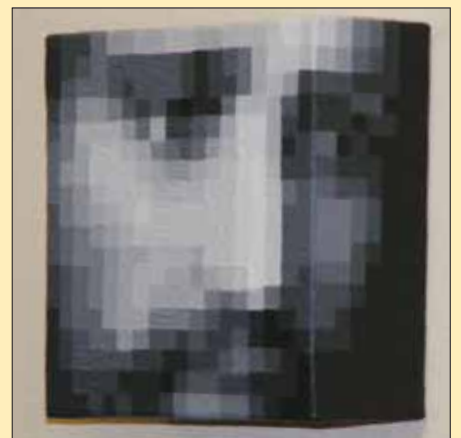
DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Now hanging downtown

Featured artist Philip Hellsten explains his art to Faz Poursohi at the Pioneer Art Gallery on Saturday, where Hellsten was the featured artist. Food for the reception was provided by Faz, whose restaurant is next door to the gallery, plus he is one of the portraits in Hellsten's collection behind them.

Hellsten's art on display features portraits done in acrylic paint using 12 steps of a gray-scale. The medium challenges the viewer's eye—whereas a painting might look like a collection of squares close up, stepping back brings it into focus to reveal the subject. Hellsten painted this image (right) of St. Jude, the Patron of Lost Causes, on a block. A square block sitting on a pedestal under a glass protector is titled "Six Nuts," and has an image of a famous psychiatrist on each side, plus one of Hellsten himself. Move the cube to hear the pattering of nutshells.

The Pioneer Art Gallery, at 524 Hartz Ave. in downtown Danville, exhibits art by members of the Alamo Danville Artists' Society. The building was recently purchased by Alamo developer Brad Blake, who plans to tear it down, and he is allowing the artist's group use of it for six months.



ADAS members pitched in with remodeling, repainting and installing track lights in a matter of days to open the gallery in time for the Danville Fall Crafts Festival on Oct. 20-21. It will now feature a member artist every two weeks with a reception. The building at one time was home to the beloved Valley Pioneer newspaper, so the group chose to honor this history with its name for the gallery.

The Pioneer Art Gallery is open 5-9 p.m. Fridays; 1-9 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-5 p.m. Sundays.

Danville Community Band appoints associate conductor

Robert Calonico, Director of Bands at UC Berkeley, has been selected as the associate conductor of the 85-member Danville Community Band.

"I am so thrilled and delighted to have Bob join me in conducting this fine group of musicians," said Music Director and Conductor Dr. Lawrence Anderson. "He is a great addition to the band and his expertise and talent will really enhance our musicians' knowledge and skills."

Calonico's duties at UC Berkeley include directing and arranging for the Cal Marching Band and conducting the University Wind Ensemble.

He is a graduate of St Mary's College High School in Berkeley and holds a bachelor's degree in music from UC Berkeley. He earned his teaching credential and a master's in clarinet performance from California State University, Hayward. He lives in Hercules,

is married to a professional musician, Sharon, and is the father of a son and daughter.

Prior to his appointment at UC Berkeley, Calonico held faculty positions

at Dominican College and Terra Linda High School in San Rafael.

With 35 years of professional experience, he has played with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, Oakland Ballet, California Symphony, Berkeley Symphony and Berkeley Repertory Theater. He has also performed with San Francisco-based Broadway show productions including "Phantom of the Opera" and "West Side Story," Natalie Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Maria Muldaur, James Brown, Tex Beneke and Harry James Orchestras.

Calonico currently serves as Bay Section President for the California Music Educators Association.

"I am honored to have been chosen to share the conducting duties with Dr. Anderson," Calonico said. "I know I will enjoy being part of this wonderful band, it's a lot of fun for me."

The Danville Community Band is preparing for its most popular performance of the year, "A Jubilant Holiday," which will take place at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, at the East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara. The free event also will feature a special "guest" conductor for "Jingle Bells." ■



Robert Calonico

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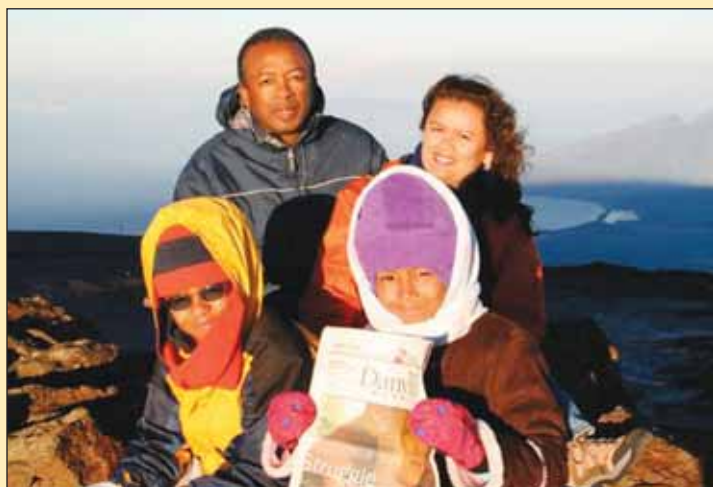


TAKE US ALONG



History comes alive

Stone Valley Middle School history teacher Eric Rasch begs for mercy as the victorious Duke Peterson enjoys the glory, Allison Yaron signals the verdict, and Matt Stailey carries out the sentence, as they get into the spirit of things in front of Coliseum in Rome last spring. Meanwhile a Roman gladiator catches up on news from the Danville Weekly. The seventh-graders were touring Italy during Spring Break as part of their Renaissance curriculum.



Enjoying the tropics?

The Canzius Family—dad Preston, mom Suma, Krishan, 11, Priya, 9—rests atop Maui's Haleakala at sunrise with the Danville Weekly.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to travel@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

Alamo

► Continued from page 5

ting organized. Leaders collected funds and rallied volunteers at last week's anti-incorporation meeting.

"We've gathered enough money to get our brochures printed," said Tony Carnemolla, who plans to distribute a pamphlet with facts against incorporation.

Outspoken Alamo resident Hal Bailey said he felt people were misled about the impact of signing the petition.

"I remain deeply concerned that the majority of petition signatures came from people who simply expected a feasibility study and not an application for formation of an autonomous city council," he wrote in an e-mail.

Signing the petition advocated both a feasibility study and an

application for cityhood approval. If LAFCO finds Alamo cityhood feasible, it would be approved. However, it still must then be voted on by Alamo residents.

The LAFCO study is expected to take about a year and would then go to the Board of Supervisors for an election date, which could happen as early as March 2009. Fifty percent of Alamo voters would have to support cityhood for it to pass. ■

Orchard

► Continued from page 5

The storage facility would be used as a buffer between the commercial outlets and the residents, said Todd Muentner, a member of Corrie's development team.

"It's something that can work," Muentner said. "I'm a big believer in the property."

Town staff said Borel's property is designed for commercial use under the Danville General Plan. His land is next to I-680 and across the street from retail outlets.

Nonetheless, residents at the meeting were dismayed about having more development by their homes. More than 30 attended the public hearing.

They said commercial development would bring traffic, and they

noted the storage facility would be like a warehouse, which would detract from the surrounding beauty.

"The storage facility is industrial," said Edward Ding.

Ding said the General Plan is supposed to ensure the town maintains its small town atmosphere and protect its natural resources. He also said he wants to see the orchard preserved.

"It's the last orchard in Danville," he said. "It's kind of a legacy."

Resident Michael Hensley said he didn't want more retail.

"The orchard brought me here," Hensley said, adding that he would have a close view of the hotel if it is built.

Town Council also encouraged Corrie's team to come up with alternative plans. Councilman Newell Arnerich said the hotel benefited Bishop Ranch more than Danville. He suggested that a market analysis

be included in Corrie's study.

Arnerich also raised additional issues.

"I think traffic is going to be a challenge," he said.

And he wasn't thrilled with having a storage facility. He said Danville had one in the past and it didn't work.

"The residential and storage facility was not a happy marriage in Danville," Arnerich said.

He noted he thinks highly of Corrie's work, especially his development and design of Alamo Springs near El Pintado. He said that neighborhood has the look and feel of Danville.

Corrie also has the right of first refusal on the remainder of Borel's property. His team will continue to work on plans, considering feedback from the Town Council and residents.

"It'll be a good project," Corrie said as he left the meeting. ■

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An Interview with San Francisco Cigar's Jim Ervin Swanky Cigar Store Reopening with New Cigar Bar Lounge

His wholesale cigar company sells more cigars in a month than most retail stores sell in a year but Jim Ervin, San Francisco Cigar's top banana, has serious concerns about the future of his industry in the State. After a turbulent first two years in Downtown Pleasanton, Ervin temporarily closed his retail store to reevaluate the future of his award winning store front. Born and raised in the City by the Bay, Ervin attended school in the East Bay before beginning a successful career in the real estate investment business which he maintains to this day. Yet, even with the turmoil in the tobacco industry, his cigar companies remain his first passion. While he proclaims to earn a "modest income" from his cigar business, his Brioni suit, Rolex watch and fleet of European cars in his driveway speak differently. One competitor proclaimed Ervin to be one of the most influential cigar people in the western United States and supposedly has direct access to the heads of the largest cigar manufactures in the world. Pictures of him and industry icons like Carlos Fuente, Jorge Padron and Carlos Torano and cigar aficionados Rush Limbaugh, Michael Jordan and Rudy Guiliani adorn walls in his office. Unmarried at age 46, he remains one of the areas most eligible bachelors yet refrains from talking about his personal life. Cigar Retailer caught up with him at his palatial East Bay hills home to discuss the future of the industry that he loves, the pending reopening of his Pleasanton store, his notorious "Cigar Girl" who was recently featured in Playboy and his infamous cigar events.

CR: What is the state of the Cigar industry?

JE: Well, industry wide, cigar sales have been up steadily over the past few years however, it is a whole different story in California. Smoking bans, the ever ongoing anti tobacco legislation, while primarily targeting cigarette smokers, effects cigar smokers even more so. High state excise taxes and internet sales originating from out of state retailers have had negative impacts on local tobacco shops even to a point where some well established stores in the Bay Area have closed their doors. For some folks, it is pretty bleak out there.

CR: One of your competitors said of you, "Ervin is one of the most influential people in the business today because he is well connected and most importantly, he has MONEY and lots of it. Our industry consists of mom and pop stores who earn \$50,000 a year. He does that in a week. We buy cigars by the box, he buys them in a crate. At the same time, he is one of the few competitors that I have who will provide me stock which I may be low on and need right away and when I send one of my customers into see him, he ALWAYS encourages that person to come back to me for their next order. Others would try to steal my customer but that is not how Jim operates. He is truly a class act! And the beautiful women who he brings to trade shows are legendary. Plus, how many merchants do you know that have their own Tommy Bahama shirt line? He is the real deal!" How do you respond to that?

JE: I think that whoever said that is confused with someone else especially on the "money" angle. I have been involved in all my business entities for several years. I have worked hard to get where I

am. I have been blessed to have met the right people along the way who have offered me guidance and I have been fortunate enough to follow their lead and have become somewhat successful. I have met a lot of nice people along the journey.

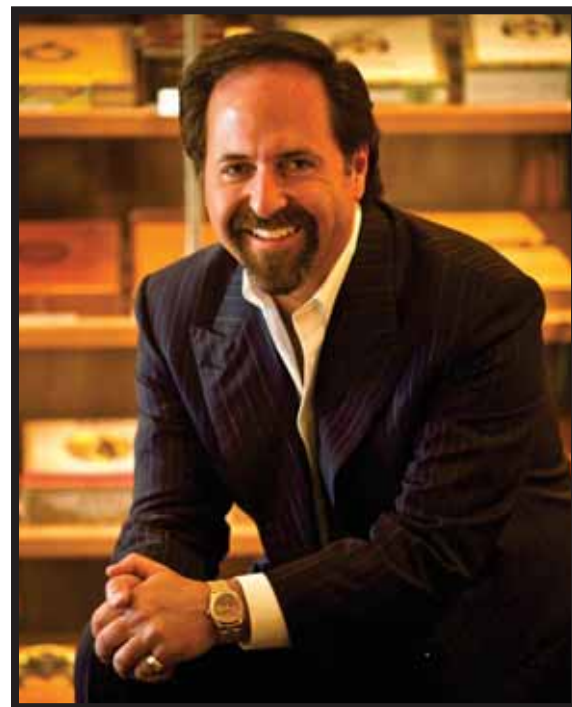
CR: You opened the Pleasanton store a few years back to great reviews including that it was on of the nicest specialty stores in the Bay Area let alone Pleasanton. What happened?

JE: Well (laughing), let's just say that we built it and they DIDN'T COME!!! Yes, we have received wonderful compliments on the store and I am not saying that because I built the place but it has been a struggle. Most people do not realize that, from the get go, the concept got shot down by the City Planning Commission which was a minor setback. We were fortunate that we were able to catch the Holiday shoppers a few months after the store opened but for the industry wide reasons already discussed, the store struggled to maintain steady customer traffic. Pleasanton is a great place to live, the schools are the best, the community is wonderful and safe but opening a store in Downtown Pleasanton is not necessarily a blueprint for financial success. The Downtown Associations have all been supportive to the highest degree but you cannot force people to come into your establishment and spend lots of money. Obviously, as a merchant, I become concerned with the ever present turnover of businesses in the area. I am fortunate that I own the store property so I enjoy a certain flexibility that other merchants don't.

CR: What is the status of the store now and are changes in order?

JE: We are in the process of remodeling the interior and tweaking the inventory here and there but there will be some noticeable changes to the original design. The mahogany cabinets, the hi tech lighting, the distinct Bellagio Las Vegas aroma throughout and of course, Tony, Frank and Ella crooning in the background will remain. We will be adding a few more lines to our already stellar hard to find selection of premium cigars and, of course, we will continue to have the best accessories including humidors, cutters, lighters and the like. Memorabilia will still be featured yet on a lower scale. Big changes will be the addition of our new cigar bar and lounge and membership club which will offer a unique and stylish venue for all members. Comfortable leather seating, a cigar bar, great music and of course, our hospitable staff will be included. The Club will provide its members with a relaxing, comfortable, friendly atmosphere designed to optimize their cigar smoking pleasures. This will be an ideal place to enjoy a relaxed smoke, increase your circle of friends and enjoy the good life. The club offers plasma TV's for sports, news and breaking financials. Membership offers a vast calendar of outstanding events, exclusive gatherings all conceived to enhance the enjoyment of cigar connoisseurship.

"This will be an ideal place to enjoy a relaxed smoke, increase your circle of friends and enjoy the good life!!"



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CR: What type of perks and any idea on "membership" costs?"

JE: In-store discounts, private cigar lockers, subscriptions to cigar magazines, cigar / port tastings, invitations to company functions like our concerts and cigar nights etc. We are researching a "tiered membership" fee structure right now. There will be "daily passes" for those who do not want the longer financial commitment. Experiencing the "good life" comes at a cost one way or another!

CR: Your advertisements, especially with the woman in the ad, are certainly "eye catching"?"

JE: Well (laughing) that is the point, right? Melissa has been working for me for some time and has done a wonderful job both as a model and by her "guest appearances" that she has done in the store. The gentlemen love her but she commands respect from the ladies as well. She was kind enough to call me and offer to help in any way for our Grand Opening a few years back. Her advertised appearance helped bring 1,200 people in that night! She was featured in Playboy magazine last year. I tell people that I got her before Hef did!

CR: Your "Gentlemen Cigar Nights" are renowned but also for a good cause. Do women attend too?

JE: Yeah, we have had some wonderful nights over the years. The attendees are always greeted with search lights at the restaurants and sometimes a Raiderette or two. Great cigars, humidors and apparel are also passed out but, more importantly, we also honor people in the local community who have done well and I think that it is important that people are recognized for the positive impact that they have made on our lives. The ladies have their own "Cigar Night" during the summer when the company sponsors concerts at Bay Area venues. Over the years, we have sponsored such acts as Huey Lewis and the News, Earth Wind & Fire and last year we saw the incomparable Tony Bennett. What a show!

Cameras installed to prevent vandalism at community center

Danville police will monitor activities from their office

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

The Town of Danville has installed surveillance cameras around its new \$6 million Oak Hill Park Community Center to protect it from miscreants.

Police will be monitoring the park, said Jed Johnson, town maintenance services manager. "The idea is to protect our investments."

Town officials decided to install the cameras to keep an eye out for vandals, he said. The four cameras are hanging around the center's perimeter and are hooked up to the Danville Police Department. The police can monitor the center from their office.

"It's an expensive enough building that we want to protect it from vandalism," said Town Councilwoman Candace Andersen. "We want to make sure nothing happens to it."

The Oak Hill Park Community Center is on Stone Valley Road, adjacent to Monte Vista High School. Town officials opened its doors to the public last month and placed the cameras to pro-

tect the building from being damaged. Andersen noted that a smaller building that used to be there was vandalized.

Currently, surveillance cameras, worth \$6,000 each, are confined to the center and are not placed in any other town facility. Police said they are meant to stop people from damaging property—not to intrude on residents' lives.

"The last thing we would do is to have cameras all over the town where everyone feels watched," said Police Chief Chris Wenzel. "This is by no means a 'big brother' act."

"The ultimate goal is to put a system in place in certain areas or parks for cameras and capture certain criminal activity," said Wenzel. "Law enforcement can't be everywhere. The cost of a camera is a lot less."

The cameras will focus on the building, especially after working hours, and be able to identify delinquents.

"I'm pretty confident it's going to be a deterrent to vandalism," Wenzel said. "At this time, we are working to put cameras in certain areas that are concerns."

"The whole purpose is the protection of property and to make people safe," he added.

Johnson spearheaded installing



One of the cameras at Oak Hill Park Community Center

the cameras. He said he spoke six to nine months ago with administrators in neighboring cities, such as Pittsburg, who were using them. He brought the idea back to Danville and discussed it with the town manager and Town Council.

The town approved the cameras and recently installed them.

"This is to help augment our job," Wenzel said. "We have seen in the past certain vandalisms that occurred. This happened at the All Wars Memorial two years ago."

"The cameras will protect the work and moneys that the town spends," he added. "The entire building and surrounding area can be monitored. We'll be making adjustments to make it all work." ■

Social studies textbooks come with CD-ROM option

Electronic reading materials offer students more ways to learn

by **Natalie O'Neill**

Some students lug around five-pound textbooks on their backs all day. Here in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, they have more options than that.

New social studies books are giving students the chance to study at home via CD-ROM, a pocket-sized electronic textbook that weighs about as much as a pack of gum.

The compact disks are a supplement to the traditional textbook, a bonus both school board members and curriculum directors say caters to more styles of learning and gives teachers freedom with learning assessments.

Students can access the textbooks through a computer, where an electronic voice will read sentences aloud as they follow along.

"It's an excellent recourse for kids who are auditory learners—it's a huge benefit," said Marie Morgan, district director of curriculum.

The books, published by Scott Foresman, are part of a trend textbook companies are picking up on nationally. In the age of computers—and immediate gratification when it comes to accessing information—younger generations are no strangers to reading electronically.

"We live in a world of technology, and for a lot of students this matches their way of learning. Some kids are motivated by tech-

nology," Morgan said.

The disks come with links to additional online info including the publisher's Web site, which provide quick definitions of words, quizzes and games to help absorb the material. They were adopted in grades K-12 throughout the district and each year a new subject will receive updated texts.

School board member Rachel Hurd, whose top priorities are literacy and catching learning disorders early on, said the disks help children who don't read well.

"It gives them extra access in classes where they aren't learning to read, but reading to learn," she said.

Next fall, students will have new science texts, followed by math and language arts. There is no additional cost to the school district for the technology.

The switch to electronic reading material has caused heated discussion in school districts nationally, particularly among parents who don't have computers or feel their child doesn't have enough access to one.

Parents and teachers in a Detroit school district said recently they believe the change puts lower income families at a disadvantage.

Here in the San Ramon Valley, district staff said since classic texts are still available, it's more of perk than a drastic alteration of curriculum philosophy. School board members indicated the district

wasn't ready to phase out traditional texts completely, although the disks are far less expensive.

"It's kind of hard to sit at a computer and read at a screen—in terms of use all the time," Hurd said.

From a teacher's point of view, the Scott Foresman texts allow three teaching options: a group project, a traditional text book teaching path and the chance to use the CDs with additional Web links.

These three options work for different learning styles—students who work best in a group, those who work best solo, and those who work best with technology.

The current publisher's Web site has a social studies encyclopedia, where students can, for example, click on a president's biography for a quick reminder of who they were and what they contributed.

Teachers can also use the "item bank," which allows them to put together their own individualized learning assessment.

"It's a pretty cool tool," Morgan said.

Every seven years the district adopts new texts, and a list of publishers is provided by the state. Teachers are given a pilot period to test which books they prefer. The district then adopts the books in the spring and students receive them in the fall.

"This kind of technology is getting better and better," Hurd said. ■



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Bill would change death taxes on small farms, businesses

Break intended to help small family businesses

by **Natalie O'Neill**

A bill introduced last week by U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) could give small business owners and farmers in Danville and Alamo tax breaks when passing their property on to family.

As the law currently stands, small businesses and farms worth under \$2 million are exempt from estate tax, or what some call "death tax." The new legislation would bump the exemption up to \$8 million.

"It could certainly have an impact on Danville, given the number of small businesses downtown—in terms of keeping them open from generation to generation," said Andy Stone, spokesman for McNerney.

High death taxes sometimes force family members to sell property to developers, which have shut down more than a few local farms and businesses. The congressman sees this as both an economic and environmental issue, Stone said.

"There's a burgeoning movement to encourage people to eat locally grown food. You can't eat locally if there are no local farms," he said.

Danville business owners said the majority of small businesses downtown aren't yet worth enough to be effected by the bill, but agreed with the principal of the legislation.

"That could really open things up

for small businesses, especially as they grow," said John Knowles, owner of California Pedaler on Hartz Avenue.

"It's just the definition of 'small business' that's my question—for a small business, \$8 million is a lot," he said.

Local business owners aren't the only ones who have questions about the logistics of the legislation. The McNerney camp has gotten flack from its own democratic supporters for giving tax breaks to those who are already well-off.

But unlike corporate giants, Stone said family farms and businesses have strong roots in the community and are generally not run by exorbitantly wealthy people.

"It's not like we're giving a tax cut to Paris Hilton. These are hard-working people—people that live modest, middle-class lives," he said.

Several Danville small business owners agreed.

"It's a beautiful thing. Any tax cut that promotes the well-being of the family is a blessing," said Amid Corlandt, owner of Vally Medlyn's, who runs the restaurant with his wife and son.

As the law stands today, the amount of money the business or farm is worth, exceeding \$2 mil-



U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney

lion, is taxed a 45 percent estate tax. So, for example, a \$5 million family farm would be charged 45 percent of \$3 million—or \$1.35 million.

Armand Borel, owner of Danville's 17-acre walnut orchard near Costco, said the bill would not apply to him, since his land is worth more than \$8 million. He said he'd need to learn more about the legislation before forming an opinion on it.

Alamo Republicans had mixed opinions about the bill and McNerney's local impact.

"There are definitely a lot of Republicans in the area and he could be trying to get that support," said Alamo Republican Tony Carnemolla. "But I'll give him credit, he did show up to our meeting about the Vet Hall and he's in support of it."

Joe Rubay, an Alamo member of the Contra Costa Republican Party, said he was for the bill as long as it's a reduction, not just "a shift in the tax burden."

"Whatever the government can do to keep the money in the hands of the people who earn it—I support these measures," he said.

But ultimately, the issue is non-partisan, Stone said.

"We've gotten a lot of support from both sides," he said.

The goal here is to reflect what the congressman has heard from his constituents, he added.

"He met with farmers, ranchers and small business owners. He's heard from them how important this is," he said. ■

Kessler

► Continued from page 5

2,500 employees, 26,000 students and well over 70,000 constituents. One of the biggest stresses he faced was the inadequate funding the district received from the state.

We are continuously funding long-term planning and trying to figure out priorities for our money," he said. "We make tough decisions. We can't fund them (children) at the level we want. We are having to disappoint people."

Kessler also said special education has been a major issue.

"It's on the list of things that are major challenges for every school district," he said, adding that the district has made strides in improving its special education curriculum.

Additionally, narrowing the academic achievement and proficiency gaps between students are challenges. Although the majority of students do well, there are a significant number in general education that struggle in English and math. Teachers have found it difficult to provide the right instruction for them.

"Some of those questions are unanswered," Kessler said. "We tried to do all things. We all put

our heads together and talk to each other."

Kessler grew up in Palo Alto and went to UC Berkeley in 1969 where he majored in political science, specializing in African Studies after his interest was piqued through a friend with an African background.

"It was intense political turmoil," he said. "Yes, I was involved in anti-war activity."

He did graduate work at Harvard in history but realized he would be stuck in academia—removed from much human interaction. He discovered he enjoyed working with people and solving problems, which prompted him to go into education. He went back to Berkeley and received his teaching credential.

He received his master's degree in curriculum and educational administration at San Francisco State University. He began his career in education more than 33 years ago as a fifth-grade teacher in Moraga.

He was the superintendent of schools for the Reed Union School District in Marin County. He joined the San Ramon Valley Unified School District in 1993 as director of certificated personnel. He oversaw all aspects of the employment process for teachers, principals, nurses and librarians.

He was appointed by the trustees as superintendent in 1995.

The district plans to look at all qualified applicants for the vacated superintendent position and hopes to hire someone to replace Kessler in March or April. Marvel said he hopes the next superintendent will continue to push the district to be its best, known nationally and internationally.

"The board is very sad to see him go," Gardner said. "At the same time, he's moving on to the next phase of his life. The district will continue running well. Life goes on."

Kessler said the primary quality for the next superintendent is communication.

"It's not always an easy thing to do," he said. "The more people involved in the communication process, the more complex it is. It's ultimately why we are so strong as a school district."

Kessler's wife Sally Benjamin is a counselor at Albany High School. His son David graduated from UC Davis and is working in Boston as a union organizer. His daughter Julia is attending the University of Michigan and studying Arabic and Middle Eastern studies.

"They are too far from home as far as I am concerned," Kessler said. ■

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Coming soon near you

Does anyone wish there were a McDonald's in the Trader Joe's location in Danville? That's what her father wanted when he owned the property several decades ago, Marilyn Agenos Dreyfuss told the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce members last week.

The luncheon at Bridges drew a record Chamber crowd to hear developers and property owners talk about what is happening in downtown Danville. It was a good chance to get your arms around all the plans as old buildings face the wrecking ball and new complexes rise from the dust on five different properties.

Dreyfuss noted that her property, Danville Square, has completed the Trader Joe's portion on the south, the Starbucks area on the north, and the new enlarged post office. Ten retail spaces are under construction, and she plans to attract businesses that will build upon the "spirit" of Trader Joe's, she said. Hmmm. A yoga studio, perhaps? Hemp clothing? She wants Danville Square to be a legacy to her father—without the McDonald's.

Thomas Baldacci, president of Castle Companies, spoke about the property behind the historic Danville Hotel. This area became a funky Hollywood-set-like frontier town in the 1950s as Danville revisited its Old West roots, but the false-fronted structures and the old gingerbread restaurant are looking mighty neglected these days. Baldacci said he's been working on the project since 2001, and the town changed the block's zoning so the new project could have mixed uses. Plans call for retail, offices and 10 residential units, with parking underground for tenants. Baldacci hopes to get started sometime in the spring.

"This is a complete departure for downtown Danville," he said. "It will be a center point for the whole downtown." He said he is still talking to town officials and residents as he finetunes the plans.

Brad Blake, CEO of Blake Hunt Ventures, spoke about the Rose Garden project, adjacent to Navlet's Garden Center on Sycamore Valley Road, which is being developed with Baldacci's Castle Companies. Rose Garden has been under way for 12 years, Blake said, noting it has "complicated construction," but tenants will start moving in from March to June. It will have four restaurants and 15-20 retailers, and Blake was excited to have attracted businesses from Santana Row in San Jose, Mill Valley and the Peninsula. He is also wooing

some from Walnut Creek, convincing them the Rose Garden right off the freeway has better access, and said he's drawing on the downtown Danville ambience. The Rose Garden's 56 apartments will take another year or so to complete.

It was a good chance to get your arms around all the plans as old buildings face the wrecking ball and new complexes rise from the dust on five different properties.

Blake also recently purchased 522 Hartz Ave., which was home to the old Valley Pioneer and, more recently, the San Ramon Valley Times. He has made the site available to the Alamo Danville Artists' Association for an art gallery for six months until he replaces it with another two-story building with retail on the ground floor and high end office space upstairs.

Trish Wilkalis, general manager of Blackhawk Plaza, spoke enthusiastically on its revamping, which should be completed by next summer. Already, things are looking up since Draeger's Market opened

last month, and she was excited about its 15 new tenants, including Anthropologie, Banana Republic, White House Black Market, G.R. Doodlebug and a large Starbucks.

Kathy Chiverton, executive director of the San Ramon Valley YMCA, said approvals are in place for the new 12-acre facility on the Alamo/Danville border, and it should be ready in summer 2009. People are happy to hear it will be a place for teens to gather on Friday and Saturday nights, she said, plus it will create 50 to 200 jobs, from lifeguards to front desk workers, with a \$1.3 million yearly payroll. Next on the agenda for the Y: completing and bringing to life the theater on El Cerro Boulevard.

Danville has a distinct sense of place, noted Danville Transportation Manager Tai Williams at the luncheon, and it strives to preserve and enhance what it has. The plans all point in that direction.

I wonder just how many stores and restaurants and offices the town can use, but I trust the developers did demographic studies before launching their projects. And the good news is, we'll still have to drive out to Blackhawk or down to San Ramon for a Big Mac.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
can be e-mailed at
editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.

Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District Public Notice

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Access to art

Danville has a gem downtown in the Pioneer Art Gallery, which opened a few weeks ago.

The gallery space on Hartz Avenue was a gift from developer Brad Blake, who is making it available to the Alamo Danville Artists' Society for six months while he finalizes plans to raze the structure and replace it with a state-of-the-art retail/office building. In return, the artists are giving him 10 percent of proceeds from sales, which Blake is donating to local causes.

Once Blake agreed it would be better for the building to house the artists than to sit vacant, ADAS members got to work, repainting the walls and installing track lighting to highlight their art. The spacious location is wonderful for displaying the pieces of the varied artists. Some also will be working in the studio space on the second floor.

The gallery is now open weekends and, thanks to its primo location and perhaps our beautiful fall weather, the place has a definite buzz with patrons wandering in while enjoying an evening downtown. This location makes it easy for casual visitors to check out the art and see what is new while downtown to enjoy a meal at one of the nearby restaurants.

The Pioneer Art Gallery was named after an early tenant of the building, the Valley Pioneer newspaper. The name is also appropriate because ADAS thought outside the box, so to speak, when it approached Brad Blake with its proposition for a temporary art gallery.

The group has been looking for a home since it left Blackhawk Plaza when its space was taken over by another store. Tracy Bauer, spokeswoman for ADAS, said they are seeing more foot traffic at this location than they ever did in Blackhawk. Hopefully builders will keep the artists in mind when looking for tenants to make downtown Danville a well-rounded destination.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good job by Piepho

Dear Editor:

Effective leaders and good government do not come along that often. As longtime Diablo residents, we have seen Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho working hard to serve the communities she has been elected to represent. Mary is a part of our community and we see her at many local events and meetings. She is a breath of fresh air and has worked to provide communities like Diablo and Alamo the highest level of county services and improved local governance.

Mary has rolled up her sleeves and gone to work to serve us, and we respect and acknowledge her commitment. She has shown that she is not afraid of taking on the difficult tasks. By addressing local and often controversial issues which have lingered for years, Mary has taken on challenges that others have avoided. It has been a long time since we have seen such a strong quality in an elected leader.

Being an elected official is not an easy responsibility, but Mary Piepho has done an outstanding job and we strongly support her as our county supervisor.

Weatherford Family, Diablo

Newspaper coverage

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your excellent article on the consolidation of newspapers and coverage in the Bay Area. I have noticed a significant decline in local news reporting in the San Ramon Valley Times, and rely more than ever on your publication to find out what's going on. In a single issue, I learned of the vandalism at Livorna Park, the potential sale of Borel's orchard, and the possibility that Supervisor Mary Piepho's office is behind the move to rename Danville Boulevard. If true, it is a condescending gesture, clearly designed to placate the masses and defuse the movement for incorporation of Alamo.

Keep up the good work!

D. McCarter, Alamo

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Guest Opinion

BY STEPHEN A. GOODMAN

Incorporate to keep Alamo special

Last week, Guest Opinion writer Phil Erickson, a 27-year resident of Alamo, opined that "...Alamo should NOT become a city..." and stated the movement is led by a few residents displeased with the approval of the Monte Vista parking lot and the YMCA. In fact, those of us who started thinking about Alamo becoming a town have subsequently grown to 3,100 petitioners who come from every area and political position, for and against the parking lot and the new YMCA in Alamo; some are even leading fundraising efforts for the YMCA.

Preliminary research identified almost 300 businesses operating and paying sales tax within the proposed Alamo boundaries. Issues such as street maintenance and support of a local government have been directly addressed in the Initial Fiscal Analysis (IFA) and listed as expenses. When the Town of Alamo is incorporated we WILL have sufficient funds to manage both and STILL have a surplus.

Mr. Erickson chooses to continue the myth that incorporation adds an additional layer of government whereas in truth city officials and a staff of 15 would replace 10,000 county staff and officials. We will be represented by this council and staff in Alamo, who know Alamo, and whose only obligation is to Alamo.

Mr. Erickson compares us to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda with the warning that we would become like them. While collecting signatures, I spoke with a number of residents from those communities, and most stated they were pleased they had incorporated. They felt their condition IMPROVED by becoming cities. We have learned from their city council members and staffs, who were generous in providing time for us. However, Alamo is not exactly like any other community and it is precisely because we want to maintain its

positive aspects that incorporation is essential.

I urge everybody to visit the Web site Alamoinc.org where more questions are addressed; read the IFA and draw your own conclusions. More than 3,100 individuals, in fewer than nine weeks, signed the petition to proceed with a detailed study on the feasibility

of incorporation so those who want to learn more are not just a "few." While each of us may have a personal preference that should and must be respected, it is hoped that opinions will be based on research and data.

Stephen A. Goodman and his family have lived in Alamo for 27 years.



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Free hot dogs, pretzels and beverages, and KKIQ Radio will be on hand for a live remote as we watch the Raiders send the Bears to an early hibernation. We're also giving away two sets of tickets to the game. And the best part? A private limousine will whisk the winners away to the game and bring them back, too. Stop by and whoop it up!



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Are there over-bearing parents on the sidelines of kids' games?

Results from last week:

Should the Alamo portion of Danville Boulevard have its name changed to Alamo Boulevard?

✓ **No:** 81.94%
Undecided: 6.94%
Yes: 11.11%
Total votes: 72

LIC#015601095



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Stacey Gill, town development services technician, displays a building permit form. Residents need to fill out this form to get permits.

by Jordan M. Doronila

Plan to remodel your home or get a new roof? Remember to get a building permit.

Danville residents need a permit to alter their plumbing and electrical wiring or to remodel or make additions.

“This all does require a building permit,” said Jim Wood, Danville Design Review Board member and owner of R&J Construction.

“It’s not the easiest process to go through for someone who’s not used to it,” he added. “The planning process has evolved so much.”

Permits are based on state and national codes adopted by the Town of Danville to protect residential property. Also, fire and liability insurance damages may not be paid in some cases where permits were not obtained and improvements do not meet uniform building code requirements.

Wood said residents who plan on making home improvements can go to the building department themselves at the Danville Town Offices at 510 La Gonda Way to request a permit. They also have the option of hiring a contractor to do all the work for them, and the contractor would take care of the permits.

Wood used a Danville family—one of his current clients—to explain how the planning and building process works. The family is currently remodeling their kitchen, family room and guest bathroom. Wood said he first met with them and asked about their goals and needs. He then measured their house and weighed in all the factors, which were shared in the initial meeting, and formed a proposal.

“I develop a plan that meets their goals,” Wood said.

He created floor plans—an overall sketch of what his clients wanted to achieve with their remodeling. His first proposal contained drawings, which detailed the kitchen’s interior. Wood gave them homework, suggesting they look

at tile and floor surfaces, to find some that suited their tastes.

“They experience themselves through their kitchen,” Wood said. “It’s more of a piece of art.”

When the family approved the plans, Wood fleshed out the details and wrote a scope of the project. Soon they worked out a price. His clients agreed with the package.

The planning stages may take two months, he said.

He then produced a set of plans to apply for town building permits.

“It’s a multiple step process,” he said.

Wood noted that homes built before 1995 have simpler structures, which are easier to change. But modern houses tend to be a handful for contractors because they have post tension slabs, which are cables in concrete stretched under a high tension. This makes it difficult to put in plumbing. Additionally, structures today must be able to withstand earthquakes, he said.

IT'S A D I



Fred Korbmacher, Danville development coordinator, whips out guidelines that p... permits from the town. Residents often don't know that they need permits to m...

“We are building houses so much stronger than 20 years ago,” he said. “It’s an evolution of housing built today.”

Before beginning construction, residents may have to consult with their homeowners’ association regarding any changes to their house. Some residents sign legal agreements with the associations when they move into neighborhoods so must follow its regulations.



JORDAN M. DORNING

provide details for homeowners of how they can get building permits for home improvements.

If the homeowners group gives residents the OK, they still have to make sure their changes do not encroach on the easements that are part of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District. When they get clearance, they have to submit their application to the Danville building department. Town officials and a third party review the application, and it might take several to six weeks to award a permit.

Know the permit rules

Sometimes residents do things in reverse, say members of the Danville Planning Commission: They make their home improvements then check out if they've followed the rules.

The Town of Danville has building codes, adopted after careful consideration, to protect people's property. In some cases, if permits were not obtained and improvements do not meet building code requirements, fire and liability insurance damages will not be paid. Also, if a construction project does not comply with Danville codes, the value of a home or business could be affected.

Permit fees are based on the valuation of the project and the number of inspections needed for the project. Rough estimates are, for a permit for a new roof on a 2,200-square-foot home, about \$275; a new water heater tank, \$150; and a 12-foot-by-12-foot kitchen remodel, \$950, including plumbing, electrical and mechanical.

Legal property owners or licensed contractors may obtain a building permit. Tenants of commercial or private properties can obtain permits with written authorization from the property owner; forms are available at the front counter of the Town Offices, 510 La Gonda Way. To obtain information about a potential contractor, call the Contractor State License Board at (800) 321-2752 or visit www.cslb.ca.gov. A project must be inspected within 180 days of the issuance of the permit; if work hasn't begun, the permit will be declared null and void.

When a code official provides documentation that construction is completed and in compliance with building codes, home or business owners can enjoy their investments, knowing the work was done according to the community's safety standards.

When permits are usually required

- New buildings
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc.)
- Residential work (decks, garages, fences, fireplaces, pools, water heaters, etc.)
- Renovations (garage conversions, basement furnishings, kitchen expansions, re-roofing, etc.)
- Electrical systems
- Plumbing systems
- Heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems

The permitting process

1. Talk to your local code official. Outline your plans and receive the information needed for code compliance and an application.
2. Submit application. This will document the specifics of the jobs and include sketches or plans of the work.
3. Review process with a code official to make sure plans are in compliance with codes.
4. Receive permit, which gives legal permission to start construction.
5. On-site inspections will make certain the work conforms to the permit.
6. Final approval will be given by the code official after a final inspection.

Permits issued over the counter

- Re-roofing
- Water heater replacement
- Electrical service upgrade
- Furnace/air conditioning replacement
- Bathroom remodels
- Kitchen remodels
- Window replacement
- Skylights
- Gas line
- Pool

—Information from the Town of Danville

Once the clients received the permit, Wood demolished the areas that needed remodeling. He said this is a fun process.

"Oh, yeah," he said. "At the end of the day you see something accomplished."

During the construction period, there is a series of five inspections: rough frame, insulation, drywall, interior and final. Rough frame deals with electrical, drywall and framing. Drywall covers everything. Interior—in this client's project—dealt with putting in a shower pan, a wall lath and a tile shower. And the final phases involved having everything properly in place.

The inspector examines each of the phases before the project continues going forward, Wood said.

There are currently three town building inspectors plus chief inspector Mike Leontiades with the Town of Danville. They have a briefing with town staff every morning to make sure they are on the same page, town officials said.

In the past, some residents complained about communication with the town's building inspectors. Danville resident Don Reed expressed his frustration when an inspector failed his remodeled home several years ago because it didn't have a shower pole in his spare bathroom.

Steve Lake, town services director, said he has not heard any complaints.

"Nobody has called me," he said. "Building inspection is an enforcement procedure. Not everyone is going to like what they hear."

Fred Korbmacher, town development coordinator, said residents have called town officials and thanked them for giving them truthful information that made their homes better.

"They (inspectors) want to confirm the information is correct," he said.

Once the family finishes all the inspection phases, the remodeling can be completed. Wood noted he can now put in the flooring, countertops, appliances and other items. The entire building process takes approximately 50 working days. The family is currently in the final phase of remodeling.

"We try to make it seamless for them," Wood said, about the building process.

Homeowners looking for contractors should check to see if they have a state license and are in good standing, Wood said, noting that he gets his clients through word of mouth, with 50 percent repeat customers.

See if the contractors have received any complaints, he suggested. Talk to referrals who have been involved with them on similar jobs. Also, homeowners can speak to local suppliers and find out if they pay their bills.

When working with contractors, residents should have a written contract with start and finish states. They should pay an amount for the work that going to be done at the moment. Do not shell out large sums of money upfront, he said.

Wood urged all residents to follow building codes. Homeowners are required to disclose work done on their home without a permit if they decide to sell, which may affect their home's salability. Also, the homeowner who remodels without a permit may be liable if the changes cause injury.

"It's not worth doing the work without getting the permit," Wood said. ■

"Building inspection is an enforcement procedure. Not everyone is going to like what they hear."

— Steve Lake, town services director

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM

Art

ADAS Art Demonstration Alamo-Danville Artists Society will host Robin Purcell who will share her insights and techniques from 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Social Hall at Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. This event is free; desserts and refreshments will be served. Call 691-5030 or visit www.adas4art.org.

Alamo-Danville Artists' Society This club will continue its art exhibit of local paintings through mid November, at the Danville Town offices. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, at 510 La Gonda Way, Danville.

Art Show The Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art is holding an art show in Bank of America in Alamo from Nov. 10-24. Paintings will be accepted and judged on Friday, Nov. 9, and prizes awarded. Call 837-5654.

Father Nature's Restaurant Art Event Father Nature's Restaurant will host a two-day art event from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday-Monday, Nov. 25-26, at 172 Prospect Ave., Danville. Activities including viewing contemporary paintings, visit with artist Kevin Barry Dever, great food, complimentary appetizers and a glass of wine. Call 820-3160 or visit www.finethingsart.com.

Author Visit

Rakestraw Books Authors Rakestraw Books will host authors: Judith Jones, author of "Tenth Muse: My Life in Food" at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9; Rudolph Chelminski, author of "I'll Drink to That" 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 12; Dave Isay, author of "Listening Is an Act of Love" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14 and Penny Warner, author of "Official Nancy Drew Handbook: Skills, Tips and Life Lessons" at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30, all at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Most events required reservations, call 837-7337.

Clubs

'How I Became My Own Fairy Godmother' E2S will host author Lorena Bathey who will talk about her book, "Happy Beginnings: How I Became My Own Fairy Godmother" on Tuesday, Nov. 20. Non-members are welcome. Cost is \$5 per meeting. E-mail sue@hometownpr.com.

Blackhawk Republican Women Federated This group will host a forum for the Republican candidates in the 15th Assembly District at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at the

Blackhawk Country Club, Danville. The five candidates that will speak are Scott Kamena, Judy Lloyd, Robert Rao, Joe Rubay and Abram Wilson. Cost is a \$20 contribution; hors d'oeuvres and no host cocktails will be served. To make a reservation, call Marilyn at 828-2360.

Danville Women's Club This club will meet for a luncheon at noon, Thursday, Nov. 15, at 242 Linda Mesa, Danville. The luncheon will be followed by a talk on Outer Space Exploration by Margaret Race. Guests are welcome. For reservations, call 837-7528. Danville Women's Club, 242 Linda Mesa, Danville.

Exchange Club San Ramon Valley Scott Perkins, flight engineer at Lawrence Livermore Lab, is the featured speaker at the Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley's luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. He will be talking about the Lab's projects, as well as his own experiences as a flight engineer. Cost is \$16. Call 275-2412 or e-mail coachstepper@yahoo.com.

San Ramon Valley Republican Women Berkeley College Republicans President, Ross Lingenfelder, will accept a \$1,000 contribution from the San Ramon Valley Republican Women at their luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 27, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$22. Call 837-6253 or visit www.srvrnf.org.

San Ramon Valley Rotary Club This club meets for dinner at 7 p.m., every Wednesday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Guests are welcome. The club offers a great way to make new friends while making a difference in your community. Call Bill at 838-9110.

SIR Monthly Luncheon Sons in Retirement will host a luncheon at 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 21, at San Ramon Golf Club, 9450 Fire Lane. The day will include a social hour, buffet lunch and a speaker of local interest. Cost is \$20. Call 828-5688 or visit www.128.sirbranch.com.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club This club provides support, information and friendship for mothers of any number of multiples meeting every second Tuesday of every month, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. R/T discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.; roundtable discussion is open to all current and prospective members from 7:30-9 p.m., hosted by a twin mom member. Dads and babies welcome! Call 948-0004 or visit www.tvmtoc.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75 The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month,

at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

'A Jubilant Holiday' Danville Community Band presents "A Jubilant Holiday" concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville. The concert will feature Victor Herbert's "Babes in Toyland," "Greensleeves," "An Olde English Christmas," "A Chanukah Celebration" and other Christmas songs. This event is free. Visit www.danvilleband.org.

'Art of the Song' Joshua Elder, is a member of the voice faculty at Santa Clara University and a leading baritone with Bay Shore Lyric Opera and Livermore Valley Opera will perform at 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville. St. Timothy's concert-goers will remember him as the Bass soloist in last season's "Coronation Mass" with Jubilate. General admission is \$18, \$12 for seniors and students.

Events

Veteran's Day Heroes Welcome Rally Operation Second Chance presents the Soldiers' Second Chance Tour by hosting twelve seriously wounded Iraq War veterans. Events include a welcome rally at 1 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9, at Pier 33, San Francisco and a benefit concert that will feature rising country music singers and songwriters at the Goodguys Autumn Get-Together Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 10-11, at the Alameda Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Visit www.operationsecondchance.org.

Veteran's Day Onboard the USS Hornet A special ceremony will feature guest speakers, USCG Captain Pamela Russell, Judy Yarian of Blue Star Moms, and USO Secretary Susan Shapira and Russ Donovan, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier, Pier 3, former Alameda Airstation. Cost is \$6-14 or free admission for military veterans wearing their unit jackets. Call (510) 521-8448, ext. 228 or visit www.uss-hornet.org.

Veterans Day Communities of San Ramon Valley are invited to honor all of our military service veterans at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Performing Art Center, San Ramon Valley High School, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Call 820-5747.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Veteran's Day 2007

The communities of the San Ramon Valley will honor military service veterans at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Performing Art Center at San Ramon Valley High School, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Also, a Museum of Military Memorabilia is on display at the Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., from 1-4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9; 10:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; and 10:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. In observance of the holiday, schools and Town of Danville offices will be closed Monday, Nov. 12.

Exhibits

'Leaded' "Leaded" curator, Elizabeth Schlatter, will discuss different approaches in making art at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Bedford Gallery. The "Leaded" exhibit will remain on view until Dec. 22. Call 295-1418 or visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

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

Fundraisers

Artful Living Home Tour Junior League of Oakland-East Bay Inc. will host the 2007 Artful Living Home Tour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Nov. 9-10, at four residences in Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds benefit the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay. Call 284-3740 or visit www.jloeb.org.

Bally Cares Bally Total Fitness is teaming up with the Food Bank of Contra Costa County during "Bally Cares" until Nov. 21. Members and guests can help donate at any Bally Total Fitness. Each donation participant will receive a free Bally Cares coupon book valued at over \$75. Call 838-4960, ext. 28 or visit www.ballyfitness.com.

Candy Cane Christmas Boutique Macedonian Outreach will host the Candy Cane Christmas Boutique from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo (across from the Alamo Women's Club). Items will include hundreds of Christmas gift items, plus baked goods, gift baskets, jewelry, toys, linens, prizes, quilts, silent auction and a Greek luncheon. Lunch is \$10. Proceeds will benefit the Children in the Balkans. Call Vula at 837-7279 or Dee at 820-1432.

Guatemalan Handcraft and Antique Sale Pan En La Boca will host a Guatemalan Handcraft and Antique Sale from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, at 955 Blemer Rd., Danville. Proceeds will benefit an orphanage, Safe Homes for Children,

in Guatemala. Items that will be sold can be viewed at www.pan-en-la-boca.org. For information, call Evelyn Candland at 855-9604.

Hats Off America Run and Walk Come meet the Gold Star Arroyave family and Congressman Jerry McNerney at the ninth annual Hats Off America Run and Walk from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and lunch donated by El Balazo Restaurant. Cost is \$35 per person, but no fee for volunteers. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

One Warm Coat Golden Hills Brokers are collecting clean, reusable coats and jackets to give to those in need in Oakland until Nov. 15. Coats may be dropped off at Golden Hills Brokers, 3223 Crow Canyon Rd., Suite 110, San Ramon. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 216-4590.

San Ramon Family Breakfast Enjoy a Sunday morning breakfast including pancakes, scrambled eggs, fruit, sausage, juice and coffee from 9-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Cost is \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children. Proceeds benefit the San Ramon Senior Center programs and activities.

Health

Flu Shot Clinic Sutter VNA and Hospice Public will host a flu shot clinic from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17, at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. Cost is \$25 each. The shots are for adults and children ages 9-13 (with a doctor's note/prescription) and ages 14-18 (with parental permission). Pneumonia shots will be available for \$35 each. Proceeds will benefit local home and hospice care. Call (800) 500-2400 or visit www.suttervna.org.

Yoga for Managing Chronic Pain Yoga can help in managing chronic pain. This workshop will help identify various types of pain from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Discussion will be followed by a yoga practice. Call 933-0107.

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Holiday

8th Annual Animal Lover's Boutique Feline Medical Center will turn its lobby into the 8th Animal Lover's Boutique, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10, at Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Proceeds will benefit the Valley Humane Society's Just Like New Fund. Call 846-2512.

Do It Yourself 'Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens Recapture the time when fun didn't require batteries by enjoying a fun-filled, hands-on workshop how-to-do-it-yourself "Christmas Carol" from 2-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This is event is free. Call 735-9270.

Operation Christmas Child Bay Area residents will be able to drop off shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies and personal items for Operation Christmas Child from Nov. 12-19, at Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call (800) 383-1459 or visit www.samaritanspurse.org.

Thanksgiving Day Invitation Christian Science will host special Thanksgiving church service at 10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 22, at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 650 Danville Blvd., Danville. Individuals and families are welcome; childcare is provided for infants and small children. Call 837-1081.

Kids and Teens

Children's Storytimes Danville Library hosts storytimes for children of all ages until Nov. 14. Mother Goose Time for children ages from birth to 24 months is at 10:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays; Toddler Storytime is for children ages 25 months to 3 years old at 11:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays and Preschool Storytime is for children 3-5 years old at 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Dana Smith and His Performing Dog Lacey Danville Library will host Dana Smith and his Performing Dog Lacey at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Come and hear Lacey "sing." This event is free and suitable for all ages. Call 837-4889.

Henna Art for Teens Friends of the Danville Library will host Darci Vasudev for a night of henna art including its history and culture at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This event is free, but registration is required. Call 837-4889.

Lectures/ Workshops

African Drumming Circle Drumming has been shown to boost immune system functions and metabolism. Join Patricia Grame and experience this fun way to get "good vibrations" from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Compassion, Hope, and Healing For Those Affected By Cancer Lori Hope, a cancer survivor and author of "Help Me Live: 20 Things People with Cancer Want You to Know," will conduct a workshop from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 16, at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$95 for CEU, \$70 without CEU. Call 837-9141, ext. 306.

Intimacy and Romance This workshop will present ways to bring romance and intimacy back into a relationship during cancer diagnosis and treatment from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 27, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Project Censored 2008, with Peter Phillips Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center will host journalism professor Peter Phillips and his student assistants, who will talk about "Project

Censored 2008" from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Cost is a suggested donation of \$10-20. Call 933-7850 or visit www.mtdpc.org.

Live Music

Jazz at Peace Peace Lutheran Church will host their Jazz at Peace series featuring the Dave Rocha Quintet at 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free. Call 648-7000 or visit www.peacejourney.org.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a New Best Friend Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit its Web site at www.tvlar.org.

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

One Warm Coat San Ramon Valley Rotary Club is hosting its 12th anniversary of One Warm Coat until Dec. 15. They are collecting coats, sweaters and blankets for men, women, children and infants in clean and good condition. Drop-off points include: Diablo Lodge, 950 Diablo Rd., Danville; Curves, 9500 Crow Canyon Rd., Danville; Moda Mi, 140E Prospect Ave., Danville; Pascal's French Oven, 155 Railroad Ave., Danville; ReMax Accord, 313 Sycamore Valley Dr. W., Danville; Heritage Bank, 387 Diablo Rd., Danville and Oscar's Jeweler, 15 Alamo Square, Alamo. For information, contact Elizabeth Forth at 820-4077; Dany Gregory at 838-9110 or Mark at 552-9900.

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

On Stage

'A Little Help From Our Friends' Diablo Actors' Ensemble presents "A Little Help From our Friends" which will feature American Musical Theatre classics from 7:30-10 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Nov. 9-10 and Nov. 16-17, at Cue Productions, 1835 Colfax St., Concord. Tickets are \$25. Call 482-5110 or visit www.diabloactors.com.

'Beach Blanket Babylon' Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center will open with a customized performance of "Beach Blanket Babylon" at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17, at Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Call 973-3350 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

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

'Guys and Dolls' Danville Children's Musical Theater presents "Guys and Dolls" at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, and at 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9-17, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$7.50-\$9.50; order tickets by e-mailing vtboxoffice@ci.danville.ca.us or call 314-3463.

'Wigged Out!' Hair on Stage (formerly Victoria's Hair on Stage) presents "Wigged Out!" playing Nov. 10-June

21, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The box office is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) or visit www.wiggedout.org.

The Mousetrap Center REPeratory Company presents "The Mousetrap" with different showtimes until Nov. 17, at Center REPeratory Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15-40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

Political Notes

What's Happening in Israel and Palestine? Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center will sponsor a multimedia presentation by Lorin Peters on his experiences as a peacemaker in the Middle East from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14, at Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. This event is free, but donations are accepted. Call 933-7850 or visit www.mtdpc.org.

Recreation

Wright Canyon Hike A Save Mount Diablo board member, will host the Wright Canyon Hike starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 17, meeting at the Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Rd. This hike is two miles; heavy rain cancels. Call 933-9402.

Spiritual

Living a Jewish Life in the Tri-Valley Hadassah Shalom Chapter presents an evening with special guest Fruma Resnick who talk about "Living a Jewish Life in the Tri-Valley" from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Call 968-9240.

Support Groups

American Chronic Pain Association The ACPA group meets from 11a.m.-1 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville.

Bipolar Support Group The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842

Blue Star Moms California Blue Star Moms is a support group for families of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It meets at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Peggy at 866-7035 or Patty at 838-9096 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery is a forward-looking and balanced Christ-centered recovery program for people with hurts, habits and hang-ups. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the program starts at 7 p.m., every Friday, at East Bay Fellowship, 2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Childcare available for ages 5-11. Call 736-5100, e-mail celebraterecovery@eastbayfellowship.org or visit www.eastbayfellowship.org.

ClutterLess Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. Join the group at their meeting from 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays, at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Dr. Optional \$2-5 donation. Call 297-9246 or visit www.clutterless.org.

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

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's Disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of each month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

Volunteering

Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art Volunteers are needed with secretarial skills for the Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art. For information, call Beth Batchelor at 837-5654 or Nana Dicta Graves at 777-1717.

Friends of Discovery Discovery Counseling Center has received more than \$5 million, thanks to Friends of Discovery. The organization is looking for volunteers who can commit eight hours per month in the Thrift Station, 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call Le Anne, 837-7998.

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

Help Your Senior Neighbors A lot of Danville seniors need rides to their appointments, stores or to special events. The Seniors' Club at Veterans Memorial Hall is looking for volunteers to provide rides on an "as-needed basis" on one or more Mondays a month. Call Jenn Overmoe at 314-3476 for more information.

Peace Corps Danville Library will host an information session on how to become a volunteer in the Peace Corps service from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889 or visit www.peacecorps.gov.

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'Toughest job you'll ever love.'



The Peace Corps comes recruiting in Danville

Peace Corps volunteer Alana Callagy holds up a picture of a carrot while playing an environmental education game with grade school students in a small village in Paraguay.

by Natalie O'Neill

In Paraguay, there's a slang word kids use for "cool" that also means "grandma."

Alana Callagy was living in a 12-by-12-foot shack in the rural villages of Paraguay, playing cards with local children to learn the language, when she discovered her own use of the word tended to prompt equal amounts of giggles and confusion.

The word was "Jaryi." And learning it was just one tiny nugget of knowledge—among countless—the Peace Corps volunteer took home with her after two years immersed in the culture.

"I knew I would be out doing manual labor but that's not the hard thing. It's the social stuff," Callagy explained. She now knows three languages. And a whole lot more about life.

The 27-year-old, who graduated from San Ramon Valley High School, pumped her own well water and helped grow and sustain crops. She lived with families in a village of 50 houses, located 28 kilometers away from the nearest paved road.

The simple life was good for her, she said.

"You don't need much," she explained, remembering day-to-day living in a developing country.

"Everything is grown right there in the garden. That chicken running around the yard was going to be lunch in a couple hours," she said.

Like the majority of Peace Corps volunteers, Callagy signed up in her 20s.

But, these days, the organization is after the older folks.

There's a misconception you have to be young and freshly out of college, says Peace Corps spokesman Nathan Hale Sargent.

"We're actively trying to grow our baby boomers and seniors," he said. "I think you have people who came of age in the '60s and wanted to do it then but had family commitments and are excited to learn they can join now."

That's one reason Peace Corps is holding an information



Along with an older neighbor, Alana Callagy helps prepare 2-year-old lemon plants for citrus grafting, a process that helps the fruit grow faster.

session at the Danville Library on Nov. 15—to inform the 50-plus demographic about options for older adults.

The Peace Corps is a federal organization that sends volunteers abroad for 27 months to help developing countries and to encourage peace. Volunteers work on issues like health education, environmental preservation and technology.

The average age for a volunteer is 27 and the oldest in the area was an 81-year-old Berkeley woman.

At the Danville info session, topics will include language learning—an issue Sargent says the 50-plus group tends to be more apprehensive about. Info will also be given on Social Security benefits, and a question-and-answer period will address specific inquiries from people of all ages.

A lot of the time, older adults are looking for a career transition, have just retired, or are in need of an adventure.

Just ask Danville's Mike Decorte, 57, who explained his draw to the Peace Corps via e-mail from Albania where he is serving.

He remembers the allure of adventure tugging at him while his outwardly pleasant life as a sales representative was becoming increasingly less satisfying.

"I wanted a change," he explained. "I wanted to do something that would put me in a position to do something mean-

ingful in this world. And to be fair, I felt I deserved at least one more adventure in this life."

Now he's creating a committee to engage people in projects that better the quality of life in Peshkopi, on the north-eastern Albania, near Kosove.

And being over 50 has its benefits, he said.

"As a white-haired middle-aged man I am respected in the society. Meeting the mostly younger volunteers has been very refreshing for me," he said.

A typical day for him includes drinking coffee and socializing with neighbors, learning the language, and working on projects that give locals a voice with a national government that has a 40-year communist history.

There is no central heating and the area loses power mid-day, just one of the adjustments he's had to make.

"I can survive quite easily without things that before I considered to be indispensable. Things that I had access to, like hot, fresh water and electricity, were available because America has been so lucky ... I think these things lose their value until you find out what it is like to not have them," he said.

The organization's motto is, "Peace Corps. The toughest job you'll ever love."

It began in 1960 after Sen. John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to work toward peace by helping developing countries. Within two months of becoming president in 1960, he issued an executive order establishing the Peace Corps, and since then 190,000 volunteers have worked in 139 countries world-wide.

Volunteers must be 18 years old, in good health and able to make a 27-month commitment. They should possess a desire to help people and a sense of adventure. As the Web site states, "It takes determination, flexibility, patience and a sense of humor."

"It hasn't always been fun, but it has always been worth it," Decorte said.

The Danville event will be held from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Mt. Diablo Meeting Room in the Danville Public Library on Front Street. For more information, call 1-800-424-8580 or visit www.peacecorps.gov. ■



Let's talk turkey

**2006 J. Lohr Estates
"Wildflower" Valdiguié
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My American Heritage Dictionary defines "pure" in part as "free from adulterants or impurities"; "fun" as "enjoyment, pleasure, or amusement"; and "wine" as "the fermented juice of grapes." For me, J. Lohr Estates' Valdiguié nicely defines "purely fun wine." Don't ponder this red too much, just drink it!

Several factors combine to create this glassful of unadulterated amusement:

First, the colors are beautiful and striking. Transparent ruby and garnet tones along with a bright purple outer rim really jump from the stemware.

Second, the aromas. The ol' schnozzola (salutes to Jimmy Durante and M*A*S*H's Sgt. Maxwell Q. Klinger) is bombarded with abundant layers of plum, violet, strawberry, boysenberry and rose. Fifteen percent of the juice was fermented using a technique perfected in the Beaujolais region of France called carbonic maceration. This unique fermentation process results in additional aromas of banana, bubblegum and everyone's guilty pleasure at the Alameda County Fair—cotton candy.

Jeff Meier, J. Lohr's vice president of Winemaking, vinified this wine employing no wood at all, 100 percent stainless steel. Don't despair. Wines produced in this fruity style are satisfying and worth the money.

Third, the palate. In short, you'll experience a tidal wave of soft fruit. Super ripe blueberry, plum, strawberry, cherry and watermelon flavors take center stage. It's medium bodied, mildly tannic, plenty acidic, and really easy-drinking. We're talking charming, interesting yet uncomplicated, luscious adult grape juice here which is enjoyable all year long.

Lastly, the pedigree of Jerry Lohr's estate grown fruit. Besides the 30-acre "Wildflower" block

dedicated to Valdiguié, the remaining 874 acres of Arroyo Seco vineyard produces Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and White Riesling.

Valdiguié, once mistaken in California vineyards as Gamay Noir or Napa Gamay, originated in southern France's Languedoc-Roussillon region. Picture yourself sitting outside a neighborhood bistro near Montpellier, a perfect Mediterranean sun warming your face, and ordering a carafe of "house" red wine to accompany your meal. It would likely be similar in style to this Valdiguié.

Once praised and coveted in the 19th century, vineyards planted to this highly productive and sturdy grape are nearly extinct today. In fact, many wine encyclopedias fail to provide a specific reference. Shame, shame!

All right, what should one eat with "Wildflower"? Two words during this time of year: Thanksgiving dinner. Experiment with this varietal after the aromatic white wines have made their way around the table and before the big Central Coast Pinot Noirs or red burgundies are uncorked. Should you wish, the wine can also be served slightly chilled with the turkey and trimmings. A sip of Valdiguié after a spoonful of sweet and tart, homemade cranberry sauce is magical.

Happy holidays to all, have fun and let your palate be the judge. Please pass that cranberry sauce ...

Have comments or questions about wine? Gregory Peebles, wine industry professional and East Bay resident, can be contacted at caledoniawine@sbcglobal.net.

Treating bald spots on dogs

Q. I have a small, 2-year-old female Chihuahua. She has had a small bald spot on her back leg for several months. I've taken her to a vet and was told it was an allergy. She was given prednisone and children's Benedryl. Is there anything to put on the spot to make the hair grow?

A. The treatment depends on whether your dog continues to lick at the spot. If she will not leave it alone, you need to treat the cause of the allergy first, and then prevent her from licking it. You can treat the spot with over-the-counter hydrocortisone or Benadryl cream as long as you distract her from licking after you put it on, such as by going for a walk.

If she can't stop licking, she may need an Elizabethan collar (an "e-collar") to prevent her from

reaching the spot. These can be purchased at a pet supply store.

If she is no longer bothering the spot but the hair is not growing back, it is possible that because of scar tissue the hair will not re-grow. A skin supplement such as Lipiderm may be helpful in encouraging hair growth, and can also help with skin health.

Q. I have a 5-1/2-year-old cat and he always seems to have a pink or red eye that accumulates junk. What should I do for him? I have taken him to the vet and was told that this is normal and nothing to worry about, but sometimes I catch my cat rubbing his eyes.

A. While a little bit of eye discharge can be normal, persistent redness and irritation can be signs of either allergy or infection. Both of these

conditions are treatable. Even herpesvirus infection, which can never really be completely eliminated, can be managed to make the cat much more comfortable.

If you take your cat in while the eye is "flaring up" the veterinarian will be better able to evaluate the problem. If you still are not satisfied, you may want to try getting a second opinion, possibly from a veterinary ophthalmologist.

Dr. Heidi Strand is a veterinarian for the East Bay SPCA in Dublin. She has lived in the Tri-Valley for 10 years with her family and an assortment of four-legged friends. Questions can be mailed to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526; or e-mailed to hstrand@eastbayspca.org. Her column runs every other week.

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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

Gold and the Harlans (part 2)

The Gold Rush and gold fever transformed California in two short years. And the Harlans were there at the start. Joel Harlan, one of the San Ramon Valley's early settlers, learned about the discovery of gold from his good friends, the Wimmers, who were in Coloma when gold was found Jan. 24, 1848.

In April 1848, Joel and his cousin, Jacob Harlan, were running a livery business in San Francisco when they received a letter from their "Uncle Peter" Wimmer. He told them about the placer gold discovery and urged them to come to Coloma to mine immediately.

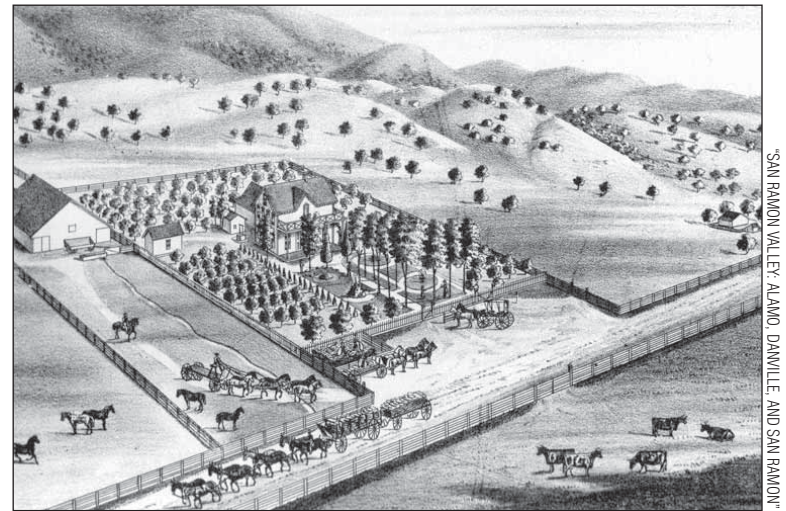
In his book "California 1846-1888," Jacob wrote, "It upset all my business plans. I caught gold fever at once, and notified my wife and my partner Joel that it was time to give up livery stable keeping and go to the mines."

The Harlans were among the first to hear directly of the discovery, because Sutter was trying to keep it quiet. The news was printed first in *The Californian* on March 15, 1848. The newspaper article read "Gold Mine Found. In the newly made raceway of the Saw Mill recently erected by Captain Sutter, on the American Fork, gold has been found in considerable quantities." This announcement did not elicit much attention at the time.

In May, however, a dramatic action by young Mormon Sam Brannan really set off the Gold Rush frenzy. He was an energetic entrepreneur with a store in New Helvetia (Sacramento). After being paid in gold by talkative local miners, he became convinced that the gold discoveries were legitimate and took steps to make money from the find.

He stocked his store with all the merchandise he could get, went to San Francisco on May 12, 1848, and waved a bottle of gold dust in his hand, yelling, "Gold! Gold from the American River!" Many historians mark the real beginnings of the California Gold Rush from that day.

That spring, Joel and Jake and



SAN RAMON VALLEY: ALAMO, DANVILLE AND SAN RAMON

The Harlan house and land are shown 1879 lithograph. The house was restored in the 1930s by Harlan descendants, the Geldermans.

their young wives left the livery business in San Francisco to set up a store in Coloma. According to Jacob, Joel put their horses to pasture at Squire Elam Brown's (in Lafayette) while he got a stock of goods "suitable for a store or trading post at the mines. Joel was a doubting Thomas and did not understand how we were going to start a store with five hundred dollars, which was our capital."

William Leidesdorff, a prominent landowner and civic leader in San Francisco, was a friend of the Harlans and agreed to advance them the money. Jacob said, "My purchases that day amounted to \$4,500, for all of which Leidesdorff made himself responsible." Harlan bought the things miners would need: groceries, flour, beans, liquors, dry goods, shoes, tools, shovels, picks, tin pans, kettles and ammunition.

They took Capt. John Sutter's launch up the Sacramento River and hired two ox teams in Sacramento to get to Coloma. Jake turned down an opportunity to be a partner with Sam Brannan, "being already in partnership with Joel."

Their Uncle Peter, still working on the sawmill, put them up in Coloma until they built a cabin. They found

the miners would pay whatever "we demanded for our goods": flour cost \$1 a pound, coffee \$1.50.

Jake made money selling colorful cloth with holes cut out as sarapes to the Indians. Jake said, "They had much fine gold which they carried in vulture or goose quills." They loved the sarapes and were not stingy. In one day, two bolts of fabric brought \$1,200.

The Harlans weren't the only Californians to take off for the mines in 1848. Writers tell about the deserted streets and unfinished jobs in San Francisco, San Jose and Monterey. One young man wrote, "My own business of surveying, like all others, was knocked in the head last spring, and I was left to suck my thumbs for a livelihood or go with the multitude."

Gold fever spread from California to the world as forty-niners arrived from Mexico, Europe and China.

Sources: Jacob Harlan's "California 1846-1848," J.P. Munro-Fraser's "History of Contra Costa County, 1882."

Beverly Lane is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon."

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OF NOTE



Supporting other kids' soccer

Mustang Flash U13 boys soccer team recently completed a successful uniform and soccer cleats collection drive for children in Mexico. The team collected over 450 uniform items, 98 pairs of soccer cleats and 55 pairs of shin guards.

The team is sending the items to Toluca, Mexico, where they will be distributed to needy children in that area. The collection drive was done in several Danville middle schools, and also on several soccer Danville soccer fields over the recent weeks. The Flash team also prepared letters in Spanish to be sent along with the uniforms, wishing the Mexican children good luck with their soccer victories.

Flash collectors included (l-r) Nick Nesis, Mikey Friedler, Matt Turner, Jackson Meyer, Lucas Hasselfeld, Nico Quero, Matt Anderson, Austen Kangail, Grant Hawkins, Joe LaCommare and Kyle Schumann. Not pictured are Jordan Dascalo, Ben Panconi, Christian Pesqueira, Chris Swenson and Sean Tanaka.

Rotary Clubs hand out dictionaries

This fall, more than 1,900 third-graders in the San Ramon Valley are receiving their own brand new dictionaries, thanks to an effort led by the San Ramon Rotary Club and including the Rotary Club of Danville, the Danville-Sycamore Rotary, the Rotary Club of San Ramon Valley and Alamo Rotary. Rotarians raise the money for the dictionaries and distribute them to children in each of the third-grade classes in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, at St. Isidore's School and at the San Ramon Valley Christian Academy.



Danville Rotarian Gabe Allende hands out dictionaries to third-graders at Sycamore Valley Elementary School.

"Even in this age of video games, the children are so happy to receive their very own dictionary and many of them can't

wait to start looking up words that they don't know," said Gabe Allende, head of the project for Danville Rotary. "We have stu-

dents who are now in high school who come back to us and tell us how much the dictionaries meant to them."

A movie review of what's

NOW SHOWING

by Jeanne Aufmuth



Into the Wild

★★★★

Rating: R for language, nudity and mature themes.

Run Time: 2 hours, 27 minutes.

Sean Penn steps behind the camera to craft one of the most powerful films of the year—say hello to Oscar.

With tremendous skill and imagination, Penn unspools a great American tragedy, the true story of 22-year-old establishment dropout Chris McCandless (Emile Hirsch).

McCandless was freshly graduated from Emory University with a promising future at Harvard Law when he ditched his privileged lifestyle in favor of an unforeseen odyssey into the wild.

His goal was complete emancipation from a false sense of security, from the very essence of things that cut him off from a true—and ostensibly meaningful—existence.

McCandless cashed in his college fund and abruptly donated all \$24,000 to Oxfam. Thus the ties were cut, from his judgmental parents (William Hurt and Marcia Gay Harden) and his sister/partner-in-crime, Carine (Jena Malone). McCandless hit the road with a vengeance; his car was found abandoned in the Arizona desert and his parents notified law enforcement, to no avail.

The simple beauties of the country were too good to pass up, but there was inner splendor to discover as well. McCandless' coiled disillusionment

was a weighty travel companion, its layers shed along with his worldly possessions. The printed stylings of Tolstoy, London and Thoreau fed the mind while a bevy of bohemian travelers (Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn and Hal Holbrook in fine performances) served as a social life.

From the mean streets of Los Angeles and the Southwestern deserts to the wheat fields of South Dakota and beyond, McCandless ultimately found himself exactly where he wanted to be: completely off the grid in the isolated wilderness of Alaska.

Penn's touch is aggressive and self-assured, crafted with a clever intelligence. His screenplay, based on Jon Krakauer's evocative novel, makes a subtle but sound case for McCandless' desperate desire to reach the core of his being through new and fresh experiences.

Carine's voice-over signals a pregnant family sadness in direct contrast to McCandless' burgeoning liberation. Eddie Vedder's moody melodies reflect internal struggle and spiritual awakening.

Hirsch is nothing short of a revelation, his fervent commitment to the project both painful and profound. The might of the film's emotions is breathlessly hypnotic; I was fixed to my seat long after the lights came up.

For more movie reviews or local show times, go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Shoplifters nabbed at Costco

Police caught two young adults allegedly shoplifting at Costco on Fostoria Way last week in Danville, said police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Police cited a 19-year-old Moraga man and a 19-year-old Orinda woman on charges of petty theft. The suspects are accused of taking six DVDs and denim jeans from Costco at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 30. The store security officer saw the man put three DVDs in his pants, and woman put the other three DVDs and the jeans in her

purse, according to reports.

When they left Costco, the security officer confronted them, Craig said. The suspects admitted to taking the items. Police arrived and cited them on charges of petty theft. They were then released.

"Especially this time of season, the temptation is already out there for a quick take for thieves," Craig said. "They need to realize that there are plenty of people watching them and it's going to catch up to them."

—Jordan M. Doronila

POLICE LOG

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

Tuesday, Oct. 30

- Auto burglary on Rubicon Cir. at 1:30 a.m. and 1:49 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Glasgow Dr. at 3:45 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Arthur Ct. at 7:25 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Willowview Ct. at 7:43 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Willowmere Rd. at 8:19 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Pintado Rd. and La Gonda Way at 1:21 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Diablo Rd. and southbound I-680 off ramp at 3:22 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 5:07 p.m.
- Shooting into occupied dwelling at El Cerro Blvd. and southbound I-680 at 5:58 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Ramon at 6:37 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Garden Creek Pl. at 7:04 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Greenbrook Dr. and Sycamore

Valley Rd. at 9:42 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

- Accident, property damage, on Greenbrook Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:54 a.m.
- Identity theft on Glasgow Cir. at 11:36 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Dunsmoor Ct. and Old Orchard Dr. at 1:59 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Dunhill Dr. at 3:32 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 3:50 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 5:10 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 6:22 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 7:35 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Fostoria Way at 7:53 p.m.
- Vandalism on Everett Dr. at 9:8 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 1

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Podva Rd. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:36 a.m.
- Computer data access fraud on Franciscan Dr. at 2:41 p.m.
- Grand theft on Morninghome Rd. at 2:46 p.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on La Gonda Way at 3:21 p.m.
- Vandalism on Hill Meadow Pl. at 3:32 p.m.
- Petty theft on Borel Ln. at 4:20 p.m.
- Vandalism on La Gonda Way at 4:26 p.m.
- Identity theft on Rubicon Cir. at 7:21 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 2

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 9:44 a.m.
- Vandalism on Town and Country Dr. at 1:18 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:25 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 4:09 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and northbound I-680 at 2:48 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Pintado Heights Dr. at 9:15 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Danville Oak Pl. at 12:16 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Front St. and Hartz Way at 7:04 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 11:31 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Natalie Bales Saylor

Natalie Bales Saylor, 71, passed away unexpectedly and peacefully at home on Sept. 23.

She was born Nov. 13, 1935, and was raised in the East Bay. She and her husband Leland raised their family in Alamo and Danville, where she also worked with the Easter Seals Society, the Regional Center for the Arts, and was a founding member of the Diablo Cotillion. When their family was grown, they moved to San Francisco. She was legendary in social circles, but her role as wife, mother and grandmother gave her the greatest joy.

She is survived by husband Leland Saylor; brother Todd Bales; children Bradley Saylor, Natalie Saylor Savio and Jeffrey Saylor; and two grandchildren. A celebration of her life was held Oct. 6.

1947 and was recalled for service during the Korean War.

Howard and Dorothy were married 64 years and one month to the day. They met in Nashville, Tenn., and married six months later at the Post Chapel in Carlsbad, N.M. They lived in Crow Canyon Country Club since 1979.

He was predeceased by his son Don Aines and is survived by his wife Dorothy and four children, Debbie Toy of San Mateo, Howard Jr. of Fremont, Rod Aines of Brentwood, Gina Aomokhai of Seattle; 12 grandchildren and one granddaughter.

A reception was held at the Methodist Church on Oct. 6. Contributions can be made to Cancer Research, Hospice or any animal shelter.

Kathleen 'Kathi' Olivieri

Danville resident Kathleen "Kathi" Olivieri passed away Oct. 2.

She worked 15 years at Levy's Bagels before working at Macy's for five years. She would often be found at Starbucks in San Ramon enjoying her daily coffee. She also enjoyed the casinos, was a sun worshipper and athletic, as well as a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend.

She is survived by Ronald Olivieri, her husband of 38 years; two daughters, Denae Olivieri and Jennifer Butler (Reid Butler); her mother, Connie Del Carlo; and brother, Ray Del Carlo (Jan Del Carlo). Memorial services were held Oct. 8 at St. Joan of Arc Church in San Ramon. Contributions may be made to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 5005 LBJ Fwy., Suite 250, Dallas, TX 75244.

Major Howard Blaine Aines

Major Howard Blaine Aines, a Danville resident, passed away Sept. 26 in Alamo.

He was born in Pasadena on July 24, 1922. He attended Pasadena City College where he was a member of Alfa Gamma Sigma, and the California Scholarship Society. He enlisted in April 1942, and served in the Air Force in Europe, Normandy, North Korea, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. Assigned to the 410th Bomb Group, he was sent to England, then was assigned to the ninth Air Force. He flew 65 missions as a lead bombardier, navigator and radar observer. He accepted a Reserve discharge in November



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Parent photographers

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San Ramon Valley High junior Justin Gribble plays goalie for the Wolves as they beat Monte Vista, 15-3, to capture the EBAL boys title.

High school in action

Monte Vista girls volleyball team beats Amador Valley, 3-1, which was formerly undefeated.



Monte Vista High School's Sheena Chaudhuri plays doubles against San Ramon Valley High School at the girls tennis East Bay Athletic League championships last Thursday. The Mustang girls had an undefeated season. EBAL championships continued through Nov. 8, with North Coast Section taking place Nov. 8-12; NCS Singles/Doubles Championships are Nov. 15-17; and Nor-Cal Team Tennis Championships are Nov. 18-19.



Ladies tennis on fire

The N.O.B.S. first Ladies Invitational was held Oct. 26 at San Ramon Valley High School, a fun day for the tennis invitees who are rated 4.0-5.0. The event was divided into two flights with six teams in each flight.

The Wimbledon Flight was won by Nancy Katz and Trish Robertson. Runners up were Christa Bakarich and Laurie Radanovich

The U.S. Open Flight was won by Karen Presnell and Mindy Engberg. Runners up were Jill Beeman and Kal Peters

The Round Robin Event concluded with a lunch and awards ceremony at the Peasant and the Pear Restaurant in Danville. Sponsors for this year's event were Wilson Rackets; Tennis, Trophies

and Tee Time in Danville, owned by Frank and Linda Haswell; San Ramon Valley High School, and the Peasant and the Pear Restaurant.

The event was such a huge success that the group decided not to wait until next fall for the second annual event, but to plan a rematch in the spring with a blind draw.

"Since the level of tennis with all of the teams was so even and competitive, a blind draw will add a new twist to the fun-filled day," said Bakarich, one of the organizers.

Players included three tennis coaches—Bakarich, coach at The Athenian School; Sherri Scholl of San Ramon Valley High; and Patty Gross of Monte Vista. Tournament director was John Sutter. ■

680 water polo team to nationals

The 680 Drivers Boys eighth-grade water polo team qualified first at the Pacific Zone Qualifier for the '07 Speedo Cup hosted by the U.S. Water Polo Association, beating Stanford, Lamorinda and Marin to go a perfect 3 and 0 to earn the coveted invitation. On Nov. 8, the team traveled to Columbia, Mo., to compete in the '07 Speedo Cup comprised of the top 12 teams 14-and-under in the nation. Team members are (front, l-r) Chris Swenson, Colin Chiapello, Tucker Angelo, Tyler Martin, Samuel Yorke, (top) Coach Mundy, John Speros, Justin Riele, Nicholas Pasichuke, Riley Kalbus, Justin Roberto, Nicholas Candau, John Keane.



Vipers strike ends in tie

Jordan Weil (in red) of the Mustang Soccer U-12 Boys White Plus Vipers, coached by Tim Morris, muscles the ball down field at Blackhawk against the Flames, coached by Tim Ballard, on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Blackhawk. The game ended in a 2-2 tie.



PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 9

Football
San Ramon Valley vs. Monte Vista, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 10

Cross Country
2 Mile TT at SRVHS Track
Water Polo
NCS Championships

Tuesday-Saturday, Nov. 13-17

Women's Volleyball
NCS Tournament



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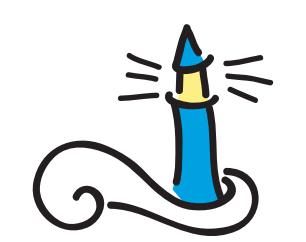
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Saratoga, 4 BR/3 BA

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How Big is 40 Acres?
Come find out! 40 acres - \$39,900 Just outside Moses Lake, Washington. Beautiful land with captivating mix of rolling hills and occasional rock outcroppings - must see. Offered by a motivated seller. Excellent financing offered. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

Montana Land
Ride it, Hunt it, Feel it... You can't do that with stocks or CD's! 20 Acres along Country Road- \$49,900 160 Acre Land Tracts- \$625/ AC 150 Acres with Log Cabin- Wraparound Porch and Gorgeous Mtn. Views- \$189,900 We'll Finance it! "A dream come true for anyone thinking great land is out of reach" Call Western Skies Land 1-888-361-3006 www.WesternSkiesLand.com (Cal-SCAN)

Nevada - Priced for Quick Sale
5 acres - \$19,900. Beautiful building site with electric & county maintained roads. 360 degree views. Great recreational opportunities. Financing available. Call now! 1-877-349-0822. (Cal-SCAN)

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Bargain. 2 ac. Waterfront w/ brand new 1200sf Ranch Pkg. 60 mins. Houston \$89,900. Direct access to bay & Gulf! Excellent financing options. Call 1-800-504-2636, x796. (Cal-SCAN)

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Pleasanton

PET OF THE WEEK



Find purrfect presents at our boutique

"OK girls, this is my suggestion," Henry, a 2-year-old, neutered male housecat, said. "The boys and I will hang out here and watch the game while you girls put on a cute outfit and go to Valley Humane Society's Animal Lover's Boutique this Saturday. You'll have fun shopping for unique gifts, home decor, whimsical ornaments, and much more!" This eighth annual Animal Lover's Boutique is a benefit for the "Just Like New" Fund which provides medical care to injured animals in the Tri-Valley area. The boutique will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd. (next to Boswells). "By the way," Henry said, "you can visit me and my sister Tilly at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. Call 426-8656. Tilly and I have been together since birth so we are hoping to be placed together in a loving indoor home."

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during October 2007

Alamo

853 Miranda Creek Court
Burkland Trust to K. & K. Rehemtulla for \$1,725,000
77 Pleasant Knoll Court
R. & D. Bianchina to D. & J. Burkland for \$2,535,000

Danville

1524 Colchester Street
GMAC Model Home Finance to J. & E. Kim for \$1,230,000
4495 Deer Ridge Road
Willens Trust to Shen Wei Inc. for \$3,500,000
1017 Dunhill Court J. Marginn to D. & L. Treiber for \$1,035,000
224 Fairway Drive T. & G. Bone to W. & P. Barry for \$1,150,000

3038 Fostoria Circle Bohl Trust to S. Bieneman for \$402,000

131 Gerald Drive H. & N. Studer to Mollins Trust for \$1,775,000

315 Glasgow Circle American Home Mortgage to M. Bedard-Collopy for \$865,000

800 Griffon Court Shapell Industries to T. Bui for \$1,429,000

21 Martin Court Haskins Trust to H. & C. Freedland for \$900,000

725 Mastino Court Shapell Industries to C. & S. Stuart for \$1,029,500

733 Mastino Court Shapell Industries to R. & M. Ellyson for \$1,035,500

109 Menton Court KB Homes to K. Kim for \$883,000

1450 Menton Street GMAC Model Home Finance to M. Lewis for \$1,050,000

1335 Monterosso Street
Lennar Homes to A. Salyapongse for \$1,235,500

100 Nanterre Street KB Homes to S. & B. Vittal for \$882,000

552 Old Orchard Drive
Adolphson Trust to H. & C. Raft for \$925,000

244 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to R. Shen for \$464,000

286 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to J. & N. Holland for \$502,000

290 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to T. & S. Shakireen for \$466,000

292 Pembroke Street Shapell Industries to Y. Xian for \$502,000

509 Zita Court M. & M. Collopy to H. & M. Hagopian for \$1,425,000

Walnut Creek

41 Acorn Court Mcmanus Trust to G. & M. Virga for \$535,000

475 Boundary Oak Way R. & M. Kincheloe to K. & J. Gronert for \$950,000

1965 Cactus Court #1
Roberts Trust to M. Shields for \$440,000

1794 Candelero Court GMAC Global Relocation to R. & L. Sullivan for \$505,000

2465 Casa Way T. Loukos to J. & J. Bliss for \$906,000

143 Hall Lane T. Reese to C. Wong for \$588,000

1251 Homestead Avenue #139 T. Keaton to D. Dulac for \$305,000

1655 North California Boulevard #234 Trinity Avenue Limited to D. Tang for \$475,000

1655 North California Boulevard #236 Trinity Avenue Limited to K. Tang for \$475,000

1655 North California Boulevard #335 Trinity Avenue Limited to C. & M. Lai for \$776,000

1655 North California Boulevard #337 Trinity Avenue Limited to R. Levine for \$935,000

1655 North California Boulevard #431 Trinity Avenue Limited to Adolphson Trust for \$945,000

2734 Oak Road #101 S. Abaco to G. & W. Turner for \$296,000

1937 Olmo Way S. Crevar to Llenado Trust for \$380,000

11 Park View Court Vanfleet Trust to T. Reese for \$940,000

101 Player Court #2 Fairways 340 Limited to M. Osgood for \$220,000

3136 Rossmoor Parkway #3
Goranson Trust to Gallagher Trust for \$430,000

1817 Skycrest Drive #3
Records Trust to G. Wilhelm for \$415,000

1309 Skycrest Drive #7 D. Kendrick to J. & P. Quiggle for \$240,000

4424 Terra Granada Drive #3A Webb Trust to Lehnus Trust for \$550,000

3330 Terra Granada Drive #4A Barney Trust to Richardson Trust for \$482,000

230 Via Del Sol E. Whipkey to B. Revelli for \$600,000

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

5 Bedrooms
4055 Stone Valley Oaks Dr. **\$2,399,900**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 463-2000

BLACKHAWK

3 Bedrooms
305 Live Oak Dr. **\$1,295,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 577-4004
106 Kingswood Cir. **\$889,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 577-4004

4 Bedrooms
311 Live Oak Dr. **\$1,195,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 577-4004
29 Chestnut Pl. **\$1,975,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3353

DANVILLE

4 Bedrooms
5353 Old School Rd. **\$1,975,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3353
2651 Finley Rd. **\$3,700,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

5 Bedrooms
634 Ambience Wy. **\$1,359,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3337

SAN RAMON

2 Bedrooms
9024 Craydon Cir. **\$265,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 UCB 580-4524
108A Norris Canyon Pl. **\$404,888**
Sun 1-5 Keller Williams 260-2508
516 La Copita Ct. **\$347,900**
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 984-3195

4 Bedrooms
7085 Briza Loop **\$679,950**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 984-9301
2748 Mohawk Cir. **\$889,000**
Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker 785-9373

5 Bedrooms
3526 Sandalford Wy. **\$1,059,000**
Sat 1:30-4:30/Sun 2-5
Coldwell Banker 785-9373
25 Cree Ct. **\$935,000**
Sun 1-4 Empire 217-3108

DUBLIN

3 Bedrooms
7754 Millbrook Ave. **\$529,000**
Sat 1-4
Erickson Financial Services/Bret Erickson 408-221-0375

4482 Chancery Ln. **\$595,000**
Sun 1-4 Tri-Valley Realtors 270-9000

4513 Peacock Ct. **\$778,500**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

4 Bedrooms
11444 Bloomington Wy. **\$949,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4
Windermere Select Properties 216-9380

PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms
5380 Brookside Ct. **\$595,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
3193 Montpelier Ct. **\$719,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 922-1575
4332 Diavila Ave. **\$739,000**
Sat 1-4 Re/Max 847-8900

4 Bedrooms
1717 Courtney Ave. **\$1,950,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 216-7082
6828 Corte Salcedo **\$819,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000
4255 Churchill Dr. **\$919,000**
Sun 1-4 Windermere Select Properties 216-9380
2518 Larrikeet Ct. **\$939,000**
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 872-8286

5 Bedrooms
4823 Arlene Pl. **\$1,339,000**
Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8800
4742 Arlene Pl. **\$1,350,000**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8322
3753 Smallwood Ct. **\$1,599,000**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8800
1290 Via Di Salerno **\$2,599,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 216-7082
5536 Corte Sierra **\$789,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential 510-326-1981

LIVERMORE

2 Bedrooms
1526 Portola Ave. **\$339,950**
Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000
1718 Hollyhock St. **\$419,000**
Sat 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000

3 Bedrooms
3996 Stanford Wy. **\$499,000**
Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC 784-0667

4 Bedrooms
6608 Tiffany Cmn. **\$569,000**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8322
819 Wall St. **\$598,999**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121
1657 Third St. **\$649,950**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1119
4052 Emerson Dr. **\$799,950**
Sun 1-4 Tri-Valley Realtors 270-9000

5 Bedrooms
5679 Dresslar Cir. **\$879,000**
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel 398-6706

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during October 2007

Alamo


Total sales reported: 2
Lowest sale reported: \$1,725,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,535,000
Average sales reported: \$2,130,000

Danville

Total sales reported: 21
Lowest sale reported: \$402,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,500,000
Average sales reported: \$1,080,262

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$220,000
Highest sale reported: \$950,000
Average sales reported: \$563,091



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Peter Johnson

Custom Construction Lending Team
925-314-7011 - Direct Office
925-788-9394 - Cell
866-905-8753 - E-Fax
peter_m_johnson@countrywide.com

Cory Slattengren

Custom Construction Lending Team
Production Assistant; Team "Black"
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866-905-8749 - Fax
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