

## Waterfall wonderland

High school photographer finds nature a short hike away > **page 14**

### Staying Healthy

Inside this issue



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# Danville

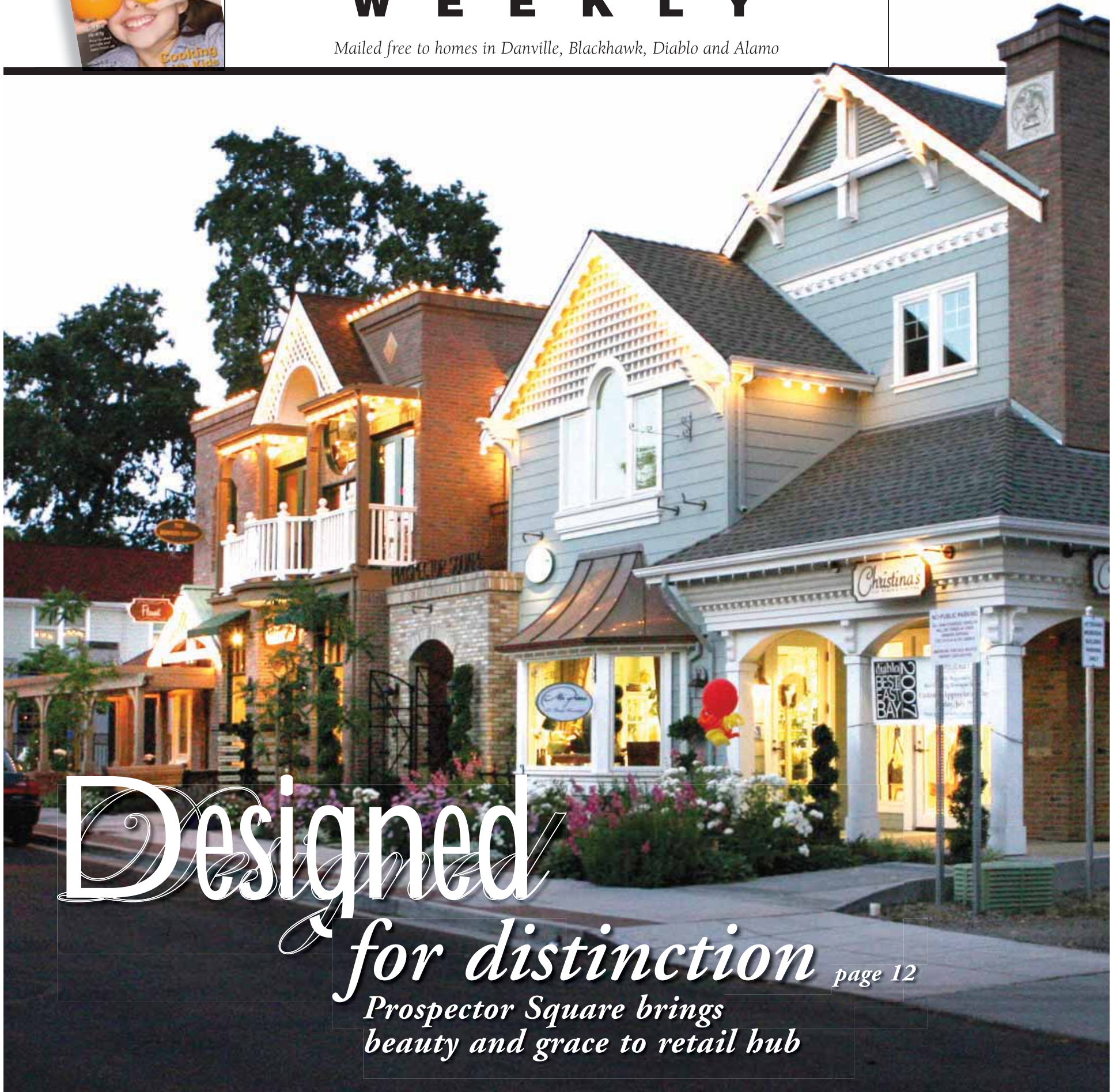
## W E E K L Y

Mailed free to homes in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo

### Sandwich surprise

Mom discovers nail in loaf of bread

> **page 5**



*Designed for distinction*

page 12

*Prospector Square brings beauty and grace to retail hub*



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## Q: What do you think is the biggest misconception people have about teenagers?



That teenagers are up on the gossip and want to be Britney Spears. Well, before she lost it. I don't want to be any of those celebrities. I'd rather be who I am now.

**Olivia Miyashiro**  
employee of Round Table Pizza



Teenagers aren't lazy. Now, I mean, teenagers with all this technology—they can't be lazy. They are listening to their iPod, doing their homework, talking on the phone and texting. People say we're a more distracted culture—well, duh! We don't have time to be lazy.

**Elliott Perrings**  
student at Diablo Valley College



I think it's that people think we're always selfish all the time. We actually do think about other people. I care for my parents and stuff. And my siblings. I don't always do selfish things.

**Trevor Ryan**  
student



A lot of times they see us as people who goof off and don't care. I agree it does seem like that a lot of the time. But we do care. Maybe what's important to (us) isn't important to the people who are judging (us). The people we know are the most important thing. The impression you make on people is what's gonna last.

**Brandon McKinney**  
student and guitarist



That we suck at driving, when we're really good because they let us drive to school. We're better at driving than old people. We're more responsible than some people. Like middle-schoolers and elementary school kids. And like people in jail.

**Kevin Porta**  
student

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

### ABOUT THE COVER

Prospector Square in Danville has received the Architectural Design Award from the Town of Danville, and the Gold Nugget Award from PCBC and Builder magazine. Residents also give it a thumbs-up. Photo by Chris Scott/www.calsportsphoto.com. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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“ This Grüner doesn't have me leaping in my lederhosen —a scary image, even on my best day! ”

—Gregory Peebles, The Wine Guy

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## NEWS DIGEST

### AAUW looking for scholars

The Danville-Alamo branch of the American Association of University Women is offering scholarships to local women. Applicants must have graduated from San Ramon Valley Unified School District or resided in the district when attending a private school. Applicants must be a college junior or higher as of September 2008, at an accredited four-year college or university. Graduate students may also apply.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, educational goal, financial need and campus or community involvement. Completed scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 1. Applications are online at [www.aauw-da.org](http://www.aauw-da.org).

### Danville Community Band to perform in Blackhawk

The 85-member Danville Community Band, led by music director and conductor Lawrence Anderson and newly appointed associate director Robert Calonico, will present two concerts in Blackhawk this spring.

"Sounds of the Sixties," at the Blackhawk Museum at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 2, will feature familiar tunes including selections from "Man of LaMancha" and "The Sound of Music," nostalgic music from popular sit-coms, the Beatles "Yellow Submarine," Herb Alpert hits, "Feelings," "People" and much more. The Vivaldi Piccolo Concerto with soloist Heather Anderson will highlight this family event, being held in conjunction with the museum's "Sixties" exhibit. Concert is free with museum admission.

Then the band will present music from "Bach to the Beatles" with a sumptuous dinner at the Blackhawk Country Club Lakeside Ballroom on Sunday, April 13. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m.; a no-host bar will open at 6 p.m.; dinner is at 7:30 p.m. The dinner and concert cost \$50, and last year it sold out. For reservations, call 736-650, ext. 0.

### San Ramon chamber honors Superintendent Kessler

The San Ramon Chamber of Commerce named Rob Kessler, superintendent of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District since 1995, as Educator of the Year for his role in cultivating "a superior school district." Kessler has overseen major growth in the district's schools, most notably the Dougherty Valley schools east of San Ramon, plus has helped to pass three tax measures supporting schools.

Under Kessler's leadership and vision, SRVUSD has become one of the best school districts in California, with award winning schools and teachers. The chamber noted that people and families move to San Ramon and surrounding communities to benefit from the strong education system Kessler has established.

The Community Award Winners were announced at the chamber's recent Night of Stars gala.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ The nail was disgusting. I just gasped and I called my husband. ”

—Kristin Lineberry, the mother of three children who found a nail in a loaf of bread.  
See story, page 5.



This late afternoon photo from 2006 shows March snow on a picnic table on Mount Diablo.

### Enjoy the snow at Mount Diablo

Weather forecasts say cold and precipitation will continue making Mt. Diablo State Park a snowy play land.

Hikers and others who want to enjoy the snow can park at the Junction Ranger Station at Mt. Diablo State Park. They cannot drive up further due to the snowy weather, park ranger Carl Neilson said Tuesday.

Junction Ranger Station is at the 2,200-foot-level of Mount Diablo, where South Gate and North Gate roads meet. Neilson said Mt. Diablo State Park started getting snow Monday morning and more fell Tuesday. He expected to see scattered showers and perhaps some snow for the rest of the week, according to weather forecasts.

Neilson urged hikers to dress warmly, wear gloves, head protection and jackets.

"Be definitely prepared for the conditions up there," he said. "People are welcome to walk at higher elevations."

He noted the park closes at sunset, which is currently 5:20 p.m. For more information about hiking at Mt. Diablo State Park, call 837-0904.

**Corrections** The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 837-8300 or e-mail: [editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com)

## Schools face 'ugly' budget

PTAs plan march in Sacramento next month

by Natalie O'Neill

District Superintendent Rob Kessler encouraged parents and teachers in the San Ramon Valley to lobby in Sacramento, after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the state education budget will be slashed by \$4.3 billion in the 2008-2009 school year.

"There absolutely has to be a grassroots effort to express our collective outrage," Kessler said at last week's school board meeting.

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is initiating a spending freeze and expects the statewide crisis could mean up to \$8 million in impacts on the district next year, said district spokesman Terry Koehne.

"It's ugly," he said.

School board members are both heartbroken and furious.

"I'm ashamed of our governor," said Trustee Greg Marvel.

District financial advisors are "waiting for the dust to settle" before determining exactly where local funds will be chopped. But an overview shows a \$3 million to \$3.5 million decrease in unrestricted money from the state, about \$130 for each pupil, and \$1 million to \$1.5 million in cuts to mandated programs like classroom size reduction and special education in the San Ramon Valley.

Additionally, the governor proposed no cost of living increase, which means the district has zero

► Continued on page 8

## Sandwich-making mom shocked to find nail in bread

Woman unhappy with Safeway reaction to unsavory find

by Jordan M. Doronila

A Danville mom found a nail in a slice of bread from the Camino Tassajara Safeway last week, and she is upset with the supermarket's efforts to comfort her.

"I'm unhappy with their customer service," said Kristin Lineberry, mother of three children. "They

weren't treating it very seriously."

The nail came from a pallet used to load the bread.

Lineberry bought the bag of Safeway brand whole wheat bread earlier this month and opened it a week later to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich to feed her 6-year-old son. Later, when she was making grilled cheese sandwiches, she discovered a rusty 2-inch nail imbedded in a slice of the bread.

"The nail was disgusting," she

► Continued on page 7



Monte Vista High junior Stacey Hsi helps Justin Chen, a fifth-grader at John Baldwin Elementary School, with a project about mold growth, at the Monte Vista Science Alliance Program last week.

JORDAN M. DORONILA

## Science Alliance is a winning experiment

High school students guide fifth-graders through advanced science projects

by Jordan M. Doronila

Hundreds of high school students and fifth-graders teamed up in Danville to create and explore new and exciting scientific ideas last week.

The Monte Vista High School Science Alliance held its annual Hot Chocolate Extravaganza for high school mentors and their fifth-grade buddies last Friday at the school's small gym. Approximately

150 high school students and 150 fifth-graders from the San Ramon Valley Unified School District worked together and explored a broad range of scientific topics.

In the program, the high school students mentor fifth-graders and help stimulate their interest in science.

"It's exciting because you learn a lot," said Justin Chen, a fifth-grader at John Baldwin Elementary School. "I'm learn-

ing about mold growth."

"It's fun," said Stacey Hsi, a Monte Vista junior. "I like being able to work with them on their projects."

The topics ranged from the number of earthworms used for plant growth, liquids affecting the composition of metal density, racing cars, a hovercraft and testing bone density. Various elementary

► Continued on page 7

## Park's popularity poses problems

Messy restrooms worry Livorna Park patrons

by Natalie O'Neill

More people are using Livorna Park, thanks to a sprucing up the recreation grounds received in June. But as the area becomes a bustling family hotspot, the restrooms need more attention, park users say.

County Public Works met with custodial crews recently to discuss comments about disheveled restrooms at the park.

"We're addressing the situation. We've had complaints about our bathrooms not being terribly clean," said County Senior Planner Hillary Heard.

She noted that contracted janitors clean bathrooms in the park

"Since we've made the park really snazzy, we've got what we asked for—it's really busy."

—Hillary Heard,  
County Senior Planner

twice a day on weekdays.

"We try to keep an eye on the park. We keep in close contact with the (custodial) contractors," she said.

Alamo Parks and Recreation

Committee Chairwoman Marie-Jeanne Parsons said she suspects the restroom messes likely have more to do with people not cleaning up after themselves than neglect on the part of the county.

"It bothers me when I go to a place that should normally be nice. It's up to everybody to keep things the way they would want to find it," she said.

She added she's pleased with how often contractors clean the park.

Park users Monday said the bathroom had a strong stench and strands of toilet paper strewn on

► Continued on page 6



Outside the Livorna Park restrooms, where residents have complained about untidy stalls, Alamo boys practice skateboarding tricks.

NATALIE O'NEILL



JORDAN M. DORONILA

## Touring Tassajara Hills

Principal Luann Duggan leads a parade of teachers from China and shows them the education style at Tassajara Hills Elementary School in Danville on Tuesday, Jan. 15. The teachers learned about the American education system and teaching style, hoping to bring back their findings and implement them in China, said Mercy Lam, coordinator of the event. Dozens of teachers took pictures, listened to cassettes and watched children play and learn.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

# Danville designing a tranquil spot downtown

*Mini-park with fountain to enhance corner at Railroad and Linda Mesa avenues*

by **Natalie O'Neill**

As the peaceful garden in front of Bridges restaurant on Hartz Avenue vanishes, another respite spot downtown is in the works.

The town is planning for a 2,500-square-foot mini-park at the southeast corner of Linda Mesa and Railroad avenues. It will feature benches, a water fountain for aes-

thetics, landscaping and an information kiosk.

"It's going to be a cute little park. You can sit and talk to friends. It's a nice way to encourage people to be downtown," said Mayor Candace Andersen.

It is now in the design phase and could be completed by the end of the year at the earliest, she said.

The area will be called Railroad

Plaza and is expected to cost Danville about \$200,000, said Bob Russell, landscape architect for the town. He called the area a "decorative concrete plaza."

Andersen said designing Railroad Plaza is unrelated to the fact that the mini-park in front of Bridges is being turned into a one-story retail outlet. Construction crews began demol-

ishing that small park last week.

But Andersen added the common thread is that Town Council likes to have "nice public spaces" to encourage people to visit, relax and enjoy downtown.

"It's fortuitous," she said.

The Bridges garden was a gift to Danville by its founder, Kazuo Sugitani 20 years ago. The current owner, Ryota Sugitani, told the

Planning Commission he chose to develop the parcel because he was paying high taxes on the property.

Railroad Plaza will be located on the northwest corner of the Clock Tower Plaza parking lot and is now just a flat rectangular dirt area, near the bus stop, catty-cornered to Trader Joe's.

"It's a great thing for beautification," Andersen said. ■

## Camino Tassajara left-turn lane being expanded

*Longer lane will help church traffic at Sherburne Hills*

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A new left-turn lane from Camino Tassajara onto Sherburne Hills Road will keep traffic flowing smoothly to the Danville post office and to the East Bay Fellowship.

Danville plans to lengthen the eastbound left-hand pocket turn from Camino Tassajara in a project designed to keep its through lanes running efficiently and to make sure cars stopping to turn left don't create accidents.

"We want to free up capacity on Camino Tassajara on the through lanes," said Tai Williams, transportation services director.

She noted that peak traffic hours occur on the weekend during church service hours on Saturday and Sunday when cars might struggle to get into the left-turn lane.

The left-turn lane is currently



JORDAN M. DORONILA

The left-hand turn leading from Camino Tassajara onto Sherburne Hills Road, which funnels into the post office and East Bay Fellowship in Danville, will be improved to make traffic flow efficiently at the busy intersection.

150 feet and one lane; the project will expand it by 120 feet to 270 feet. The project will cost the town \$90,000, said Andy Dillard, town traffic engineering assistant.

It was included in the Capital Improvement Program in June 2005 and is expected to be completed by the spring, said Dillard. The town decided to include the

turn's expansion after observing the traffic congestion during peak hours.

Williams said the town is fortunate to be able to reconfigure Camino Tassajara to improve the left-hand turn.

"We won't always be able to do that," said Williams. "It depends on the availability of space." ■

## Livorna Park

► Continued from page 5

the floor—but that it didn't stop them from going to the recreation grounds. The restroom conditions on that day were worse than usual because it was a holiday that followed the weekend, Parsons said.

"It's not germey filth, it's just disarray," said one park user, a Sears employee who stopped to use the restroom Monday afternoon.

He explained his job requires him to travel from city to city and that he usually stops at parks and gas stations for bathroom breaks along the way.

"This one's a little rougher than most places," he said, in comparison to other East Bay cities.

He asked that his name not be used since he was on the job while commenting.

Sanitation standards for parks are generally lower than indoor facilities, Heard said.

"We don't have any specific standards. It's on a park-by-park basis," Heard said.

Parsons said, as far as improvements, there should be soap at the sink, which is stainless steel and located outside, between the two restrooms.

Large groups of kids congregate at Livorna Park—often for birthday parties. And it's up to parents to help their kids clean up after themselves, Parsons said.

**"It's up to everybody to keep things the way they would want to find it."**

—Marie-Jeanne Parsons, Parks and Recreation Committee

In June, Public Works completed improvements to the park including a new barbecue area, and added playground features like turf sand pit areas and landscaping.

The most recent Alamo Parks and Recreation budget reports show it spent just under \$10,000 on park improvements from 2005-2007.

"Since we've made the park really snazzy, we've got what we asked for—it's really busy," Heard said.

Taking this into account, Parsons urges park users to be aware of the mark they leave on the park.

"It's a question of respect. They are only as clean as people leave them," she said. ■

# Library closing Monday for two weeks

Renovations include state of the art carpet tiles

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Danville Library will be closed for renovations for 14 days starting next week.

The library will close Monday, Jan. 28, and is scheduled to reopen Monday, Feb. 11. The library's old carpeting will be replaced by First Choice Abbey Carpet of Danville with state of the art carpet tiles, which will add cushioning to the floor and allow for easier maintenance.

During the closure, the library will offer limited service, including book returns, through the Friends of the Library Bookstore office, which is next to the facil-

ity's main entrance.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said staff has advertised the library's closing well in advance through the town's Web site and signs at the site, and closing the facility is the best way to get the carpeting done.

"Moving everything out of that building in two weeks is pretty darn good," he said.

In addition to new carpet tiles, the library has undergone other renovations. The Town Council approved a contract last year to install 33 new computers in the library, replacing its 16 computers plus adding 17.

The library also received new tables and chairs, consolidated the

children and adult circulation desks, and created more shelving space.

The changes are part of the Danville Library Renovation Project, part of the town's Capital Improvement Program.

"Since that library opened in August in 1996, it's only been closed on holidays," Calabrigo said. "It's been open seven days a week—with 11 years of foot traffic all year long."

Library hours are as follows:

- Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Call the Danville Library at 837-4889 with any questions. ■

## Nail

► Continued from page 5

said. "I just gasped and I called my husband. I was in shock."

She said the day her son ate the bread, he got sick and vomited that evening.

She called Safeway after she found the nail and brought the bread back to the store.

Lineberry said the manager didn't have much of a reaction.

"He didn't seem disturbed by it," she said.

Store employees took the bread and the nail, and the manager gave her a half gallon of ice cream. A store customer service representative scheduled an appointment with Lineberry, asking her to fill out an incident report.

She said when she was about to leave her home to file the report, about 20 minutes before the appointment, the representative called and asked to cancel. She told the person that she was on her way out the door, and canceling wasn't going to fit in her schedule, and the representative agreed to continue with the appointment.

She added that Safeway offered her a \$75 gift card as long as she wouldn't take any legal action against the store, but she refused.

"I told them I'm not in this for the money," Lineberry said. "I just want to make sure this doesn't



Danville resident Kristen Lineberry discovered a rusty nail in a slice of whole wheat bread from Safeway on Camino Tassajara, as she was preparing to make her family grilled cheese sandwiches.

happen again."

She also called the Contra Costa County Department of Environmental Health and told about the nail. Health officials confirmed the nail came from a pallet.

Lineberry noted this week that she wants more of a follow-up and concern from Safeway.

However, store representatives felt they had adequately responded. They reacted immediately upon hearing about the incident, said Sherry Reckler, manager of public affairs and governmental relations for NorCal Safeway.

"We have contacted the cus-

tomers," said Reckler. "We have taken steps in the future. We have reviewed the situation carefully. We have safeguards in place."

"It's regrettable that she felt she didn't receive the customer service she would've liked," she added.

Reckler would not elucidate on the preventive measures Safeway is taking and declined to comment about the store's offer of a \$75 gift card to Lineberry for not taking any legal action.

"As of now, I'm not shopping at Safeway," said Lineberry. "I haven't heard from them. There has been no follow-up. My son is doing better." ■

and past science students Jonathan Wu and Aliza Ali in 2004 to help youths gain a deeper appreciation for the sciences. Fifth-grade students buddy up with high school honor students who guide them through advanced level science projects.

Fifth-graders develop a basic understanding of planning, executing and reporting in the program. They socialize and brainstorm with their mentors throughout the year and develop a project for the district's fifth-grade Science Alliance Science Fair and Activities Day in April.

"I love helping them understand what to do and be comfortable with science," said Emad Alazeh, a

junior at Monte Vista.

"It's really fun to do a project with someone else," said Alex Ackerman, a fifth-grader at Rancho Romero.

Carothers noted that the Science Alliance is expanding and its mentors are training other high school students in San Ramon.

"We are spanning out like a virus—in a good way," she said.

The next Science Alliance program is from 4-5:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 8, at the Monte Vista High School Small Gym, 3131 Stone Valley Road. For more information about the alliance, visit [www.mvsciencealliance.org](http://www.mvsciencealliance.org). ■

'My friend gave me a heads up on this...'

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## Science

► Continued from page 5

schools from the district participated in the event.

"Every school in the county should be doing this," said Patti Carothers, Monte Vista science teacher and alliance coordinator. "This is a model the state of California should incorporate in schools."

"It forges bonds that last forever," she added, noting that this is the program's fifth year.

Monte Vista High School Science Alliance was started by Carothers

## Blackhawk man full of capital ideas



The emergency room at John Muir Medical Center was there when we needed it 25 years ago. We'd just moved to our house off Livorna Road and by mid-summer had a hill of weeds at the back of our property. My husband went into full Russian peasant mode, bought a scythe, and began to swing it full force through the tall dry grasses. Unfortunately one of his first swings ended with the sharp point of the scythe puncturing his ankle. He staunched the gushing red blood but when the pain became acute, I drove him to John Muir.

I was recalling this mishap as I watched the crowd at the groundbreaking last week for the new five-story building at the medical center. A huge tent was erected in the parking lot for the event, and it was filled with supporters. The first speaker informed us that in 1957, there was Concord Community Hospital, which was always full, and Kaiser had just opened in Walnut Creek. A core group of 42 physicians proposed the new hospital, purchased 10 acres on Ygnacio Valley Road and, after six years of planning and two

years of construction, the 150-bed hospital opened in 1965 at a cost of \$4.5 million.

**When the family moved to the Bay Area, his mother was thrilled with the medical facilities and she told the family to always support the wonderful hospitals that served them.**

Obviously things are much more expensive these days, both for building and for providing state-of-the-art technology; the Walnut Creek campus expansion will cost \$621 million, funded through John Muir Health System reserves, hospital bonds and a \$40 million capital campaign. The expanded facilities will be nearly paperless, filmless and wireless—the new patient rooms will even have bedside access to the Internet.

At the groundbreaking, I met Blackhawk resident Guy Henshaw, managing director of Henshaw/Vierra Management Counsel LLC, who is heading up the capital campaign. Henshaw lived in Mexico as a boy where his father was a geologist with the Hearst family. When the family moved to the Bay Area, his mother was thrilled with the medical facilities, Guy said, and she told the family to always support the wonderful hospitals that served them. “She became the head of volunteers at Alta Bates,” he recalled.

Guy has lived all over the world with executive commercial banking positions. He and his wife Susan moved to Walnut Creek 30 years ago, and in 1990 he became president of the John Muir Health Foundation. The Henshaws bought their Blackhawk home a year ago. He said they loved the house because its extensive use of wood brought back memories of their years living in England. Gated communities fit their lifestyle of frequent traveling, Guy noted; they have another home in a gated golf community in Tucson where they visit once a month. He also likes

the location of their Blackhawk home—it's at one end of Crow Canyon Road and they have grandchildren at the other end, in Castro Valley.

Henshaw pointed out that the last three chairmen of the board at John Muir Health Foundation were Danville residents. “I was chairman when we authorized the project in 2003 and 2004,” he explained. “From 2005 to 2006, Ron Banducci was chair when all the planning was done. The current chair is the former Danville Mayor Don Richie. Both Don and Ron were great leaders—and were also helpful in getting me to be a Danville home owner, too.”

He noted that so far the capital campaign has raised \$27.5 million. The largest contributors are:

- \$9.5 million from the Thomas J. Long Foundation: The new building will be called the Thomas J. and Muriel T. Long Patient Care Tower.
- \$2.5 million from Rossmoor resident Theresa M. Caygill, who will have the Trauma/Emergency Services Department named after her.
- \$2.5 million from the J.M. Long

Foundation, which will name the new intensive care nursery.

Also, employees have collectively contributed \$1.3 million, many through payroll deductions; and the physicians have given \$1.5 million. The Walnut Creek Campus Auxiliary raised \$2.5 million so the central courtyard in the main lobby will be named after it.

The expansion is increasing the number of beds from 324 to 416 and doubling emergency treatment rooms from 22 to 44, good news in case my husband ever picks up his scythe again. The weeds, by the way, became my chore. I joined the 20th century and went out back with an electric weed whacker, but my first time out, I whacked into a wasp hive. The resulting attack felt rather like a hatchet cleaving the top of my skull. My husband was away so my 10-year-old son removed the stingers, and I lay on the couch with ice on my head and throbbing hands. I probably should have gone to the emergency room. (After that we hired someone to cut the weeds.)

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

### TAKE US ALONG



### Sharing the Weekly with a D.C. intern

When the Ekle family—Chris, Jan, C.J. and Kaitlyn—visited the Capitol in Washington, D.C., they were surprised to find that their tour guide from U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney's office was summer intern Tracy Petroski, who is also from Danville. They shared their Danville Weekly with her.



### Cruise with the news

Herb Jorgensen and Joyce Farrell of Blackhawk take time to catch up on their hometown news while heading to Alaska aboard the Coral Princess.

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

### Budget

► Continued from page 5

way of paying annual increases in health benefits to staff, insurance and utilities—another projected \$3 million.

“The situation is very serious,” said Mike Bush, assistant superintendent for business services. He presented the school board a summary of the budget situation.

After the summary, district staff asked school board trustees if they had any comments.

“Other than weeping?” said Trustee Paul Gardener.

To cope with the state's \$14.5 billion shortfall over the next 18 months the governor has proposed cutting money from state funded programs like public schools, state universities, state parks and agencies like child welfare services, CalWorks and foster care/adoption services. He will not consider any new taxes.

Schwarzenegger approved the 2007-2008 budget in August, and by fall there were telltale signs of an economic slowdown, Bush said.

“The state of California continues to balance its budget on the backs of children and the elderly,” Koehne said. “You can't just rout education and expect there to still be quality.”

Originally the governor dubbed 2008-2009 “the year of education.”

“I guess the ‘year of education’ became the weekend of education,”

said Trustee Bill Clarkson.

District staff encourages parents and teachers to write letters to the governor and local legislators in protest.

On Feb. 27 a district-wide “march on Sacramento” has been organized with buses—largely full of PTA members—leaving from Danville.

When faced with budget cuts, the district typically tries to make them as far away from the classroom as possible.

In March, some teachers in the district will receive notice that there is a possibility they will be laid off. This is standard procedure if there is even a small possibility of staff layoffs, Koehne said.

“Those are things that dramatically impact people's lives, regardless of whether it comes to fruition,” Koehne said.

The budget summary also noted the district expects to cut “per pupil” funds in half—or by \$700,000 for the remainder of the year. The district is looking into a proposed parcel tax to help what is already the fourth least funded unified school district in the state.

Trustee Joan Buchanan said it's vital that local taxpayers choose to “invest in the future” by investing in kids and schools.

“It's easy to sit here and blame Sacramento but we elect these people,” she said.

To join the march on Sacramento, call PTA member Patty Hoyt at 828-7592. ■

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**FROM THE PUBLISHER**

**Removing stories from Web is like unringing a bell**

We recently received a request that other media groups across the United States are receiving at least daily, sometimes hourly. We were asked to remove a story from our online archive.

Most often this request comes through because Internet search engines are picking up these stories that in the print version would have been hidden in old files. Now, with the click of a mouse, prospective and current employers, sweethearts, neighbors and friends can "Google" a name—even your name—and get an electronic history, all the good and bad. Such searches have cost people a date, a job interview or a job.

There are two issues at hand: the first is whether or not the information is correct, and the second is the electronic archiving of the information.

The issue of how to correct online stories is becoming a controversy in the journalism industry. When an error occurs, should the information be corrected within the story, or should the correct information be added to the top of the story with an editor's note, or both? However, the recent request that came to the Weekly for the post to be removed didn't concern incorrect information being published. The information was correct, but embarrassing.

To un-publish an online news story is like un-ringing a bell. Once a story is published online, it goes to e-mail feeds, search engines and site subscribers. Within a few minutes, people will have read the story and some may have posted comments. Removing a story completely leaves a void in the continuum of feedback comments posted. And when site visitors remember reading something and then it completely disappears, they question what else has "disappeared" and why. This is also the reason an editor's note at the top of an online story noting any corrections is important. People need to know what has been changed in a story and why.

Journalists use a series of guidelines to determine whether a story is valid. These same guidelines are used to determine whether or not to un-publish a story, or a portion of a story. For example, they ask themselves about the purpose of the story, the stakeholders in the decision to remove the story, and the consequences they will face if the story is removed. Alternative courses of action, such as deleting a portion of the story, appending an editor's note with further explanation or amendments, re-reporting the story, etc., and the consequences of those, are also considered.

We also need to be able to explain the decision to the stakeholders and to the readers, remembering there are always at least two sides to every story and at least two individuals affected by our decision. For example, in the request that came to our newsroom, the individuals and groups that sustained injury because of the actions of the individual in the story would certainly not benefit from it being deleted as if it never occurred.

Altering or deleting an accurate news story would be like rewriting history, which doesn't manifest transparency or trust in a news organization.

*Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is the publisher of the Danville Weekly and the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Co. Send questions to gallen@DanvilleWeekly.com.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Weber property provides major drainage**

Dear Editor:

We read your article regarding the flooding in Danville and the concerns of Mayor Candace Andersen and Town of Danville engineer Steve Lake.

The Municipal Code in most towns and cities in California addresses how to prevent certain situations that will contribute to flooding within the municipality. This includes Danville. Unfortunately, even though the Municipal Code of Danville provides for the means to prevent these situations from occurring, the town has chosen to ignore its own Municipal Code in the development of the Weber Property.

The Municipal Code 31-25.7 of Danville states, "Drainage facilities directly affecting the subdivision shall have the following minimum capacities: "Major drainage channels and conduits shall have sufficient capacity to contain a fifty (50) year frequency of average recurrence interval runoff."

Letters and e-mails from Contra Costa County Flood Control state that the watershed below the Weber and O'Brien property is a "major drainage channel within a major watershed," and that "studies indicate that properties along GVC are subject to flooding during a 25-year event."

Once these developments have been built, there can be no going

back. The downstream properties will be at risk year after year, and the town may find itself at the risk of additional expensive litigation for no reason other than its unwillingness to comply with its own Municipal Code.

*Pat Isom, Kristen Trisko, Debbie Simpson*

*Citizens for Civic Accountability*

**ONLINE READER POLL**

Give your opinion at  
[www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

**Which democratic presidential candidate do you favor?**

**Hillary Clinton**  
**Barack Obama**  
**John Edwards**  
other  
none

**Results from last week:**

Will you cast an absentee vote for the Feb. 5 California presidential primaries?

**Maybe:** 3.7%

**No:** 25.93%

**Yes:** 70.37%

**Total votes:** 27

**Code of ethics** The Danville Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

**YOUR TURN**

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that Friday's edition.

Submit Letters to the Editor of up to 250 words to [editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com). Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Danville Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information, contact Dolores Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 29.



**Don't go a week without your WEEKLY**

For an extra copy, stop by our office at **315 Diablo Road, Suite 100** or pick one up at one of the handy locations in the area such as the post offices in Danville, Diablo and Alamo; Trader Joe's; the Danville Library; Longs Drugs in Danville, Blackhawk and Alamo; Walgreens; Andronico's Market; and Rakestraw Books.

# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Suspect flees cops at 80 mph on town street

Police chased a 33-year-old man from Oakley who allegedly evaded a police officer and sped 80 mph on Camino Ramon in Danville last week.

Officer Paul Murphy stopped the suspect for having an obstructed license plate and carrying expired registration on Camino Ramon by Greenbrook Drive at 8:11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 14, said police Sgt. Dan Hoffman.

The suspect, who was driving a 2003 gold Chevy Silverado, failed to yield when Murphy flashed his headlights. The pursuit lasted for 45 seconds, according to reports, and he eventually pulled over.

When Murphy made contact with the man, he recognized him from a previous incident.

Suddenly, the suspect made a U-turn and accelerated his truck, passing by Greenbrook Drive. The truck crossed the double yellow lines that were on the side of incoming southbound cars. Murphy followed him and chased him but decided not to continue for safety reasons, Hoffman said, citing traffic and schools in the area.

Upon further investigation, police contacted the suspect at his home and they are encouraging him to turn himself in. Hoffman said it is felony to evade a police officer.

—Jordan M. Doronila

## POLICE LOG

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

### Sunday, Jan. 13

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and La Gonda Way at 12:29 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Edinburgh Cir. at 3:03 a.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 12:34 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:05 p.m.
- Felony embezzlement on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:33 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Bradford Pl. and Del Amigo Rd. at 5:10 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 14

- Vandalism on Gil Blas Rd. at 8:10 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop on Camino

- Ramon and Mission Pl. at 8:11 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Nugget Ct. at 10:26 a.m.
- Grand theft on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 11:18 a.m.
- Identity theft on Diablo Creek Pl. at 12:04 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Front St. at 12:26 p.m.
- Petty theft on Normandy Ct. at 3:36 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Doral Dr. at 4:24 p.m.
- Public nuisance, arrest, on Alta Vista Ct. at 6:41 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 8:06 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 15

- Accident, major injuries, on Hartz Ave. and School St. at 9:10 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Alamos Dr. and Diablo Rd. at 9:24 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Diablo Rd. at 9:34 a.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Doral Dr. at 9:54 a.m.
- Grand theft on Front St. at 10:52 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:53 p.m.
- Suspicious subject stop, arrest, on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 1:31 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:04 p.m.
- Grand theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:55 p.m.
- Felony embezzlement on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:56 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Dunhill Ct. at 5:04 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Franciscan Dr. at 11:31 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 16

- Petty theft on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 7:40 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on La Questa Dr. at 10:49 p.m.
- Identity theft on Claypool Ct. at 12:15 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara at 12:59 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Stetson Dr. at 2:22 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Hartz Ave. and E. Linda Mesa Ave. at 3:32 p.m. and 3:47 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Fostoria Way at 3:49 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 17

- Accident, major injuries, on Morninghome Rd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:26 a.m.
- Accident on Greenbrook Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:29 p.m.
- Grand theft on Rockridge Ct. at 12:44 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Greenbrook Dr. and Iron Horse Trail at 1:42 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Camino Ramon at 1:43 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on El Pintado Rd. at 4:42 p.m.
- Trespassing on Highbridge Lane at 4:47 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and McCauley Rd. at 6:52 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Brian Hilary Schwalen

Brian Hilary Schwalen, a resident of Alamo, died Dec. 17 in Alamo at the age of 57 of heart failure.

He was born in Concord and was a member of the first graduating class of De La Salle High School. He served in the Army in a Medivac and Rescue Dust-off Unit in Vietnam and received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal W/60 Device. He was the owner/operator of Select Properties Real Estate Brokerage in Alamo, specializing in development property. He held a private pilot's license and enjoyed flying with his friends almost as much as spending time with his children and grandchildren in Hawaii every year, and his Hawaiian shirts became his trademark.

He is survived by his wife, Rita; married daughters, Natalie Sharapata and Karma Christensen; sons-in-law, John Sharapata and Todd Christensen; his mother Lena Schwalen of Concord; and three siblings, Stephen Schwalen, Martin Schwalen and Anne Stickel; and nine grandchildren. A memorial service was held Dec. 21 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Alamo. Memorial contributions may be made to the Schwalen Family Fund mailed to P.O. Box 707, Alamo.

### Stephen Boland Ringwood

Stephen Boland Ringwood, a resident of Danville, died on Dec. 18 at the age of 64.

He was born June 23, 1943, in Illinois and raised there. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, then earned a JD at the University of Illinois. He spent the majority of his legal career as corporate counsel for Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. After his retirement he became an avid lawn bowler and enthusiastic worker for the U of Wisconsin Alumni Association. He also enjoyed watching movies, using his immense vocabulary, working with technology, and spending time with his wife and children.

He is survived by his wife Diane Ringwood and children Jessica Ringwood and Brent Ringwood. A celebration of his life was held Jan. 6. A fund for the Steve Ringwood Memorial Mixed Pairs Tournament and Trophy, a part of the PIMD Open, has been established to honor his contributions to the lawn bowls community.

### John W. Scheck Sr.

John W. Scheck Sr., a resident of Alamo, passed away Dec. 19 at the age of 77.

He was born June 5, 1930, in Gary, Ind., and graduated in 1954 from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago with a

degree in Electrical Engineering. He moved his family to Alamo in 1960. He and four colleagues founded Giga-tronics Inc. in 1980 and went public in 1983. He was President and CEO from 1980-90, and director from 1980-94. In retirement, his favorite pastime was boating in the Delta on his yacht, Giga-T, with family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Shirley; daughter Robin Scheck Williams; son John W. Scheck Jr.; son-in-law James D. Williams Jr.; daughter-in-law Tracy Scheck; and three grandchildren. Services were held Dec. 28 at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of John Walter Scheck to Bruns House, c/o Hospice of the East Bay, 2849 Miranda Ave., Alamo 94507.

### Peter L. Stewart

Danville resident Peter L. Stewart died Dec. 20 at the age of 62.

He was born March 20, 1945, and is originally from Bainbridge, Mass. He received his undergraduate degree from University of Massachusetts in 1967, and his MBA from Rutgers University in 1969. He moved to California in the early 1970s and settled in the Bay Area. He began his career in the corporate world in marketing at Standard Brands in New York and ended as president of Blue Chip Cookies in San Francisco. He then eased out of corporate life and began a successful 14-year career in San Ramon as a mortgage broker.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, his mother and father and brother and his brother's family. There will be a memorial celebration of his life in January; the family has more information. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Athenian School Founder's Oak Scholarship Fund, 2100 Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd., Danville 94506.

### Robert Ellis Winchell

Robert Ellis Winchell, a resident of Danville, died Dec. 23 at the age of 79.

He was born March 7, 1928. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force, and he was retired from a successful career in the insurance industry. He was a life-long aviation enthusiast and hobbyist.

He was the loving husband of Audrey Winchell, devoted father of Christopher Winchell (Debbie), Janet Nostrant (Cary) and Roger Winchell, and grandfather of two. He is also survived by three sisters and one brother, as well as by many nieces and nephews. A private celebration of Bob's life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100 Dublin.

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Discover DANVILLE ASSOCIATION  
www.discoverdanvilleca.com

**SIDEWALK SALE**

Feb. 1, 2 & 3  
10am to 6pm

**SIDEWALK SALE**

On the Avenues of Downtown Danville  
Railroad • Prospect • Hartz

&

Shops at the Danville Livery  
Sycamore Valley Road

# Transitions

OBITUARIES • BIRTHS • WEDDINGS

## Charles Owen McMahon

Danville resident Charles Owen McMahon passed away at the age of 94.

He was born in Chicago on Sept. 20, 1913. As a young man, he entered the seminary but left after three years and pursued a career in the grocery business with his father. He was drafted at age 32 and served in the Army in the South Pacific. Upon his return, he ran his own grocery store out of a Quonset hut in a military housing complex. He soon expanded his business to a larger store in downtown Chicago. At the height of his success, he decided to pursue the field of cryogenics with his brother-in-law in California. This business also became successful and he remained a co-owner of Almac Cryogenics until he retired at the age of 67. In his retirement years, he loved to explore the outdoors, hiking, fishing, golfing and traveling with his family. He was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, leading the Saturday morning rosary, helping at Loaves and Fishes, and working at the pancake breakfasts.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Jeanne; he is survived by children Margie McCauley (Jim) of Tucson, Ariz., Terry McMahon (Christine) of Concord; and Mike McMahon (Karrie), of Bothell, Wash.; two sisters, Patricia Hedtrom of Pinole, and Catherine Lynch of Oakbrook, Ill.; seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Dec. 28 at St. John Vianney Church in Walnut Creek.

## Mary Chell McGuigan Bodine

Mary Chell McGuigan Bodine, 68, a resident of Danville, passed away from cancer Dec. 28 with all her children present at a residential care facility in San Ramon.

She was born Feb. 23, 1939, in Madison, Wis. She later moved to Antioch, and lived the last eight years in Danville. She enjoyed jewelry making, dollhouse miniatures and shopping.

She was predeceased in 1998 by her husband Robert. She is survived by her daughter Suzanne Lescure (Michael) of Danville; sons William Bodine (Jamie) of Antioch; Michael Bodine (Liliana) of Austin, Tex.; and Edward Bodine of Los Angeles; and her father Virgil McGuigan of Concord; sisters Sharon Mosel and Terri Beauchamp of Minden, Nev., and brother Robert McGuigan of Yuba City; five grandchildren and one great grandchild. The family would like to thank her caregivers Aurora and Livia for their love and support. A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 4 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Pleasant Hill. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1885 Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill, 94523.

## Carmelita Josephine Mattei

Carmelita Josephine Mattei, a 45-year resident of Danville and Alamo, passed away peacefully Dec. 29.

She was born Dec. 16, 1927, to Dominic and Amelia Romano. She spent many years as a dance teacher for Arthur Murray Studios and was described as the life of the party.

She was a loving mother to Ayn, Lyn (Duncan), Peter (Beth) and Robyn (Jim). She is also survived by four grandchildren. A celebration of her life was held at Round Hill Country Club on Jan. 17.

## Beth Butler Compton

Beth Butler Compton, a resident of Danville, died Jan. 4 after a short illness complicated by long-term treatment for multiple myeloma. She was 73.

She was born in DeKalb, Ill., to Glenn and Evelyn Butler, the third of five children, and helped raise her two younger siblings, Steve and Glenda. She was a tomboy who played basketball and barrel-raced in rodeos. After high school, she came West and worked as a stewardess, most notably for Continental Airlines. While flying out of LAX, she met flight engineer Stuart Compton, who was from rural Virginia. They married in 1961 and moved to Hollis, N.H., and had two children. In 1971, the family moved back to California and settled in Danville.

She had a bachelors degree from Lesley College and a masters from Holy Names University in Oakland, and became a reading and learning disabilities specialist. She worked for many years with students at St. Isidore School in Danville, then opened her own business, Educational Resource Consultants. Later, she became interested in attention-deficit disorder, writing her thesis on it for a Ph.D in psychology from the Rosebridge Institute in Walnut Creek. She was very proud of earning her doctorate at age 60. Around that time, in 1994, she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, which has a one- to four-year life expectancy. She sought aggressive treatment and survived an astounding 13 years, using her extra years to counsel newly diagnosed myeloma patients and to help organize the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation's Race for Research, a San Francisco 5K that has raised more than a million dollars for myeloma research and will be run again this spring. She was also active in the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church; she volunteered with Wesley Youth Homes and mentored one of its at-risk girls.

She is survived by her husband Stuart; daughters Anastacia and Jodi; her stepson Keith; sister Glenda and brother Steve; nieces and nephews, and many friends. A memorial was held earlier this month at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the fam-

ily requests donations to Heifer Project or the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

## Kevin Joseph Burke

Kevin Joseph Burke, a resident of Alamo, died peacefully on Jan. 8 in the loving embrace of his wife, Patricia, and his six children.

Kevin was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Nov. 30, 1925, where his family resided; his father was CEO of the U.S. Lines, the main U.S.-based transatlantic passenger line between the U.S. and Europe. He attended Boston College in 1943 but was interrupted by World War II. After completing a successful winning season as a tackle on the Boston College football team, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He served until 1946, distinguishing himself in the invasion of Guam in July 1944. After the war, he returned to Boston, met his wife, Patricia O'Connell, and graduated in 1950 with a degree in finance. Following a brief experience in the shipping business, he began his main business career working for Shell Chemical for 33 years, retiring in 1985. His family lived in Denver, New York, Houston and Walnut Creek.

Upon his retirement, they lived for four years in Ashland, Ore., before finally settling in Alamo. He was an avid fan of the De La Salle Spartans, attended by his children Paul and Phil. He went to every game of his children and grandchildren he could, critiqued every assignment they dared show him, and made sure they went to church on Sundays.

He is survived by his daughter,

Christine Landon of Danville; five sons, Kevin of Garden City, N.Y., Mark of Danville, John of Rome, Italy, Paul of San Diego, and Philip of Oakland; son-in-law Geoff Landon; daughters-in-law Ursula Burke and Doreene Burke; and nine grandchildren. A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 11 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Irvin Deutscher Family YMCA, 350 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523.

## Christopher Groen, M.D.

Christopher Groen, M.D., a resident of Danville, died Jan. 7.

He was born June 9, 1922, in Chicago, Ill., to Christopher and Frieda Groen of the Netherlands. He was raised in Oak Park, Ill., where he attended high school. His love of classical music led him to enter the Sherwood School of Music in Chicago. World War II intervened and he served in the Pacific. After four years with the U.S. Army, he elected to pursue a degree in medicine, receiving his M.D. from the University of Illinois-Chicago Medical School in 1953. He and his bride, Arlene (Lundberg), traveled to Greeley, Colo., and then San Francisco to complete his internship and residency. The couple settled in Castro Valley in 1957 where he specialized in anesthesiology. He worked at many local hospitals including Eden Hospital and Doctor's Hospital, and was a founder of Laurel Grove Hospital. They moved to Danville in 1964.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Arlene; daughters, Alison

(Jon) Taylor of Duvall, Wash., and Christine (Bob) Gray of Piedmont; brother, William Groen of Northridge; and four grandchildren. At his request, no formal services were held. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that friends consider a memorial contribution to the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, or the charity of choice.

## Jean Smedberg Emory

Jean Smedberg Emory passed away from cancer Dec. 22 at the age of 83.

She was born in 1924 and raised in Evanston, Ill., where she graduated from nursing school in 1944 and married her husband Richard "Dick" Emory in 1946. They moved to the Bay Area in 1948 and raised three children. She was an outgoing woman who loved to converse with everyone. She loved to travel, read and was very spiritual. She worked in many facets of nursing, including at John Muir Medical Center, Planned Parenthood, as well as 25 years for Kaiser Oakland as an OB-GYN nurse practitioner.

She is survived by her son Michael and his wife Nancy; her daughter Meris and her partner Liz; her youngest son Richard; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild; many other loving family members and friends. A memorial party will be held in a few months per her wishes. Her ashes will be scattered in the sea by the Neptune Society. In lieu of flowers, please donate money to the Bruns House Hospice 2849 Miranda Ave., Alamo 94507, or any children's charity of choice.

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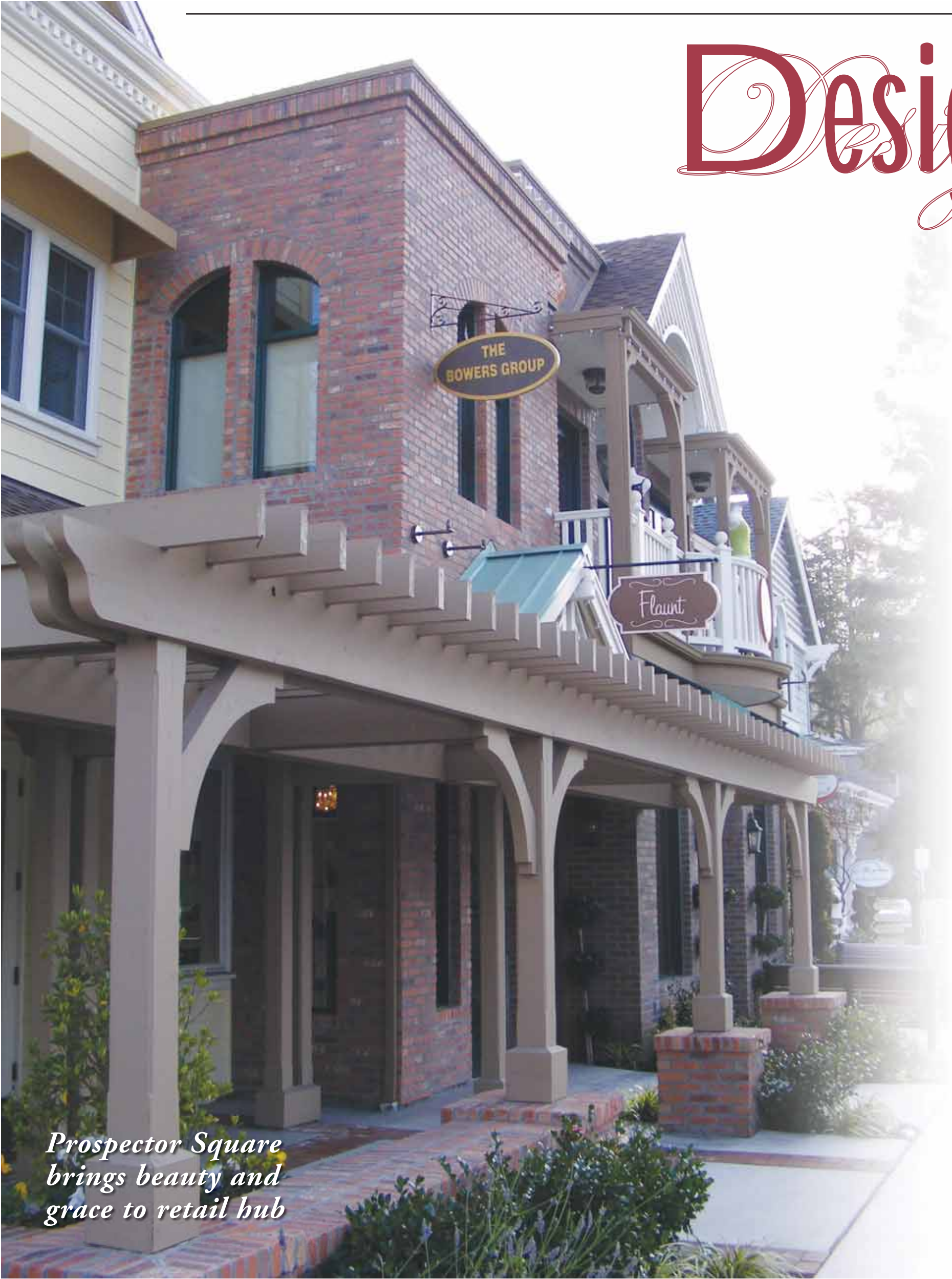
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*Prospector Square  
brings beauty and  
grace to retail hub*

# med for distinction

by Jordan M. Doronila

Delightful designs adorn an elegant building that enchants East Prospect Avenue in Danville. “By putting a beautiful building there, you’re elevating the street,” said Kim Williams of Pearson & Williams, developer of Prospector Square. Prospector Square has the appearance of multiple buildings but is actually only one structure, 12,600 square feet, two stories high, with solar panels. It has latticed gables, colored stucco and a dark patina copper roof.

“You’re going to make a multimillion dollar building in Danville, so you’re going to get three times the traffic and recognition on that street,” said architect Blair Barry, of Barry and Volkman on Prospect Avenue. “Every building on that street has gone up in value.” Barry and Williams began working on Prospector Square in 2007. “I said she was looking for a long-term, interesting project in the pedestrian heart of town. I said, ‘I and I were looking for a good real estate investment.’”

Williams, who comes from Danville, Ill., had already renovated the historic Vecki House on Front Street. She wanted to buy another piece of property and the 18,858-square-foot lot housed Davis & Daughters carpet store around the corner from Prospect Street became available. That building had also served as Barry’s office.

“When I purchased the property, she said she started from scratch, which gave her the freedom to implement her ideas. She wanted to create an edifice that had the look and feel of the cozy cottages in Carmel by the Sea, which sit on stone-paved streets and cottages welded together. She chose Barry as her architect because she liked his designs for retail businesses such as Forward on Hartz Avenue, and she had worked with him before. “Do you want to go to somebody else?” she said. “He was the right architect for the job.”

“I gave her ideas to Barry. She said, ‘I didn’t want something beautiful,’ she said. “I didn’t want something ostentatious.”

Williams delved into research and conjured up designs. He looked at photographs of buildings in Carmel but didn’t want to copy the overused structure designs in Nevada City, which has building patterns similar to some in Danville.

“I also had to work within the Town of Danville’s vision. “It’s a straitjacket,” said Barry, about conforming to the town’s design concepts to maintain its small town character and look. “The town sees itself as a static image. Things in the Town of Danville is just realizing that.”

“Getting buildings are a struggle to get,” Barry said. “It’s takes a lot of commitment and time and money.”

Williams likes seeing the same house over and over again,” he

Candace Andersen explained that although buildings in downtown Danville have to be compatible with existing buildings, many buildings in downtown have their own unique image, such as the Vecki House, now occupied by Branagh Development, on the corner of School Street and Hartz. There are buildings that look like cottages and others that appear like cottages.

“I said, ‘I and I were looking for a good real estate investment.’”

“I think we have great resistance from property owners in Danville,” Arnerich said, noting they have supported the town in their projects.

“Because of differing views, the town was excited with Barry’s

“The project was expensive to build. This means rents are 30 percent higher in Prospector Square than at other places in town. “I said, ‘I and I were looking for a good real estate investment.’”

“I also said it was a struggle to get a loan. She wasn’t a developer, and she only had worked on one project,

renovating the Vecki House.

“It’s an uphill battle from the start,” she said.

Also, most developers are men and she is a woman, which may have added to her difficulties.

“It surprises some people,” she said.

But she believes in the end bankers saw her credibility rather than her gender.

She was articulate in her plans, had owned a tech start-up com-



Developer Kim Williams and architect Blair Barry look at renderings of Prospector Square, which won the Gold Nugget Award for retail architecture and an honor from the Town of Danville.

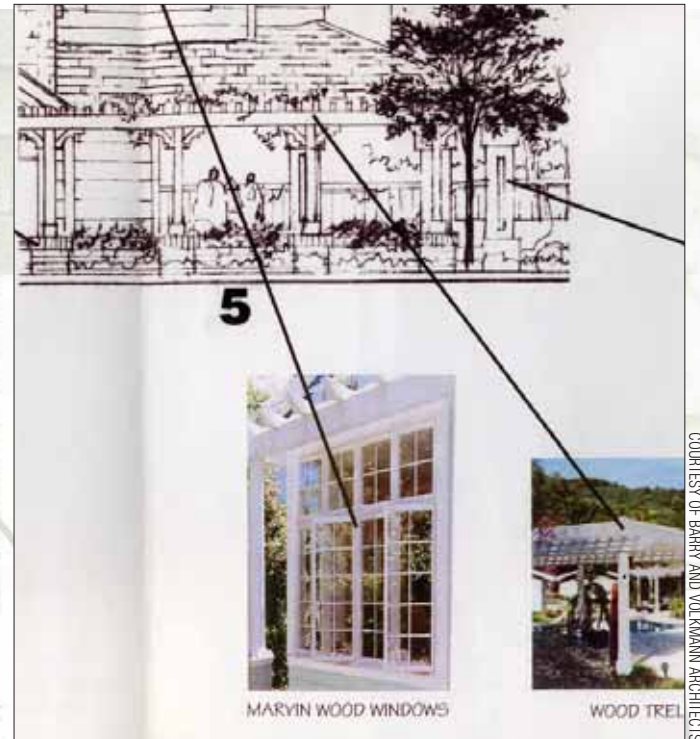
pany, and she had a master’s degree in business administration, which was enough to convince a banker to give her the loan.

Danville town staff, the Design Review Board, the Planning Commission and the Town Council liked the Prospector Square renderings and approved the project. Barry said having a thorough blueprint helps immensely in getting a project approved in town, without any fudging in the design. If the designs are rushed and poorly done, it will be a struggle to get through the planning process, he said.

The design was finished in a year and a half; and the construction of Prospector Square took another year and a half.

“You take the risk and hope and pray,” said Williams.

For now, with the real estate market suffering, Prospector Square’s chances of making a profit immediately are bleak.



Designs of Prospector Square on Prospect Avenue in Danville.

“I’m not going to profit for 10 years on this project,” Williams said. “I’m left with the eventual appreciation of the property.”

Prospector Square may go up in value because its attractiveness raises the value of the surrounding stores. Or Williams may make a profit when a new owner purchases the property at a high price.

She said location, space and image helps her tenants’ businesses even though the rent is expensive. The ambiance and the flow of pedestrians make the area attractive.

Williams said she is doing her best to accommodate her tenants and help them become successful.

“I’m scared for them because it’s hard,” she said. “They are taking a big risk in their personal finances.”

But the tenants say they are doing fine. Prospector Square now houses retail stores Flaunt Boutique, Mi Piaci—All Things Beautiful and Christina’s Fine Women’s Clothing as well as offices on the second floor.

“We love the space,” said Ashley Barry, manager of Flaunt Boutique. “There’s everything you need in this building. We do well. It’s worth the high price.”

“It’s a great space,” said Brad Roberts, floral designer and manager at Mi Piaci—All Things Beautiful. “It’s well built. We do get quite a few clients—many are by referral. Business is going well.”

Lori Fernald, a customer at Mi Piaci, enjoys the structure’s texture. “I love the building,” she said. “It’s very creative.”

Barry said he tells his clients to focus on quality of life instead of money.

“You’ve got to get beyond the dollar-in-and-dollar-out mentality,” he said, noting he has been in the business for more than 25 years and has seen slips in the economy before. “Bigger is not better but quality is better.”

He said other developers focus on the bottom line of money and their projects are often bland and generic. His clients have an entrepreneurial spirit and are often willing to spend money to create something different.

“You’ve got to think outside the box,” he said.

The Town of Danville recognized Prospector Square’s excellence, giving it the Architectural Design Award at the annual Mayor’s Installation and Community Service Awards ceremony in December. “It’s wonderful,” said Mayor Andersen. “It has some elegant elements.”

“It’s nice to know the town appreciates the level of time, effort and money we put into this project,” said Williams.

Prospector Square also won the Gold Nugget Award for best retail project, sponsored by the PCBC and Builder Magazine. The award honors creative achievement in architectural design and land use planning for residential, commercial and industrial projects. Prospector Square competed against entries from 14 Western states and other countries.

“It was an honor,” said Barry. “It was great. It was a huge surprise (to win) on this scale. We were competing against huge shopping centers.”

Councilman Arnerich noted that architects have been successful in integrating the local vernacular and the town’s small town charm in their designs.

“Prospect Avenue is a hot market in retail in Danville,” he said. “I think the community owes a lot to Kim Williams. Her investment is huge in downtown both economically and her personal commitment.” ■



San Ramon Valley High School student Joe Christianson was thrilled to discover waterfalls just west of Alamo and Danville off Camille and Hemme avenues. He has an intense appreciation for the outdoors, which he documents with his Canon PowerShot and posts on the Internet. Photos show (clockwise) Joe at the Camille Avenue waterfall; woodland star flowers along Camille Avenue trail; a checkerspot butterfly in Las Trampas; California poppies in Las Trampas; a small cascade accessed from Hemme Avenue; sunlight in the trees; and another cascade accessed from Hemme.

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Joe Christianson discovered a little bit of heaven just east of Alamo after the last rains. He hiked into the Las Trampas Wilderness from Camille Avenue and soon found himself beholding a waterfall tumbling down mossy boulders amid a forest of ferns.

"I received a tip from my boss (at Sunset Color Nursery) that there was a waterfall and decided to go up and see if it was true," said Christianson, 17, a junior at San Ramon Valley High.

The first time he checked, it was dry. So he tried again after the big rainfall earlier this month.

"I took my dad when it was raining ... we got there and the waterfall was gushing," he recalled last week. "I was shocked."

Christianson is no stranger to hiking and thought he knew what Las Trampas had to offer. He also found small cascades along the Hemme trail, just 10-15 minutes from the trailhead.

"Most of the hills are dry as a desert," he said. "You'd never think there could be a moist forest in Danville."

His family—mom Sandra, dad Ted and brother Alex—all

enjoy hiking, he said, and treat Mount Diablo as though it were their back yard. They moved to Alamo from Minnesota seven years ago and, thrilled with the local terrain, have been hiking ever since.

His dad and Alex climb the big summits, such as Mount Shasta and Mount Rainier, and his father trains for mountain climbing with a 50-pound pack on his back.

"I want to climb Mount Whitney," said Joe. "The southern Sierra Nevada contains so much beauty."

He recommends hiking poles and says they are a well-kept secret that he conjectures his family may have discovered because his mom used to be a cross country skier.

"If you are coming down a steep slope, you don't want to ruin your knees," said Christianson. "If you're trying to get up a slippery slope, the poles anchor you."

They often hike on Mount Diablo and in Las Trampas.

"We hike so much we've become familiar with the trails," said Joe. "If I see a trail and it leads off somewhere, I'll follow it."

To reach the Camille Avenue waterfall, he hiked up through a small eucalyptus grove, then along a canyon—a hike that took about 40 minutes.

"I love to explore the hills around here," he said. "I often go on small photographic expeditions."

He brings his Canon PowerShot and posts photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/parsectraveller/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/parsectraveller/).

"It's capturing nature that a lot of people won't ever see," Joe said. "When I can capture it, they're often astonished that such beauty can be so close by."

His photos on the Internet include gorgeous butterflies and a rattlesnake found on Mount Diablo.

He said he has an obsession with science fiction and astronomy.

"I've always really been interested in the physical world in general," he said. "I like geography, which is probably the root of my hiking hobby."

He said when he was growing up in Minnesota, he wanted to be a tornado chaser.

"But I think the California weather has changed me," he said. "Now I really want to do a career involved in science and how it affects the world."

He's already discovered firsthand how torrential rains can turn dry local hiking spots into a forest primeval. ■



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

## A world of soups

The recent cold and rainy days have whet my appetite once again for warm, hearty soups. Soups are greatly appreciated as tummy-warmers in regions where winter lasts for six months with mostly snow-filled, below-freezing temperatures. However, even in the warmer climates of California, we can enjoy the wide range of soups inspired by Bay Area cultures.

Soups are generally divided into two groups: clear soups and thick soups. Clear soups primarily have a broth or consommé base; thick soups have more of a sauce base with added or blended ingredients. Add the cultural diversity of the Bay Area and doors open to a world with varied international soups as commonplace.

Like food dishes in general, the distinct "personality" of a soup usually relates to the region of the country from which it emanates—spicier in the warmer micro-climates,



mates, heartier in the colder climes. For example, the Thai Shrimp Soup features unique spices—galangal, kaffir lime leaves, lemongrass—and offers a hearty, low-calorie dish. Miso Soup from Japan is a lighter broth soup, with the unique ingredients of kombu, a kind of seaweed; shiso, a form of mint; and miso, a soybean paste. Miso comes in many varieties, ranging

in color from red to yellow: the darker the miso, the stronger and saltier the taste. The Black Bean Soup (Cuban) is mild flavored and, served with cornbread or warm tortillas, is robust enough to be its own meal.

For truly authentic tastes, you may have to visit local ethnic markets to find some of the specialty ingredients but the outcomes will be well worth the food-shopping adventures.

The soup recipes here are a mix of cultures and "personalities" but each invites the chance to stay inside, savor the smells from the soup pot and be warmed by the tasty flavors. Serve each as a meal starter or with a salad or sandwiches for a total meal.

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

### RECIPES

#### Tom Yum Goong (Spicy Thai Shrimp Soup) 4 servings

- 1-1/2 pounds medium shrimp, uncooked
  - 9-1/2 cups water, divided
  - 1/2 cup chopped peeled fresh galangal, about 2 oz. (Note: If you can't find galangal, substitute ginger.)
  - 1/2 cup (2-inch) pieces of peeled fresh lemongrass, about 4 stalks
  - 6 fresh or frozen kaffir lime leaves (Note: If you can't find the leaves, substitute three 2-inch lime rind strips.)
  - 1/2 cup fresh or canned straw mushrooms, quartered
  - 2 Tbsp roasted red chili paste (such as Thai Kitchen)
  - 1 Tbsp fish sauce
  - 2 Thai chilies
  - 1/2 cup chopped green onions
  - 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
  - 1 Tbsp fresh lime juice
  - 6 Tbsp chopped dry-roasted unsalted peanuts
  - 4 lime wedges
1. Peel and de-vein the shrimp, reserving shells. Combine shells and 6 cups water in a large pot or Dutch oven; bring to a simmer and cook 1 hour.
  2. Strain broth through a sieve into a bowl, discarding the solids. Combine broth and remaining 3-1/2 cups water in a large saucepan; bring to a boil.
  3. Add galangal, lemongrass and kaffir lime leaves to the pan; simmer for 10 minutes. Strain broth mixture through a sieve into a bowl; discard solids and return liquid to pan.
  4. Add mushrooms, chili paste, fish sauce and chilies; bring all to a boil and stir in shrimp, green onions and cilantro; cook 3 minutes or until shrimp are done.
  5. Discard chilies; stir in fresh lime

juice. Place rice noodles into 4 bowls and ladle 2 cups soup into each bowl; sprinkle with peanuts and serve with lime wedges.

#### Black Bean Soup 10 servings

- 2 bay leaves
  - 1 pound dried black beans
  - 12-1/2 cups water, divided
  - 1 Tbsp canola oil
  - 3-1/2 cups chopped green pepper (about 3 medium)
  - 2-1/2 cups coarsely chopped onions
  - 1/2 cup chopped shallots (about 2 small)
  - 1 Tbsp ground cumin
  - 2 Tbsp dried oregano
  - 2 Tbsp chopped fresh oregano
  - 1-1/2 Tbsp sugar
  - 2 tsp kosher salt
  - 2 cups diced peeled avocado
  - 2 Tbsp fresh lime juice
  - 2 cups thinly sliced red onion
  - 1-1/2 cups chopped smoked ham, fully cooked (and preferably 33%-less sodium)
  - 1 cup chopped fresh cilantro
  - 1 cup light sour cream
  - 10 tsp unsalted pumpkinseed kernels, toasted
  - 1/3 cup finely chopped seeded jalapeno pepper (about 2 medium)
  - Lime wedges, optional
1. Place bay leaves and beans in Dutch oven; add 12 cups water to pan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 2-1/2 hours or until beans are tender, stirring occasionally.
  2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add bell pepper, onion and shallots to pan; cook 10 minutes until tender, stirring frequently. Stir in cumin, dried and fresh oregano; cook 2 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove

from heat; let stand 10 minutes. Place seasoning mixture in a blender; add remaining 1/2 cup water and puree until smooth.

3. Add seasoning mixture, sugar and salt to the beans; simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Discard bay leaves. Combine avocado and juice, toss gently.
4. Ladle 3/4 cup bean mixture into each of 10 bowls; top each serving with 3 Tbsp avocado mixture, 3 Tbsp red onion, 2 Tbsp ham, 1-1/2 Tbsp cilantro, 1-1/2 Tbsp sour cream, 1 tsp pumpkinseed and 1/2 tsp jalapeno pepper. Serve with lime wedges, as desired.

#### Miso Soup 4 servings

- Dashi (Japanese broth base):
  - 8-1/2 cups water
  - 1 3/4 oz. kombu (kelp), cut into 4-inch pieces
  - 2 Tbsp miso (soybean paste)
  - 1/2 cup straw mushrooms, rinsed and halved
  - 4 oz. silken firm tofu, drained and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
  - 1 (1/2-inch) piece peeled fresh ginger, thinly sliced
  - 1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions
  - 3 oz. thinly sliced shiso (Note: If you can't find shiso, substitute spinach.)
1. To prepare dashi: combine 8-2/3 cups water and kombu in a saucepan; bring to a boil. Partially cover, reduce heat and simmer, about 1 hour, until reduced to about 4 cups liquid. Strain dashi through a sieve over a bowl; discard the solids.
  2. Place 1/4 cup dashi in a small bowl; stir in miso. Return dashi to pan; bring to simmer. Add mushrooms, tofu and ginger to pan. Simmer 10 minutes; discard ginger. Stir in green onions and shiso. Serve immediately.

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# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



"SAN RAMON VALLEY: ALAMO, DANVILLE, AND SAN RAMON" BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZINE

## A place to pray—and get married

In 1887 the San Ramon Methodist Church was built not far from the school house, in the vicinity of today's Morgan's Masonry Supply on San Ramon Valley Boulevard. George McCamley and David Glass helped found the church. The first recorded wedding joined Frank Glass and Livia Cox in 1887. The last wedding at the church was that of Claude Glass and Addie Oswill in 1910.

## A movie review of what's **AT THE MOVIES**

by Joe Ramirez

### Cassandra's Dream

★★

**Rating:** PG-13 for thematic material, some sexual material and some sexuality  
**Run Time:** 1 hours, 45 minutes

"Ain't she a beauty?" remarks one brother to another, as they admire the sailboat bearing the title of Woody Allen's latest venture into Greek tragedy. They think the vessel has a lucky name. But viewers know that anything named after Cassandra, the seer who entangles men, is the first portent that things will go very, very badly for this pair of dreamers.

Writer-director Allen's third feature shot in London is "Match Point" without the suspense and sexual tension. He revisits the same destination points with characters seeking to reinvent themselves and find their fortune. The ladies—particularly Lady Luck—figure prominently in the listless drama.

The overwritten screenplay layers bad omen upon bad omen, symbol on top of symbol. Allusions abound to Euripedes and Medea. Characters relate their disturbing dreams that warn of future gloom and doom. The lifeless narrative, a series of constructs more at home on the page than played out on screen, features British siblings Terry (Colin Farrell) and Ian (Ewan McGregor). A gambler believing that luck comes in streaks, Terry won enough money at the dog races to buy the sailboat that he names for the long shot that first crossed the finishing line. His luck runs out at the card table, and he needs to find a big sum of money fast.

Ian hopes to escape from the family restaurant business by investing in California property-development deals. His father (John Benfield) predicts the only ship to come in for certain has black sails. No kidding. Wealthy Uncle Howard (Tom Wilkinson), the siblings' solution to their financial problems, seems to be captain of that ominous pirate ship. He needs his nephews to do him a favor in exchange. Murder, anyone?

Although all the performances are remarkable, the actors can't break free from the too neat-and-tidy script. The dialogue-heavy movie does raise moral questions that you won't find in the recent deluge of male-heart-of-darkness films. "Before the Devil Knows You're Dead," "No Country for Old Men" and "There Will Be Blood" hinge on greed and the violence it begets. These films don't ask you to ponder philosophical questions.

Allen continues to ruminate about crime and punishment in a cruel world. Is there any difference between killing a stranger for a family member or killing a stranger for your country during a war? Ethical issues extend to Ian's actress girlfriend (Hayley Atwell): Would you sleep with a director to get a part? Individuals have choices. At what point does one break God's law?

Although Allen navigates familiar waters, seduced by money and sultry female sirens, "Cassandra's Dream" may lull you to sleep instead of inducing nightmares.

—Susan Tavernetti

For more movie reviews or local show times, go to [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)

# The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

## 'Despicable behavior' is the norm on campus

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

I fear we forget these words from Maya Angelou all too often. According to the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, an estimated 30 percent of America's youths are a victim of bullying, a bully themselves, or—as is often the case—both. Some 160,000 students reportedly stay home from school each day for fear of the harassment, humiliation and bullying they might face at school—a statistic that does not account for the number of afraid and intimidated students who do come to school.

It is no secret that being in high school is not easy. Whether it is academic or peer pressure, parental expectations, stereotyping, racism, homophobia, isolation, name-calling, rumors or exclusive cliques, students are forced to deal with a wide range of abuses, many of which they are ill-equipped to handle. I often observe that identifiable (and often stereotypical) characteristics are used to set individuals and groups apart, and are frequently the basis of discrimination and bullying. Despicable behavior has become the norm; boys and girls alike flipantly refer to females as "bitches," "whores" and "sluts," and words like "faggot" are thrown around with no awareness of their harmful effect. I regret to admit that I, too, have become desensitized to this derogatory language and blatant disrespect due to its frequent use.

It is not just students who are responsible, either. Teachers can also be main contributors to a negative learning environment by their failure to hold students accountable for inappropriate comments, by using students as the brunt of jokes, or by being complicit in other behaviors that shame students.

I also find there is a general lack of rapport between students on campus. Students pass each other in the halls day after day, unaware of others' problems, and even the commonalities they may share. It is

crucial to remember that everyone has their story; everyone has feelings they have been forced to hide for one reason or another.

It is easy to dismiss these problems as issues that afflict all high schools and all students—issues that are part of human nature and cannot be resolved. My own experience as a member of the SRVHS Climate Committee, which provides a forum for students to collaborate with their peers and administrators to brainstorm ways to alleviate bullying and harassment, has been plagued by frustration at this resignation. I, too, am often discouraged; I know that I want the school climate to change, but I am conflicted as to how to institute that change in over 2,000 people. After my three years on the committee, I have come to realize that perhaps the only solution to these problems is to enhance the empathy of all students. The discomfort that comes with the internalization of others' suffering just may be the push that drives students to action. When we step inside the shoes of another and walk around a bit, we are more inclined to listen, understand, and eventually compromise.

Schools across the country have brought about change with a similar theory in mind, through programs like Challenge Day, a program featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show that was designed to break down the barriers between students. The organization claims its aim "is to create a world where every child feels safe, loved and celebrated." The program employs a series of methods to fulfill its mission. During Challenge Day, students are challenged to make themselves vulnerable, open up to their fellow classmates, and reveal thoughts and feelings they have never shared.

One of the most powerful activities, called "Cross the Line," challenges students to step forward if they have experienced anything, from feeling alone at school, to being hit by someone they love. In training to become a Safe School Ambassador (part of a similar program), I participated in this same

activity. For each circumstance, more than one person always crossed, and several times, the entire group walked forward. We were often surprised by the commonality of our experiences, and found that those we least expected carry heavy burdens despite their happy appearance. It is through this program, and others like it, that students not only become more empathetic, but also come to realize they are not alone in their woes.

Along with more than 400 schools across the country, the high schools in the SRVUSD have implemented the Safe School Ambassadors program, an organization that was created after the Columbine High School shootings to train students how to prevent and mitigate situations on campus where students are being physically or emotionally bullied, harassed or intimidated.

The place to start is to acknowledge these problems exist. I could talk to a significant portion of students at my school who would disagree that bullying or harassment is a major problem on local campuses. While it is true that most schools in this area are not afflicted by great physical violence, and though most are even fully functional (at least on the surface), the judgment, labeling and social persecution that goes on, occurs at any school, in any town, in any part of the country.

Students need to decide for themselves whether they like the way things are, and how committed they are to change; we must all become more self-aware and empathetic in order to make that change possible. Peaceful coexistence and collaboration are important to not only making school a more comfortable and safe place, but to living and working successfully in our increasingly global world.

*The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a senior at San Ramon Valley High School who spends her free time going to concerts, enjoying her friends, and playing the piano. E-mail her at [ohara5@comcast.net](mailto:ohara5@comcast.net).*

## OF NOTE

### Super saleswoman gets Mexican trip

Danville resident Carmene Dimarumba recently earned a nine-day Mexican cruise trip for her high achievements in her business Symmetry, a direct selling company known for its resveratrol-infused juice product.

"What an honor it is to be rewarded with an amazing getaway trip for my hard work," she said.

"It is a wonderful feeling to work for a company that encourages you to do the best you can in running your own business and believes in helping people."

Business partners had to achieve and maintain sales levels over and above those accomplished in 2006 to be eligible for the trip, which is part of the company's annual incentive trip. The winners were scheduled to leave from San Diego on Jan. 1.

"The annual trip contest is just another way for us to reward our

business partners with a trip that they have only dreamt of taking," said Rudy Revak, Symmetry president.

Symmetry was founded in May of 1995 by Revak and is based in Milpitas. Dimarumba is a company business partner. She has been with Symmetry since July 2002 and was awarded the cruise trip for reaching the "2 Star National Field VP title."

► Continued on page 17

**Of Note**

► Continued from page 16

**Alamo man named to hospital board**

The ValleyCare Health System Board of Directors has named new board member James A. Mayer to fill a vacant at-large seat. He previously served on the ValleyCare board from 1998-2004.

Mayer is president of the Diablo Valley Banking Region for Heritage Bank of Commerce. He has been a banker in the East Bay since 1983. His previous positions include president and CEO of Lamorinda National Bank until its sale in 1996. He also served as president and CEO of Mt. Diablo National Bank from 1996-2002, and founding president and CEO of Diablo Valley Bank until its sale to Heritage Bank of Commerce last year.

Mayer is a native of San Francisco, attended the University of San Francisco and graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School at University of Washington. He and his wife Carolyn live in Alamo.

**Wardrobe names new director**

Wardrobe for Opportunity has appointed a new director to head its executive board and has recently re-elected its board officers.

The nonprofit group, which aims to provide professional clothing and career support to low-income Bay Area jobseekers, has appointed Rani Selvarajoo Urbas as its new executive board director.

"I deeply respect WFO's clients' efforts to take control of their future, find meaningful work and build a future for their families," Urbas said. "I've witnessed the impact on self-esteem and self-worth that comes from find-

ing a new, important first job."

She has an accounting degree from the University of Florida and has spent much of her career working for technology companies in product and corporate strategy. She was most recently a senior director for Embarcadero Technologies where she managed sales, marketing and field operations for Japan and the Asia Pacific regions. She has spent 12 years at PeopleSoft, Siebel and Oracle, working in sales, product management and corporate strategy.

Jacqueline Brown was elected for a second term as president of the board; Michelle Smith was re-elected as vice president; treasurer Jeanne Van Shuff and secretary Chris Byrne were also re-elected.

Wardrobe for Opportunity is a volunteer-based organization that serves the Bay Area, with dressing locations in downtown Oakland and Pleasant Hill. Wardrobe for Opportunity has grown significantly since its founding. In 2006,

it served 1,712 women and men; it has helped over 14,000 low-income jobseekers since 1995.

**Coldwell Banker collects 5,000 Toys for Tots**

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage collected nearly 5,000 toys over the holidays to benefit needy children in Northern California. East Bay Coldwell Banker offices alone collected more than 1,000 toys, with the Danville office leading the way by collecting more than 300.

This marked the 20th year the company served as an official corporate partner for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's "Toys for Tots" campaign.

"As a business, we have been blessed over the years," said Larry Klapow, president of the San Francisco Bay region brokerage. "Our agents, managers and

staff feel very deeply about helping those less fortunate enjoy the magic of the holiday season."

Coldwell Banker offices in Northern California enlisted a variety of techniques to bring more toys to each local office, including banners, fliers, posters and e-mails. Klapow credited the community for its generous support.

"People really rallied behind this year's campaign," he said. "Because of their generosity, many children were able to enjoy a festive holiday season that otherwise might have gone without any presents."

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# Calendar

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## WEEKEND PREVIEW



MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

## Exhibit explores the Valley's agriculture

From 1850 to 1950, agriculture was the basic economy of the Valley, and town businesses, farmers and ranchers were dependent on each other, not to mention the horses shown above. Museum of the San Ramon Valley explores this history in its current exhibit, "Agriculture: For a Century, the Business of the Valley," with old photographs and artifacts, including machinery manufactured in Danville, depicting life in the San Ramon Valley and Diablo foothills. The exhibit runs until May 10; hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. The museum is located at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues in Danville. Former ranchers will be on hand every Saturday to talk to visitors. Call 837-3750.

## Art

**'The Other'** Pioneer Art Gallery will host "The Other" exhibit with pieces on display that represent modern interpretations of abstraction and reflective of Pollock, Klein and others from Feb. 20-March 22, at the gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. A reception will be held from 3-7 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at the gallery. Call Noel at 831-1069 or 528-9000.

**Close to Home and Far Away Artists' Reception** Come and enjoy the artwork of Robin Purcell and Diane Pruett from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 648-0971 or visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org).

**High School Artists and Musicians** Pioneer Art Gallery presents an exhibit of students' work from local high schools from Jan. 25-27, at the gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. This is a unique opportunity for young artists to display their work, win awards and gain recognition.

## Auditions

**'School for Scandal'** Role Players will host auditions for "School for Scandal" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. and at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Oak Hill Park Community Center, Danville. The theatre is looking for 11 males, ages 25-60 (may be double cast) and five females, ages 20-60. Prepare classic monologue and be familiar with play; British accent required. For an appointment, call (510) 865-4740. Call back will be on Feb. 9.

**Boxcar Children Auditions** Auditions for youth for "Boxcar" will be held at 6 p.m. (ages 7-9), 7:30 p.m. (ages 10-12) and 8:30 p.m. (ages 13-16), Monday, Feb. 4, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.,

Pleasanton. Auditions for youth 17 years and older is at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 5. Call backs will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 6, by invitation. Call 931-5350.

## Author Visit

**Dave McKae Pitching and Signing** Rakestraw Books will host a special pitching clinic with Dave McKae at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. He will also sign his book, "In Pursuit of Pitching Perfection." Reservations are required by calling 837-7337.

**'Soup's for Dinner' with Leslie Jonath** Rakestraw Books will host Leslie Jonath at "Soup's for Dinner" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Dinner will include different kinds of soup, bread, cheese and dessert. Cost is \$10. Proceeds benefit the Contra Costa Food Bank. Reservations are required by calling 837-7337.

## Civic Meetings

**Danville Parks and Leisure Services Commission** The Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

**Danville Planning Commission** The Commission meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

**State of the Town Luncheon** Town of Danville and Mayor Candance Anderson will host the State of the Town Luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 5, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$35, pre-

registration is required after Feb. 20. Call 314-3400.

**Town Council Meeting** The Danville Town Council normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

## Class Reunions

**Monte Vista High School 20 Year Reunion** The Monte Vista High School Class of 1987 is seeking members for its 20 year reunion. The reunion is planned for February 2008. To receive your invitation, e-mail [monte\\_vista\\_1987@yahoo.com](mailto:monte_vista_1987@yahoo.com).

## Classes

**Financial Planning for Special Needs Children** Town of Danville will host a class on Financial Planning for Special Needs Children from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This class is free, but registration is required by calling 314-3392 or visiting [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

## Clubs

**Amador Valley Quilters** Amador Valley Quilters will host fiber artist Linda Schmidt, who is noted for her innovative approach to quilting, at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Linda will conduct a workshop the following day. E-mail [publicity@amadorvalleyquilters.org](mailto:publicity@amadorvalleyquilters.org) or visit [www.amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://www.amadorvalleyquilters.org).

**American Sewing Guild** Start the year off with inspiration at the American Sewing Guild's Decades of Style Trunk Show from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, Social Hall, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Ten percent discount on patterns for ASG members. Call 439-4559 or visit [www.asgwalnutcreek.org](http://www.asgwalnutcreek.org).

**Diablo Bonsai Club** This club will host a workshop on "Formal Upright Style" from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Individual attention will be given to those interested in the art of bonsai. Call 937-4216.

**First Editions Club** Rakestraw Books hosts the First Editions Club that invites registered members to receive a signed first edition of that month's pick. The first selection is "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. Registration is due by Feb. 1. Visit the store at 409 Railroad Ave., Danville or call 837-7337.

## Concerts

**California Symphony Presents Joyce Yang** Van Cliburn Silver Medalist Joyce Yang reunites with the California Symphony at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27, and at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$39-59. Call 280-2490 or visit [www.californiasymphony.org](http://www.californiasymphony.org).

**Ravi Coltrane to Perform at Amador Theater** Amador Theater will host musician and composer Ravi Coltrane, the son of the renowned artists John and Alice Coltrane, in concert at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 8, at

Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$30, \$35 and \$40 for adults; \$20, \$25 and \$30 for students. Call 931-3444 or visit [www.civicartstickets.org](http://www.civicartstickets.org).

**Sounds of the Sixties** Danville Community Band will host "Sounds of the Sixties" at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 2, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Concert is free with paid museum admission which is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. Visit [www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).

**The Sun Kings** Community Concerts presents "The Sun Kings," the Beatles tribute group, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at San Ramon Valley High School, PAC, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$40 for gold seating, \$25 for adults or \$10 for students. Call 229-2710 or visit [www.communityconcerts.com](http://www.communityconcerts.com).

## Events

**2008 O'Neill International Conference** Scholars and devotees of Eugene O'Neill will come together at the 2008 O'Neill International Conference held from June 11-15, at the Tao House, Danville. Registration is now open; contact Diane Schinnerer at 828-0659 or [dmdds@aol.com](mailto:dmdds@aol.com).

**Heartland Danville Antiques and Art** Discover Danville Association will host an Antiques and Art Faire from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, in the Railroad Centre on Railroad Ave., Danville. The faire is free; antiques appraisal clinic will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at \$10 per appraisal. Proceeds will benefit the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Call 837-2664.

**USS Hornet Honors Aerial Firefighters** Aerial firefighters will be honored at a ceremony at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier, Pier 3, Alameda. The ceremony will launch a new permanent exhibit on the history of aerial firefighting in California. Cost is \$6-14. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit [www.uss-hornet.org](http://www.uss-hornet.org).

## Exhibits

**Agriculture for a Century, the Business of the Valley** Museum of the San Ramon Valley is hosting the "Agriculture for a Century, the Business of the Valley" exhibit from until May 10, at the museum at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Museum hours are from 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Call 837-3750.

**The Original Rat Fink** Blackhawk Museum will host the "Original Rat Fink" exhibit from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 13-June 15, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The exhibit will feature original artwork, hot rods and toys all built by Ed "Big Daddy" Roth. Admission to the museum is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Visit [www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).

## Fundraisers

**10th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt Run and Walk** Hats Off American will host the 10th annual Red T-shirt Run and Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will start the event. Cost is \$35; free for volunteers. All runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and lunch donated by El Balazo Restaurant. Call 855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us).

**All You Can Eat Crab Feed** San Ramon Historic Foundation will host an All You Can Eat Crab Feed at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$40; reservations are due by Jan. 27. Proceeds benefit the foundation. Dinner includes crab, pasta, salad, bread, dessert and coffee. Call 828-0586 or 828-9329.

**Annual Crab Feed** Come and support a great cause at Outdoor Adventure Faire's Annual Crab Feed at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$25 for children or \$350 for a table of ten. Menu includes garlic bread, salad, pasta, crab and dessert. The night will include live music and silent and live auctions. Call Jim at 820-3874 or Pete at 719-1950.

**Danville Rotary Crabfeed** Danville Rotary will host its annual crab feed at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at St. Isidore's Church, Small Gym, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Cost is \$45 per person. The night includes dinner, silent and live auctions and drawing. Call 837-2027. Proceeds benefit youth and community programs and the YMCA's capital campaign.

**Oscar Party** Town of Danville will host an Oscar Party at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Proceeds will benefit the Danville International Children's Film Festival. Tickets go on sale Jan. 28; call 314-3400, visit the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. or [www.villagetheatreshows.com](http://www.villagetheatreshows.com).

**Super Bowl Sunday Crab Feed** Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley (VNVV) will host their annual Super Bowl Sunday Crab Feed at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Tickets are \$40. Door prizes and drawings will be awarded and the Super Bowl game will be broadcast. Proceeds benefit organizations that VNVV supports. Visit [www.vnvv.com](http://www.vnvv.com).

## Kids and Teens

**"Peter and the Wolf"** Jim Gamble's Puppets interpret Prokofiev's favorite classic "Peter and the Wolf" from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18. Call 931-5361 or visit [www.civicartstickets.org](http://www.civicartstickets.org).

**'Amore, Amore!'** Blackhawk Museum will host "Amore, Amore!" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Children will learn about what St. Valentine, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and some automobiles have in common. This event is a free drop-in with paid museum admission. Call 736-2277.

**Youth to Youth Middle School Conference** Community Against Substance Abuse (CASA) will host the 14th annual Youth to Youth Middle School Conference from 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, March 8, at Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$35 with pre-registration, \$45 at the door. 6th-8th grade students will enjoy keynote speakers, workshops, teenbuilding activities, lunch, dinner and dance. Call 743-3059, ext. 328 or visit [www.srvcasa.org](http://www.srvcasa.org).

## Lectures/Workshops

**"The Price of Privilege"** The Seven Hills School will host a lecture with Madeline Levine, Ph.D., author of

"The Price of Privilege" from 6:45-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Seven Hills School, 975 N. San Carlos Circle, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$15; educators are free. Call 974-4981 or visit www.sevenhillsschool.org.

**Acupuncture: Its Potentials and Possibilities with Cancer** Dr. Amy Matecki will discuss how combining acupuncture with conventional therapies may help with cancer treatments in reducing pain, lessening anxiety and alleviating the side effects of chemotherapy from 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

**Arm Chair Travel to Chile** Town of Danville will host Carol Fowler who will speak on "Arm Chair Travel to Chile" at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

**Global Financial Issues** East Bay World Affairs Council will host a program on "Global Financial Issues" at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31, at Massimo Ristorante, 1604 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Cost for the program only is \$8 for members or \$10 for non-members; cost for the dinner and program is \$34 for members or \$36 for non-members. For reservations, call (415) 293-4600 or visit www.itsyourworld.org.

**Nutrition and Cancer Treatment** Learn to maximize your nutrition during and after cancer treatment from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Learn what to eat, even when you don't feel like it, learn ways to hydrate, and get your specific nutritional issues addressed. Call 933-0107.

**Wills and Trusts Seminar** Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) will host a wills and trusts seminar, with guest speaker, Sarah S. Nix, from 6-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at ARF, 2890 Mitchell Dr., Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 296-3103.

## Literary Events

**Century House Reading Series** Century House will host guest poets, Dane Cervine and John Rowe, from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 3, at Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. An open mic segment will follow with poets of all ages who will be invited to read a favorite or original poem of 40 lines or less. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$5. Call 931-5350.

**Evening Book Group** Rakestraw Books host the Evening Book Group at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. The book selection is "Lady Chatterley's Lover" by D.H. Lawrence. Call 837-7337.

## Live Music

**Brad Wilson** Award-winning recording artist Brad Wilson will bring his "Rockin' The Blues/Rippin' Guitar" show at 9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at Crown Billiards, 2416 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. This event is free. Visit www.bradwilsonlive.com.

**Youth Music Festival** Come and hear solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, ages 18 and under, at the Youth Music Festival from 8-10 p.m., Friday, Feb. 15, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civictickets.org.

## Miscellaneous

**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.

**The Energy Primer for Kids** The Energy Primer for Kids is a 25-page booklet of simple facts pertaining to

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

**Vista Grande Alternative Program Annual Orientation** The Vista Grande Continuous Progress Alternative Program will host its annual orientation meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at Vista Grande Elementary School, in the school's multi-purpose room, 667 Diablo Rd., Danville. Learn more about the program and pick up the 2008/09 kindergarten class packet. Call 362-4098.

## On Stage

**'Bus Stop'** Classic American play in which a mixed bag of bus passengers (and strangers) are stranded in a 1950s Topeka diner in a snowstorm. "Bus Stop" plays at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18-Feb. 9, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$22-25, \$15 for students and groups of 10 or more. Call 820-1278 or visit www.danvilletheatre.com.

**'Mystic Magic'** Brian Scott Productions presents "Mystic Magic" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Brian presents a show that is fun and can be enjoyed by the entire family. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

**'Nixon's Nixon'** Center REPERTORY Company presents "Nixon's Nixon" at various times, Jan. 31-March 1, at Center REPERTORY Company, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$15-40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

**'The Heat Is On'** An explosive theatrical concert based on the life of Rita Hayworth, "The Heat Is On" will start at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$35. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

**Late Nite Catechism** San Ramon Performing Arts presents "Late Night Catechism" at 2 p.m., Sundays, until Jan. 27, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$25. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

## Seniors

**Golden Crane Chinese New Year** The Golden Crane Senior group will celebrate the Chinese New Year on Monday, Jan. 28, at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Join the celebration with food and good cheer. Cost is \$4. E-mail jadragntfly@yahoo.com.

**HICAP Appointments** The Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) offers its services free to anyone on Medicare or at least 60 years old with questions about health insurance coverage. Appointments are available the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of every month by appointment; call 314-3400.

**Prime Time** Prime Time for seasoned citizens meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. Activities include line dancing, English handbells, ceramics, wood carving and more. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$4. Rides are provided by County Connection Link for \$3.50 round trip; call Gloria at 837-5229. For information, call 820-6387.

## Spiritual

**'The Terrible Blessing of the Journey'** San Damiano will host a mid-life workshop on "The Terrible Blessing of the Journey" presented by Paul D'Arcy and Franciscan Father

Rusty Shaughnessy from Jan. 29-31, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$220 for a private room or \$190 for a shared room. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

## Volunteering

**Animal Fosters Urgently Needed** Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) is looking for short-term fosters for dogs, puppies, cats and kittens. ARF will provide the food, supplies and vet care; all you need to do is provide the love. Call 296-3173 or visit www.arf.net.

**Anna's Program** Hospice of the East Bay is asking for volunteers to help with Anna's Program, a program which provides support to women diagnosed with recurrent breast cancer. Volunteers provide companionship and practical assistance. To apply, call 887-5678 and ask for the Volunteer Department or e-mail volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org.

**Lindsay Wildlife Museum** Docents are needed to lead class tours, teaching children and others about our important connection with wildlife and the world we share. No experience needed. Call 627-2444 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

**Make a Difference** Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living (RCJL) in Danville provides assisted living, Alzheimer's and skilled nursing care in a community our residents call home. Volunteers play a key role at RCJL and opportunities are available for students and adults. For information, call Volunteer Coordinator Irma at 964-2098.

**Museum of the San Ramon Valley** The Museum of the San Ramon Valley welcomes volunteers and has a current need for greeters who give three hours one day a month to welcome visitors to the museum, register their attendance, and give them an introductory tour of the Waiting Room and the Museum Store. Call Carmen Curtis at 837-9781 or the museum at 837-3750.

**Project Second Chance** This organization seeks volunteers for the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program, Project Second Chance (PSC), by becoming literacy tutors. Training is from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 30 and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2 and 9, at the PSC office, 75 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill. All 14 hours are required. Call 927-3250 or e-mail psc@ccclib.org.

## PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

## Meet Quincy

This young adult, neutered male housecat has a great personality. Quincy is a beautiful shade of red with white legs and a white chest. He has a big, fluffy red tail that he holds straight in the air and waves like a flag. Quincy enjoys playing with toys and he likes to sit in your lap to be petted. Quincy has medium length fur and he likes to be brushed. For more information about Quincy (No. 75135) visit him at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. It's open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

## ROLE PLAYERS ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

# BUS STOP

JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 9, 2008  
THE VILLAGE THEATRE,  
233 Front Street, Danville

*An unexpected snow storm leads stranded passengers down a path of soul searching, dream chasing and self discovery. An American classic sure to delight.*

Written by  
William Inge  
Director  
Dana Anderson



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Tickets \$15 - \$25

Purchase tickets online at  
www.villageatreshows.com  
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420 Front St, Mon-Fri 8:30 - 5 pm  
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Presented in association with the Town of Danville



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Hidden in a corner  
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of a restaurant is garnering  
rave reviews for their fresh  
and rustic cuisine.

Come join us for our  
new Winter Menu.

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San Ramon

## Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

### Mixing it up

San Ramon Valley High midfielder junior Drew White battles for the ball when the varsity soccer team went to Monte Vista last week on Wednesday to face its cross-town rivals. After plenty of action—and in very windy conditions—the score remained a tie at 1-1.



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### New gym sees JV action

Kylie Rothfield dribbles against a defender when the San Ramon Valley High junior varsity girls basketball team met Dougherty Valley at its new gymnasium last Friday night.



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

## PREP SCHEDULE

### Friday, Jan. 25

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Monte Vista, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Monte Vista, 7 p.m.  
**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista at Livermore, 5:45 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 26

**Wrestling**  
Fairfield Tournament, 7 a.m.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 29**  
**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Granada, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Soccer**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 5:45 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 30

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Amador, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Granada, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 31

**Women's Soccer**  
Monte Vista at Amador, 5:45 p.m.  
**Wrestling**  
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.

### Friday, Feb. 1

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Cal High, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Granada, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.  
**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 5:45 p.m.

### Friday-Saturday, Feb. 1-2

**Wrestling**  
Mission San Jose Invitation at Mission San Jose High, 9 a.m.



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## INDEX

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

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**\$8 Prescription Eyeglasses**  
Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, Highindex, UV protection, antiscratch lens, case, lenscloth for only \$8. Also available: Rimless, Titanium, Children's, Bifocals, Progressives, Suintints, ARcoating, etc. <http://ZENNOPTICAL.COM> (AAN CAN)

**Pregnant? Considering Adoption**  
Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

**Writers Wanted**  
The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://aaj.aan.org>. You may also email us at [altacademy@northwestern.edu](mailto:altacademy@northwestern.edu). Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

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for sale in Danville.  
Check [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)

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Pain Management Psychotherapy  
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### 120 Auctions

**Lender Foreclosure Auction**  
Northern California. 1000+ Homes Must Be Sold! Free Catalog 1-800-963-4551. [www.USHomeAuction.com](http://www.USHomeAuction.com) (Cal-SCAN)

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Running or not accepted! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatments, Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Donate Your Car**  
Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)



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Run upto 175mph. 105K mls, V-12 gets 16 city and 21 hwy. XLNT cond. 20" MOMO wheels. Must See. Must Sell. (775) 846-2277

BMW 2000 300i Wagon - \$12,000  
Chevrolet 2002 Venture - \$8,700  
Pace Arrow 1989 Motor Home - \$13,000OBO

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

**Menlo Park, 1441 Modoc Ave, Jan 11- Jan 20, 6-9**  
Mercedes 4dr 70' \$1500; SVHS Cameras \$120 ea.; HP Pavilion 8235nr Notebook pc \$1350. 650.521.0454

**Pleasanton, 3329 Vermont Pl, January 26 9-1**  
Garage sale!! Electronics, desk, oak table, recliners, house hold items, picture frames and some jewelry. This is a must come and see, rain or shine!!

Pleasanton, Vbc - 7106 Johnson Dr., Sat. Feb.2nd 7AM-12:30PM

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

partylite birthday cake candle - \$25.00  
Precious Moments 1979-2000

### 240 Furnishings/Household items

Beige leather loveseat and chair - \$550

Cherry Armoire - \$200.00  
Sewing Machine, Viking Designer 2 - \$1,950

Signed Print - \$7



**SOFA SECTIONAL**  
Brown/tan/black chenille fabric, 4 piece sectional with 2 recliner sections and one chaise. Less than 2 years old, great condition. Approx. 10 ft. long. Please email for more info. [Toniuc@comcast.net](mailto:Toniuc@comcast.net)  
Whirlpool Washer and GAS Dryer - \$250

White table w/ two arm chairs - \$200.00

### 245 Miscellaneous

**Sawmills**  
From only \$2,990 - Convert your Logs To Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also avail. [www.NorwoodSawmills.com/300N](http://www.NorwoodSawmills.com/300N) -FREE Information: 1-800-578-1363 - x300-N. (Cal-SCAN)

Beautiful Silver Fox Fur Coat - \$1999

Craftsman table saw - \$75 obo

FENDI Buckled Shoulder Bag - 138

Lose Weight Fast - \$164.95

### 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

AB Lounge - \$50

**Monarck 827E Exercise Bike**  
Monarck 827E Exercise Bike, Heavy Duty/Great Condition, \$95.00 OBO, 925 743 8549

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**Tutoring in Math & Chemistry**  
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### 355 Items for Sale

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## Mind & Body

### 420 Healing/Bodywork

**The Feldenkrais Method**  
Explore a proven Method for natural pain relief, lifetime fitness and vitality. Overcome back, neck, shoulder and joint pain. Significant and visible results in just a few sessions. Improve coordination, break through to your next level of performance in golf, tennis, running or any other activity. <http://www.SensibleMovement.com>. Office in Walnut Creek. 18 years in business. Tancha McKnight 510-638-3346

### 445 Music Classes

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Professional piano teacher accepts new students of all ages. Beginners to advanced. Call Marzena Jones 925-209-8338  
Let's discover the joy of music!

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One-2-One Pilates

## Jobs

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Earn Executive Level Income w/o the stress. Call 800-470-4876.

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We are looking for an energetic person to assist the IT and Online Services department fulfill our project commitments. You'd work on our team providing administrative support for our local web sites and operations, doing tasks such as inventory, report generation and posting of Web pages. Ideal candidates would be computer literate and a fast learner to a variety of tasks. HTML experience is a plus. This entry-level, part-time position (approx. 16-20 hours) would work out of our downtown Palo Alto office. Students needing to work around school schedules are welcome to apply. While this is an '8-5' Monday through Friday position, it is flexible to the right candidate to work around the candidate's other commitments. Telecommuting is NOT an option for this position. Submit letter, resume and hours you are available by e-mail to [webmaster@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:webmaster@embarcaderopublishing.com).

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Wanted Chess Teacher:  
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The Weekly is a division of Embarcadero Publishing Inc., a dynamic organization with a 27-year history of a commitment to high quality journalism. We offer a compensation plan of a base salary plus commission on sales (from the first dollar; no cap), medical and dental benefits, paid vacation and 401(k).

Send a cover letter and resume to Gina Channell-Allen, president / publisher, [gallen@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com); The Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; or fax to 925-600-9559. EOE; drug-free workplace.

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**Real Estate**

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**Danville, 1 BR/1 BA**  
Private master suite in townhouse. Close to Blackhawk Plaza. Rent includes utilities, maid service every two weeks, shared garage, washer and dryer privileges. Females only please. Must not be allergic to cats. please call Becky 925-648-7308.

**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**

Danville, 3 BR/2 BA - \$789000



**Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA**  
Priced \$20,000 below market! Move-in ready, spacious 1,434 sq. ft. three-bedroom home in a great neighborhood, just minutes from award-winning schools, Downtown Pleasanton and the Livermore Wine Country. The nice private backyard with gardens and patio is great for entertaining. The large family room is open and airy with soaring ceilings and includes a wet bar. Maple cabinetry throughout. In addition to the two spacious guest-rooms, the home's master suite is nicely laid out with two walk-in closets and a balcony overlooking the private neighborhood park. Open Houses: Sunday 1/20 and 1/27 1pm-4pm. Cristin Kiper Sanchez, Hometown GMAC Real Estate (925)426-3863.

**840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares**

**RedWeek.com**  
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5 to 80 acres, lowest possible prices. EZ terms. Call AZLR for free recorded message. 1-888-547-4926. (Cal-SCAN)

**Bulk Land Sale**  
40 acres - \$39,900. Moses Lake, Washington. Priced for quick sale. Beautiful land, interesting topography, good views & setting, abundant wildlife. Surveyed on maintained road. Financing available. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

**Closeout Sale**  
36 AC - \$29,900. Price is drastically reduced by motivated seller. Beautiful setting with fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Eureka Springs Ranch is offered by AZLR. ADWR report avail. Call 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**New Mexico Sacrifice!**  
140 acres was \$149,900, Now Only \$69,900. Amazing 6000 ft. elevation. Incredible mountain views. Mature tree cover. Power & year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

**Newly Released Acreage**  
Utah Ranch Dispersal. 40 AC only \$29,900. Dramatic views of Uinta Mountains. Great recreational area. Close to conveniences. Offered by motivated seller. Limited available. EZ Terms. Call UTLR 1-888-693-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

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

**River Access Retreat**  
Washington. 6 AC - \$49,900. 15 AC - Old farm building, \$89,900. Incredible land & gorgeous setting. Limited available. EZ Terms. Call WALR 1-866-836-9152. (Cal-SCAN)

**Southern Colorado Ranch Sale**  
35 Acres- \$29,900. Spectacular Rocky Mountain Views Year round access, elec/ tele included. Excellent Financing available w/ low down payment. Call Red Creek Land Co. Today! 1-866-696-5263 x3469. (Cal-SCAN)

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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2007

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 5	Total sales reported: 1	Total sales reported: 7
Lowest sale reported: \$620,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,949,000	Lowest sale reported: \$290,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,612,500	Highest sale reported: \$1,949,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,300,000
Average sales reported: \$1,210,400	Average sales reported: \$1,949,000	Average sales reported: \$604,286

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2007

**Danville**  
**3155 Martingale Street**  
 Ponderosa Homes to E. Welch for \$1,376,500  
**1438 Menton Street** Lennar Homes to D. & S. Kim for \$1,093,000  
**4359 Quail Run Lane P.** Alexander to Canessa Trust for \$1,612,500  
**423 Sutton Circle** Saucy Trust to E. & L. Noon for \$620,000

**20 Trish Court** M. & K. Ashack to S. & V. Meyer for \$1,350,000

**Alamo**  
**170 Chanticleer Lane** P. & L. Rowe to M. & T. Ridge for \$1,949,000

**Walnut Creek**  
**5954 Autumnwood Drive #4C** Suen Trust to G. Shandalov for \$405,000  
**1429 Candelero Drive** Wong-Lo Trust to D. & A. Hernandez for \$520,000

**330 North Civic Drive #313** H. Holmes to West Trust for \$290,000  
**2625 Ptarmigan Drive #8** Gill Trust to C. Taylor for \$295,000  
**1704 Siskiyou Drive** J. Foote to G. Tennison for \$545,000  
**1059 Springfield Drive A.** Hafiz to R. & B. Henderson for \$875,000  
**131 Village Court** G. Gage to E. & L. Solomon for \$1,300,000

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### ALAMO

**3 Bedrooms**  
**101 Easy St.** \$969,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 989-2989

**4 Bedrooms**  
**35 Summer Meadows Ct.** \$2,490,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

### DANVILLE

**3 Bedrooms**  
**421 Garden Creek Pl.** \$519,950  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

**4 Bedrooms**  
**842 Matadera Cir.** \$1,199,888  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508  
**200 Alicante Pl.** \$1,298,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410  
**20 Cannes Ct.** \$998,500  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

**5 Bedrooms**  
**104 Parkhaven Dr.** \$1,200,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883  
**308 Sunset Dr.** \$1,249,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883  
**100 David Ln.** \$1,949,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600  
**405 Skycrest Dr.** \$4,965,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883  
**272 Montego Dr.** \$5,489,000  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 791-2600

### DUBLIN

**3 Bedrooms**  
**11474 Silvergate Dr.** \$649,950  
 Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2547  
**5781 Hillbrook Pl.** \$749,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

**4 Bedrooms**  
**7795 Bloomfield Ter.** \$1,385,000  
 Sun 1-5 Hometown GMAC 800-362-6257  
**8035 Holanda Ln.** \$569,000  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5510  
**6023 Hillbrook Pl.** \$748,888  
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 784-3068

**7823 Crossridge Rd.** \$779,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 997-2411

### PLEASANTON

**2 Bedrooms**  
**3145 Zuni Wy.** \$379,000  
 Sat 1-4 Prudential CA 734-5057  
**2163 Goldcrest** \$599,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Remax 730-1628  
**1847 Harms Dr.** \$649,900  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

**4 Bedrooms**  
**72 Castlewood Dr.** \$2,350,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Sotheby's 484-2045  
**4677 Helpert Ct.** \$689,950  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436  
**6056 Sequoia Ct.** \$759,000  
 Sun 1-4 Byerly Properties Inc. 846-1234  
**946 Madeira Dr.** \$849,950  
 Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755  
**3645 Dunsmuir Cir.** \$949,000  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747

### LIVERMORE

**3 Bedrooms**  
**5525 Haggin Oaks Ave.** \$514,999  
 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 525-0116

**4 Bedrooms**  
**6608 Tiffany Cmn.** \$549,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8322  
**1119 Madison Ave.** \$599,000  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 525-0116  
**1657 3rd St.** \$625,000  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121  
**575 Brookfield Dr.** \$645,000  
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 455-7020  
**1579 Frankfurt Wy.** \$769,000  
 Sun 12:30-3:30 J. Rockcliff 251-2523  
**4293 Bellmawr Dr.** \$799,900  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

**5 Bedrooms**  
**1642 Feldspar Ct.** \$939,000  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

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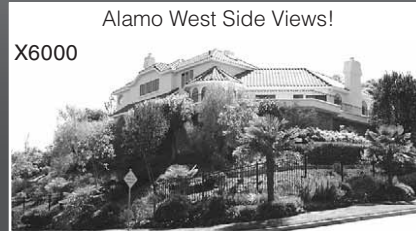
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Read Joe and Nancy's Real Estate Column in Alive East Bay Magazine



**Danville - \$1,625,000**  
**7 Stirling Drive**

Sought after and rarely available Diablo Highlands! Approximately 4,200 sq. ft with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths plus a bonus/media room. Guest suite on main level. Formal living and dining room with sliding doors to backyard. Features updated family room/kitchen combination, hardwood floors, crown molding, marble, granite and limestone finishes. Spa like master retreat with fireplace, sitting area and balcony. Professionally landscaped private yard w/beautiful pool designed for entertaining! Excellent schools and minutes to downtown Danville and Walnut Creek. Call for a private showing or visit us at the open house. **Open Sun 1-4.**



**Pleasanton - \$1,899,000**  
**1023 Sycamore Creek Way**

Gracious living in this spectacular Sycamore Heights home! Everything you could imagine in this rarely available model of approximately 4,300 sq. ft. with 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. Expansive living space, gourmet kitchen with Wolf stainless steel appliances, Anderson French doors, exotic hardwood floors, elegant master retreat, bedrooms are all suites with private baths and walk-in closets. Enjoy the sunsets from this professionally landscaped, premium view lot. Desirable commuter location, minutes to Historic downtown Pleasanton, golf and excellent schools. A rare find for the most discriminating buyer! Call for a private showing. **Open Sun 1-4.**



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**BIG SAVINGS**

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**February**  
**1st, 2nd**  
**& 3rd**

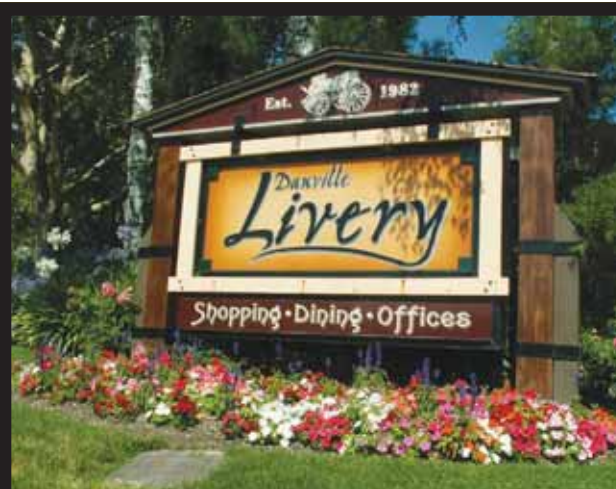
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