

## Teens at work

There's more to summer jobs than meets the eye > **page 19**

Vol. IV, Number 12 • July 25, 2008

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

### Salaries— private or public

County puts  
payroll online:  
Is Danville next?

> **page 6**

# Danville

## W E E K L Y

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

### Raising the roof in Alamo

Bryan Ranch  
folks voting on  
required materials

> **page 5**



**DON'T  
CALL IT  
TRASH  
ART**

Danville's tile enclosures  
are an ongoing project  
to enliven downtown

**PAGE 8**



Up-to-date news about  
Danville every day

# Danville

W E E K L Y . C O M

## Gloria Oross is Homeward Bound

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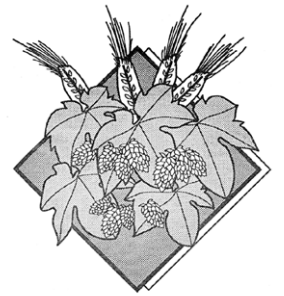


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## Q: Would you like to see the speed limit on the freeways lowered to 55 mph again?



I think it's a good idea but even if it does happen it's not necessarily going to work. People usually don't drive 65 mph on the freeway now so why would they follow a new speed limit if they don't already follow the one we have?

**Anna Luber**  
*student/clerk*



No, because it slows everything, including the general economy, down. It would just take us longer to do everything.

**Marty Sherman**  
*retired*



I think it would be a good idea especially on the freeways. I would follow it most of the time. I think part of the problem is that people don't adhere to the speed limit as it is, they're used to going fast. But I wouldn't have a problem following that speed limit.

**Robert West**  
*retired*



The reality is no one would do it. We should just go back to the horse and buggy. Don't you think?! We can simplify our lives.

**Diane Arobio**  
*sales, Sage*



No. I like driving faster than that. Considering gas, it's really a personal choice. If I pay for the gas I can waste it. I don't think conserving gas would help our dependence on fuel. We need a better alternative, like hydrogen vehicles so we don't rely on oil and there are no emissions, only water.

**Mackenzie Lino**  
*IT support*

COMPILED BY KRISTEN LANG

### ABOUT THE COVER

Danville uses local art to decorate its trash enclosures in the downtown area, transferring it onto tiles and firing it in the town kiln. Photos by Michelle Olson. Cover design by Rick Nobles.

Vol. IV, Number 12

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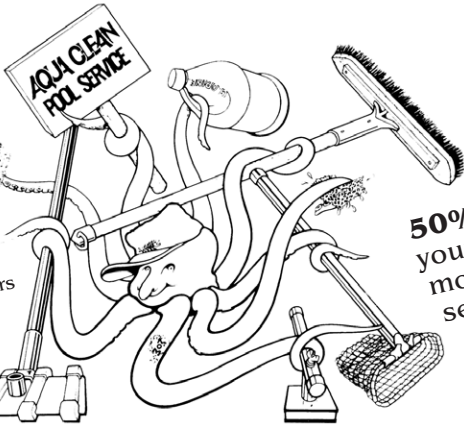
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### Mayor's Morning on Friday

Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will host her monthly Morning with the Mayor on Friday, Aug. 1. This is an informal opportunity for residents to share their thoughts about town issues, ask questions, and receive a brief update about what is happening in Danville.

The free event is held from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Father Nature's Restaurant, 172 E. Prospect Ave.

### Danville folks are top earners

This month Danville was ranked lucky No. 13 in CNN Money Magazine's list of the 25 top-earning towns in the country.

Declaring Danville as one of the Bay Area's wealthiest suburbs, the article made mention of former resident and famous playwright Eugene O'Neill, and his former estate, the Tao House.

The winners were chosen based on median family incomes. No. 1 and No. 2 were New Canaan and Darien, Conn., and No. 3 was Lake Forest, Ill.

Other Bay Area cities that made the list were Saratoga at No. 4, Los Altos at No. 6, and Lafayette at No. 21.

Money Magazine also voted Danville No. 69 in the top 100 places to live and launch in an article late last year, listing easy access to San Francisco as a pro, with the downside being high home prices.

### Back in a 'minute' can be too long

Approximately 30 children a year die of heatstroke in hot, parked cars, according to the National SAFE Kids Campaign and General Motors.

- More than a third of deaths reported last year occurred when children crawled into parked cars while playing. Keep parked cars locked, even in your own driveway.
- Never leave your child in an unattended car, even with the windows down.
- Be aware of child-resistant locks. Teach older children how to disable them.
- Check to make sure children are out of the vehicle once you reach your destination. Always remove sleeping infants.
- Check the temperature of the car seat sur-

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“ The board just laughed and said no way, you can't get 75 percent of the people to do anything. ”

—Bryan Ranch resident Jay Fischer about the current vote on roofing materials.  
See story, page 5.

face and safety belt buckles before placing a child in the car.

- When loading and unloading your car, keep the car keys with you so should the doors lock accidentally, you will have a way back into the car.
- Keep car keys out of the reach of children.
- Keep the car trunk locked at all times, especially while in the driveway.
- If a child is locked in a car, try to keep the child calm and call 911.

When left in a hot car, a child's body core temperature can increase three to five times faster than an adult's, causing permanent injury or death. Even with an outside temperature of 80 degrees, an auto's interior can reach dangerous levels in just minutes.

### STAND! Rebuilding lives

STAND! Against Domestic Violence reported raising more than \$70,000 with its fundraiser Joie de Vivre—Viva Las Vegas held at Round Hill Country Club last month.

Its annual Rebuilding Lives luncheon at the Concord Hilton will take place Monday, Oct. 20. The keynote speaker will be Denise Brown, the older sister of the late Nicole Brown Simpson, who was found murdered in 1994. Nicole's former husband, O.J. Simpson, was accused of the murder. That same year, Brown established the Nicole Brown Charitable Foundation in Nicole's memory to assist victims of domestic violence.

**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

2008-2009

# info

## Danville

Mailed to homes in Danville, Alamo, Diablo and Blackhawk this August.

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## Pitching to win

Jared Dawson of the Danville Heat pitches for the San Ramon Valley Little League tournament for ages 8-9 held at Alamo Elementary School and Los Cerros Middle School. The Heat won the championship, beating Newark American, 7-1. For more sports action, see page 16.

## Town uses Web to lure customers

Site will include all shops, restaurants and services in Danville

by Meghan Neal

Your average local should have no trouble listing several restaurants in downtown Danville, but ask them to name some retail shops and you're more likely to get a blank stare.

To help put it on the map as a viable shopping destination, the town will establish an all-inclusive Web site, listing every retailer, restaurant and service in Danville. The site will link to the individual sites of each business.

"There needs to be one place where it's all there," said Dennis Erokan, president of The Placemaking Group, a marketing consultancy. "This can be the gateway."

The council voted last week to set aside \$30,000 to create the new site. The site is part of the "Shop Local First" campaign established by town staff, local businesses, the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Discover Danville Association in order to boost business, starting with downtown.

There is a perception that shops in Danville are expensive. But experts say the town can use this view to its benefit.

"While there is a perception—and it's a perception across a lot of people—that the stores in Danville are a little bit towards the high

end, they like that. It differentiates that shopping experience," said Erokan.

"They think of it as one of the more stylish downtowns in the area," he said.

That's where the new tag line comes in: "Shop Danville...In Style Every Day."

Still, the challenge with unique, independent shops is the names aren't as recognizable as national chains seen in many malls and plazas. The Web site will help customers remember the Danville shops, the town hopes, attracting customers who would otherwise go to Walnut Creek or San Ramon.

It will also help educate residents about the benefits of shopping locally, said Jill Bergman, town economic development coordinator.

"More of their dollar stays within the community when they spend it in the community," she said. "Especially in this economy, it's definitely something you want to try and put a heightened awareness about."

All advertising, marketing and publicity material associated with the Shop Local campaign will refer back to the site, which will act as a focal point. It will link to existing Web directories and business

► Continued on page 7



Wood shake shingles on a Bryan Terrace home begin to darken and decay; this roof has been patched in places. Shake roofs generally last 15-25 years.



Tri-laminate asphalt shingles like these are not permitted by the homeowners association for aesthetic reasons though residents say they last longer and are safer than shake.



This wood shake roof in Bryan Ranch is being replaced with new shake, the only material currently allowed, except for tile.

PHOTOS BY SUMMER DASH

## Bryan Ranch voting on roofing rules

Residents cite drawbacks of shake and tile roofs but need 75 percent to change regulation

by Meghan Neal

Bryan Ranch residents are going up against "the man," claiming their homeowners association is putting aesthetics over safety, a concern that's garnered enough support to force a vote to get the rules changed.

The issue? Roofing materials.

The secluded Alamo neigh-

borhood was developed about 25 years ago, speckled with California ranch-style homes that back up to the wilderness of Mount Diablo.

Most of the houses were built with roof shingles made of cedar wood shake. Now, the roofs are reaching the end of their lifespan, and homeowners are faced with having to replace them. Only, they have a different material in mind:

tri-laminate asphalt, which they say is less expensive, lasts longer and is less likely to catch fire.

Trouble is, the homeowners association will not allow it, saying the material doesn't fit with the look of the neighborhood.

"The (asphalt) shingles are aesthetically inappropriate," said Dave Blomquist, chair of the HOA architectural committee. "They clearly

have a different texture, different pattern, different appearance."

Aesthetic harmony is a key part of the neighborhood's appeal, he said, and the liberal open space between homes makes rooftops extra visible.

But at a time when wildfires are running rampant throughout the state, using wood shake is akin to "putting kindling on your roof,"

said Steve Saucy, spokesman for concerned residents. He lives in Bryan Terrace, one of three neighborhoods that comprise the greater Bryan Ranch area, along with Bryan Ranch and Bryan Meadows.

"If there's ever a fire out here in Mount Diablo, houses are going to go up like a tinderbox," said Bryan

► Continued on page 7

# Town salaries—personal or public?

County is putting staff's salaries online

by Meghan Neal

What if all it took was a mouse click to see the salary of any employee that works for the town of Danville?

The announcement that Contra Costa County staff wages will be made available online has led some to wonder if public employees in town should be held to the same standard.

"I think that the open and honest information regarding taxpayer's dollars is key to successful government," said Danville resident Steve Barnett, who suggested the town follow the county's lead, at the Mayor's Morning on July 11.

The suggestion sparked some discussion at the gathering: Some said it would infringe on people's privacy, while others said it's important for residents to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

"I'm one who loves to give people as much information as they possibly need," said Mayor Candace Andersen. "(But) I tend to lean a little bit more on the privacy side—making sure the information is available but at the same time not so widespread, all over."

Town staff salaries are available to the public by request, at the Danville Town Offices, at 510 La Gonda Way.

Some residents said there's no need to publicize the information further. But not everyone will

invest the time to search it out, said Barnett.

"It's important we know: How much are we spending? And, are we spending money where we should be spending it?" he said.

The Board of Supervisors voted in March to publish the wages of the county's roughly 8,500 workers online, in order to help determine fair compensation for employees.

Salaries are established based on surveys that compare pay rates of neighboring counties. However the surveys don't as of now include benefits such as healthcare, which make up a significant chunk of total compensation.

County Supervisors John Gioia and Federal Glover introduced the action to get a more accurate comparison, hoping that with Contra

Costa paving the way by putting the information online, other counties will follow suit.

Government transparency is important, said Tomi Van de Brooke, chief of staff to District 3 Supervisor Mary Piepho. The downside is, many county employees feel uncomfortable having their personal information published on the Web, she said.

County employees were informed of the action July 1. No date has been set for when salaries will appear online.

Like the county, the Town of Danville conducts comparison surveys to determine fair wages. Every other year it collects information from Bay Area cities that are similar in size and service, such as Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and Los Gatos.

Those surveys try to take benefits into account, not just base salary, said Andersen.

"It's absolutely important that we're comparing apples to apples," she said. "We want to keep our employees, so we want to make sure they're getting a fair wage."

The annual salaries of Danville town staff start in the \$40,000 range for coordinator-level positions and go up to the \$60,000 or \$70,000 range for supervisors and directors.

Management generally earns more than \$100,000 per year. The highest paying positions are the city attorney at \$174,000 and town manager at \$198,000.

Andersen said the Town Council may discuss putting salaries online at a future study session. ■

# Summer events will cater to all ages, interests

by Michelle Olson

Lovers of music, wine, art and antiques shouldn't miss the three remaining summer events being sponsored by the Discover Danville Association, in support of the town's recently launched "Shop Local First" campaign.

The next upcoming event is the Summer Fest Street Festival, taking place downtown Thursday, Aug. 7.

"The event is to encourage local visiting and shopping," said Judy Mena, the Discover Danville Association fundraising chairwoman. "It's a family event with a little bit of everything."

There will be food and wine from local restaurants and caterers, including Bridges Restaurant and Thyme to Eat in San Ramon, and musical acts. Bands scheduled

to perform are: Vocal Ease and the Boogie Men, a jazz band; the Fred Randolph Trio, performing bossa nova jazz; Heart Strings, performing Italian vocal ease; and 2Endevor, an acoustic alternative band.

One week later, on Aug. 14, residents can head to the Livery and downtown Danville for the fifth annual Art and Wine Stroll.

More than 20 wineries from Napa, Livermore and Sonoma will be offering samples of their wines inside stores. Tickets cost \$25 and include a commemorative wine glass, wine tasting and a cable car ride with a live saxophonist.

The event starts at the Livery at La Buena Vida, a specialty food and oil shop, where glasses will be distributed. There will be 13 wineries and five artist booths

stationed throughout the shopping center.

The stroll continues with a cable car trip downtown where 10 more wineries and five more artists will be featured. Both locations will have live entertainment.

"It's a really good deal," said Suzette Cabatu, owner of La Buena Vida. "It's a great community event featuring wineries all over the Bay Area."

The final event of the summer series is the Heartland Danville Antiques and Art Faire. It will take place Sept. 1, Labor Day, on Railroad Avenue. There will be more than 60 artisans, as well as vintage collectors and antique merchants. It will be similar to the antique event held this past February, but on a larger scale.

"The last one was so success-

ful that everyone from merchants to vendors and citizens have been asking when the next one is," said Marcia Harmon, Discover Danville secretary and owner of the antique store Cottage Jewel. "It's going to be a wonderful mix."

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will have appraisers on-site from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. to decipher values of antiques brought in by attendees, for a donation of \$10.

"It will be a fascinating event for people to buy antiques," said Jerry Warren, chairman of the museum's steering committee. "And it will give people a chance to get their own antiques appraised."

The appraisals will be quick and informal verbal explanations of the piece that is presented, explained Harmon.

**Summer Fest Street Festival**  
5-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7  
Hartz and Prospect avenues in Danville

**Art & Wine Stroll**  
Thursday, Aug. 14, 6-9 p.m.  
Danville Livery and downtown

**Heartland Danville Antiques & Art Faire**  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1  
Railroad Avenue between the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and the Cottage Jewel  
**For more info:** visit [www.discoverdanville.com](http://www.discoverdanville.com) and click "events"

"It should be beautiful weather, entertaining and interesting," she said. "And if they're lucky they will find the golden egg." ■



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TAKE US ALONG



### Reading in the ruins

Danville residents Ted and Marian Worrall were sure to include the Danville Weekly on their trip to Sicily. While on their vacation they also viewed the ancient Greek temples.

### Customers

► Continued from page 5

sites like Discover Danville and Danville.com.

"The more sites the merrier," said Erokan, explaining that it's not a question of competition: The important thing is that they link back and forth. This helps with search engine optimization; in other words, it helps make the site

more "Googleable."

It generally takes about a year for a site to climb the ranks of Google but the process can be expedited by continuously updating the site with new information and making sure it is well-linked, said Erokan.

Ultimately, the Danville Shop Local site would have a comprehensive calendar that includes events and news from all the shopping centers in town. There is no URL yet; the town is still choosing

the company to create and manage the site.

"The marvelous thing is, this is an area that people like to go to already," said Erokan. "Our goal is to make that happen a little more often."

The town hopes to have the site up and running in time for the holiday shopping season. ■

Contact Meghan Neal at 837-8300, or [mneal@danvilleweekly.com](mailto:mneal@danvilleweekly.com)

### Roof rules

► Continued from page 5

Terrace resident Jay Fischer, calling the HOA's position an "abuse of power."

Slate and tile roofs are also acceptable materials by HOA standards, but residents say they are too heavy to be realistic choices, especially in Bryan Terrace where roofs tend to have a steeper slope.

The State of California's recently updated fire severity maps and building codes require roofs in the area to meet Class A standards. Shake roofs are typically Class B, but can be supplemented with a fire-resistant underlayment to bump them up to Class A.

"All the fire safety concerns are satisfied," Blomquist said. "There's no gain in going to

asphalt shingles."

But residents say treatments cost thousands of dollars, on top of the already high cost of the material. Shake shingles cost twice as much as asphalt—roughly \$300 per square vs. \$145—and lasts half as long, said Fischer.

Tony La Russa, the manager of the St. Louis Cardinals and former manager of the Oakland Athletics, figured it was worth eating a \$25,000 fine to put asphalt shingles on his roof three years ago, said Saucy.

One resident discovered her insurance agency will not insure homes with wood roofs in the neighborhood, which is considered a brush area. Saucy suspected the incident is "just the tip of the iceberg," a trend which, if continued, could hurt resale prices.

After 145 signed petitions were collected, enough to force a vote,

ballots were mailed out to homes in the area. They are due back Aug. 18, and a vote count will follow shortly after.

A 75 percent majority is needed to get the rule changed—a chunk that's tricky to get even with widespread support, residents lament.

"The board just laughed and said no way, you can't get 75 percent of the people to do anything," said Fischer.

But those passionate about the issue are determined to try. They've been e-mailing and calling residents, knocking on doors, distributing and hanging fliers to get the word out.

Fischer said he recently saw the president of the Bryan Ranch HOA's board of directors, Monique Martin, ripping down one such flier. She told him it's against the rules to post signs in the neighborhood. ■

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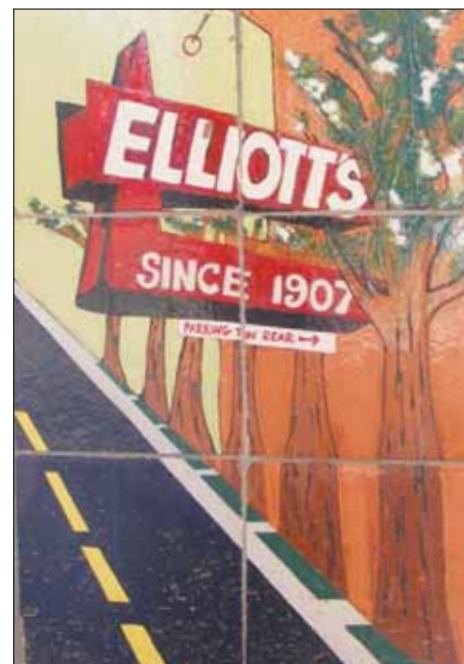
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# Trash art it ain't

Danville's tile enclosures are an ongoing project to enliven downtown

Story and photos by Michelle Olson

**B**rown, wooden trash barrels in downtown Danville may someday be history. The town is continuing to spruce up the area with concrete trash enclosures featuring tiles designed by residents.

"It's a chance to get your art work out there and it will last a long time," said Alan Dye, cultural arts program coordinator for the Town of Danville, who heads the Public Tile Art Enclosure Project. "It is a source of public art and will tie residents to the downtown area."

The project started 12 years ago as an effort to replace the decaying wooden barrels with a long term, durable solution and has been growing with the downtown area ever since.





Emily Serpa, a 7-year-old Danville resident, prepares to throw out a piece of trash into a tile art enclosure on the corner of Hartz and Prospect Avenue. The trash can is part of the Tile Art Enclosure Project, which features tiles designed by residents. The town is currently accepting submissions for the project.

Kacie Evans, a Danville resident, participated in the project in 1996 with two classmates when she attended Athenian Middle School in Danville.

"I think the project was fun," Evans said. "Everything turned out really good."

Her tile art shows a tree mural and decorates a trash enclosure on Hartz Avenue on the southeast corner of East Linda Mesa Avenue.

Seventeen tile art receptacles currently exist among the 50 trash bins downtown; most can be seen on Hartz Avenue between Church Street and La Gonda Way; others are on Railroad Avenue near Trader Joe's.

The project will move forward in phases, but in the past it sometimes has been put on hold because of a lack of resources, said Dye. The current phase includes new trash enclosures on Prospect Avenue and two near the new Front Street Parking Lot.

Dye is hoping for 11 more enclosures by the end of the year. Currently he has about 15 art submissions but will need more to meet his goal because art is needed for each of the four sides of the containers.

"To some they may seem like just trash cans, but they really do perk up the downtown area," said Dye. "The program has always involved the participation of area residents and their contributions have been vital."

Lowell Crow, leader of the Sycamore Lawnmower Brigade and retired Danville resident, is a contributor. He submitted poster photos of the popular brigade, which takes top honors at the Fourth of July Parade each year.

"I participated because it looked like fun," Crow said. "It's a clever, unique thing for the community. It turned out like I expected and I would highly endorse it."

Danville town scenes, landscapes and historical references are the theme for submissions, and a 50- to 100-word description essay must be turned in with it.

Artists can use any medium but Dye advises people to make sure the materials they use will work with tile.

The art work is converted to six 8-by-8 inch ceramic tiles to decorate one side of a trash enclosure that will

measure 16 inches horizontally and 24 inches vertically. This is equal to two tiles across and three tiles down.

"There is a broad spectrum of art already out there including geometric, floral and wet tile designs," Dye said.

People of all ages and artistic backgrounds are encouraged to enter. They may turn in as many designs as they desire. Artists can make corresponding designs to compose all four sides of an enclosure, and partners or groups can work on turning in a piece together.

In the past, elementary school students have each taken one tile and combined them to make a group of six.

Lisa Larsen, an art teacher at the Lafayette Art and Science Foundation, worked with her husband Edward Willy on an entry after spotting a call for Danville tile art in the newspaper in 1996. She was excited for the chance to do public art.

"Art is my perspective on life, it's the way I am," she said. "It's how I process what I see around me. I think the project is great. A lot of people go downtown and see your art."

Submitted work is judged by the Town of Danville staff, including Dye and an art commissioner. Originality, continuity, clarity, overall quality of the artwork, use of colors and historical significance all play a part in the choice of art work.

Chosen artists meet with Dye to start the planning process, and the Town of Danville provides the tile and glazing. After the tiles are designed they are fired in the town's kiln.

"We want people who are invested in the community—Boy Scouts, organizations, parent-child combinations," said Dye. "Then they'll have something that will be there 20 years later."

Residents are pleased with the results of the creative trash enclosures. Charlie Mcguire, a Danville resident and teacher at St. Isidore School, said he notices them when he walks down Hartz Avenue.

"They look great. Downtown keeps looking better and better," he said. ■



## Calling all artists

**What:** Town of Danville Public Tile Art Enclosure Project

**Who:** Artists of all ages

**When:** No deadline—the project is ongoing

**Where:** Send designs to Danville Community Center  
c/o Tile Art Project, 420 Front St., Danville 94526

**Information:** Contact Alan Dye at 314-3466  
or go to [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us) and search "Tile Art"

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Cell phone abuses and excuses

California Highway Patrol officers have issued 4,738 citations to motorists talking on their cell phones since a law that bans driving while gabbing went into effect July 1, according to preliminary data as of Wednesday morning.

In the Bay Area, 811 tickets have been recorded, said CHP officer Jaime Coffee. The number is lower for drivers under the age of 18, who are not allowed to use a handheld or hands-free phone behind the wheel: 45 citations statewide and six in the Bay Area were recorded.

Not all drivers are taking the rule seriously, though, and the Internet and news media are abuzz with stories of offenders' excuses.

One driver told the officer who pulled him over that he was using the phone to scratch his head. Another tried to throw her phone out the window, but it bounced off and fell into her lap. Yet another swore he thought there were 31 days in June.

Some determined motorists have been using tricks like hiding the cell phone under long hair or keeping it in their laps and shouting down into it.

Offenders are fined \$20 for a first offense, but after penalties and local assessments are added the actual fine can be more than \$100, police say.

—Meghan Neal

## POLICE LOG

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

### Sunday, July 13

- Drunk in public, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:10 a.m.
- Auto burglary on La Gonda Way at 1:44 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 1:24 p.m.
- Music disturbance on Love Ln. at 5:11 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Camaritas Ct. and Camaritas Way at 8:15 p.m.
- Petty theft, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:09 p.m.

### Monday, July 14

- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:58 a.m.
- Grand theft on Brookside Dr. at 8:39 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Gatetree Ct. at 4:15 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Topeka Pl. at 4:34 p.m.
- Driving under the influence, arrest, on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 9:41 p.m.

### Tuesday, July 15

- Drugs violation on Camino Ramon at 2:07 p.m.
- Vehicle accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and El Pintado Rd. at 2:40 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on Greenbrook Dr. at 4:04 p.m.
- Driving under the influence, arrest, off I-680 north on Sycamore Valley Rd. at 6:57 p.m.
- Battery on Fostoria Cir. at 7:19 p.m.

### Wednesday, July 16

- Vehicle accident, property dam-

age, on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 12:39 p.m.

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Fostoria Way at 1:02 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Railroad Ave. at 3:11 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Ramona Ct. at 6:51 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Rolling Hills Lane at 9:03 p.m.

### Thursday, July 17

- Petty theft on Camino Tassajara at 2:43 a.m.
- Stolen vehicle on Montego Dr. at 7:19 a.m.
- Robbery on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:08 p.m.
- Reckless driving on Blackhawk Rd. and Camino Tassajara at 10:35 p.m.

### Friday, July 18

- Vandalism on El Dorado Ave. at 10:03 a.m.
- Vehicle accident, property damage, on Brookside Dr. at 12:02 p.m.
- Investigation, arrest, on Tassajara Ranch Rd. at 7:15 p.m.
- Non-moving violation, arrest, on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 10:07 p.m.

### Saturday, July 19

- Battery on Tuscany Way at 12:36 a.m.
- Vehicle stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Parkhaven Dr. at 2:36 a.m.
- Drugs violation on Alta Vista Way and Camino Tassajara at 3:51 p.m.
- Vehicle accident at Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 6:58 p.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on Mustang Dr. at 10:53 p.m.

### Rae Ellen (Stroube) Gaffney

Rae Ellen (Stroube) Gaffney, a former resident of Danville, died June 4 at her home in Amarillo, Texas, at the age of 52. She was the wife of Stiles Gaffney and daughter of B. Ellen Stroube of Danville.

She was born June 24, 1955, in Oakland. She graduated from Ygnacio Valley High School, the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and received a degree in Home Nursing from Amarillo College.

She was a homemaker and gourmet chef who loved the beauty and peace of gardening. She also loved animals, especially her beloved dog Shadow. She lived in Concord and Danville prior to moving to Amarillo. Donations may be sent to ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation), 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek, 94598. A private Celebration of Life was held.

### Lola G. Imlach

Lola G. Imlach, a resident of Danville, died June 20 at the age of 95.

She was born Oct. 21, 1912, in Lynden, Wash., and has lived in Alaska, Pt. Richmond, Hayward, Santa Rosa, Rossmoor and San Ramon. She worked as a department manager at Macy's for 38 years and loved every minute of it. She loved animals and wildlife and would spend many hours in Rossmoor observing the deer, turkey and squirrels. She also loved spoiling her pets and had many cats over the years. She also loved babies and her grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter Sharon and son-in-law Harry Hardwick; her grandchildren and their spouses; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

A memorial service was held June 28 at Wilson & Kratzer in Danville.

### R. William Henderlong

Danville resident R. William Henderlong died June 22 in Walnut Creek at the age of 83, after a courageous battle with cancer. He served as an elder and deacon at Community Presbyterian Church where he was a member for over 40 years.

He was born Ralph William "Bill" Henderlong Jr. in Sacramento on May 3, 1925. After graduating from high school in 1943, he was drafted into the Army and was stationed in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was stationed on Tinian when the Enola Gay bomber took off to drop the atom bomb on Japan.

After his Army discharge, he earned his bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley. On June 26, 1949,

two weeks after graduating, he married his sweetheart Julie, also a Sacramento native. He went on to earn his MBA from UC Berkeley's School of Business, where he developed his life-long love of the Cal Bears football team. Then he followed in his father's footsteps and became an oil company executive. Several years later, he and friend Charlie Olson pioneered family style pizza parlors, opening their first Straw Hat pizza parlor in 1959. When they sold their business in 1970, he embarked on a career in commercial real estate.

He was an early and enthusiastic board member of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley; president of the Danville Lion's Club; volunteered with Berkeley Mission Homes; was a director of the School of Business at UC Berkeley; and a founding director of Tri-Valley National Bank.

He loved to fly, owning several airplanes over the years, and he and Julie traveled throughout America and the world. He also enjoyed jazz festivals and regional theater productions, backpacking, dominos, and getting together with friends and family.

He is survived by his beloved wife Julie; daughters Karla, Kathryn (husband Vernon Holloway) and Karen; and nephews and a niece. A memorial service was held July 1 at Community Presbyterian Church. Donations in his memory may be made to Aoki Diabetes Research, 1935 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento 95816, or Presbyterian Hunger Program, attention "Hunger in Appalachia," Presbyterian Church USA, Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

### Mary Westwick Colmenares

Mary Westwick Colmenares, a resident of Alamo, died June 23 at the age of 75 at Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek after a battle with kidney and heart functions.

She was born May 6, 1933, in Oakland, graduated from Oakland High School and went on to the UC Berkeley where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in bacteriology. She ran a medical lab in San Francisco until retiring in 1998. She enjoyed traveling, reading and her needlework.

She is survived by her husband Carlos A. Colmenares of Alamo; daughters Sonya Dinsley of San Ramon, and Julia Colmenares Stewart (David) of London, UK; and brother William Westwick of San Francisco. She also leaves relatives in California, Oregon, and Norway. A memorial service was held June 30 at the Oak Park Hills Chapel in Walnut Creek.

### Bernice Lorene Carroll

Bernice Lorene Carroll, 84, of Danville, died June 20.

She was born Sept. 18, 1923, in San Francisco, the youngest daughter of John and Margaret Lucy. She loved the Bay Area, living her entire life here, though she traveled extensively. She attended San Francisco State to study music and later worked for Contra Costa County Supervisors James Kenney and Tom Powers. She loved politics and serving the public and retired in 1986.

In 1954 she married Floyd "Bud" Carroll and they enjoyed a wonderful marriage of laughter, parties and traveling until he died in 1991. She then discovered the Dixieland Jazz Festival circuit and attended several festivals each year, often with her niece Jennifer.

She is survived by her sister Margaret Milburn and her husband David of Arroyo Grande; sister Eleanor Arnold of Brea; stepson Dennis Carroll of Martinez; brother-in-law Norman Carroll and his wife Judy of Columbia, S.C.; and nieces. The family suggests donations to Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation, P.O. Box 30215, Walnut Creek 94598.

### Ethel Mae Buell

Danville resident Ethel Mae Buell died June 26.

She was born in 1920 in Davenport, Iowa. During the Great Depression, the family moved to Berkeley, where her father, George P. Hall, opened a diner on Telegraph Avenue in front of Sather Gate. She was the youngest of five children and graduated from Berkeley High. She attended UC Berkeley for two years before getting a war-time job at Pacific Bell in San Francisco.

She married Russell Buell in 1946 and moved to Orinda where she worked as an administrative assistant to the President of Bancroft Library at Cal. Upon retirement, she and Russ moved to Crow Canyon Country Club where they were charter members and where she resided for 20 years. She is fondly remembered for her fierce sense of competition in Shanghai Rummy and Dominoes.

She is survived by her son Steven Buell of Hollister; and two grandchildren. The family hosted a luncheon in her honor July 19 at Crow Canyon Country Club.

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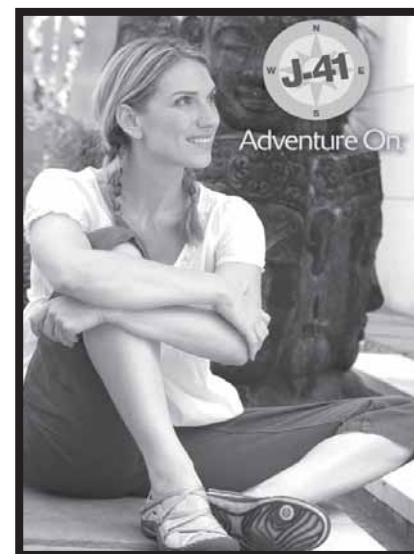
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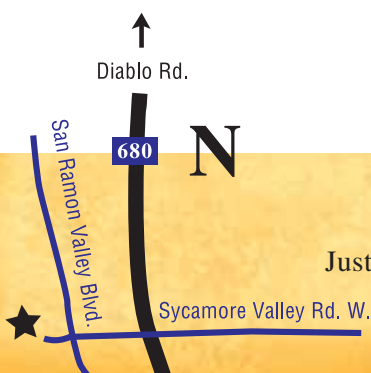


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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Let's help keep Danville unique**

Danville was named by CNN Money magazine as one of the top 25 "Top-Earning Towns" in the nation, based on Danville's median family income of \$160,560.

With exquisite homes, exclusive country clubs and an enchanting downtown, Danville has much to boast about. But affluence alone does not make this community special. The natural beauty of the area, great schools and solid infrastructure, coupled with a small-town feel, bring a quality of life that is difficult to match. For example, we are blessed to have a downtown that draws visitors from all over, and it's ours to enjoy at any time.

Danville didn't achieve this quality of life by accident; it was achieved through forethought, proper planning and diligent adherence to those plans. We must not take what we have for granted, nor should we become complacent.

Part of the reason our downtown is a destination spot is because of its abundance of locally owned businesses and its lack of national chain stores. From a purely economic standpoint, independent businesses are good for our town because owners "shop locally" when they hire local people. These local businesses also tend to carry more locally made goods, which creates more jobs for local producers.

Beyond economics, locally owned businesses help build a community's character by adding diversity and flavor. When people mention their favorite restaurant or store in passing or in polls such as the Danville Weekly's Readers Choice, they often mention the customer focus of these establishments, which is not as evident in national chain stores.

We are in no way saying there isn't a place or a need for national chain stores; they provide efficiency and predictability. But chain store after chain store creates a very mundane, colorless, "vanilla" landscape.

While there is always a time and place for predictable, efficient "box" stores, the locally owned businesses give us diversity, uniqueness and enhance the character of our community. We embrace the idea of distinctive businesses with local character, and must not forget their survival depends on our patronage.

**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. 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.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**No one litters at home**

Dear Editor:

I read your article "Talking Trash" in the July 11 issue, and I absolutely agree with you. Every time there is a big event in downtown Danville, it generates a great amount of trash. Granted, the crews always take care of it in a timely manner, but still, people should be more responsible toward the trash whether they are at an eatery or simply taking a walk downtown.

Danville always had the reputation of being the most beautiful, prestigious and upscale community. People come from many different places in order to see this "beautiful" town. I think everybody would agree if I said, let us keep it that way. Let us keep Danville beautiful! People should definitely do their part by making sure their litter does not fall on the ground, and certainly pick up their children's litter as well.

Businesses are obligated to provide waste bins and make them accessible to their clients at all times. As easily as providing the food to their customers, restaurants should have easy access to their trash bins whether inside or outside their eatery. The restaurants' duties are to maintain the trash bins from overflowing; if their customers find an empty waste bin, they are more likely not to litter. I am sure no one litters in their own home, and Danville is our big home. If we do

not all work together to help keep Danville beautiful, who will?

*Layali Totah, Danville*

**4-H appreciation**

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank everyone in our community who helped us during our lamb projects exhibited at this year's fair: our leaders, parents, and especially the Safeway stores in San Ramon and Alamo for their donations at the Alameda County Fair Junior Livestock Auction. Each 4-H member puts a great deal of time and effort into producing a high-quality animal for auction and we appreciate the contributions.

4-H is a youth based organization for kids ages 5-19, which teaches citizenship, leadership and life skills. Activities can include raising an animal or learning a skill, like cake decorating. The end-of-the-year highlight is entering your livestock or project into the county fair for judging against other clubs in the area. Some projects in our club include sheep, swine, goats, rabbits, cake-decorating, photography, cooking, community service and leadership.

Joining a 4-H club usually occurs at the start of the school year, or you can find out more information at [www.ca4h.org](http://www.ca4h.org) or at [www.alamedacounty.org](http://www.alamedacounty.org).

*Chris and Monica Riley,  
Tassajara Valley 4-H*

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## 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.



Kyla Aiuto

## Local Heat runners Aiuto, Deuel head to Junior Olympics

Pleasanton Heat runners Kyla Aiuto of Danville and Parker Deuel of Alamo have qualified for the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics, which will be held in Omaha, Neb.

Deuel, a freshman at San Ramon Valley High school, won the 1500m in 4:26.29, placing him fourth in the nation for his age group. His 4x800 relay team also qualified with a winning time of 9:02, third fastest in the nation.

Aiuto is a freshman at Monte Vista High School. Her 4x800 team won the qualifiers with a 10:13.69. They are ranked eighth nationally.



Parker Deuel

## Firecrackers complete perfect season

San Ramon Valley Girls Athletic League Firecrackers completed a perfect season of 18-0 by winning the SVRGAL Championship in the Grade 3/4 White Division. The team followed up on an undefeated regular season with a 3-0 run through the North Division playoffs, and a final victory against the South Division champion Leprechauns.

The firecrackers are (front, l-r) Sacha Berestka, Jenny Stark, Ashley Ng; (middle) Emily Kaye, Jackie Buckley, Jackie Hansen, Julia Stark, Madi Reder; (top) Sarah Mondloch, Lauren Louie, Bailey Newlin, Hannah Kahn, Maddie Lennett. Coaches: Tom Newlin and Liz Buckley.



COURTESY JULIA FLUQUA PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Calendar

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

## Art

### Artist's Day at Forest Home Farms

Enjoy a day of painting, photography, drawing or other media among the historic structures, tall redwoods and sheep pastures from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, July 26, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Bring your art supplies, a chair and lunch. Cost is \$5 for residents; \$6 for non-residents. Call 973-3282.

## Auditions

**'The Best Man' Auditions** Role Players Ensemble Theatre will host auditions for "The Best Man" at 7 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 4-5, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Ten men (ages 30-65) and four women (ages 30-60) are needed. Applicants will read from the script. Callbacks will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 10. The show runs Oct. 10-Nov. 1. Call (510) 865-4740.

**Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem** Diablo Valley Masterworks Chorale,

Contra Costa's premiere classical chorus, will host auditions for Lloyd Webber's "Requiem" and Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast" on Aug. 18. Chorus meets Mondays Aug. 18 to Nov. 15. Performance Nov. 22 in Walnut Creek. 7-9:30 p.m. Room 101 Music Dept., Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill. Call: 925 228-8690. www.masterworkschorale.net

## Camps

### San Ramon Valley Volleyball Camps

San Ramon Valley High School will host girls volleyball camps for youth and high school ages. Youth camps are from July 21-24 and July 28-31; Upper level camps are from Aug. 4-7 and Aug. 11-14. All camps 6-8:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Cost is \$130. E-mail srvcball@sbcglobal.net.

### YMCA Summer Specialty Camps

Summer is here! Registration is now open for YMCA Specialty Camps this summer, including Lego Engineering, Super Sports, Robot Science, Chess, Musical Theatre, Art and more. Camps are held in the Alamo and Danville area. For information, call 831-1100.

## Classes

**'Bug-Eating Plants'** Sloat Garden Centers will host a class on "Bug-Eating Plants" at 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 17, at Sloat Garden Center, 828 Diablo Rd., Danville. Call 743-0288.

**Cactus and Succulents** Navlet's Garden Center will host a free class on Cactus and Succulents at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, July 27, at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. This class is free. Call 837-9144.

**Drought Tolerant Plants for Yards** Come and learn about drought tolerant plants for yards from 10:30-11 a.m., every Saturday, at Sunset Color, 1435 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. These classes are free. Call 914-0035 or visit www.sunsetcolor.com.

## Clubs

**Annual Picnic** San Ramon Valley Historical Society invites you to enjoy its annual picnic from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 3, at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. The day will include food, a silent auction, sing

along, entertainment, exhibit and visiting with friends old and new. Cost is \$20. Call 837-9382.

**Danville Rotary** Rear Admiral Russell W. Gorman US Navy (RET) will speak Monday, July 28, on current military activities around the world. Guests always welcome. Contact Steve Kay at 518-7137 to reserve; steve.afs@gmail.com. 12-1:30 p.m. FREE Danville Rotary. (925) 518-7137.

## Events

**Discover Africa** Danville Library will host Peace Corps volunteers who will share stories of life in Africa at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. The volunteers have spent two years in Africa and will share their stories in an African community. Call 837-4889.

**Farmers Market** The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday; and from 4-8 p.m., Thursdays, until Aug. 14, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com.

### Hot Summer Nights Car Show

Come and enjoy the Hot Summer Nights Car Show from 4-9 p.m., Thursday, July 24 and Aug. 21, on Hartz Avenue in downtown Danville. Call Tony at 820-5750.

**Moonlight on the Mountain** This special and unique event for includes drinks and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, sit-down dinner and live music from 4-10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at the China Wall on Mt. Diablo. Cost is \$250 per person. Call 947-3535 or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

### MVHS Cross Country Alumni Run

The third annual Monte Vista Cross Country Alumni Run for former and current Monte Vista cross country runners will be from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 9, at Oak Hill Park, Stone Valley Rd., Danville. This event is a two-mile course around campus and Oak Hill Park. This event is free. Call 437-8360 or visit www.eteamz.com/mvxc.

**Summer Nights at the Livery** Summer Nights are back at the Danville Livery. Two Hot Nights in August! from 6-9 p.m., Thursdays, Aug. 7 and 21. Live music, dining, shopping and entertainment. Each night will include free hula hoops for children of all ages. 6-9

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## Film

**'Amazing Race'** St. Timothy's Church will host a viewing of "Amazing Race" at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17, at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville. The story is about a brave force led by one persistent man who paved the way for this world changing milestone. This event is free. Call 933-7579.

## Fundraisers

**Broadway Revue for Habitat** Coldwell Banker Pleasanton will sponsor a Broadway Revue to benefit Habitat for Humanity East Bay from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 2. The \$50

event, to be held in Acc'sentials' downtown Pleasanton garden courtyard, will feature top Bay Area singers and musicians and will include wine and hors d'oeuvres. Call 784-3068 for tickets. 8-10 p.m. \$50 Acc'sentials, 520 Main Street, Pleasanton. 925-784-3068.

**Jump for the Cure** The Breast Cancer 3-Day Team and Boob Brigade will host "Jump for the Cure" from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, July 27, at Bladium Sports Club, 800 W Tower Ave., Alameda. The day will include a jump house, activities for kids, bake sale, drawing and more. Cost is a suggested donation of \$5. Proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. Call (510) 604-2468.

**Lazarex Cancer Foundation's Hope In Motion 5/10K Walk/Run** Join Lazarex for the Hope in Motion 5K Walk and 10K Run at 8 a.m., Sunday, Aug.

3, at Lake Merritt, 568 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Cost is \$30 before July 31; \$35 thereafter. Proceeds benefit Lararex Foundation. Awards for all finishers. Register at www.lazarexfoundation.org.

## Health

**Spine Pain Treatments** Spine Surgeons Hieu Ball, M.D., and Vikram Talwar, M.D., each will present a free seminar on Spinal Stenosis from 7:30-8:30 p.m., July 30 and Aug. 7, respectively. Stenosis is a narrowing of the spinal canal that carries nerves to the limbs, causing numbness, tingling & pain in limbs & back. Call 275-8230. 7:30-8:30 p.m. No charge South Conference Room, South Building on Medical Campus, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. 925.275.8230. www.sanramonmedctr.com

## Kids and Teens

**Getting in to College** Princeton Review will host an evening seminar geared toward helping students and parents navigate the college admissions process at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

**Steve Chaney and "Cornelius Crow"** Friends of the Danville Library will host Steve Chaney, ventriloquist, along with his sidekick "Corny Crow" at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. This event is free and is good fun for all ages. Call 837-4889.

**When Mom or Dad Has Cancer** A program for families with school-age children when a parent has cancer. Each workshop has an activity-based group for children where they identify feelings and learn coping skills, a support group for teens, and a group for parents from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave.,

Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

**YMCA Activities** The San Ramon Valley YMCA hosts a number of activities including Adventure Guides/Princesses, Adventure Trailblazers, Youth Basketball, Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer for children of all ages. For information, call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

## Live Music

**Alamo Summer Concert Series** Alamo Parks and Recreation presents its annual Summer Concert Series, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fridays, July 25 ("Boothill") and Aug. 8 ("Pan Extasy"). Call 876-0147.

**Blackhawk Summer Concert Series** Blackhawk Plaza will host its annual Summer Concert Series at 7 p.m., every Friday, July 11-Aug. 15, at Blackhawk Plaza, 3454 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Music will include R&B, Motown and more from Pride & Joy, The Best Intentions, The Fundamentals, East Bay Mudd, Super Diamond and Tainted Love. These concerts are free. Call (415) 380-8390.

**Music in the Park** Town of Danville will host Music in the Park from 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, Aug. 2 and 16, in Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. These concerts are free. Call 314-3400.

**San Ramon Summer Concerts in the Park** City of San Ramon celebrates its 25th anniversary of its Summer Concert Series at 5:30 p.m., Sundays, until Aug. 17, at Central Park Amphitheater, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Evolution on July 27; The Sun Kings on Aug. 3; The Groove Kings on Aug. 10; and a special band on Aug. 17. These concerts are free. Call 973-3200.

## Miscellaneous

**Adopt a Kitten Month** During July, TVAR's adoption fee for kittens 2-3

months old is \$50 (regularly \$100); kittens ages 4-11 months are \$37.50. All of the kittens are raised in foster homes, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and wormed, tested for Leukemia, FIV and microchipped. Call 961-0260 or visit www.tvarg.org.

## Seniors

**Senior Volunteer Awards** Culture to Culture Foundation presents its first Senior Volunteer Awards honoring seniors that provide voluntary service to the community. The competition is open to all seniors (55 and older). Applicants must describe their volunteer activities in 500 words or less and supply at least three references with their phone numbers; deadline is July 31. Four winners will receive a \$250 cash prize and a plaque. Call 938-9988.

## Spiritual

**Scripture Day** San Damiano will host Scripture Day with guest speaker Dr. Bill Creasy, Ph.D., who will share his vast knowledge of the New Testament, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, July 26, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$70, including lunch. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

## Support Groups

**Cancer Support Groups** Free support, education and stress management for cancer patients and their loved ones, including general support groups for all types of cancer patients as well as cancer specific groups for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, brain tumor, support groups for caregivers and life after cancer. Groups meet at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. For times and days, call 933-0107.

**Danville TOPS** The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m., every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870.

## Volunteering

**Blackhawk Museum Docent Training** If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! Call 736-2280, ext. 238.

**Bruns House In-Patient Hospice** Bruns House In-Patient Hospice is seeking volunteers to fill two- to four-hour shifts during the weekdays and weekends. To apply for free training, call 887-5678 and ask for the volunteer department, or e-mail volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org.

### AUDITIONS For chorus

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# Teens At Work

There's more to summer jobs than meets the eye



Alex Corvino says her summer job at Jero'l Beauty Salon in Danville is teaching her about business so she feels her time is being well spent.



Alyssa Leone, a Monte Vista senior, is working this summer at Katrina Rozelle Pastry in Alamo Plaza.

**Story and photos  
by Summer Dashe**

The sound of the bell on the last day of school used to mark the beginning of unscheduled days and continuous swim parties. Now, however, it is the shotgun start to a race in search of a summer job.

For teenagers, the summer is a time to earn money, learn the rules of a new trade, and ultimately submerge themselves into the real world. Those four summers between freshman year of high school and freshman year of college allow them to experience a variety of jobs and pursue different and ever changing career interests.

"This is the third job I've had," said Alex Corvino, a senior at Monte Vista High School.

She is an employee of Jero'l Beauty Salon and Spa in Danville. It is not uncommon for students to have multiple jobs before they find the right one. However, it is getting increasingly difficult for teens to find employment.

The first hurdle comes in choosing where to work. With so many boutiques, eateries and stores in downtown Danville, it might seem like a simple decision. However, when considering pay, hours and interest level, the opportunities quickly ebb. For a teen, the work must be worth the minimum wage. Plus, of course, others might beat one to the punch.

"I wanted to work somewhere with kids my own age," said Alyssa Leone, a Monte Vista senior and employee at Katrina Rozelle Pastry in Alamo Plaza. "I get paid minimum wage, \$8, and work about 16 hours a week, but I feel like I'm doing something worthwhile with my time this summer."

It's tricky to come across a summer job that benefits you as a teen employee, high school students say. Teen summer jobs are known for being grunt work.

"They'll be in charge of cleaning, serving, refilling and restocking," said Stan Ling, the manager at Baskin-Robbins on Hartz Avenue.

Some teens search for that right job that really teaches them something in return. Corvino plans to pursue a degree in business during college, so she feels her time at a place of business is well spent.

"I really learned a lot about the retail part of it," she said.

Leone also mentioned that she appreciated learning about hospitality, "so a job in a cafe or bakery was perfect for me."

Once a teen has decided upon

where he or she wants to work, attaining that dream summer job can be another complicated obstacle.

"I applied to four or five other places before I actually got a call back," said Leone.

It seems the teen job front is crowded and the competition is growing.

"We got 100 applications this summer," said Heidi Christensen, a manager at McCaulou's. "I look for an employee mainly based on availability. A lot of the teens have too much going on or won't work weekends."

Christensen said the store only takes eight to 10 of those hundred applications each summer.

Recently, the U.S. Labor Department released a grim employment update. In June, employers cut payrolls by 62,000 while the unemployment rate languished at 5.5 percent. Nearly 8.5 million Americans are unemployed, up from last year's 7 million.

With an unstable economy, more adults are searching for work and encroaching on the teen work scene, adding contenders to the already competitive summer job pursuit.

"It's nearly impossible to get a job now since we're up against people our own age plus people who have had years of experience. Obviously, employers are going to pick those with experience over us," noted Corvino.

Still, some companies actually prefer teens to adults. Teens will work for less than adults plus draw myriad friends for business.

"I don't limit myself to who I accept, but mostly teens apply," said Ling. "Really, I need the teens to attract customers."

With more competition, it makes earning that job just a little more rewarding, say the teens.

So, how are teens spending their cash? Skyrocketing gas prices mean "saving up for gas money," said Leone. Both girls mentioned setting aside a sum for college, and Corvino puts one-third into her checking account.

"I do save some money for back-to-school clothes," admitted Leone.

Aside from slight splurges, most of the money teens earn is saved and used later for something significant.

As the summer dwindles to an end, teens reflect upon the months of hard labor. Many learned something new, some gained only cash, and others can't wait to say, "I quit!" It is all over—until next summer's rush begins. ■



BY MARIA SHEN

BY BEVERLY LANE

## Children's movies a hit with teens

Released on June 27, "Wall-e" has already swept through the country, earning an astounding 97 percent (Certified Fresh!) on Rotten Tomatoes, a Web site that collects reviews, and reaping more than \$32.5 million at the box office.

This G-rated Pixar animation, directed by Andrew Stanton, is a futuristic love story/fairytale, if such stories began with, "Once upon a time, in a post-apocalyptic world brimming with trash and abandoned by the human race..."

The heavy implications embedded within the film make it a hit among teens. This isn't just another movie with true love's kiss and a multitude of friendly dwarves—it's something we can talk about, something complex and controversial.

The backdrop of the film is a grave and unmistakable warning to the consequences of human pollution and corporate misdeeds. Buy n' Large, the corporate monopoly in the movie, has taken over the nation, telling consumers to "eat" and "buy." Finally, when the excess of waste had become too much to handle, Buy n' Large starts to launch its customers into deep space while robots clean up the mess. Unfortunately, not all goes according to plan. The planet becomes too toxic to support human life—or any life, for that matter.

Simple plots in children's films like "Beauty and the Beast" or even more recent ones like "Ratatouille" (another film directed by Andrew Stanton) can't hold a candle to the overreaching lessons taught in an hour and a half of "Wall-e." Whether or not critics agree on the truth of the messages, "Wall-e" has a lot to say to its audience.

That's what makes the film unique.

It's been called "leftist propaganda" by its critics, and accused of "Malthusian fear mongering" by Jonah Goldberg, a conservative author and commentator, who nevertheless conceded that it is a "fascinating and at-times brilliant movie."

Malthusian fear mongering? It just makes the rebellious part of me run to see this movie.

Interestingly, "Wall-e" does not stand alone. There seems to be a recent shift in the children's movies these days. Gone are the films with simple tales of morality. More and more animations are weaving complex themes into their plotlines—and receiving lots of teen fans in the process.

"The Incredibles," released in 2004, was a well-received Pixar animation whose plot centered around a family of superheroes

forced to hide their extraordinary identities. Government-sponsored superheroes were then a thing of the past. Negative public opinion and numerous lawsuits by human citizens drove all the superheroes underground, forbidden by the government to use their powers and confined to false, human identities.

Cosmo Landesman, who writes for the Sunday Times, says, "The Incredibles" is "the story of how the egalitarian drive in modern America killed off the superhero."

The Free Liberal, an online journal providing political and economic commentary, described it as a direct reflection of Ayn Rand's ideas. Ayn Rand is a familiar author among high school students, who have heard of her from English class, U.S. Government and even Economics. Many teens who have read "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead" are familiar with Ayn Rand's philosophy. These films are entertaining, but not empty-headed. In fact, they're very relatable.

"Happy Feet" is another film that comes to mind when one thinks of movies with big themes. This 2006 film was an unmistakable denunciation of overfishing and pollution.

Teenagers simply love the tap-dancing emperor penguins. The animations are adorable and appeal to our kid-side.

"I thought it was cute!" Kayla Little, 17, raved. "They had cute little songs in it, too."

But on a more serious side, these penguins must seek new food supplies as global climate changes and overfishing deplete their food resources. It brings to light the environmental problems in Antarctica. A lot of this, we are exposed to in class.

For example, my AP environmental class was dedicated to the global environment. Watching this film, I found myself saying, "Oh, yeah! I learned about that!"

These animations are anything but tepid about their topics. Movies like "Happy Feet" and "Wall-e" might be G-rated, but they display their big themes boldly and staunchly. They are now more than ideological proponents of "love," "harmony" and "happiness." And that's why we love them.

Maria Shen, reporting on Generation Y, is a senior at Monte Vista High School who loves ice cream on sunny days, books on rainy ones, and music for all those in between. She founded Contra Costa County's Young Bohemians creative writing club and is editor of Voicebox, a literary magazine. E-mail her at [youngbohemians@gmail.com](mailto:youngbohemians@gmail.com).



Celebrating a successful election is the first San Ramon City Council: (l-r) Mary Lou Oliver, Mayor Diane Schinnerer, Rick Harmon, Wayne Bennett and Jerry Ajlouny.

## San Ramon steps up to Cityhood, Part 2

Beginning in 1980, San Ramon's Incorporation Study Committee drew volunteers from throughout the community, especially homeowner, service and sports groups. San Ramon leaders met with County Supervisor Robert Schroder and convinced him that their community deserved the chance to vote on incorporation.

The Study Committee had much to work through before the cityhood issue got to the ballot. One major hurdle was the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and its executive officer Dewey Mansfield. LAFCO had been set up to prevent unviable special districts and cities from forming and Mansfield had vigorously opposed Danville's incorporation vote in 1982. He wanted the whole valley to vote on incorporation, even though three valley-wide votes (1967, 1973 and 1976) had failed. When Danville advocates lobbied the commissioners and convinced them to support a Danville-only vote, Mansfield said that other communities in the valley could then annex to Danville.

But the San Ramon activists fought to have their own vote and their own city. Mansfield recommended against a separate San Ramon election and was overruled by his commission at its meeting in July 1982.

Speakers who supported incorpo-

ration at LAFCO included: Dublin San Ramon Services District board members Diane Schinnerer, Joe Covello and Richard Fahey; SRV School Board member Mike Wahlig; SRV Fire District director Pat Boom; homeowner leaders Mary Lou Oliver and Thomas Bret; and Incorporation Study Committee leader Rick Harmon. The Times reported "Soon after the decision cityhood backers erupted into jubilant cheers."

The reporter also noted some signs of sharp politicking around the LAFCO meeting which focused on San Ramon's boundary. The W.R. Grace Development, which is today's Crow Canyon Commons, tried to be omitted but was kept inside the proposed city.

The 585-acre Bishop Ranch Business Park was excluded. Owners Alex and Masud Mehran were in the midst of planning the business park and county officials, including Supervisor Schroder (who was also chairman of LAFCO), said they did not want a new government potentially altering plans for the development. At the time 15,000 local jobs were expected to locate at the Park.

The boundary was a huge issue during the election and was brought up in every debate. But a vigorous campaign touted independence for

San Ramon, better public works, improved parks and public safety, and more responsive local government. "Let's Spend San Ramon Money on Improving San Ramon!" announced one brochure. Eighteen candidates tossed hats into the ring, with two opposed to the whole idea and one who wanted to annex to Danville.

On election day, March 8, 1983, voters overwhelmingly supported incorporation, 3,825 to 1,254. They elected Diane Schinnerer (3,249), Rick Harmon (2,504), Mary Lou Oliver (2,459), Wayne Bennett (2,014) and Jerry Ajlouny (1,828) to the first City Council. On July 1, 1983, San Ramon became the 17th city in Contra Costa County, with a population of 24,000 people. Diane Schinnerer became the first mayor.

Twenty-five years later, Bishop Ranch Business Park is part of San Ramon and the thriving city has grown to 59,000 people.

Sources: *Museum of the San Ramon Valley archives, The Valley Times (July 15, 1982), The Valley Pioneer (Jan 26, Feb. 2, March 9, June 29, July 6, 1983).*

Beverly Lane is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" and "Vintage Danville: 150 Years of Memories."

### OF NOTE

## Danville students among 16 'California Arts Scholars'

Brie Hiramane and Aaron Long, students at Monte Vista High School, are among 16 Contra Costa County students who have been recognized as "California Arts Scholars" by the state's Innerspark program.

Hiramane was recognized for creative writing, and Long for musical instrument.

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5) sponsored a public recognition ceremony for the students July 8 at the meeting of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

More information on AC5 and its activities is available at [www.ac5.org](http://www.ac5.org).

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**ARIZONA LAND BARGAIN**  
36 Acres - \$29,900. Beautiful mountain property in Arizona's Wine Country. Price reduced in buyers market. Won't last! Good access & views. Eureka Springs Ranch offered by AZLR. ADWR report & financing available. 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**FORECLOSURE SPECIAL!**  
100+ Acre Colorado Ranch for \$49,900. Year-round roads, utilities. Access to 6,000+ acre recreation land. Call 1-866-OWNLAND x4392. (Cal-SCAN)

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and Hunting Camp. 160 acres w/mountain views, \$139,900. 480 acres - borders BLM Land, \$349,900. Great birds and huge elk and deer. Miles and miles of BLM trails. Call 1-877-229-7840 www.WesternSkiesLand.com (Cal-SCAN)

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**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)

**NEW TO MARKET-**  
Colorado Mountain Ranch. 35 acres-\$39,900. Priced for Quick Sale. Overlooking a majestic lake, beautifully treed, 360 degree mountain views, adjacent to national forest. EZ terms. 1-866-353-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

**NEW TO MARKET.**  
New Mexico Ranch Dispersal 140 acres - \$89,900. River Access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,000' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-360-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

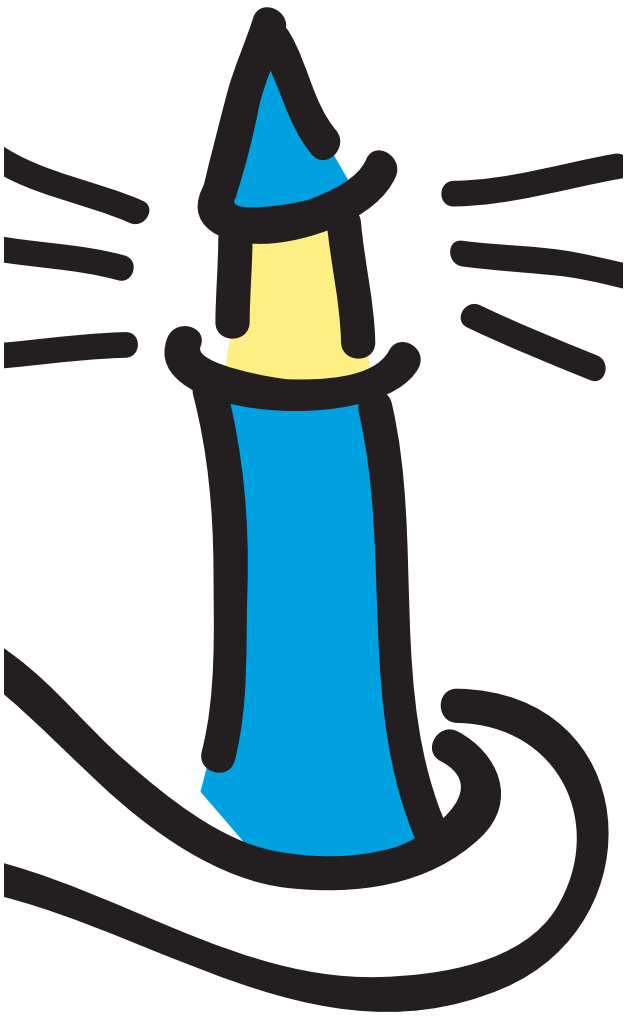
**PET OF THE WEEK**



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

**Build a home with construction kitten**


Meet Eliot, an 8-week-old, male Tabby whose welfare was a top priority last week for workers at the Eliot Aggregate plant on Stanley Boulevard in Pleasanton. All day long, plaintive meows could be heard in the plant's lunchroom that sounded as if they were coming from above the ceiling. Believing the kitten was trapped, workers knocked two holes in the drywall before finally discovering the kitten hidden in a nearby bookcase. Too scared to move, Eliot's meows reverberated off the ceiling and confused all who were searching for him. Workers affectionately named the kitten "Eliot." Eliot needs an adult, indoor-only home where his confidence will grow and he can comfortably occupy somebody's loving lap. Eliot loves petting and belly rubs, and he purrs when he is held and nurtured. Visit Eliot (pet # 78310) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily 11:30AM to 5:30PM, telephone 803-7040.



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**PLEASANTON WEEKLY Danville WEEKLY**

## Now is a good time to buy a vacation home

Prices are down, inventory is up, and mortgage rates are low

by Evelyn Walker

As we move into the heart of summer, many East Bay residents are planning their annual vacation trips to the lake, the mountains, the coast or perhaps tropical locales like Hawaii or Mexico. Relaxing in such a beautiful setting often makes travelers think about owning their own vacation home so the holiday never has to end.

If thoughts of owning a second home have crossed your mind, this could be excellent time to make the leap.

After setting a record in 2006, sales of second homes dipped last year along with the real estate market overall, according to a new study by the National Association of Realtors. A greater inventory of available vacation homes, softer prices, and low mortgage rates have made this a buyer's market for second homes—the first one in many years.

According to data collected by NAR, the second-home market, including vacation homes and investment property, accounted for 33 percent of all home sales in 2007, down from 36 percent in 2006. There are 7.5 million vacation homes and 39.0 million investment units in the U.S., the organiza-

tion reported.

The overall decline in sales last year was expected. Second homes are discretionary purchases that tend to get hit harder during periods of economic uncertainty. In addition, credit tightening during the second half of 2007 slowed purchases.

Nonetheless, the long-term prospect for second homes looks strong due, in part, from growing demand from baby boomers who are looking for a vacation property to enjoy now as well as a good investment down the road. Currently, 38.7 million people in the United States are ages 50 to 59, 45.3 million people are between 40 and 49—prime years for buying a second home. Baby boomers are still in their peak-earning years. They have both the means and the desire to purchase second homes, and want to diversify their portfolio assets.

Vacation-home buyers know that home-ownership offers good, long-term investment potential as well as immediate enjoyment. If you're thinking about buying a second home, here are some things to consider:

- Location is key. Consider a location that offers things that interest you and your family, whether it's a beach resort, a lake property, or someplace where you can play golf, hike, fish or ski. Your second home should also be close enough to your primary residence that you'll be able to use it often. Most second-home owners have purchased within

a few hours' drive. Given soaring gas prices, this is probably more important than ever.

- Should you rent it out? Most vacation-home owners—about three-quarters—want to use their property exclusively and never rent it out, according to NAR. But buyers need to ask themselves whether they can afford all the costs of ownership without generating any income. Rental income can help offset mortgage costs and other expenses. However, renting can also create other challenges, including marketing, managing and maintaining the property.

- Property managers. If you do decide to rent out your vacation home, it is important to use a good local property manager to look after it for you. While a property manager will reduce your income, he or she can save you lots of time by doing maintenance, cleaning, repairs, and improvements, as well as collecting rent and marketing the property.

- Are views worth the money? While an ocean, lake or golf course view property will cost more, it also will likely appreciate more than a home without a view—or a view of the resort's back parking lot. Remember, the same things that attracted you to a second home in the first place will attract a future buyer should you want to sell it down the road.

- Don't let your emotions take control. Buying a second home can indeed be a good investment, but you need to know

going in that not every vacation home will end up providing a strong return. There's no guarantee that a vacation home will always appreciate in value, of course. And the second-home market can be much more cyclical and at the mercy of the economy than the primary home market.

- Do the math. There are a lot of expenses that go into owning a second home or vacation rental property, including mortgage costs, homeowner's dues, property taxes, property management, maintenance and renovation. Calculate the monthly expenses of ownership versus any rental income you might expect. Can you absorb a negative cash flow and for how long?

- Rely on a professional Realtor. With prices down and a growing inventory of homes for sale, there could not be a better time to buy a second home. However, finding the right property can be challenging. More than ever, it's important to look to an experienced, professional Realtor to help you find the vacation home of your dreams. An agent who truly understands the market you are considering and who has qualified referral contacts in most vacation home markets, can help you purchase the right home for you, one you can enjoy for many years to come.

Evelyn Walker, a 22-year real estate veteran, is manager of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Danville office, 600 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### ALAMO

#### 3 Bedrooms

20 Kemline Ct. \$1,499,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 997-5120

10 Camille Pl. \$1,618,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

#### 4 Bedrooms

46 Vista Lane \$1,495,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero Real Estate 672-2499

#### 5 Bedrooms

101 Vagabond Way \$2,295,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 577-0525

### BLACKHAWK

#### 3 Bedrooms

293 Live Oak Dr. \$1,250,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

133 Kingswood Cr. \$905,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 577-4004

#### 4 Bedrooms

34 Magnolia Pl. \$1,895,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 648-5346

#### 5 Bedrooms

4065 Eagle Nest Ln. \$1,325,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 736-1666

### DANVILLE

#### 2 Bedrooms

394 Ilo Ln., Unit 703 \$455,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 577-4004

#### 3 Bedrooms

56 Summer Hill Ct. \$729,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 736-8411

35 Mountain Valley Pl. \$754,950  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 736-8411

2107 Myrtle Beach Ln. \$774,900  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 855-4161

35 Saint Tropez Ct. \$849,950  
Sun 2-5 Intero Real Estate 998-5969

#### 4 Bedrooms

4372 Mansfield Dr. \$1,019,950  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 980-4816

585 Glasgow Cr. \$1,029,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 518-1001

944 La Gonda Way \$1,050,000  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3337

820 Feather River \$1,159,900  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 216-7092

718 St. George Rd. \$1,375,000  
Sun 1-5 Intero Real Estate 451-7287

520 Edinburg Cr. \$1,479,500  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 323-6311

11 Jillian Way \$1,599,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 648-5342

5950 Bruce Dr. \$3,998,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

112 Lawnview Cr. \$619,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 855-4075

18 Haskins Ranch Cr. \$835,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 736-1666

315 Gil Blas \$875,000  
Sun 1-4 Clarke Stone - Intero 855-4108

654 Adobe Dr. \$984,900  
Sun 1:30-4 Prudential 200-0426

5 Bedrooms

26 Old Town Ln. \$1,175,000  
Sun 1:30-4 Empire Realty 217-5078

### SAN RAMON

#### 3 Bedrooms

1504 Dawn Ct. \$589,000  
Sun 1:30-4 Intero Real Estate 586-5456

1103 Radiant Ln. \$599,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 830-3999

140 Shadow Cr. \$715,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 876-4459

929 Vista Pointe Dr. \$789,000  
Sun 1-4 Larry Williams - Intero 855-4128

4 Bedrooms

310 Andros Dr. \$1,095,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 855-4118

9367 Mediar Dr. \$1,099,000  
Sun 2-5 Intero Real Estate 251-2555

4108 Lilac Ridge Rd. \$1,449,950  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 855-4075

5577 Satin Leaf Way \$2,289,000  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 736-8411

88 Shaw Pl. \$759,000  
Sun 1-5 Intero Real Estate 736-8411

856 Springbrook Dr. \$854,900  
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate 855-4046

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Alamo Springs Custom



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





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Alison Leung  
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Pharmacy



Pam Robson  
B.S., RHIT  
Health Information

Marjorie Toreja  
R.N., BSN  
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Mila Quilapio  
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Bob Leek  
PTA  
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# celebrating

## EXTRAORDINARY CARE



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R.N.  
Emergency



Alison Ozment  
RT(R)  
Diagnostic Imaging



Sharon Glover  
R.N.  
Endoscopy



Brooke Wales  
R.N., BSN  
Family Birthing Center



Ajay K. Jain  
RDCS  
Cardiology  
Caregiver of the Year

Not shown: Hawanda McCorley, CNA, Medical/Surgical Unit

Everyone knows that it's not bricks and mortar, but great people who make you feel better. It's why we pause each year to celebrate the extraordinary people that make our hospital a remarkable place. From the emergency room, to the operating room, to your room, we're here for you.

### AWARDS

- 2007 American Heart Association Performance Achievements Awards for Coronary Artery Disease and Heart Failure
- 2007 UnitedHealth Premium® Specialty Care Center designations for Cardiac Surgery, Interventional Cardiology, and Spine Surgery
- 2008 Best Nursing Team runner up for 'Advanced for Nurses'



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