

## Getting ready for the Big One

Next week's fair will help everyone prepare for emergencies > **page 7**

Vol. IV, Number 18 • September 5, 2008

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

### It's folksy, it's artsy

Two well-known folk artists end up living in Danville

> **page 18**

# Danville

## W E E K L Y

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

### Saying no to cityhood

Those against Alamo incorporation step up to the plate

> **page 5**

# A good read

Book clubs open a wider world of reading to members **PAGE 12**





Debbie Lopes



**Co-Sponsored Event!**  
*Savvy Seconds joins Party Bee's for*  
**Girls/Kids Night Out!**  
 6-10 pm Friday, Sept. 5th  
*"Shop and Sip" & "Children's Magic Show" Call to make reservations*

**925.846.6600**  
 Shop at our new location at  
 560 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton  
 Monday through Saturday 10-6, and Sunday 11-5  
[www.shopsavvyseconds.com](http://www.shopsavvyseconds.com)



JUICY ■ COACH ■ SEVEN FOR ALL MANKIND ■ 8 TWO 8 ■ JEWELRY BY PAULA LUCKY ■ A&F ■ TOMMY ■ BANANA REPUBLIC ■ DKNY ■ J CREW ■ & MORE!

## Chronic Pain? Tried Everything?



Enjoy permanent relief from...

- ✓ Back, neck and joint pain
- ✓ Migraine/Headache
- ✓ Range of Motion
- ✓ Accident Trauma
- ✓ Carpal Tunnel/TMJ
- ✓ Arthritis
- ✓ Fibromyalgia
- ✓ Postural Alignment
- ✓ Sports Injury
- ✓ Scoliosis

NO NEEDLES  
 NO DRUGS  
 NO SURGERY

Substantial results on the first visit!

**FIRST SESSION**  
**\$50 w/coupon**  
 (new clients only)

**CALL TODAY 925-598-9898**

A HEALING JOURNEY  
[www.ahealingjourney.com](http://www.ahealingjourney.com)

IS YOUR GYM MEMBERSHIP GIVING YOU THE RESULTS YOU NEED???

**SEPTEMBER SPECIAL!!!**

SAVE \$100 ON CROSSFIT UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP: **\$99**

**CROSSFIT** is the biggest fitness trend to sweep the country. It is a revolt against the status quo Big Box Gyms that hope you pay and don't show up. Not here. We are a community, without narcissism, passionate about personal improvement and success. This success, in part, comes from where you train and who you train with.



**925.353.4894**

[WWW.CROSSFITPLEASANTON.COM](http://WWW.CROSSFITPLEASANTON.COM)

7063 COMMERCE CIR. SUITE G  
 PLEASANTON, CA 94588

*Elegant and Relaxing  
 Personalized Professional  
 Nail Care*



Crow Canyon location

*Bollinger  
 Nail Salon*

### BOLLINGER NAIL SALON LOCATIONS

- San Ramon - Bollinger Canyon Road**  
18080 San Ramon Valley Blvd . . . (925) 830-9700
- San Ramon - Crow Canyon Road**  
2441 San Ramon Valley Blvd . . . (925) 838-6300
- Pleasant Hill**  
1420 Contra Costa Blvd . . . . . (925) 680 8600
- Walnut Creek**  
1661 Mt. Diablo Blvd. . . . . (925) 938-2500

*Host a Party—For birthdays, bridal showers or friends who want to have a unique and fun get together, arrange a private party at Bollinger Nail Salon.*

[www.Bollingernailsalon.com](http://www.Bollingernailsalon.com)



With over 45 years of combined experience in financial services and asset management, Summit Financial Group Advisors Steve Wilcox, Don Ledoux, Vanessa Staley and Nathan Bennett specialize in retirement strategies, wealth management and estate planning for families and business owners.

#### Fall Retirement Planning Classes

City of Pleasanton: 9/16, 9/23 and 9/30  
 Town of Danville: 9/17, 9/24 and 10/1

For more information visit [www.summitfingroup.com](http://www.summitfingroup.com)



Comprehensive Financial Services  
 2010 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120  
 San Ramon, CA 94583  
[www.summitfingroup.com](http://www.summitfingroup.com)  
**925-866-7800**



Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Securian Financial Services Inc. Securities Dealer, member FINRA/SIPC. Summit Financial Group LLC is independently owned and operated. TR#23219 DOFU 07/2008

# Streetwise

ASKED AT STARBUCKS IN BLACKHAWK PLAZA

## Q: Now that the Presidential running mates have been named, what do you think of them?



I don't know if the rest of the world is ready for a female United States vice president. Women in the third world have a different social status that may cause issues. We may lose credibility.

**Jeff Janes**  
*IT contractor*



I have always liked Biden but I am really excited about Sarah Palin because she is a woman that hunts and fishes. She also has good ethics.

**Randy Welker**  
*contractor*



I like Sarah Palin for her good ethics. She is well spoken. She just had a Down syndrome child that she chose to keep.

**Jonathan Lim**  
*physician*



I really don't know as I have not been keeping up with politics. I grew up with a hard core political dad that has now dissuaded me from the inner workings of politics.

**Jason Cisler**  
*barista and new 10K runner*



Sarah Palin has better hair! I remember Joe Biden had hair plugs.

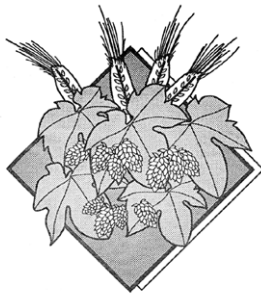
**Carolyn Walker**  
*insurance account manager*

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

### ABOUT THE COVER

Book groups are alive and well all over the Danville area, including those for special interests and a club that meets once a year, then passes the books to each other every few weeks. Cover design by Lili Cao.

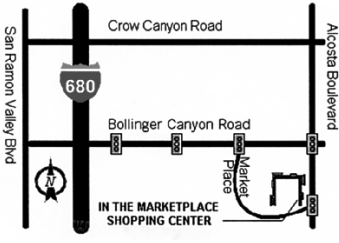
Vol. IV, Number 18



**THE HOPYARD**  
AMERICAN ALE-HOUSE & GRILL

*Come for the Beer  
Come back for the Food*

**30 BEERS ON TAP**  
Our Patio is Open!



**San Ramon**  
(925) 277-9600  
470 Market Place  
[www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com)

## IN-HOME CAREGIVING THAT EXCEEDS PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND BENEFITS THE WHOLE FAMILY

Why do medical professionals and families turn to Home Companion Plus for mom and dad's in-home care, more than any other group?



### HERE ARE SOME REASONS MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS CHOOSE US

Medical professionals and families want to trust that their loved ones are being cared for according to their own high, personal standards. That's a tough assignment, but our unique companion caregivers allow them to do just that. The systems of care developed by the medical staff of Home Companion Plus provides professional clients with more *time* and *energy* to devote to their careers, *enjoy* stress-free rest and relaxation, *enjoy* a robust social life and to *really enjoy* their precious family relationships.

**LOWEST COST CARE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA THAT FOCUSES ON THE WHOLE FAMILY**

Call now for a **FREE** in-home assessment  
**(925) 803-0725**




# SATURDAYS 9AM - 1PM YEAR-ROUND

**Railroad Ave. & Prospect Ave.**

**As school starts and the season begins to change, so does the produce in the farmers' market. Come check out juicy pears from Alhambra Valley in Martinez and organic grapes from Reedley. Summer favorites like heirloom tomatoes, peppers and squash are still in the market, but hurry before they are gone!**

**FRESH & NEW TO THE MARKET:**

- Lucid Coffee Consortium*- freshly roasted coffee & beans.
- Hillview Farms of Watsonville*- unusual & hard to find varieties of apples.
- Del Real Farms of Salinas*- dates too sweet for words.
- Scream Sorbet of Oakland*- Out of this world fresh sorbet flavors.

Your Food, Your Community,  
Your Farmers' Market

[pcfma.com](http://pcfma.com)  
1.800.949.FARM



The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Danville CA. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. © 2007 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

**Rose Garden opening will benefit ARF**

The Rose Garden, located at the southeast corner of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon, is holding a grand opening event tomorrow, Sept. 6, centered around a fundraiser to benefit Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation.

Festivities will take place from 9 a.m.-noon with a silent auction and the ARF Mobile Adoption Van, speeches, live music, a chalk artist and samplings from restaurants located in the shopping center. There will also be face painting, Cat Grass Seed planting, and a balloon artist.

For dogs and their owners, there will be paw printing, dunking for doggie treats, a "Dogs Can Dance" demonstration showcasing dogs that have been taught to dance with their owners, a dog/owner look-a-like contest, and a musical "SIT" contest similar to musical chairs. Diablo Magazine, one of the sponsors of the event, will be taking photos of owners with their pets for a \$10 donation.

"The Rose Garden is a labor of love that we have been working on for more than 12 years," said Brad Blake of Blake Hunt Ventures, partners with the Bertolero Trust and the Castle Companies in the venture.

The mixed-use project is the largest retail development to be added to the downtown area in the last quarter century.

The Rose Garden offers an eclectic mix of specialty retailers and restaurants to appeal to everyone. It is anchored by the two-acre Navlet's Garden Center and is near the Iron Horse Trail.

**580/680 Senior Games cancelled**

The 580/680 Senior Games scheduled to take place in the Tri-Valley from Sept. 19-21 have been cancelled due to low sign-ups. Despite widespread marketing efforts, response was limited, and thus it was decided

by representatives from participating cities and agencies that the games be cancelled.

The Town of Danville, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the cities of Dublin, Pleasanton and San Ramon appreciate the individuals who had expressed interest in the 580/680 Senior Games and hope they will still explore recreational and fitness opportunities at local senior centers.

Those interested in participating in a Senior Games event on a state or national level can visit [www.californiaseniorgames.org](http://www.californiaseniorgames.org).

**Mount Diablo road closed**

South Gate Road, which leads to the Mt. Diablo State Park from Danville, will be closed weekdays to vehicles, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians for road work until Sept. 19. Contractors will be paving the road during the closure, which would result in unsafe conditions if it were left open to the public, according to the California State Parks Web site. The work is part of a \$2.2 million major road repair and repaving project.

The South Gate Road will remain open on weekends, and dirt hiking trails in the park will not be affected by the work. The North Gate Road entrance in Walnut Creek and Summit Road will remain open.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We like to say you can run but you can't hide. ”

—Earthquake Geologist David Schwartz, explaining that earthquake damage depends on home construction and ground conditions. See story, page 5.

**Anniversary Sale!**  
Sale Ends Oct. 4

**New Luxury Baths**  
BATH & KITCHEN SHOWROOM

**PLUMBING • LIGHTING • HARDWARE**

**BUY NOW—PAY LATER**  
**90 DAYS SAME AS CASH**  
OAC CALL FOR DETAILS

**13 E AIRWAY BLVD**  
**LIVERMORE**  
MON-FRI 9-5 SAT 10-4

(925) 443-2284 • [www.NewLuxuryBaths.com](http://www.NewLuxuryBaths.com)

**Got Clutter?... Let Us Organize Your Garage.**



Every project is custom built to your individual specifications and budget!



Home Office      Wine Storage      Closet

**FREE INSTALLATION** -PLUS-  
**\$309<sup>00</sup> OFF** your purchase\*

\*Not valid with any other offer. Expires 10/12/08. \*with minimum purchase.

**925-270-4097**  
Factory 655 Du Bois, San Rafael, CA  
Financing Available • Fast Installation Typically 14 days

**closetfactory**  
[www.closetfactory.com](http://www.closetfactory.com)

**NOW IS THE TIME TO REMODEL!**

**LEHRER AND SON**  
construction, inc.

**lehrer**

**SERVICES**

- REMODELS
- ROOM ADDITIONS
- CUSTOM HOMES
- DESIGN-BUILD
- HOME THEATERS
- WINE CELLARS

Serving Contra Costa and Alameda Counties for over 28 years.



**REDEFINING**  
THE ART OF CRAFTSMANSHIP AND DESIGN

Call for your **FREE** project review.

[www.LEHRERANDSON.COM](http://www.LEHRERANDSON.COM)  
Ph: 925.932.0228 | Lic.#525231

**You Deserve Better.**

Tired of being overlooked and undervalued by your current financial advisor? We think you deserve better...

- Better service
- Better investment choices
- Better overall satisfaction

If you agree that it's time for something better, call today!

**Carey Consulting**  
Wealth Management, Inc.

**Carey Consulting Wealth Management, Inc.**  
**Jamie Carey, CFP, CPA, MBA**  
President

1350 Treat Blvd. #390 (Br 2)  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
(925) 937-6385  
Fax: (925) 937-6377  
[jamie.carey@lpl.com](mailto:jamie.carey@lpl.com)  
[www.careyconsultingwealthmanagement.com](http://www.careyconsultingwealthmanagement.com)  
CA Insurance Lic. #0B98802



Jamie Carey, CFP, CPA, MBA is a registered representative with and securities are offered through Linsco/Private ledger, (LPL) Member NASD/SPIC

## 'We're surrounded by earthquake faults'

Danville experiences 'Quake Swarms,' says expert

by Geoff Gillette

Californians have been hearing about it for years. The Big One. The earthquake that cracks the state off the continental U.S. and drops it into the ocean, leaving neighboring states with some nice beachfront property.

The question is: Could that really happen?

Earthquake specialists say no. But an earthquake doesn't have to be of Hollywood disaster propor-

tions to have a devastating impact.

Earthquake Geologist David Schwartz with the United States Geological Survey says quakes happen on an almost daily basis in the Bay Area, and the San Ramon Valley in particular sees its fair share as a result of its location.

"We're fundamentally surrounded," Schwartz said. "Starting in the western part, the Hayward fault is a concern for the entire Bay Area. If it produced a 6.8 or 6.9 magnitude earthquake it would produce widespread damage throughout the area."

To the east are the Calaveras and Greenville fault lines. North there is the Concord/Green Valley fault

line. Schwartz, himself a Danville resident, said there is one fault that everyone in Danville can see every day.

"Mount Diablo isn't a volcano; it's a fold in the earth's crust caught between the Concord/Green Valley and Greenville faults," he said.

Schwartz said Mount Diablo also differs from the other faults in the area in that it is what is called a "thrust" fault.

"These others are strikeslip faults. These are faults that move sideways, one side of the crust moves parallel to the other," he explained. "That's the principal type of fault we have in the Bay Area."

But with a thrust fault, the crust moves up over the other side. Mount Diablo grows by a few millimeters per year as one plate slides up over the other. Schwartz said it is the same kind of fault that produced the Northridge earthquake of 1994. The 6.6 magnitude quake, which struck near Los Angeles, caused 72 deaths and more than \$12 billion in damage.

"So when people look around at Mount Diablo they should look at it with a new degree of respect," he said. "What they're seeing is the earth's crust deforming right before their eyes."

Danville's location in the center of four major faults also creates

interesting seismological behaviors. Schwartz said that in the past 30 years U.S.G.S has charted several earthquake "swarms" in the San Ramon Valley.

"We have a series of smaller and unmapped faults that sit between Calaveras and Mount Diablo," he said. "These get active and create earthquake swarms. The largest swarm was in 1990. It lasted for 42 days and there were 350 earthquakes reported. The largest was a 4.4."

The most recent swarm was reported in 2003, lasted 31 days,

➤ Continued on page 7



Geoff Gillette

### Finding treasures

The Antiques and Art Faire on Railroad Avenue drew crowds Monday to look over the specialty items, and to have their treasures appraised by experts at a station in the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. It was the second year in a row for the event, organized by the merchants along Railroad Avenue. It again proved popular, and once more was held under sunny skies. Artisans included vintage collectors, specialists in old silver, ephemera, Victoriana, children's collectibles, Orientalia, beaded jewelry and French country.

## Sept. 11 is a time for remembering

The Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley in cooperation with the Town of Danville is again sponsoring a 9-11 Remembrance Service for Valley residents at the All Wars Memorial in Oak Hill Park on Stone Valley Road. The 45-minute program will include a bagpiper, a release of doves, and guest speakers U.S. Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Nick Tooliatos and Andy Swartzell, a Ground Zero firefighter responder.

Hundreds of Scouts will take part with a flag salute, as well as a police and fire department color guard, and a military salute battery with howitzer cannons. The program begins at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, and everyone is invited.

An important part of the remembrance, said organizers, is an essay contest for middle and high school students on "How 9-11 Changed the Lives of First Responders." First prize is \$250; second, \$150; third, \$100, to be presented at an Exchange Club luncheon at Faz restaurant in Danville.

Essays of 250-300 words are due by 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 22, and must include the writer's name, school, grade, street address, city and ZIP code, telephone number and e-mail address. E-mail entries to coachstepper@yahoo.com.

After the remembrance, historical documents will be on display in the Oak Hill Community Center.

—Staff reports

## Alamo incorporation opponents get organized

Committee formed to look at explicit areas

by Geoff Gillette

The debate over whether Alamo should become a town has begun to heat up, with those against incorporation holding meetings and organizing their opposition campaign.

Around 50 Alamo residents gathered at the home of resident Jean Taylor last week on Wednesday, Aug. 27, to discuss the matter. They filled two rooms and spilled out into the kitchen area, all there to discuss how to stop ongoing plans to incorporate.

Taylor said she has attended meetings held by the pro-incorporation group and feels these people are not going to be swayed. "They have this plan, they have this study. It doesn't matter if the numbers are right or wrong. This is what they intend to do," she said, adding, "They're very smart, very professional."

Many of those in attendance debated facts and figures presented in the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis, a plan designed to show where the revenues for the newly minted town would come from and where the money would go.

One area of concern was in law enforcement. Resident Larry Rodrigue, a 30-year law enforcement veteran and chairman of the P-5 special assessment district for police services in Round Hill, said the plan for police protection just won't work.

"I've reviewed their manpower requirements and they are dreaming," he said. "They can't provide police coverage for Alamo with what they have listed."

Rodrigue said he attempted to bring these issues to the pro-incorporation side but was frustrated in his efforts. "Every time I ask these questions I get blown off with a very vague answer," he said.

Attorney David Bowie said this is not the first incorporation effort he has experienced in his lifetime. Bowie said he lived in Orinda during its incorporation and at the time he supported the move. "I was in favor of it because a local government is a more responsible government," he recalled.

After Orinda became a town, though, he saw changes that did not fit what the residents were told would happen.

"My neighbors, who all worked together

to get problems resolved, became politicians. They started becoming more worried about political things than about things that needed to be done in the town," he said.

Flatly, he told the group last week: "I would never support incorporation again after my experience in Orinda."

Bowie also pointed to the monetary issues raised and questions brought up by Rodrigue.

"The P-5 special assessment district would still be there, but it would be subsumed by the town," he said. "And the town council would decide where the police protection went so it's possible that we could end up paying the same taxes and getting less service."

Bowie recommended that the group reduce the incorporation issue to specific areas and form committees to research those areas. Those committees would be headed up by people with the appropriate background. By way of example, he suggested Rodrigue run the committee on law enforcement.

After some debate and discussion, the residents decided to create one core committee, with five subcommittees examining the issues. The subcommittees will look at police and emergency services; finance; planning/city administration; media relations; and public relations. Bowie said the core committee will consist of six to eight people from the subcommittees. Their first meeting is expected in the next few weeks.

At the same time, Alamo residents concerned about the incorporation are being directed to Jean Taylor's Web site, alamospotlight.com. Taylor said they will provide information on the committee's efforts and the ongoing debate about incorporation. In addition, residents can post their comments and opinions on the issue. "People aren't empowered," Taylor said. "A grassroots movement is empowering for people."

Another tack the group plans to follow is to hold information meetings of their own. Resident Tony Carnemolla recommended having meetings where they can discuss and refute points raised by those in favor of the incorporation.

Taylor jumped in to agree.

"You bring the people and I'll rent the hall. I'll provide the cookies," she said. ■

# Construction ready to begin on YMCA facility

*Alamo Y will emphasize total wellness, and a place to connect with other people*

by Geoff Gillette

Work is set to get under way on the preliminary infrastructure needed for the new YMCA facility on the Alamo/Danville border. Mt. Diablo Region YMCA CEO Michael Erwin said the work signals the beginning of the end of a multi-year \$8.1 million capital campaign to put new facilities in Alamo and Oakley and renovate the existing facility in Pleasant Hill.

"We've raised about \$7.5 million of our \$8.1 million goal,"

Erwin said.

Money for the work has been raised from Contra Costa County residents since 2005, and now the YMCA Board of Directors has given Erwin the go-ahead to get the ball rolling to bring the plans to fruition.

Work was scheduled to begin this week on an extension of Lewis Lane and a bridge over the San Ramon Creek to give construction vehicles access to the 12-acre site purchased by the YMCA for its new facility. The Mt. Diablo Region recently entered into a con-

tract with R.L. Harris Co. to build the bridge.

The land is located just east of Danville Boulevard, south of Hemme Avenue and is bordered by Hap Magee Ranch Park on the south.

Erwin said the plan currently calls for getting the bridge in, with any further activity on the site itself taking place late in the spring. The new YMCA will be campus-style with buildings spread out to accommodate the rolling topography of the area.

"It will have features that will blend and meld with the geographic features of the area," Erwin said.

The initial phase will be a 29,000-square-foot facility that will include an indoor warm water therapy pool, an outdoor lap pool and a family splash zone. Erwin said the water in the outdoor pool

will be heated and he is expecting to see use of the facility all year round.

"At our Pleasant Hill facility we see just as many people at the outdoor pool in the winter as we do in the summer," he noted.

The Alamo facility will also feature exercise facilities, a community center for gatherings and a health and wellness center featuring a "teaching kitchen."

"For nutrition education and meal preparation," explained Erwin. "Part of our overall strategy and initiative is total wellness, not just the fitness aspects. That's one of the things that's really going to set us apart."

Erwin said they are focused on making the YMCA a gathering place, where social interaction and wellness go hand in hand. In the community area, there will

be kiosks providing water, coffee, drinks and healthy snacks.

"We don't want to rush people in and then rush them out again," said Erwin. "We want them to connect to other people in the community."

Construction is expected to begin sometime around April. Erwin said if all goes well, they could be opening the doors in late spring 2010.

Fundraising will continue as the construction gets under way. Erwin said he is confident they'll make their \$8.1 million goal, but he also knows that it won't stop there.

"We'll celebrate when we get to that 8.1 but we know we'll have further needs and emerging partners," he said.

Information on the ongoing fundraising efforts and how to make contributions to the construction of the new facilities can be found at [mdrymca.org](http://mdrymca.org). ■

shop  
danville  
in style every day

# SIDEWALK SALE

September  
11, 12 & 13  
10AM TO 6PM

Downtown Danville  
Hartz, Prospect & Railroad Ave Areas

Presented By  
**discover DANVILLE**  
[www.discoverdanvilleca.com](http://www.discoverdanvilleca.com)

## TAKE US ALONG

### International Weekly

The Clayden family took their Danville Weekly on a trip to visit their foreign exchange student, Raphael Chatelain. Pictured is Raphael's family, host teacher Martine Causse and her family, in Bezier, France.

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.



*Dine In • Take Out • We Deliver*  
(delivery hours from 4:30PM-8:30PM daily, to local area only)

2 Locations to serve you:  
Downtown Danville  
531 Hartz Ave. • 925-838-8998

Blackhawk  
3446 Camino Tassajara • 925-736-1221

**China**  
**PARADISE**  
**RESTAURANT**

Senior Citizen discount 3 to 5 pm  
April to June only  
Private Parties + Catering Available

Open 7 Days a Week  
Lunch through Dinner

Established Since 1990

# Quake cottage to shake up fair

Event will help families prepare for any and all emergencies

by Geoff Gillette

Police and fire officials are gearing up, along with paramedics and other first responders. Not to respond to a crisis, but to help residents learn to prepare and deal with crises, at the third annual San Ramon Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair next Saturday, Sept. 13.

"This is a good way to get the community along the way to becoming a disaster resistant community," said Greg Gilbert, Emergency Services Manager for the Town of Danville. He explained that it is nearly impossible to "disaster proof" a community, but if residents can be educated to have themselves as prepared as possible for those eventualities it will allow emergency services officials to concentrate on the areas of greatest concern.

"Government can only do so much," Gilbert said. "We have a finite pool of resources and we need the public to be part of it. If people become educated on how to deal with this they're prepared, we're prepared, and there's less people we have to deal with during an emergency. Instead of needing help those people can become a resource for us."

The idea is to learn to mitigate possible dangers, make plans and begin storing supplies and equipment.

How do you get prepared? What do you store, and how do you decide what should be set aside for an emergency? All those questions can be answered at the Emergency Preparedness Fair.

The fair will run from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 655 Old Orchard Road, the parking lot near the church and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District offices.

Gilbert said classes will be held on earthquake preparedness, stranger danger, and use of Automatic External Defibrillators, which are machines stationed in many town offices to assist in reviving a person suffering from a



Walt Versink practices putting out a fire with an extinguisher during CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

heart attack.

Fire trucks, ambulances, even the Danville Police Department's new community service vehicle will be on display. The Danville police K-9 unit will be putting on a demonstration.

Residents are encouraged to bring leashed pets with them, as Animal Services will be providing low cost microchipping and licensing for pets.

While some of the displays are static, Gilbert said there will also be dynamic hands-on demonstrations. "We have a fire extinguisher station. People will have actual hands-on experience putting out a fire with an actual fire extinguisher," he said as an example.

Attendees will also get to ride out a simulated earthquake in the Quake Cottage. "It's a portable trailer that simulates a 7.0-8.0 quake," explained Gilbert. "They can get on and experience an earthquake of that size for 30 seconds."

Jokingly, he referred to the cottage as "An E ticket ride."

The fair will have lots of giveaways as well. The first 150 families will get free 72-hour disaster kits, and starting at 10:30 a.m., a free tri-tip lunch will be served.

The fair was started by the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints.

"The LDS church approached the local government bodies and said they wanted to put on something like this and we decided this was an excellent endeavor to educate the people in the San Ramon Valley," Gilbert recalled.

The event doubled in size from the first to the second year. It's sponsored by the church, police and fire departments, San Ramon and Danville, PG&E, EMBUD, American Red Cross, Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center and the Community Emergency Response Team.

This year marks the 140th anniversary of the last large scale eruption of the Hayward fault. Gilbert said emergency services officials are using that anniversary as a way of calling attention to the possibility of a quake happening and calling on residents to be ready.

"When it happens we want people to have the materials and knowledge to take care of themselves," Gilbert said. "At the fair we want people to talk to experts, attend classes, find out the best things to have in a disaster kit, how often to rotate them, what to keep in. This fair is offering some really unique services that we are really proud to have." ■

## Earthquake

► Continued from page 5

and created some 120 earthquakes.

"These small faults get turned on and move for a few days or weeks and then they turn off again. Not truly a hazard, but a major nuisance. And a reminder to people that they live in earthquake country," Schwartz said.

So what are the chances of one of these major faults triggering a major seismic event? According to statistics released by the U.S.G.S, the entire Bay Area has a 63 percent chance of a magnitude 6.8 or greater earthquake in the next 30 years.

The majority of that percentage lies west, toward San Francisco, where the San Andreas and Rodgers Creek/Hayward fault lines have a 21 percent and 31 percent

chance. In the San Ramon Valley, the Calaveras fault has the highest probability at 6 percent. Greenville has a 3 percent chance, as does the Concord/Green Valley fault. Mount Diablo only has a 1 percent chance in the next 30 years.

Schwartz said that while those numbers are not large, any event in the local area will be felt and residents should be prepared.

"People should be ready for an earthquake on any one of these faults," he said. "There's a common thought that the closer you live to a fault the greater the hazard."

He said that is not the case. It is largely dependent on the construction of your home and the ground conditions.

"We like to say you can run but you can't hide." He added, "The real cause of damage in a quake is shaking and to a large degree it's the amplification of that shaking by

local ground conditions."

Estimates show that the San Ramon Valley experiences several quakes per week. Most are very small. Schwartz said most people won't even feel a quake less than a 2.0 unless they are right on top of it.

Prediction of earthquakes is still in its infancy, with no reliable method of determining when a large event may occur, but Schwartz said there are some warning signs the U.S.G.S looks for.

"Five to 10 percent of magnitude 5.0 quakes are followed by something larger," he said. "Sometimes it's a signal of something bigger, and sometimes it just triggers something else."

The safest course is for residents to work on making their homes quake resistant and to make plans and set aside food and equipment in the event of a quake along one of the many faults in the area. ■

## NORCAL Weight Loss Center

Lose weight...and keep it off!

- A Variety of Healthy Diet Programs
- Staffed by Professional Doctors & Nurses
- Lunch, Evening & Saturday Appointment Available
- Non-Medication Programs Available
- Latest FDA Approved Medications



Shauntrell lost weight on our program and you can too!

Also Offering Botox® / Restylane® Treatments

Dr. David Melamed, MD  
Dermatologist  
925-846-5614



Unretouched clinical photo taken while frowning before and 14 days after treatment with Botox® Cosmetic

NEW Botox® Service  
for underarm perspiration problems!

**\$75 OFF**  
Botox® Treatment  
plus Free Consultation to new clients only  
Not valid with other offers. Expires 9-30-08

FREE CONSULTATION  
New clients only

Pleasanton  
374 St. Mary St.  
925 846-5614

San Ramon  
2701 Crow Canyon Blvd.  
925 837-6400

pleasanton downtown association presents  
**concerts in the PARK**  
Fridays 7 PM to 8:30 PM  
lions wayside park at first & neal streets



www.pleasantondowntown.net (925) 484-2199

September 5

Public Eye

(Rock & Roll)

Sponsored by

Residential Pacific Mortgage



PLEASANTON WEEKLY

zzippes

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



Weekly Concerts in the Park Drawing

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this entry form to this week's concert for a chance to win great prizes

Donated by members of the Pleasanton Downtown Association.  
Must be present to win. Must be 21 years of age to enter.

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

READ MORE/COMMENT

**Town Square Forum**

**Danville WEEKLY.COM**

INTRODUCING

**living water**

**A CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Starting Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am at Wesley Center

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org)  
902 Danville Boulevard, Alamo, CA 94507 - Tel. 925.837.5243

# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## Goodbye to a man of Alamo



Roy Bloss (right) visits with Ralph Cozine (center) and Manny Lindner.

A few months ago—April 18 to be exact—we ran a story on Roy Bloss, a man who has been an Alamo activist in the five decades he made it his home. He was proudest of his work to keep Danville Boulevard two lanes when the county wanted to make it four—whew! thank heaven for Roy and the others who fought this ill-conceived idea.

Now Bloss, 90, is moving to Redondo Beach to be near his daughter, (Roberta) Lenore Bloss, his granddaughter Angie Hall, her husband Michael and his great-grandchildren, Megan and Alexa. There was a gathering of his friends at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley late Monday afternoon to say goodbye. Of course he had modestly said he didn't want a party but Museum Curator Beverly Lane went ahead and planned the gathering anyway and she asked Lenore to get him there. She knew his old friends would be upset if they didn't have a chance to say goodbye. Then Beverly quickly got out word to those in historical circles. She said she'd just learned recently how active he had been with the Contra Costa County Historical Society, in addition to writing history books and co-founding the San Ramon Valley History Society in 1975.

A few dozen folks milled around the museum, talking to Roy and to each other, and some looking at the current exhibit, a display of politics in the San Ramon Valley. This made the perfect backdrop to say goodbye to Roy. When he was co-chairman of the 1973 Alamo cityhood campaign, he was, as he has put it, "one of five elected city councilmen to the city that wasn't elected." An aging sign on the food table read, "Elect Bloss City Council."

Lenore said his energy puts her to shame, but still she has been

worried about his living alone since her mother, Roberta Madie, died three years ago. She said he recently gave up driving and agreed it is time for this new phase of his life. She said Redondo Beach has a lot of activities for seniors and he will live in his own apartment in an assisted living complex.

"Redondo Beach is a good town to retire in," she told me, adding, "and now he can see his great-grandkids' soccer games."

Roy has already had a private tour of its museum, she said. Also he was raised in Southern California.

Lenore and Roy have been getting his Alamo home ready to sell and she was enthusiastic about the estate sale services offered by Hospice of the East Bay, which then benefits its good works. She said her dad has a shed in the back yard where he had accumulated things for decades, which she approached with trepidation. "I thought it would be daunting," she said. But she was pleased to see that he'd been sorting through his memorabilia for the past few years, and she found he'd given a lot of it to the museum. "He wanted to make sure the stuff would be in good hands," she said.

Roy came into the Danville Weekly office last fall to personally hand me a guest opinion he'd written about Alamo incorporation. When I read what he had to say, I could see that here was a man who'd been around the incorporation block a few times in Alamo. We printed his guest opinion Oct. 5. I trust he'll watch this latest incorporation movement closely from his new home. After all, he'll always be a "man of Alamo," where he lived for 53 years and contributed so much.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli  
can be e-mailed at [editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com).



## Living a Long Healthy Life

*A Free Community Seminar*



Everywhere you turn someone has a new secret to a long healthy life. What do you believe? Lowell Kleinman, M.D., will discuss facts and myths about health and wellness, and present some simple everyday steps to help prevent illness. Discussion will include: What's the right amount of exercise? Do I need vitamins, herbs or supplements? Do they substitute for pharmaceutical medication? How often do I need to see a doctor? What are the most important health screenings and medical tests? Are they necessary? San Ramon Regional Medical Center, your neighborhood hospital, invites you to attend the educational program and bring your questions for Dr. Kleinman. See you in the Dougherty Valley neighborhood.

### Speaker:

**Lowell Kleinman, M.D.**  
Family Medicine Specialist

**Free Educational Seminars**  
**Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008**  
**7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

### Seminar Location

Dougherty Station Community Center  
Front Row Theater  
17011 Bollinger Canyon Road  
San Ramon, CA

Reserve your place by calling  
**925.275.8230**  
or online [www.sanramonmedctr.com](http://www.sanramonmedctr.com)

SHAPELL HOMES presents the...  
**PRIMO'S RUN**  
*for*  
**EDUCATION**



**ANNIVERSARY**

*All proceeds benefit the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation*

**Sunday, Oct. 19**

1/2 Marathon starts at 7:15 a.m.

5K timed race starts at 8:15 a.m.

5K Fun Run/Walk starts after 5k timed race

# Register Today!

## And celebrate 25 years of...

supporting our schools, a community tradition, and family fun!

*Register online at [www.primosrun.com](http://www.primosrun.com)!*

- 1/2 Marathon finishers medal
- "2008 Primo's Run Top 50" performance shirt (male & female categories in both races)
- Cash prizes for top 1/2 M & 5K timed finishers
- Primo's Run long-sleeve T-shirt for each registrant (1/2 marathon shirts are long sleeve performance shirts)
- **NEW 5K Format!** The 5K chip-timed race will be followed by the 5K Fun Run/Walk (not timed)
- *1/2 M & 5K timed runs are certified by USA Track & Field*



# [www.primosrun.com](http://www.primosrun.com)

## EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Marketing commerce

Alamo Chamber of Commerce: You hear the name, you know what it means. The branding and marketing of any business, product or nonprofit organization is important. That's why it was a good move for the Alamo Merchants and Professional Association, or AMPA, to change its name to the Chamber of Commerce.

AMPA was founded in 1992 with the mission to promote businesses in Alamo. The organization, currently with 99 members, has monthly mixers for members to network, publishes a Business Directory and holds Business Expos. All of these activities will continue under the new banner, Alamo Chamber of Commerce.

Perhaps AMPA's most visible activity has been sponsoring the Tree Lighting for the past five years in Andrew P. Young Park on Danville Boulevard. This event is becoming increasingly successful, a true community event that launches the holiday season for Alamo families. But although residents may know it is sponsored by the Alamo business association, do they know the name AMPA? The club also supports scholarships to seniors at the high schools that serve Alamo residents—Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley.

Only six months ago the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce began to put the emphasis on the word "area" to encourage membership from businesses in Alamo, Blackhawk and San Ramon. Reportedly its officers were surprised by the recent name change in Alamo.

But the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce will continue to serve the greater area, and businesses in Alamo can continue to be members of both the Danville Area and the Alamo chambers of commerce, as is the Danville Weekly. Many businesses in San Ramon also see a benefit to belonging to both its chamber and the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The difference with the name change from AMPA is that when residents see a poster which states an event is sponsored by the Alamo Chamber of Commerce, they will know what it means. Just as they recognize that Alamo Rotary is the local branch of the worldwide service organization, they will now recognize the Alamo business association.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Downtown planners don't 'get it'

Dear Editor:

I'm a longtime resident of Danville and felt that after reading "Selling Downtown" (issue of Aug. 15) I just had to respond.

Many of my neighbors and friends who live, work and play here don't shop in downtown. The reasons are obvious and I'm stunned that your article didn't "get it." The stores ARE expensive!!

Have you not walked into any of the shops on Prospect? Good grief, T-shirts are outrageous, let alone shoes and jeans. There are either garden shops, consignment stores, antique/knickknack stores or overpriced specialty stores. There are far and few stores to shop at reasonable prices for "family."

Danville has absolutely failed to bring in the level of retail vendors

that most Danville families need. It's unfortunate, truly unfortunate, that no one gets that. As much as I appreciate the quaint downtown and the variety of restaurants, so far I'm still forced to go elsewhere.

It's also a shame that for as long as I've lived in Danville, a similar fate has kept Blackhawk Plaza empty. It has been a great place to stroll with young children and feed the ducks but it's a much better park than a shopping experience. It's too bad, Danville as a whole has so much to offer—great schools, great families, a terrific city plan—with the Livery and its walkways and not too far off the downtown tree-lined streets. But retail just can't seem to find its way in.

I would, however, like to add that aside from the lack of shopping downtown, Danville is a great place to call home.

D. Mullan, Danville

## ONLINE READER POLL

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

### What do you think of McCain's choice of Sarah Palin for VP?

Results from last week:

How often do you donate blood?

- ✓ Never: 80%
- Once a month: 0%
- Once a year: 20%

**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.



**NEW!**

### Herbal Body Wraps

Lose 4 to 20 inches!

- Private Rooms
- No Messy Bandages
- No Trampolines
- No Water Loss

**CHANGES**  
for Skin & Body  
555 Peters Avenue Ste 105  
Downtown Pleasanton  
925-484-3223

## PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen

## EDITORIAL

### Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

### Staff Reporter

Geoff Gillette

### Contributors

Patty Briggs  
B. Lynn Goodwin  
Beverly Lane  
Jacqui Love Marshall  
Chris Scott  
Maria Shen  
Franklin Utchen

## ART & PRODUCTION

### Art Director/

### Operations Manager

Rick Nobles

### Designers

Trina Cannon  
Lili Cao  
Kristin Herman  
Manuel Valenzuela

## ADVERTISING

### Advertising Manager

Mary Hantos

### Advertising

### Account Executives

Andrea Heggelund  
Barbara Lindsey  
Steve Chapman

### Inside Sales

Art Gordillo

## BUSINESS

### Office Manager

Amory Gutierrez

### Ad Services

Sandy Lee

### Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein

### Circulation Manager

Bob Lampkin

## How to reach the Weekly

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100  
Danville, CA 94526  
Phone: (925) 837-8300  
Fax: (925) 837-2278

Editorial e-mail:  
[Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com)  
Calendar: [DanvilleWeekly.com](http://DanvilleWeekly.com)  
Display Sales e-mail:  
[mhantos@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:mhantos@DanvilleWeekly.com)  
Classifieds Sales e-mail:  
[Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com)  
Circulation e-mail:  
[circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com)

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

Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50/year. © 2008 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE LOG

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

### Sunday, Aug. 24

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Brookside Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:42 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on the 700 block of El Pintado Rd. at 4:52 p.m.
- Shoplift, in custody on the 200 block of Hartz Ave.
- Promiscuous shooting on the 500 block of Ferncroft Ct. at 10:15 p.m.

### Monday, Aug. 25

- Vehicle accident with property damage on the 600 block of Diablo Rd. at 9:07 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on the 1900 block of St. George Rd. at 9:19 a.m.
- Possession of counterfeit bill on the 3100 block of Fostoria Way at 9:22 a.m.
- Harassment disturbance, arrest, on the 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 6:51 p.m.

### Tuesday, Aug. 26

- Defrauding innkeeper on the 800 block of Camino Ramon at 2:17 a.m.
- Grand Theft on the 800 block

of Danville Blvd. at 7:47 a.m.

- Identity theft on the 300 block Paraiso Dr. at 10:15 a.m.
- Grand Theft on the 100 block of Alamo Springs Dr. at 12:35 p.m.
- Driving under the influence, misdemeanor, on Greenbrook Dr. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 7:27 p.m.

### Wednesday, Aug. 27

- Residential burglary on the 800 block of Matadera Cr. at 5:28 a.m.
- Auto burglary on the 100 block of Leonard Ct. at 7:36 a.m.
- Public Nuisance on the 600 block of El Capitan Dr. at 8:13 a.m.
- Vandalism on the 600 block of Las Barrancas Dr. at 8:49 a.m.
- Security check on Iron Horse and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:21 p.m.

### Thursday, Aug. 28

- Reckless driving on Greenbrook Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:49 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on the 100 block of Westwch St. at 3:37 p.m.
- Disturbance threats on the

300 block of Romae Ct. at 5:04 p.m.

- Music disturbance on the 200 block of Boone Ct. at 10:42 p.m.

### Friday, Aug. 29

- Public Nuisance on Camino Ramon and El Capitan Dr. at 8:20 a.m.
- Hit-and-run, misdemeanor, on the 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 2:36 p.m.
- Trespassing on the 300 block of Greenbrook Dr. at 8:25 p.m.
- Vandalism on the 100 block of Edinburgh Circle at 10:23 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on the 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 10:32 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 30

- Reckless driving on Hartz Ave. and Prospect Ave. at 8:48 a.m.
- Abandoned vehicle on Fountain Springs Dr. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:19 a.m.
- Vehicle accident with property damage on Maison Dr. and Tivoli Lane at 1:50 p.m.
- Disturbance, party, on the 700 block of Diablo Rd. at 10:52 p.m.
- Disturbance, party, on the 10600 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 10:58 p.m.

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Swerving vehicle alerts police to DUI

An early morning traffic stop ended with a San Ramon man in custody on charges of drunken driving.

Danville Police Lt. Mark Williams said officers pulled over a vehicle at 5:20 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 24, after it was seen swerving across the center line into the oncoming lane of traffic on Linda Mesa Avenue near the Iron Horse Trail. Driver Jeffrey Ryan, 55, was arrested after registering a 0.17, nearly twice the legal limit, on a field breathalyzer, said Williams. He was charged with driving under the influence and has since been released with a notice to appear in court.

## OBITUARIES

### John Russell Presley

Blackhawk resident John Russell Presley, 63, died after a 70-foot fall Thursday in the Grand Canyon National Park. He was a retired vice president with Bank of America.

The park's communications center received a call for assistance from a commercial river trip operator at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 28, saying a man had fallen about 70 feet and was seriously injured, according to the Grand Canyon News service.

The victim was reported to be about one-and-a-half miles up Stone Creek from its confluence with the Colorado River. The National Park Service helicopter, with a Coconino County Sheriff's Office search-and-rescue team member and a flight medic, was able to land at the site and drop off the medic.

At the same time, a Department of Public Safety helicopter was put on alert to perform a night flight and rescue if necessary. However, upon arrival at the scene, the medic sent word that the patient had not survived the fall.

Mr. Presley was born Jun 21, 1945, in San Diego. He received his bachelor's degree from Cal State Fullerton. He served with the Marine Corps in the Vietnam War and later was an active board member for 10 years in Swords to Plowshares, which works to rehabilitate veterans. He had a 28-year career at Bank of America.

He is survived by his wife Patti Hughes; two sons, Tim and Sean; his mother Doris; and sister Ann Viozzi. A funeral Mass was scheduled to be celebrated at 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 5, at St. Isidore's Church, 440 La Gonda Way in Danville. Donations may be made to Swords to Plowshares, 1060 Howard St., San Francisco 94103.



**The Best In Furniture...The Lowest In Prices.**  
Beautiful Designer furniture at consignment prices.

#### Danville

1901 Camino Ramon  
925 866 6764

#### Mt. View

141 El Camino Real  
650 964 7212

#### San Rafael

863 East Francisco  
415 456 2765

#### San Mateo

1888 South Norfolk  
650 577 8979

#### Saratoga

600 El Paseo de Saratoga  
408 871 8890



Additional locations in Yorba Linda, Laguna Niguel, Las Vegas, Folsom, Foothill Ranch, Roseville, Newport Beach, and Austin



## How to form a book club

- Start by inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances who like to read.
- Select a location for meetings. Smaller groups can meet comfortably in someone's house, larger groups may need to consider meeting rooms at the library or other public places.
- Aim for a consistent meeting day and time that members can put on the calendar. This will increase attendance.
- Decide how your group will select books. Some reading groups dedicate one meeting a year to book selection, while others make their choices monthly.
- Consider taking a relaxed approach. Some members may be unable to finish a book or just disinterested in the selection, but will still enjoy the discussion and may have something interesting to say about the read.
- Improve the quality of discussion by using one of the many free online reading guides. Some groups even hire a professional facilitator for a fee.
- Enliven your selections by introducing annual themes. For instance, your group may want to tackle only classics one year or may try reading women writers who've published since the year 2000. Your creativity is the only limit to potential themes.
- Have fun. Reading is a pleasurable activity. Enjoy this chance to broaden your reading perspective, learn something new and make friends.

## Book club picks

The four book clubs featured in this story shared some of their favorite reads.

### Danville Social Book Club:

- "1000 White Women" by Jim Fergus
- "Atonement" by Ian McEwan
- "The Time Traveler's Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger
- "The Other Boleyn Girl" by Philippa Gregory
- "Girl With The Pearl Earring" by Tracy Chevalier

### Rakestraw:

- "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan
- "Run" by Anne Patchett
- "The Book Thief" by Marcus Zuzak
- "The Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" by Mark Twain
- "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Anne Shaffer and Annie Barrows

### Passing Book Club:

- "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen
- "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson
- "The Long Walk" by Slavomir Rawicz
- "Midwives" by Chris Bohjalian
- "Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson

### Alamo-Danville Newcomers Club:

- "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen
- "Suite Francaise" by Irene Nemirovsky
- "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson

# A good

## Book clubs open

by Julie Nostrand

**D**anville resident Megan Garcia has loved to read since she was a schoolgirl. Yet after years of reading alone, she felt her choices were stagnant. Looking for a way to expand her literary horizons, she asked a few women she worked with if they were interested in forming a book club and she's glad she did.

Ten years later, the Danville Social Book Club still gathers monthly to discuss good reads. In fact, their group has outlasted the software company where most of its members met. Over the years, they've read fiction, non-fiction and even a few classics. They've celebrated birthdays, new jobs and more than 15 babies.

"Being in a book club pushes me to read," said Garcia. "It gives me a reason to read and hang out with my friends."

Garcia, now a mother of three young sons, isn't the only resident who enjoys reading and talking about books with her friends. Even in a time when the Internet and TIVO'd television compete for everyone's free time, book clubs still draw members.

Book clubs are everywhere. Most Danville schools host morning book groups for their students. There's one available at the library. Neighbors, friends and sometimes strangers meet in coffee shops, living rooms, churches and auditoriums to celebrate the joy of reading through a dialogue on books.

A book club—or reading group—is a collection of people that gets together on a regular basis to discuss books. Typically the members have read the book before attending the meeting, but for some informal groups, this isn't a requirement.

Participating in a reading group adds variety to a reader's book selections as well as offering members the chance to share ideas, hear different perspectives, and discuss themes found in a book.

Just as books can range from humorous to humdrum, from lavish to lusty, book clubs come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Garcia's group of 12 friends operates in a classic reading group fashion. Each December members meet for a holiday social and plan monthly hosting duties for the upcoming year. Then a few weeks before their meeting, the hostess announces her book selection. Members either buy or borrow the book and get to reading. Then on the third Tuesday of every month, they meet to discuss it.

Some months when new babies and work travel swamp members, the group chooses not to read but still gets together for dinner. And this summer the group tried something different by selecting Walter Farley's "The Black Stallion," so members could read with their school age children.

At every meeting, the hostess leads a loose discus-



Julie Barnard of Rakestraw Books talks to members of the Alamo-Danville Newcomers Club a year to hear new reading recommendations. This club is large so members can discuss a wide variety of books.

sion about the selected book. Depending on the book, the chitchat may or may not spend a great deal of time focused on the main themes. Often, the book acts as a springboard to other conversations.

"It gives us the chance to discuss something with other women that you wouldn't talk about in normal conversation," said Brianna Read, a Danville resident and book club member.

Julie Barnard of Rakestraw Books agrees. As the coordinator for the store's book club and resident Book Group Goddess, she's gotten to know a lot about reading groups.

"I don't think it's about the books," said Barnard, one sunny afternoon in her shop. "It's more about people who have a common interest spending time together."

The club Barnard facilitates is a diverse group that meets monthly in the store during the day. About 10-12 regulars attend most meetings and the group is always

# and read

a wider world of reading to members



However, the Newcomers Club is open to anyone who wants to get more involved in the community, not just people who are new to town.

"We have some avid readers in our group," said Debbie Kosich, the Newcomers book club coordinator. "It's part of the fun to have others to discuss what we've read. We have such interesting responses, both the good and the bad. That makes for discussions that keep us coming back."

The Alamo-Danville Newcomers Club's book group is big—nearly 30 members gather when it meets on the third Friday of every month.

Due to its size, the discussions are more structured than smaller clubs. Most of the time an online discussion guide is used to jumpstart the conversation and members sometimes download author profiles to enrich the meeting. Members may divide into smaller groups for discussions.

"Some really nice friendships have formed through this group," added Kosich.

For some readers, time is so tight they find it difficult to attend monthly meetings due to work or family obligations, but they still want to participate in a reading community.

The Danville's Passing Book Club is a group perfectly structured for the busy working professional. This is a book group that only meets once a year.

When members meet annually, they discuss the prior year's selections and buy two new books. Members collaborate on their purchases to ensure there are no duplicates. Then for the rest of the year the group acts as an exchange. Participants pass two books every four weeks to another member in a pre-determined order. Every reader is guaranteed to receive more than 20 different books during the course of a year.

Members enjoy ultimate flexibility in this approach. They can choose to read the selections or not before the books are passed along. There are no meetings to attend, so no worries if a book isn't finished.

"We'd highly recommend this type of book club for those people who like to read a variety of books, and who maybe don't have the time or inclination to meet with a group regularly," said founder Jean Lindberg of Danville. "It's great for working people, and also people who want to have a good book to read at very little cost."

All 13 members of Lindberg's Passing Book Club live in the Danville West neighborhood, which helps the group trade the books easily, and every year the passing order is switched so members meet new neighbors.

While this structure is unconventional, the club has been reading together for eight years, just as long as many other successful, conventionally organized reading groups.

"At first, people are kind of thinking, 'A book club that doesn't meet to discuss the books?' But now that we have formed it, we really wouldn't have it any other way," said Lindberg. ■

**Sunday Buffet Brunch**  
10:30 - 2:30  
Lunch also served from 11:30am. Open all day.  
Charming Patio Dining in Downtown Danville  
501 Hartz Ave., Danville (925) 831-2828

## Got Clutter?... Let Us Organize Your Office.



Every project is custom built to your individual specifications and budget!



Closet

Wine Storage

Garage

**FREE INSTALLATION** PLUS-

**\$309<sup>00</sup> OFF** your purchase\*

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 10/12/08 \*with minimum purchase

**925-270-4097**

Factory 655 Du Bois, San Rafael, CA

Financing Available • Fast Installation Typically 14 days

closetfactory

www.closetfactory.com

## What's Up, Dog?

Murphy's Paw has the most unique and highest quality canine products on the market!



Collars & Leashes  
Toys & Treats  
Beds & Carriers  
Apparel & Accessories  
Spa & Health Items  
Gifts for the Dog Lover  
"Kitty Kerner"  
& much, much more!



410 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA

(925) 600-8925 www.murphyspaw.com



## Vipers ring Mission Bell

The 12U Division 3 Mustang Vipers started their season in fine fashion by taking first place in the Mission Bell Classic held in Marin County on Aug. 9-10. The Vipers only allowed three goals in four en route to bringing home the iron.

Team members are (back row, l-r) Drew Kunde, Eric Dobberpuhl, Coach Kelly Kunde, Riley Struck, Blake Ogburn, Coach Jim Reget, John Quinn, Mitch O'Brien, RJ Motter, Coach Jim Motter, Collin Thompson; (front) Treavor Grauman, Nick Bear, Blake Engelhart, Brandon Wise, Daniel Reget, Gregory Gibbert, Zack Chase and Jason Hare.



## Kicking at the kick-off

Jiwan Karunatilake of the Vipers Mustang U-12 White Plus team fights for the ball against a San Ramon Predators' defender. The Vipers won 4-0 against the Predators at the San Ramon Rec-Plus Kick-off Invitational on Sunday, Aug. 24.

## United beats the heat and the competition

The U13 Mustang United fought the heat in the Tracy Summer Classic recently, coming out on top with their first Championship win under new coach Jeff Kendall. The United tied their first game against Placer Prestige 0-0, moving on to a 3-1 victory over Solano Sporting. Sunday morning brought more heat, as the United took one more win over the Atwater Patriots, 2-1, securing their spot in the championship game. Facing Placer once again in the finals, the United dominated the playing field, with a 1-0 victory.

United team members are (front, l-r) Ryan Mullin, John Wayland, Elliot Benson, Matthew Radich, Ryan Colaco, and Michael Ha; (back) Brandon Villalpando, David Makela, Tyler Duncan, Joe Ficenecc, David Gunn, Jack Sauer, David Griffith, Sean Mahre, Scott Breshears, and Coach Jeff Kendall.



## Cougars stay on top

For the second year in a row, the Sportstrong Cougars, coached by Vince Romeo and Errol Moore, have won the 2008 Grade Based National Basketball Championships in Reno. Last year, as fifth graders, the girls won the championship game against a team from West Virginia by 12 points. This year, as sixth graders, they went into the championship bracket with a 6-0 record in pool play throughout the week to beat the Santa Clarita Synergy from Southern California by 15 points.

Throughout the 2008 season, the Sportstrong Cougars have maintained a 47-2 record with the two losses being determined by only a few points. Team members were also determined to be the best U12 girls team in the state of California and played girls a year older and won the U12 championship in the Cal State Games Tournament of Champions hosted by the city of San Diego in July. During that tournament, they held a 4-0 record before beating the Future Stars out of Southern California for the championship banner.

Team members are Mariya Moore, Natalie Romeo, Taylor Berry, Ashley Ewing, Nadine Masarweh, Deja Stallworth, Jessica Jordan, Jordane Johnson, Madison Burroughs of Alamo and Hannah Hicks of San Ramon.

## Win for Freedom

The Mustang Freedom G U16 Class I soccer team traveled to Southern California over the weekend of Aug. 15-17 to play in the West Coast Futbol Classic Tournament. In a hotly contested finals match, Freedom defeated a strong and skilled Camarillo Eagles Blue team, 1-0, to take the G U16 championship. Freedom scored 7 goals while allowing only 1 for the entire tournament.



# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Classes

**Colorful Foliage, Spring Flowering Bulbs and Winter Veggies** Navlet's Garden Center hosts free gardening classes to the public. September classes include Colorful Foliage at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 13; Spring Flowering Bulbs at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 14; and Winter Veggies at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 28. All classes are at Navlet's Garden Center, 800 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 837-9144.

**Diablo Bonsai Club** There will be a meeting of the Diablo Bonsai Club from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008 at Heather Farm Garden Center, upper room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. All are welcome to come and enjoy this fascinating hobby. Call 937-4216.

## Clubs

**Blue Star Moms Chapter 101** Blue Star Moms Chapter 101, established in 2001 as a support-through-service group for families with loved ones serving in the military, will meet from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10, at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 866-7035.

**Exchange Club Luncheon Speaker** The Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley's guest speaker for its September luncheon meeting will be Robert Kochly, District Attorney of Contra Costa County. His presentation is entitled "Drunk Driver Murders Live On In Contra Costa County." This meeting will be from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10, at Faz, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$16 for members and \$20 for non-members. Call 275-2412.

## Events

**12th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Run or Walk** The run will take place Saturday, Sept. 6, beginning at 10 a.m. rain or shine, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville. Entry fee is \$35 per person. Hats Off America raises money and awareness for the families of soldiers who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Call 855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us).

**2008 Homaid Trapshoot Media Day** The 2008 Homaid Trapshoot Media Day will be held at Livermore Rod & Gun Club, 4000 Dagnino Rd., from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10. Guns, ammo, training and lunch will be provided. Homeaid is a non-profit group supported by the Home Builders Association of Northern California that has raised more than \$1 million to fund shelters for the transitionally homeless throughout the SF Bay Area. Visit [www.homeaidnc.org](http://www.homeaidnc.org).

**9-11 Remembrance Ceremony** Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley and the Town of Danville are sponsoring a 9-11 Ceremony from 6-6:45 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, at the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park, 3005 Stone Valley Rd., Danville. Guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Nicholas Tooliatos, Commander, 5th Brig., 75th Div. There will be a color guard, bagpipers, Scouts, doves, a salute battery, ice cream for children, and a student essay contest with prizes of \$250, \$150 and \$100. Call 275-2412.

**Alamo Wine and Music Festival** The Alamo Rotary is hosting the 26th annual Wine and Music Festival from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6, at Alamo Plaza. School music groups will perform during the day; evening entertainment will be the "Fabulous Cruise Tones." Dinner tickets cost \$17 and features selections from Forli's, Faz and the Rotary BBQ. Wells Fargo is a major sponsor. The event benefits school music programs and community charities. Call 820-3055.

**Business Showcase, Food Sample & Wine Event** Join the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce from 5-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Blackhawk

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



### Enjoy the music in Alamo tomorrow

The Alamo Wine and Music Festival, an annual community celebration benefiting the Alamo community and the schools' music programs, will take place from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6, at Alamo Plaza. There will be food, drink, entertainment and games for the entire family.

Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Sample food and wine and meet with Chamber members showcasing their products and services. Cost is \$20 in advance online, or \$25 at the door. Call 837-4400, or visit [www.danvilleareachamber.com](http://www.danvilleareachamber.com).

**Contra Costa Greek Food and Wine Festival** Join in an authentic Greek celebration with dancing, live music, Greek wine and beer, and authentic Greek food including lamb, Gyro, domathes, pastestio, spanakopita and tiropita. This event is from Friday-Sunday, Sept. 12-14, at St. Demetrios Church, 1955 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord. The cost is \$5. Call 676-6967.

**Cow Creek Clean Up** Stewards of the San Ramon Creek Watershed are sponsoring a creek cleanup from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 6, at Cow Creek in Danville. Check-in sites are at El Capitan across from Charlotte Wood Middle School and on Harlan St. across from Greenbrook School. Bring gloves, water, friends and wear protective clothing. This event is free. Call 855-7185.

**Danville-Alamo AAUW Membership Brunch** The American Association of University Women will present Jane Massengill, a corporate trainer, life coach, author and motivational speaker, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6, at Crow Canyon Country Club; 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. AAUW membership is open to graduates of four-year colleges or universities and those holding an associate degree or equivalent. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. Event costs \$30. Call 648-5153.

**Grandparents Day: Hands-on Family Funshop** Come and celebrate Italian craftsmanship and more with this funshop. Take a tour of the autos, talk about the classics, learn some history and have a great time. This event is from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 7 at Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 736-2277.

**Salute America's Heroes Golf Event** The first 'Salute America's Heroes' Charity Golf event will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 8, at Oakhurst Country Club, 1001 Peacock Creek, Clayton. Various sponsorships are available. Support our wounded veterans who have protected our country in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Visit [www.saluteheroes.org](http://www.saluteheroes.org).

**Tinsel and Treasures Folk Art Show** Here's a chance to buy original, handmade vintage whimsies, unique dolls, Halloween and Christmas folk art, crowns, jewelry and papier mache collectibles from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Danville

Women's Club, 242 W. Linda Mesa Ave. This event is free. Call 451-7805 or visit [www.tinselandtreasures.com](http://www.tinselandtreasures.com).

**Tri-Valley Mayor's Summit** Join the mayors of Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon for an annual luncheon and panel discussion from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Bridges Golf Club, 9000 S. Gale Ridge Rd., San Ramon. This event is hosted by the Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon Chambers of Commerce. \$35 for chamber members and \$45 for non-members. Call 242-0600.

## Exhibits

**Museum of the San Ramon Valley-We The People** The Museum's current exhibit is "We the People," running through Saturday, Sept. 27. It features artifacts from the County Clerk's office and local residents, Danville's John Baldwin, and Teddy "Bear" Roosevelt. There is also a genuine voting booth for children to practice the democratic process as they vote for their favorite flavor of ice cream. The Museum is located at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues in downtown Danville. Visit [www.museumsvr.org](http://www.museumsvr.org).

**Untold Stories: Early American Quilts from the Collection of Susan Brooks** Meet Susan Brooks and get a special sneak preview of this remarkable collection of quilts at the VIP opening reception from 5-7:30, Friday, Sept. 12, at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres and live music. General admission is \$25. RSVP required: 295-1423.

## Fundraisers

**Katie's Classic** Golfers of all abilities are invited for a fun-filled day from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 8, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. The event will raise money to support Katie's Clinic for Rett Syndrome at Children's Hospital and Research Center. Cost is \$195 per golfer, includes all meals, 18 holes of golf with cart and lots of prizes. Call 451-1220.

**LLS East Bay Light The Night Walk** Join The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at its annual fundraising walk to celebrate and honor lives touched by cancer, at 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, at Walnut Creek Civic Park, Civic and North Broadway. Teams of friends, family and co-workers will gather for



Compassionate therapy  
for change, helping  
you move from merely  
surviving to thriving.

## DR. SARA DENMAN

Licensed Psychologist | PSY19808

Areas of Dr. Denman's expertise include, but are not limited to: parenting challenges, eating issues, substance abuse, anxiety, depression, past and present trauma, life changes, and all forms of PTSD including Veterans.

145 East Prospect Ave Ste 218 | Danville | 925-648-4941

Paid Advertisement

## DEES HELPS PATIENTS

### LOSE 100's of POUNDS SAFELY AND FAST

Dr. Robert Dees, DC of Canyon Chiropractic Family Health and Wellness Center which is located at 2570 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite A-106, San Ramon, has helped countless patients over the past two decades regain health and vitality. Assisted by his associates, Debbie Dominguez and Sue Perry, Dr. Robert Dees, DC has created a well respected family practice whose purpose is to help as many people as they can live healthy, drug free lives.

What makes their office so unique is the fact that they have been successfully helping patients not only with excellent chiropractic care, but are also helping their patients look good, lose weight and change their lives.

In the past, Dr. Dees' patients have lost a cumulative of over 100 pounds and over 100 inches on this scientifically designed nutritional cleanse program. "This is not a diet but a cleanse," explained Dr. Dees.

The program not only peels off the fat, it increases a person's energy, lean muscle mass and improves mood and focus. This is why famous author John Gray (Men are from Mars women are from Venus) highly recommends this program.

The Cleansing Program is composed of organic nutrients and is based on a scientific formulation that works synergistically as a system.

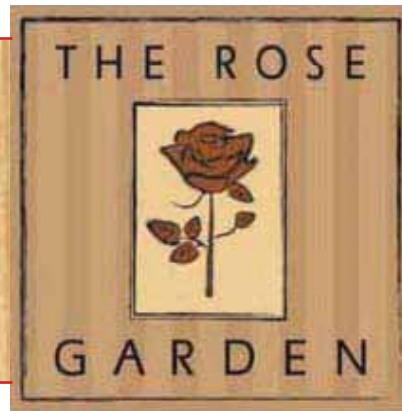
The body stores dangerous impurities in fat tissue as a way of diluting and neutralizing them, keeping impurities away from vital organs. If you gently remove the impurities, the body no longer needs to hold onto fat and you turn the body into a "fat burning" machine.

"What we have seen in our patients is nothing short of miraculous" explained Dr. Dees. "One of my patients, who is currently on the cleanse, reported that he has lost 40 pounds in four weeks, another lost 7 pounds and 12 inches in just four days. Results may vary. In a recent study participants averaged a weight loss of 7 lbs at the completion of the first 9 Day program. This is not a starvation diet or a fast, but a fully nutritionally balanced program." The program is doctor monitored, safe and effective.

"Everyone needs to cleanse to avoid the effects of impurities from food and the environment," said Dr. Dees. "Especially thin people who store them in the liver, kidneys and vital organs."

To find out more about this program, contact Canyon Chiropractic at 925-867-1414 for our next workshop on this amazing program or go to [www.GoCleanse.com/docdees](http://www.GoCleanse.com/docdees).





# The Rose Garden

— Danville —

## Grand Opening on Saturday, September 6th, 2008

Come join us for the festivities starting at 9:00am

Ribbon Cutting ceremony, face painting, magicians, food, music and more!

Then...take a walk in the Rose Garden...where there is something for everyone... including the Dog!

### Esin Restaurant & Bar

Esin Restaurant & Bar relocated in July to the Rose Garden. The freshly designed dining room offers warm, comforting tones & the food is the passion of chef & owners Curtis and Esin deCarion. They create cuisine that is fresh, seasonal and prepared with great care. The fare is American with bits of Mediterranean influences. Visit [www.esinrestaurant.com](http://www.esinrestaurant.com)

(925) 314-0974

### Baby and Kids Company

Offering fashionable clothing from infant to 4T. Finely-crafted crib and twin linens, distinctive baby and children's furnishings, timeless toys and books. Gift registry. Come and see the Bubble Lady on September 6th at 2pm at our store!

(925) 552-8151

### Bittersweet, the Chocolate Café

Bittersweet is delighted to open its third location in Danville. Bittersweet offers a full line of artisanal chocolates, as well as award-winning drinks, milkshakes, coffee, tea, delicious pastries and desserts in a congenial atmosphere.

(925) 837-9900

### Stella Luna Candles

Come into our relaxing studio and create your very own unique mosaic candle. Choose from a large selection of molds, colors and scents. Let Stella Luna do all the work for your next party!

[www.stellalunacandles.com](http://www.stellalunacandles.com)

(925) 984-2950

### Elisa Wen

Elisa Wen is excited to open a second location at The Rose Garden. We offer contemporary clothing for men AND women, including some of your favorite designers such as Nicole Miller, True Religion, Tart, Ben Sherman, Tailorbyrd, Michael Stars and many more.

(925) 831-9600

### Amici's East Coast Pizzeria

Amici's offers authentic thin, crisp-crust pizza and a casual Italian menu of freshly made pastas and salads, all available for takeout and delivery as well as dine-in at this new Danville location. Check out the menu or order online at [www.amicis.com](http://www.amicis.com).

(925) 837-9800

### KRV Ride Culture

KRV will appeal to active men, women and children of all ages who seek popular brands representing a lifestyle centered on action sport activities that include skateboarding, snowboarding and surfing. [www.krv.com](http://www.krv.com)

(925) 838-7873

### Burke Williams

"Beyond the spa."

Comfort, luxury and relaxation are melded beautifully into this 18,000 square foot spa. Danville is the tenth location for this family-owned California company, recognized as the industry leader and referred to as America's Original Day Spa.

(925) 362-0104

### Dog Bone Alley

A place for dogs and cats. Dedicated to dogs, cats and the people who love them. We offer high quality pet foods, collars and leashes from sporty to chic, treats and toys to delight your pet, gifts to delight the pet lover. Stop by and see us soon. Pets are always welcome. Open Mon.-Fri. 10-7 and Sat. & Sun. 10-6.

(925) 552-0410

### Olive Ecofriendly Fashion

*OLIVE IS THE NEW GREEN.*

Olive is an environmentally aware boutique which believes that in the promotion and consumption of fashion one should never have to sacrifice style. Fashion with a conscience is how we view our products. This chic boutique is a place to expand your knowledge of ecofriendly fashion and develop your amazing style even further.

(925) 362-0767

### Amaranta Cocina Mexicana

Celebrate the diverse regional cuisine of Mexico within a vibrant and stylish environment, showcasing over 400 100% blue agave tequilas, and a spacious outdoor patio lounge. Separate To-Go store, monthly tequila tasting, live music and an extensive catering menu for all special event needs.

[www.amarantarestaurant.com](http://www.amarantarestaurant.com)

(925) 406-4032

## See You Soon...

Camino Ramon & Sycamore Valley Rd, Danville (Just off I-680)



an evening of food and entertainment, then walk together with lighted balloons as the sun sets. Call 625-1107.

**Mt. Diablo Challenge** The Mt Diablo Challenge is a 10.8-mile bike race starting at Athenian School in Danville and climbing up Southgate Road to Mt Diablo's summit on Sunday, Oct. 5. Proceeds go to Save Mount Diablo's Land fund. Call 947-3535 or visit [www.savemountdiablo.org](http://www.savemountdiablo.org).

**The Wellness Community's Eighth Annual Gala** Join the Wellness Community in honoring Steve Leshar, one of the most prominent and respected members of our community, from 5-10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Diablo Country Club in Diablo, for a formal dinner, cocktails, and live and silent auctions. The gala attracts key business and community leaders in the Bay Area. Cost is \$195 per ticket. Call 933-0107.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Deeper into Meditation** Danville Library will host Marshall Zaslove, M.D., who will lead a workshop for new and experienced meditators at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

**Literacy Tutor Training** Project Second Chance, the Contra Costa Library's Adult Literacy Program announces tutor training for volunteer literacy tutors. Starting from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 17, and continues Sept. 20 and Sept. 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Training sessions will take place at the Project Second Chance office, 75 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill. Call 927-3250 or visit [psc@ccclib.org](mailto:psc@ccclib.org) for pre-registration information.

**Looking Beyond 9-11** The Rev. Thomas Bonacci, Catholic priest and interfaith advocate, will speak on why interfaith dialog is important for world peace, and lead a question-and-answer period, from 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Sponsored by Peacemakers. All welcome. Call 837-5243.

**Panel on Path to Publication** The next meeting of the California Writers Club, Tri-Valley Branch, will feature a panel of publishing professionals speaking on getting published in today's market, including how to write query letters and book proposals. This lecture is from 11:30-2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. The cost is \$21 for members and \$35 for non-members, which includes lunch. Call 462-7495 for a reservation.

**Tri-Valley History: A Slide Show Presentation** Explore the history of the Tri-Valley area and its present day treasures at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St., through color slides, interesting facts and colorful anecdotes that help people appreciate where they live. This event is free and open to the public.

## Literary Events

**Author reveals 'Secrets of Great Historical Fiction'** Anita Amirrezvani, acclaimed Bay Area author of "The Blood of Flowers," will speak at the Mt. Diablo Branch, California Writers Club September luncheon meeting. A graduate of UC Berkeley, the author was a dance critic and arts writer for local papers. Her debut novel is an international success. This literary event will take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

## Political Notes

**Blackhawk Republican Women luncheon meeting** The luncheon will take place from 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, Sept. 8, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville, featuring Barbara Simpson, Hot Talk 560 KSFO Radio personality and Emmy award-winning, 20-year radio, TV and newspaper vet-

eran. RSVP by noon, Friday, Sept. 5. Cost is \$20. All are welcome; ties not required, no denim. Call 820-6452.

## Spiritual

**'Living Water' Contemporary Worship** Starting at 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 7, and continuing on every Sunday, a new celebration of worship with lively music and creative arts will take place at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Casual, relevant, open. Call 837-5243.

**Men's Fraternity-The Quest For Authentic Manhood** This 24-week program is for men seeking an answer to the question of what it means to be an authentic man in contemporary American culture, developed and presented by Robert Lewis of Men's Fraternity. It will take place from 6-7:20 a.m. every Friday starting Sept. 12, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. Cost is \$25. Register online at [www.cpcdanville.org](http://www.cpcdanville.org). For information, e-mail Barry@BarryZwahlen.com.

**Unique Challenges for Church 'CEOs'** Most Rev. Stephen E. Blaire, bishop of Stockton, will speak at the Catholics@Work breakfast event from 7-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Blaire will highlight the challenges of the Bishop's job, and dispel some common myths about the church's command and control mechanism. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Call 683-5263.


## French Café & Bakery

*Fall is here!  
Feeling stressed?  
Come relax over coffee and a pastry  
Serving fair trade coffee*




Voted Best  
French Restaurant  
2 years!

[www.pascalcafe.com](http://www.pascalcafe.com)  
Monday-Saturday 6:00-3:00 p.m. ~ Sunday 7:00-3:00 p.m.  
155 Railroad Ave., Danville ~ 925.838.7349



sugar shack

Trina Turk • Bejeweled  
Ann Ferriday • Da Nang  
Twisted Heart  
Faith Connexion  
Ed Hardy • Free People  
Rebecca Beeson  
Joe's Jeans  
Frankie B.  
Kasil Jeans  
Red Engine Jeans  
Nicky Hilton

● ● ●

350 Main Street, Suite E,  
(off West Angela St.)  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-249-1209  
[www.shopsugarshack.com](http://www.shopsugarshack.com)

## DIETS DON'T WORK. MEETINGS DO.

Weight Watchers is not about deprivation.  
Our meetings teach you how to eat right and live healthy,  
so you can lose weight and keep it off.

### San Ramon Weight Watchers Has Moved To The Market Place August 22nd! Please Come Visit Us!

**Market Place Center**  
**167 Market Place, San Ramon, CA 94583**  
(Corner of Alcosta Blvd. & Bollinger Canyon Rd.  
between El Balazo & Subway restaurants)

**Meeting Schedule:**

**Sunday 9:30 am**

**Monday 10:00 am, 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm**

**Tuesday 10:30 am, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 6:30 pm**

**Thursday 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm, 5:15 pm**

**Friday 9:30 am**

**Saturday 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am**

**Check Out a Meeting for FREE.**  
Join if you like it. Simply pay the fees in effect  
and get the first week's Program materials.

1-800-379-5757


[WeightWatchers.com](http://WeightWatchers.com)

Weigh-in begins 30 minutes prior to meeting time.  
A Free meeting visit is available year-round. The Free meeting does not include Program materials. If you decide to join, you will get the first week's Program materials and pay the fees then in effect to join. Available in participating areas only.  
© 2008 Weight Watchers International, Inc., owner of the Weight Watchers registered trademark. All rights reserved.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
DISCOVER DANVILLE'S



Sesquicentennial  
BALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008  
BLACK TIE • COCKTAILS 6PM • DINNER 7PM



DINNER • NO HOST BAR • LIVE MUSIC • DANCING  
SILENT AUCTION • COMMEMORATIVE WINE GLASS

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT [www.discoverdanvilleca.com](http://www.discoverdanvilleca.com)  
OR CALL 925.339.8330  
TICKETS ARE LIMITED • \$125 PER PERSON

## Folk art on display

Danville artists invite everyone to see their 'Tinsel and Treasures'



The finished product. Both Moody's dolls and Wilcox's art draw on holiday themes for inspiration and utilize vintage items found at curio stores, garage sales and flea markets to lend the pieces an aura of antiquity and give each a unique appearance.

by Geoff Gillette

Fall brings thoughts of cooler weather, harvest moons and holiday gatherings. For Danville artists Iva Wilcox and Colleen Moody, those thoughts are fuel for inspiration as they create images of that season all year round.

Wilcox and Moody are folk artists, a niche of the art world that is not always clearly defined but one practiced passionately by its devotees.

Folk art reflects craft traditions and is practiced primarily by those who have not undergone formal artistic training, preferring instead to work with methods of their own devising.

Wilcox says folk art is a misunderstood art form.

"Folk art is often perceived as not very sophisticated," she said. "It's always been considered to not be fine art."

"I think we're considered somewhere between fine art and craft store crafts," Moody said.

"There is an element of craft to what we do, but we've honed our skills over the years to an art," Wilcox added.

Both women work in different media, Moody making ornate dolls with clay and cloth, Wilcox using watercolors and a wide variety of materials to create different intricate pieces of art.

"What makes us different is we use vintage finds," Moody said. "We're always looking to 'repurpose' things. And that makes each piece a one of a kind."

The pair goes to vintage stores, flea markets and garage sales looking for items to go into a current or future piece. One doll of Moody's features clothing made from an antique bridal veil. Another uses an old wooden box handed down from her

mother that became home to a beautiful doll set against a festive Halloween scene. Beads, buttons, cloth, lace all become a part of something new and amazing.

Both of these artists draw inspiration from the same thematic sources.

"We have a holiday passion," Moody said.

Both women utilize Halloween imagery in their work—witches, pumpkins and fortune tellers. Of the two, Wilcox is drawn more strongly to the Halloween theme.

"Halloween is magical and mysterious, a bit spooky and yet fun," she said.

"You get to dress up and be whatever you want, and indulge in all the sights, scents and tastes of fall. Who could ask for a better holiday?"

The pair first met online, selling their pieces in online auctions and stores. At the time Wilcox and her family lived in Memphis, while Moody and her family lived in Danville. But a fortuitous move brought Wilcox to Danville and she looked up her fellow folk artist.

They found they had a great deal in common, having both been career women who stayed home to raise families and found art as a means of expression and

later a source of income.

"We get to do what we love, and be home with our kids and have our own business," Moody said.

Both have had their fair share of success as well. Both have made numerous sales both online and at local stores as well as gaining attention in the media. Both have been featured in folk art magazines such as Somerset Studio and Art Doll Quarterly.

Wilcox said it was love of their art and a wish to share it with the community they live in that led them to begin work on an art show.

"I've been in shows where there were 40 people all in a huge room. Everyone was fighting to get the people to their display. I wanted to do something different. More intimate," she said.

Wilcox invited Moody and five other local folk artists to take part in the show, and Tinsel and Treasures was born.

"The Tinsel and Treasures show will give the community a chance to meet our artists and see some of today's folk art that is all the rage in national magazines," she said.

Tinsel and Treasures is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Danville Women's Club, 242 Linda Mesa. Wilcox said many shows of this sort charge an entry fee, but they will not be doing so.

"I want to create an environment for my friends who are artists to share what we do," she said.

"We feel what we do, every piece we create, is one of a kind and we need a setting to show off their uniqueness," Moody added.

Information on the upcoming show can be found at [www.tinselandtreaures.com](http://www.tinselandtreaures.com). ■



Iva Wilcox (foreground) works on the beginning of a new piece while fellow artist Colleen Moody sews an antique bridal veil as part of a dress for one of her doll creations. Both will displaying their art at the Tinsel and Treasures Art Show on Sept. 13 at the Danville Women's Club.

# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



## An Eagle on Mount Diablo

On a visit to the mountain in 1920, this enormous eagle was killed. Mount Diablo is home to the peregrine falcon and North America's largest spider, the tarantula. The mountain represents the northern limit of some plant species (e.g., Coulter pine) and the southern limit of others (e.g., Hooker's onion). Several plants are found only on the mountain, such as the Mount Diablo globe tulip, manzanita, sunflower and buckwheat. The man second from the left is Leo Norris of San Ramon.

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

# The Y Files



BY MARIA SHEN

## A senior nightmare: college apps

Ah, college. There's nothing like bringing up this topic among high school seniors during "College App Season." It's such a headache that it makes some of us want to jump off a cliff. But, not everyone feels this way; some students are very calm about the whole process. Of course, I've yet to meet one. Nevertheless, I'm sure they're out there ... somewhere.

Thanks to the Common Application, high school seniors everywhere can breathe a sigh of relief. One application for all private schools? Hell, yes. But, there's a catch. First of all, it's hardly for every school out there (though if we wish hard enough, maybe it'll come true for later generations) and, second of all, each independent school has its own supplement. By supplement, I mean one long essay and several short questions.

I've been told by the old and the wise (read: college freshmen) that writing the college essay is not the hard part. It's editing the thing. We have 500 words, sometimes 800 words, to describe our background, who we are, and what we set out to achieve. Never mind the fact that some people search their whole lives to find the meaning and method of his or her existence. What I, personally, feel is unfair is the word limit. I understand that, with so many applications, it's difficult for admissions officers to go through each person. American children have grown up being taught that each one of us is a "beautiful and unique snowflake." Colleges ask this: Tell us in two pages just what kind of snowflake you are; we'll be the judge of your beauty and uniqueness.

Employing college counselors has become a pricey trend. Parents shell out thousands of dollars so that their sons and daughters can have someone hold their hand through the college application.

I'm telling you—this is more nerve-wrecking than meeting St. Peter at heaven's gates. I mean, I can't help it. How can colleges distinguish between who is more worthy? Is it the guy who's insanely good at playing the piano, or the girl who can recite pi to the 64th decimal ... backwards?

Here's what I personally find amusing. On previous college applications and current ones, this question has made appearances: What do you do to rejuvenate yourself?

Well, now that I've gone through painful agony tearing my hair out, trying to answer this question, I think I'll go take a nap. Because, frankly, there's nothing more rejuvenating after fretting over college apps. Don't talk to me about going to a museum, or having a political discussion among friends. Sure, I like to do those things to relax—but who has the energy, really? College applications are draining.

The college application is not sup-

posed to be this stressful. It's supposed to be a simple process to tell colleges who you are. But, gradually, it has turned into "who's the best person I can be?" And, for some who employ college counselors, the question is, "who's the best person a paid professional can make me?"

Indeed, employing college counselors has become a pricey trend. Parents shell out thousands of dollars so that their sons and daughters can have someone hold their hand through the college application. Actually, it's more than that. It's gaining a competitive edge over their peers. Or, at least, it used to be able to get you a competitive edge.

A general teen phenomenon these days is getting the college counselor. Did I already mention that it's expensive? Because it is. The money figures are ridiculous—and for what? So someone can edit your essays and package you. It's like professional photoshop for students.

Frankly, I think our flaws are what make us beautiful and unique. Sure, it's corny, but—hey—I stick to what I learned in kindergarten. Mrs. K was right, just like she was right about the detriments of swallowing Elmer's glue—be who you are because everyone's a snowflake. And if colleges can't recognize that ... then ... well ...

I'll tell you how I feel once my rejection letters come rolling in.

—Maria Shen, reporting on *Generation Y*, is a senior at Monte Vista High School. 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).

## The Pet Vet says...

BY DR. FRANKLIN UTCHEN



Acupuncture for pets? You bet!

With our companion animals we use acupuncture successfully for a variety of problems. Although often sought for pain relief, acupuncture is known to have effects on all major physiological systems. The following are just a few examples of conditions we use acupuncture for in pets: pain, arthritis, intervertebral (spinal) disease, muscle spasms, epilepsy, auto-immune disorders, allergies, chronic infections, incontinence and behavioral disorders.

There are some conditions for which a single acupuncture treatment is all that is required. In most instances, however, there are multiple treatments spread over weeks or even months to reverse various chronic conditions.

So how do pets react to the acupuncture needles? During the acupuncture treatment itself, most animals exhibit little or no pain or discomfort. In fact, most of our patients will lie down during a treatment with their owners holding them, and take a nap. The treatment itself may last 10 seconds to 30 minutes, the average treatment being 20 minutes.

For thousands of years, acupuncture has been used to promote balance in the body's total energy system and ability to heal. In all animals there are precise locations on or near the surface of the body known as acupuncture points; these points, when stimulated, may produce changes in the body's internal organs and functions.

Traditionally, inserting a fine stainless steel, gold, or sterling silver needle into the point causes a specific desired effect. Veterinary

acupuncture utilizes both the ancient theories of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and the western observations of physiological response and correlation of effect, in the selection of acupuncture points to treat.

The ancient theories of TCM describe the body as having a network of energy channels, called meridians, which conduct flow

► Continued on page 20

## Danville Rehabilitation is proud to introduce Pinky Jones as our Director of Nursing

Pinky lives in the area with her husband and their two children. She loves traveling abroad and is an avid Oakland A's fan. Pinky joined our staff with over thirteen years of experience as a Registered Nurse. She is a bright and positive addition to our team. Family members love her hands on approach to their questions and concerns. She is committed to giving the best quality care and customer service. With her leadership and caring attitude, Danville Rehabilitation is excited for the opportunity to serve our community when needed.

*Danville's premier short term rehabilitation facility.*



**Danville**  
REHABILITATION

24 HR. SKILLED NURSING  
PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CARE  
& INNOVATIVE REHABILITATION SERVICES



**PINKY JONES**  
DIRECTOR OF NURSING

• Phone 925.837.4566 • Fax 925.837.4629  
[www.danvillerehab.com](http://www.danvillerehab.com)  
336 Diablo Rd. • Danville, CA 94526

## Pet Vet

► Continued from page 19

of Qi (pronounced “chee”)—the body’s sustaining energy force. Qi regulates bodily functions as it flows to and through all parts of the physical body. When Qi flows in a smooth harmonious manner, health is the result. The healthy flow of Qi through the meridian channels may be disrupted by any number of things, such as advanced age, chronic injury, sudden trauma, poor or inappropriate nutrition, inadequate exercise (or even overexertion) and stress.

Whenever Qi becomes disrupted, imbalance occurs and disease may result. But according to theories of TCM, the flow of Qi may be influenced by the stimulation of acupuncture points using needles. Acupuncture helps to reset the energy system “circuit board” by balancing the flow of Qi within the body.

So what does acupuncture actually do to the body physiologically?

Well, among other things, the use of acupuncture has been shown to provide generalized oxygenation and increased blood flow to specific areas of treatment. It also aids production of cortisone and other anti-inflammatory secretions, and can increase the internal production of endorphins, the body’s natural painkillers. Studies show that it can also stimulate immunity by increasing white blood cell count and antibody production.

Several theories have been used to explain the effects produced by the treatment of acupuncture, but none of these theories, standing alone, is able to explain the effects observed. At least with dogs and cats we know the effects are real and not a result of the mental expectation of improvement.

Acupuncture can be the only method of treatment or can be combined with other treatment modalities, such as conventional western medicine, chiropractic, and herbal or nutritional support.

There is a limit to how much acupuncture will help an animal. It may be that the disease or trauma has progressed beyond the point where acupuncture can arrest or reverse the damage, and all it can do is provide supportive care and symptomatic relief.

In order to practice veterinary acupuncture, a considerable amount of knowledge is required. In the United States, the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) is the visible leader and currently sets the standard for recognized training and certifications of American veterinary acupuncturists. At our office we have two veterinarians certified and treat hundreds of pets this way each year.

—Dr. Franklin Utchen, shown with his dog Tory, has been practicing veterinary medicine in the San Ramon Valley since 1989 and currently co-owns Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center & Urgent Care. For questions or comments e-mail [bishopranchvets@yahoo.com](mailto:bishopranchvets@yahoo.com).

**BOX YOUR WAY INTO A MILLION DOLLAR BODY!**

- Heavy Bags
- Jump Rope
- Regulation Boxing Ring
- Punching & Counter Punching
- Phenomenal Abs workout
- Mitt Work
- Kettlebells
- Shadow Boxing

**Get into the best shape of your life with our Executive Boxing Class.**

Boxing is not only fun, but as a workout is the best cardiovascular exercise. You will train with the intensity of a boxer, without the hurt.

**There is absolutely no other workout like this! No contact required.**

Offered on a monthly basis.  
Class size is limited, so sign-up now!



**Ultimate Fitness Academy**

**925-867-3488**  
3120-A Crow Canyon Road  
[UltimateFitnessAcademy.net](http://UltimateFitnessAcademy.net)

## Got Clutter?... Let Us Organize Your Closet.



Every project is custom built to your individual specifications and budget!



Home Office



Wine Storage



Garage

**FREE INSTALLATION -PLUS-**  
**\$309<sup>00</sup> OFF your purchase\***  
Not valid with any other offer. Expires 10/12/08 \*with minimum purchase.

**925-270-4097**  
Factory 655 Du Bois, San Rafael, CA  
Financing Available • Fast Installation Typically 14 days

closetfactory

[www.closetfactory.com](http://www.closetfactory.com)



## Below Market Rate Program

*Free presentations at Sunrise of Danville*

If your annual income is less than \$30,150, you may qualify to participate in Sunrise of Danville’s Below Market Rate Assisted Living program for seniors. Please join us at Sunrise of Danville to learn what documentation is used to verify eligibility. Take advantage of Sunrise of Danville’s low room rates starting at \$2,500 a month.\*

**Don’t miss this informational event – RSVP for you and a friend today!**

**Wednesday, September 17th**

**6:00-7:00pm**

**Saturday, September 20th**

**10:30-11:30am**

**RSVP to 925-831-1740**

\*Room rates on select suites, based on availability and subject to change at any time without notice. Other restrictions may apply.

**SUNRISE**  
ASSISTED LIVING®



RCFE # 075600281

**Sunrise of Danville 925-831-1740 1027 Diablo Road, Danville, CA 94526**

Assisted Living • Memory Care

For more information and a FREE online newsletter, visit [www.sunriseseniorliving.com](http://www.sunriseseniorliving.com)

# Marketplace

## Danville Weekly

### Accounting/ Bookkeeping

**NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS?**  
No job too big or too small!!!  
Over 23 years experience in all aspects of bookkeeping.  
**Call Linda 925.918.2233**

### Computers

Computer Help  
**Tri-Valley PC MEDIC**  
2007-08 Pleasanton Weekly "Best Computer Repair"  
2006 Diablo Magazine "Best of the East Bay"  
**Ken Cook**  
"I Make House Calls!"  
Tune-up/Repair/Upgrade/Training  
More info/rates: www.trivalleypcmedic.com  
M-F 8a-8p / Wknds & Hols 9a-6p  
Lic #011068 - PCC, PDA & BBB  
**Call 485-9040 or 989-7722**

### Decor & Drapery

**E VANS A**  
**DESIGNS**  
Let's Make Your Home Beautiful!  
• Decorating Advice • Paint Color  
• Drapery • Custom Bedding  
• Furnishings  
• Kitchen & Bath Design  
First One Hour Meeting FREE!  
Call Kathleen  
**(925) 872-9138**

### Pet Care/Grooming/Training

  
**Furry Friends**  
Pet Sitting Services  
Trained professional, daily visits, basic home care, reliable & caring.  
**Call Monika Harris 417-0424**  
Registered Veterinary Nurse  
www.furryfriends.tv

### General Contracting

**Complete Yard Maintenance**  
Tree Service, Clean-Up & Aeration  
**\$25 per visit on select homes**  
Call Martin  
**(925) 768-4528**  
For more information  
completeyardmaintenance.com

### Cleaning Services

  
**ISABEL'S HOUSECLEANING**  
RESIDENTIAL IS OUR SPECIALTY  
Weekly, Monthly, Bi-Monthly  
Move-ins, Move-outs  
Professional Service Since 1980  
**Call Isabel**  
(925) 846-9603 | (925) 519-2660 CELL

### Painting/ Wallpaper

  
We specialize in refinishing Kitchen Cabinets, Custom Finish Restoration & Re-Painting Interior & Exterior  
**(925) 642-8432 • (510) 886-4043**  
Daniel Aguilar, owner • State Lic #820022

### Remodeling/ Additions

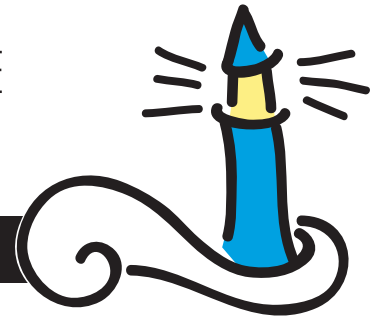
  
**HEIER** (925) 989.3809  
Construction CA LIC#837402  
**Additions/Remodeling  
Plumbing/Electrical**  
30+ year Tri-Valley resident  
www.HeierConstruction.com

# fogster.com THE TRI-VALLEY'S FREE CLASSIFIEDS WEB SITE

Fogster.com offers FREE\* postings online and the opportunity for your ad to appear in print to more than 80,000 readers. You can log on to fogster.com 24/7, and your online ad starts immediately.

TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO **FOGSTER.COM**

\*Some ads require payment. Home Services and Mind & Body ads require contact with the customer service representative at 925-600-0840, Ext. 12.



  
**BULLETIN BOARD**

### 115 Announcements

**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)

Best of the Men Singles Dance  
Diablo Valley Quilters

**Looking for an angel donor**  
Lifelong Danville resident has returned to school for a second degree seeks financial assistance. Contact saszew@yahoo.com.

### 130 Classes & Instruction



**Danville Boot Camp for Women**  
Discover YOUR Inner Athlete! Outdoor Exercise Class Women of all fitness levels. 1hr/day, 3,4,5 day/wk. 457-4587  
ContraCostaBootCamp.com

### 133 Music Lessons

**HARP LESSONS FOR ALL AGES**  
Try Something New!  
**Call Bennetta Heaton**  
(925) 820-1169  
- located in Danville -

**Piano Lessons**  
call Courtney - 925.600.1573

**Piano lessons for all ages**  
Experienced piano teacher (MTAC member) accepts new students. All levels welcomed. Call Marzena Jones, M.A. 925-209-8338

### 140 Lost & Found

Found Am Shorthair

  
**FOR SALE**

### 201 Autos/Trucks/ Parts

**Autos Wanted**  
Receive \$1000 Grocery Coupons, Your Choice. Noah's Arc, No Kill Animal Shelters. Advanced Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS Tax Deduction. Non-Runners. 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)

Toyota 2004 Camry, XLE - \$13,995

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

**OLD MOTORCYCLES WANTED!**  
1960-70-80s All Makes & Models  
Running or not, lost title ok, cash waiting. halcyonmotors@yahoo.com (415)999-8226

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

East Bay, Auction - Estate Clean Out, Open Dates

Livermore, 980 Cromwell St, May 24 7-12

Pleasanton, 2107 Goldcrest Circle, September 6, 8 AM to 1 PM

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

PEZ candy dispensers - \$75.  
Royal Doulton figurine - \$50

### 220 Computers/ Electronics

**Get A New Computer**  
Brand Name laptops & desktops  
Bad or NO Credit - No Problem  
Smallest weekly payments available.  
It's yours NOW - Call 800-803-8819 (AAN CAN)

### 230 Freebies

Retirement nest egg calculator Excel template, can be customized, Danville local, retirecalc@yahoo.com

### 235 Wanted to Buy

WANTED- CASTLEWOOD GOLF MEMBERSH

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10

**4-year-new Washer and Dryer**  
GE 14 cycles/3 steps 2004 energy saver washer + Frigidaire 2004 heavy duty dryer 3 dry cycle.Call 925-462-6231(near 580). Also, a twin bed with Sealy mattress. Ask \$60.

Sewing Machine,Viking Designer 2 - \$1,950

### 245 Miscellaneous

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

**Steel Buildings**  
"Beat Next Substantial Increase!"  
20x30x12 \$4,900. 25x40x14 \$7,900. 30x50x14 \$9,085. 35x56x16 \$13,200. 40x60x16 \$16,900. 50x140x19 \$47,600. 60x100x18 \$37,000. Others. Since 1980.1-800-372-8053. (Cal-SCAN)

Antique Stove - \$40.00

Canon 30D - MINT - Ext. Warranty - \$575

COMPOSTING RED WORMS - \$25.00

Dog Igloo - \$45.00

Jazzy Power Chair XL - \$1,750

Non-stick stove top grill - \$20

The training potty - \$8

### 250 Musical Instruments

Yamaha electronic keyboard - \$145

  
**KID STUFF**

### 330 Child Care Offered

Blue Sky Day Care  
Danville Child Care

### 340 Child Care Wanted

Wanted a " On-Call Babysitter  
Wanted-After School Pick-Up

### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

**College Admissions Advising**  
Expert guidance & help with apps 925-998-9408, eva@PrepPoint.com

**Experienced & popular Math Tutor**  
Offers excellent Math tutoring. Visit www.navirtus.com for more details or call Preeti(BE- Hons,MBA-Gold Medalist) at 4085064611.

**Math & Chemistry Tutoring**  
Retired scientist now enjoying tutoring students of all ages in math, algebra, trigonometry, geometry, science & chemistry  
CALL DOUG @ 925-858-5842

No phone number in the ad?  
GO TO  
**fogster.com**  
for contact information

  
**EMPLOYMENT**

### 500 Help Wanted

**Financial Advisor**  
Opportunity Awaits at our Open House

Do you have a series 7,63 and CA Insurance License?  
Ever wondered what it's like to work in a Credit Union with thousands of members who need financial assistance?

1st United Services CU and CUSO Financial Services L.P. have joined forces in the East Bay area to bring a full array of financial solutions to their members.

Join us for an informative look at this lucrative opportunity Tuesday September 9th at 6:30pm if you are looking to take your career to the next level.

For location and to reserve a seat call Sarah Carlberg 858-530-4420. See our website www.cusonet.com to learn more about our exciting career opportunities.

### 550 Business Opportunities

**Absolutely All Cash!**  
Want to earn \$1,000 in a day from a local vending route? Call today 800-920-7901 (AAN CAN)

**Absolutely Recession Proof!**  
Do You Earn \$800 in a Day? Your Own Local Vending Route Includes 30 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (Cal-SCAN)

**?? Got Cash ??**  
Generate \$1000 to \$5000 Weekly No Selling, No Boss, Not MLM www.youcan-havecashmail.com

No phone number in the ad?  
GO TO  
**fogster.com**  
for contact information



**560 Employment Information**

**\$600 Weekly Potential \$\$\$**  
Helping the Government PT. No Experience. No Selling. Call: 1-888-213-5225 Ad Code L-5. VOID in Maryland and South Dakota. (AAN CAN)

**\*Awesome Career\***  
Government Postal Jobs! \$17.80 to \$59.00/hour Entry Level. No Experience Required/NOW HIRING! Green Card O.K. Call 1-866-477-4954 ext. 93 Closed Sundays. (AAN CAN)

**Awesome 1st Job!**  
Over 18? Join our travelling sales team! Great earning potential. 2 weeks paid training. Lodging, transportation provided. Return guaranteed. Call 1-877-646-5050. (Cal-SCAN)

**Data Entry Processors Needed**  
Earn \$3,500-\$5,000 Weekly Working from Home! Guaranteed Paychecks! No Experience Necessary! Positions Available Today! Register Online Now! <http://www.DataPositions.com> (AAN CAN)

**Driver**  
Don't Just Start Your Career, Start It Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 2 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! [www.JoinCRST.com](http://www.JoinCRST.com) 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver - \$5K Sign On Bonus**  
for Experienced Teams: Dry Van & Temp Control available. O/Os & CDL-A Grads welcome. Call Covenant 1-866-684-2519 EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver - CDL Training**  
\$0 down, financing by Central Refrigerated. Company Drivers earn average of \$40k/year. Owner Operators average \$60k/year 1-800-587-0029 x4779. [www.CentralDrivingJobs.net](http://www.CentralDrivingJobs.net) (Cal-SCAN)

**Drivers: Call ASAP!**  
\$\$ Sign-On Bonus. 35-41 cpm. Earn over \$1000 weekly. Excellent Benefits. Need CDL-A and 3 months recent OTR. 1-877-258-8782. [www.MeltonTruck.com](http://www.MeltonTruck.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Earn Extra Income**  
assembling CD cases from Home. CALL OUR LIVE OPERATORS NOW! 1-800-405-7619 ext. 150 <http://www.easywork-greatpay.com> (AAN CAN)

**Electrical Technicians**  
Entry level positions available. Fully paid training. Must be high school graduate, college credit helpful (not required). 17-34 years old, willing to relocate. Call 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

**Event Personnel**  
NCiM is looking for EVENT PERSONNEL to hand out samples in local grocery stores. \$12+/hour. Weekends call 800-799-6246 ext.168 or visit [www.ncim.com](http://www.ncim.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Get Crane Trained**  
Crane/Heavy Equipment Training. National Certification Prep. Placement Assistance. Financial Assistance. Northern California College of Construction. [www.Heavy4.com](http://www.Heavy4.com) Use Code "NCPA1" 1-866-302-7462. (Cal-SCAN)

**High School Diploma**  
Fast, Affordable & Accredited FREE Brochure. Call NOW! 1-888-583-2101 <http://www.continentallacademy.com> (AAN CAN)

**Immediate Openings**  
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS. CDL A team & solo owner operators. \$1.00 empty. Up to \$2.45 loaded. OTR & regional positions. Ammo experience a plus. Sign-on bonus negotiable. 1-800-835-9471. (Cal-SCAN)

**Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!**  
California Army National Guard. No Experience. Will pay to train. High School Jr/ Sr & Grads/ Non-Grads/GED. May qualify for \$20,000 BONUS. [1800GoGuard.com/careers](http://1800GoGuard.com/careers) (Cal-SCAN)

**Navy Reserve**  
Part time jobs. The Navy Reserve has part-time jobs for one weekend each month + two weeks a year. Ages 18-39, w/wo prior military service. Call 1-800-345-NAVY. (Cal-SCAN)

**Post Office Now Hiring!**  
Average pay \$20/hr or \$57K/yr includes Federal Benefits and OT. Placed by adSource, not USPS who hires. 1-866-616-7019. (AAN CAN)

**Teams - Look No Further**  
than Heartland! We have great miles, great pay, 1100 mile length of haul, Western freight, drop and hook, no touch, hometime and more. Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953. [www.HeartlandExpress.com](http://www.HeartlandExpress.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Truck Drivers**  
CDL training. Up to \$20,000 bonus. Accelerate your career as a soldier. Drive out terrorism by keeping the Army National Guard supplied. 1-800-GO-GUARD.com/truck (Cal-SCAN)

**Want Home Weekly?**  
With More Pay? \$.41/mile for company drivers! Home weekends and great benefits! Run our Western region! Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953. [www.HeartlandExpress.com](http://www.HeartlandExpress.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

**601 Accounting/Bookkeeping**

**Job Offer**  
An established and expanding International company is seeking an Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable specialists for an immediate start. The ideal candidates will have strong communication skills and be extremely detail oriented. Forward your resume

**REAL ESTATE/CONST ACCT**  
Also Projections, Loan Packages & Software Installs. Big 6 Exp. Call (925)425-9221

**604 Adult Care Offered**  
**ELDERLY CAREGIVER**  
Live In / Out. Light housekeeping, meal preparation, errands & personal care. **Call Kristi (925) 216-8718**

**609 Catering/Event Planning**

**All Events Hosting**  
Need someone with a winning personality and great stage presence? I will be your announcer/emcee at your event: charity function, auction, talent show, wedding, school function, etc., any event that requires an announcer or presenter. I will travel anywhere in the Bay Area and my rates are very reasonable.

**All Events Hosting**  
"A Professional, high quality experience."  
[tom.baxley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tom.baxley@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone (650) 888-8979

**645 Office/Home Business Services**

**A Best-Kept Secret!**  
Classified Advertising! A 25-word ad costs \$550, is placed in 240 community newspapers and reaches over 6 million Californians. Call for more information (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019 [www.Cal-SCAN.com](http://www.Cal-SCAN.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertise Effectively!**  
Reach over 3 million Californians in 140 community newspapers. Cost \$1,550 for a 3.75"x2" display ad. Super value! Call (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019. [www.Cal-SCAN.com](http://www.Cal-SCAN.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertise Your Business**  
in 111 alternative newspapers like this one. Over 6 million circulation every week for \$1200. No adult ads. Call Stephanie at 202-289-8484. (AAN CAN)

**News Release**  
Looking for a cost efficient way to get out a NEWS RELEASE? The California Press Release Service is the only service with 500 current daily, weekly and college newspaper contacts in California. Questions call (916) 288-6010. [www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com](http://www.CaliforniaPressReleaseService.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**695 Tours & Travel**  
**10 days-Ireland/Mtn View Chamber**  
\$2,779, by Oct. 1. [chamberm.org](http://chamberm.org)

**Professional Driver Services**  
Prompt, experienced driver to transport individuals or groups short/long distances, corporate or leisure travel to airports, proms, weddings, wine tours. Excellent references. Town Car. 925.395.8181

**HOME SERVICES**

**703 Architecture/Design**  
**DANVILLE CONCRETE**  
Stamped Concrete, Patio, Sidewalk, Driveway, Pool Deck, Retaining Wall. Any concrete finishing (925) 736-8042

**715 Cleaning Services**  
**ANDREA'S CLEANING**  
Professional, Reliable, Affordable Ref's Avail/13Yrs. Exp. 925-339-2461

**E.C. CLEANING SERVICE**  
Res/Com - 10 Yrs Local Exp Move In/Out, Weekly, Bi-weekly Licensed - Insured - Bonded 925-339-6411 or 640-3845

**726 Decor & Drapery**  
**CHANGING SPACES**  
by Jill Denton  
Interior Redesign, Staging, Design & Color Consultations. [www.jilldenton.com](http://www.jilldenton.com) (925) 998-7747

**751 General Contracting**  
**MAHDevelopment.com**  
Remodeling / Room Additions / Custom Homes / Outdoor Kitchens & BBQ's - Calif Licensed General Contractor (Lic #913049). 20 years experience. Member BBB, NARI & NKBA. Free estimates! Call 925-580-1673

**757 Handyman/Repairs**  
**AAA COMPLETE HOME REPAIRS**  
Electrical- Security Lighting- Carpentry Drywall Texturing and Repairs- Insulating. **Jon 510-733-5582**

**771 Painting/Wallpaper**  
**#1 JOE'S PAINTING & HANDYMAN**  
Free Est / Reasonable Prices No Job Too Small! 925-200-7333 lic# 624542

**SCOTT'S PAINTING**  
Residential - Interior/Exterior Competitive Rates Over 20yrs in Pleasanton Licensed ~ Bonded ~ Insured **Call Scott 925-918-1874**

**790 Roofing**  
**ROOF MAN**  
LICENSE # 345800  
Roof Maintenance and Repair. Roof and Gutter Cleaning. 510-886-5353—Office 510-886-3509—Cell

**REAL ESTATE**

**801 Apartments/Condos/Studios**  
**Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA**  
Great Hill views, deck, quiet, friendly. Lg BR w/ walk-in closet, fireplace, W/D in unit, new fridge, new paint, carpet. Lg kit pantry, A/C. Extra storage. 1 car gar + parking, amenities. 580/680 junction, BART, Shopping, Downtown Available October 1st—No Pets.

**805 Homes for Rent**  
Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$2400.00 M

**809 Shared Housing/Rooms**

Danville, 1 BR/1 BA - \$800/month  
Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$500.00  
Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$600.00

**Seek Room for Exchange Plus Minimal Rent**  
64 yrs young UCLA Alumni Lady seeks room in peaceful home w/piano space. Will exchange for flexible parttime services Cultural/Business Acumen & helpful cooking and minimal rent. 925-352-6547

**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**

**Call Ella (650) 279-4007, 3 BR/2 BA**  
Remdled Mountain View Location  
Dublin, 3 BR/2 BA - \$520,000  
Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$769000  
Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$715,000

**840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares**  
**Five Star Resort**  
\$6900, Studio 650-210-9054

**850 Acreage/Lots/Storage**

**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)

**Colorado Mountain Ranch**  
Priced to Sell Newly Released. 35 acres - \$39,900. Majestic lake & Mountain views, adjacent to national forest for camping or hiking, close to conveniences. EZ terms. 1-866-353-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

**Foreclosed Home Auction**  
All Northern California. 1000+ Homes Must be Sold! Free Catalog 800-470-9314. [USHomeAuction.com](http://USHomeAuction.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Lakefront Opportunity**  
Nevada's 3rd Largest Lake. Approx. 2 hrs. South of Carson City. 1 ac Dockable \$149,900. 1 ac Lake Access \$49,900. 38,000 ac Walker Lake, very rare. Home sites on paved road with city water. Magnificent views, very limited supply. New to market. [www.NVLR.com](http://www.NVLR.com) Call 1-877-542-6628. (Cal-SCAN)

**Montana**  
Montana's Best Ever Elk and Deer Hunters Land Deal. Book a trip- we'll prove it. Buy a lot, the trip's on us! 160-600AC Tracts Starting at \$700/AC. 877-229-7840. [www.WesternSkiesLand.com](http://www.WesternSkiesLand.com) (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 and year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

**New Mobile/Manufactured Homes**  
with Warranty. Buy at Factory for \$19,900. Photos and Floor plans online [www.FactorySelectHomes.com](http://www.FactorySelectHomes.com) or 1-800-620-3762 for color brochure. (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)

**Washington/Idaho Border**  
Almost Heaven. 6 ac just \$49,900. Calendar cover beauty in Palouse Country. Rare acreage in an area where land is rarely available. Rolling hills, river access, near town & golf, close to WSU. Has it all including great price, must see. EZ terms. Call WALR 1-866-836-9152. (Cal-SCAN)

**855 Real Estate Services**

**Foreclosed Home Auction**  
All Northern California. 1000+ Homes Must be Sold! Free Catalog 800-470-9314. [USHomeAuction.com](http://USHomeAuction.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Roommates.com**  
All area. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com>. (AAN CAN)

**PET OF THE WEEK**

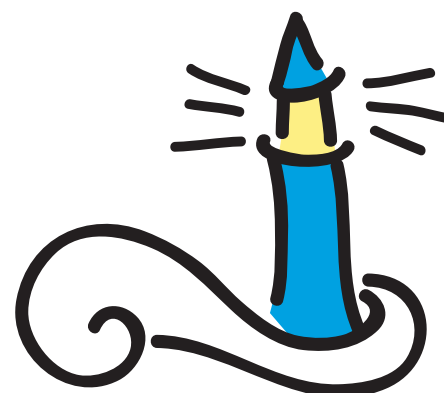


CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

**One smart puppy**

Meet Quasi, a 6-month-old, neutered male German Shepherd puppy who gets along just fine on three legs. Quasi was found dragging his right forelimb and severe nerve damage made amputation necessary to restore the dog to a happy, healthy condition. This beautiful dog is friendly, playful, and as active as any puppy. Quasi loves to be around people and he even gives kisses. Quasi excels in his obedience classes and he knows several basic commands. Quasi plays nicely with other dogs but he's still learning that cats must be tolerated! SPCA staff recommends Quasi for a home with prior dog experience who will continue his obedience training and socialization. Because Quasi doesn't like to share his food or bones, Quasi is not recommended for families with small children under 10 years old. Visit Quasi at the East Bay SPCA - Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670. See more photos of Quasi at [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org). Isn't he a handsome boy?

**Danville WEEKLY**  
**Is Business Down? Need new customers?**  
Our loyal readers want to know about your business.  
For Market Place Ads Contact Art (925) 600-0840 x12 [agordillo@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:agordillo@pleasantonweekly.com)



## Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville High End Market Review

This month we will examine data for each of our important markets including Alamo, Blackhawk and Danville. This review will be limited to single family homes sold between Jan. 1 and Aug. 20 for both 2007 and 2008 and include only home sales of \$2 million and above—"The High End Market."

A total of 70 homes are currently listed as active, pending or sold in Alamo as from Aug. 20, 2008. Fifty-six are listed as active; three are pending; and 11 are listed as sold. Fewer Alamo High End homes sold in the same time period (Jan. 1-Aug. 20) in 2008 than sold in 2007. Eleven homes sold in 2008 compared to 29 in 2007 for about a 62 percent decrease in unit sales. Remarkably, average sales price shows a slight decline in the same year-on-year comparison, dropping from \$2,797,618 in '07 to \$2,755,353 in '08. This represents only a 1.5 percent price decline. Price paid per square foot followed suit, dropping from \$558 in '07 to \$521 in this time period, reflecting a more marked decline of 6.6 percent. The current unsold inventory of 56 homes carries an average price tag of \$3,338,765 and an average square foot price of \$607 or 16.5 percent more than current sold properties.

A total of 27 homes are currently listed as active, pending or sold in Blackhawk. Unit sales of homes in Blackhawk also declined from 12 in 2007 to six homes in 2008 for a 50 percent decrease in unit sales. Like Alamo, average purchase price in Blackhawk declined from \$2,429,041 to \$2,201,666 in 2008 reflecting a 9 percent decline in average purchase price. These declines are also reflected in price paid per square foot. On average, Blackhawk High End Homes sold at \$475 per square foot in '07 dropping to \$440 per square foot in Jan. 1-Aug. 20, 2008, for a 7.4 percent decline. The current unsold inventory in Blackhawk carries an average list price of \$4,061,578 and an average per square foot price of \$625 or about 41 percent more than the current sold price. This represents a very significant disconnect in seller expectations from the market reality and will ultimately

### Homes Today

BY JOE COMBS



lead to a slowing of sales if not corrected to reflect current market pricing.

A total of 54 homes are currently listed as active, pending or sold in the Town of Danville. Paralleling both Alamo and Blackhawk in unit sales decline, Danville

fell from 13 High End sales in 2007 to six sold in the same time period in 2008 for a 54 percent drop in unit sales. Interestingly enough, Danville's High End Market defied the trend of decline on an average price comparison. Average price paid in 2007 was \$2,618,653 compared to \$2,675,000 in 2008, for about a 2 percent increase. Price paid per square foot also increased from '07 to '08 from \$520 per square foot in 2007 to \$531 per square foot in 2008, matching the average price increase of 2 percent. The current unsold inventory of High End Homes in Danville carries a list price of \$2,910,369 and an average square foot price of \$651 or about 22.6 percent more than the price paid for homes sold thus far in 2008.

Among these three local market areas, 103 properties are listed as active and 30 have either sold or are currently pending sale. Through August of this year it would appear, roughly, that 3.75 High End Homes are selling per month leaving the market awash with 27.5 months worth of unsold inventory of High End Homes. It will be interesting to observe what changes occur in inventory, price and rate of sales in the coming months. Please keep reading our column and we will find out together.

To receive a copy of our High End Market Review including the raw data, e-mail [joecombs@thecombsteam.com](mailto:joecombs@thecombsteam.com) with "High End Market Review" in the subject line. For a free comparative market analysis to determine your home's market value, please give us a call.

*Data presented in this column is based in whole or in part on data supplied by the Contra Costa and Alameda Multiple Listing Service and other quoted sources.*

*Joe and Nancy Combs, Remax and the MLS Service do not guarantee the accuracy of this information.*

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2008

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 6	Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$540,000	Lowest sale reported: \$585,000	Lowest sale reported: \$275,000
Highest sale reported: \$990,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,179,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,675,000
Average sales reported: \$765,000	Average sales reported: \$931,500	Average sales reported: \$739,632

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2008

### Alamo

- 156 Camille Avenue R.** Fairbanks to Camille Limited for \$990,000
- 112 Sugarloaf Court** Alamo Gardens to E. Gurevich for \$540,000

### Danville

- 18 Adobe Court** Bank of New York to P. Chayanam for \$585,000
- 861 El Quanito Drive D. & R.** Rettig to R. & K. Fuhrman for \$1,179,000
- 206 Monterosso Court** Lennar Homes to M. & S. Depledge for \$1,127,000
- 355 Paraiso Drive P. & C.** Carr to B. & S. Smith for \$943,000
- 103 Pulido Road M. & V.** Rossi to N. Rossi for \$870,000
- 3848 Welshland Street** Shapell Industries to J. & L. Carolan for \$885,000

### Walnut Creek

- 1277 Avenida Sevilla #2A** Osborn Trust to D. Wong for \$430,000
- 1352 Chesterton Way** Woodham Trust to J. & J. Mathleson for \$1,050,000
- 3314 Citrus Avenue** Haskins Trust to R. & S. Squiller for \$717,000
- 976 Dee Court** Bank of New York to D. Superfin for \$650,000
- 2125 Hadden Road** Gerber Trust to T. & M. Melgaard for \$826,000
- 1001 Homestead Avenue P. & C.** Miller to C. Geremia for \$799,000
- 349 Marshall Drive B.** Phillips to L. Heisler for \$770,000
- 116 Molly Way P.** Plumb to N. & I. Go for \$750,000
- 1249 Mt. View Boulevard** T. King to A. & K. Miller for \$1,675,000
- 151 Norlyn Drive L.** Abelardo to J. & A. Chang for \$510,000
- 48 Oakdene Court F. & W.** Erazo to M. Gallegos for \$1,100,000
- 32 Picardy Court** Washington Mutual Bank to B. & W. McCollum for \$574,000
- 1501 Ptarmigan Drive #4A** Caldwell Trust to F. Whipple for \$275,000
- 3258 Ptarmigan Drive #4A** Fisher Trust to Welch Trust for \$500,000
- 263 Shady Lane K. & S.** Davenport to C. Lee for \$563,000
- 750 Silver Oaks Place** Wells Fargo Bank to Carstens Trust for \$750,000
- 1860 Tice Creek Drive #1227** Richey Trust to Weinmann Trust for \$580,000
- 1921 Via Appia** Agnew Trust to E. & C. Moloney for \$579,000
- 1941 Whitecliff Way** Lemr Trust to C. Gasparovic for \$955,000

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### DANVILLE

#### 3 Bedrooms

**122 Summerside Cir. \$525,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 895-2694

#### 5 Bedrooms

**16 Casolyn Ranch Ct. \$1,545,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 858-4198

### LIVERMORE

#### 3 Bedrooms

**590 South N St. \$575,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams-Lydonna Walker 997-8267

#### 4 Bedrooms

**93 Raccolio Wy. \$1,119,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 397-4173

### PLEASANTON

#### 3 Bedrooms

**5768 Belleza Dr. \$575,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 600-0006

#### 4 Bedrooms

**7341 Joshua Cir. \$725,000**  
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel-Joyce Jones 398-6706

**3902 Kral Pl. \$849,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5787

**748 St. John Cir. \$939,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 519-3534

#### 6 Bedrooms

**2052 West Lagoon Rd. \$1,350,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 998-7990

### SAN RAMON

#### 1 Bedrooms

**470 Bollinger Canyon Ln. # 183 \$159,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 984-4910

#### 1 Bedrooms

**805 Watson Canyon Ct. \$290,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 984-4910

16 Casolyn Ranch Court, Danville

## INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY IN HIDDEN HILLS ESTATES— PRICED WELL BELOW LAST TWO SALES!



OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4

With almost 3,300 square feet of living space and a lot with nearly 23,000 square feet, this 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home has something for everyone. The private backyard includes a pool with waterfall and spa, an outdoor entertainment area with built-in-barbecue and refrigerator plus a large grassy area and play structure.

The bright kitchen has granite slab counters, an island for prep work, a gas cooktop, and abundant cabinetry. The family room is adjacent to the kitchen and opens to the outside dining area offering the perfect open floor plan and setting for entertaining.

The formal dining room offers plenty of room and ambiance for intimate dining or a formal dinner party. It has French doors with a view of the flowering hillside and opens to both the living room and kitchen.

There's a large master bedroom with retreat area and double-sided fireplace. One of the bedrooms is conveniently located downstairs and has an adjoining full bath.

We know Hidden Hills Estates and we've listed the two most recent sales. Call us today and let us show you how we can help you make this house your home. Directions to Open House - Tassajara - Lawrence - Culet Ranch Rd. - Casolyn Ranch Court. **Listed for sale at \$1,545,000.**

### Andrea & Earl Rozran REALTORS®

Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR®)  
Fine Homes Specialists™  
(925) 858-4198 or (925) 876-6575

[www.prurealty.com/TheRozrans](http://www.prurealty.com/TheRozrans)



Prudential  
California Realty



# REAL ESTATE



**40 Hamilton Court,  
Alamo-\$1,550,000**

Elegant Bryan Ranch Traditional one story home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Updated and remodeled with custom amenities throughout! 2 custom Masonry fireplaces, high ceilings, and a 3 car garage. Large trellised patio, 10 yr. old sparkling pebble tech solar pool and elevated spa. Close to all levels of schools! Entertainer's delight in and out! End of Stone Valley Rd. East.

**Barbara Malan**

(925) 831-3329

www.BarbaraMalan.com

Coldwell Banker



*"Buyers and sellers I am at your service."*



**368 Merrilee Place,  
Danville-\$1,500,000**

Situated on what may be one of the highest view points east of 680. Custom one story with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths on a three-quarter acre lot with incredible views! Formal rooms, 2 fireplaces, cathedral ceilings in living and family rooms. Sparkling pool and spa. Small private cul de sac with no through traffic. Close to downtown and freeway access.

**Barbara Malan**

(925) 831-3329

www.BarbaraMalan.com

Coldwell Banker



*"Buyers and sellers I am at your service."*



**318 SUN STREAM  
CT., DANVILLE**

**OFFERED AT**

**\$1,194,000**

Enjoy the privacy & serenity of this marvelous creek-side residence located at the end of the cul-de-sac! This custom built home has approximately 3018+/-sf with 5bd/3.5ba, plus a loft nestled on 1/3 of an acre. Two suites downstairs including master with a Jacuzzi tub and dual sinks, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, loft area, formal living and dining room, coffered ceilings, recess lighting, beautiful gourmet kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. See Virtual Tour at www.318SunStream.com



**Joanne Liotta, Realtor® QSC, E-Pro**

Alain Pinel Realtors, Blackhawk Office

Cell - 925-785-1586

"Exceeding your Expectations"



**5353 OLD SCHOOL RD.,  
DANVILLE**

Custom home w/4 bdrms, 3 updated bthrms, formal living rm. w/ fireplace & pellet stove insert, formal dining rm, updated kitchen w/ all the amenities & granite counter tops. Huge great rm. w/fireplace. Guest quarters w/fireplace & private entry. 3-car garage plus detached game rm. & pool area. **HORSE STABLE** w/3 stalls all w/pipe paddocks, tack & storage room. add'l garages/out buildings. Pipe fenced all weather-riding arena. Property has good well. Use your imagination....this property has many uses! For add'l info & photos check out www.JerryVaughn.com or Call (925)200-3030

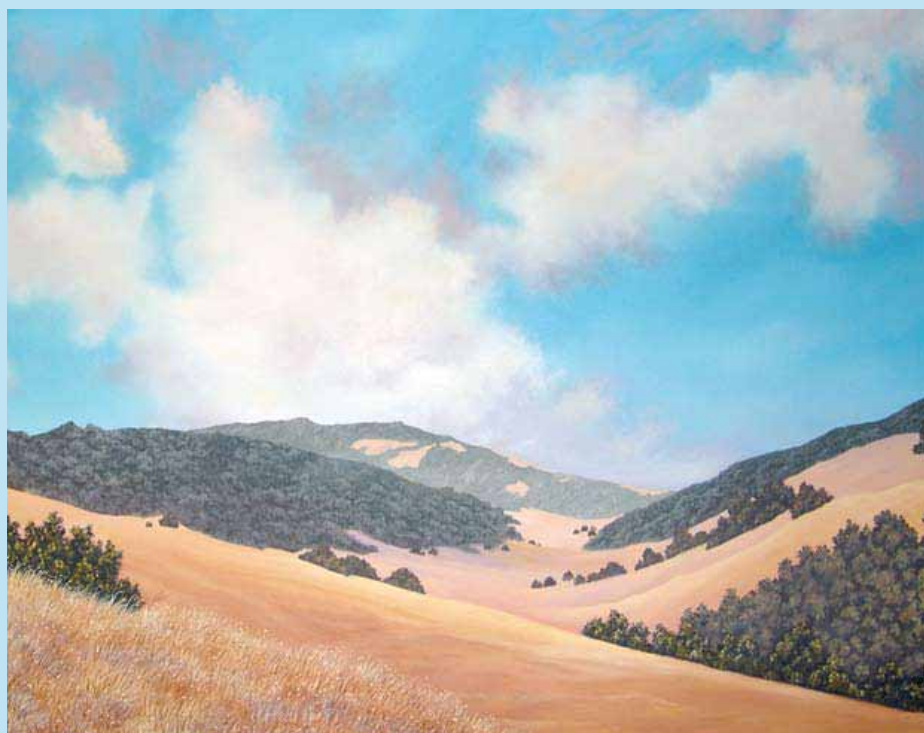


**Jerry Vaughn**

Coldwell Banker

925.831.3353

www.JerryVaughn.com



**Pat Cox**  
963-6404

**2591 Alamo Country Circle, Alamo**

Largest model in THE TRAILS with 5BR + bonus room + office & 4.5BA. Approximately 1/2 acre lot with sport court, lawn and a variety of trees. Sunlit and open floorplan with hardwood floors and plush carpeting. Offered at \$1,918,000

**The Cox Team**

www.thecoxteam.com

