

## Big rig crashes from Danville off-ramp

Firefighters cut cab to remove driver, who suffered minor injuries > **page 5**

Vol. IV, Number 21 • September 26, 2008

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

### Coming together

People of many faiths will share celebrations

> **page 16**

# Danville

## W E E K L Y

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

### Next step for Vets Hall

Town forming steering committee to oversee planning

> **page 5**

# A voice in their future

Voters in Alamo to decide on incorporation

**PAGE 12**





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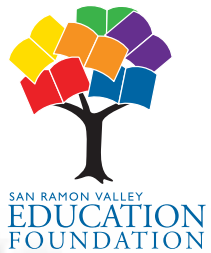
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**Lynn White**  
*caretaker*



I shop often and I shop the sales. I look in the fliers for all the discounts. Today it was asparagus.

**Karen Adams**  
*registered nurse*



I look for items on sale. Especially the buy one, get one free items. We get a 10 percent discount on Safeway brands. I watch the ads for best buys. If something is way over my budget, I'll pass on it. We have to live within our means these days.

**Pat Taylor**  
*Safeway Deli employee*



I usually won't buy anything unless it is on sale. I will buy the generic brand instead of the name brand. If it's on sale, I will stock up. I am on food stamps and it has to last me all month.

**Jessica Sumner**  
*barista*



I am not saving! If you need it, you have to buy it. I work to budget but it always costs more once you get here.

**Genny Johnston**  
*retired homemaker*

COMPILED BY PATTY BRIGGS

### ABOUT THE COVER

Voters in Alamo will be going to the polls to determine whether it should become a town, following a marathon meeting of the Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) last Thursday. Incorporation supporters—(l-r) Vicki Koc, Sheila More and Vishwas More, and Mike Gibson—react as the decision is made. Photo by Geoff Gillette. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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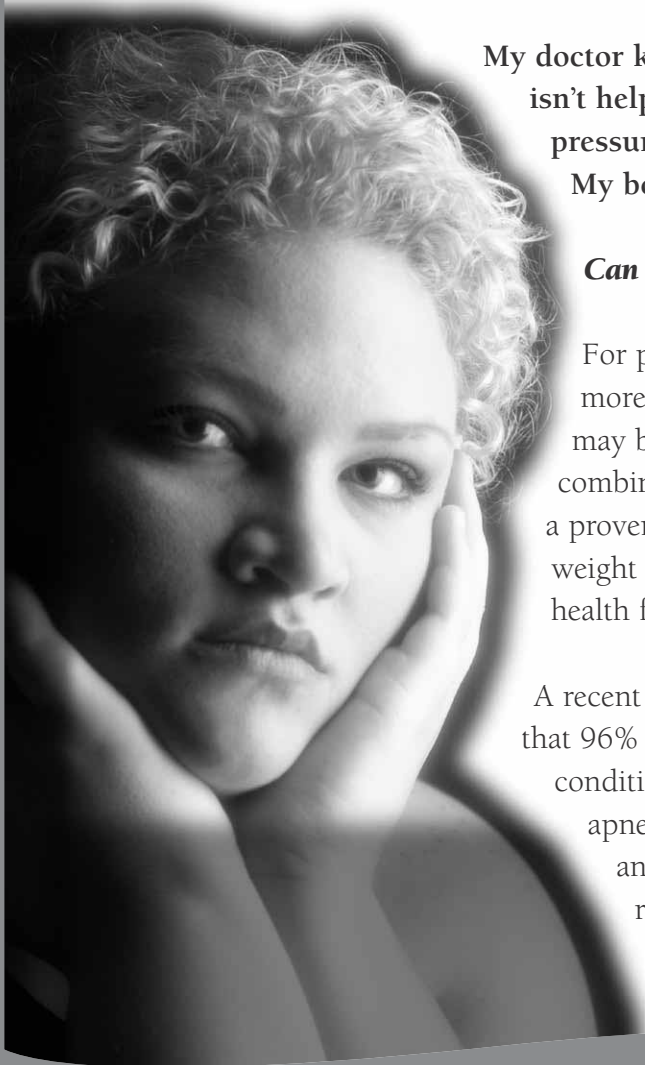
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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ You can't hate someone as easily when you know their name. ”

—The Rev. Steve Harms explaining the importance of interfaith celebrations. See story, page 16.

## Friday Morning with the Mayor

Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will be hosting her monthly Morning with the Mayor on Friday, Oct. 3. This is an informal opportunity for residents to share their thoughts about town issues, ask questions, and receive a brief update about what is happening in Danville.

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

## Danville supports Measure WW

The Town of Danville is putting its support behind the East Bay Regional Park District's upcoming ballot measure. At their Sept. 16 meeting, Town Council members voted to fully endorse the EBRPD's Measure WW.

Measure WW will continue the tax established 20 years ago for the purpose of acquiring land and creating parks and open space in the East Bay. During the discussion, Councilman Mike Shimansky asked several questions about where the estimated \$500 million would go and how it would be apportioned in Danville.

Councilman Newell Arnerich gave his wholehearted endorsement to the ballot measure. "In Danville we have 40 percent open space. That open space is there because of our partnership with the EBRPD. That takes money. We can't just go to someone and take their property for open space without giving them something. If somebody has a better idea I'd like to hear it."

With little further discussion, the council unanimously supported endorsement of Measure WW.

## Free flu shots for adults 50 and older

San Ramon Regional Medical Center will provide flu shots free of charge to adults ages 50 and older from 8 a.m.-noon, Friday, Oct. 17, while supplies last. The vaccines will be given in the South Conference Room in the South Building, located at 7777 Norris Canyon Road in San Ramon. Parking is available near the South Conference Room.

No reservations are available. For special services for disabled adults, and driving directions, call 275-8230.

## Thrift stores to feature pink ribbons

All five Hospice Thrift Shoppes (Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek, Concord and Antioch) will celebrate Pink Ribbon Days throughout the entire month of October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, by offering products and information to raise awareness about the disease.

"We want to acknowledge the many women who are dealing with breast cancer, as well as send a message of hope that early detection and research will bring about a cure," said Vicki Smith, manager of Anna's Program, a specialized part of Hospice of the East Bay that offers practical and emotional support to women with recurrent breast cancer.

The Concord store, Anna's Attic Thrift Shoppe, 5350 Clayton Road, will sponsor a special Pink Ribbon Day on Friday, Oct. 24.

"Each customer will be given a complimentary pink ribbon, the symbol of breast cancer awareness," said Smith. "There will be refreshments for all, free raffles, door prizes and educational material on breast cancer. Best of all, there will be big discounts on all items throughout the store."

Call Hospice of the East Bay, 887-5675.

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## Town forms Vets Hall steering committee

*Final design should be ready in mid-2009*

by Geoff Gillette

Movement continues on the proposed revamping of the downtown Veterans Memorial Building. At their Sept. 17 meeting, members of the Danville Town Council approved the formation of a steering committee to oversee planning and architectural design for the Vets Hall.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo introduced the item at the council meeting and said that it came about as follow-up to discussions held at an earlier session.

"We talked about creating a steering committee. It would be responsible for making design recommendations to the council, and the council will ultimately have to balance the size and scope of the project," Calabrigo said.

The Steering Committee would be an ad hoc body, working with the architectural consultant, according to the staff report. Calabrigo added that the committee's mandate will be to meet the needs of both the

town's veteran population and the seniors who presently use the existing facility, and to stay within whatever budget is established by the town.

The committee will consist of two members each from the veterans, Town Council, Senior Subcommittee of the Danville Parks and Leisure Services Commission, Heritage Resource Commission and Planning Commission.

Danville Mayor Candace Andersen said plans call for each of the five groups to come up with their members. Once the committee is formed, they will try to set up a meeting in late October.

Calabrigo said the town has not chosen an architectural consultant as of yet. Once that is done they will be ready to hit the ground running.

"I've set for myself the goal to be done with the preliminary design process no later than June of next year," he said. "That will give us the second half of 2009 for the specs and final design. Then in 2010 they can go out to bid on the project." ■



Firefighters work with the Jaws of Life to cut a hole in the cab of the overturned big rig and extricate the 32-year-old victim of Monday's crash.

## Big rig overturns on off-ramp

*Firefighters use Jaws of Life to extricate driver trapped in cab*

by Geoff Gillette

A big rig from ETS Trucking headed south on I-680 failed to maneuver the tight cloverleaf turnoff onto eastbound Sycamore Valley Road and overturned behind an office building in Danville around 3 p.m. Monday, injuring the driver slightly.

CHP Officer Steve Creel said the 2000 Peterbilt, driven by 32-year-old Robert Jones of Union City, smashed through the grass and trees, crossed the southbound I-680 on-ramp and then left the road on the west side. The truck rolled onto its side and slid into a couple of large pine trees in the parking lot of the office building at 790 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

"The driver was screaming when I got there, and since it was right next to the fire station the firemen were on the scene in minutes," said Ed Boersma who works in the building. "The driver stopped screaming within 10 minutes of the crash."

Several fire crews wet down the area due to a fuel leak from the crashed truck. Creel said around 15 gallons of diesel had to be cleaned up at the site. Paramedics immediately began trying to rescue Jones, who was pinned in the wreckage.

A CalStar rescue helicopter arrived on the scene within a half hour and stood vigil on the closed on-ramp while firefighters used the Jaws of Life to extricate Jones



Firefighters and paramedics carry truck driver Robert Jones to the CalStar helicopter to head for John Muir Medical Center. He was treated for lacerations and bruising and released.

from the smashed cab.

The position of the truck as well as the condition of the driver, reportedly pinned from the waist down, slowed rescue efforts. After two hours, fire crews were able to pull Jones out through a hole cut into the back of the cab. After being placed on a backboard, the still conscious man was carried by firefighters to the waiting helicopter.

CalStar transported Jones to John Muir Medical Center, where he was treated and released for lacerations and bruising.

The ramp from eastbound Sycamore Valley Road to south-

bound I-680 remained closed for just over three hours while workers cleaned up the fuel spill. The truck was carrying around 50,000 pounds of dirt, concrete and ground up asphalt for use on a construction site. Some spilled on the road but the majority spread across the shoulder where the vehicle rolled.

Creel said there were preliminary reports that Jones may have been making an emergency exit from the roadway due to mechanical problems but pending an interview and further investigation they are unable to determine a cause for the accident. ■



Lt. Cmdr. Jim Molinari of the Navy Operations Support Center in Alameda presents former Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Krebs, 86, with medals he earned during World War II while his wife Jennie looks on. The medals were stolen shortly after he received them after the war.

## Stolen WWII medals replaced—50 years later

*Danville Vet gets awards after discussing theft with congressman*

by Geoff Gillette

It wasn't the lawn of the White House, but you couldn't tell that by the pride shining in the eyes of the health care providers at the Danville Rehabilitation Center. Or in the bearing of 86-year-old William Krebs, disdaining a wheelchair to stand to receive service medals for his time spent in the Navy during World War II.

Navy officials came from Alameda to the rehabilitation center Sept. 17 to deliver new medals to replace those the former Petty Officer 1st Class received at the end of three years in the military.

In 1946, out of the military and married a year, Krebs was storing his Navy gear in his father-in-law's garage in San Francisco, including

► Continued on page 8





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# D.A. pledges stiff penalties for repeat drunken drivers

*Murder conviction was sought in 2003 DUI incident*

by Geoff Gillette

For many people, getting pulled over, going through a field sobriety test and getting arrested for driving under the influence would be enough. In cases like that, the law does its job.

But what about people who get DUI after DUI until the unthinkable happens and someone ends up hospitalized, or worse?

Contra Costa County District Attorney Robert Kochly said those offenders can expect to see some long jail time.

During an address at the Sept. 10 meeting of the Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley, Kochly talked about a tragic Danville case where his office sought homicide convictions in a fatal drunken driving accident.

Kochly said his office had always taken a hard line stance on the issue of drunken driving, but one incident in particular drove home the point that such drivers need to be taken off the roads.

"Oct. 26th, 2003, brought the issue of drunk driving home. That's the day that Troy and Alana Pack were run over by a drunk driver who had convictions and no license." He added, "I know I will not forget that date, or the year and a half that followed."

In that case, the Pack children, ages 10 and 7, were riding a bike and scooter along Camino Tassajara past the intersection of Crow Canyon Road when a car driven by 48-year-old Jimena Barreto left the road and came up onto the sidewalk where it struck the two children, fatally injuring both.

After the accident, Barreto tried



Contra Costa County District Attorney Robert Kochly speaks to the Exchange Club about drunken driving convictions.

to flee the scene, but the children's mother took the keys out of the car to prevent her escape. Kochly said Barreto showed absolutely no remorse over what she had just done. "The defendant was remarkable in that all she was worried about was herself."

Before she could be arrested, Barreto hitched a ride with a passing motorist and fled the scene. She was arrested two days later in San Jose but the damage was already done. "When she fled she deprived us of the most crucial evidence ... her blood alcohol level," Kochly explained.

In most cases of a DUI-related fatality, the District Attorney's Office would seek charges of vehicular manslaughter. But in the Barreto case, Kochly said stiffer charges needed to be brought.

"When you have a person who's been convicted of DUI, they go through alcohol rehabilitation classes. Those tell you what the risks are."

Kochly explained that under the law if Barreto knew that driving under the influence could have deadly consequences, she acted with malice aforethought by choosing to drink and get in the car.

Despite the hard evidence of the blood alcohol level, Kochly was able to mount an effective case as dozens of people came forward to testify to Barreto's drinking prior to the accident and drivers who saw her weaving just before the car left the road.

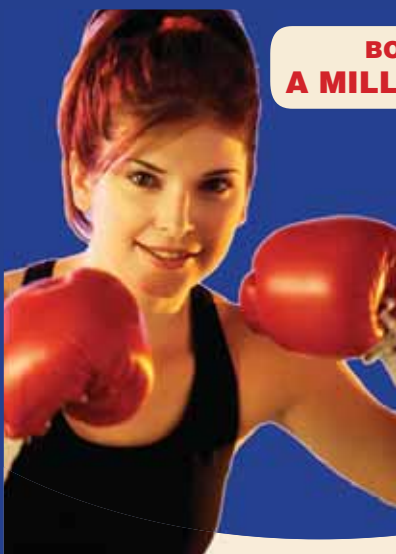
A jury found Barreto guilty in May 2005. A month later she was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison. One appeal of the conviction has been denied. Another appeal is currently in the legal system.

Kochly said a case like Barreto's is exactly the kind where prosecutors should seek higher penalties. "Drinking and driving after they've already had arrests and rehabilitation classes goes to their state of mind, their conscious knowledge that what they're doing is dangerous and people are likely to be killed if they do it again."

The District Attorney said that in fatality cases where the defendant has multiple DUI arrests, they will push for a homicide conviction as fervently as they did in the Barreto case.

Currently, there are no cases on the docket in Contra Costa County where a homicide conviction is being sought. ■

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## The Gift of Confidence

## New leadership class begins

The Leadership San Ramon Valley program for the class of 2009 officially began this month. The 10-month course is designed to provide current and emerging community leaders with the information and skills necessary to appreciate the resources, understand the issues, manage the challenges, and lead in the rapidly evolving business, political, educational, cultural and social environment of the San Ramon Valley.

The 2009 class has the following members: Natalie Alvarez, Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau; Andrea Bancroft, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District; Dall Barley, San Ramon Historic Foundation; Elaine Betts, Go Far Consulting; Gina Channell-Allen, the Danville Weekly; Jim Coleman, Danville Sycamore

► Continued on page 8





DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## The winner is ...

Elaine Cortez Schroth, chairwoman of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce, calls out the winners of bountiful baskets at last week's Business Showcase, Food Sample and Wine Event. She is assisted by Kim Lindeberg, vice chairwoman of promotions for the Chamber. The annual event takes place at the Blackhawk Museum and is a chance for Chamber members to showcase their products and services.

## Danville seeks poet laureate

*Town also begins recruitment effort for committee members*

by Geoff Gillette

Whether you have a lyrical bent or an interest in how development proceeds in Danville, there is a place for you.

Members of the Danville Town Council voted at their Sept. 16 meeting to create the position of poet laureate for the town. The description says the poet will "serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the literary arts, particularly poetry, reading poetry for civic events and dedications."

Applicants should be 18 or older; a town resident; a published author or willing to publish poetry during their term. The appointment is for two years. Applications are due Oct. 9.

Several other committees are also seeking new members:

- Planning Commission
- Heritage Resource Commission
- Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees
- Contra Contra Costa Transit Authority Accessible Services Committee

Town Clerk Marie Sunseri said

the Planning Commission has five positions open, Heritage Resource Commission has three, and the Mosquito and Vector Control Board needs one Danville representative. Applications for these positions are all due at Town Hall by Oct. 23.

The Central Costa Contra Transit Authority's Accessible Services Committee needs one Danville representative. That post will remain open until filled.

Applications can be found on the town's Web Site, [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us), or by going to the town offices at 510 La Gonda Way. ■

## CPC to give hope for the holidays

*Gift World will benefit those in need while helping shoppers find the perfect present*

by Geoff Gillette

Members of the Community Presbyterian Church in Danville are putting on an event that they hope will tackle the lofty goal of helping people around the world while at the same time handle the sometimes frustrating chore of holiday gift giving.

CPC Missions Committee member Lynda Kelly said the church will be hosting Gift World on Oct. 4-5, an event where residents can purchase aid packages for people around the world and donate them in the name of friends or family members.

Kelly said she is modeling her program on one done by First Presbyterian in Berkeley.

"It's a gift in two ways—a gift to family as well as a gift to a person in need locally and abroad," she explained.

During Gift World, CPC will have a big white tent set up. Residents will be able to come and see the types of missions the gifts will fund. They are both foreign and domestic, ranging from feeding the needy in Oakland or Richmond to providing warm clothes for children in Mongolia who lost everything in a fire.



COURTESY CPC

One of the gifts available for purchase from Gift World would provide food and supplies to help the homeless in Richmond. Other gifts would provide medical treatment and supplies for homeless in Oakland.

The gifts range from \$5 to \$40 and are tax deductible. Kelly said people will come to the event and purchase their gifts. The donation goes to the mission or organization overseeing the work, and the buyer is given a Gift World holiday card with an insert detailing the donation made and how their

gift will be used.

"Everyone has pretty much everything they need here in Danville, but this is something that will make a difference. Meaningful gifts," Kelly said.

The event will run from 3-7 p.m. Saturday; and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday. ■

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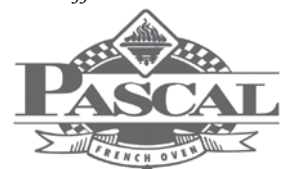
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## TAKE US ALONG



## Yosemite adventure

Anabelle Wilkinson (left) and Baylee Burke, then 7, pause a moment with their Danville Weekly last summer while on vacation in the historic Ahwahnee Hotel with their parents, Tony and Cyndi Wilkinson, and Dan Burke and Holly Hoffar.



## In the shadow of presidents

Nellie and Seumis Higgins of Danville visit Mount Rushmore in South Dakota last October—with their Weekly, of course.

## Medals

► Continued from page 5

the medals he received after being discharged.

"They were in my seabag," he recalled. And someone stole them. My uniforms, my Navy blankets, someone took them."

Flash forward 62 years to Jan. 19 of this year. Krebs and his wife Jennie learned that U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney would be attending a veterans' workshop to be held at the Vets Hall in Danville. "We got a chance to talk to him (McNerney) and told him about the stolen medals," Jennie said.

McNerney directed staff members to look into the process of replacing the medals. Krebs' service records were examined and it was determined that he was due several medals and citations.

Lt. Cmdr. Jim Molinari of the Navy Operations Support Center in Alameda came to Danville to present the awards personally.

"With events like this it's truly an honor to recognize our predeces-

sors," he said.

Several staff members and patients crowded into a fitness gym at the rehabilitation facility to witness the ceremony. Krebs stood proudly as he was awarded several medals including:

- Army of Occupation Medal
- WWII Victory Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- Combat Action Medal

In addition, he was given a combat ribbon and two lapel pins for Honorable Discharge and Honorable Service.

During his term of service, Krebs was a machinist on various landing craft. He said it was his job to make sure the landing craft ran smoothly and got where they needed to go. He said seeing those medals after more than half a century was amazing.

"It's great," he said. "A great surprise. I really didn't expect this."

Krebs and his wife both expressed gratitude to McNerney for expediting the replacement of the medals. A McNerney spokesman attended the ceremony for the congressman who is in Washington. ■

## Leadership

► Continued from page 6

Rotary; Jim Crocker, Aspire Investments/Danville Rotary; Will Doerlich, Windermere East Bay Realty; Jeff Fippin, ENGEO Inc.; Raj Gumber, Dublin San Ramon Services District; Lani Ha, Town of Danville; Karen Horton, San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs.

Also, Mike Howell, MAH Developments Inc.; Gary Jones, New Life Church; Steve Kay, Allied Financial Services/Danville Rotary; Natalie Kurtz, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District; Donna Maxwell, Center for Human Development; Linda Mc Colgan, New United Motor Manufacturing Inc.; Karen McHenry-Smith, city of San Ramon; Mike Picard, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District; Jeri Stegman, Gracer Medical Group; Julie Vargas, city of San Ramon; Steve Wilcox, Summit Financial Group/Danville Sycamore Rotary; and Mark Williams, Town of Danville.

The program, in its 18th year, has day-long seminars every month. A different topic is highlighted at each of the 10 sessions, at which community leaders share their insights and class members interact through projects and fieldwork.

For information about Leadership San Ramon Valley, call 355-2554, e-mail lsr@pacbell.net, or visit [www.leadershipsrv.org](http://www.leadershipsrv.org). ■



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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Families need a rallying cry

Is your family life frantic? You can get it organized using the same principles as you would with a company, says Patrick Lencioni, author, business consultant—and the father of four boys under the age of 10. He travels the country giving inspirational speeches on getting organized but did this one for free to benefit the San Ramon Valley YMCA.

“Virtually every CEO says his family is more important than his business,” Lencioni told the crowd at the San Ramon Marriott on Monday morning. But although they carefully evaluate every plan for their company, they don’t at home. “At work, they have planning sessions. At home most of us just wing it,” Lencioni noted.

He said he never found parenting books to be helpful, admitting, “I get five pages into it, say, ‘I suck,’ and put it down.” So he wrote his own book—“The Three Big Questions for a Frantic Family”—to teach moms and dads how to apply business principles to their homes. “We take the family for granted,” he said.

Families, like businesses, need the basics. For families this is good schools, a safe neighborhood, financial stability, Internet access. And, like companies, families need to be healthy, with self-esteem, common values, spending time together, parents present. And they need to have a sense of purpose.

The first big question is: What makes your family unique? We all have to figure this out for ourselves and it cannot be based on what we like about another family. What are your family’s core values? Not the values of honesty, integrity, work-life balance, etc.—those are a minimum standard of behavior. But what is truly important to your individual family? What makes it different? What Lencioni liked about his wife Laura when he met her in college was that she stood up for what she believed in, and she admired this quality in him. It is now one of their family’s values. Another is creativity, so when his son wanted to quit an activity and take up the guitar, they knew their priorities and said, “Go for it.”

The second question is: What is your top priority right now? Lencioni tells parents to define their rallying cry—a single, agreed-upon top priority for the family during the next two to six months. Then define objectives to accomplish this priority.

The third question is how to talk about these questions. Lencioni and his wife have a date night each Friday to discuss their objectives, and they meet with their sons each Sunday afternoon and together they

score how the family is succeeding toward its goal. He reported that his sons love their family meetings, which only last 10 minutes or so.

**The first big question is: What makes your family unique? We all have to figure this out for ourselves and it cannot be based on what we like about another family.**

Lencioni, who lives in Alamo, was a funny, dynamic speaker. His presentation made me want to call my grown kids to return home so our family of four could define our uniqueness and settle on a rallying cry. As it is, I’ll have to discuss it with my husband. It will be interesting to see what each of us thinks defines us as a family. Right now it’s football. And of course my husband’s gourmet meals. (And a sense of humor.)

Lencioni is founder of the Table Group, a specialized management consulting firm and has written seven books. My favorite of his titles is “Death by Meeting,” although he spoke to the breakfast

crowd on the “Three Signs of a Miserable Job.”

First of all, many employees are unhappy because they are anonymous, he said, with employers not knowing or caring about them as people.

Also, employees have to understand the relevance of their job. He mimicked listless servers at a food counter at an airport who barely have the energy to move their lips to ask for an order. Their manager needs to impart to them the importance of their job: They can cheer up people who are already in a stressful situation—flying—and send them onto the airplane feeling upbeat.

And third, employees are unhappy if they can’t assess how they’re doing. “All people need to know how they did—give them some way to measure,” he said. That’s why salespeople are happy—they can see their results quite clearly.

About 200 people were at the breakfast, said Kathy Chiverton, executive director of the San Ramon Valley YMCA. She also reported that construction began this week on the bridge to the 12-acre property on the Alamo/Danville border where the new multigenerational community center will be built. “It’s not a ‘bridge to nowhere,’” she quipped. “It’s an important bridge.”

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli  
can be e-mailed at  
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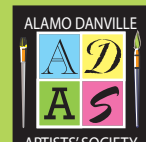
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## EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### The process continues

The long-awaited decision has come down from LAFCO: Alamo residents will vote on incorporation.

At its meeting in Alamo last week, members of the Local Agency Formation Commission kept everyone on the edge of their seats as they discussed the financial feasibility study, how services would be provided to the proposed city, and whether or not Alamo could be self-sustaining—and hence whether the issue should be put to a vote.

At one point some LAFCO members wanted more time to look at some financial figures. But they were told by the LAFCO staff that they had only a week to make a decision if they wanted incorporation on the ballot in March. It seemed impossible to reschedule a meeting in such a timely fashion so public member Martin McNair changed his vote to the 4-1 vote the issue needed. LAFCO consists of members of the public, elected officials of cities and the county, and special district members.

Now candidates have to step forward to campaign for the city council that would run Alamo if its residents vote to incorporate. This part of incorporation is always tricky because council members will be elected whether or not they end up with a town to govern after the probable March 3 election.

It has been a 17-month process thus far. Signatures had to be collected asking LAFCO for a feasibility study, plus \$200,000 had to be raised to pay for the study. The Alamo Community Foundation was begun for the purpose of raising the money as well as educating residents about the issue.

The next six months should prove exciting as we watch campaigns for and against the incorporation of Alamo, as well as the candidates for council. And after March 3? We will either have a new city in the San Ramon Valley, or we will have laid the issue to rest—at least for another few years.

Council members will be elected whether or not they end up with a town to govern after the probable March 3 election.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Candidate views

Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago, I read on the protectmarriage.com Web site that Mayor Candace Andersen endorsed Proposition 8. Her stance is not surprising since she also supported Prop 22. I hadn't planned to write a letter to the editor about this issue until I saw a letter in the Danville Weekly titled, "Keep council incumbents." Andersen is joined in her support of Prop 8 with former State Sen. Bill Morrow who sponsored SCA 1, which sought to repeal ALL domestic partner laws, leaving many families without any legal protections or recognition. Does Andersen advocate such views as well?

Most troubling is a statement that appears on the Web site where she offers her endorsement of Prop 8. The protectmarriage.com Web site states, "While death, divorce, or other circumstances may prevent the ideal, the best situation for a child is to be raised by a married mother and father." I think my children would beg to differ. Just as heterosexual parents, my partner and I worry about education, instilling a work ethic in our children, and making sure they strive to reach their full potential. Although we don't exemplify the ideal family according to most Prop 8 supporters, I sacrificed a full time career to stay home and put family first. How many of the Prop 8 supporters can say the same?

Andersen's apparent belief that her family structure is superior to mine is dangerous, elitist thinking by an elected politician. Please consider carefully when you are deciding whether every incumbent on the Danville council should be brought back for another term.

Kenny Woolley, Dublin

### More government for Alamo?

Dear Editor:

Tax promoters want more government in Alamo. Not for the residents, who won't benefit, but for the aspiring politicians as a springboard to higher offices.

Consider how the neighboring Danville "profited" by incorpora-

tion:

1. No political campaign signs are allowed on public property. (A few years ago some former town officials on their own time took a chainsaw and destroyed a sign standing on private property reflecting, in my opinion, the town's attitude. The court slapped them on the wrist slightly.)
2. Street repaving leaves a lot to be desired, whatever little is done is substandard;
3. Increased taxes for parks. These are maintained at an exorbitant cost and unnecessary perfection;
4. Promoting and pushing every conceivable unnecessary bond measure particularly those of the school district—for buildings only, not for better academic achievement;
5. Purchasing an old private clinic as city offices;
6. Pushing all kinds of rationing, carbon taxes, watering restrictions and anything that can make your life more uncomfortable.

Some residents of Alamo will oppose this new expansion of government—as in the famed story of Alphonse Daudet about the little goat that fought the wolf all night only to be devoured in the morning—the wolf on our doorstep will get them in the end.

If only our economy would grow as well as the government.

Vote NO on incorporation.

Vlado Bevc, Danville

## ONLINE READER POLL

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

### Should Alamo incorporate?

Results from last week:

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

A huge gamble: 6.62%

Brilliant: 19.85%

I'll have to learn more: 5.15%

✓ Just strange: 47.79%

Terrible: 19.85%

Total votes: 136

## 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.

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# 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, Sept. 14

- Fireworks disturbance on Fountain Springs Circle/Ridgeland Circle at 12:34 a.m.
- Grand theft on 600 block of Morninghome Rd. at 9:17 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop on 2600 block of Camino Tassajara at 1:43 a.m.
- Petty theft on 200 block of Arecy Ct. at 2:16 a.m.

### Monday, Sept. 15

- Vehicle traffic stop at Hartz Ave./ Railroad Ave. at 1:57 a.m.
- Abandoned vehicle on 1300 block of Fountain Springs Circle at 9:23 a.m.
- Vandalism on 3100 block of Fostoria

- Wy. at 11:09 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on 3100 block of Fostoria Wy. at 1:17 p.m.
- Accident with property damage on 400 block of Front St. at 1:36 p.m.
- Reckless driving on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 5:05 p.m.
- Drug violation on 9500 block of Crow Canyon Rd. at 6:26 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 7:56 p.m.
- Party disturbance on 100 block of Rainbow Circle at 9:24 p.m.

### Tuesday, Sept. 16

- Service to citizen on Camino Ramon Place/Silverwood Ct. at 12:49 a.m.
- Loitering disturbance on 100 block of Hartz Ave. at 3:24 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 200 block of El

- Sobrante Dr. at 4:10 p.m.
- Harassment disturbance on 500 block of Danville Blvd. at 5:15 p.m.
- Music disturbance on 600 block of Shelby Ct. at 10:40 p.m.

### Wednesday, Sept. 17

- Reckless driving on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 7:31 a.m.
- Fraudulent document forgery on 100 block of Bordeaux Ct. at 11:18 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on Railroad Ave./San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:48 p.m.
- Battery on 200 block of Fieldcrest Ct. at 4:48 p.m.

### Thursday, Sept. 18

- Vehicle traffic stop on Camino Ramon/Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:18 a.m.

- Prowler seen on 600 block of Brookside Dr. at 2:53 a.m.
- Battery on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 8:25 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 600 block of Dunhill Dr. at 10:11 a.m.
- Public nuisance on 2600 block of Camino Tassajara at 11:43 a.m.
- Petty theft on 500 block of San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:30 p.m.
- Music disturbance on 400 block of Highland Dr. at 8:02 p.m.

### Friday, Sept. 19

- False identification to purchase alcohol on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 12:23 a.m.
- Parking violation on 500 block of El Capitan Dr. at 8:17 a.m.
- Hit-and-run misdemeanor on Hartz Wy./San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:12 p.m.
- Auto burglary on 400 block of Alisal

Ct. at 1:46 p.m.

- Vehicle accident with property damage on El Capitan/Saint Regis Dr. at 6:11 p.m.
- Object thrown at vehicle on El Capitan/Greenbrook Dr. at 10 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 20

- Vandalism on 300 block of Oldham Ct. at 2:08 a.m.
- Fraudulent document forgery on 500 block of El Capitan Dr. at 12:33 p.m.
- Residential burglary on 100 block of La Questa Dr. at 5:56 p.m.
- Party disturbance on 400 block of Sycamore Circle at 8:11 p.m.
- Party disturbance on 100 block of Great Northern Pl. at 9:47 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Josephine Mary 'Josie' Luciani

Josephine Mary "Josie" Luciani, a Danville resident, died Sept. 3 at the age of 72.

She was born Jan. 7, 1936, in Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada, and attended Notre Dame High School in Welland, Ontario. She excelled in track and field and took great pride on being a catcher on her school team. She lost her father at a very early age and was partially raised by her loving Grandma Battista who taught her Italian.

She met the love of her life, Frank D. "Fritz" Luciani, while still a teenager and they were married in 1955. They spent their early married life in Welland, where Fritz was employed in the steel industry. In 1966, he was transferred to Montreal. After three cold winters in Quebec, she thought it would be a great idea for the whole family to move to a warmer climate, namely California, where they arrived in July 1972. They lived in Lafayette for 25 years, raising four sons, and finally settled in Danville, where they joined St. Isidore Catholic Church, the Italian Catholic Federation and the Dublin Senior Center.

She always volunteered her baking skills for the numerous fundraisers of the federation, where she met some of her dearest friends. At the Dublin Senior Center, she joined the Trekkers Club. She and Fritz also liked traveling to numerous sights in both Canada and the United States. In 1960, to help celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, they traveled to Castropignano, Italy, to discover their roots. Their last big trip was in June 2007 to Banff and Lake Louise in Alberta.

She suffered from cancer for the last five years of her life. She is survived by her husband Fritz; sons Patrick of Concord; Christopher (Linda) of Cleveland, Ohio; Kerry (Robin) of Spokane; and Jay of Diego Garcia; eight grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. A funeral Mass to celebrate Josie's life will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27, at

St. Isidore Catholic Church, 440 La Gonda Way in Danville. A reception will be held immediately afterward across the street. Donations may be sent to the Regional Center for the East Bay, 2151 Salvio St., Suite #365, Concord 94520.

### Shirley A. Watson

Shirley A. Watson, a former resident of Danville, died Aug. 16 in Placerville at the age of 82.

She was born in Weed and graduated from Alhambra High School in Martinez. In 1945 she married Marv Watson and moved to Danville where they lived for 29 years and raised their six children. They relocated to Sonoma for 29 years, where she worked at the Sonoma Valley Unified School District for 15 years, before retiring to Camino in 2003 to be closer to her family.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Marv Watson; sons Mike Watson of Auburn, Kirk Watson of Clayton, and Jeff Watson of San Ramon; daughters-in-law Karen Watson and Gail Watson; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters and brothers-in-law Colleen and Buck Wilson, and Sheila and Jerrell Gilreath, and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bill and Sylvia Watson as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Services were held Aug. 25 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association.

### James Michael Newton

James Michael Newton, a resident of Diablo, died Aug. 23 at the age of 63.

He was born June 23, 1947. He touched the lives of many people in his 20 years as a search and rescue pilot with the Air National Guard.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn Newton; sisters Penny Newton-Tibbetts, Phyllis Newton-Carpenter, Patricia Newton and Paula Newton

Molgaard; two grandchildren; and two stepchildren. He was the beloved son of Lorna Adams and Richard Newton and beloved stepson of Barnard Adams. A Memorial Mass was celebrated Aug. 28 at St. Isidore's Church in Danville. Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 1900 Powell St. Emeryville 94608.

### Basil R. Nunes

Basil R. Nunes, a former resident of Danville, died Aug. 23 at his home in Pine Grove at the age of 87.

He was born Feb. 28, 1921, to Brazil and Adriana (Vierra) Nunes in Tassajara Valley. He married his wife, Dorothy Carlson, in 1949 in Oakland and the newlyweds made their home in Danville for 35 years. He was a self-taught engineer and for 50 years was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers. He worked for Rhodes and Jamieson for 35 years setting up concrete plants and managing its operations, retiring in 1982. He also farmed tomatoes and ran a welding shop out of his barn where he made and repaired trailers and other ranching equipment. Ranchers would come from all over to have him make cattle brands. In the 1970s they built a retirement home in Pine Grove where they moved after his retirement. He enjoyed motorcycles, snowmobiling, hunting and salmon fishing.

He is survived by his great-niece, Judy Badger of Martinez; niece Shirley Stanley of Morada; nephew Larry Gonsalves of Turlock; and sister Irene Gonsalves of Turlock. He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Dorothy Nunes, in 1994; brothers, Frank Nunes, John Nunes and Joseph Nunes; and sister, Mary Nunes. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for him Aug. 29 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Pleasant Hill. Interment is at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette. Contributions may be made to the Lymphoma Research Foundation, 8800 Venice Blvd., Suite 207, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

## BIRTHS

### Ava Amory Gutierrez

Ava Amory Gutierrez was born at 8:01 a.m., Sunday, July 27, to Amory and Martin Gutierrez at Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek, weighing 2 pounds 15 ounces and 14-3/4 inches long. Ava's grandparents are Perry and Rhonda Foreman of Concord; and Alfred and Hilda Gutierrez of Danville. Mother Amory Gutierrez is the



office manager of the Danville Weekly. Ava was able to go home from NICU on Wednesday, Aug. 27, weighing in at 4 pounds 6 ounces.



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# A voice in their future

Voters in Alamo to decide on incorporation

by Geoff Gillette

**A**lamo is one step closer to leaving the ranks of a “census designated place” and into full fledged cityhood. Nearly 100 residents of the community turned out at Creekside Community Church for the Sept. 18 meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). After nearly five hours of presentations and resident testimony, members of LAFCO voted 4-1 in favor of putting the incorporation question on the ballot in spring 2009.

But it was not without a few twists and turns—an emotional rollercoaster ride for all of those in attendance.

Incorporation efforts are not new in Alamo. Since 1956, Alamo has been involved in seven attempts to incorporate. In some cases, Alamo would have been part of a larger valley-wide city. The last attempt by Alamo residents to become a town was in 1983, but the issue never made it to the ballot.

September 2007 brought a resurgence of incorporation fervor and the Alamo Incorporation Movement (AIM) began seeking petitions to have the necessary studies done through LAFCO.

After two months, the petitions had more than 3,000 signatures and were turned in to LAFCO.

As part of the process of evaluating whether Alamo has the necessary income and infrastructure to become a town, LAFCO officials brought in the firm of Winzler and Kelly to perform a Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis. That analysis, according to company spokesman Gary Thompson, shows that there is a sound financial basis for Alamo to incorporate. Thompson said the town has, “A well diversified revenue stream. This doesn’t rely entirely on sales tax. Mostly on property taxes.”

Figures in the study indicate that Alamo could afford to have a town government, contract out for the services currently being provided by Contra Costa County, and still maintain a surplus at the end of each year. Thompson said the CFA shows that after 10 years, the town would have a surplus of \$5.8 million.

Of that surplus, \$3 million would need to be paid to Contra Costa County as part of a negotiated revenue neutrality agreement. The agreement would allow the county to recoup revenues lost by the incorporation of Alamo.

LAFCO Commissioner David Piepho asked what would happen if Alamo did not pay the revenue neutrality cost. “Can the



Members of the Local Agency Formation Commission hear testimony from state representatives. LAFCO comprises elected officials of cities and the county, special districts and the state.

county sue? Unincorporate them?” he asked.

Thompson said that in the event the town did not pay the expected amount, the county could conceivably withhold property tax revenues to make up the difference.

## Defining Alamo’s borders

One change outlined in the staff report showed that the sphere of influence for both Danville and Walnut Creek would be impacted by the incorporation of Alamo. Danville would lose 8 acres and Walnut Creek, 101 acres. The report indicated that the towns receive no revenue from these areas so changing the boundary to allow them to be incorporated would provide no hardship to either Danville or Walnut Creek.

In summary, staff members showed that the incorporation would be feasible financially, provide no significant environmental challenge and be consistent with state and local laws. The staff recommended placing the incorporation question on the ballot for the March 3 special election.

LAFCO members discussed the plan briefly before opening up the meeting to public comment. Of the nearly 100 people in attendance, 47 signed up to speak. Each was allotted three minutes to address the commission.

## Opponents question analysis

Many of the assumptions made in the CFA were challenged at the Sept. 18 meeting by residents who feel the incorporation of Alamo is not financially feasible.

Many expressed concerns that the town would end up facing the same sorts of fiscal hardships that neighboring towns like Orinda have seen. Orinda is plagued by severe road problems, and the estimated price tag for repairing them would be \$100 million.

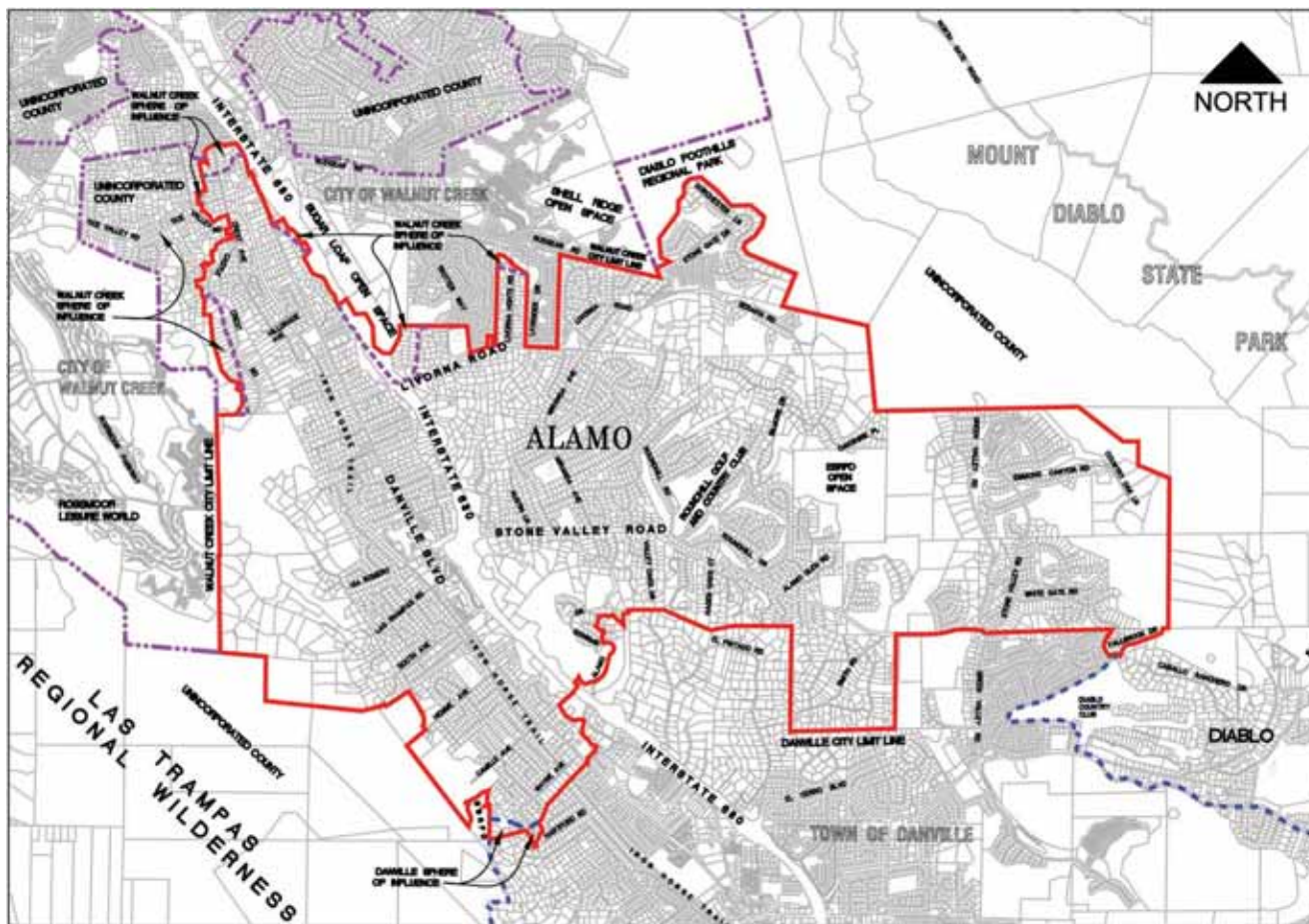
Residents Linda and Ed Best each addressed the commission on the issue of finances. The Bests presented a number of issues where they felt the CFA’s projections would fall far short. Ed Best pointed to the city manager position as one area in particular.

“The CFA established \$132,000 as the salary for an Alamo city manager. However, we note that in 2007 the lowest salary for a city manager in Contra Costa was \$160,000, in the city of Moraga,” Best said.

He said he felt that it was extremely important to have an experienced city manager who has a background in setting up a new city. “We won’t get that for \$132,000,” he explained.

Former Policeman Larry Rodrigue, one of a group of residents opposed to incorporation, pointed to what he claimed were fallacies in the projected expenditures for police services.

The CFA would have a total of 12.3 officers working for the town of Alamo. Rodrigue said that will not be sufficient. “To get the level of service we’re getting now, they would have to go on what’s called the ‘enhanced plan.’ That would put a total of 19 officers for an extra \$1.2 million a year. After 10 years that’s 12 million bucks. Minus the \$3 million surplus, which is a pipe



Alamo Incorporation Boundary Map

NOTE:  
SPHERES OF  
INFLUENCE  
ARE  
APPROXIMATE

## LEGEND:

PROPOSED ALAMO  
INCORPORATION  
BOUNDARY

WALNUT CREEK CITY  
LIMIT  
WALNUT CREEK  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

DANVILLE CITY LIMIT  
DANVILLE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

SOURCE: CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LAFCO





GEORGE GILLETTE

off on the issue of Alamo Incorporation. From left, George H. Schmidt, Gayle Uiklema (vice chairwoman), Dave Piepho, Bob Schroder (chairman), and Martin McNair. Schroder attended the first two hours of the meeting before having to

ct members and members of the public.

dream, and we're still going to be \$9 million in the hole."

Resident Bob Myre called on the commission to seek out more up-to-date fiscal data on which to base predictions. Myre said much has changed in the last year since the study was done. "I'm spending more on gas for my wife's and my car than we do on groceries."

**Proponents say, 'Let us decide'**

Proponents say they believe the CFA is on target and it contains the answers to opponents' questions.

Rather than argue the merits of the fiscal analysis, though, many of those in favor asked the commission to trust the work of its staff and allow those in Alamo to make the decision for themselves.

One of those was Vishwas More. More spoke passionately to the commission about giving Alamo voters the right to make their own decisions. "Washington doesn't do it, Sacramento doesn't do it, county doesn't do it. Let us do it ourselves." He added, "We have smart people in Alamo. Let us run our own house ourselves. We can do this."

Resident Tim Tinnes pointed to the fight over the Iron Horse trail and the combined effort it took to get the former Southern Pacific right of way removed from plans as a "light rail" use and into effect as a regional trail. "When we prevailed in these efforts with the Iron Horse Trail it was largely because we were able to get the full support of the towns of Danville and San Ramon. While it was Alamoans who had the drive and organization, it was by the power of the towns that we were able to succeed."

Vicki Koc, one of the three residents who spearheaded the initial request for incorporation, asked that the commission give the residents the right to choose for themselves. "Let us make the decisions that affect us. Let us have a voice. Let us be the 20th city in Contra Costa County."

Koc said she believes the CFA is sound and so must Contra Costa County, if it was willing to sign the revenue neutrality agreement. "I don't think the county would have signed off on the agreement if they didn't think we would have \$9 million in the bank."



Commissioner Helen Allen, vice mayor of Concord, explains her experience in dealing with town budgets and expresses concern over the financial analysis done on incorporating Alamo.

**LAFCO shares thoughts**

After nearly three hours of testimony, commissioners closed the public hearing and gave their thoughts on the issue prior to the vote.

Commissioner Martin McNair said he was concerned about the fiscal data and asked if it would be possible to get more updated economic data.

Consultant Gary Thompson said that getting that much data would take at least two months, and would mean recalculating a significant portion of the CFA.

Commissioner Piepho said he would be willing to hold off on making a decision until they could get some of these financial questions answered, while fellow Commissioner Helen Allen said she didn't think recalculating would convince her that the town would be economically feasible. "Based on the information I've seen and my budgeting experience, I think there's some pertinent questions being asked." She added, "My main concern is the underestimation of the costs of the services."

While Commissioner George H. Schmidt said he believes the question should be on the ballot, the remainder of the group seemed to be favoring a delay for further information.

LAFCO Executive Officer Lou Ann Teixeira cautioned the commission that delaying could cost the incorporation effort a place on the ballot.

"The timeline is extremely aggressive and calls for the Board of Supervisors to call for the election by Oct. 20 in order to hit the March 3 ballot."

Teixeira and Thompson explained that the current CFA is based on the town being incorporated prior to June 30, 2009. This would allow the town to still receive Vehicle License Fees. The bill that allowed those fees will expire June 30.

Thompson said a bill is currently in Sacramento that would extend the deadline, but there is no word if the governor will sign the bill. Without those license fees, the CFA would have to be recalculated and the revenue neutrality agreement would need to be renegotiated. Teixeira said delaying beyond Oct. 20 would put the incorporation plan at risk.

Additionally, Teixeira explained that the commission's decision was subject to a 30-day reconsideration prior to the County Board of Supervisor's vote. Teixeira said during the 30 days, information that was not available at the time of the vote can be presented. The cost of calling for a reconsideration is \$2,500.

That information prompted commissioners to re-approach the issue and they agreed to vote to put it on the ballot.

Commissioner McNair expressed dismay that there would be no chance to at least check on the figures presented. "I don't want to delay the vote either, but that doesn't take away the questions and doubts." McNair asked for the commission to wait one week and then make their decision, but staff explained that would not be sufficient time to acquire any new data.

**Incorporation is on the ballot**

The vote was taken, with the five commissioners voting 3-2 in favor of putting incorporation on the ballot, with both Allen and McNair voting against.

At the vote, incorporation proponents erupted in cheers. Those cheers turned to groans seconds later when LAFCO legal counsel Silvano Marchesi announced that any incorporation or boundary change must be approved by a 4/5ths majority. Under normal circumstances there would be seven members present, but both Chairman Bob Schroder and Commissioner Federal Glover were unable to attend.

Before opponents could register the sudden turnaround, though, McNair quickly spoke into the microphone and "reluctantly" changed his vote to yes, allowing the proposal onto the ballot.

After the vote, Helen Allen said she could not support putting the issue on the ballot due to concerns raised during the meeting. "I'm worried about the threat that every year more money is being taken away from cities. There's money they think they're going to have that might not be there."

With the commission's approval, both sides now have six months to state their case regarding the incorporation of Alamo. Incorporation supporter Chris Kenber said the main hurdle they'll seek to overcome is the perceived flaws in the fiscal analysis. "There's an incredible lack of knowledge. I think it's important to get the information out there to the voters."

Ed Best said he doesn't think it's a lack of knowledge, but a disconnect between what is presented in the report and what they know will be actual costs of services. Best also said he felt that the fast timeline and the need to beat the June 30 deadline were the reasons the issue was passed. "The vote wasn't made because they were comfortable with the applicant. In our view the decision was made for the wrong reasons." ■

**For the entire Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis,  
go to [www.contracostalafco.org/](http://www.contracostalafco.org/)**



# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT [WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM](http://WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM)

## Art

**Artist's Day at Forest Home Farms**  
Artists, poets and photographers! Enjoy a day of creating from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, with 16 acres of possible subject matter. Bring supplies, a chair and lunch, and dress appropriately for the outdoors. Cost is \$5 for residents and \$6 for nonresidents. Call 973-3282.

**Danville Multimedia Art Group**  
Multimedia artists will talk about contemporary art, exchange concepts and work from 6-8 p.m., the first

Wednesday of every month, starting Oct. 1, Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 648-4885.

## Auditions

**'The Underpants'** Audition for Steve Martin's adaptation of "The Underpants," at 7 p.m., Oct. 6, 201 Front St., Danville; and 7 p.m., Oct. 7, Hap Magee Ranch Park, 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville. Callbacks are at 7 p.m., Oct. 8. Looking for two females and four males, ages 25-60. Prepare two-minute comic monologue.

## Author Visit

**Speaker on Living Democracy**  
Frances Moore Lappé, a noted social change and democracy activist and the author of 16 books, including the 3-million-copy bestseller, "Diet for a Small Planet," will be at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 30. Cost is \$12-\$20 for general admission, and \$5 for students. Call 933-7850.

## Clubs

**San Ramon Valley Newcomers Luncheon** Join us at the Crow Canyon Country Club for lunch, 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. The speakers will be from the League of Women Voters. For information call 560-0656.

**Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network** Join us for a discussion on how to parent with compassion, led by Bay Area Nonviolent Communication, 7-9 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20, Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St., Pleasanton. Free for members and first time visitors. Call 922-7615.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75** The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month (except December), at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. The next meeting is Thursday, Oct. 9. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## Concerts

**Concert Pianist Daniel Glover to Perform** Concert pianist Daniel Glover will perform to benefit the Valley Concert Chorale featuring the music of Liszt and Rachmaninoff, 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L St., Livermore. Cost is \$25. Call 866-4003.

**Summertime at the Maritime Concert Series** The sixth annual Summertime at the Maritime Concert series hosts Charlie Musselwhite's raw, authentic blues, 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, Morrow Cove Lawn, 200 Maritime Academy Dr., Vallejo. Admission and parking is free. For information visit [www.communityconcerts.com](http://www.communityconcerts.com) or [www.CSUM.edu/SummerTime](http://www.CSUM.edu/SummerTime).

## Events

**16th Annual Rebuilding Lives Luncheon** The keynote speaker at the annual STAND! Against Domestic Violence luncheon will be Denise Brown, domestic violence activist and sister of Nicole Brown Simpson. The luncheon will be from noon-1:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20, at the Concord Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Tickets are \$100. Call 603-0138.

**Blessing of the Animals** In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, San Damiano Retreat invites everyone to bring their pets for a Blessing of the Animals celebration at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. This event is free and open to the public. Call 837-9141, ext. 306.

**Community Garage Sale in Alamo** The Alamo Women's Club is renting spaces for a community garage sale from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, at the clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd., to accommodate those who neighborhoods don't allow them, salesmen with samples, anyone who has "too much stuff." It's a chance to make some money and have fun. Spaces are on first come basis for \$35. Call 837-8530.

**Danville Fall Crafts Festival** Celebrate the 17th annual Danville Fall Crafts Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 25-26, Hartz Ave., downtown Danville. Highlights

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



## Will Rogers musical ends tomorrow

Will Rogers (Shane Partlow) and Ziegfeld Follies Showgirls (left) Suzanne Brandt and Tiffany Davis star in the "Will Rogers Follies," being celebrated by the Diablo Light Opera Company through Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$34-\$41. Call 944-1565, or visit [www.dloc.org](http://www.dloc.org).

are 200 art and craft exhibits, Glass Pumpkin Patch, entertainment, Halloween costume parade, kids activities and great food and beverages. Admission is free. Call 837-4400.

**Danville Library Evening Speakers** The Friends of the Danville Library is offering a new Danville Evening Speakers series kicking off at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, at the Danville Community Center, 400 Front St. Alison Brown, CFO of the California Academy of Science will be talking about the new Steinhart Aquarium. The program is sponsored by the town of Danville and the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley. This event is free and everyone is welcome.

**Forest Home Farms Pumpkin Patch** Visit the Forest Home Farms Pumpkin Patch, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 4-31, at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Visit [www.forestHomeFarms.wordpress.com](http://www.forestHomeFarms.wordpress.com) for events and to schedule school field trips, or call 997-6575.

**Open Houses at the Flower Shop** The Alamo Flower Company is holding Holiday Open Houses to benefit the Alamo Tree Lighting Fund, by donating 10 percent of all pre-holiday order proceeds placed during the Open Houses to the fund. The open houses will have good cheer, holiday libation, refreshments and drawings, from 4-7 p.m., starting Friday, Sept. 19, and ending Friday, Dec. 19, at the shop, 3000 Danville Blvd., #1, Alamo. The events are free and open to the public. Call 836-1456.

**Pet Festival and Animal Blessing** Peace Lutheran Church invites you to a Pet Festival and Animal Blessing, noon-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is co-sponsored by ARF. Animal experts will be on hand, as well as an art exhibit, silent auction and crafts for kids! Call 648-7000 or visit [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org).

**Senior Awards** Join the Culture to Culture Foundation for its first Senior Volunteer Awards Ceremony to honor four senior volunteers, at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek. RSVP 938-9988.

## 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).

## Fundraisers

**'It's About Life' Fundraising Gala** The Lazarex Cancer Foundation is holding an "It's About Life" fundraising dinner/auction from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, at Patrick David's Event Center, 2460 Old Crow Canyon, San Ramon. Gourmet food, The Sun Kings and an upscale auction. Visit [Lazarexfoundation.org](http://Lazarexfoundation.org). Cost is \$200 per ticket or \$2,000 per table. Call 820-4517.

**'Naked Parents In The Pool & More'** Local author Linda Lee Peterson will emcee readings from "Writin' on Empty: Parents Reveal the Upside, Downside, and Everything In Between When Children Leave the Nest" for the Youth Homes Auxiliary annual book review, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, Hope Center Covenant Church, 2275 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill. The cost is \$15 in advance. Visit [www.youthhomes.org](http://www.youthhomes.org) or call 685-9126.

**25th Anniversary Primo's Run for Education** Join this fun community tradition by participating in the 1/2 Marathon starting at 7:15 a.m. or the 5k Race or 5k Fun Run/Walk both starting at 8:15 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 19. Cost is \$50, \$25 or \$20. Proceeds benefit the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation. Call 820-9181 or visit [www.primosrun.com](http://www.primosrun.com).

**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 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

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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).

**White Kitty Foundation BBQ and Auction** Join the White Kitty Foundation from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27, at Old Borges Ranch, Walnut Creek, for an afternoon of family fun, good food and to help to raise funds to benefit George, a 7-year-old German Shepherd mix, who was battered, suffered a gun shot wound, and then was left at the Martinez Shelter. Cost is \$50 for adults and \$30 for kids. Call 472-0817.

## Health

**Colon Health** How can you reduce your risk of colon diseases and cancer? Jeffrey Mark, M.D., will answer questions about colon disease, at a free seminar, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 9, Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bolinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. E-mail [Ask.srrmc@tenethealth.com](mailto:Ask.srrmc@tenethealth.com) or call 275-8230.

**Free Backpack Safety and Scoliosis Screening** Backpack safety and scoliosis screening is taking place now through Tuesday, Sept. 30, at Canyon Chiropractic, 2570 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. The American Pediatric Association recommends that students carry no more than 15 percent of their body weight in backpacks; 60 percent of children's orthopedic visits for back/shoulder pain are the result of carrying too heavy a backpack. Call 867-1414.

## Holiday

**Non-Religious Rosh Hashanah Observance** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews sponsors a child-friendly, non-religious celebration of the Jewish New Year from 7-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 29, at Bothwell Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. a program of readings and music will be followed by apples and honey and honeycake baked by Jewish Culture School students. Food for the Alameda County Food Bank will be collected. Cost is \$10 for adult non-members and kids are free. Call 485-1049.

**Rosh Hashanah Services** Join Chabad of Contra Costa for Rosh Hashanah services, 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 29; 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 30; and 10 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 1671 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. Children's program 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at day services. Donations welcome. Visit [www.JewishContraCosta.com](http://www.JewishContraCosta.com) or call 937-4101.

## Kids and Teens

**Disney's Dreamers Academy** Apply now to Disney's Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey, class of 2009. One hundred high school students will be selected to participate Feb. 12-15, at Walt Disney World Resort. Nomination period is Sept. 1-30. Students can be nominated by anyone, including themselves. Cost is complimentary if chosen. For information visit [www.steveharvey.com/disneydreamersacademy](http://www.steveharvey.com/disneydreamersacademy) or call (312)297-9857.

**Hospice Children and Teens Support Group** The Hospice of the East Bay offers the children and teens support group, Footsteps, 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 7-Nov. 11, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. For information and to register call 887-5678.

## Lectures/Workshops

**Journey Through Hunger** Shoshana Kobrin presents alternative ways of dealing with life's challenges, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31, San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Blvd., Danville. Cost is \$95 for CEUs, \$70 without. Six CE units offered. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

**Mindful Chi Kung and Healthy Being** Chi Kung means energy cul-

tivation. It is a moving meditation that integrates mind, body and spirit to enhance health and strengthen the immune system. This workshop will take place from 2-4 p.m., Tues., Sept. 30 at The Wellness Community; 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free. For more information call 933-0107.

**Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer** This 12-week workshop is for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment, Tuesdays, Oct. 7-Jan 27, The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This series will help address the emotional and physical issues that surface after diagnosis. Visit [www.twcba.org](http://www.twcba.org), or call 933-0107.

**Parent Lecture on Relational Aggression in Children** The Seven Hills School hosts a workshop for parents, educators and the public at large with a panel presentation: "It's Not Just 'Mean Girls'—Understanding Relational Aggression, a Toolkit for Parents" with Seven Hills' faculty. The panel will help parents recognize and alleviate social aggression. This workshop will take place from 6:45-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 30, at The Seven Hills School, 975 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek. \$15 per person, educators admitted free. Call 974-4981.

## Literary Events

**'Two Cities, One Tale'** Danville and San Ramon residents are joining in a six week, book-sharing event to read one book together from Sept. 22-Oct. 27. Pick up a free copy of "Kabul Beauty School" by Deborah Rodriguez, to read, discuss and then pass along to friends. Then attend a slide show preview of "Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 9, at the San Ramon Library. CityRead concludes with a special presentation featuring the author at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Call 837-4889.

**AAUW Book Signing** The Danville-Alamo Branch of AAUW will have a book signing for Paula Boswell, 3-5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 7, Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Dr., Danville. For information e-mail [president@aauw-da.org](mailto:president@aauw-da.org), or call Tena at 837-0826.

**Gigantic Book Sale** Friends of the Danville Library are hosting a Gigantic Book Sale from Oct. 10-12 in the Mt. Diablo Room at the Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville.

**Great Books Poetry Weekend** The Great Books Council of San Francisco will host its 23rd annual weekend of poetry discussions Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 15-16, at Westminster Retreat in Alamo. To register call (650)854-3980 or e-mail [oscarf1@earthlink.net](mailto:oscarf1@earthlink.net).

## Live Music

**Manhattan Transfer** Come join us for a night with Manhattan Transfer, 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Way, San Ramon. Single tickets are \$42, ticket packages available. Visit [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com) or call 973-ARTS.

## Miscellaneous

**Mobile Blood Drive in Danville** The American Red Cross will hold a mobile blood drive, 11:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Friday, Oct. 10, The Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd., Danville. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [www.BeADonor.com](http://www.BeADonor.com) (Code:DANVILLE) to schedule an appointment.

**Poetry Reading Goes Back to Nature** Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer will host nature poet Sandra Stillwell and Pleasanton naturalist Eric Nicholas from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. An open mic segment will follow when aspiring and accomplished poets of all ages can read a favorite or original poem of 40 lines or less. Cost is \$5. Call 931-5350. 2401 Santa Rita Road.

## On Stage

**'Pinocchio'** San Ramon Community Theater presents "Pinocchio" on Oct. 3-5 and Oct. 10-12, at the Front Row Theater at Dougherty Station, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$13 children and seniors, \$11 matinee. Purchase online at [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com) or call 973-2787.

**'The Best Man,' by Gore Vidal** Sue Trigg directs Role Players' production of a startlingly timely political play, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, from Oct. 10-Nov. 1, Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Preview Thursday, Oct. 9 (donation optional). Cost is \$22-\$25, \$15 for students with ID, and groups of 10 or more. Tickets available at Danville Community Center, at [www.villagetheatreshows.com](http://www.villagetheatreshows.com), or call 314-3400.

**'Will Rogers Follies'** Will Rogers, the American folk hero who claimed, "I never met a man I didn't like," is being celebrated by Diablo Light Opera Company starting Friday, Aug. 29, for 18 performances continuing through Sept. 27 at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$34-41. Call 944-1565, or visit [www.dloc.org](http://www.dloc.org).

**Show Presents Old Polynesia** Travel to old Hawaii and Tahiti at Honu, a show telling stories from Polynesia through dances, chants, drumming and Hawaiian-style music. Journey with a 150-year-old Honu (sea turtle) to meet the beings and characters from the Honu's younger days. This event for children and adults will take place from 2-4:15 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$15 for seniors, and \$12 for children. Call 973-ARTS.

## 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.

**Catholics@Work Breakfast Event** Former lead prosecutor for the Enron trial, John Hueston, will be the featured speaker at the Catholics@Work breakfast event, 7-8:15 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 14, Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Mass is celebrated at 6:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Visit [www.catholicsatwork.org](http://www.catholicsatwork.org) or call 683-5263.

**High Holy Day Services** Beth Chaim Congregation in Danville issues a warm invitation to all who wish to experience the profound spirituality of the Jewish High Holy Day Services. We welcome Jews from all backgrounds and interfaith families from Monday, Sept. 29, to Thursday, Oct. 9, at Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Call 736-7146 for details or visit [www.bethchaim.com](http://www.bethchaim.com).

**Interfaith Festival** Everyone is welcome to join in an interfaith celebration presented by Interfaith-San Ramon Valley, 2-5:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 28, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara Road, Danville. For information visit [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org).

**Personal Growth workshop** San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville, is presenting "Awakening the Mystic," with David Richo from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27. Richo is the author of "The Power of Coincidence: How Life Shows Us What We Need to Know and How to Be an Adult in Relationships." Cost is \$95 for CE Units, \$70 without. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

**Whirlwind Bible Tour** Steven Mosley will take people on a dramatic whirlwind, one-hour tour of the entire Bible that is both humorous and deeply moving, from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 28, at Gatetree Church, 101 Gatetree Dr., Danville. This single free performance has limited seating on a first come basis. Visit [www.stevenmosley.com](http://www.stevenmosley.com).



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# Dream world for a day

Everyone will come together to share their stories and beliefs at Interfaith Festival

by Dolores Fox Giardelli

Something special is happening in Danville this Sunday. People of many different beliefs are coming together to talk, share food and celebrate together at the fourth annual Interfaith Festival for Families.

"You are meeting people face to face, hearing their stories, experiencing a chant together," said the Rev. Steve Harms, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church on Camino Tassajara in Danville. "They don't often get to experience what they will experience here."

The festival is a chance for people to talk to each other, perhaps inquiring about another's religion or maybe just asking simple questions such as where they live and what school their children attend.

"Basic kinds of connection are made," said Harms. "You begin to see that the other is not so strange. You start to appreciate the gifts they've got to offer."

For the last three years at the Interfaith Festival, people have made connections, he said. "It's a whole other thing to chant with the Sikhs—what that means inside of your body—instead of reading a book."

Harms recalls talking to Rabbi Dan Goldblatt several years ago about starting the festival.

"There was this marvelous configuration on the calendar—Ramadan, Rosh Hoshana—all those things fell on the same Sabbath weekend," Harms said. "The energy this has created is, frankly, very unique."

Harms and Goldblatt are both active members of Interfaith—San Ramon Valley, which hosts a thanksgiving celebration each November as well as peace vigils, social action for affordable housing, educational events and other gatherings.

"There are other places on the globe where people of various religions have overlapped but aren't many where they have lived together with a desire to understand each other," said Harms.

He noted that although some in the United States may consider themselves interfaith, how and where it gets expressed can be random, depending on opportunity.

"Lots of people like the idea of interfaith—yeah, we should all get along. But most often it comes down to



Peace Lutheran Church on Camino Tassajara is hosting an Interfaith Festival for Families on Sunday. The church installed an interfaith mural last spring symbolizing its congregation's identity as a house of prayer for all peoples of faiths.

FILE PHOTO

## Holy Convergence: An Interfaith Festival for Families

**What:** A celebration of Ramadan (Islam); The Feast of St. Francis (Christian); High Holy Days (Jewish); Divali and Gandhi's Birthday (Hindu); Indigenous People's Day; In Love with Life Season (Buddhist and Bahai); World Communion Sunday (Protestant Christian); Sikh Guru Gadhee

**When:** 2-5:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 28

**Where:** Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara Road, Danville

**Information:** [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org)

**Cost:** Free

several Christian congregations and the local rabbi," he said.

The first Interfaith Festival for Families at Peace Lutheran drew about 150 people, Harms recalled, and last year had grown to 300-400.

"There are dialog panels, dancing, chants, the Sufi Dances of Universal Peace. The Sons and Daughters of Orpheus have an incredible drumming crew ... The MA Center on Crow Canyon Road will be doing chanting," he said.

"I wouldn't miss this for the world," said Goldblatt, spiritual leader of Beth Chaim Congregation. "This is a great day—a dream world we all want to live in."

For the past three years, groups have had informational booths and food tables. Something new this year will be making mandalas for the center portion of the Peace Lutheran interfaith mosaic, which was purposely left open for the mandalas to change according to celebrations.

"There will be a healing mandala, and the Sufis are working on a winged heart," said Harms. "We are drawing together young people from various communities to make a youth mandala."

Peace Lutheran is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"We have found it nothing but enriching to explore faith questions with leaders from other congregations," said Harms. "It sharpens our perspective ... at no time has it been threatening."

"There's a lot at stake," he said. "Exploration of understanding who we are together in this life on this planet is one of the key critical questions of our time. By our unwillingness to understand who 'they' are, we will by default eliminate them, they don't matter."

"You can't hate someone as easily when you know their name," he added.

"We want to stand up and affirm that people of faith bring meaning and purpose into our lives," said Goldblatt, "especially at this time when religion is seen as a source of divisiveness in the world."

"I think there's a common well of the sacred," he continued. "When archeologists start a dig they often find, on a hill, the remains of a church and as they dig down the different strata they find the remains of a mosque, a synagogue. There is a sense of where the sacred is that transcends individual faith traditions."

"Talking with people and being together with others is always a learning experience," he said. "There are different kinds of learning—this is about wisdom of the heart."

Goldblatt compares faiths to different organs: Each is vital for the body to be healthy and whole.

The event begins at 2 p.m. with Rabbi Goldblatt blowing the Shofar. A blessing of the animals takes place during the first hour.

"We come from different places of truth. We honor and educate ourselves and come together, share our own spiritual truth, our own histories," said Goldblatt. "We come together into the universal appreciation of people who struggle with meaning. We have panel discussions and people who share different perspectives. It's a great opportunity to practice compassionate listening, to celebrate the joy of being in the presence of others who come from different backgrounds and faith communities."

There is also a ceremony to call the festival of sharing to an end.

"Everyone leaves with a smile on their face," Goldblatt said. "It's such a joyous day." ■





## Living globally, eating locally

One of my favorite quotes is by the French gastronome Anthelme Brillat-Savarin: "Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are." So, so true. Whether you live on a steady diet of Big Macs or organic salads, fried chicken or tofu, your body chemistry reflects the foods that sustain you—it's virtually who you are.

However, in a world that focuses on fast and easy and a global economy that transcends time and space, what we are eating becomes harder and harder to identify. Most of us don't actually know the source of the foods we buy and eat—eggs, tomatoes, breads, fruits, meats—who grew them, where, when and under what conditions.

The tomatoes in our lunch salad could have come from neatly manicured fields in Gilroy or a backwater town in Mexico; the strawberries we add to our breakfast cereal could have been shipped over from Venezuela or driven over from Lodi; the Napa wine we drank over dinner could have been made from grapes grown on San Luis Obispo and Livermore vines; the salmon we grilled over Labor Day could have been caught wild in Canada or grown in underwater farms in Washington.

The average supermarket food travels about 1,500 miles, passing through many different handoffs before reaching our carts. Given the broad range of cross-country and international harvesting and import/export shipping, mostly we don't have a clue.

**Our healthiest foods should travel less than 75 miles to reach us, meaning they are fresher and we have more firsthand knowledge about them.**

In his book, "The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals," Michael Pollan traces back to the origin of the raw foods in four distinct meals, including a McDonald's lunch. The results are truly interesting but one discovery was even more amazing: The prevalence of corn in the American diet. Of the 45,000-plus items found in a typical supermarket, more than 25 percent contain corn.

The Amazon.com's reviewer of Pollan's book puts it this way: "American cattle fatten on corn. Corn also feeds poultry, pigs and sheep, even farmed fish. But that's just the beginning. In addition to dairy products from corn-fed cows and eggs from corn-fed chickens, cornstarch, corn oil and corn syrup make up key ingredients in prepared foods. High-fructose corn syrup sweetens everything from juice to toothpaste. Even the alcohol in beer is corn-based. Corn is in everything from frozen yogurt to ketchup, from mayonnaise and mustard to hot dogs and bologna, from salad dressings to vitamin pills. We're corn." Yep, corn 'r' us! Yet, even today, the French do not legally recognize fresh corn as suitable for human consumption. It is only fed to cattle.

In a closely-related adventure, Barbara Kingsolver (whom many of us recognize as a leading fiction writer) moved to Virginia and spent a year with her family eating only locally grown foods, including what they grew in a home garden. Her book, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life" chronicles their year-long experience as "loca-

► Continued on page 19



### AMERICAN

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10/8 - BEER TASTING! 5pm to 8pm - ALES

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10.3 Live Jazz with Sue Lukito & Guest Musician (8PM to 10PM)

10.8 BEER TASTING! 5PM to 8PM - ALES

10.9 WINE CLUB RELEASE FLIGHT - GREAT RED BLENDS THIS MONTH!

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—Brian Baer, CIO Dominics (Safeway)



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## The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. FRANKLIN UTCHEN

### About that barking

**Question:** Dr. Utchen, my dog barks like crazy whenever the doorbell rings, someone knocks on our door or someone comes over to our house. He also barks whenever he sees another dog. Are there any tricks to stopping him from barking?

**Answer:** With the holidays coming up, and the likelihood of a few visitors to your house, this is a timely question. There are a few things to try to help teach your dog not to bark so much, although this can be a challenging problem to fix.

First, be sure there are some tasty, smelly treats handy near the door at all times (but out of reach of your dog) and carry a pocketful with you at all times during walks with your dog. When he barks, don't yell at him to stop. Instead hold one of these treats off to the side of his nose where he can smell it. His natural instinct will be to sniff it, and it's impossible for him to sniff and bark at the same time. To prove this to yourself, try speaking and sniffing something at the same time. Can't do it.

When your dog stops barking to smell what you are offering, you should give him the treat, which will reward him for stopping his barking. Despite the concern that this will actually reward the barking of a few moments before, it has been shown that the reward actually reinforces the most recent behavior, which in this case is the act of STOPPING barking, rather than the behavior of just a few moments before which was the barking itself.

As is true of all rewards, the power of the reward diminishes exponentially over time (meaning very, very quickly) the longer after a behavior it is administered. So the most recent action—that of being quiet—is what is actually being rewarded more than the previous

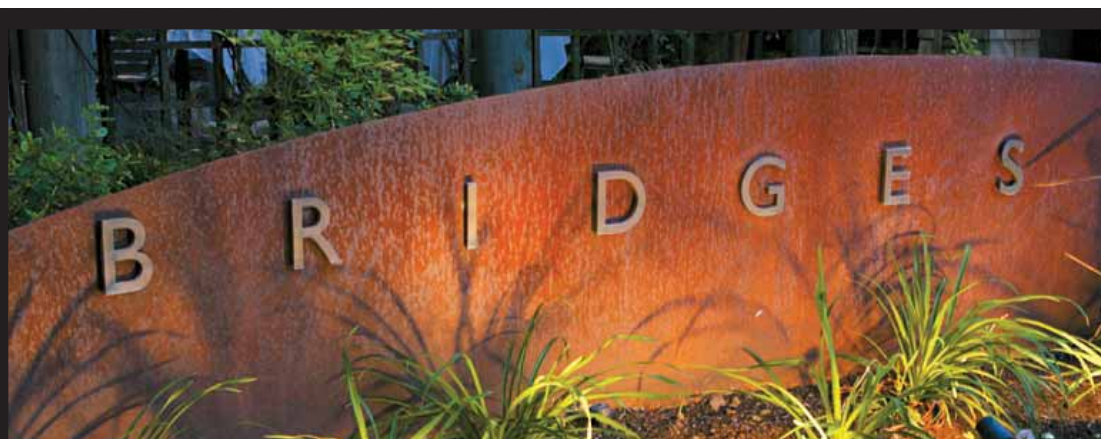
act of barking. And of course, consistent use of treats in this situation will speed the training.

Second, teaching a dog to bark on command (when he is not excited about anything) is generally easy to do by repeated telling him to "speak" while offering a reward. In this situation, once he has been taught to bark on command, you can then introduce a new command ("shush" or "quiet"), which can be followed by a reward when he stops barking on command. It is difficult—if not impossible—to teach an excited dog that is barking to be quiet on verbal command. However, if you can teach him to bark when he is not already excited, you have a much better chance of teaching him to then stop barking on command. That way, you have a reasonable chance of quieting him down from a distance, even when you aren't nearby him at the door to offer the treat as described in the first method above.

Third, there are a variety of "bark" collars—some that deliver a small electric shock and others than dispense a small squirt of citronella scent whenever a dog barks. Although this method will work for many dogs, its effect is by punishing him for barking, rather than rewarding him for being quiet. I generally prefer positive rewards for proper behavior rather than negative consequences for inappropriate behavior.

If, despite all the above attempts, your dog continues barking uncontrollably when visitors come over, see your veterinarian for a possible referral to a reputable dog trainer.

—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).



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# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



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

## Giant zucchini of the past

Elizabeth and Caroline Anderson are framed by corn in a Tassajara field. When water was available, a variety of crops were produced in the Tassajara Valley, although hay was always an important crop. In later years tomatoes were dry-farmed, often by Japanese-American farmers. The land between the plants was disked to encourage moisture and was not irrigated. People still recall these large, tasty tomatoes.

## Epicure

► Continued from page 17

vores." While it took some major adjustments, they say now that they can actually taste their food again, they won't return to the convenient but unconscious eating style they once knew. Kingsolver, Alice Waters and an increasing number of other food-conscious folks have joined a food revolution that has three sacred principles—eat locally, eat seasonally, and shop at farmers markets.

Some refer to this food dogma as eating "green"; others call it the slow food (as opposed to fast food) lifestyle. The slow food movement was made famous by Carlos Petrini in Italy around 1986. Now, with more than 85,000 members (not counting fans) in more than 45 countries, Slow Food has evolved into the most influential gastronomic movement in the world with a goal "to protect the pleasures of the table from homogenization of modern fast food and life."

Slow Food, according to its Web site [slowfoodusa.org](http://slowfoodusa.org), "envision[s] a world in which all people can eat food that is good for them, good for the people who grow it and good for the planet." Slow Food embraces three concepts—good, clean and fair—and offers these online definitions:

- Good: Enjoying delicious food created with care from healthy plants and animals.

- Clean: Nutritious food that is as good for the planet as it is for our bodies. It is grown and harvested with methods that have a positive impact on our local ecosystems and promotes biodiversity.

- Fair: We believe that food is a universal right. Fair food should be accessible to all, regardless of income, and produced by people who are treated with dignity.

The goal of eating locally and seasonally, with an emphasis on good, clean and fair, not only sounds honorable but healthier. Our healthiest foods should travel less than 75 miles to reach us, meaning they are fresher and we have more firsthand knowledge about them. Supporting our local growers and fresh-food markets sustains our local communities. More importantly, eating locally advances your health, not to mention more satisfying culinary experiences. Becoming more conscious of exactly what you are eating and where it was grown is bound to make you be a better person ... inside and out! And if he were still around, no doubt Brillat-Savarin would treat you to lunch.

**Footnote:** In response to my Sept. 12 column on water, Epicure reader Kathy Edgington offered this information: "In addition to stainless steel bottles, some manufacturers are now producing reusable plastics without BPA. These newer generation plastics are really wonderful—they are dishwasher safe, withstand extreme temperatures, will not dent, and are virtually leak-proof, all without the use of bisphenol-A. While there are no manufacturer icons yet to distinguish between BPA and non-BPA bottles, look for product brands like Camelbak and Nalgene." Thanks for the tip, Kathy!

*Jacqui Love Marshall lives in San Ramon with her pug, Nina Simone, and volumes of cookbooks and recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at [jlovemarshall@yahoo.com](mailto:jlovemarshall@yahoo.com).*

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## Parent photographers

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



JEFFREY S. WELLS

## Superstars vs. Flash

Mustang's Superstars face the Flash with (l-r) Lillian Segol, Samantha Segol and Olivia Romo in the U-6 girls soccer contest Saturday, Sept. 13.

## Leading Revolution in San Diego

The Mustang Revolution, U13, won the San Diego Premier Classic Tournament. Team members are Emily Biekert, Sydney Biekert, Emily Evans, Gabby Franklin, Francesca Gaeta, Jenna Good, Devyn Holliday, Katrina Irey, Melise Knowles, Maddy Laird, Erin Morrison, Phoebe Ritter, Lizzy Rothstein, Alexandra Weltz, Remi White and Elizabeth Whiteman.



## Stampeding to the top

The Mustang Stampede Division 3 Girls U11 played in four games at the 15th annual Tiburon/Mill Valley Fall Kick Off on Aug. 23-24, including the championship against the Sonoma Heat. After two five-minute overtime periods, the Stampede and the Heat headed off to a nerve racking penalty kick shoot out, which the Stampede won, 4-3.

Team members are (front, l-r) Leila Gaemi, Delanie Farley, Annika Tinson, Kelsey Smith; (center) Teva Myatt, Abbey Wood, Siena Armanino, Elise Porterfield, Abby Cattermole; (back) Assistant Coach Jay Cattermole, Avery Jones, Adrienne Smith, Olivia Zarling, Taylor Freitas, Rachael Shaw, Lauren Dascolo and Coach Mike Farley.



## Blast takes First Look tourney

The U-15 Division 3 Mustang Blast took the championship in the U-16 bracket of the Castro Valley First Look Soccer Tournament the weekend of Aug. 23-24. The Blast was undefeated, going through double overtime and penalty kicks in the championship game to take the title.

Team members are (front, l-r) Audrey Madsen, Allie Barcellona, Kayleigh Hunt, Alexa Engelhart, Mikaela Hammitt, Samara Batoog, Annie Kelly; (back) Coach Steve Doerr, Kelly Sullivan, Rachel Call, Ali Thompson, Sammi Kruger, Catherine (Scooter) Doerr, Haley Flavio, Emily Moore, Catherine Sandusky and Coach Dave Sandusky.



## Roving to the top

The U12 Boys Mustang Rovers were champions of the Mustang Devil Mountain Tournament held in Danville on Aug. 30-31. Team members are (back, l-r) Coach Andy Kerr, Kyle Fontaine, Patrick Baur, AJ Thiermann, Tyler Maddalon, Justin Brand, Alex Tsuruda, Colin McKay, John Hammill, Coach John Maddalon; (front) Brody Clancy, Connor Doyle, Spencer Tubbs, Drew Kerr, Kyle Makaiwi, Josh Hanna and Tucker Busboom. Not pictured: Coach Don Busboom.

## PREP SCHEDULE

### Friday, Sept. 26

#### Football

SRVHS vs. Washington (JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)  
MVHS at Castro Valley (JV, 4:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

#### Men's Water Polo

SRVHS at Campolindo (V, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; FS, 6 p.m.)  
MVHS- St. Francis Tournament, All Day

#### Women's Water Polo

MVHS- Nor Cal Top 16 Tournament, All Day

#### Women's Tennis

SRVHS- Paly Invitational Tournament

#### Women's Volleyball

La Jolla Tournament

### Saturday, Sept. 27

#### Cross Country

Stanford Invite

#### Women's Tennis

SRVHS - Paly Invitational Tournament

#### Women's Volleyball

SRVHS - La Jolla Tournament

#### Men's Water Polo

MVHS - St. Francis Tournament, All Day

#### Women's Water Polo

MVHS- Nor Cal Top 16 Tournament, All Day

### Tuesday, Sept. 30

#### Men's Water Polo

SRVHS at Foothill  
MVHS at De La Salle, 5:30 p.m.

#### Women's Water Polo

SRVHS at Foothill, 4 p.m.  
MVHS at Carondelet, 4 p.m.

#### Women's Tennis

SRVHS vs. Cal High, 4 p.m.  
MVHS vs. Livermore

#### Women's Golf

SRVHS vs. Amador at Crow Canyon, 3:30 p.m.

MVHS vs. Granada at Las Positas

#### Women's Volleyball

SRVHS vs. Granada (F, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; V, 6 p.m.)

MVHS vs. Cal High

### Thursday, Oct. 2

#### Men's Water Polo

SRVHS - Villa Park Tournament  
MVHS vs. Amador Valley, 4 p.m.

#### Women's Water Polo

SRVHS vs. Carondelet, 4 p.m.  
MVHS vs. Amador Valley, 4 p.m.

#### Women's Tennis

SRVHS at Foothill, 4 p.m.  
MVHS at Carondelet

#### Women's Golf

SRVHS vs. Granada at Las Positas, 3:30 p.m.

MVHS vs. Cal High at Round Hill

#### Women's Volleyball

SRVHS at Cal High (F, 4 p.m.; JV, 5 p.m.; V, 6 p.m.)  
MVHS vs. Livermore

### Friday, Oct. 3

#### Football

SRVHS at Livermore (JV, 4 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)  
MVHS at Foothill (JV, 4 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.)

#### Men's Water Polo

SRVHS - Villa Park Tournament (V): Las Lomas Tournament (JV)  
MVHS- Acalanes Varsity Tournament

#### Women's Water Polo

Napa Valley Classic Tournament  
CharStyle:listingbold>Women's Volleyball  
MVHS vs. Bishop O'Dowd, 4 p.m.



# Marketplace

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### 140 Lost & Found

Found Am Shorthair



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PEZ candy dispensers - \$75.

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turntable for sale - \$30

### 230 Freebies

china hutch - FREE

Misc items - FREE

### 235 Wanted to Buy

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### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

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

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The training potty - \$8

The training potty - \$8

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WEEKLY

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

**New to Market**  
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)

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Newly Released Colorado Mountain Ranch. 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)





## Alamo real estate: From the turn of the century

If you watch the nightly news with any regularity, you are probably convinced that the Alamo real estate market is dead or awfully sick. In the face of all the dire predictions of a collapse in real estate we thought you might like to know what really happened in Alamo since the year 2000, and if you are currently a homeowner, be pleasantly surprised at the result ... or at least somewhat relieved.

We prepared the chart below so you can make up your own minds about the state of the market.

All things considered, including fluctuat-

ing interest rates and fear mongering by the media, prices paid for Single Family homes in Alamo have declined relatively little. Without a full year of sales data to review, it looks like unit sales are tracking significantly downward about minus 62 percent from the 170 reported in 2007 to 107 projected for 2008. This is not surprising, given the bad press and the difficulties in the credit market. Who can blame a buyer for being risk averse in what appears to be a declining market? In my view

### Homes Today

BY JOE COMBS



normal demand is still there, but the buyers are remaining hesitant, waiting for a sign that it's OK to jump in. On the other hand, the 86 buyers currently making deals are getting prices 10 percent below the peak prices.

In the face of this significant unit sales decline, it is pleasantly surprising to learn that average price has fallen only 8.3 percent this year (not the 15-30 percent declines we hear on the news), and median price has dipped less sharply at 2.9 percent, and price paid per square foot sits between the two at minus 6.5 percent. If you purchased your home between 2005 and 2007 at the absolute price peak, sadly, you have given up some fraction of your equity, and that is truly painful. However, if you bought your home before then you have only given up a small fraction of your overall gain and it probably feels more painful than it really is. If you bought in 2000 or before, I would encourage you to be thinking about the implications of the upcoming presidential election and talking with your tax advisor as it is likely that you are sitting just under the \$500,000 capital gains exclusion limit for a married couple.

Both interesting and surprising is that during this century's peak unit sales for Alamo Single Family homes, which occurred in 2004

with 299 homes sold, average price paid was 11.4 percent lower than what is being paid this year for the average home. Price paid in 2004 was \$1,399,972 compared to \$1,560,126 paid in 2008. Price paid per square foot in 2004 was about 12 percent lower.

When real estate is viewed in the macro environment of all investments, it is generally accepted that the typical investment in a Single Family home returns between 5-6 percent per year in average annual appreciation for any given 10-year period. If you look at median price over the nine years listed here, you come up with 6 percent appreciation in Alamo during the 21st century. Price per square foot has grown on average about 5.3 percent in the same time period. Given the current environment it seems noteworthy that both numbers fall within the range of what we would consider normal average appreciation. Alamo is truly a remarkable place.

To receive a copy of the complete Alamo Market Review, e-mail [joecombs@thecombsteam.com](mailto:joecombs@thecombsteam.com) and place Alamo Market Review in the subject line. Or call 989-6086.

*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.*

### Alamo Sales Single Family Detached Homes

| Year              | No. Sold | Avg. Price  | Median Price | \$\$/Sq. Foot |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2000              | 245      | \$1,086,167 | \$925,000    | 321           |
| 2001              | 168      | \$1,102,431 | \$950,000    | 333           |
| 2002              | 266      | \$1,110,638 | \$1,000,000  | 359           |
| 2003              | 249      | \$1,290,603 | \$1,194,500  | 383           |
| 2004              | 299      | \$1,399,972 | \$1,255,500  | 424           |
| 2005              | 221      | \$1,621,208 | \$1,480,000  | 505           |
| 2006              | 158      | \$1,721,075 | \$1,575,000  | 515           |
| 2007              | 170      | \$1,700,797 | \$1,450,000  | 508           |
| Ytd 2008          | 86       | \$1,560,126 | \$1,424,000  | 475           |
| Percentage change |          | 44%         | 54%          | 48%           |

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### BLACKHAWK

#### 4 Bedrooms

**3659 Deer Trail Dr.** **\$1,145,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

### DANVILLE

#### 3 Bedrooms

**210 Scotch Ct.** **\$898,700**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 200-0004

#### 5 Bedrooms

**308 Sunset Dr.** **\$1,145,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

**16 Casolyn Ranch Ct.** **\$1,498,000**  
Sat 1-4 Prudential CA 858-4198

### DUBLIN

#### 2 Bedrooms

**11841 Kilcullin Ct.** **\$363,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 918-2425

#### 4 Bedrooms

**11120 Bay Laurel St.** **\$1,342,500**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

### LIVERMORE

#### 3 Bedrooms

**1054 Via Madrid** **\$420,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 596-1918

#### 4 Bedrooms

**6147 Sunnybrook Wy.** **\$530,000**  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3859

### PLEASANTON

#### 3 Bedrooms

**447 Del Sol Ave.** **\$869,000**  
Sat 10-1 Hometown GMAC 487-1427

#### 4 Bedrooms

**6522 Inglewood Dr.** **\$598,888**  
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord Kathy Westernoff 577-2600

**6337 Shorewood Ct.** **\$649,979**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Andy Poryes 963-8871

**7341 Joshua Cir.** **\$699,000**  
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel-Joyce Jones 398-6706

**3625 Touriga Dr.** **\$700,000**  
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

**4834 Smith Gate Ct.** **\$750,000**  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 899-4084

#### 5 Bedrooms

**4931 Monaco Dr.** **\$1,077,900**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 397-4173

**3142 West Lagoon Rd.** **\$1,299,979**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel-Andy Poryes 963-8871

**4353 West Ruby Hill Dr.** **\$1,825,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2218

#### 6 Bedrooms

**9451 Blessing Dr.** **\$1,725,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 997-2411

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Hidden Valley Danville  
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X6000  
A perfect "10." 5 bedroom 2 bath remodel. 2,953 sq. ft. Stainless and granite kitchen, on .23 acres. Walk to Greenbrook School, backs Iron Horse Trail. \$1,269,000



West Side Alamo Views!  
X7000  
Beautiful updated West Side Alamo home. Views of Mt. Diablo, 2.05 acres. \$1,299,950

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



For an online version with mapping  
or to list your open home go to:  
[www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real\\_estate](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate)



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