

Danville Weekly

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INSIDE

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Too close for comfort?

Proposal to build fire station in residential neighborhood inflames homeowners

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Call 9-1-1 to report a fire or health emergency in the San Ramon Valley and within five minutes, a crew will arrive prepared for any crisis. Such service is the result of having trained personnel and equipment that is up to date and well maintained, says Fire Chief Richard Price, as well as fire stations that are state-of-the-art and centrally located.

To this end the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District purchased a 1.24-acre lot on Stone Valley Road at Miranda Avenue in Alamo earlier this year to replace the 50-year-old Station 32 located half a mile west.

"Alamo has one fire station, and this new site

is bulls-eye center," said Price. "It's at a controlled intersection ... and is an adequate size."

"When that site became available, it was a dream come true," he said.

But some of the new neighbors say it's a bad dream. They cite environmental and traffic concerns as well as financial. And they fear the negative impact on the worth of their homes.

"By necessity you have to be in a residential area, like schools are in residential areas," Price said. "There is nothing unique in this site in relation to the neighborhood."

"We're very concerned about traffic issues, trucks coming roaring out," said Nanci Wolske, who lives on Stone Valley Road next door to the fire station site. "We feel the existing fire station is perfectly adequate."

Nanci and Ed Wolske built their house a few years ago and have had it on the market for more than a year, before the Fire District bought the property next door. Now they fear it will be even harder to attract a buyer.

Nanci Wolske likens her back yard to a national park, with large oak trees and Stone Valley Creek attracting an abundance of wildlife. The former owner of the corner house cut down several old oak trees and she is concerned that those remaining will not survive a new large structure on the lot.

"The new fire station has nothing to do with improving public safety, it has to do with a newer, bigger, nice facility for the firefighters," reads an information sheet put out by the Wolskes. It also raises liability issues for

students and foot traffic on Miranda Avenue.

Other stations are located near schools, said Price, and coping with concerns on Miranda are nothing new. "Even if it's 8:30 in the morning, emergency crews still have to go there," he said.

Neighbors also say that financing a large, modern fire station at this economically depressed time is irresponsible, especially since it is also building a Station 36 annex on Lusitano Street in Danville.

The cost of constructing the new Station 32 is estimated at \$3.5 million, with plans to fund it through a combination of reserves, capital financing and other sources.

The Fire District has had a 9 percent cut in

See **FIRE STATION** on Page 12

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LPGA Charity Event

benefiting Blackhawk Women's Charity Scholarship Fund, Wheelchair Foundation, Benicia Rotary, Benicia Chamber of Commerce and San Ramon Valley VFW Post 75

A private party will hosted by Steve, Julie and Marisa Moore Sept. 26 and 27

- Buffet dinner, food, beverages throughout the day
- Live music and DJ on Sept. 26
- LPGA tournament entrance tickets
- Gate access on the 9th hole of Lakes Course

Stroll in/stroll out all day!

Mail check for \$75 (Sept. 26) or \$50 (Sept. 27) payable to a benefit charity to:
 LPGA Charity Event
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A matching contribution will be made by Pacific Rim Recycling.

See Details at www.WineforWheels.org/wfw/LPGAevent2009-new.htm

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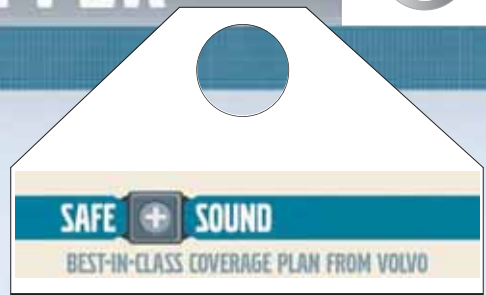
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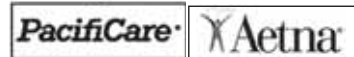
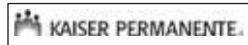
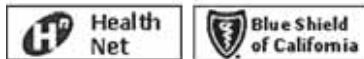
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We won't make everybody happy, but we'll get close.”

Planning Commissioner **Robert Storer** on the plans for the Veterans Hall. See story, PAGE 7.

NEWS DIGEST

Faz hosting memorial for artist Phil Hellsten

Faz restaurant on Hartz Avenue in Danville is hosting a memorial service beginning at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 20, for artist Phil Hellsten, who died suddenly June 23 at age 57 from heart problems. It will have food and music, including saxophonist Pete Yellin, who plays regularly at Yoshi's Jazz Club, located in Oakland and San Francisco, and for Jazz at Peace in Danville.

During jam sessions that were held at the Pioneer Art Gallery and at salon nights, Hellsten would go to Faz to pick up pizzas that were given to the musicians and artists, said Diana Busse, a musician friend who performed at his memorial service at Peace Lutheran. Faz Poursohi wanted to do something in remembrance of Phil, Busse said.

Here's a chance to recognize extraordinary seniors

Nominations are due Aug. 31 for nominations of seniors, 55 or older, who have provided extraordinary volunteer service in Contra Costa County in 2008. The second annual Senior Volunteer Awards are being sponsored by the Culture to Culture Foundation, which is based in Alamo.

Each senior must be nominated by another person, with a description of the volunteer activities in 500 words or less, and include the senior's age, address and telephone number as well as three references. Winners will each receive \$250, to be presented Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek.

Send nominations or questions to seniorawards@sbcglobal.net.

Alamo residents: Mark Sept. 12 on your calendars

The Alamo Music and Wine Festival, Alamo Rotary's annual community celebration benefiting school music programs, is being held from 2-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12, at Alamo Plaza.

“We raised more than \$12,000 during last year's festival,” said sponsor chairman Don Morton. “Much of the money came from very generous sponsors.”

The Cruise Tones will again headline the event with dance music from the '50s in the evening. School music groups will perform starting at 2 p.m. The event will have food, games and business booths throughout the festival area, and a play zone set up by the Mt. Diablo Regional YMCA and the Alamo Improvement Association with a rock climbing wall.

Dinner tickets are \$18, featuring a selection from Forli's, Faz, Don Jose, Peasant's Courtyard or the Alamo Rotary BBQ Booth, and California wines will be available with commemorative glasses. There will be inexpensive hot dogs and chips for the kids. The drawing has more prizes than ever with tickets for sale at the event.

In the evening, Rotary will present its annual Citizen of the Year Award.

Fun fore! charities during LPGA at Blackhawk

Golf fans have a chance to enjoy the LPGA tournament in Blackhawk on Sept. 26-27 from a lovely home on the ninth hole of the Lakes Course by making a contribution to a charity. Steve, Julie and Marisa Moore are opening their home on Blackhawk Club Drive on Saturday and Sunday, serving a light breakfast and snacks through the day and ending with a buffet din-

ner. Saturday will have live music in the late afternoon and a DJ from 7-11 p.m. for dancing.

Send a check for \$75 to attend Saturday anytime from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; or \$50 for Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Make checks out to the charity of choice: Blackhawk Women's Charity Scholarship Fund, Wheelchair Foundation, Benicia Rotary, Benicia Chamber of Commerce or San Ramon Valley VFW Post 75 and mail to the Moores, 571 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville 94506.

Lazarex Cancer Foundation official charity of San Jose marathon

The upcoming San Jose Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon being held Oct. 4 has chosen Lazarex Cancer Foundation of Danville as one of its five official charities. The foundation will have a “Team For Life” in the Sunday run. In June Lazarex took part in its first Rock 'n' Roll Marathon event in Seattle and won several awards.

“This greatly increases our revenue-generating capacity,” said Lazarex founder Dana Dornisfe. “The net result is that we can help more people who need help now.”

Danville man to lead Contra Costa Humane Society

Danville resident David Stegman has been named the new interim executive director of the Contra Costa Humane Society with offices in Pleasant Hill. Stegman, a longtime animal welfare advocate, has more than 35 years of nonprofit and government agency experience, most recently as executive director of both Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) and the Valley Humane Society.

At ARF he created the organization's first strategic plan that expanded its growth from a local to a national level. At the Valley Humane Society he implemented an agency-wide reorganization providing direction and leadership for half a dozen staff members and more than 300 volunteers.

In his new position at the Humane Society he will be responsible for managing the organization's successful Adopt-a-Friend, spay/neuter and Emergency Medical programs, promotion and fund raising as well as helping develop additional agendas to strengthen the human/animal connection.

Stegman has lived in Danville and San Ramon for 38 years. He and his wife Jeri have six grown children, four grandchildren and two rescued dogs.

McNerney traumatic brain injury bill passes the House

A bill authored by U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) to address the needs of veterans who have suffered traumatic brain injuries (TBI) passed the House of Representatives recently as part of the comprehensive Veterans' Insurance and Health Care Improvements Act of 2009.

“Many service members who have been wounded in Iraq have experienced a traumatic brain injury. In fact, traumatic brain injuries are the hallmark injuries of this war,” said McNerney. “It is our responsibility to ensure that the Veterans Administration is equipped and ready to provide the ongoing services necessary to fully address the impact of traumatic brain injuries.”

The language that McNerney authored will establish a special panel within the VA to assess its current capacity to treat veterans with traumatic brain injuries as well as make recommendations on developing policies for care and rehabilitation. It will also help establish TBI-specific education and training programs for the VA's health professionals.

The Veterans' Insurance and Health Care Improvements Act of 2009, including the provisions authored by McNerney, passed unanimously.

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Corrections

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



Alamo resident Nancy Dommes supports plans to create a Municipal Advisory Council in Alamo. She said having a MAC would centralize services.



Long time resident Bob Myhre tells supervisors the history of MACs in Alamo and states that the time has come for a MAC.



Roger Smith states that a MAC would not be able to give the same level of service provided currently by various Alamo committees.



Michael Cameron says he could support a MAC but strongly recommends extending the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission.

PHOTOS BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Regional planning board denied extension

Board of Supervisors allows commission to sunset in fall

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

A pair of regional planning commissions tasked with dealing with development in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County will cease to exist, following the decision by the county Board of Supervisors not to extend the charter of the bodies.

At issue are the East County and San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commissions. The two bodies were created to work locally with developments in unincorporated areas. According to Conservation and Development Director Catherine Kutsuris, the workloads of these commissions has decreased as towns became incorporated and began to handle their own planning duties.

The two commissions normally come up for renewal each four years, but last year District 3 Supervisor Mary Piepho suggested a one year renewal. Piepho's reasoning was that Alamo was in the midst of an incorporation debate and if Alamo became a town, then there would be even less need for the commission.

Incorporation was defeated, however the board did approve the creation of a Municipal Advisory Council for Alamo. A county committee earlier this year had recommended that if a MAC were created, that planning chores for Alamo could be handled by the County Planning Commission. Both commissions face

See **SRV PLANNING** on Page 7

Supervisors approve Alamo MAC

Advisory council will replace existing committees

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

The ongoing debate over whether a Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) was coming to Alamo reached its end Tuesday as members of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved a board order creating the advisory body.

The resolution before the Supervisors came from District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho. Piepho said that having the advisory council would put the wide variety of services in Alamo under the auspices of one group, allowing a greater degree of communication and accountability.

"A Municipal Advisory Committee creates an identity for Alamo, and a centralized voice to provide input and feedback to the district supervisor, the Board of Supervisors and county staff," Piepho stated.

Around a dozen Alamo residents attended the Aug. 11 meeting and many spoke to the board regarding the institution of a MAC. Testimony was a mixed bag of support and opposition, with those against it offering concerns of how the council will maintain current service levels, and those in favor exhibiting excitement about centralizing services in Alamo.



District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho recommends a Municipal Advisory Council for Alamo. She explained that having the MAC would allow all of the committees in Alamo to be under one "umbrella" organization.

Long-time resident Bob Myrhe explained to the board how a MAC was first attempted in the 1970s but failed because Alamo was part of an incorporation effort with Danville. Myrhe said earlier this year he opposed incorporation for Alamo, but he is strongly in favor of bringing in a MAC.

"It's time, it's way past time for a MAC," Myrhe stated. "If we'd approved it on back in the 1970s, we'd have the best one in the county right now."

Nancy Dommes agreed that having a MAC would be good for Alamo as it would allow residents to have one authority to address their concerns.

"I'm excited about the possibility of a MAC in Alamo," she enthused. "I can go to just one meeting and find out what's going on in my community."

Another supporter, Cecily Barclay, said she believed the MAC was a good thing because it provided much of the oversight of a local government without having to pay to hold an election every two years. She added that she is a firm believer in the Brown Act and having a body like the advisory council provides transparency

See **ALAMO MAC** on Page 7

Man attacks house with vehicle

Vandalism, DUI arrest follow car crash in Danville neighborhood

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

An early morning car crash Friday landed a 20-year-old man in jail on charges of drunken driving and vandalism. Danville Police Sgt. Philip Wisotsky said that around 1:50 a.m. Friday they received calls from residents on Clydesdale Drive of a loud vehicle on the street. Reports said the vehicle was moving at a high rate of speed and crashing sounds were heard.

Police officers responding to the scene found that a vehicle had crashed through a fence at the front of a home, backed up and crashed into it again. Wisotsky said it appeared the driver had smashed into the fence three or four times.

A neighbor informed police that the vehicle in question had crashed further up the street, sheering off a fire hydrant and impacting a telephone pole. Witnesses said the driver exited the vehicle and fled to one of the nearby homes.

The driver, identified as Adam Carty, 20, of Oakley was found on the landing of a home near the crash site. Carty explained to police that he was staying with

friends in the neighborhood. He admitted to drinking and smoking marijuana while out at a friend's home, according to police reports.

While driving back to the house where he was staying he passed by the home of a former friend with whom he'd had a falling out. Carty told police that he was very angry with his former friend and drove up and over the curb and purposely ran his car into the fence, knocking it down.

Carty stated that he then drove his car through the neighborhood at a high speed before losing control and crashing into the pole. He told police that he was trying to see how fast he could go on the road when he left the roadway, police said.

Paramedics from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District examined Carty and determined he had not been injured in the accident.

Wisotsky said Carty was taken into custody and charged with felony vandalism, driving under the influence, DUI under age 21, and hit-and-run property damage. ■



BILL SHRYER

Homeowners at this house on Clydesdale Avenue found their picket fence destroyed in a fit of pique by 20-year-old Adam Carty. Carty, who drove his car into the fence several times, has been charged with DUI and vandalism.

Blackhawk parcel issue may resurface

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Some homeowners in Blackhawk are preparing for another fight over the possible sale of vacant lots owned by Blackhawk Country Club. In April 2009, the Country Club along with the Blackhawk Homeowners Association put forth a ballot issue to residents seeking an amendment to their rules that would allow the sale of the parcels on Birchwood Place and Live Oak, which are zoned for parks and recreation.

A heated debate broke out in the community over the issue with accusations flying in both directions. When votes were counted in May, the residents did not vote with a significant majority to amend the

HOA's codes.

Now residents say they may have to do it all over again.

Resident Luther Johnson, one of the strongest voices opposing the rules amendment and the sale of the parcels, recently sent out an e-mail to supporters warning them that the Country Club is bringing the issue back.

"The Blackhawk Country Club has made clear their intention to lobby the Blackhawk HOA to have a repeat election on the proposal that was just defeated in May," he wrote.

Johnson stated that the tactic of bringing an issue back repeatedly is done to wear down the opposition

Country Club exploring options for vacant parcels

in order to get the issue approved.

Another opponent, Bruce Corn said that he doesn't see why the HOA would bring the vote back considering the circumstances behind the previous attempt.

"Even though the vote was slanted in the country club's favor they still lost. And now they're bringing it back. Is that a mulligan? Where you get to do it again?" he queried. "The people have spoken and they turned a deaf ear on this proposal."

Blackhawk Country Club Presi-

dent Frank Elliot said the accusations being leveled against them are simply untrue.

"Once a month, we have a board meeting. We discussed a number of issues," he said. "One of the issues we talked about is whether we were going to go for this again."

Elliot said that in the previous campaign they asked the homeowners what they would have liked to see done differently.

"The outcome was really that there had been no change," he said.

Elliot confirmed that officials from the country club met with opponents on July 21 to sound them out regarding what about the ballot

issue they were against.

"We did tell them at the meeting that at some point the board would like to sell this land. Because we can't use it," he explained.

Still, he maintains that at this point, everything is exploratory, with no solid plans to go back to the homeowners.

"The country club continues to be in limbo on this. We're taking suggestions under consideration, but at this time there's no plan to go back for another vote," he said. "We're a little disappointed that some of the homeowners are trying to blow this up and make other homeowners think it's something other than what it is." ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Democratic candidates to represent the 10th Congressional District take questions at Tuesday night's forum, (l-r) John Garamendi, Anthony Woods, Adriel Hampton, Joan Buchanan and Mark DeSaulnier.

District 10 candidates present views

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Some 500 voters turned out for the 10th Congressional District candidate forum presented by the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley on Tuesday night at St. Mary's College. The candidates are vying in a special election Sept. 1 for the seat vacated by former U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D., Alamo), who resigned June 26 to serve as undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security with the State Department.

The five Democratic candidates took the floor first: State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan of Alamo; State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier from Concord; Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, a rancher from Walnut Grove; Adriel Hampton, an investigator from Dublin; and political analyst Anthony Woods of Fairfield.

Lisa Vorderbrueggen of the Contra Costa Times asked questions submitted by the audience, which included their stance on Obama's recently stated position in Mexico on immigration; the \$106 billion war funds bill; Obama's Health Care Reform Bill; problems unique to District 10; energy, specifically the cap and trade bill; bringing fiscal responsibility to

Candidates on TV

Comcast will televise the 10th Congressional District Candidates forum on Channel 28 in Walnut Creek and Channel 26 in Central CCC at these times:

- 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15
- 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21
- 4 p.m., 9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22
- 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28
- 4 p.m., 9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29
- 9 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30

the country; the water crisis in the Delta; and Guantanamo prisoners.

Next came the Republicans: Christopher Bunch, a contractor from Fairfield; retired peace officer Gary Clift of Vacaville; David Harmer, an attorney who lives in Dougherty Valley; small business owner Mark Loos of Livermore; David Peterson of Walnut Creek, who owns a small business; and John Toth, a physician from Pleasant Hill.

Questions directed at them included

whether they favor widening I-580, 80 and 4; would they have voted for the bailouts; how to provide clean energy, more jobs and national security; the U.S. role in Israel and the Middle East; and immigration.

Ashley Coates, president of Diablo Valley League of Women Voters, estimated the crowd at 450-500 people, with about a quarter of them leaving after the Democratic candidate presentation. Voters registered as Democrats in the 10th District outnumber Republicans by 18 percent.

Also on the ballot are office worker Mary McIlroy of El Cerrito, running as a member of the Peace and Freedom Party; Community college professor Jeremy Cloward of Pleasant Hill, with the Green Party; and Insurance agent Jerome Denham of Walnut Creek, a member of the American Independent Party. They will represent their parties in the November election.

The Sept. 1 election is an open primary with all candidates running on the same ballot. Those getting the most votes in their party will face off in the Nov. 3 special general election unless one candidate receives 50 percent of the vote plus one. ■

Town stimulus plan fine-tuned

Businesses getting access to more marketing help

By GEOFF GILLETTE

It's been four months since businesses in downtown Danville were given access to the town's new Retail Incentive Program, and officials say it is successful. Some areas are doing so well, in fact, that the Town Council was asked to move funding from one area of the program to another to allow more access to businesses.

Approved in March by the Town Council, the incentive program was designed to provide help to businesses during the economic downturn by using Community Redevelopment Funds to give grants to be used for either facade improvements or marketing.

Town Transportation Director Tai Williams, one of the architects of the incentive plan, reported to the council at its June 21 meeting that of the 25 grants available to businesses to implement marketing strategies, 23 have been taken.

The facade improvement grants have been moving more slowly, prompting Williams to approach the council with some suggested changes to the incentive plan.

"We talked to the Town Council about moving money from the facade improvements to marketing, so that we could offer more grants to local businesses," Williams explained. "Secondly, we got authorization from the council to allow retailers to use both categories of the program. Previously, if you selected marketing, you couldn't choose facade."

Community Development Funds of \$400,000 was set aside for the incentive program. Council members approved moving \$51,000 from the facade improvements to marketing, a move Williams said will allow 12 more businesses to seek grant assistance.

Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said the feedback they are getting is that the incentive plan is working, and the council agreed that it should continue to operate and provide assistance.

"How do we know it's working?" he asked. "We're seven months into a new calendar year and all of the businesses that applied for these grants are still in business. And in this economy, that says something."

Calabrigo said he thinks the marketing grants have been more heavily utilized because they allow businesses to work on new and different ways of connecting with the customer.

"We've really identified a number of ways to brand Danville and reach out to people here locally," he said. "We can ask them to reach out to local businesses whenever and wherever they can." ■

Vets Hall plan nears final approval

By Geoff Gillette

Plans for the renovation of the Veterans Memorial Hall in downtown Danville are entering the final stretch in the approval process. At a joint meeting Tuesday, members of the Town Planning Commission and the Heritage Resource Commission examined the plan to expand the current structure.

The commissions met to consider the plan being presented and discuss whether to allow variances requested for the structure. Two of the variances deal with setbacks and the third would allow a greater Floor Area Ratio.

Town Planner David Crompton, along with architectural consultants ARG, provided the commissioners with an overview of the project, which will maintain the front of the venerable building that

faces out onto Hartz Avenue and add a sizable structure onto the rear.

Plans would nearly double the size of the existing 6,625-square-foot Veterans Hall. It would create specific areas for the veterans at the front of the building, house classrooms and other areas for seniors at the rear of the building, and provide a large shared community area usable by either group or rented out for special occasions.

In most cases, issues of this nature would be solely the province of the Planning Commission, but because the Veterans Hall is of historic significance, that brings it under the purview of the Heritage Resource Commission.

Several residents spoke during the public hearing over the plan. Resident Linda Stolow questioned

Tree removal and parking concerns expressed

the accessibility of the building to seniors with disabilities and the availability of nearby parking.

"I recently became handicapped, so having handicapped parking nearby is very important to me," she said. "If you really go and act as though you were handicapped and park in that Front Street parking lot you'd see that that's a long way to walk."

Stolow added that having a pull-out area on Prospect Avenue to allow seniors to be dropped off doesn't really help those seniors who drive themselves to the Veterans Hall.

Alamo resident Margreta VonPein called on the commissioners to deny the variances, as the renovation plan

does not adequately address the needs of seniors. She also decried the loss of 11 trees that would be taken down as part of the project.

"Of the world's trees, redwoods put out the most carbon dioxide. Cutting them down will release huge amounts of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere," she explained.

Another Alamo resident, Steve Mick, has been a part of the proceedings since the inception of the Steering Committee and he offered his congratulations on a job well done.

"The design has gone through exhaustive public and community input. Everyone has performed admirably in addressing the needs of seniors and veterans. I urge the commissioners to look with great favor on the project," he stated.

Members of both commissions had few questions regarding the

plan and most said they felt it presents a good compromise for the groups who use the building.

At the Planning Commission's recommendation, the Heritage Resource Commission voted unanimously to grant the variances and the initial plan for the Veterans Hall. The issue will now go to the Town Council for its approval. If the council gives its OK, the project can move forward with the bid process, while the Design Review Board fine tunes the final plan.

Planning Commissioner Robert Storer said he was very pleased with the plan and the process they went through to get it. "This has been a very effective and efficient process and frankly very impressive," he said. "We listened and we made changes. We won't make everybody happy, but we'll get close." ■

ALAMO MAC

Continued from Page 5

while giving residents a means of having their voices heard.

"I am very confident that Supervisor Piepho will pick a diverse group of people for the advisory council," she said.

Others in attendance were doubtful that the seven-member board would have the time or the energy to take on the workload currently being shared by groups like P2B, R7A, Zone 36 and the Alamo Improvement Association (AIA).

"I don't believe that an appointed MAC can meet our needs as well as the groups that have been doing it already," said Sandra Fink. She pointed to the efforts of the AIA, a watchdog group whose membership is open to anyone in Alamo, over the past 50 years to serve the Alamo community, saying that it is not easily replaceable.

Mike Gibson, a member of AIA, agreed that it would be difficult for a MAC to duplicate the hours of work put in by the various groups. He also expressed concern over the fact that the MAC would not be able to divide that workload by creating sub-committees.

"Current MAC policy prohib-

its formation of sub-committees that don't have MAC members on them," he said. He called on the Board of Supervisors to adopt language to allow for the council to have sub-committees before approving the resolution.

Another AIA member, Roger Smith, cautioned that taking away those committees and putting their responsibilities under the MAC could have a detrimental affect on the community.

"The community has grown accustomed to a high level of service and access," Smith stated. "It is not possible for a limited number of people to do all the work of these sub-committees."

Supervisors debated the issue for several minutes. Supervisor John Goia addressed the opponents of the MAC. "Change is never easy, but I agree with Supervisor Piepho that the MAC is a positive step," he offered.

Goia said that the work being done by the AIA could be a complement to that done by the MAC.

The board gave its unanimous approval to the MAC. As part of the same discussion, the board approved two subsidiary resolutions that would take the duties of the Zone 36 Lighting and Landscap-

ing Committee and the R-7A Parks and Recreation Committee and fold them into the new MAC.

After the approval, Mike Gibson said that he continues to have reservations about the incoming MAC, but he intends to move forward as the new council is appointed.

"We've got to make it work," he said. "I don't know how this is all going to fall out. Over time we'll see how things evolve."

With the MAC approved, the application process for the seven member board will begin immediately. Supervisor Piepho's Chief of Staff Tomi Van de Brooke said applications can be found online or in Piepho's Danville office. Van de Brooke also provided applications at the Aug. 13 meeting of the Alamo Community Council. Piepho's office confirmed that they have already received some completed applications.

Applicants will have until Sept. 15. Then Supervisor Piepho will compile a list of nominations that must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Van de Brooke said that she is expecting that the members of the MAC could be approved by the end of September with the new council holding its first meeting in early October. ■

SRV PLANNING

Continued from Page 5

an Oct. 6 sunset date, unless the board approved an extension.

Kutsuris said that both the County Planning Commission and the East County Regional Planning Commission recommended allowing the sunset to take place for both commissions due to the decreased workload. Several Alamo residents as well as members of the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission requested that it be granted the extension.

Resident Michael Cameron said that with the MAC just being established, it made more sense to keep the commission in order to see just how the two would function together.

"I would move slowly," Cameron suggested. "I would think you'd want to leave a planning agency in place for an unspecified amount of time."

Former County Supervisor Eric Hazeltine addressed the board, saying that the time has come to allow the regional commissions to expire. Hazeltine said that there are two San Ramon area representatives on the County Planning Commission so there is local representation. He added that the argument of leaving Alamo as is no longer is effective.

"The community of Alamo has had the chance on more than one occasion to take control and they've voted it down," he stated. "It's time to let the area planning commissions sunset."

Supervisors discussed the issue, with the conversation circling

around the declining workload coupled with the need to streamline county government.

District 2 Supervisor Gayle Uilkema said she understands how a community may want "their own" planning commission, but the fact remains that the situation in Contra Costa County is changing and so must county government.

"Things change, times change and I think the message we are receiving is that governments need to change," she said.

Supervisors voted 5-0 not to extend the sunset date for both commissions, with the proviso that they would craft a policy where meetings of the Planning Commission dealing with local area issues would be held in those areas. ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Old 1860s dress is new at museum

The winter dress from the 1860s that recently went on display at the Museum of San Ramon Valley belonged to Martha Jane Boone, the sister of James O. and Willington Boone who came to California for good in 1865. James was Travis Boone's grandfather. Martha Jane married James W. Kendrick and died in the San Ramon Valley in 1870. She is buried in the Alamo Cemetery. This dress is partly machine made and partly handmade of wool with nice details and carefully matched stripes and a bustle. Her family saved the dress in a trunk for many years.

The dress was donated to the museum by Marilyn Belleville, who is Martha Jane Boone's great granddaughter. "She came with her daughter," said museum curator Beverly Lane. "They brought the dress and a Bible. She is going through her old things and trying to locate them back where they used to be."

The dress is on display in the baggage room adjacent to the main exhibition area. The current main exhibit is "Quilts: Tradition with a Twist," running through Sept. 27. For more information visit www.museumsrv.org.

DIABLO VIEWS



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

In the Gutierrez household, the sister act begins

Little Emma Gutierrez, 6 pounds 10 ounces, was born just a few weeks ago, on July 27, which is also the birthday of her older sister, Ava. Although the word “older” seems a bit strange to use in this case because Ava only just turned 1.

I met Emma at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Walnut Creek a few days later. It's such a joy to behold a baby who is only a couple of days old. We don't usually see them out in public at that age. How special to watch as she peered around trying to make sense of the vast surroundings in which she suddenly found herself.

How different from the nurturing world of the last nine months. And how utterly content and trusting she looked in her mother's arms.

It was *deja vu* in a way because one year ago I was seeing Ava at Kaiser. The real draw both times was their mom, Amory. Some of you may have met Amory or heard her cheerful voice on the phone when doing business with the Danville Weekly. She is the editorial assistant here, currently on maternity leave. She edits calendar, handles travel photos, obituaries and police logs, tracks ad agreements, helps those who telephone—and so much more.

When Amory returned from maternity leave after Ava was born, her desk decor took on a new theme. Whereas for the previous year there'd been a lovely picture of her and her husband Martin in their wedding finery, now we were treated to photos of Ava, at first a

tiny little baby, then growing bigger and cuter by the moment: Ava under a towel, Ava with her Daddy, Ava wearing a spunky hat, Ava in grandpa's arms.

Before Amory began her maternity leave we talked about what life would be like in her household with their two little girls, and what it would be like for the girls. I think it will be a lot of fun for all four members of their family. Hopefully Ava is too young to be truly jealous—Emma will be a fact of life, and someone to play with and enjoy. And they'll just be so darned cute together.

More importantly they can keep each other company during their childhood and throughout their lives, facing their troubles together and enjoying their triumphs. No one shares your world quite like a sibling. My sister is five years older; we've both been married for many years so our family

dynamics are well-known to our husbands, but only Diane and I share our childhood memories. The interesting thing is the different takes we have on the same incidents. And I think perhaps I enjoyed wearing the sister dresses more than she did, since I was younger.

My children are eight years apart. How different it would have been if they were just one year apart. They would have been best friends. Or not. Pepe and Zoe always did enjoy each other's company. He had the advantages of being an only child for eight years. She had the advantages of having an older sibling, and it was handy for us, once Pepe was old enough, to have a live-in babysitter for her. But when Pepe went off to college, Zoe was left at home, an only child at an age when maybe it isn't so much fun. Of course we'd often include her friends in our activities. Now they live on different sides of the world but they seem to come together as naturally as though they'd just left each other yesterday. With e-mailing, instant messaging and inexpensive phone calls, it's easy to keep in touch casually.

Why are some siblings close and others unable to get along? Many factors seem to enter into it, including personalities, life choices and how they relate to the other members of the family. For Ava and Emma, being born one year apart plus both being girls, it sounds to me like the foundation for a lifelong best-friend relationship in addition to a fun upbringing.

Amory plans to return to work in late November and then we will begin to behold the chronicling of the sister act. I can see it already: Big sister Ava holding the baby, Emma. Both sitting for a formal portrait, Ava sitting up straight, Emma still a little wobbly. How nice for our office to have two babies.

Every employee comes to work with special gifts and talents and a unique personality. Besides herself, Amory will bring in photos and stories of her two little girls. How nice for all of us. There's nothing quite like an “office baby”—or two—to keep things in perspective.

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

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Alamo bird tests positive for West Nile

A dead bird found in Alamo tested positive for West Nile virus, it was announced Monday morning by the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. Also testing positive were another dead bird from Brentwood and two groups of mosquitoes from Antioch.

The Alamo bird, reported on July 21, was found near Serafix Road and Livorna Road. The Brentwood bird was reported on Aug. 4, the same day the virus-positive mosquitoes were collected.

Due to the high number of adult mosquitoes and the detection of West Nile virus in the area, the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District fogged Antioch and East Oakley by truck to control adult mosquitoes.

“Our technicians continue to work diligently, especially in these areas where people may become infected from mosquitoes with the virus,” said Deborah Bass, spokeswoman for the District. “But, it's important to remember that West Nile virus is endemic to Contra Costa County, and California for that matter, and to take the necessary precautions.”

This report brings the total of West Nile virus-positive vectors this year in Contra Costa County to 16 groups of mosquitoes and 15 dead birds. According to the state health department's Web site, there has been one human case of West Nile virus in the county this year, a 66-year-old woman.

Residents are urged to wear mosquito repellents with the ingredients DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. The public is also reminded to report neglected swimming pools or other water sources where mosquitoes emerge. ■

Danville Weekly

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

May they rest in peace

As we have noted in recent news stories, the construction site for the new gymnasium at San Ramon Valley High School has become more of an archeological dig as the remains of two dozen Native Americans have been exhumed, and more are expected.

The discovery of human remains was first made July 8. Since then workers have used special tools to carefully unearth these peoples from the past; they are estimated to have lived from as recently as 250 years ago to as far back as 2,500 years. They were buried at depths as shallow as three feet and as deep as eight feet, indicating that this land was a burial ground over a long span of time.

The remains are believed to be members of the Bay Miwok tribe, who had a village near the site. The bodies are found buried in small oval depressions, legs drawn up to the chest and arms folded into their sides. This flexed arrangement is what we know today as the fetal position. As details emerge, these people begin to come more alive to us, so to speak. We can begin to imagine those who cared for them arranging them gently into what was assumed would be their final resting place.

Archaeological technicians are documenting the remains, which will be studied before they are prepared for reburial in the Ohlones Indian Cemetery in Fremont. A Native American representative has been named by the Native American Heritage Commission to oversee the removal of the remains and their interment.

The high school gymnasium that was torn down in June was built in 1939. During the ensuing 70 years this was the site of countless athletic games, rallies, performances and other fun activities, oblivious to the burial ground below. After the remains have been moved to a more peaceful spot, it is important for us to honor their years under the ground at the high school. Perhaps a plaque or some other kind of commemorative can mark the spot so we can pause a moment to remember those who lived and died in the Valley before us—and the discovery of their remains in 2009.

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 or mail to 117 Town and Country Drive, Suite D, Danville, CA 94526. 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 Fox Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 229.

LETTERS

Lizards counteract Lyme

Dear Editor:

As pointed out in the article July 17, "So sick from a tick," black-legged ticks and Lyme disease are common in Contra Costa County. Western fence lizards, also known as "blue belly" lizards, have an amazing ability. A protein in their blood kills the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. After an infected tick feeds on a fence lizard, it no longer will transmit the disease if it bites a person.

At the Lindsay Wildlife Museum hospital, we've seen 21 western fence lizards brought to us in the past 18 months—many caught by cats or stuck on sticky traps. With this lizard's ability to help us stay healthy, it's important to keep cats indoors and eliminate the use of sticky traps to save these useful lizards.

Susan Heckly
Wildlife Rehabilitation Director,
Lindsay Wildlife Museum

New Veterans Hall is amazing

Dear Editor:

I recently had the opportunity to review the latest set of Plans for the Veterans Memorial Building. They look superb! I was amazed at the detail and attention paid to the expansion of the building, for the veterans and for the community. The veterans will have huge amounts of space dedicated

solely to them—from the basement, to the first floor to the second floor.

I am equally pleased to the attention paid to providing dedicated space and accommodations to the seniors. Their use of the building will also be enhanced by their exclusive areas, and meeting rooms dedicated to them.

It is clear that this building has served the community well, and it's also clear that it is nearing its limits of age. The updated plumbing, electricity, insulation and acoustics will be fantastic upgrades. The beautiful building will be enhanced in so many ways for everyone.

It also appears that the new main hall will also be divisible into spaces of three, allowing multiple meetings and gatherings. The four additional/new entrances on Prospect will be at street level for ease of entrance, especially for those who have difficulties with the stairs—veterans, seniors and residents alike.

It looks to me like the Town has done a stellar job of retaining the historic portions of the building and maximizing use of the footprint to design excellent plans, including developing beautiful landscaping all around.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who worked so diligently on this venture.

Linda Schardt
San Ramon



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OBITUARIES

Terry Allan Jennings

Terry Allan Jennings, a resident of Danville, died June 2 at the age of 70.

He was born in Oakland on Aug. 3, 1938. The family moved to Danville in 1955. He graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in 1957.

He then joined the U.S. Navy and served from October 1957 to September 1963. During this time, he was stationed in Puerto Rico and Florida. Upon receiving his discharge papers, he returned to Danville where he was employed by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and then with M.B. Associates in San Ramon. He worked as a bartender part time in Danville, a local cable company, and two gas stations also located in Danville. He retired in 2001.

He leaves behind one son, Mark; a sister, Nona; two brothers, Chuck and Ronnie; five nephews and one niece. The family would



like to thank the entire staff at the V.A. Clinic in Martinez for the excellent care given to him. Also, a big "thank you" goes out to his many friends who have been so thoughtful throughout the years and especially to Pat Morgan for his many years of kindness and caring.

A private service is being held Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Francis J. Regan

Francis J. Regan, a resident of Danville, died July 26 at the age of 73.

He was born Oct. 27, 1935, in Auburn, N.Y. He graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. He went on to become an officer in the U.S. Navy. He served as a Lt. Commander on the USS Oriskany during the Vietnam War and was the recipient of the Navy Commendation Medal among other honors. He was a devout Catholic and active member in the Knights of Columbus at St. Isidore Church in Danville. In recent years he worked as a financial advisor for FSC Securities. He was one to never miss a grandchild's soccer game, basketball game or band performance. Besides his family, he enjoyed the outdoors, especially the beauty and solitude of Lake Tahoe.

He was the beloved husband for 49 years of Jeanne Knowles Regan; father of five children, Michael, Jim, Pat, Mary Lou, Teresa; and had nine-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held July 31 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Danville. Donations may be made to Wounded Warrior www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Herbert J. Texeira

Herbert J. Texeira, a resident of Danville, died July 27 at the age of 93.

He was born March 2, 1916, in Waihee, Maui, Hawaii. At a very young age, he came to Oakland and was raised by his grandparents. He was a veteran of World War II and a Purple Heart recipient, having served as a sergeant in the infantry in the ETO in Germany and commended for his sharpshooting rifle skills. He was a Knights of Columbus member for 30 years and was a Grand Knight of the local council. He was also a member of an organization for Army veterans known as the "Ozarks" and proudly wore the hat with its emblem for many years.

He is survived by Saraphina, his dear wife of 66 years; two daughters, Priscilla Buchman (Bob) and Marcella Miranda (Ken); one

granddaughter, and one great-grandson.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill 94523.

Margaret Copeland (Pearson)

Margaret (Pearson) Copeland, a resident of Danville, died Aug. 3 at the age of 68.

She was born Feb. 1, 1941, the first of two daughters of Andy and Bella Black in Corby, England. In 1964 she came to the United States and remained here the rest of her life. Early on she became an escrow officer for a title company and eventually opened an office as the manager for Placer Title Co. in Danville, in 1986. She worked for PTC until her retirement in 2006. While there, she earned the nickname of "Queenie" and "Her Royal Highness." On Oct. 5, 2005, she married her long-time companion, Jim Copeland. During the past three years, she fought a recurrence of her battle with cancer, which she was determined, but ultimately unable, to win.

She is survived by her loving husband, Jim; sister, Isabelle; nieces, Diane and Candice; stepsons, Michael and David; step-

daughter, Muriel; a great-niece, a step-grandson, and many friends.

A private celebration of her life was held at the family home Aug. 9.

Ellen Jane O'Connell

Ellen Jane O'Connell, a resident of Danville, died in her late 80s.

Born in 1921, in Emeryville, she was a graduate of Emery High School. She worked as a keypunch operator for 30 years in private business and at the Oakland Naval Supply and at UC Berkeley. She moved to Danville after the devastating Oakland fire, which destroyed not only her home but everything she owned. She was injured and required surgery and never really recovered from the loss. It brought back painful memories of the loss of her husband and son and was worse because she no longer had her favorite things around to comfort her. She especially missed the beautiful wedding gifts she so proudly displayed in her home. She eventually purchased new things and her new home became as comfortable as her home in Oakland. She was especially devoted to family and having fun, and she enjoyed her last cocktail the day before she died.

See OBITUARIES on Page 11

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OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 10

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 35 years, Pat; and her adored son Paddy. She is survived by her daughter Maureen, sisters Isabelle and Colleen (David), niece Kathy (Don) and sons Josh and Michael; niece Linda (Richard) and son Richard; niece Carleen, nephew Bill, Kari Hartmann and Jennifer Guiol and family.

Family and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. A reception will follow at Rubicon Clubhouse. Private interment at St. Mary's Cemetery in Oakland.

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

[READ MORE/COMMENT](#)

Town Square Forum

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POLICE BULLETIN

Alamo resident attacked, car stolen

Deputies from the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department are investigating a home break-in in Alamo on Monday, in which a resident was attacked and her vehicle stolen.

Sheriff's Department spokesman Jimmy Lee said that around noon the victim was working in her yard in the first block of Jennifer Lane when she saw a suspicious vehicle occupied by two men. Later her dogs began barking in the back yard of the home.

Lee said the victim entered the home and confronted a suspect. The suspect attacked the woman, choking her unconscious. The victim told police that when she woke up she noticed her car, a 2004 Lexus SUV, was missing.

She contacted police and deputies set up a perimeter around the area. A K-9 unit was brought in to locate any suspect or suspects. No individuals were located, however the woman's vehicle was located half a mile away.

Emergency medical crews checked over the woman, who suffered only minor injuries in the incident. Investigators are continuing to look for any clues that might lead to the suspect in the case.

"We've committed a large number of resources to this," Lee said. "We had the crime lab out at the scene all afternoon and we are hoping that they will generate some leads for us."

While the woman saw two men in the vehicle she saw in her neighborhood, only one suspect was seen in the home. Lee said the suspect has been described as a male Hispanic, 20-30 year of age, approximately 5 feet 8 inches, with long hair and a mustache. The suspect was reported to be wearing a white T-shirt, dark pants and work boots. The suspect vehicle as possibly a 1980s gold Camry.

Any person seeing a person matching that description is urged to contact the Sheriff's Department at 646-2441.

-Geoff Gillette

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, Aug. 2

- Warrant service, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 7:00 a.m.
- Music disturbance on Fostoria Circle at 1:17 p.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on La Gonda Way at 3:13 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Fostoria Way at 5:40 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 3

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Mission Place at 12:40 p.m.
- Abandoned vehicle on Esther Lane at 3:22 p.m.
- Animal cruelty on Camino Tassajara at 3:33 p.m.
- Grand theft on Santa Clara Place at 4:10 p.m.
- Misdemeanor DUI on Cameo Dr. and Pulido Rd. at 9:48 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on Ambience Way at 11:01 p.m.
- Noise disturbance on Tuscany Way at 11:12 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 4

- Vandalism on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 5:55 a.m.
- Vandalism on La Gonda Way at 7:41 a.m.
- Vandalism on Railroad Ave. at 8:37 a.m.
- Auto burglary on El Cerro Blvd. at 9:05 a.m.

- Auto burglary on El Cerro Blvd. at 9:47 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Dolphin Dr. at 11:36 a.m.
- Petty theft on Hartz Ave. at 2:17 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Del Amigo Rd. at 3:23 p.m.
- Reckless driving on Greenbrook Dr. and Rock Island Circle at 4:31 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Dolphin Dr. at 5:07 p.m.
- Grand theft on Danville Blvd. at 9:36 p.m.
- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 10:03 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 5

- Promiscuous shooting on Dolphin Dr. at 5:36 a.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on El Cerro Blvd. at 5:36 a.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on El Cerro Blvd. and El Cerro Ct. at 5:38 a.m.
- Accident, fire, on Sycamore Valley Rd. and Tunbridge Rd. at 6:25 a.m.
- Petty theft on Montair Dr. at 9:27 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Fountain Springs Circle at 10:10 a.m.
- Fight disturbance on Crow Canyon Rd. at 5:30 p.m.

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The Fire District has purchased this Alamo property at 2100 Stone Valley Road at the corner of Miranda Avenue to rebuild Station 32, currently located one-half mile west on Stone Valley Road.



Above: Ed and Nanci Wolske point out the boundary of their property in Stone Valley Creek, which runs through their land and that of the adjoining properties. They fear that construction of a large building next door will impact the natural habitat.



Right: neighbors gather in the Wolskes' yard to look at the lot next door that was purchased by the Fire District for a new Station 32. They say the facility will lower their property values, although Fire Chief Richard Price maintains that the station will not be a worse neighbor than two homes on the property, which was another option.

FIRE STATION

Continued from Page 1

its budget, reported Chief Price, which is being dealt with across departments. But, he noted, the old Station 32 will be sold as will Fire District property at Hemme Avenue, which should account for half of the money needed for the new station. The district has also applied for \$2.5 million in federal stimulus funds.

The original Station 32, built in 1958, had 2,547 square feet of living space and 1,190 square feet for fire engines and equipment. Fifty years ago, when Alamo's population was 1,700, it housed one firefighter, with the volunteer brigade responding to calls.

Station 32 began to provide ambulance services in the 1970s, said Assistant Fire Chief Steve Hart, who is in charge of planning future growth. Now it houses two fire companies, six firefighters, two engines, an ambulance and another engine primarily used for grass and brush fires.

"We've remodeled it twice," Hart said. "In 1991 was the last major remodel." Eight hundred feet have been added.

Station 32 is the smallest and the oldest of the 10 fire stations in the district. While recent growth has been in the southern end of the district, Price noted that Alamo residents also pay property taxes, which provide 96.5 percent of the annual \$51.5 million district funding, and they should have a modern facility.

The district considered several options to serve Alamo. One plan called for two stations in different parts of the unincorporated area. Implementing this strategy, the district purchased property on Danville Boulevard at Hemme Avenue in December 2005 for \$925,000, and began to look for a site on Livorna Road.

When this did not pan out, the district began to focus on the current Station 32 location, planning to tear down the outdated station and replace it. This was less than ideal, said Price, because the site is hemmed in by a hillside at the rear of the lot and Stone Valley Road in front. Also, the site is too small for a drive-through bay.

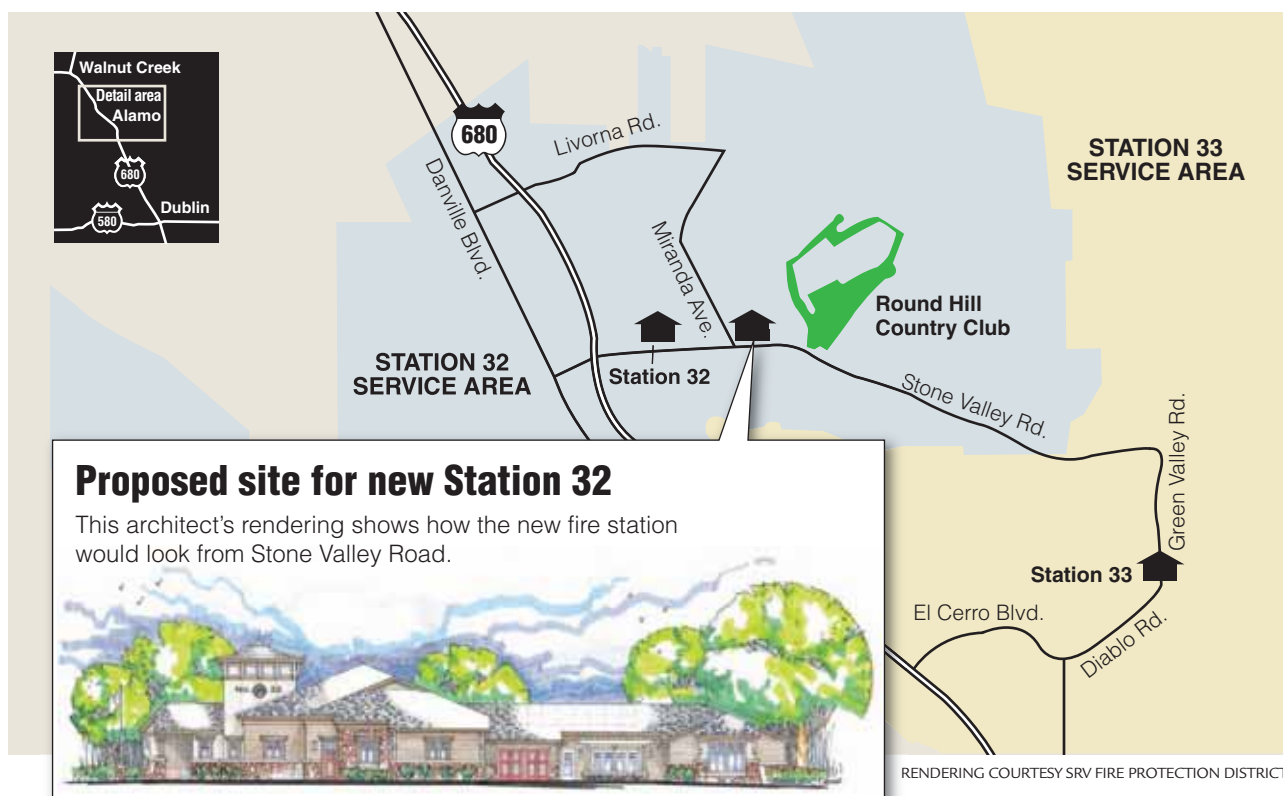
"Any time you're backing up or stopping traffic, it is not good," said Price. "You can't see west because the road curves. The crews nose out, and traffic is very fast. This takes 30 seconds longer and is a safety issue."

The plan was to relocate the firefighters and equipment to Stone Valley Middle School while construction was under way. This temporary move would have cost \$750,000, said Price. Then fire crews spotted the 4-bedroom, 2-bath home for sale on Miranda and Stone Valley Road in December and alerted fire officials who quickly made an offer of \$1.2 million to M. Poustinchian.

"We went to the San Ramon Valley Planning Commission to make sure there were no zoning issues with the General Plan and zoning district, then we purchased it," recalled Price. This "mandatory referral" is needed whenever a public agency acquires a piece of land.

When the neighbors heard about the purchase, they contacted District 3 County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho's office but were told that because it was in the early planning stages, they should take it up with the fire department.

The Fire District submitted its application in June to the county Department of Conservation and Development, said project planner Ruben Hernandez. "We are currently processing it," he said. "That means verifying compliance with zoning, compliance with the California



Environmental Quality Act, basically development standards."

After the application is deemed complete and reviewed for compliance, Hernandez said, it will receive an environment review, a staff report will be written, and it will be scheduled to go before a county Zoning Administrator. If the administrator gives the project the go-ahead but someone appeals it, the project will go before the County Planning Commission. If its decision is appealed, the project would go before the County Board of Supervisors.

Tiffany and Dan Haller moved from San Carlos to Alamo a year and a half ago when they found the perfect six-bedroom, four-bath home for their young family on Megan Court. They said they were distraught to learn that the lot behind them was purchased by the Fire District for a new station.

"We would never, ever have bought behind a fire station," said Tiffany Haller. "We asked our real estate agent, 'What do we do?' They all told us, 'You'll lose from 10-15 percent on your home.' If we had to sell, we would lose from \$150,000-\$200,000."

Alamo Realtor Nancy Combs agreed that the fire station would impact the sale of homes in the area.

"You're going to limit your market in terms of people who would be willing to live next to a fire station," she said. It will affect the price in a down market and in an up market, she noted.

The Hallers' first impulse was to put the house on the market, said Tiffany, but they decided to wait just in case somehow it does not get built. Meanwhile they are working with the fire department to mitigate the impacts of the new station for their sake or for future owners.

They had a study done by Wilson, Ihrig & Associates, acoustical and vibration consultants, which was paid for by the Fire District. Principal Pablo A. Daroux listed noise sources, including fire engines idling for long periods, revving up repeatedly, their sirens, horns and backup alarms; building mechanical support systems; the garage doors opening and closing; and conversations when personnel gathered outdoors.

"The acoustical engineer came up with suggestions but said some of the low vibrations are hard to get rid of," said Tiffany Haller. "He said the best thing we can

do is soundproof our house."

Bob Deiss of ATI Architects & Engineers in Danville, who is the architect of record on this project, said vibrations will not be a problem.

"A fire truck doesn't vibrate any more than a small delivery truck," he said. "They are all on rubber tires. And the doors are quiet."

He noted that the location is already noisy, especially during heavy traffic times on Stone Valley Road and with vehicles stopping at the lights at Miranda Avenue. "We are going to build sound walls along Stone Valley and along Miranda," Deiss said, "with berming up against the sound walls ... the site development will actually cut the amount of noise."

Chief Price pointed out that the former owner was attempting to sell the property as two parcels.

"Neighbors aren't silent," Price said. "You can have neighbors with teens giving parties, or Harleys. Megan Court has leaf blowers. Two houses would have made much more noise."

"People always compare it to an empty lot," he added. "We're an outstanding neighbor. We're going to put in a first-rate beautiful facility."

The neighbors also worry about environmental impacts to Stone Valley Creek because they said there were plans to sink a retaining wall deep into the ground.

"That was never in the plans," said Architect Deiss. "We were looking at putting in a short retaining wall, one foot high and a foot or two into the ground."

This wall is no longer in the plans.

Neighbors also fear that the Fire District will be able to obtain a variance and not have to honor the setback from the creek observed by the homes along Stone Valley Road.

"The 50-foot setback will definitely be enforced," said civil engineer Monish Sen of the county Public Works Department. "The question is whether additional setback is required."

Deiss said that they moved the building farther to the south to accommodate the setback and that the size has been reduced by a few hundred square feet from the plans for 9,800 square feet.

"A fire station is a building that is functionally driven," explained Deiss, who has designed many such facilities, including Station 36 on Camino Tassajara and Lusitano. "It has a number

of dorm rooms and apparatus that are present on the site. It has requirements for staff onsite with adjacent facilities, dining, exercise rooms, to accommodate staff requirements and needs.

"Then there are physical support spaces," he continued. "Janitor closets, offices, areas to greet the public. All of those things together work to develop the overall building size."

The former owner built up the land on the property to place the house on a rise, but this bump will be lowered, said Deiss, and the grade of the floor will be approximately 12 feet below the grade of the current building. The station will be one story, screened with vegetation and an attractive sound wall. Per the back neighbor's request, the driveway will be on the Stone Valley Road side. Vehicles will enter on Stone Valley Road and exit on Miranda.

"We're at the conceptual design of the project," said Deiss. "The whole purpose is to develop the design as you go along, to lay out the floor areas and room relationships, and develop the building from the inside out. Things are fluid until we get further along in the project."

As the design inches toward completion, he said, it becomes more functional and cost efficient, better for both the client and the public.

As for the location, Deiss stated that fire stations need to go in residential neighborhoods. "They need to be where the action is," he said. "We've done urban type stations as well as suburban; fire stations need to fit into the neighborhood they serve to keep the time of response down."

The station will fit in with the design of the adjacent homes on Stone Valley Road, he added, in keeping with the policy of the Fire District that stations blend in with the community to enhance the overall aesthetics.

"We try to go with the lightest footprint possible," said Price. "We're talking to the county every day—Public Works, Planning. A lot of agencies have to sign off on it."

"We've done everything we can to mitigate concerns, to study what could be done. We offered to pay for fencing. We want to have a good relationship," he added. "Let's say it does affect property values—do you sacrifice the well-being of the community?" ■

PHOTOS BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

WHEN IN ROME

Things look different to Danville teen after her European adventure

BY MEL ROSENBERG

I went to Europe. It sounds weird just saying it as simply as that. It seems almost like I'm trying to downplay the experience, or even make an attempt to diminish it into something much less than it actually was. But going to Europe became much more than just a trip.

What's weird is that nowadays it seems like everyone around here my age is going to Europe. It's not even that special but just another frivolous thing to do during your summer vacation. I think it is sad that going to completely different countries doesn't have the same impact on teens that it once did.

My Grandma, my older cousin Melissa and I have been planning this trip for more than a year in celebration of Melissa's high school graduation this year, and my graduation next spring from Monte Vista. It's taken that long for my Grandma to find what she dubbed as the "right itinerary." As I first glanced upon the list, I didn't so much see the places as I did the dates we would be away. Two weeks!? It seemed like a lifetime on a social calendar when I thought of all that I would miss. My cousin reacted the same way.

My Grandma instantly saw our skepticism. She sat down both of our anxious selves and gave us serious looks.

"I just want you two to get something out of this," she said. "I don't care if you like the tours or think it's dirty or anything else like that. I just want you two to come back seeing the world a little differently than you did before."

Hmm. To me that sounded like she not only wanted us to go to Europe for two weeks, but she also wanted us to come back having had some sort of epiphany or something. Well, I had my own agenda.

"I just want to fit in, you know?" I told my cousin on the plane. "I don't want anyone in Rome to know I'm a tourist. I want them to see me and be like, 'Hey look! A fellow Roman.'" But she just laughed at my innocent enthusiasm as I spent the remaining hours mentally going through all the clothes I had packed trying to decide whether or not they were "European" enough.

A day later, as I stood in the core center of the Piazza Navona in Rome, I couldn't honestly have cared less what I was wearing (gasp!); I was much more concerned with the way the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi's water blasted into a majestic arch, how the various painters magically sketched and mixed their colors, and the way love-struck couples walked



Mel Rosenberg (right) and her cousin, Melissa Brymner, pause near the Spanish Steps while on holiday in Rome. Their grandmother took the girls to Europe in celebration of their high school graduations.

PHOTOS COURTESY MEL ROSENBERG



Mel, Melissa, their grandmother, Diane Rosenberg, and their distant cousin, Josh Kanner, enjoy lunch at a café in Rome.

hand in hand jabbering on in more languages than I could process. I was much less concerned with myself than I was with, well, Rome.

Our trip cruised us on to seven other cities: Florence, Monaco, Barcelona, Mallorca, Tunis, Sicily and Naples. But still, Rome, with its Coliseum, holding more history

and blood and fear than I would ever be able to imagine; and with its Sistine Chapel, that had taken four long years and one very reluctant painter to complete, continued to strongly hold its place at the top of the list as my most favorite stop. It's not like all the other places weren't equally amazing, but being

"As I stood there surrounded by my family, I realized my Grandma had been right all along. I did feel different."

Mel Rosenberg,
who traveled to Europe with her Grandma and cousin

in Rome just felt right, like I fit in, no matter how I dressed or acted.

Before I knew it, we were back home, claiming our luggage and reminiscing about our 14-day excursion that hadn't felt like two weeks at all. As I stood there surrounded by my family for the first time in weeks, I realized with a smile that my Grandma had been right all along. I did feel different. I felt more mature and as if the mound of college information sitting on my desk at home were no longer frightening, but somewhat intriguing. I felt more cultured, as if being in a new country had made me aware of the diversity of living that others had adapted throughout their history and across the globe.

Even as I stood there in the crowded airport, I felt more confident, more comfortable with myself. And I honestly don't care how cheesy that sounds because I think that's all that matters. No one else might notice a change in the way I look or act, but I can. Going to Europe shouldn't be about just going to Europe. It should be about realizing that the only social calendars you should be concerned with are your own. It should be about coming home and seeing the world a tad differently than you did before. Going to another country shouldn't be about fitting in with the Romans, it should be about fitting in with yourself.

Maybe I did have that epiphany after all. ■

EPICURE



By **JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL**

Garlic: The Mystical Food

I love garlic and it gets taken for granted so often. Garlic (*allium sativum*) has been lovingly nicknamed the “stinking rose” yet it is actually a member of the lily family, cousin to onions, leeks, chives and shallots. Besides its wondrously intense and versatile flavor, it's also very good for your body. The medicinal and healing benefits of garlic have long been noted.

Consumed by ancient Greek and Roman soldiers, African peasants and the builders of the Egyptian pyramids, garlic has been a popular food among many cultures since early civilizations. The aphrodisiacal effects of garlic have been touted through the ages and, at one time, it was so highly prized that it was used as currency. It was also used in ancient times to treat numerous conditions including smallpox, tuberculosis, dropsies and as protection against the plague. Hippocrates supposedly used garlic vapors to treat cervical cancer. Cherokee Indians used it as an expectorant for croup and coughs.

Today, scientific studies have shown that garlic can lower cholesterol and triglycerides levels, reduce high blood pressure, help coronary heart disease, help with muscle cramps after exertion, and cure many different types of fungal infections, e.g. athlete's foot and thrush. Some medical experts believe that garlic can also help in the reduction of certain cancers such as colon and stomach cancer. Further, the anti-bacterial properties of garlic are widely accepted.

Garlic poultices were used on the wounds of World War II soldiers when antibiotics were scarce. Recent studies have not effectively isolated alliin, allicin and ajoene—the compounds in garlic with the highest health benefits—so some results have been inconclusive.

Spiritually, garlic has been seen as a force for good or evil - for example, there are strong folk beliefs of its ability to ward off werewolves and vampires—and some religions have specific rules about its use or avoidance. Who knows, in a world of vampires, perhaps I'd take a chance on it. It's never let me down before.

Even without conclusive documentation, garlic is considered to be one of the healthiest foods to consume. Medical and healing claims aside, garlic is one the staples of savory cooking. There are over 300 varieties of garlic in the world, although most of what we buy in the U.S. is of one variety of “hard neck” garlic, named for the hard stalk in the center of the head. Left whole, the aroma is slight and flavor minimal. But crushed, chopped or pressed and garlic comes alive, adding pungent flavor to whatever dish you are preparing. When cooked, garlic's flavor can mellow to become slightly sweet. The smaller you cut it, the stronger the flavor. Chopping finely and/or pressing a clove exposes more surfaces to the air, causing a chemical reaction to produce that strong aroma and potent flavor.

When using raw garlic, choose garlic that adds sweet and spicy flavors, sometimes with a nice heat, but is not bitter. As with all fresh foods, identify the source of the garlic you buy and look for solid bulbs that are slightly pliable but not soft. Store garlic at home in a warm, dry

Recipe

Jacqui's Garlic Bread (1 loaf)

- 1 quality baguette
- 2-4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 2 Tbsp grated parmesan
- Freshly ground black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Slice the baguette in half lengthwise, then on the diagonal into 2-inch slices.
2. Mix all the topping ingredients together; brush them over the cut sides of the bread. Use more or less garlic to taste, as desired.
3. Wrap the baguette in foil. Bake 20 minutes. Sprinkle a generous pinch of pepper over the slices before serving.

Garlic Mayonnaise

- 6 Tbsp mayonnaise
- 2 large cloves garlic, pressed
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Blend the mayonnaise, garlic, lemon juice and olive oil in a bowl; season to taste with salt and pepper. Cover and chill until used.

See more recipes at www.DanvilleWeekly.com.

spot to keep it dormant, i.e., so that it does not sprout. The best way to store it is on your kitchen counter in a garlic cellar with a lid. Over time, however, unused cloves or bulbs will dry out or rot.

My favorite way to enjoy fresh garlic is garlic bread or as the main seasoning for a simple garlic and chopped tomato topping over spaghetti. The garlic eggplant recipe below is a terrific party dip that even non-eggplant-lovers will enjoy. The great mayonnaise is easy to make and is great on sandwiches. Eat garlic ... live well! P.S. If you've never gone, consider attending the 2010 Gilroy Garlic Festival, which runs annually the last full weekend in July. The three-day event features garlic prepared every way possible (including garlic ice cream) plus many eating and fun

activities. Attendance at the 2009 event in Gilroy, the garlic capital of the world, topped 108,000. Check out www.gilroygarlicfestival.com.

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 jllovemarshall@yahoo.com.



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Jim Wood, SF Examiner



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OF NOTE

New president for Mason-McDuffie

Marilyn J. Richardson of Danville was promoted to president and chief executive officer of Mason-McDuffie Mortgage Corp., effective June 22. She has served as chief operating officer and executive vice president in charge of day-to-day operations since Mason-McDuffie was founded in January 2005. She takes over from Herb Tasker who will serve as chairman of the corporation.



Marilyn J. Richardson

"Marilyn has guided Mason-McDuffie to month-after-month of record production, both in terms of the number of loans and the dollar volume. Through her leadership, we've established a niche in the market where loan officers and their clients know we can deliver speedy turn-around and quality service," Tasker said.

In 1972 Richardson served as operations manager for Mason-McDuffie Financial and became the first woman partner in 1979. She has since successfully worked in operations for several mortgage companies in the Bay Area including RBC Mortgage, Zino Mortgage Group, Coun-

trywide Home Loans, Union Security Mortgage and ITT Financial.

McNerney honors Danville students

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney recently welcomed students from the 11th Congressional District to Washington, D.C., to receive Congressional Gold Medal Awards. Two of the gold medal recipients, Kristen and Stephanie Glass, are from Danville. Each student dedicated many hours to volunteering, personal development and physical fitness in order to achieve their gold medals.

Kristen Glass completed more than 650 volunteer hours through "Make It or Break It," a nonprofit group she co-founded with her sister, dedicated to educating children and teenagers about the importance of bone health. She also plays competitive tennis and sings.

Stephanie Glass completed more than 600 volunteer hours working for Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute and educating young children about the importance of bone health through "Make It or Break It." She also plays competitive tennis and serves as a class representative at her high school.

The U.S. Congressional Awards are for young Americans, ages 14-23, who set goals in four program areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Expedition/Exploration.

PRESENTING THE PAST

By BEVERLY LANE



MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

The original St. Isidore Church, at the corner of Hartz Avenue and Linda Mesa, dedicated in 1912, later had a taller bell tower added as well as white siding.

St. Isidore's builds a new church, Part 2

The original St. Isidore's Church served the community faithfully for over 50 years. The church building itself evolved, adding a taller bell tower and white siding. Father Henry Plunkett came in 1952 and watched as the church membership grew too large for the facilities.

Columnist and teacher Al Gentile was active in the Holy Name Society at the church. In one of his columns he recalled Father Plunkett's plans for expansion. "I remember well the night Father Plunkett told all of us in the Holy Name Society his plans for the future. He invited us all to have dinner with him at the Danville Hotel and, in his after-dinner speech, he told us that he had purchased the land on which the church and school now stands (in 1956). And then he lowered the boom: 'All you have to do now, gentlemen,' he said, 'is to spread yourselves through Danville, San Ramon and Alamo and go out and get enough pledge money to raise a good home for our patron saint, Isidore!'

"I'm tired of me old house, I'm very much looking forward to me new house," Father Plunkett said with a pronounced Irish brogue. The old Irishman had a remarkable sense of humor, and that's the truth. Ask anybody who was there at the time."

The new buildings moved quickly. First the school was completed in 1958, designed by Jack Buchter, A.I.A., of Lafayette and assisted by James Crossen of Danville. The contractor was George Hanson of San Leandro. The school was eventually conducted by the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis and a convent with chapel was situated adjacent to the church. It was formally dedicated in 1963.

Since the Sisters were not ready to open the school in 1958, the rooms were rented for public school classes from 1958-60. The Danville School District was overcrowded and scheduling double sessions. Bruce Marhenke recalls that Montair School opened in 1958 and four classes, dubbed the "Montair Annex" were conducted at St. Isidore's for the next two years. They also had an office that the teachers shared.

When Vista Grande opened in September, 1960, most of the students went to that school. The boundary line for Montair and Vista Grande was Danville Boulevard. Marhenke was the first principal for Vista Grande and recalled students cutting across open fields down Bobbi Lane to school. The freeway was not built from Walnut Creek to Danville until 1964.

By 1961 the new St. Isidore Church and rectory were completed and, in May of 1962, the church was blessed. The old church and rectory was razed in 1963, to some tears. Fritz Ferreira, whose grandmother had so faithfully tended the church, handled the land's sale.

As the congregation grew, additional improvements were needed. In early 1978 the Msgr. Julius Benson Community Center was completed. The next year, with the parish population reaching 2,400, St. Joan of Arc Parish was established. In 1994 the diocese decided to improve the facilities instead of creating yet another parish when the parish census reached 3,600.

Today La Gonda Avenue has St. Isidore Catholic buildings on both sides of the street. It has expanded to include more classrooms, administrative buildings and a double gymnasium, the Rettig Activities Center, Kids Konnection for baby and child care, and a Youth Center with activities and meeting space.

Local drivers all notice the creamy white statue of St. Isidore the Farmer on La Gonda, erected in 1985 on the 75th anniversary of the parish and dedicated to the memory of Msgr. Julius Bensen. Msgr. Bensen was recognized as the builder of the church, school and rectory on La Gonda Way where he was pastor from 1959 to 1978.

From a little country parish, to a thriving 21st-century one, St. Isidore's has been blessed by energetic pastors, diverse programs and generations of faithful parishioners. Congratulations are in order for its Centennial.

Beverly Lane is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon" and "Vintage Danville: 150 Years of Memories." Sources: SRV Times, From Here and there, by Al Gentile, April 3, 1999; museum archives, Jubilee programs, St. Isidore Church Web site, Walnut Creek Courier-Journals, Valley Pioneers



BOB CHACE

Recognizing Discovery contributions

Danville Rotary awarded Thom Martin (left) Rotarian of the Year at a recent end-of-year awards luncheon. Outgoing President Bob Gibbs presented the award to Martin for "his outstanding contributions to Rotary and to our community." Martin, who is executive director of the Discovery Counseling Center, was recognized for his commitment to supporting many youth oriented programs and organizations in the San Ramon Valley including the Challengers Baseball Jamboree, Interact and Del Amigo High School. Martin was also instrumental in raising more than \$10,000 in donations for Danville Rotary's Youth Impact Fund.

Lawson Bill has been inducted as the new chairman of the board for Discovery, which has been a community-based nonprofit organization for more than 35 years, providing the greater San Ramon Valley Community with affordable and high quality mental health services. Call the center at 837-0505.



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.



Crow Canyon Country Club Sea Lions won the Valley Swim Association League championships for the third year in a row. Eight of the 22 new records were set by CCCC swimmers.

Crow Canyon Sea Lions continue winning legacy

Team wins third consecutive swimming championship

BY MIKE MAHONEY

For the third year in a row, the Crow Canyon Country Club Sea Lions came out on top at the Valley Swim Association League championships, held Aug. 1-2 at the Pleasanton Aquatics Center. The Valley Swim Association has nine Danville teams, including Club Sport San Ramon. This year the Sea Lions scored a whopping 2,521 points to win their third consecutive title.

This was a memorable year for the Sea Lions. Not only were eight of the 22 total new records set by CCCC swimmers, but also because the win came under new team leadership. Former assistant coach Jake Schroeder stepped up to fill the shoes of Dan Cottam, who moved into a new role at CCCC as aquatics director. Assisting Jake this year was new coach Rachel Ridgeway. Both are accomplished swimmers and leaders.

"Going into this year I knew we would have to really focus and bring a lot of energy into the championships to make it a 3-peat. All the kids did just that," said Schroeder. Kids competed in age groups ranging from 4 to 18 years old in each of the seven events, except for the Individual Medley, which starts at the 7-8 age group.

"This is an extremely tough league with many strong teams," said coach Ridgeway after the meet. "It was up to every age group to score points in order for us to capture the win. It was a close meet all the way to the end."

One of the most exciting events of the day may have been the parent/coaches relays. Although they are not scored, bragging rights abound and drive each team to put forth their best effort. This year Crow Canyon swept all three relays, keeping up the winning tradition established over the weekend.

The VSA League Meet caps off the regular season. However, those who swam a County qualifying time during the swim season will go on to the County Championships on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 15-16, at Acalanes High School in Lafayette. There will be more than 70 Crow Canyon Country Club Sea Lion swimmers represented at the County Championships this year, and the Sea Lions are the defending County champions. ■



Coaches Rachel Ridgeway and Jake Schroeder display the trophy won for the third year in a row by the Crow Canyon Country Club Sea Lions at the Valley Swim Association League championships.

Final results for the VSA Championships

Place Team Points:

1. Crow Canyon Country Club - 2,521
2. Blackhawk Swim Team - 2,237
3. Dapa - 2,038
4. Round Hill Country Club - 1,960
5. Diablo Country Club - 1,646
6. Sycamore Stingrays - 1,329.50
7. Danville Sea Devils - 917.50
8. San Ramon Aquacats - 753
9. Marlins Swim Team - 45



10's take State championship

The Danville Little League 10-year-old All Star team won the Northern California State championship following their Sectional 3 championship. The Danville 10's went 8 and 1 in these two tourneys beating Niles Centerville-Fremont, Hillsborough, Mt. Eden-Hayward, Alameda, Land Park-Sacramento, River Park-Fresno and Santa Clara West. There were about 400 teams competing for this championship. Team photo shows Coach Brent Bowman and Manager Mark Dawson, (back row, l-r) Mason Banks, Jack Morgan, Ryan Mladinich, Nick Venezia, Kyle Batza, Cole DeFlores, Nathan Roberto, (middle) Nolan Bartnick, Chris Lonestar, Ryan Bowman, Jared Dawson and (front) Darroch Koel.



11's win State with final game score of 7-1

After In a long struggle through three tournaments, Danville's 11-year-old boys took the Northern California Title recently in Rocklin. Danville outscored their opponents 39-15. They beat Saratoga in their first game July 25, 7-3. The next day they beat Chico, 18-8. On July 28, they prevailed over Napa National, 7-3, and then they faced Napa in the final game and won State with a score of 7-1. Danville's Joey Spears hit a grand slam in the second inning to put Danville up 4-0. Danville never looked back with great pitching effort by Clayton Tennant who almost finished out the game but Nick Moroney came in for the final out. Team members are (back row, l-r) Manager Brent Hughes, Conor Maloney, Riley Moore, Greg Polosky, Ryan Murphy, Joe Vranesh, Joey Matulovich, Coach John Spears, Coach Mike Lloyd, (front) Joey Spears, Nick Moroney, Brian Barcellona, Clayton Tennant, Jake Hughes and Jake Lloyd.

Civic Meetings IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ALAMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL TOWN HALL MEETING ON HEALTH CARE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Town Hall meeting on health care and veteran affairs will be held with Sen. Mark DeSaulnier from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 17 at Concord Veterans Memorial Building, 2290 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. RSVP at 210-0240 or MarkDeSaulnier.com.

Clubs

ALAMO CRIBBAGE CLUB The club plays cribbage for fun. It meets at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 284-7044 or e-mail almo1@prodigy.net.

ALAMO ROTARY The Alamo Rotary meets at noon every Wednesday at Roundhill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road. Call Mark Kahn at 837-3262.



ALAMO-DANVILLE ARTISTS' SOCIETY (ADAS) hosts monthly meetings featuring well-known guest art-

ist demonstrations on the second Tuesday of every month. These meetings are free and open to the public. This society also hosts Art in the Park and Open Studios to raise funds for art programs in the San Ramon Valley area schools. Visit www.adas4art.org.

ALAMO-DANVILLE NEWCOMERS CLUB This club is open to new and long-time residents of the surrounding areas. If you are interested in making new friends, learning more about the area or getting involved in various activities, call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvillenewcomers.com.

ALAMO-DANVILLE NEWCOMERS CLUB KICK-OFF BRUNCH Please join us for our annual Kick-Off Brunch, at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Round Hill Country Club. During the social hour, preview the activity booths then join us for a delicious brunch at 11 a.m. with a welcome from this year's president, Gail Wittman. For more information, call 775-3233.

ALAMO-DANVILLE NEWCOMERS CLUB WELCOME COFFEE Whether you are a new or long-time resident of Alamo, Danville, or the surrounding area, if you are interested in making new friends, & getting involved in the many activities we offer - then please join us for coffee & learn more. The coffees are at 10 a.m., the 4th Thursday each month. Call 925-775-3233.

CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE (CCI) WILL BE VISITING DOG BONE ALLEY Canine Companions for Independence will be visiting Dog Bone Alley, from Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15 at 730 Camino Ramon, in the Rose Garden Shopping Center. Meet these amazing dogs and learn about how your family might get involved in the Puppy-Raising Program. Call 552-0410.

DANVILLE AM TOASTMASTERS CLUB The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at Father Nature's, 178 E. Prospect Ave. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact Dave Miklasevich at 899-1543, dmik210@yahoo.com or www.danvilleamtoastmasters.org.

Rockin' out on the lawn: Lumberyard will be performing at the first Dave Fest, along with The Shillz, Spinout, Zero To Couch, Mersey Beach, and more to benefit the San Ramon Valley YMCA. The event will be held from 12:30 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15, at Hap Magee Ranch Park on the Danville-Alamo border. \$20 suggested donation. Call 831-1100 or visit www.srvymca.org.

DANVILLE JOB'S DAUGHTERS Job's Daughters International is an organization for young ladies (minimum age 10 for full membership) who enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips and more. The group meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at the Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd. Call 829-8505 or email IOJD247@yahoo.com.

DANVILLE LIONS CLUB This club meets at 7 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at the Brass Door, San Ramon. For information, call Tom Jackson at 984-1541.

DANVILLE MID-DAY REFERRAL GROUP, BNI Danville Mid-day Referral Group, a chapter of Business Network International, meets from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., every Wednesday, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Call Eric Samuels at 946-1400.

DANVILLE PM TOASTMASTER CLUB #1785 The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd., San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information, call Debra Elmore at 934-3113 or visit www.danvilletoastmasters1785.com.

DANVILLE ROTARY The Danville Rotary meets at noon, every Monday at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, visit www.danvillerotary.org.

DANVILLE-ALAMO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN Danville-Alamo American Association of University Women membership brunch will be held from 9:30 a.m.- Noon, Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Featured speaker is Diane Dwyer, weekend anchor, NBC Bay Area News, and winner of many awards including Emmy, Associated Press, New York Film Festival and Bay Area Society of Professional Journalist awards. Call 287-1543.

DANVILLE-SYCAMORE VALLEY ROTARY The Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club meets for breakfast at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711

Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Join them for great fellowship and make a difference in your community and the world. Call Scott at 743-8449.

DELTA NU PSI Delta Nu Psi provides packages to troops in the War Zone. The group collects donations before the third Friday of every month in front of Longs Drug Store in Alamo and before the third Saturday at Lunardi's in Danville. It puts together the packages on the third Wednesday of every month. For information, e-mail Alicia at deltanupsi@comcast.net.

DIABLO SINGLES DANCE CLUB Diablo Singles Dance Club dances regularly the last Wednesday of the month from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at the Arts Education Building, corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. All are welcome. Call 837-2851.

DIABLO VALLEY FLY FISHERMAN This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit www.diablovalleyflyfish.org.

DIABLO VALLEY QUILTERS' GUILD The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome (\$2 donation). Annual membership fee is \$30 (\$20 for seniors 65+). For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

EXCHANGE CLUB The Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley meets from noon-1 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Meetings include lunch, a guest speaker and business networking. Guests are invited with reservations; call 275-2412. Visit at www.srvexchangeclub.org

GRANDMOTHERS CLUB Grandmothers of all ages meet for lunch at 11 a.m., on the second Friday of every month, at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. If interested, contact Janice Ridge at 837-8007.

HOMEOWNER/HOMEBUYER BOOK CLUB The Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club is a place to learn, share and discuss. It meets at 6 p.m., the first Monday of each month, at 3223 Crow Canyon Road, second floor conference room, San Ramon. Call 397-2093.

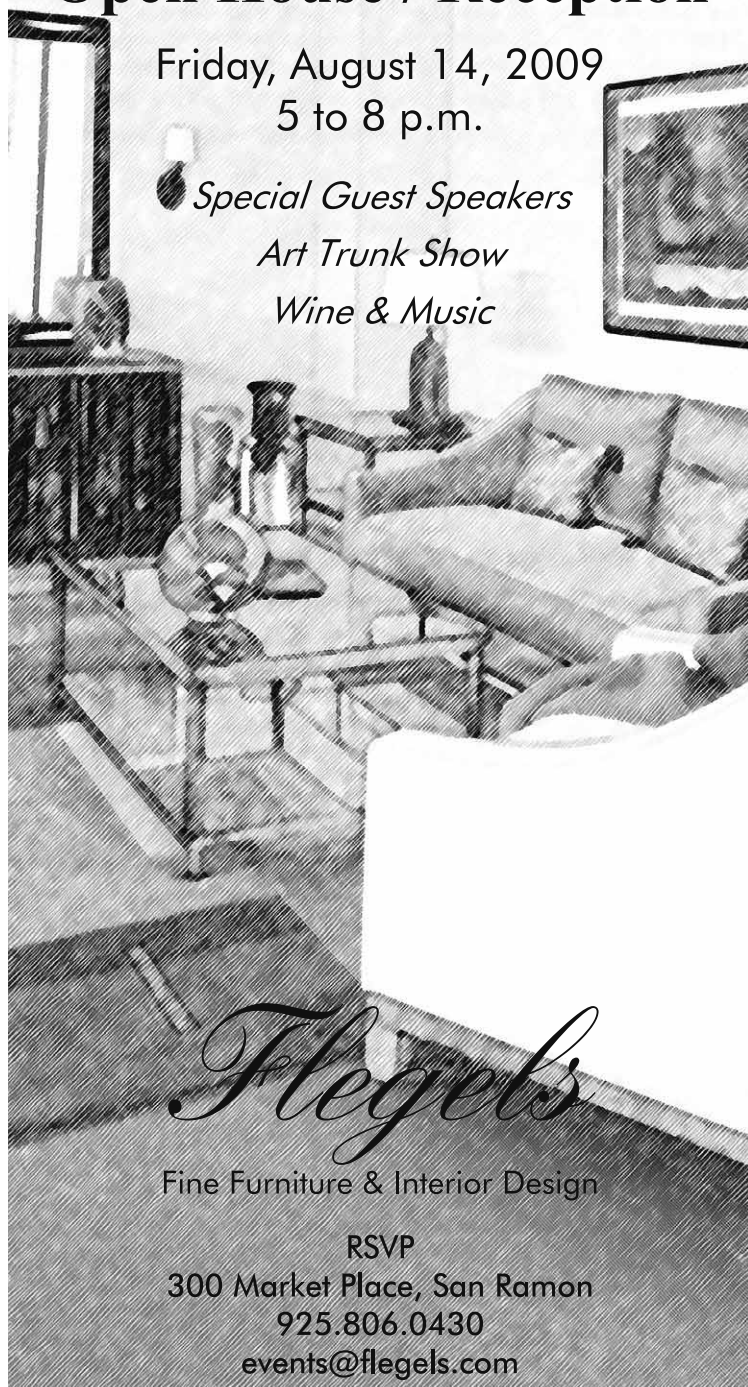
KIWANIS SAN RAMON VALLEY San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo. Meetings include networking, lunch and a guest speaker. For information, visit its Web site at www.kiwanis-srv.org or call 244-1227.

MT. DIABLO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY The society meets from 1:15-3 p.m., the third Thursday of every month except August, at the California Savings Building, Rossmoor Shopping Center,

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MT. DIABLO MACINTOSH USERS GROUP Get questions answered, solutions for problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of every month, at the Alamo Safeway Community Room. For information, call 837-1111 or 829-5501.

PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA, DIABLO REGION This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m. every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Callendar's, 1101 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

ROTARY CLUB OF SAN RAMON This club meets at 12:15 p.m., Thursdays, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. For information, call Bill Harlan at 932-8298.

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY This group meets at 10 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month (except August and December), at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. The public is welcome. Call Ed at 299-0881 or visit <http://srvgensoc.org>.

SAN RAMON VALLEY ROTARY CLUB This club meets for dinner at 7 p.m., every Wednesday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Guests are welcome. The club offers a great way to make new friends while making a difference in your community. For information, contact Dany Gregory at 899-6771 or danygregory1@att.net.

TWIN VALLEY MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUB This club meets from 6:30-9:30 p.m., on the second Tuesday of every month, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. Discussion is open to new and prospective moms during a Q&A forum that deals with Parenting Multiples; round table discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.; general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Membership is \$33. Refreshments are provided. Call 948-0004 or visit www.tvmtoc.org.

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. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

DIVIDE THE SKIES FAREWELL SHOW Come see Divide the Skies farewell show along with special guests Aveled and Via Comma. 6:15 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14 at the CPC gym, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. This event is free.

JAZZ AT SAN RAMON LIBRARY More Jazz at the Library, an annual series of popular Friday evening jazz concerts, is in its fourteenth year. Performers have been announced for this overwhelmingly successful series that has been called "the best jazz beyond the tunnel" by author Carol Fowler in "The Insiders' Guide to Berkeley and the East Bay." All performances will be held at the Front Row Theater

in San Ramon. Concerts start at 8:00pm. Tickets cost \$21 per person, \$16 for seniors and students, and can be purchased at the box office located at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, or online at www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com. Visit www.sanramonjazz.com or call 973-2850.

Events

'THE PEASANT'S COURTYARD' ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING PARTY It's the new restaurant from award winning Chef Rodney Worth at 3195 Danville Blvd. in Alamo. Grand opening party will be from 4 to 9 p.m., Monday, Aug. 17. Call 362-0088.

AMERICAN RED CROSS MOBILE BLOOD DRIVE The Red Cross will hold a drawing for an 8GB iPod nano. This drawing is open to all presenting blood donors from Noon to 5 p.m., Friday, August 14, at the Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Road, Danville. Call (800)448-3543 or go to HelpSaveALife.org

BEST OF THE MEN SINGLES DANCE Once a year the single women of France invite the finest bachelors they know, with whom they are NOT romantically involved (sons, brothers, bosses, co-workers, friends), to meet their friends. Tonight we bring this wonderful custom to America! From 8 to 11:45 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21 at the Hilton Hotel, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Cost is \$20. Call (415)507-9962 or visit www.thepartyhotline.com.

DUBLIN CHP OPEN HOUSE The Dublin Office of the California Highway Patrol will celebrate the California Highway Patrol's 80th Anniversary, and the 19th year of service by the Dublin Office to the Tri Valley with an Open House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 15 at 4999 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Displays of vehicles and equipment, K-9 demonstration, CHP helicopter and much more. Call 828-0466.

EVENING WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC DANVILLE Meet at 6:15 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21 in front of the Village Theater, 233 Front St., for a Friday evening walking tour led by Museum docent and Danville Councilmember Karen Stepper. Cost is \$3. Call 837-3750.

FUNNY SIDE UP COMEDY NIGHT Leo Flowers will be headlining Funny Side Up Comedy Night at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15 at the Dean Leshar Theatre in Walnut Creek. Other performers include Stephen B., Josh Applebaum, Chicago Steve Barkley and Charlie. Tickets cost \$30 and the proceeds go to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition-www.ovarian.org. For tickets visit www.dlrca.org. Visit www.comedy-benefit.org for event information.

GOODGUYS 23RD WEST COAST NATIONALS ROD & CUSTOM SHOW The West's largest auto show featuring over 3,500 hot rods, customs and classics through 1957 vintage. Car show, vendor exhibits, live entertainment, arts & crafts, kids activities, a swap meet and lots more family fun! From 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21 to Sunday,

Aug. 23 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Cost is \$17 for adults and \$6 for kids(7-12). Call 838-9876 or visit www.good-guys.com.

HATS OFF AMERICA'S 17TH 10K/5K Come and join Sparky George, the Bear Flag Runner and a Vietnam-era Marine at the 17th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10k Run/5k Run or Walk starting at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Entry fee is \$35 per person. No entry fee for volunteers. Call 855-1950.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CAR SHOWS Danville's Hot Summer Nights Car Shows combine classic cars and camaraderie to create an evening of summer celebration from 4-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 20, in downtown Danville. To learn more, contact David Miller at 437-3649 or eza-sugo@hotmail.com.

MEET OUR DESIGNERS RECEPTION Flegel's Fine Furniture and Interior Design presents an open house reception to meet our Interior Design staff! From 5-8 p.m., Friday, August 14, at Flegel's Fine Furniture, 300 Market Place, San Ramon. Entertainment and wine, fine art trunk show and seminar in furniture construction. Open to all. This event is free. Call 806-0430.

MICHAEL MORGAN TO DIRECT FESTIVAL OPERA'S "FAUST" Performances of "Faust" are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 16 at Hofmann Theatre, Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, CA. Tickets cost \$39 - \$100; \$10 discount for ages 18 and under. Tickets can be ordered now by calling (925) 943-SHOW or purchased online at www.LesharArtsCenter.org. For more information, call 944-9610.

Exhibits

OPEN HOUSE AT BLACKHAWK MUSEUM The Blackhawk Museum opens its collection to the public on the day after the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Aug. 17. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and children 6 and under are free. Visit blackhawkmuseum.org.

THE MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY PRESENTS QUILTS! TRADITION WITH A TWIST This exhibit, presented in collaboration with Danville business, The Quilter's Inn, includes masterful works of art created by local quilters. Although there are traditional quilts on display, many use new creative techniques which capture one's attention with their artistic flare and diversity. This exhibit runs through Sept. 27 at The Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750.

Fundraisers

CHARITY EVENT FOR GOLF FANS Make a contribution and enjoy a fun day at a private party at a Blackhawk home on the ninth hole of the Lakes Course during the LPGA on Saturday, Sept. 26, or Sunday, Sept. 27. Send a check for \$75 to attend Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.;

or \$50 for Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Make checks out to the charity of your choice: Blackhawk Women's Charity Scholarship Fund, Wheelchair Foundation, Benicia Rotary, Benicia Chamber of Commerce or San Ramon Valley VFW Post 75 and mail to Steve, Julie and Marisa Moore, 571 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville 94506.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Join us for a relaxing day of golf and great food. Golf Package includes lunch, 18 holes of golf at the San Ramon Golf Club, golf cart, prizes, awards, wine tasting and BBQ Dinner. Not a golfer? Join us for the Dinner auction. Proceeds benefit the Down

Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area. From 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Firecrest Lane, San Ramon. Golf Package: \$140 per person. Dinner Auction: \$40 per person. Call 263-1776.

MARTELL COGNAC AND WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION JOIN FOR COMMON CAUSE Martell Cognac and the Wheelchair Foundation are joining forces from 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville for a fundraising event, 'Martell for Mobility.' The evening will feature no host cocktails, Asian hors d'oeuvres, California cuisines, fashion show and a tour of the prestigious Auto Galleries. The

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SAVE THE DATE ...

The 20th Annual San Ramon Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will be held on August 31, 2009, at the prestigious Crow Canyon Country Club. Please plan to attend with San Ramon business and community leaders for fun, prizes ... and NETWORKING. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to support our local schools.

REGISTER NOW

Opportunities for sponsorships and golf registration are available. Online: www.sanramon.org Call: (925) 242-0600



After School Martial Arts

Let your children enjoy a constructive alternative to day care or baby-sitting as they have fun developing self-esteem, discipline and self-control while learning martial arts!



We transport the children from their schools and deliver them safely to our school for an afternoon of fun, learning and martial arts!

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highlight of the evening will be a live auction of the very special numbered L'Or de Jean Martell Cognac. The goal is to provide wheelchairs to the disabled people of vietnam. Call 648-3824.

SAN RAMON FAMILY BREAKFAST Family breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, fruit, sausage, juice and coffee. From 9-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 13 at San Ramon Sr. Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Call 833-2760.

WELLNESS COMMUNITY GALA 'AN EVENING OF GRATITUDE' The Wellness Community provides support, education and hope for people with cancer, their caregivers, children and extended families. Evening includes cocktails and dinner. A silent and live auction will raise funds to support these ongoing programs. From 5:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at Diablo Country Club, One Clubhouse Rd., Diablo. Cost is \$250 per ticket. Call 933-0107.

Health

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from noon to 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14 at the Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd., Danville. Call 800-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543) or go to HelpSaveALife.org (Sponsor Code: DANVILLE) to schedule an appointment. One donation can help save the lives of up to three people.

Kids and Teens

DANVILLE KIDZ READERS' BOOK GROUP FOR KIDS IN GRADES 3-5 No homework, no writing, no kidding! Just for fun sharing ideas and thoughts about books. Books are chosen for content, excitement, adventure or mystery for exploring different genres in juvenile fiction. Starting at 4 p.m., Wednesdays, Sept. 16, Oct. 28 and Dec. 2 at Mt. Diablo room, Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville. Registration begins Monday, Aug. 24, call 837-4889.

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY Danville Library will host numerous children's programs including cowboy storyteller Lariat Larry at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18; and Timothy James, a comedy magician, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15; all at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

WEB WIZARD LIBRARY DATABASE WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-5 Come to the Web Wizard Library Database Workshop to learn how to find information for school assignments using your own computer. You and your parents will learn what a database is - not the internet- how to use it and how a database can help you with homework. From 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the Mt. Diablo Room, Danville Library, 400 Front St., Danville. Registration is required and begins Monday, Aug. 24. Call 837-4889.

Lectures/ Workshops

CANCER SURVIVORSHIP 101 After your treatment, learn ways to regain strength and vitality and keep on top of the latest research on your cancer from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Participants will also receive tips on developing a personal recovery plan. This event is free. Call 933-0107.

FUNDAMENTALS OF FINANCIAL CALCULATIONS Continuing education course for CPA's and attorneys. "Fundamentals of Financial Calculations" is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28. Available as a live webinar, eight live group study CPE credits for CPA's; seven live group study CLE credits for attorneys. Registration fee is \$54.99. E-mail thomasmcdevitt@ceworkshops.com.

MOXIE MAVERICKS GROUP COACHING Join other highly motivated individuals and life/creativity coach Lisa Gentile for 3 months of personal strength building, possibility thinking, and action. Meets bi-weekly on Mondays from Aug. 17 to Oct. 26 at Alexander's Fine Art, 608-G Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$325. For more information visit <http://lisagentilecoaching.com/>

Live Music

DAVE FEST 2009 Mark your calendars for the first annual Dave Fest, benefiting the San Ramon Valley YMCA. Music by Lumberyard, The Shillz, Spinout, Zero To Couch, Mersey Beach, and more. From 12:30 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15 at Hap Magee Park, 1026 La Gonda Way, Danville. \$20 suggested donation. Call 831-1100 or visit www.srvymca.org.

On Stage

DIABLO THEATRE COMPANY'S 'FUNNY GIRL' Danville singer-actress-producer Samantha Samuels is getting ready to "cover her Fanny" so to speak. The Diablo Theatre Company's production will be performed at 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 27 and Friday, Aug. 28 and at 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29. Tickets range from \$29-\$41. For tickets call 943-7469. For more information visit www.dloc.org.

HAIR - THE TRIBAL ROCK MUSICAL It's the musical that outraged your parents in the 1960s and had a smashing return to Broadway this year. The Willows Theatre presents Hair - The American Tribal Rock Musical starting at 8 p.m., Monday, Aug. 24 through Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Willows Mainstage, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. Hit songs include "Age of Aquarius" & "Let the Sunshine In." Cost is \$30-\$40, discounts are available. Call 798-1300.

RIVETS A new musical based on Rosie the Riveter and Richmond's Kaiser Shipyards produced by Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre. From Aug. 28 to Sept. 27, Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m.,

Sundays at 3 p.m. Onboard the SS Red Oak Victory, 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A, Richmond, CA. Tickets cost \$20 and \$15 for seniors and students. For more information, including Saturday matinees, call 676-5705.

SPELLING BEE AT WILLOWS CABARET The Willows Theatre presents the d-e-l-i-g-h-t-f-u-l musical comedy, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at the Willows Cabaret in Martinez, August 17-September 13. Spelling Bee celebrates the mania of competition with 6 loveable contestants spelling out a hilarious night of theatre. Starting at 8 p.m., Monday, Aug. 17 through Sunday, Sept. 13 at Willows Cabaret at the Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward St., Martinez. Cost is \$22-\$32. Call 798-1300.

Political Notes

BLACKHAWK REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S SUMMER SOCIAL From 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 29th is Casino Royale, a purely social evening of fun and games, good food and good company Monte Carlo style, featuring catered dinner and games of chance. RSVP by Aug. 23rd. \$30 and a bottle of wine to share. Call 820-4329.

Seniors

DIABLO LODGE OF DANVILLE'S 19TH ANNIVERSARY Please join us in celebrating our 19th Anniversary from 3-7:45 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14 at Diablo Lodge, 950 Diablo Rd., Danville. Includes employee awards and scholarships, strolling violins and cocktails, resident dinner with strolling violins, "Tribute to Italian Crooners" performing favorites of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett from 6:10 to 7:45 p.m. RSVP 838-8300.

SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS These awards are to recognize seniors who have provided extraordinary voluntary service within Contra Costa County in 2008. By spotlighting these seniors, Culture to Culture Foundation hopes to inspire others to share their time and talents. Everyone is invited to the award ceremony to be held on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. All nominations should be e-mailed to seniorawards@sbcglobal.net. All entries must be received by Monday, Aug. 31.

Sports

LPGA GOLF TOURNAMENT The CVS/Pharmacy LPGA Golf Challenge will be held Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 24-27, at the Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$200. Call 725-0148 or visit www.cvs1pga.com.

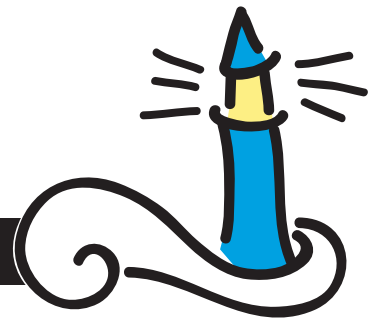
TRI-FOR-FUN SERIES' 3RD TRIATHLON On Your Mark Event's Tri-For-Fun Triathlon Series' 3rd leg will begin at 7 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 15 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton. Entry fee is \$55 in advance and \$65 day-of. Call (209)795-7832 or visit www.onyourmarkevents.com

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115 Announcements

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Sealed Bid. Saturday, August 29 @ 11:00am. 51.21 (+/-) acres in San Benito County. 10% Buyers Premium, 30-Day Closing. Now Accepting Offers. Reserve. (714) 622-1295 or www.REAA.us. Real Estate Auction Associates, DRE#1834785. (Cal-SCAN)

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201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 1194 Blanc Court, August 15, 9-4
Moving sale. We are downsizing. Furniture, kitchen items, bookshelves, seasonal decorations... come see.

Pleasanton, 4658 Cope Ct., Aug. 15, 8-2

Children's toys, books, and clothing in excellent condition. Britax car seat, train table, Leapster toys - all like new.

Konica 7033 copier in good condition.

Pleasanton, 584 Bonita Avenue, Aug 15, 7:30-11:30am

Pleasanton, Highbluff Terrace, Aug 15, 9-1

215 Collectibles & Antiques

ANTIQUA CHAIRS - \$35/each

Antique Oak China Cabinet - \$550.

Antique Oak Wash Stand - \$195.00

Antique Victorian End Table - \$125.

Royal Doulton figurine - \$45

220 Computers/Electronics

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Glass desk and Chair - \$200.00

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king bed frame(new in box) - \$20.00

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245 Miscellaneous

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250 Musical Instruments

Hamilton/Baldwin B-Grand Piano
This Piano was purchased specifically for a large room, as a piece of furniture, from the original owner. In addition to a beautiful piece of furniture, it has been well cared for; tuned on a regular basis; plays well and is in overall good condition.Purchase includes, a custom made, piano cover and an antique Swivel Piano Stool.
Make: Hamilton "product of Baldwin"
Model: unknown
SN#: 128772
Age: appx 1955
Size: 5-¥ 4"

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805 Homes for Rent

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Pleasanton, 4 BR/2.5 BA
Well maintained 3 bedrooms (2 masters) and 2.5 bathroom upgraded end-unit. Upgrades include: dual paned windows, ceiling fans in all rooms, upgraded kitchen and appliances, slate patio, crown molding, fireplace, freshly painted and central air. Other amenities include: spa bath tub, community pool and spa, large 2-car garage, walking distance to several schools and a 2 minute walk to beautiful downtown Pleasanton.



Pleasanton, Downtown, 3 BR/2.5 BA
Well maintained 3 bedrooms (2 masters) and 2.5 bathroom upgraded end-unit. Upgrades include: dual paned windows, ceiling fans in all rooms, upgraded kitchen and appliances, slate patio, crown molding, fireplace, freshly painted and central air. Other amenities include: spa bath tub, community pool and spa, large 2-car garage, walking distance to several schools and a 2 minute walk to beautiful downtown Pleasanton.

TAKE US ALONG



Cheers! Sarah Beresh and Sarah Mier celebrate Mier's 20th birthday while enjoying their weekly and some brew at Oktoberfest in Germany.

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

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4 BEDROOMS

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5 BEDROOMS

3314 Arbor Drive **\$ 989,000**
Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830

PET OF THE WEEK

Awesome Aurora

Meet Aurora, a sweet-natured all black female German Shepherd mix. For about two weeks in July this dog was reported several times to be running loose on Foothill Road in Pleasanton. Eventually she was found hiding in some bushes along Foothill Road and captured by Animal Services. Aurora immediately proved to be friendly and it's possible she had been abandoned in the area where she was found. Aurora would do best with a family who can spend a lot of time with her. She thrives on companionship and she doesn't seem to mind other dogs. Visit Aurora at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.



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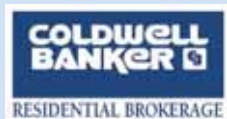
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