

local happenings

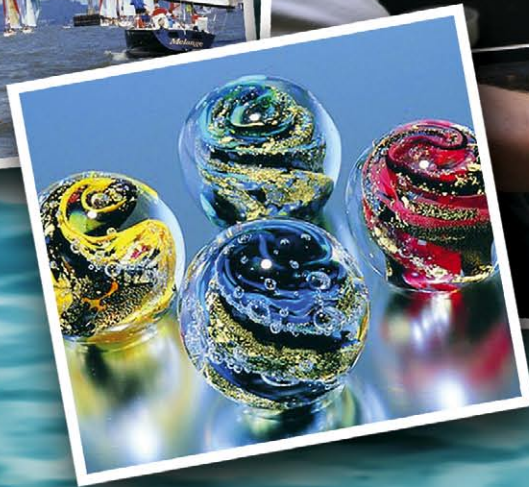
NAPA/SOLANO COUNTY

APR/MAY

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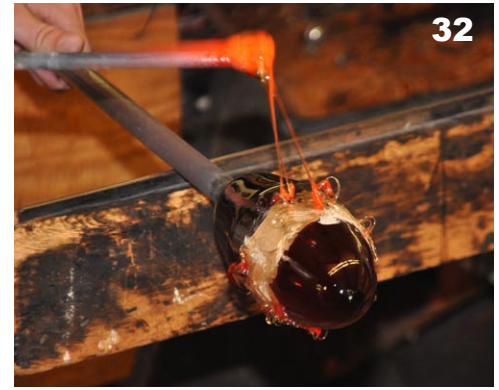
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local happenings

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TOTAL HOME & GARDEN SHOW

April 16, 17, 18

BEHIND NUT TREE - VACAVILLE

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local happenings

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Cover

Boats from Vallejo's Great Race, Glass Studios work

EDITOR NOTE

From a friend . . .

Spring time has come and so has so much excitement over **local happenings**. I am overwhelmed with the emails, calls and total exuberance that we have experienced since we launched in December. Since then we have added 16 pages and have more than we can handle editorially. This issue we are sharing some great feature stories, one of my favorites, the Artists Open Studios in Benicia as well as the Opening Day on the Bay festivities all over the waterways.

The next two months brings so much activity as we welcome spring and say hello to summer. The Benicia Vallejo Humane Society hosts their wildly popular event "Barkitecture", Opening Day on the Bay, 17th Annual Open Studios, Vallejo Main Streets Chalk Walk, The Total Home and Garden Show in Vacaville, Benicia welcomes back their Farmer's Market, The Pista Sa Nayon Celebration that happens the first weekend in June as well as scores more.

I must once again remind everyone of our website and our interactive "Live" calendar. You can post your events yourself and it will be posted usually within 24 hours. The website has the FULL calendar since we are limited in space in our printed magazine. While you are at our website notice that you can read **local happenings** online and if you double click on the ads you go right to our advertisers websites!

Make sure you take a look at our Home Improvement pages and start making your lists for spring and summer home repairs.

On a personal note, these next two months brings many birthday celebrations, our wonderful father, my so cute nephew (and son, says Robert) and my father's namesake, Ramon, as well as Dave and Stacey Jones, Cathy Anthony, Leah Shellhorn, Leanne Cawley, Abdul Karimian, Leslie Musante and Kim Mini. *(I am sure that I am missing many and I apologize in advance!)*



We hope that you enjoy this issue and the articles and please keep the notes and well wishes coming as well as the future story suggestions.

Cheers,

Deanna Baillie

and

Robert Briseno

Investing in the Local Community

With the continuing turmoil in the financial markets, this is a great time for investors to really concentrate on the many creative ways of leveraging the current conditions in addition to helping local communities.

As many of you are probably aware, getting financing on a home purchase these days is challenging to say the least.

As a result, what we have seen is a huge demand by these individuals who would love to buy a home, especially at these prices and interest rates, but cannot meet the banks current requirements.

As a real estate investor based in the North Bay Area of California, I have been lucky enough to collaborate with several other women investors, all of whom bring a variety of different and complimentary skills to the table, and together we have formed Solano Community Investors Group with the intention

of providing solutions by offering seller financing to these individuals.

Seller financing can offer a solution for investors who wish to receive better than average returns on their capital and those homebuyers who could not otherwise own with the current lending guidelines.

The great thing for us about investing in real estate now in select markets here in the Bay Area, is that the price to buy is both below the cost to rebuild. The house can then be fixed up and sold with seller financing to families at a profit for the investor while simultaneously creating a monthly payment less the equivalent rental rate for the family.

Solano County Investors Group (SCIG) is comprised of real estate professionals who have joined together to offer home ownership through affordable housing. As a result of a myriad






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of conditions affecting our economy such as the increase in jobless claims, the nation's housing crisis, and the strict, financial institutions' lending criteria, it is more difficult now to purchase a home than it was two years ago. For the families that have lost their homes for one reason or another, or have money to buy a home, but can't qualify for a conventional loan, SCIG may have a solution for many.

SCIG's mission is to help communities within the County of Solano by offering home ownership to those with less than stellar credit and those who can't qualify for a bank loan. Their Rent-to-Own and seller financing programs allow for homeownership in cases where it would not otherwise be possible.

Homeownership in a community can instill a sense of pride and create opportunities for growth and revitalization. The tenant/buyer has aspirations to purchase the home and hopefully has a stronger commitment to the community. SCIG provides a direct path to support this goal. "Homeownership is a privilege and takes a commitment. We have to get back to the basics. The American dream is very much alive. I love Vallejo, and our community will thrive again when families return to homeownership" states Caroline Hegarty, founder of SCIG. The relationships SCIG has established within Solano County has allowed them to purchase multiple homes monthly, quickly rehab them and place them back on the market for resale or rent to own.

One of SCIG's goal is to be a go-between for those who want to be homeowners with financiers (private lenders) who want to have a direct impact by investing in the County. SCIG obtains funds from private lenders to acquire properties and offer seller financing. The definition of a private lender in this case is an

individual who negotiates directly, on a personal basis, terms to loan money for real estate investments. These are individuals from all walks of life. They do not lend money as a business, but have some form of capital with which they wish to invest.

In return for the use of the funds from private lenders, they receive negotiated rate of return on their investment, usually at 7.5%, as well as a secured note on the property. The refurbished home will be their direct collateral. By partnering with the private sector who have money to invest, SCIG has created a program that is beneficial for the community. They can offer tailored terms to those who want to buy a home, but can't qualify through a lending institution. "Because of SCIG's buying strategies we can offer home ownership to families for the same amount of money, or less than they would spend on a rental arrangement," asserts Hegarty.

“We ARE investing in Main Street, not Wall Street!”

Hegarty continues "We are working with regular people who are possibly making a 2% to 4% return on their investments (i.e. CD or IRA) and want to earn a higher return. We securitize their investment by giving them a first lien on a house which is a tangible asset, in their community. The private lender receives the benefit of at least a 7.50% return on their money while helping someone get into a home."

A potential buyer interested in seller financing, lease options, or rent to own terms would need to complete a Uniform Residential Loan Application (Form 1003), provide proof of income, tax returns, job stability, and/or a down payment. We also connect these buyers with the necessary tools to help them return to financial institution guidelines, including working with our other resources such as credit repair, debt consolidation, budgeting etc.

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As part of SCIG's mission to rehabilitate Solano community neighborhoods, they have had to keep their main objectives clear, which is to identify the opportunities and create the investment model and funds that will provide a solid benefit for the investors and homeowners. They work closely in partnership with other institutions and are able to identify and develop innovative opportunities to deliver the investment goals of their investors, as well as efficiently manage their assets.

SCIG firmly believes in offering private lenders innovative and socially responsible investment opportunities, with clear and balanced information. They remain at the forefront of thinking outside the box, constantly seeking to create and provide the best property and infrastructure for investment funds. A plan is created to maximize returns for private lenders within the residential property market while helping people own their own homes. They are investing in Main Street, not Wall Street.

SCIG is presenting a workshop on how you can become a private lender and invest in their programs on April 27th in Vallejo. See their ad on page of 50 of this month's issue. Reservations are required. For more information call 415.246.4490.

— LeAnn Viel;

Solano Community Investors Group



LeAnn Viel is a wife and mother of three. She has lived in the bay area for over ten years and has been investing in real estate since 1991.



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CORRECTION

"We would like to note an editing error on the part of the Local Happenings staff. Janelle Farotto, the author of the Finance article on taxes in our February/March issue is a Tax Preparer and Owner of Bittner Tax and Bookkeeping Service. We had mistakenly listed her as a broker with Reliance Financial. We apologize to both Ms. Farotto and our readers for the error, thank you all for your readership and your attention to detail!"

- Deanna Baillie

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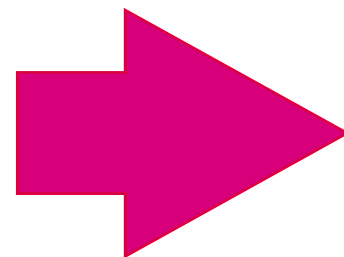
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where to go



and

what to do!



BENICIA

Opening Day on the Strait - Sea-Vu-Play.

Celebrate the opening day on the strait at the Benicia Yacht club - an annual tradition. We are open to the public and hope that you will join us for a fun filled day of music food games and dancing. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/17 From: 10:00 AM To: 11:00 PM. Event Location: Benicia Yacht Club, Address: 400 East Second St, Benicia, Event Contact Information: Benicia Yatch Club 707-746-0739 - BYCinfo@beniciayatchclub.com

150th Pony Express.

Lecture by Dr. Robert Chandler senior research historian for Wells Fargo Bank and author of Wells Fargo will present a program on the Pony Express. This event is Free. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/18 From: 2:00 PM To: 4:00 PM. Event Location: The Benicia Historical Museum, Address: 2060 Camel Rd. - Stone Hall, Benicia, Event Contact Information: 707-745-5435

17th Annual Benicia Classic Car Show.

Event Description: The Annual Show benefiting the Benicia High School Panther Band. Come and see some of the best classic cars in Northern California and beyond. Great food, music and trophies for the top entries. We will be on the 1st Street Green located at the corner of 1st and B Streets. Come enjoy the views the food the cars and the fun. The show begins at 9AM. There will be hourly raffle prize drawings beginning at 11 AM from a pool of prizes valued at more the \$4000. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/25 From: 9:00 AM To: 3:00 PM. Event Location: Historic Downtown Benicia, Address: 200

1st St Marina Green, Benicia, Event Contact Info: 707-748-7986

Festival of Arts in the Park.

'A Celebration of Creative Process' featuring performing artists hands-on art arts and crafts food & more! Free. Event Date(s) & Times: 6/6 From: 10:00:00 AM To: 5:00:00 PM. Event Location: Benicia City Park, Address: corner of First & Military Sts, Benicia, Event Contact Information: Benicia Community Arts 707-745-2787 - beniciacommunityarts@ez2.net

The Great American Trailer Park Musical

A comic fable about women in a Florida trailer park and their no-account men. ** Adult themes and language not recommended for children. 8PM Friday and Saturday shows :\$20 for Adults \$18 for Senior/ Student with ID. **4PM Sunday shows: \$20/Adults \$18/Seniors. OPENING NIGHT GALA \$25.00. One special price includes show and Champagne Gala. Group (10+) discount prices available. Event Date(s) & Times: April 16, 17, 23, 24 & 30 May 1, 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2010 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:00 PM Event Location: BDES Hall, Address: 140 West J. St Benicia, Event Contact Information: BOTTGroup 707-746-1269.

Smyers Glass Open Studio

April 29 30 May 1 & 2. From: 10:00 AM To: 5:00 PM Event Location: Smyers Glass Studio, Address: 675 East H Street, Benicia, Event Contact Information: JUDITH KEYES 707-745-2614 - jjkeyes@comcast.net

Benicia Artists Open Studios.

Event Description: Each year the Benicia artists and artisans community welcome you to experience Open Studios. This is an opportunity to meet with artists in their studios and home workspaces to see new and exciting works. Over 65 working creative environments are accessible. Event Date(s) & Times: May 1 & 2, 2010 From: 10:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: Arts Benicia Center Gallery, Address: 991 Tyler Street #114, Benicia, Event Contact Information: 707-747-0131 - info@artsbenicia.org

Relay For Life - Benicia.

One day. One night. One community. One Fight. Relay For Life is a life-changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people- to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer; remember loved ones lost to the disease; and fight back against a disease that takes too much. Relay For Life Teams of people camp out at a local high school park or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Relays are 24 hours in length; representing the reality that cancer never sleeps. May 22 & 23, 2010 From: 9:00 AM To: 9:00 AM. Event Location: Benicia High School, Address: 1101 Military West, Benicia, Event Contact Information: Suzanne Castleman - Suzanne.Cummings@Beniciaplumbing.com

FAIRFIELD

Hands-on Cupcake Workshop. Hands on cupcake decorating class led by cupcake book authors Karen

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Tack and Alan Richardson celebrating the newly released book *What's New Cupcake*. Book signing follows at 3 pm. Cupcake workshop \$29.99 per participant; children 5 and up. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/13 From: 1:00 PM To: 2:30 PM Event Location: Jelly Belly Visitor Center, Address: 1 Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield, CA 94533. Event Contact Information: 800-953-5592.

MARTINEZ

Tour Navy Reserve Fleet. Now you can see the U.S.S. Iowa (BB-61) moored at the inactive ship facility in Suisun Bay California. These hour and 45 minute trips take you to within 500 feet of the battleship. During these cruises you get a great view of one of America's most historic and powerful ships. (Reservations Highly Suggested) Departures are from the Martinez Marina on the last weekend of each month. Check in time: 10:30 AM Boarding at: 10:45 AM Departure: 11:00 AM Return: 12:30 PM Lunch included \$25.00 per person; Event Date(s) & Times: April 24 & 25 May 29 & 30, 2010 From: 10:30 AM To: 12:30 AM. Event Location: Martinez Marina, Address: 7 North Court Street, Martinez, Event Contact Info: Bay View Charters 707-747-5443.

NAPA

New History Gallery Ribbon-cutting Ceremony. The opening of the newly-developed history gallery showcases the permanent exhibit 'Land and People of the Napa Valley' with rare artifacts on display for the first time in 25 years. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/10 From: 10:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: Napa Valley Museum, Address: 55 Presidents Circle, Napa, Event Contact Information: Napa Valley Museum 707-944-0500 - paula@napavalleymuseum.org

Family Date Night. Kids ride in their own special car with a babysitter games movies and a kid-friendly menu while the adults in a nearby car enjoy the relaxed elegance of the Napa Valley Wine Train's gourmet service. One child rides free per adult fare - each additional child is \$15. Perfect for a relaxing family night out! \$99 per adult. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/16 From: 5:50 PM To: 8:00 PM. Event Location: Napa Valley Wine Train, Address: 1275 McKinstry St, Napa, Event Contact Information: Napa Valley Wine Train 800-427-4124 - reservation@winetrain.com

Moonlight Escape 'Full Pink Moon'. Share the magic of the Napa Valley in April as the sun sets at 8 pm. This moon is named the 'Full Pink Moon' because the earliest of the spring flowers are pink. Our Moonlight Escape gourmet dinner takes place upstairs in the Vista Dome rail car with its almost 180-degree

view. Guests glide over the evening vineyards touched with the silver light of the rising moon. Five-course dinner with wine. Maximum seating 24 couples. \$154 per person Event Date(s) & Times: 4/30/2010 From: 5:30 PM To: 7:30 PM. Event Location: Napa Valley Wine Train, Address: 1275 McKinstry St, Napa, CA 94559. Event Contact Information: 800-427-4124.

Murder Mystery on the Wine Train.

Event Date(s) & Times: April 10 & 24, May 7 & 21, 2010 From: 5:50 PM To: 8:00 PM. Event Location: Napa Valley Wine Train, Address: 1275 McKinstry St, Napa, Event Contact Information: Napa Wine Train 800-42-4124.

RED BLUFF

Nor Cal Home Shows - Red Bluff CA. Event Description: Six Major Events Same Weekend Same Fairgrounds. WHAT A WEEKEND! IT'S MAY MAGIC! Well over 100 exhibitor spaces on display with some of the finest home and garden products showcased for your viewing. (Friday Saturday and Sunday) 39th Annual 'Silver Buckle' Arabian Horse Show (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) 49th Annual 'Red Bluff Garden Clubs Flower Show' (Saturday and Sunday) 8th Annual Fiber On The Foot 'Alpaca Show' (Saturday and Sunday only) 11th Annual 4-H Fair (Saturday only) 6th Annual 'Cinco De Mayo' Celebration (Sunday only) A great big Thank You again to Fox20/My21 for making this a free admission and free parking show. 12pm - 6pm Friday 10am - 6pm Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday. Event Date(s) & Times: April 30 to May 2, From: 10:00 AM To: 6:00 PM Event Location: Red Bluff - Fair Grounds, Address: 600 Antelope Rd, Red Bluff, CA 96080. Event Contact Information: Brandt Bock Enterprises - ob@norcalhomeshows.net

SONOMA

Sonoma Historic Motorsports Festival. It's a celebration of the Wine Country and historic racecars at the Sonoma Historic Motorsports Festival. More than 250 historic cars will grace the road course including machines from Porsche, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Corvette and Lotus. Race fans will also be treated to the Wine Country Pavilion featuring some of the best food and wine Sonoma and Napa have to offer headlined by notable Bay Area chef Victor Scargle. You'll also enjoy displays from local car clubs an open paddock area and a chance to chat with many of the drivers. Plus don't forget the Vintage Race Car Festival on Saturday night June 5 on the Sonoma Plaza. Event Date(s) & Times: June 5 & 6, 2010 From: 7:00 AM To: 7:00 PM. Event Location: Infineon Raceway, Address:

Dan Healy



for SOLANO COUNTY JUDGE

www.danhealyforjudge.com

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A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO SOLANO COUNTY

Born and raised in Solano County, Dan Healy is a past president of the Solano County Bar Association, is chair of the Benicia Planning Commission, former chair of Vallejo Community Access TV, and Catholic Social Service Solano. He was named "Attorney of the Year" by the Solano County Bar Association for his community service.

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Empress Celebrates Vallejo

The Empress Theatre in downtown Vallejo announced its long-anticipated new business plan and programming strategy at a major community event Wednesday night January 27th. But it was no ordinary announcement. After weeks of marketing claiming "Nothing in Vallejo Will Ever be the Same," the theater lived up to its hype with an evening celebrating all that's exciting about Vallejo—from the many famous people who have called the City home to the stellar local entertainment that played during the evening. And then an announcement that indeed could change the very face of historic downtown Vallejo.

Performances by VOENA, the internationally acclaimed children's choir from Benicia that has performed for Presidents and Popes alike, members of the Vallejo Symphony, piano legend Ricardo Scales and a band of Vallejo all-stars including Bobby Simmons, Alvon Johnson, Volker Strifler, Don Bassey & Raymond Victor were supplemented by proclamations of thanks from the Mayor for Vallejo music legends John Turk, Ricardo Scales & the family of the late

John Lee Hooker as well as to Askari Sowonde for all the community events she brings to Vallejo. Deborah Smith, Exec. Dir. of the Newberry Opera House was also on hand to talk about the tremendous power for economic change that a theater like the Empress can create.

The theater announced a new comprehensive business plan designed specifically to drive more foot traffic into downtown and dollars into other local businesses. The plan is a comprehensive interconnected set of components, including:

- **Star-power entertainment that drives traffic downtown with the announcement of a new "Headliner" series.**
- **Propelling increased rental use of the theater thru aggressive marketing and reduced fees.**
- **Crafting Primary Partner relationships who will utilize a large number of days per year in the theater.**
- **Administering a new grant opportunity to allow new cultural programming initiatives to be tried by local organizations with reduced risk.**
- **A compelling membership program.**
- **Massive marketing and outreach effort to increase the awareness and profile not only of the theater, but of downtown as a destination.**
- **Increased coordination with local businesses & City government.**
- **Active promotion of area business to theater's patrons to ensure as much of that patron dollar is captured locally as possible.**

In addition to the community pride inherent in having a stunning home for world-class entertainment, there is an amazing economic benefit to the theater's new Business Plan. Most downtown revitalization efforts that have been successful nationwide have focused on their downtown dining and entertainment district.

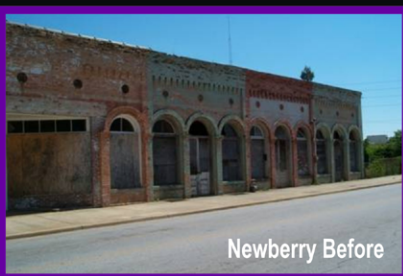
Why? Simple math:

- **Boutique stores drive people into an area in ones and twos.**
- **Large restaurants drive people into an area by the dozens.**
- **Theaters drive people into an area by the hundreds**
- **Once there is foot traffic, smaller boutiques can capture that traffic.**
- **Major stars mean major traffic 500 people at a time.**
- **\$103.1 Billion yearly spent by patrons in communities when attending shows in the U.S.**
- **The Empress' target attendance will bring a stunning \$8.5 million annually to Vallejo.**
- **The effects will be felt quickly and the full economic boost will be attained by year 3.**



Coming Events!

- April 9th**
Classic Movie Series - Breakfast at Tiffany's
- April 11th**
Trio Chaskinakuy with
San Francisco Chamber Orchestra All Stars
- April 21st**
Downtown Vallejo Summit - Free
- April 23rd**
Roy Rogers & the Delta Rythmn Kings
Special Guest - Carlos Reyes
- May 10th**
San Francisco Chamber Orchestra - Free
- May 13th**
The Commanders - US Airforce Band - Free
- May 22nd**
Vallejo Choral Society



Newberry Before



Newberry After

Success Stories

California Theatre, San Jose, CA

- **AREA BEFORE:** Depressed, unsafe neighborhood, drug dealing, prostitution, most businesses shuttered, buildings in disrepair.
- **TODAY 5 YEARS AFTER THEATER OPENED:** High-end restaurants, coffee shops, wine bars, night clubs. Luxury condos selling in today's economy with no unit cost under \$1 Million.

Newberry Opera House, Newberry SC

- **AREA BEFORE:** No businesses remaining downtown, industry had also left for larger cities, all buildings in disrepair.
- **TODAY 10 YEARS AFTER THEATER OPENED:** Fine dining, antique stores, boutiques, bed & breakfasts, two new industrial complexes are full, expanded & upgraded airport to handle traffic to town, \$500 Million of economic development directly attributed to the theater's opening.

330 Virginia St. - Historic Vallejo ~ www.EmpressTheatre.org - 707.552.2400

Hwys 37 & 121, Sonoma, CA 95476. Event Contact Information: 800-870-RACE - trachinfo@infineonraceway.com.

AMA Motorcycle Sonoma Showdown. Event Date(s) & Times: May 14, 15 & 16. From: 9:30 AM To: 3:00 PM. Event Location: Infineon Raceway, Address: Hwys 37 & 121, Sonoma, CA 95476. Event Contact Information: 800-870-7223.

SUISUN

Art On The Vine. Annual art festival held by FVAA at Wooden Valley Winery 4756 Suisun Valley Rd. Suisun Ca. Fine art food and entertainment. For more info contact www.FairfieldVisualArts.org. Event Date(s) & Times: June 5 & 6, From: 11:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: Wooden Valley Winery, Address: 4756 Suisun Valley Road, Suisun, CA 94585. Event Contact Info: Paula Santurio 707-386-6448 -santuriosart@comcast.net

'Mother's Day Artisan Fair' at the Suisun Waterfront. Event Description: Bring Mom to the "Mother's Day Artisan Fair" at the Suisun Waterfront Park. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/9 From: 10:00 AM To: 4:00 PM. Event Location: Suisun City Waterfront, Address: Main Street, Suisun City, Event Contact Information: Brenda Mossa (707) 399-7195 - ranchoboutique@aol.com

The Solano Comedy Circuit. Featuring Johnny Steele (and more!) - Former host of SF's 'Live 105 Morning Radio Show' and co-host of KRON/Bay 'TV's THE SHOW' Steele's unique take on comedy has also earned him a winner's title in the SF International Comedy Competition. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/13/2010 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:30 PM. Event Location: Dimitri's Lounge, Address: 700 Main St. Ste. 106, Suisun City, Event Contact Information: Matt Larson 707-290-6995.

Scenic Limited Trains. Springtime in Solano County means wildflowers and April is often the best time to catch them. To celebrate the Western Railway Museum runs special Scenic Limited trains every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday in April at 11am, 12:30pm and 2pm. The Scenic Limited takes visitors 5 miles down the Old Sacramento Northern Railway South from Highway 12. The trip lasts about an hour and along the way riders catch views of the impressive displays of native wildflowers that cover the hillsides and fields. Like Mother Nature the views often change weekly depending on the delicate balance of moisture and sunshine. Whatever happens to be blooming museum

docents are on hand to point out native flowers such as poppies goldfields brass buttons vetch and sheep's sorrel. Event Date(s) & Times: April 14, 17, 18, 21, 24, 25 & 28, 2010 From: 10:30 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: The Western Railway Museum, Address: 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City, Event Contact Information: The Western Railway Museum 707-374-2978 ext 114.

VACAVILLE

Medieval Fantasy Festival, Downtown Vacaville. The Sixth Annual Medieval Fantasy Festival will be held in Downtown Vacaville, Arts, Crafts, Merchandise Vendors, Music and Entertainment, the Rataput, the Pied Piper Parade, Demonstrations of Old Time Skills, a Costume Contest, Good Food and Fun. Event Date(s) & Times: April 17 & 18 From: 10:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: Address: Downtown Vacaville - Town Square, Vacaville, CA 94590 Event Contact Information: Bob Vollmer 707-643-0077 - bvollmer@downtownvacaville.com

23rd Annual Wine & Food Jubilee. The annual Solano Wine & Food Jubilee supports NorthBay Healthcare in its tradition of caring. The Jubilee is Solano County's premier fundraising event making possible vital programs including Hospice Bereavement. Advanced Tickets \$75 each. No tickets will be sold at the door. Black tie optional. Must be 21 or older to attend. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/23 From: 6:30 PM To: 11:00 PM Event Location: Vacaville Nut Tree, Address: 1681 E Monte Vista Ave. Vacaville, Event Contact Information: Brett Johnson 707-628-5992.

May Artisan Fair. Vacaville's Arts and Crafts Show! SonRise Plaza, Vacaville. www.mayartisanfair.com. Visit the website for more details. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/1 From: 10:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: SonRise Plaza, Address: 620 Orange Drive, Vacaville, Event Contact Information: Tiffany Nygard 707-450-6017- registration@mayartisanfair.com

Nor Cal Home Shows - Vacaville One of the best home and garden shows in Northern California. Come on out and discover all the possibilities for your current castle or future one. Discount coupons available at area Home Depot stores. 12pm - 6pm Fri; 10am - 6pm Sat; 10am - 5pm Sun. Event Date(s) & Times: April 16 to 18 From: 10:00 AM To: 6:00 PM. Event Location: The Nut Tree, Address: 1681 East Monte Vista Ave, Vacaville, Event Contact Information: Brandt Bock Enterprises - Bob@norcalhomeshows.net

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VALLEJO

Carnival Saturdays at Children's Wonderland

Children's Wonderland will be filled with old fashioned carnival games. Activities will be scheduled all day Saturday. Other date April 24. Games include pop the balloon with a dart throw the football through the tire knock the bottles over ring toss and so much more. The smell of popcorn and cotton candy will set the mood. Come try your luck. \$2.00 entrance fee. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/10 From: 11:00 AM To: 4:30 PM. Event Location: Children's Wonderland, Address: 360 Glenn Street, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Shane McAfee 707-648-4603 - smcafee@gvrd.org

Second Saturday Access Day Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve.

Second Anniversary of the opening of Access days. FREE. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/10 From: 9:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: The Preserve entrance gate, Address: Deadend of Railroad Ave. - Mare island, Vallejo. Event Contact Information: Myrna Hayes 707-557-3816 - myrnahay@pacbell.net

Trio Chaskinakuy. Join us for a special concert event, musicians from the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and the folkloric musicians of Trio Chaskinakuy. Adults: \$8* *All tickets subject to \$2.50 Historic Preservation Surcharge. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/11 From: 2:00 PM To: 4:30 PM. Event Location: Empress Theatre, Address: 330 Virginia Street, Vallejo. Event Contact Information: 707-552-2400 - empress@empresstheatre.org

Barkitecture Gala & Auction. Domiciles for the sophisticated Canines Felines Feathered Friends; Slinky Reptiles we love. A benefit for the Benicia Vallejo Humane Society. Includes: Catered Cuisine;

Cocktails silent/live auction Raffle; more. Business casual attire. BV Humane members \$40.00 General Admission \$50.00. Tickets can be purchased at www.bvhumane.org. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/16 From: 6:00 PM To: 10:30 PM Event Location: McCormick Hall, Address: 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. Event Contact Information: Benicia Vallejo Humane Society 707-645-7905 x113.

4th Annual Skipper Whipper Whaleboat Races.

Timed Whaleboat Races along the waterfront. Public is invited. Free. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/17 From: 8:00 AM To: 12:30 PM. Event Location: Vallejo Waterfront, Vallejo. Event Contact Information: Straits of Mare Island Rowing Club - faith@somira.org

Guided Park Ranger Tour. Event Description: Join Solano County Park Ranger Chris Drake on a guided tour of the park's wildlife (birds to bobcats) plants history grazing operation, etc. Meet at parking lot kiosk. Route will vary based on participant interest and ability level. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/17 From: 9:00 AM To: 11:00 AM. Event Location: Lynch Canyon, Address: 3100 Lynch Rd, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Solano Land Trust 707-432-0151 - info@solanolandtrust.org

Skate/BMX Park Annual Best Trick Competition.

Competition for BMX Bikers and Skateboarders. Live Music cool demos skate vendors. Trophies and cash prizes. All ages welcome. Safety equipment required. All competitors must pre-register by April 16th at GVRD Main office 395 Amador St. \$10.00 competitor fee. Sponsored by V-Town Skate Shop. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/17 From: 11:00 AM To: 3:00 PM Event Location: Skate BMX Park, Address: 1300 Ascot Parkway, Vallejo, Event Contact

Information: GVRD 707-645-4600 - mcoragliotti@gvrd.org

9th Annual Catch & Release Fishing Derby.

Preregistration encouraged. For ages 5-15. All children MUST be accompanied by an adult. Prizes, raffle at 11:30 am. Must be present to win contest and prizes. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/18 From: 7:00 AM To: 11:00 AM. Event Location: Dan Foley Park, Camino Alto - Lake Chabot, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: GVRD 707-645-4600 - akenaston@gvrd.org

Mubauhay Korus. Live performance of University of the Philippines Concert Chorus. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/18 From: 4:30 PM To: 6:00 PM. Event Location: Hogan High School Auditorium, Address: 850 Rosewood at Georgia St, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-552-1105.

Fighting Back Partnership 3rd Annual Golf Tournament.

For more details visit www.fight-back.org or call 707-648-5233. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/23 From: 11:30 AM To: 7:00 PM Event Location: Blue Rock Springs Golf Course, Address: 655 Columbus Pkwy., Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Carol Schaefer 707 648-5233 - carol@fight-back.org

Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings. Blues legend; Vallejo native Roy Rogers in concert with his full band the Delta Rhythm Kings. Tickets: Adults: \$20 Advanced \$22.50 Day-of-Show. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/23 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:00 PM. Event Location: Empress Theatre, Address: 330 Virginia Street, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-552-2400.

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Earth Day at Vallejo's Farmers Market. Mercury thermometer exchange, CA native plants information booths, entertainment by The Rocksteady petting area with farm animals, recycled craft table, finger printing and photos for kids service provided by the Vjo Police Dept. and more. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/24 From: 9:00 AM To: 1:00 PM Event Location: Downtown Vallejo, 400 Georgia St. Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-645-8258.

The Solano Comedy Circuit. Featuring Don Friesen (and more!) - Friesen has twice won the SF International Comedy Competition with his 'smart and savvy highly-caffeinated comedy.' Event Date(s) & Times: 4/24 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:30 PM. Event Location: Zio Fraedos of Vallejo, Address: 23 Harbor Way, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Matt Larson 707-290-6995.

10th Annual Daffodil Tea. The Tea features fresh fare and signature Daffodil Tea. First seating: Chapel program begins at 10 am Tea is served at 12 noon. Second seating: Chapel program begins at 1 pm and Tea is served at 3 pm. Admission is by pre-purchased tickets. Available at the Vallejo CVB's Visitor Center M-F 8:30 am-5pm Sat-Sun 8:30am-1pm. The cost is \$30.00(adults) \$15.00(ages 6-12 yrs.) Age 5 yrs and under are free. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/25 From: 10:00 AM To: 2:00 PM. Event Location: Quarters C - Mare Island, Address: 832 Walnut Ave. Mare Island, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Myrna Hayes 707-649-9464 - myrnahay@pacbell.net

Opening Day of Yachting Season Annual celebration featuring a blessing old the vessels and a yacht parade. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/25 From: 10:00 AM To: 4:00 PM. Event Location: Vallejo Yacht Club, Address: 485 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-643-1254.

Loma Vista Farm's Annual Spring

Festival. Loma Vista Farm's annual Spring Festival is celebrating children as part of the national Day of the Child Dia de los Ninos. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/1 From: 11:00 AM To: 4:00 PM. Event Location: Loma Vista Farm, Address: 150 Rainier Ave. Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Rita LeRoy 707-556-8765 - rklroy@yahoo.com

May Day Festival. Free MayDay Festival with the traditional May Pole event and demonstrations on pruning dried flowers plant swap tips from the garden shed flower arranging seed planting for children and much more. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/1 From: 11:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: Vallejo Navel & Historical Museum, Address: 734 Marin St., Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-643-0077 -

Vallejo Symphony Concert 4 -The World on a String. Dvorak's Carnival Overture and violinist Dawn Harms featured on Kernis' Air for Violin and Orchestra Williams' Theme from 'Schindler's List' Kreisler's Praeludium and Allegro and Tambourine Chinoise. The finale will be Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 in D major. David Ramadanoff conducting. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/1 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:00 PM. Event Location: Hogan High School Auditorium, Address: 850 Rosewood at Georgia St. Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-643-4441 -

Wardlaw Dog Park Birthday Party All dogs are welcome to bring their owners to this fourth birthday party. The Benicia Vallejo Humane Society Microchip clinic will be on hand. The park is located east of Redwood Park and across from Jesse Bethel High School. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/8 From: 10:30 AM To: 12:30 PM Event Location: Wardlaw Dog park, Address: 1805 Ascot Parkway, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-648-5317- mcoragiotti@gvrd.org

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Force Band of the Golden West is stationed in the San Francisco Bay area at Travis Air Force Base, CA. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/13 From: 7:00 PM To: 9:00 PM. Event Location: Empress Theatre, Address: 330 Virginia Street, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-552-2400.

Downtown Vallejo Main Street Chalk Walk. Bring the Entire Family! FOOD-MUSIC-ENTERTAINMENT. Create your own chalk art. Artists of all ages welcome Sign up at the registration table get your chalk and create your masterpiece. Registration starts at 9am. Judging will begin at 4:30 in the following categories: 1st, 2nd, 3rd places in groups age 8 and under 9-12, 13-16, 17-18, 19 and over and Best in Show. Individual Collective last year's best in show returns to work on a 30 foot long group piece. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/15 From: 9:00 AM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: Vallejo's Historic Downtown, Address: 400 Georgia St, Vallejo, Event Contact Info: 707-557-6246.

2010 Vallejo Garden Tour 'Beyond the Garden Gate'. Nine unique gardens filled with a rainbow of color from grape vines and edible gardens to vintage home gardens with shady places bursting with fragrance and color. The 2010 Garden Tour benefits the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum and the City of Vallejo Beautification Commission. Tickets are \$30 for the general public and \$25 for Museum members and include a sumptuous buffet luncheon served from noon to 3:00 p.m. in the North Gallery of the Museum. Tickets are available to the Museum 734 Marin Street or Zoey June Gift and Garden 1426 Tennessee Street. For more information call 707-643-0077 or visit the museum website at www.vallejomuseum.org, that offers paypal. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/16 From: 10:00 AM To: 3:00 PM. Event

Location: Vallejo Navel & Historical Museum, Address: 734 Marin St., Vallejo. Event Contact Information: 707-643-0077.

31st Annual PAL Golf Classic Event Description: Four Person Handicapped Scramble Check in at 11:00 am Shotgun Start at 1:00 pm \$135 Entry Fee Prizes Raffles Contests and Dinner. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/21 From: 1:00 PM To: 7:00 PM, Event Location: Mare Island Golf Course, Address: 1800 Club Drive, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-552-1573.

18th Annual Stroll for Epilepsy. Join Six Flags Discovery Kingdom for a day of fun and help improve the lives of over 140000 people with epilepsy in our region. Gather donations from your friends family neighbors and co-workers to support the services of the Epilepsy Foundation. A minimum of \$100 per registration is required. Your registration covers a continental breakfast, lunch, the 5K Stroll for Epilepsy a Stroll T-shirt and the rides and attractions at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. Parking is \$10. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/22 From: 9:00 AM To: 11:00 PM. Event Location: Six Flags' Discovery Kingdom, Address: 1001 Fairgrounds Dr, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 800-632-3532.

Car Show - Presented by the Boyz Under the Hood Car Club. The Boyz Under The Hood car club in Vallejo will host the Team Chevrolet Car show on May 22. All makes of cars are welcome. Cars in any condition may attend. Team Superstores will provide free BBQ food and drinks. There will be awards for various car categories., Event Date(s) & Times: 5/22 From: 10:00 AM To: 2:00 PM. Event Location: Team Superstores, Address: 301 Automall/Columbus Parkway, Vallejo, Event

Contact Information: Chip Carter 707 553-1244 - chipnkim@aol.com

Vallejo Choral Society Concert. One of the oldest cultural arts organizations west of the Mississippi the Vallejo Choral Society is a proud component of historic Vallejo's vibrant artistic community. Founded in 1917 the choral society is a mixed-voice seasonal choir performing locally as well as in San Francisco Berkeley Oakland and Sacramento. Under the direction of our new director Cyril Deaconoff the choral society's repertoire covers choral music from Renaissance to contemporary. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/22 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:00 PM. Event Location: Empress Theatre, Address: 330 Virginia Street, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-552-2400.

Showdown at Six Flags. IKF Amateur Kickboxing event. Open to the public.. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/29 From: 11:00 AM To: 4:00 PM. Event Location: Six Flags' Discovery Kingdom, Address: 1001 Fairgrounds Dr, Vallejo, Event Contact Info: 707-673-6632.

Placing flags on the graves at the Mare Island Cemetery. The Boyz Under The Hood car club will purchase and place an American flag on every grave in the Mare Island Cemetery on Sunday, May 30th the day before Memorial Day. After the event we will take a group of WW II vets to lunch. Event Date(s) & Times: 5/30 From: 10:00 AM To: 2:00 PM. Event Location: North Bay Cabinets, Address: 1515 Solano Ave., Vallejo, Event Contact Info: 707 553-1244 - chipnkim@aol.com

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time among the rolling hills of Lynch Canyon. 10K runners do one lap. The event also includes a 2.5 mile community hike with about 400 ft of elevation gain. Event proceeds will be used for the improvement of Lynch Canyon and promoting the use of its open space for healthy living. Online registration www.active.com. Half Marathon \$30.00 before June 1, \$35.00 before June 20, \$40.00 race day registration. 10K \$20.00 before June 1, \$25.00 before June 20, \$30.00 race day registration. Community Hike \$5.00 (donation) up to and including race day registration.. Event Date(s) & Times: 6/5 From: 8:00 AM To: 1:00 PM. Event Location: Lynch Canyon, Address: 3100 Lynch Rd, Vallejo, Event Contact Info: Solano Land Trust 707-432-0151 - info@solanolandtrust.org

'Get Your Feet Wet' Workday. 'Rebuilding Together' is a non profit organization helping low income homeowners make their homes safe and comfortable with all volunteer work. Event Date(s) & Times: 6/5 From: 8:30 AM To: 4:30 PM. Event Location: City Park, Address: Louisiana and Sacramento Sts, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Sarah Johnson 707-235-8126.

Loma Vista Farm's 2nd Annual Bluegrass Festival. Bluegrass Festival will be emceed by Raymond Victor. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Straw bales available for seating. Lots of shade areas will be available. Fun-filled afternoon of good music and delicious food while the animals watch over the event. \$12.00 adults/ \$6.00 children 6-12 /Under 6 years old Free. Event Date(s) & Times: 6/5 From: 11:00 AM To: 3:00 PM Event Location: Loma Vista Farm, Address: 150 Rainier Ave, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-556-8765.

Pista Sa Nayon Independance Day Festival. The

festivities kick-off with a parade at 9:00 a.m. then continues with non-stop entertainment on two stages and ends at 6:00 p.m. This annual event is one of Vallejo's largest FREE outdoor festivals that draws crowds wanting to sample Philippine cuisine soak up Filipino hospitality and enjoy entertainment that crosses all ages cultures and ethnicities. Everyone is invited to bring their lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy top notch entertainment in a family-friendly environment.. Event Date(s) & Times: 6/5 From: 9:00 AM To: 6:00 PM. Event Location: Vallejo Marina Green, Address: 298 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-643-8057.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. To benefit the Vallejo H.S. Basketball program and the Vallejo Elementary Schools PE Program. Divisions: Elementary and Middle- April 10 High and Open. \$50.00 per team. Guaranteed 3 games. Event Date(s) & Times: April 10 & 11, From: 9:00 AM To: 8:00 PM Event Location: Vallejo High School, Address: 840 Nebraska St, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Mike Lindberg 530-00-9914.

Vallejo Music Theatre Spring Clean Up Sale. Good stuff to sell -Decorations collectibles arty stuff old props vintage clothing; more! VMT will have a small hot dog stand and sell sodas and dogs and more. Sat. 10 am-3 pm Sun 12 n-3 pm. PLUS We want to offer our friends members artists and other non-profits a chance to join us in this indoor/outdoor sale at 823 Marin St. We will be renting out spaces for a flat fee of \$5.00 per foot (frontage). There are a limited number of spaces indoors and out. Arts; Antiques will be given preferential placement. Spaces will be reserved upon receipt of check. Event Date(s) & Times: April 10 & 11, From:

10:00 AM To: 3:00 PM. Event Location: Vallejo Music Theatre, Address: 823 Marin St. Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Lynn Combs 707-649-2787 ext 703 - info@vallejomusictheatre.org.

"I Am My Own Wife." The true story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf born Lothar Berfelde who survived not only Nazi persecution but Soviet repression while living life as a female collector of Victorian-era artifacts. Event Date(s) & Times: April 16 - 25, 2010 From: 8:00:00 PM To: 10:30:00 PM. Event Location: The Mira Theatre/Bay Terrace Theatre, Address: 51 Daniels Ave. Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-552-0400.

Sunday Jazz at the Sardine Can. Enjoy dinner at this casual Waterfront hid-a-way with live music. Every Sunday from April to September. Scheduled performers: April 11, Dalt Williams; April 18 Bob Simmons; April 25 Leo Cavanagh; May 2 Bryan Girard May 9 Tom Gentry; May 16 Wayne De La Cruz; May 23 Dalt Williams; May 30 Guy Arrostuto; June 6 Benny Marcelo; June 13 Bob Nadler; June 20 Guy Arrostuto; June 27 Wayne De La Cruz; July 4 Michelle Michaels; July 11 Bob Simmons; July 18 Bryan Girard; July 25 Wayne De La Cruz; August 1 Leo Cavanagh, August 8 Dalt Williams + Cathy Morris, August 15 Bob Nadler; August 22 Guy Arrostuto; August 29 Bob Simmons; September 5 Bryan Girard; September 12 Wayne Gross; September 19 Bob Nadler; September 26 SPECIAL EVENT. Event Date(s) & Times: every Sunday until the end of September 2010 From: 5:00 PM To: 8:00 PM. Event Location: Sardine Can, Address: 0 Harbor Way, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: Sardine Can 707-553-9492.



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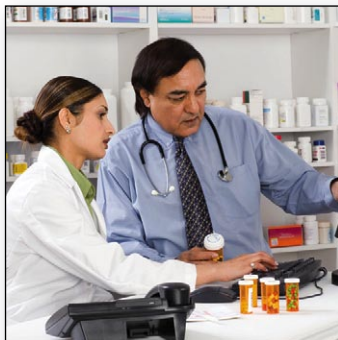
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Vallejo/SF International Yacht Race. A celebration of the oldest inland yachting race in the nation. Event Date(s) & Times: May 1 & 2, From: 9:00 AM To: 6:00 PM. Event Location: Vallejo Yacht Club, Address: 485 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, Event Contact Information: 707-643-1254.

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YOUNTVILLE

Napa Valley Symphony with Pianist Leon Bates. 'Retrospective: The Last Twenty Years' Event Date(s) & Times: 4/11 From: 3:00 PM To: 5:00 PM. Event Location: Lincoln Theater, Address: 100 California Drive, Yountville, Event Contact Information: 707-226-8742.

Event: Tiempo Libre

Two-time Grammy-nominated Tiempo Libre is one the hottest young Latin bands today. Event Date(s) & Times: 4/17 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:30 PM. Event Location: Lincoln Theater, Address: 100 California St. Yountville, Event Contact Information: Lincoln Theater 707-944-1300 - richard@lincolntheater.org.

VOENA - 'Voices of Hope'

VOENA (Voices of Eve 'N Angels) Event Date(s) & Times: 5/2 From: 4:00 PM To: 6:00 PM. Event Location: Lincoln Theater, Address: 100 California Drive, Yountville, Event Contact Information: Richard Aldag 707-944-5812 - richard@lincolntheater.org

Ballet Folklorico 'Quetzalli' de Veracruz,

Founded in 1985 by Maestro Hugo Betancourt Ballet Folklorico Quetzalli has toured internationally performing traditional folkloric dances as well as their Afro-Caribbean spectacular 'Carnaval Veracruzano.' Event Date(s) & Times: 5/1 From: 8:00 PM To: 10:00 PM. Event Location: Lincoln Theater, Address: 100 California Dr. Yountville, Event Contact Information: Richard Aldag 707-944-5812 - richard@lincolntheater.org.

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Fairfield Suisun



Fairfield and Suisun city offer the perfect blend of an old and new, quaint and modern, peaceful and exciting atmosphere. After a quiet start as tiny frontier villages in the 1850's, Fairfield and Suisun City have recently undergone dramatic expansion in size and population. This growth reflects a positive trend. The friendliness, charm and informality of these former pioneer towns have not been lost with the growth of the last 25 years.

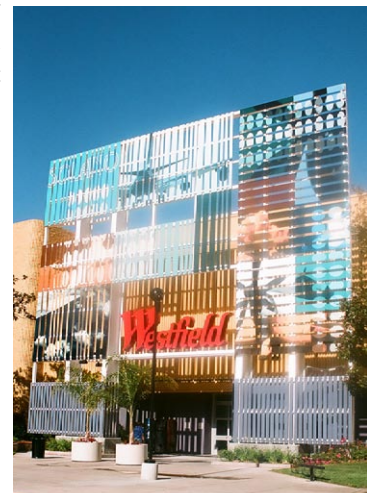
People are steadily recognizing the potential of Fairfield and Suisun City as a desirable place to raise a family and establish a business. The area is small enough not to have lost its Old West appeal and neighborhood feel, yet large enough to attract and support such major industries as military, agriculture, biotechnology and manufacturing.

The County Seat, Fairfield occupies 37 square miles of relatively level land in the northeast San Francisco Bay Area, on the western edge of California's agricultural heartland, the Central Valley. Although sometimes perceived as a bedroom community to the San Francisco and Sacramento metropolitan areas, Fairfield contains the full range of residential uses, a premier central business district, extensive transportation networks, world-class healthcare, quality schools and the finest cultural assets in all of Solano County.

South of Fairfield is the charming community of Suisun City, encompassing four square miles and containing the largest fresh water marsh in the county. The city was founded in 1851 during the California Gold Rush as a trading route between the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Old Town section of the city is located on the Suisun Channel which empties on the Suisun and Grizzly Bays, the connecting point for the Sacramento River and the San Francisco Bay. The Suisun Marsh has a large marina that goes into the California Delta.

The town continued to prosper with the introduction of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, linking Suisun City to the east coast. The city remained the bustling hub of agricultural Solano County until Interstate 80 opened in the 1960's, effectively switching commercial traffic away from the railroad and the waterfront area, and into nearby Fairfield. Suisun City undertook the task of completely reconstructing the waterfront. The city also completed the 5,000-foot promenade walkway in October 1998, which opened the entire waterfront for public access. The promenade connects the Town Plaza with a 300-foot guest dock, the Harbormaster Building, and the marina.

Despite their dramatic growth, Fairfield and Suisun City maintain the charm and vitality of small, thriving communities. Beautiful tree-lined streets and well-kept boulevards lead to a wide variety of shopping, dining, educational and recreation options.





Riverfront Residences . . .

Napa's Newest Destination!

I have lived here in the North Bay all my life growing up in the Vallejo/Benicia community. My father was brought to Vallejo because of the Navy and stayed at Mare Island for 44 years. My mother was a nurse at Kaiser, so between my parents and my 5 brothers and sisters I felt like we knew everyone. We were practically raised at St. Vincent's Grammar School and our world was simple and seemed to not change as we aged. Through the years change did occur, and I have seen Benicia and Vallejo change before my eyes. The surrounding communities, Suisun, Fairfield, American Canyon and Vacaville changed just as dramatically. When I was in 6th grade my best friend moved to Napa and it became a common stomping ground over my teenage years. Napa was one of those places I remember as a child being a



little bit country and maybe even a little, *slow*. Not that I mean that as a bad thing, in fact that is probably where I fell in love with horses and country living. Napa, or Wine Country, as it is commonly referred to, seemed not to change as dramatically and it stayed a little bit country because of the vineyards. (That did not exist when I was growing up!) Through the years I have seen Napa County change but not really Napa proper. Downtown Napa, in fact seemed doomed to have the name but not the destination since "Napa Valley" was really talking about Yountville and above. Well, times are changing!

If you have never been to Downtown Napa and you went today it would look as if it existed there always. If you are in fact like myself and know Downtown Napa well and went today it would look like a new city! The

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skyline is in fact a vision over the river now. This vision did not happen overnight nor without its growing pains, I remember the last couple years trying to get to restaurants and stores and cursing over the lack of parking and the street rubble. I know many merchants and restauranteurs struggled since their customers could not get to them conveniently.

Downtown Napa is finally attaining their namesake and becoming a true destination. What has made this radical change? Many little things have happened over the last decade, Copia, Ox Bow Market; fabulous restaurants like Celedon, Angele and Cole's, wine shops and specialty retail have brought residents and tourists alike. Almost overnight though the skyline changed with one man's vision and lots of hard work – *Riverfront* was created.

The vision started years ago when Mike DeSimoni replaced one of the 8 original towers that had been in downtown and taken down for fear of earthquakes.

“That was definitely the starting point of wanting to bring downtown a destination point.” After replacing the tower and



restoring the Alexandria Square building I started thinking larger.” DeSimoni stated.

“The dream started there but the complete vision was definitely a collaborative effort. Since we have started this project three new major hotels have opened. I am not saying we are completely responsible but like they say, ‘Build it and they will come.’ That has certainly happened here!” Desimoni continued.

This multi-use project has all the bells and whistles. Luxury condominiums, executive office space, specialty retail as well as restaurants that will rival any large cities list.

“We are extremely excited with our list of restaurants that will be calling Riverfront home. Chef Masaharu Morimoto, of Iron Chef and Iron Chef America fame, has signed on to open his first West Coast restaurant at the Riverfront development in Downtown Napa. We worked on this deal for months and

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At Your Doorstep... Napa Style and Taste

The excitement continues to build at Riverfront Residences as the new dining establishments of Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto and Food Network's Tyler Florence are on schedule to open early summer 2010 on the first floor of Riverfront.

Riverfront Residences features 50 luxury condominiums built along the Napa River in the heart of downtown Napa. The homes, which surround a landscaped courtyard, are located above planned shops and restaurants. Starting in the low \$400,000s, one, two, and three bedroom condominiums are available now.

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are thrilled to finally announce the news!" DeSimoni excitedly stated.

The signing of Morimoto Napa is especially thrilling due to the fact that the San Francisco Bay Area has no high profile Japanese restaurants, surprising considering the area's extreme "Foodie" culture.

The excitement does not stop there; The Tyler Florence Shop and the Tyler Florence Rotisserie & Wine will join Morimoto along the downtown waterfront. The Tyler Florence Shop will offer French copper cookware to boutique Italian olive oils, from the finest antique chopping blocks to local Northern California preserves and will also offer the world's finest culinary tools, accessories, cook books and local artisan products that will appeal the to the most discerning foodie visiting the Napa Valley.

The Rotisserie & Wine Shop will be fashioned in the style of traditional Parisian rotisseries, offering local meats like chicken, porchetta and lamb on a wall of rotating meat. The other side of the café will be dedicated to a wine shop.

This well seasoned shop will also feature Florence's famous salads, as well as his soups that are both hearty and seasonal.



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The fun does not stop there I am glad to report, The Lark Creek Restaurant Group will be opening an as yet unnamed 4,100 square foot seafood concept at the corner of 3rd and Main at the Riverfront. Founded by famed restaurateur Michael Dellar and Celebrity Chef Bradley Ogden, the Lark Creek Restaurant Group has opened some of the West's most successful and renowned restaurants including One Market in San Francisco and Bradley Ogden in Las Vegas. "I am really excited to finally build a restaurant in my hometown," exclaims Michael Dellar. "As a local, I know how important the development of quality activities in town is for drawing tourism and satisfying needs of local and I take my hat off to Channel Properties founder and CEO, Mike DeSimoni for his vision in creating such a spectacular mixed-use space."

This new restaurant will share in the philosophies of Lark Creek Restaurant Group, sourcing fresh fish and shellfish following the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program guidelines in addition to produce, meats, and poultry and other products from local artisans and producers. The wine list, of course, will highlight selections from the Napa Valley.

Riverfront will be offering many new ventures for residents and tourists alike, and they are looking forward to working with the retailers and restaurants that started the trend before them and have set the standard very high. They currently have one retailer open, River Velo, a must-stop destination for the biking enthusiast. Morgan Stanley has been in their 3rd floor office for almost a year now and there are already five owners of the 50 condominiums with 14 other reservations on file. They are priced very competitive and these one to three bedrooms units would make an exciting second home or a comfortable main residence. Many residences enjoy exceptional features, including panoramic river views, private terraces and shelter courtyards. Homes are conveniently secluded above Riverfront's shops, cafes and fine restaurants, and every residence includes gated underground parking.

I am a creature of habit and change is always exciting and a little scary to me, but I am fully embracing the new skyline and all that it brings to Downtown Napa. You will now be able to stay at a top hotel and eat at a five star restaurant and guess what, you do not have to go up the valley! *The Riverfront is the epicenter of the new Downtown Napa Renaissance.*



Deanna Baillie has owned her business for over 24 years, she has produced and edited five other publications over her career and has been a Solano County resident all her life. Her family and animals take center stage always.

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From San Francisco Bay to the Mare Island Straits of Vallejo, sailing enthusiasts are readying themselves to embrace wind and waves. For over one hundred years, sailing craft of all types have celebrated the official start of the sailing season in a region well known for its maritime heritage and superb sailing conditions.

Opening Day on the Bay takes place April 17 and 18 at the Vallejo and Benicia yacht clubs and one week later on April 25 in San Francisco followed by the Solano Yacht Club in Suisun City on May 1. The Opening Day festivities include a theme based boat parade in which both crew and craft dress up for the event. The Vallejo event is a two day floating party with hundreds of boats expected to be over-nighting in and around the Mare Island Straits between the City of Vallejo and the industrial landscape that is the historic Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

There will be plenty to do for those of us who aren't "yachties". Benicia will have food and craft vendors as well as live music in and around downtown First Street and adjacent to the Benicia Yacht Club. There will also be a rubber duckie race

Downtown Benicia really comes alive all day for this event. Most of First Street will be closed to automobile traffic, making the event ideal for families. The eclectic mix of shops and restaurants that make Benicia so charming will, of course, be open.

Go out on the downtown Benicia Pier, at the foot of First Street, for a good view, or spread out on the Waterfront Green, just North of the pier, for a little sun, and a more leisurely take on the festivities. There is also a water spigot on the green at the corner of First and East B. St. providing water for canine companions.


The sun will set at 7:33 PM on April 17. With the clear weather prevalent this time of year, the light turns this little piece of the California coast yellow and lavender as the light cascades across the water and over the boats. The Sun finally slips past the Zampa Bridge, leading into Vallejo to the West.

On Saturday May 1 The Great Vallejo Race starts in The San Francisco Bay. Hundreds of boats will round a single mark as they pass Alcatraz Island on their way to Vallejo for the first day of the race. Boats will pass under the Richmond San Rafael Bridge and into San Pablo Bay and the Carquinez Straits. The race finishes in the Mare Island Straits below the mouth of the Napa River.

The run to Vallejo is usually a downwind reach ideal for spinnaker flying. These large and brightly colored sails are the largest in any boat's suit. They create quite a spectacle. Hundreds of boats maneuvering for the finish line perpendicular to the Vallejo waterfront is a display of sailing tactics as well. Tempers frequently flare as boats bunch together and jockey for advantage in the often

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quirky winds that swirl and dip as they are disrupted by Mare Island. Listen for skippers yelling “starboard” as they shout their right of way under the rules of racing sail. Sometimes hulls come into contact in spite of the best maneuvering efforts.

Having started 111 years ago, The Great Vallejo Race is a venerated event, but it is not the oldest race in the world of sailing, nor is it the longest in terms of distance or duration. However, with between 300 and 500 boats participating annually, it is one of the largest displays of competitive sail to be seen anywhere in the world. Expect the fastest boats to reach the finish line around 3 PM depending on the wind. The first boat across the line isn’t necessarily the winner though. The winning boat is determined using a handicap system to equalize the faster and slower craft. This makes it a competition based on sailing skill and tactics rather than money and equipment.

After the race participants drop their sails and anchor or berth for the night. Party time !

The racing resumes in the morning with thousands of yards of wind filled sail again jamming the Mare Island Straits as pastel colored cranes from the shipyard stretch their necks. This time the course is in the opposite direction with the finish line just short of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

The beauty and tradition of sailing in the waterways of coastal California are worth experiencing. There will be plenty to do on both land and sea.



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Sunday, May 9th, 4 - 8 pm

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- Starter
 Choice of house salad or cup of soup

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- Dessert

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Opening Day on the Bay cont.

The Scuttlebutt if you go:

Opening Day in Vallejo--April 17 and 18

This year's theme for Vallejo's Opening Day Boat Parade is "Building Bridges". It will start at the Vallejo Yacht Club at 1 PM and last approximately 45 minutes.

The Great Vallejo Race--May 1 and 2

Hundreds of boats will arrive on Saturday around 3 PM and depart Sunday between 10 AM and 12 noon. Times are approximate depending on conditions.

Excellent viewing can be had from the downtown Vallejo Waterfront and Marina Green.

Plentiful free parking is available in the lot across from the Vallejo Ferry Terminal.

Opening Day in Benicia—April 17

The First Street Pier in downtown Benicia provides a vantage point for the festivities, and is central to the food and music planned for the April 17 Opening Day. The event starts at 10 A.M. with food and games for children available. The Diablo Valley Regional Concert Band will provide music. This year's theme is "Sea-Vu-Play" (Think French pun).

12 noon—Opening Ceremonies

2:00 PM—Decorated Boat Parade

3:00 PM—Rubber Ducky Races

6-8 PM—Dinner and Dancing in the Norton Lounge in the Benicia Yacht Club to the "Jay Silverheels Band" —The public is invited.

Opening Day in San Francisco (April 25) and the start of the Great Vallejo Race (May 1)

Best viewed from Crissy Field in San Francisco's Marina District. The Opening Day Boat Parade starts at 12 noon and participants will proceed across the bay.

Solano Yacht Club

Solano Yacht Club will have a barbecue for tenants and guests on May 1 for Opening Day. Additional festivities TBA at this time. We suggest on contacting Solano Yacht Club as their Opening Day grows closer.

Web and Contact Information:

Benicia Yacht Club, www.benicianyachtclub.org

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Marc Garman is a watch repairer and videographer who lives in Vallejo, CA. He grew up crewing on and racing sailboats in upstate New York, mostly on the Hudson River.



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Open Studios

Benicia's 17th Annual Event

Next month, is the 17th year of what has been hailed as one of the Bay Area's most diverse, vibrant and accessible Open Studios. Benicia is fortunate to host a large population of studio artists whose work has been shown in both regional and national shows; as well as exciting emerging artists, and many others who are dedicated to pursuing art as a serious avocation. During the first weekend of May, the whole town of Benicia comes alive in a celebration for the arts as artists open their work spaces city wide. On May 1st and 2nd, over sixty of Benicia's resident artists, whose studios are located throughout the town and the lower historic arsenal district, will be graciously welcoming the public into their studios. This rare opportunity to visit the artist's inner sanctum allows visitors a glimpse of the places where the artists while the hours away, working endlessly. These workspaces are filled with works in progress, as well as substantial bodies of completed work. Each year, the wealth of talent that these artists share with the community and with hundreds of visitors from around the Bay Area during Open Studios is truly remarkable, and not to be missed.

Open Studios is an unparalleled opportunity to meet the creators of work admired during the year at the Arts Benicia Gallery and other venues around town, explore more about one's favorite kind of art, or gain a new understanding of art that might seem

elusive out of context. The artists are interested in more than simply showing their work; they generally welcome questions and comments from their visitors and are interested in engaging in discussion throughout the event. These artists work very hard, often by themselves, day in and day out throughout the year. Open Studios is an opportunity for them to engage with the community in Benicia as well as the broader Bay Area about their bodies of work.

Open Studios hours are from 10 am to 5 pm on May 1st and 2nd: there will be maps to all the studios, a group exhibit of all the participants' work, drinks and snack concessions, and live performances of encaustic and printmaking at the Arts Benicia Classroom studio from the Jazz for All Occasions trio at the Arts Benicia Gallery at 991 Tyler Street in the Arsenal.

Two artist studios that are no stranger to the press is Smyers Glass and Nourot Glass Studios.

It is no secret that the quiet town of Benicia has been it's own glassblowing mini-mecca since the 1970s. The credit to such a distinction should be particularly attributed to the inhabitants of 675 E. H St., Benicia: Nourot Glass Studio and Smyers Glass, Inc.

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“It’s really pretty unusual to have two glass studios next to each other, basically working in one location,” says Judy Keyes, co-owner and designer of Smyers Glass. “I don’t think that’s done anywhere else.” Her husband, co-owner and glassblower Stephen Smyers, finds the two-in-one locale to be quite complementary. “We’ve become more of a destination by having the two studios, rather than just one,” he says. “We’ve had less competition and jealousy than you would imagine. It’s worked out.”

The relationship between the two studios truly began by chance. Smyers Glass began across the street of where they are now in 1971 as the first glassblowing studio in Benicia. Micheal Nourot, founder of Nourot Glass Studio, soon moved in next door in 1974. “I wasn’t planning on being next to someone like that but it just happened to work out that that particular building was right next to his,” says Nourot. “The rent was \$350 a month and it included utilities. The guy that owned the buildings didn’t know that glassblowers—even back then—were using \$1000 bucks a month in gas; so it was a pretty sweet deal. It took the guy about a year to figure it out.” It didn’t take long for Nourot to convince Smyers he was of no threat. “I had my own agenda,” Nourot says. “Eventually the door opened and we got to be really good friends.”

The two studios remain completely separate entities under one roof, both unique in their artistic approach. “As much as it’s the same it’s also quite different,” says Smyers. “I’ve specialized in tableware—bowls, candlesticks, vases—but the majority of



Stephen Smyers at work on his stemware

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Open Studios cont.

pieces are stemware items. I have entire lines of stemware, one line has 18 shapes and sizes.” Keyes agrees, “We do mostly functional work. Now we’re getting into more decorative kinds of pieces. We came out with three new lines of vases this year; paperweights, jewelry, clocks...”

Nourot Glass differs from the earliest aspect of creation. “We make all of our own glass from scratch,” says Nourot. “There’s no studio that I can think of that’s like us, that does that.” His wife, business partner and fellow glassblower Ann Corcoran sees the appeal to their creations from a deeper perspective. “Our [studio] appeals to people that want to say more than: ‘I went shopping for you,’” she says. “People who don’t mind that the pieces are different love our stuff. They love to discover the difference between one piece and another in pattern, shape and form.”

Nourot and Corcoran’s son Nick has found a career in the glass business as well. “I studied glass in Oregon for four years,” he says. “I was going to move up to Seattle—the hub of glassblowing for the States.” Upon reaching Seattle, however, he realized then where he’s really meant to be. “I wanted to get a job, learn more stuff, learn different techniques—all the guys that I interviewed with were friends of my parents,” he laments. “Every single one of them said: ‘Why don’t you just work for your parents?’ So I came down here.”

Both of these incredible studios have had more than just their 15 minutes of fame throughout the last 30-40 years. Smyers Glass has had distant clients as far away as India, Italy, Japan,



Michael & Nick Nourot at work

Indonesia; famous clients such as Tina Turner, Kevin Costner, Robin Williams; and has been featured in magazines, commercials, and movies such as *Swordfish* and *Back to the Future*. Nourot Glass has made it to the far reaches of Paris, Saudi Arabia, Korea; been purchased by political icons such as President Ronald Reagan, Hilary Clinton, the Pope; and featured in the TV movie *Alchemy in Light* for National Geographic. The list of prestige between these two glassmaking teams is enough for a story of its own.

While all good things don’t necessarily come to an end, they can certainly be halted. In the case of these Benician glassblowers, as well as the rest of the country, the economy has taken its toll. “I was retired for 10 years,” says Corcoran. “It was wonderful, we had it pretty good for a long time. Now we’re getting used to the new world order here. I’m using old skills, doing a lot of things that I used to do in the 70s.” Nourot Glass Studio used to have a strong team to handle some of the lesser tasks in the glassmaking process. “At one time I had 11 employees,” says Nourot, now down to primarily himself, his wife and son. “The problem with our wholesale business is so many accounts that we’ve been selling to for more than 30 years ran into the same kinds of problems that we’ve run into—nobody buying the work—and they’re just retiring and closing down the galleries,” he says. “We’ve lost a tremendous number of galleries that used to carry and sell our work.”

Smyers Glass is right there with them. “It’s about the same now

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as it was in the beginning,” says Smyers. “It took me a few years before I had my first employee, I eventually had 22, and now I’m back down to two.” Accounting for bare necessities such as food, clothing and shelter, Keyes looks at their situation practically. “People don’t necessarily need our items,” she says. “It’s for people with discretionary income, of which there is less of today.” But things could certainly be worse, and Keyes remains fully optimistic. “We’re still here! A lot of our contemporaries are not.”

One of the best parts of the glassmaking business is the people you meet. “They’re very interesting people, very creative, just kind of fun to be around,” says Keyes. “We have friends all over the world that we have connected with over the last 30-40 years. Everywhere we go we have friends.” Nourot agrees. “We get some really interesting characters in here,” he says. “They all love to talk about the glass.”

Smyers is still in it for the challenge. “Something new comes up everyday; a new hurdle that I need to get through. It’s absolutely amazing how it could happen everyday, and it does,” he says. “Maybe something went wrong, went right, a new type of commission, it keeps me on my toes. It’s been an endless process, I like that part.”

After nearly four decades of Smyers and Nourot, there is still much for us to look forward to. “I’m not done,” says Smyers. “I’d be happy with my accomplishments if I quit right now, but I’m going to continue for a few more years and probably change my focus to one-of-a-kind gallery pieces. I haven’t finished.”

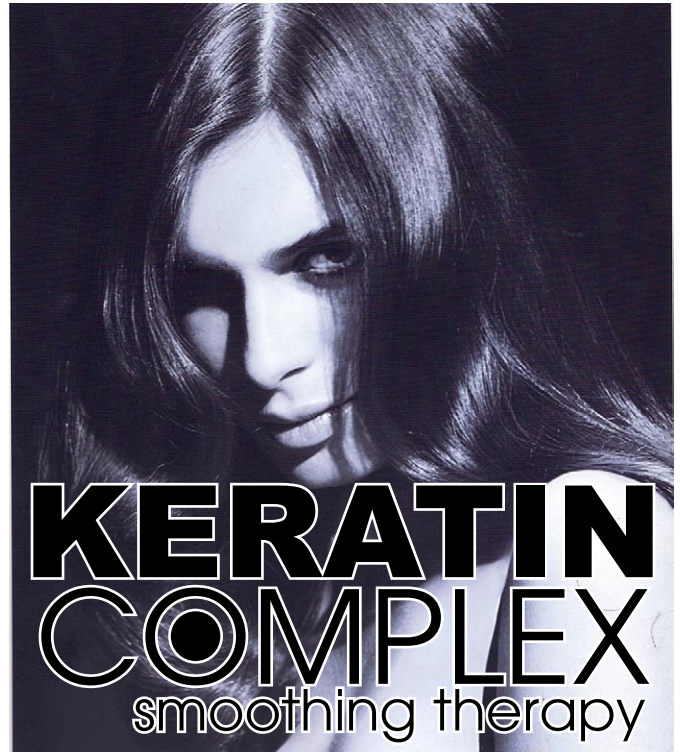
Nourot’s mind is in a similar place. “I love what I’m doing, and right now we’re working on a lot of new ideas,” he says. “I’ve got more ideas and more stuff I want to work on than I’m probably every going to be able to. People ask me what I’m going to do when I retire and I just look at them and laugh, because I feel like I’ve been cheating for 40 years.”



Matt Larson continues his queries with Local Happenings in this issue. His work can also be found in past issues of Solano Magazine and . . . that’s pretty much it. He also produces comedy shows for the Vallejo community and is very very funny. He no longer has a beard and misses it tremendously. His favorite color is orange.



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The Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing (although sometimes shortened to Triple Crown, the full name is used to avoid possible confusion with other sports) consists of three races for three-year-old Thoroughbred horses. Winning all three of these Thoroughbred horse races is considered the greatest accomplishment of a Thoroughbred racehorse. Different nations where thoroughbred racing is popular each have their own Triple Crown series. In recent years, winning a Triple Crown has become a very rare achievement, with most horses specializing on a limited range of distances.

In the United States, the three races that compose the Triple Crown are as follows:
 Kentucky Derby, run over 1 and 1/4 miles (2.01 km) dirt track at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky;
 Preakness Stakes, run over 1 and 3/16 miles (1.91 km) dirt track at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland and
 Belmont Stakes, run over 1 and 1/2 miles (2.41 km), the longest dirt track in thoroughbred racing, at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York.

No horse has won the U.S. Triple Crown since Affirmed in 1978.



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Despite dropping live horse racing in its summer schedule this past year, the sport is alive and well within the confines of the Solano County Fair.

The best part? It is a year-round event.

Nestled in the north end of the fairgrounds, in Gibson Hall, patrons are treated to a little slice of a Las Vegas sports book, albeit just for horse racing. The Vallejo Satellite Watch and Wager facility boasts over 100 TVs, a bar and full restaurant menu for its patrons. And that doesn't include the dozens of stations where one can place a bet electronically, or even walk up to a live clerk to place your wager on a particular race.

"The nice thing is, you can be 18-and over and place a bet," Watch and Wager Facility Manager Rene Edens said. "There is a full service restaurant, hot and cold food, daily specials and a full bar."

Horse racing has been a long tradition in Vallejo. Last season, its 60th at the fairgrounds, was the fair's final year of live racing. The main reason for the sport's exit was the cost to keep the operation going. The facilities were in dire need of renovation, which according to Edens would have cost the fair 8- to 10-million dollars to be brought up to the standards of tracks in the fair circuit. That type of investment just would not have been worth the time to recoup the money.

"It would have taken us a decade, if not two, to break even," Edens explained. "There is a lot to be said about being a live meet. Even if you are live track, it is unbelievable how many people are gathered around the TV."

And that is where the Satellite Wager facility comes in.

Vallejo's facility has actually been opened since 1988. The original location of the facility was in the grandstands at the track. In 1991, however, it was moved to Gibson Hall. By the summer of 1998, it was given a full facelift.

Walking into the facility now, one gets a true feeling of being in a Nevada gaming room, except the only thing on the TV's is horse racing. With the walls covered in dark green, warm ambient lighting, television screens ranging from 20 to 60 inches covering the walls and ceilings, there is plenty of gaming action. There are even outdoor patios with TVs so patrons can enjoy the outdoors while watching the racing. And to top it off, the facility does not just broadcast local California races.

"We take racing from around the World," Edens said.

At the end of March, the facility carried races from Dubai and regularly carries races from South America, Australia and Canada. The biggest American races will be available for wager in Vallejo coming up soon as well.

The Triple Crown will be held starting with the Kentucky Derby on May 1. The Preakness Stakes is held June 6 and the Belmont Stakes will be held June 6. And despite those races being in the MidWest and East Coast, racing fans will be able to place bets



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right in their own backyard and watch the events with fellow horse racing enthusiasts.

The Kentucky Derby is a Grade I stakes race for three year-old Thoroughbred horses, held annually in Louisville, Kentucky, United States on the first Saturday in May, capping the two-week-long Kentucky Derby Festival and is widely considered the most prestigious horse race in the world. The race is one and a quarter miles (2 km) at Churchill Downs. Colts and geldings carry 126 pounds (57.2 kg) and fillies 121 pounds (54.9 kg). The race is known in the United States as “The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports” or “The Fastest Two Minutes in Sports” for its approximate duration, and is also called “The Run for the Roses” for the blanket of roses draped over the winner. It is the first leg of the United States Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing and is followed by the Preakness Stakes then the Belmont Stakes. The attendance at the Kentucky Derby ranks first in North America and usually surpasses the attendance of all other stakes races including the Preakness Stakes, Belmont Stakes and the Breeders’ Cup.

“The Kentucky Derby, at one time, was biggest sporting event in the world,” Eden said. “Nobody’s facility is big enough for the

first weekend in May. It has actually turned into a 2-day event, with the Kentucky Oaks running on Friday.”

The Triple Crown shouldn’t be the only reason to go place a wager on the ponies, however. The Vallejo facility is open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$5 before 4 p.m., \$3 at night. It is an 18-and-over facility. During the week of the fair, admission is free to the center with a paid fair entrance, which may be the perfect time for a beginner to check out the horse racing action.

“If you want to come down during the fair and take chance in a wager, come on down,” Edens said. “We are the only game in town.”

For more information the Solano County Fair Satellite Watch and Wager Facility, visit www.scfair.com.



Brian Cornelius, a life-long Vallejo resident, is the former sports editor of the Times-Herald Newspaper . He also started and ran the sports department for GetLocalNews.com. He is currently the maintenance manager at Vallejo Garbage Service. He is a member of the Vallejo Executive Lions and is a board member of the Benicia PAL Inline Hockey League. Brian, who is St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School graduate, resides in Vallejo with his wife and four children. He still has an extremely strong passion for local community sports. If you have a community sports story idea, please feel free to contact him at briancornelius73@yahoo.com.

FYI

Affirmed (February 21, 1975 – January 12, 2001) was an American thoroughbred race horse who was the eleventh and most recent winner of the United States Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing. He was the great-great-grandson of Triple Crown winner War Admiral through damsire Crafty Admiral, and thereby the great-great-great grandson of Man o’ War who won two of the three Triple Crown races himself. He has other noteworthy horses in his pedigree like Gallant Fox, winner of 1930 Triple Crown and sire of the 1935 Triple Crown Winner Omaha. A well as English Derby winner Mahmoud.

Affirmed is also known for his famous rivalry with Alydar, whom he met ten times, including in all three Triple Crown races, and who became the first racehorse to finish second in all three Triple Crown races.



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Touro University California: A Passion for Serving, A Passion for Caring

By Jesús Mena

In June 1999 when Touro University California officials first arrived on historic Mare Island to begin work on the land they had leased, it was more of a ghost island. A guard who was stationed at the Henry D. Wichels Causeway entry to the island was prohibiting all unauthorized entrants from proceeding. Many of the buildings that Touro University had leased were boarded up, and the now grassy hills were brown and shrubs were seriously overgrown.

But the late President Dr. Bernard Lander, who founded the orthodox Jewish Touro College system which includes Touro University, had a vision of converting the southern portion of the former naval shipyard into a high-caliber graduate institution that could educate highly skilled public health professionals and educators. When it opened its doors in the fall of that year, Touro University California housed only the College of Osteopathic Medicine with 214 registered students. Since then, the university has renovated six of the 23 leased buildings into state-of-the-art classrooms, a high-tech library, research laboratories, administrative offices, a kosher cafeteria, and Shabbat and Jewish High Holy Day services are celebrated on campus. It currently has 1,412 registered students and has expanded to include the College of Education, College of Health Sciences and College of Pharmacy.

On March 10, Touro University officially purchased the 44-acre portion of Mare Island that it leased, thus cementing its roots in the Vallejo community. Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis hailed the acquisition as an important step in establishing the city's image as a university town, which in the long-term will boost the prospects

for economic development. In addition to Touro University, Vallejo is home to the California Maritime Academy and a local campus of the Solano Community College, providing the city with a solid base of student consumers.

Over the years, Touro University has become a hub of public health services and partnerships for the neighboring school districts grappling with the challenges faced by urban school systems. The university currently has formal affiliation agreements with numerous public health agencies located in five counties within the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Touro also has institutional partnerships with Jimma University in Ethiopia, the Shirati Hospital in Tanzania, as well as with the Arcos Hospital and El Niño Hospital in La Paz, Bolivia, which allow students to spend months abroad providing health services for underserved populations in those countries.

Each of Touro's four colleges has left its own unique public service imprint. The College of Health Sciences requires that its public health and physician assistant students engage in between 200 and 400 hours of public health field experience, depending on the degree the student is seeking. Some of these students, for example, recently worked with Planned Parenthood in Fairfield, supporting their teen pregnancy prevention and intervention program. The student interns developed a survey for the agency, conducted telephone interviews with the organization's clients and organized workshops to address the issues that most concerned teenagers surveyed.

"We have had such good luck with the students from Touro University," said Trishka Lampkin, case manager for Planned

Touro University cont.

Parenthood. “They are very responsive and supportive. They are self-motivated and hit the road running.”

Director of the Public Health Program Assefaw Tekeste Ghebrekidan said, “If our graduates are to be successful public health professionals, they need to engage in this kind of work directly. They need to serve medically underserved communities.”

The College of Osteopathic Medicine differentiates itself in part through its focus on osteopathy, an approach to health care that emphasizes the role of the musculoskeletal system in treating illnesses and in maintaining health. The majority of graduating Touro medical students go into primary care as opposed to specialized care. Nationally, most medical schools are graduating an increasing number of specialists, which is creating a national shortage of primary care physicians. Top administrators are planning a national conference scheduled for June 3rd on the campus entitled, “Primary Care and Serving the Underserved.”

The university also operates the Touro University Community Clinic located in Glen Cove, which serves mainly a low-income population with 90 percent of its clientele being on Medi-Cal. Additionally, third-year and fourth-year medical students are required to rotate through various hospitals so they can get first-hand experience delivering health care. They serve in hospitals throughout the state from San Bernardino in the south to Eureka



in the north. Touro has rotation students in most of the major hospitals in the region but is seeking to strengthen placements in the area so that ultimately more students come to see this region as their home and take up practice here upon graduation.

Touro medical, pharmacy and public health students also serve the community by participating in

the free clinics established in the Vallejo Unified School District, the Suitcase Clinic in Berkeley and the Street Level Health Project in Oakland among other projects. These students were a core component of the university's recent H1N1 vaccination campaign conducted in partnership with the Solano County Department of Health.

Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine Michael Clearfield said. “With issues looming which will demand even more of our healthcare systems, Touro University's College of Osteopathic Medicine is proud to continue its tradition of producing the finest physician for the future, today.”

The College of Pharmacy has likewise carved out its own niche in service to the community. Registering its first class in fall of 2005, college administrators take pride in the fact that a substantial percentage of its graduates go on to practice in the region.

Touro's Global Health Program

Touro medical, pharmacy and public health students are particularly passionate about their work in Tanzania, Ethiopia and Bolivia, which is conducted through the Touro Global Health Program.

Each year students and faculty travel to rural villages in these countries to learn about the needs of these communities. They have worked to serve medical needs and have helped build structures that will provide clean drinking water and improved sanitation. For example, Touro students and faculty recently assessed a clinic in Shirati, Tanzania that provides long-term care for lepers. Touro students found that, although the basic needs of the clinic patients were being addressed, the patients complained of extremely poor diets with meat rarely served as part of their meals. Students consequently started a vegetable garden for the clinic and bought chickens and built a chicken coop to improve their diets.

In a separate project in Shirati, students helped construct a mill in that village that now grinds grains locally and generates income for the neediest residents. Touro's support is greatly appreciated as evidenced by one Shirati clinic that proudly displays a one-story Touro University logo on its front wall.

“The North Bay area has historically had a shortage of pharmacists, and the number of graduates remaining in the area to practice has helped to meet this need,” said Katherine Knapp, Dean of the College of Pharmacy.

This College gained substantial recognition within the field when it developed what it calls the “Triple Jump Exam” that all first-year and second-year pharmacy students are required to take. This examination received an Excellence in Assessment Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in 2009. Touro pharmacy students also won first place in all three major clinical skills competitions at the 2009 California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Seminar, beating USC, UCSD and UCLA.

The College of Education has acquired prominence locally because of the high caliber education it provides to aspiring teachers and to educators who want to strengthen their credentials. Last year, it provided, at no cost to local school districts, two all-day math teacher development workshops geared to improving the quality of mathematics instruction. This academic year it sponsored a series of Sunday speakers and recruited well-known national education scholars who provided critical insights and strategies to help resolve the challenges facing regional schools. The speaker series has sparked such interest that it led to the formation of a coalition with the Vallejo Unified School District, the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, the Solano Community Foundation and the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies, as well as other local businesses. Working with this coalition, the College of Education will host its final Sunday presentation on April 11 at 2 p.m. This session will focus on identifying strategies for increasing high school graduation rates and preparing today’s youth for the world of work. It will also commemorate Holocaust survivors.

Dean of the College of Education Jim O’Connor said, “Our goal is to work collaboratively with local school districts and to focus our curricula for teachers and administrators on working with at-risk, urban students. We also employ some of the most talented local teachers and administrators to teach our courses. As a result, our students are armed with an arsenal of current and effective teaching strategies.”

Touro’s Provost and Chief Operating Officer Marilyn Hopkins said she is proud of the exceptional public service provided by Touro University faculty and students.

“Touro University is committed to serving communities locally and internationally,” she said. “Such public service provides students with hands on experiences and gives them such a depth of understanding. I look forward to strengthening our ties with regional public health agencies so we can place more of our students locally and encourage them to make local communities their home when they graduate.”



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Sipping by the Dock of the Bay . . .

All aboard for a cruise into springtime in the San Francisco Bay!!! The weather is beginning warm, the flowers are starting to bloom, the spring flowers in the trees are fading creating 'blossom snow' for all to enjoy and the sea begins to beckon us like a siren call to enjoy her tranquil beauty. The Bay Area is a wonderful place to be and now is a wonderful time to get out and enjoy this glorious time of year. We have the fortune to begin to enjoy the outdoors again, earlier than most, taking hikes amongst the local wild flowers and drives through some of the most diverse landscape this country has to offer. The bay though is calling us by showing off its aqua green colors on those sunny days. The gentle surf is licking the mossy rocks that ring it and the sail

boats are beginning to unfurl their bright sails into the gentle wind. If you are fortunate you will be enjoying these days ON the bay. Maybe you are lounging on a spacious yacht or perhaps rowing on a tiny dingy but there is always something to enjoy on the bay while you search surf and horizon for the playful seals dancing in the water.

No sailing or boating trip on the bay would be complete without a compliment of food and beverages (of the adult kind) of course. Choosing what food and drink to enjoy on these perfect days is the question and, in my opinion, wholly dependent on the time of day - morning, noon or night.

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Mother always said to me; “Start your day with a good breakfast” AND a wise man once said; “If you are going to drink all day, you better start early.” So, my suggestion is to start your adventure right and compliment it with a mimosa or a Bloody Mary. I often ask myself these questions and my rule of thumb is: if you have to ask the question – you already know the answer! So, YES to both – I have included a delightful recipe for Bloody Mary’s that my friend concocted called the BBB-M (Barry’s BaaaadAss Bloody Mary). If you enjoy fresh vegetables and a little spice in your life you will enjoy this immediately. If citrus and a splash of the bubbly is more your style and what you are craving – then a Mimosa is the way to go. Both of these are easily complimented with fresh fruit and perhaps some fresh baked pastry from Sweetie Pies in Napa.

Now if you’re starting your day a touch later and we are now talking Lunch – Whoa Nelly! This is entirely a different ball game. We can venture into the wine and beer arena. A warm sunny day on the bay cruising on a sail boat would call for Antica Chardonnay in my opinion. The Antica Chardonnay exhibits a rich and creamy layered mix of ripe pear, apricot, spice, and citrus notes that provide freshness and vibrancy to the wine and it goes very well with that fresh salty air of the bay. If you enjoy red though I would recommend to go light and pair the day with a pinot noir. My recommendation would be Patz & Hall Jenkins Ranch “Sonoma Coast” Pinot Noir 2007. This wine is intense, nervy and structured, with beautiful density, lots of flavor and sweet, balanced tannins that add poise. The aromas are layered

and complex, highlighting cranberry, dusty cherry and dried strawberries, with nuances of mint, blueberry, sandalwood and French toast. On the palate, the red-fruit flavors continue and are underscored by a sweet, supple mid-palate and a cleansing acid finish. Let’s not forget something to eat and my suggestion would be for some pate’, a creamy cheese and a fresh baguette with a wonderful crust. Who could ignore the nautical theme of submarine sandwich, perhaps one from your favorite deli with freshly sliced meats and cheeses and high enough to make even Dagwood envious.

Evening– hell – it’s dark out! Drink whatever fits your fancy and gaze upon waters of the San Francisco bay as the lights of the city sparkle across the sea. Jeeezzzz... enough said! If you need a recommendation though, I am always glad to oblige. A fuller Chardonnay would be what I would seek at this time of day and the 2007 Chardonnay Reserve from Artesa’s Carneros Estate would be my first choice here. A full bodied red would also fit the bill very nicely on our always cool evenings and will be sticking with Antica, their Cabernet Sauvignon offers pure, ripe fruit centered on the flavors of currant and unfolding to subtle hints of both blackberry and black cherry flavors. For food, it can be as simple as a cheese platter to a full 5 course meal. – the choice will depend on the time your started your adventure. If you started early in the day and you took that wise man’s advice of starting early then perhaps you need to finish the day with a warm plate of pasta!



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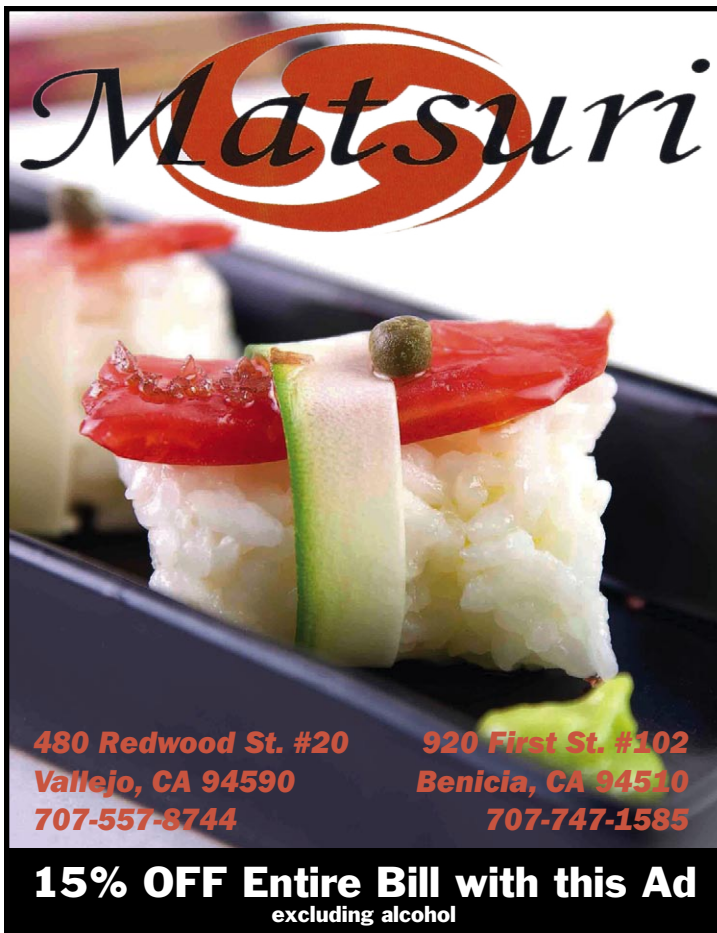


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Enjoy your spring time. Be it on the land or the sea you can't go wrong enjoying it here in the San Francisco Bay area. If these days include some late rain, enjoy that too – cuddled up warmly on those days that the sun plays hooky too.

BBB-M

(Barry's BaaaadaAss Bloody Mary)

Ingredients (Makes 12):

- 1 ½ Pounds plum tomatoes
- 1 Large carrot, peeled, coarsely chopped
- 1 Large golden beet, peeled, coarsely chopped
- 1 Small fennel bulb, trimmed, coarsely chopped
- 1 Large garlic clove, chopped
- 1 Bay leaf
- 1 Tablespoon plus 1 ½ teaspoon of coarse kosher salt
- 3 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- ½ Teaspoon celery seeds
- 6. Tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tablespoon hot pepper sauce
- 1 Tablespoon grated peeled fresh horseradish
- 2 Teaspoons coarsely ground whole black peppercorns
- 1 Teaspoon hot chili sauce (such as sriracha)
- ¼ Cup of Guinness (optional)
- 3 Cups of vodka or gin of your choice
- Ice Cubes
- Lime Wedges
- Pickled Vegetables (such as okra, green beans or jalapeños)

Preparation:

Place first 6 ingredients in large pot. Add enough water just to cover (about 6 cups). Bring to boil; reduce heat to medium and simmer uncovered until vegetables are very soft, about 50 minutes.

Discard bay leaf. Add 1 tablespoon coarse salt and lemon juice; cool slightly. Working in batches, puree vegetable mixture in blender until smooth. Add enough water, if needed, to measure 8 cups. Cover and chill.

Grind celery seeds with remaining 1 ½ teaspoons coarse salt in mortar with pestle or in spice grinder. Add celery-seed salt, Worcestershire sauce, hot pepper sauce, hot chili sauce and Guinness, if desired, to vegetable puree. Cover and chill Blood Mary mix overnight.

Stir Blood Mary mix and vodka or gin in large pitcher. Fill tall glass with ice. Divide Blood Mary amount glasses. Garnish with lime wedges and pickled vegetables.



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Regina Briseño – She is a self proclaimed wine snob, super mom to two lovely boys and wife extraordinaire. She hails originally from New Jersey (Demarest) - yes a jersey girl, and has been living in CA for 9 year & Vallejo for the last 6 years.





FAVELA'S FUSION
Sabores de México

My husband and I have lived a unique situation for the last nine years, we live part time in Green Valley and also in Salinas, CA. My husband would come home to Green Valley on Thursday night or Friday morning and leave for Salinas where he farmed for a living on Monday morning. I would try to do the reverse commute at least once every six weeks. We always considered Solano County our "home" and since we were away from each other all week we would reserve Friday night for our "date nights." Our date nights are spent exploring a restaurant that we haven't been to or a favorite restaurant where we have the same meal we had the last time we were there. Over the years we like to think we have eaten at most restaurants in Napa and Solano Counties. (and beyond!) I personally am what they call a "Sally" from *When Harry Met Sally* fame, persnickety is another name for my eating habits. I would also venture to say that I am probably the only person I

know that does not like Mexican Food. With that being said, is it any wonder I had never been to "Favela's Fusion," a Mexican Restaurant in Fairfield right near our home.

At a recent Fairfield/Suisun Chamber mixer I was fortunate enough to meet Edgar, the co-owner of Favela's. He was introduced to me through a fellow restaurateur and I was told Favela's had the BEST Mexican Food in town. As you might have thought, I didn't immediately promise to eat there. What I forgot to tell you is that my husband's favorite food is, yes you guessed it, Mexican Food!

The following week, Baillie and I went to Favela's Fusion so I could see what all the hoopla was about. Favela's is located right next door to Orchard Supply Hardware on Oliver Road right off of I-80 west in Fairfield. As I entered (we had come in separate cars since I was coming from a meeting) I was immediately



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struck by the artwork on the walls – huge oil paintings that seemed to tell a story. The colors were great and I seemed to feel transported to a resort atmosphere. Sitting at the bar waiting for Baillie I read up on their specialty drinks. They are known for their Margaritas, but I decided to try a Pomegranate Martini. Baillie soon joined me and he decided to try their Margaritas, a very good choice!



I like eating at the bar and tonight was no different as we watched sports on the flat screen TV and had cocktails. We were both impressed that they displayed over 60 types of tequila.

The menu was nothing like a traditional Mexican Restaurant that I had been to in the past, the choices were things like, Ceviche Acapulco, Rajas La Crema, Ensalada de Salmon, and Camarones al Tequila.

My husband ordered his favorite, Carnitas, and I ordered a “Fusion Burrito.” This came with sauce and cheese on it and was FABULOUS! My husband was very impressed with the presentation of his carnitas with rice and beans. He remarked how moist the carnitas were and loved the rice, it had a unique flavor.

We had sat at the bar for our dinner and Edgar was able to come over and join us for a little while and told us the history of Favela’s and we were able to hear his passion for the restaurant and the food.

Favelas is actually his wife’s, Veronica, maiden name. She opened her first restaurant in 1989 on Texas Street in Fairfield. She went on to open other restaurants in Fairfield and Vacaville. Two years ago on June 19th, 2008 she and Edgar opened the doors to the current location at 1500 Oliver Road, in Fairfield.



“Our goal was to create an upscale restaurant that featured the foods of our culture,” Veronica explained. “We definitely have burritos and tacos, but we also have Mole and Chili Rellenos.”

The menu is definitely expansive and something for everyone and like the surroundings of the restaurant paint a very beautiful picture.

With over 20 years of restaurant ownership behind

them, Veronica and Edgar deserve a little time to enjoy this one that they both obviously have worked so hard on.

I encourage everyone to come down and *experience* Favela’s on a quiet night or one of their huge “**event**” nights, whatever your taste.

Currently they are running a special in April on Tuesday nights, **Dinner for Two for \$20.00**, which includes dessert! Make sure you ask for the details since they were not available to me at press time.

Happy Hour at Favela’s runs 7 days a week from 3:00 to 6:00 pm and Anniversary Tuesday Nights will have Happy Hour ALL NIGHT!



Favelas also has Mariachis on the first Friday of every month and what a party it is! This is definitely the place for Margaritas and their specialty cocktails for these special performances.

Please visit their website at www.favelasfusion.com or better yet, visit them at Oliver Road in Fairfield.



Deanna Baillie has been a Solano County resident all her life. Her passions and loves are her family, and her animals.



TOTAL HOME & GARDEN SHOW

April 16, 17, 18

BEHIND NUT TREE - VACAVILLE

Back by popular demand, the Total Home and Garden Show is returning this year for its 8th anniversary event (after a four year absence) at the Nut Tree Complex, 50 Nut Tree Lane, Vacaville (behind the Nut Tree - next to Lowe's) from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 17 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 18.

"Who doesn't love home shows?" said Bob Bock, show coordinator. "It's a once a year opportunity to see a myriad of

different home and garden-related businesses for three days all in one place."

Celebrity landscaper and television host Ahmed Hassan will headline the show, giving three special presentations: 3 p.m. Saturday, April 17 and noon and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 18. All are welcome and autographs will follow each appearance. Hassan hosts three DIY Network series including "Yard Crashers" (now in its 4th season), "Blog Cabin," and the upcoming "Turf



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Wars." He is also a Gardening and Landscape Contributor to the CBS Early Show.

With more than 20 years experience, Hassan is a master of landscaping and home improvement, specializing in residential design. He brings to the table ample skill in plant identification, soils, irrigation and maintenance.

As in years past, visitors to the Total Home and Garden Show can expect another large extravaganza with well over 200 exhibitor spaces including a multitude of outdoors displays. There will be a wide array of top-notch exhibitors such as remodeling experts, building contractors, carpenters, specialists in kitchen and bath, landscapers and more. Attendees will find demonstrations and special presentations on-going throughout the entirety of the event.

"You could very easily change the name of the event from Home and Garden Show to Home Idea Show, because that's exactly what it is," Bock said. "Ideas don't cost you anything."

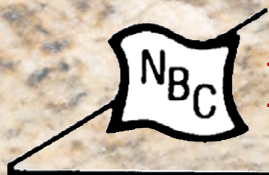
One attendee at the 2010 Total Home and Garden Show will win a complete custom bathroom remodel giveaway valued at \$8,500 from Leading Renovations.

"What makes home shows so popular is that it gives attendees the opportunity to arrive unannounced, without giving out any personal information, to talk to a number of extraordinary exhibitors and get the best deal – all on their own terms," Bock

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said. "It gives people the chance to select who they feel will do the best job for whatever endeavor they are after."

Besides the exhibitors, people can look forward to fantastic food vendors. Look out for barbecued tri-tip roast, Greek specialties, Italian and Polish sausages, quesadillas, and the usual snack food like ice cream, smoothies and kettle corn.

"Expect a very friendly greeting and a mellow atmosphere," Bock said. "This is an old fashioned home show like the way home shows used to be. Watch the Nut Tree Complex come alive with loads of indoor and demonstrations and more."

Tickets are \$5 (\$4/seniors Friday only). Discount coupons (\$2 off) are available at The Home Depot stores in Fairfield, Vacaville and Vallejo.

"If you have spring fever, come to the home show for spring therapy," Bock said. "Home show prices are the best prices, particularly at this stage in the economy. There's no better time to get the best deal on home remodeling and improvements."

Speaking of Home Improvement Ideas, take a look at these pages in the Home Improvement Section for the best of the best in Home Improvement Professionals.

Before you begin any project make sure you stop in to Foster Lumber in either Vallejo or Fairfield and let their professionals go over your lists to make sure you have all the necessary tools and

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hardware before you begin. There is nothing more aggravating than being right in the middle of a project and having to stop because you do not have the right amount of lumber or that molly anchor you need to finish up.

With summer approaching, and the Memorial Day BBQ right around the corner, make sure to get your pool in shape for the party. The friendly, family-owned Vacaville Pools is adding your home to their route the minute you call them. For the clearest and prettiest pool in the neighborhood, call 448-3405 today!

So you want to spruce up your kitchen, but not sure you have the money to totally refurbish? Call Chip Carter of North Bay Cabinets and let the professional help you with that decision. Maybe just replacing your countertop will do, maybe not, but you won't know until you make the call!

Speaking of summer, be sure to do what almost everyone forgets to do - call North Bay Air and have your air conditioner serviced and check out before the thermometers start rising. This could be the year if you have been thinking about it in the past to install air conditioning in your older home. Make the call and let Ron give you a estimate!

Home Improvement ideas can sometimes start outside before moving inside. Starting with your yard can be the punch in the arm you need. How about the old weathered fence? (I know about this one!) Morgan Fence will come out and give you a



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You just bought a cute three bedroom, one bath home in a nice neighborhood. Do you want to know how to increase the value without breaking the bank? Add a bathroom and now you have a 3/2 home that adds convenience and resale to your home. You probably already have the plumbing that you can tap into, just call your contractor (or mine if you don't have one!) and plan where it can go with the least amount of work. They will call Benicia Plumbing and you quickly have your plumbing ready for your new bathroom. If you call today you might be able to get it done in time for that Memorial Day BBQ we were talking about.

Another way to immediately add resale to your older home is to replace the windows and/or doors. California Glass in Vallejo and Vacaville Glass in, you guessed it, Vacaville can take care of all your needs there. I have personally used these companies and I can tell you that there is a reason that they continue to win the best glass and window categories every year -they are the best!

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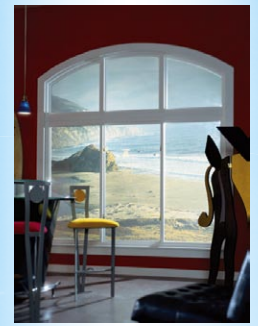
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Now if you are really thinking of increasing your home value, take a look at the Four Seasons Sunrooms. These additions have sure come a long way. These are not just little garden room anymore, they are complete add ons for your home or cabin that increase your square footage as well as your value. Visit Jim and Pam Connor in Vallejo at Ultimate Living Space and see how easy adding a room to your home is!

Another way to quickly change a home's look is its flooring. Whether it is carpet or hardwood, Benicia Floor Company can help you decide what your home would look best with. The choices one has these days is almost too much and it is always best to let the professionals guide you. Tell them your needs and

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living habits and they can probably make a good suggestion that would fit your lifestyle.

I am in love with the distressed wood look and I was amazed at how many varieties and makers there are. It sometimes does not come down to just price - but value.

Speaking of value, with all these home improvement ideas, maybe you just need an interior shake up! The staff at Kristine Passalacqua Studio of Interior Design can help you there. Paint color, sofa, pictures hung to the right or the left or space planning is so not thought about. Making the most of your rooms space is sometimes the most critical part. Sometime seeing your rooms through new eyes is just what you need to perk up your whole interior.

Lighting is another forgotten piece of the puzzle. Making sure you have adequate light and the lighting that will showcase your room to its best potential, once again KPSID. It is sometimes the smallest pieces that finish the look, so do not be afraid of hiring a professional to give you some ideas or finish the project for you.

Big job, small job or just in between all of the professionals on these pages can help start and complete your tasks. Take a look and be sure to call and ask questions. 2010 is the year to refresh, renovate and remodel!

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A Celebration of Philippine Independence and Culture

By Marc Garman

On June 12, 1898, General Emilio Aguinaldo declared the independence and sovereignty of the Philippine Islands. The Act of The Declaration of Independence was read by author Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista in the Philippine city of Cavite in front of a crowd at the estate of General Aguinaldo. The flag of the Philippines was also flown for the first time and the Marcha Nacional Filipina (national anthem) played for the first time on this day.

In honor of these events, Filipino communities worldwide celebrate their national pride throughout the month of June. Pista sa Nayon, roughly translated as “Town Festival” is the highlight. The Philippine Cultural Committee of Vallejo, CA will be hosting their version of the festival on Saturday, June 5.

The Vallejo Pista sa Nayon festival is one of the largest in the Bay Area with over 40,000 visitors attending last year. Festivities will start at the corner of Capitol and Marin Streets with a parade at 9:20 AM followed by an explosion of Filipino culture on the Vallejo Waterfront from 10 AM to 6 PM. Music, food, dancing, arts and crafts and almost 100 vendors engaging in revelry... island style.

In addition to acknowledging Filipino independence, Pista sa Nayon has traditionally been a celebration of a good harvest in the rural towns and villages. As such, cuisine of the Philippines will be plentiful. Lumpia, Adobo, Pancit Canton and Siopao will be a new experience for the uninitiated, and a taste of home for those from the islands. Food is an integral part of the traditions of hospitality in the Philippines. Some say that food is at the

center of the Filipino social life. Three main meals plus two snacks, a segundo almuerzo (second breakfast) and merienda (mid-afternoon snack) are not uncommon. Be sure to bring your appetite.

Expect to see many dressed in light and airy traditional Filipino attire. Men in Barong Tagalog shirts and women in ornate Maria Clara dress.

Music, singing and dancing will go all day with traditional performances as well as mainstream and popular music from Filipino performers. Filipino popular music runs the full range from ballads to hip-hop. Special guests this year include Ronnie, Eric and Jeffrey Quizon. The Quizon brothers are expected to perform a comic skit, following in the footsteps of their father Rudolpho “Dolph” Vera Quizon one of the most famous comic actors in the Philippines.

The Philippines has always been a multi-cultural crossroads, a blending of Malay traditions and those from Spain, America and other parts of Asia. This blending is apparent in the music, language and food. Many Spanish words have been incorporated in the 170 plus dialects spoken in the Philippines. That blending of cultures continues today.

Vallejo’s Filipino community comprises approximately twenty percent of the population of this ethnically diverse city. Ties between Vallejo and the Philippines go back over a hundred years. In 1898, the year of Filipino Independence, ships were still leaving from Vallejo’s Mare Island Naval Shipyard to fight in



the Spanish American War and The Battle of Manila. The ships set sail right across the straits from this year's festivities. Since then, Filipinos have come back, in the opposite direction, to Vallejo to find work, raise families and settle in our community, becoming part of the tapestry of ethnic diversity Vallejo has to offer.

Event Info:

Saturday , June 5, 2010, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION and FREE PARKING at the Vallejo Waterfront

Pista sa Nayon PARADE

Assembly starts at 8:30 AM at the corner of Capitol & Marin Streets. Parade starts at 9:20 AM



Photos by Angelo P



Marc Garman is a watch repairer and videographer who lives in Vallejo, C.A. He grew up crewing on and racing sailboats in upstate New York, mostly on the Hudson River.

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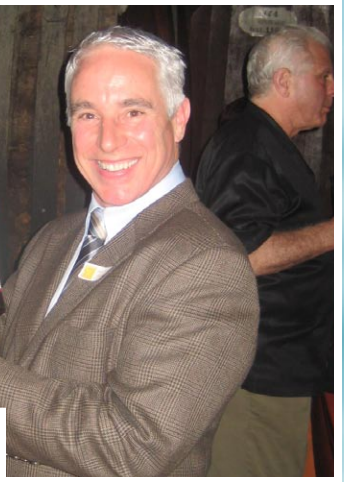
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local happenings

Jim and Jeri Gill



Napa Valley MUSTARD FESTIVAL 2010



Jim Sullivan of Castello di Amorosa shows off his wares!



Karen and Ken Paulk take a break!

Linda Cordair, Kari Ruel, Cathi Wastal and TeenaHoelle



Jesus Martinez and Donna Dietrich



Jim and Joe Muizzuni



Bob Hurley of Hurley's gets a well deserved hug!



Regina and Robert Briseno



Caroline Hegarty and DJ Adam Bomb



Pat Summers takes a bow, until next year!

In a bowl to sea went wise men three,
On a brilliant night of June:
They carried a net, and their hearts were set
On fishing up the moon.

- Thomas Love Peacock



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Rose Hadaway

Broker Associate

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Philippine Cultural Committee
in cooperation with the City of Vallejo
presents a **Filipino Cultural Celebration**



SPECIAL GUESTS:
ERIC QUIZON
RONNIE QUIZON
EPI QUIZON

FREE
Admission
& Parking

June 5, 2010

10AM -6PM

Vallejo Waterfront
Mare Island Way
Vallejo, California

JOIN US at the
Pista sa Nayon PARADE
Assembly starts at 8:30 AM
at the corner of Capitol & Marin.
Parade starts at 9:20 AM

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