

# The San Ramon Valley Today

## MODERN DANVILLE

### FOCUS:

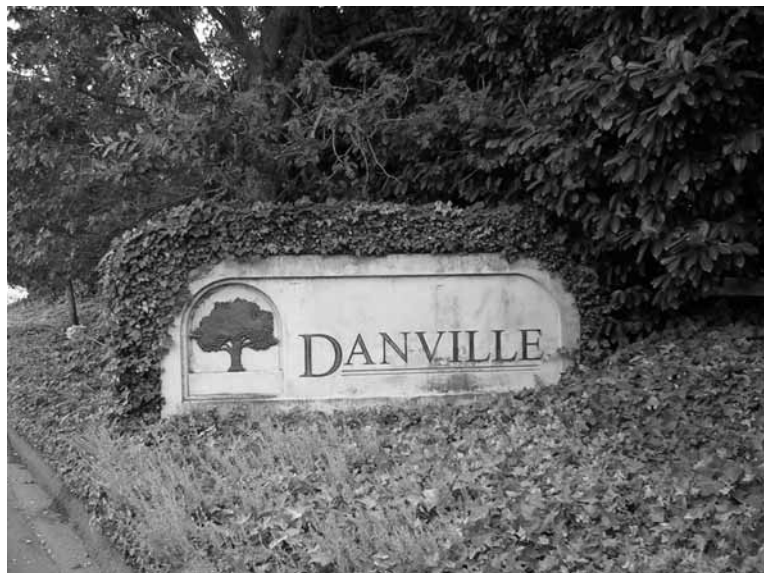
What is Danville like now?

### MAIN IDEA:

Use the information provided to learn what Danville is like today.

### VOCABULARY:

bedroom community  
climate  
residential  
commercial  
incorporated  
business park



# Student Pages

Why is Danville such a good place to live? Let's make a list on the board of the reasons why we like living in Danville.

Some of you probably put down that Danville is close to where your parent or parents work. Danville is known as a **bedroom community**, which means that people live in Danville, but may work in surrounding communities. Some of your parents might work in San Ramon which is a city south of Danville. The development of the Bishop Ranch in 1982 turned San Ramon into a major employment center. Right now there are approximately 200 companies in the Bishop Ranch **Business Park** with the capacity of about 28,000 jobs. It is expected that more and more companies



will come to Bishop Ranch which will bring even more jobs. Some of your parents may work in Oakland, Pleasanton, or even into San Francisco. Let's make a chart to see where our parents work.

Some of your parents might have come to Danville, so you could go to a good school.

Danville is known for its good schools. The San Ramon Valley Unified School District ranks among the top 10% of California school districts. What are some of the things that make your school special?.

Some people who come to live in Danville might have come because of the **climate**. **Climate** means what the weather is like over a long period of time. The average minimum temperature is 51 degrees and the average maximum temperature is 72 degrees. The average rainfall is 27 inches and there are 290 to 310 sunny days a year. Bad weather is not a problem for Danville. Talk to someone who has lived in an area where they had to deal with snow or real hot or cold weather. Ask them about some of the problems that they had. Why are we so lucky to live in such a nice climate?

Some people came to Danville because they heard that we have lots of shopping and many good restaurants. There are many shopping centers in Danville filled with shops and restaurants. Think about a shopping center

that you have visited and think about some of the shops that you like to visit. Many families like to go out to dinner. What kind of restaurant does your family like to visit?

There are fifteen parks in Danville. Can you think of one that you have visited? Why did you go there? What did you do there? Some parks have places for people to sit and just enjoy being out of doors. Some parks have places where people can participate in sports, and some parks have places where families can have picnics. There is a dog park at Magee Ranch Park. Why do you think parks are important for a city to have?



Danville is close to many wonderful places and maybe that is the reason why your family wanted to live here. Many people like to visit San Francisco. Some people like to hike up Mt. Diablo. Other people like to visit the beach or take a walk through the redwoods. Many people like to visit Lake Tahoe where you can swim and go boating in the summer, and ski and snow board in the winter. The Bay Area is filled with wonderful places to visit. Where do you like to go?

There are lots of wonderful people living in Danville and that is another reason why people like to live here. There are approximately 41,715 people living in Danville. These are your friends and neighbors. How many of these people do you know? Do you think you know 100 people? 1000 people? 10,000 people?



In 1982 Danville decided to **incorporate**. When people **incorporate** they become a city and are able to make certain decisions for themselves. If they don't **incorporate** the decisions are made for them by the county. Do you remember the name of the county that we live in? In Danville we elect a city council of 5 people and one of these people becomes the mayor. The city council and mayor run the town of Danville. They make decisions about new parks, or replacing the



street lights, or hiring more police officers. In order to support these decisions they need money and they get money from the taxes that the people of Danville pay. Every person pays taxes on their house or business. Businesses pay more taxes than houses. If a city has a lot of businesses it has more money to spend.



The town council of Danville meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Town Meeting Hall. You are a citizen of Danville and you could go to one of these meetings.

Danville has many special events that are fun to go to. I bet all of you have been to the Fourth of July Parade, and maybe some of you have even been in the Fourth of July Parade. During the winter many people like to see the lighting of Old Town Danville. Many times during the year streets are closed off for craft and art shows. The Village Theatre offers live theater productions. During the summer we have "Music in the Park" with music from local artists. And every Saturday your family can shop at the Farmers' Market where farmers bring their produce and products for people in the town to buy.





How many of you have been walking or biking on the Iron Horse Trail? There used to be tracks where the trail is now. In 1978 the railroad stopped running, and people started to walk and bike on the trail. The trail will eventually be 33 miles long and extend from Martinez to Pleasanton.

Danville has a wonderful library which offers us all kinds of opportunities. The library has thousands of books for us to read, but it also provides many programs for us to enjoy. In the morning very young children can go to the library and enjoy picture books and story telling, and in the afternoon you can visit the library for programs designed for K-6 students. Adults can visit the library and meet the authors of many books.



There are many reasons to visit the library. Do you have a library card?

Danville is a wonderful place to live. We have beautiful **residential** areas (housing) areas. There are also **commercial** areas and business

areas. There are places where we can relax or play. There are many activities planned for us to have fun. We are lucky to live in Danville.

*Gail Kameron, 2004*

# Teacher Pages

## Student Activities

1. Work with a group to create a park. (See activity page.)
2. Read a chart to find out what you can do in each of Danville's parks. (See activity page.)
3. Create a flag for Danville. (See activity page.)
4. Write a letter to the Town Council of Danville and convince them that Danville should have their own flag. (See activity page.)
5. Community Celebrations: Create a float for Danville that could go in the Fourth of July Parade. (See activity page.)
6. City Planning – Why do we put certain things in certain places? (See special activity page.)
7. Invite someone from the Danville Town Council to the classroom. (See special activity page.)
8. Be a good citizen in Danville. (See activity page.)
9. Shop in Danville. (See activity page.)
10. Postcard research: Design a postcard for Danville and on the back of the postcard write a letter describing the following: location, population, climate, historic sites, shopping, restaurants, museums, parks, annual events, etc. (See activity page.)
11. Determine a problem that you think exists in Danville and write to the Danville Town Council to tell them about it.
12. Become a travel agent and write a speech convincing your classmates that they should visit Danville.
13. Create a museum of various historic sites in Danville. Have each student be a docent and invite parents in for a tour. Draw a picture of a building and put it on a cardboard box so it stand up. Student should stand next to model building and tell its history and what it is now.
14. Complete an illustrated chart with all of the elements of Danville
15. Create a travel brochure for Danville.
16. Go to the Danville library, get a card and check out a book

## Field trips (See special section on field trips.)

- **Family field trips:** Stop at locations in Danville and notice how nice they are.
- **Passport opportunity:** Go to Osage Station Park and answer questions in the Passport book.

## History/Social Science Standards:

- Explains why we have rules, laws, and the U.S. Constitution, the role of citizenship in promoting rules and laws, the consequences for violating rules and laws.
- Understands the importance of public virtue and the role of citizens, including how to participate in a classroom, community and civil life.
- understands why their community was established, how individuals and families contributed to its founding and development, and how the community has changed over time, drawing on primary sources.
- Recognizes the importance of human interdependence with the classroom, school, and community.
- Is aware of and respects the significance of human interaction in the social sciences.
- Reads graphic representation of information, including graphs, charts, maps and schedules.
- Explains how some things are made locally, some elsewhere in the U.S. and some abroad.

## Reading and Social Studies

*Communities*, Harcourt Brace (both textbook and activity book)

The textbook and workbook both have excellent lessons that lend themselves to the study of Danville. Use as many lessons as you can. Several stories in the textbook

*Communities*, Harcourt Brace make excellent reading for the study of a city and its people.

*Wings*, Harcourt Brace, "City Green," pages 242-255.

## Additional Resources

### *Activities pages*

Be a good citizen, city planning, community celebrations, a flag for Danville, parks, shopping, postcard research

### *Essays*

*Danville in the Twentieth Century*

*Modern Communities in the San Ramon Valley*

### **Website**

[www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us)

Search: Danville California

## Books

- *Danville Yesterday*, a one page history from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley
- Virgie V. Jones, *Historical Persons and Places...in San Ramon Valley* (Alamo: Morris-Burt Press), 1977
- *Danville, Portrait of 125 Years* (Danville: Town of Danville), 1984.
- Rose Peters Emery, *Footprints in the Soil, A Portuguese-Californian Remembers* (San Jose: Portuguese Heritage Publications), 2003.



## Danville in the Twentieth Century

In the twentieth century Danville and California were affected by two world wars and changed by many new immigrants. The valley became a melting pot of Irish, German, Portuguese and Japanese immigrants. They often began working in the hay fields or as cooks and later became blacksmiths, teachers, ranchers and storekeepers.

Residents worked diligently to improve their community. In 1910 a high school district was organized and the San Ramon Valley Union High School was built. A Danville library supervised by Lillian Close opened in 1913 with 104 books. St. Isidore's Catholic Church was established at Hartz and Linda Mesa in 1910; this Danville parish served the entire valley. The Danville Improvement League spearheaded the first street lights and paved roads in 1915.

Danville continued to be farm country well into the 1950s, primarily walnuts and fruit orchards. The whole valley had 2,120 people in 1940, growing to 4,630 by 1950. Developments such as Montair and Cameo Acres were built and water and sewer lines were extended to serve new populations. In 1964 the new interstate freeway arrived, changing Danville and the valley permanently.

The San Ramon Valley population leaped from 12,700 in 1960 to 25,900 in 1970 to 57,300 in 1980. The 1980 census showed that eighty-two percent of Danville's 26,500 residents had arrived after 1970. The 2000 population was 43,900. The days when everybody knew everyone else were long gone.

On June 8, 1982 Danville citizens showed their strong sense of identity by voting to incorporate their community, allowing themselves to shape future changes more directly.

After 150 years, the small settlement on the banks of the creek has grown to become a thriving community --- still changing, still beautiful and still special.

-- Taken from **Danville, Yesterday**, 2002 (Museum brochure) --

# MODERN COMMUNITIES IN THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

The official census figures for the San Ramon Valley passed 100,000 people in year 2000. The valley's recent growth can be traced in census figures:

1940	2,120	1980	57,307
1960	12,702	2000	113,099

In the twenty-first century the major government agencies which provide public services for the valley include:

- General government: Contra Costa County, Town of Danville and City of San Ramon
- Fire: San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
- Schools: San Ramon Valley Unified School District
- Special districts: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, East Bay Regional Park District, et. al.

Several communities were founded in the San Ramon Valley soon after statehood in 1850. It was a lovely valley and immigrants moved here, eager to start new lives. They soon learned to "dry farm" by planting in the mild winters and harvesting in the spring and summer. In early years they grazed cattle and sheep, planted, cultivated and harvested hay and grains such as wheat and barley. In the twentieth century the rural valley produced grapes, prunes, almonds, walnuts and pears.

After World War II California's population swelled and the San Ramon Valley grew as well. First Montair (custom homes in the late 1940s), Cameo Acres (the first houses built from models in the valley in 1951) Round Hill Country Club (1960) and San Ramon Country Club Estates (1962) were planned and opened. New water and sewer pipes were installed. Traffic through the San Ramon Valley on the Old Danville Highway 21 was bumper to bumper. The I 680 freeway opened from Walnut Creek to Danville in 1964 and from Danville to Dublin in 1966.

**Alamo** is named for the poplar (cottonwood) trees which grew there in profusion when the first settlers arrived. The oldest continuing post office

began in Alamo in 1852. In 2000 it had a population of 15,626. It is governed by Contra Costa County with advisory committees of residents.

**Blackhawk** and the **Tassajara** area are governed by Contra Costa County and, in 2000, had a population of 10,048. The Tassajara Valley had a post office from 1896 to 1922 and a volunteer Fire Department from 1969 to 1990. The name derives from an Aztec word meaning "a place where the meat is cured".

**Blackhawk** is now a gated homes community in the foothills of Mt Diablo. The Blackhawk Ranch was established in 1917 by Ansel M. Easton. Originally the name is derived from the Sauc and Fox Indian warrior, Black Hawk; his name was given to a famous Irish race horse which the Easton family imported to California in the nineteenth century. The family's Hillsborough land was called the "Black Hawk Ranch," a name they later brought to their purchase in the San Ramon Valley.

**Danville's** post office first opened in 1860. The name came from Daniel Inman, an early downtown landowner, and probably from Danville, Kentucky (the hometown of early settler "grandma" Sarah Young). This community was the largest in the San Ramon Valley during most of the twentieth century, providing blacksmithies, hotels and barber shops. It incorporated as the Town of Danville in 1982. 2000 population: 41, 715.

The community of **Diablo** was one of California's first country clubs. Robert Noble Burgess developed what was first called the Mt. Diablo Park Club beginning in 1912; he owned 50,000 acres at one point, including the Mt. Diablo summit and the Blackhawk ranch. During the early twentieth century it was a significant San Ramon Valley community, drawing visitors during the summer and providing jobs for valley residents. It is governed by Contra Costa County with resident advisory committees. 2000 population: 988

**San Ramon** had several names in its early years: **Brevensville** (for blacksmith Levi Brevin), **Lynchville** (for 1850 settler William Lynch) and **Limerick** (for many early Irish settlers). San Ramon's permanent post office began in 1873. After 1891 when the San Ramon Branch Line of the Southern Pacific arrived, the name San Ramon was applied by all to this small community. The village center was a half-mile from the San Ramon depot, San Ramon was incorporated in 1983. 2000 population: 44,722.

In early 2004 Contra Costa County reached a milestone when its population topped 1,000,000 people. An estimate from the California Department of Finance gave the precise number as 1,003,800, according to the *San Ramon Valley Herald* on Feb. 13, 2004. Here are recent County population figures:

1930	80,000	1970	550,000
1940	200,000	1980	655,000
1950	300,000	1990	800,000
1960	est.400,000	2000	910,000
		2004	1,000,000

-- Information from Museum of the San Ramon Valley archives. 2004 --

# Being a Good Citizen in Danville

Write three rules in your classroom and tell why these rules help your classroom run better.

Rule One \_\_\_\_\_

How does rule one help? \_\_\_\_\_

Rule Two \_\_\_\_\_

How does rule two help? \_\_\_\_\_

Rule Three \_\_\_\_\_

How does rule three help? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell how you are a good citizen in your school. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Think of two rules that people have to follow in Danville. Write the rule and tell why you think the rule helps Danville.

Rule One \_\_\_\_\_

How does rule one help? \_\_\_\_\_

Rule Two \_\_\_\_\_

How does rule two help? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell how you are a good citizen in Danville. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# City Planning in Danville

**Danville has grown a lot in the last few years, and it continues to grow. Someone has to decide where to put the buildings and houses. The town of Danville has a general plan and the plan tells where you can put the businesses and houses. Pretend for a minute that there is a big lot next to your house and that there are a lot of people who want to build something on the lot. Put a check next to the things that you don't want next to your house. Think of why you wouldn't want these properties next to your house.**

Another house

A gas station

A park

A ten story office building

A parking lot

A school

A pig farm

Junk yard

Jewelry store

Hospital

A restaurant

A clothing store

A drugstore

A movie theater

A chicken farm

## **What things go together?**

1. What would you put next to the pig farm?
2. What buildings would you put next to the drugstore?

3. What would you put next to the school?
4. What would you put next to the movie theater?
5. What would you put next to your house?

**The next time you are driving around town notice where things are. Notice that houses are usually in one place and businesses are usually in another place. Why do you think this is so?**

# Community Celebrations in Danville

Danville has many celebrations, but one of the most important and the most fun is the Fourth of July parade that is held every year. Each year the town of Danville celebrates a time when our country decided that they wanted to be an independent nation. People work together to make floats. Some people ride horses and some people walk with their favorite group. There are even bands with people marching and playing music.

What if you were asked to design a float for the Danville parade. What would you put on your float? Here are a list of topics that might help you plan a float:

Prehistoric float: What animals would you show on your float?

Physical feature float: What physical features would you put on your float?

Political feature float: If you were going to show the San Ramon Valley what cities and towns would go on your float?

Native American float: If you had a native American float what things could you put on the float to show how Native Americans lived?

Mission float: What could you put on your float to show the mission period?

Rancho period: During the rancho period people raised cattle. They put brands on their cattle so each rancher would know which cattle belonged to them. Design a brand that could be on your float.

Pioneer period: Which pioneers would you put on your float?

Agriculture float: There used to be ranches and farms in Danville. What crops would you show on your float?

Transportation float: What forms of transportation would you put on your float?

Danville: Think about Danville today. What things could you put on your float that would make everybody think of Danville?

**1. Draw a picture of what your float would look like? Would there be any writing on your float?**

**2. Take a shoebox and make a float. You can cover the box with white paper and then you can draw on the paper. You can use clay or play dough to make things for your float. Be creative.**



# Design a Park for Danville

Danville has 15 parks. There are many things to do at these parks. How would you like to design another park for Danville? Work with three other students to design a park for our city. Make a park where people of all ages can come and enjoy themselves. Here are some of the things you can put in your park:

skate boarding

soccer

horseback riding

hiking

picnicking

swimming

horse shoes

tennis courts

volleyball

baseball

basketball

Big toy

Fishing

Work with a team and plan a park for Danville. The team should pick five activities for the park. Remember these activities should be for people of all ages. Your grandfather should like the park and so should your little sister. Pick out a name for your park. Use a large piece of drawing paper and draw your park. Make it colorful. Present it to the class.

## **A Flag for Danville**

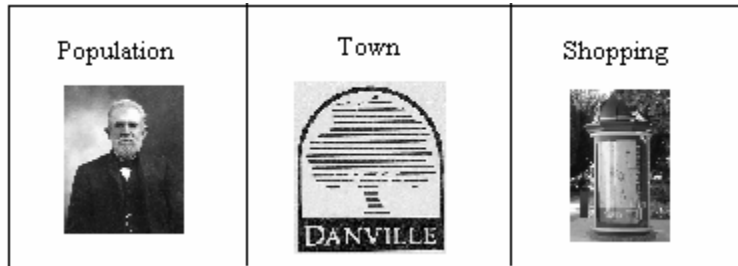
Our country has a flag. Should Danville have a flag?

1. Look at the flag and tell what the stripes and stars stand for.
2. Look at the California flag and tell what the symbols and colors stand for.
3. What colors are used on the flag?
4. Think about Danville and what kind of flag it should have. Right now there is no flag for Danville. What symbols should be on the flag? Why should they be there? What colors should be used on the flag? Why? In the space below design a flag for Danville.

# Postcard Research

Design a postcard about Danville. Divide it into sections and in each section put a fact and some pictures that represent Danville. Make it colorful.

Some examples:



Write a letter to a friend and tell them about a visit to Danville, Make it interesting and fill it with information. Here are some topic sentences that might help you.

**Dear Mom,**

I am having such a good time in Danville. It is such a beautiful city. I am going to tell you all about it

Danville is located \_\_\_\_\_ . **Tell where Danville is located. Tell about the cities that surround it. Tell what state it is in. What part of the state is it in.**

The weather here is wonderful. **Tell about the climate of Danville.**

Yesterday we hiked on Mt. Diablo. **Tell about Mt Diablo. What does it look like? What makes it so special?**

On the Fourth of July we sent to a parade. **Tell about the Fourth of July Parade in Danville. What would you see in the parade?**

There are eleven parks in Danville. Today we went to Osage, and we had such a good time. **Read the chart about the parks in Danville, and tell about all of the things that you could do at Osage. Make it sound like you were there and these were the things that you did.**

Yesterday we rode our bikes on Iron Horse Trail. **Describe Iron Horse Trail. Tell what it was used for, and tell what it is used for now. Tell how long it is.**

Did you know that Indians used to live in Danville. **Tell the name of the Indians and some of the foods that they ate. Tell what kind of houses that they used to live in. Tell about the baskets that they made.**

Yesterday we went to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, and we saw the jaw of the Mastodon. **Tell about some of the other animals that lived in the San Ramon Valley.**

I really had such a good time in Danville. I hope you can visit with me next time.

Love,

# Shopping in Danville

We all need to go shopping to buy things for ourselves. What kinds of stores do we go to? What kinds of things do we need to buy? Look at the list below and put a check next to the things that you can buy in Danville. Are there things on the list that you have to go someplace else to buy?

Car

Bread

Truck

Meat

Sweater

Necklace

Hammer

Violin

Bird

Gas

Necktie

Books

Tires

Puzzles

We can buy a lot of things in Danville, but sometimes we have to go someplace else to buy something. If you were going to start a business that sold something in Danville, what would it be and what would you call it?

In Danville we have shopping centers where there are many stores and businesses. Pretend for a minute that there could only be one shopping center in Danville. If there could only be 7 shops and businesses in this center, what do you think they should be? Work with a partner and decide what stores should be in your center. What would you call your center?

# Parks in Danville

Danville has 15 parks where people can go to enjoy themselves. Use the chart below to find out which park or parks would be best for your activities.

1. Where can you play horseshoes in Danville? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does your school have a park? \_\_\_\_\_ What can you do there? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How many soccer fields are there in Danville? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many basketball courts are there in Danville? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name one park where you can have a barbeque? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is there a public swimming pool in Danville? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many tennis courts are there in Danville? \_\_\_\_\_

**DANVILLE PARKS AMENITIES GUIDE**

Map #	Park Name/Location	Acres	BBQ Pits	Picnic Tables/Benches	Group Picnic	Restrooms/Portable Toilets	Tot Play Area	Youth Play Area	Horseshoes	Exercise Course	Trails Open Space	Turf/Landscaping	Baseball Fields	Basketball Court	Soccer Field	Softball Field	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Sport Court	Park Building(s)
5	Hap Magee Ranch Park 1025 La Gonda Way	17		•		•				•	•								•
6	Oak Hill Park 3005 Stone Valley Road	43	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•	•	•
7	Sycamore Valley Park 2101 Holbrook Drive	25	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•				
8	Diablo Vista Park 1000 Tassajara Ranch Drive	17	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
9	Osage Station Park 816 Brookside Drive	25	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•		•	•	•			
10	Danville South Park 90 Serene Court	1		•		•	•				•								
11	Front Street Park Front Street	1/4		•							•								
12	Baldwin School Park 741 Brookside Drive	6		•		•	•	•			•	•	•	•					
13	Green Valley School Park 1001 Diablo Road	5		•		•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•				
14	Greenbrook School Park 1475 Harlan Drive	1		•		•	•				•								
15	Montair School Park 300 Quintera Lane	4	•	•		•	•			•	•			•					