

## NIRVANA FOR THE FESTIVAL LOVER



"Oh, it's Nirvana!" they say. The 23rd ANNUAL CONNOISSEURS' MARKETPLACE is taking place today and tomorrow, July

18th and 19th, on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park. This weekend, gourmets and connoisseurs of all kinds will gather for an upscale, mid-summer festival of the arts featuring live jazz, R&B, soul and swing music; fine art and handmade crafts by 250 of the country's top artists; chef demonstrations, savory cuisine and specialty foods; premium wines and microbrews; and a captivating kids' zone. So what are you doing this weekend? That's right: you'll be hanging out with me (Bessie) at the Menlo Park Connoisseurs' Marketplace. See you there!

www.menloparkchamber.com

## LADIES, NEW CLOTHING STORE!



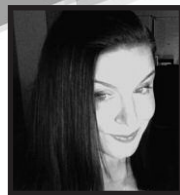
Here are Malika, Joy and Maria at GITANE, the new clothing store in Palo Alto's TOWN AND COUNTRY VILLAGE. According to Malika, this is a women's clothing store for "free-spirited women!" The selection is very tasteful, and the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed. Come see why the store ran out of inventory after its first week! For more information, call 650-853-1919, and tell them Bessie (that's me) sent ya, won't ya?

## WHO HAS THE WINNING KEY?

~SAN MATEO~  
CREDIT UNION

A few weeks ago, members of the SAN MATEO CREDIT UNION were sent keys, one of which will open a lockbox containing the key to a 2009 Ford Escape Hybrid during the San Mateo Credit Union's pre-owned car sale. At the big sale last summer, attendees shared the excitement as the winning member turned the key that started a brand new Mercedes-Benz 3400 SL. To help members get into the

# Absolutely



BY  
**Amanda  
Besemer**

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## DUTY AND DOODYCALLS

### MAJOR CHARITY EVENT FOR ALL BAY AREA K-9 UNITS



Police K9 Foundation's mission is to supply police K9s with bullet- and stab-resistant vests.

Every dog needs to be protected in order to protect and serve, yet 40 to 50 percent of police dogs aren't issued vests. The funds generated this weekend will help supply our K-9 units with protective vests and pay the medical expenses of retired police dogs, who often end their careers with injuries requiring continued treatment.

The entire public is invited to stop by Pet Food Express locations where they can meet police officers and their K9 partners, get a picture, buy a Pet Wash token or simply donate cash or checks. Donations can also be made online to the WESTERN STATES CANINE ASSOCIATION (WSPCA) and Police K9 Foundation Web sites.

Paulette and Rick also want to thank those involved in this year's event:

- Mike Murray and Pet Food Express
- Louise Velazquez and the WSPCA
- George and Audra Sichler and the Police K9 Foundation

And, of course, the local police departments and their K-9 units.

650-281-8116 sanmateo@doodycalls.com



Duty calls, so DOODYCALLS, providers of quality pooperscooper service to homeowners and communities, is scooping up funds from good folks like you to help Bay Area police dogs. Today, July 18th, from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM, a major fundraiser is being held for local law enforcement dogs at 34 PET FOOD EXPRESS locations throughout the Bay Area.

Rick and Paulette Nava, owners of the first California DoodyCalls franchise, decided to organize the event after learning about the plight of police dogs from the POLICE K9 FOUNDATION. Founded by New York DoodyCalls franchise owners George and Audra Sichler, the

right car, the San Mateo Credit Union is holding a gigantic car sale today and tomorrow, July 18th and 19th, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. With special interest rates as low as 5.55 percent and up to 100 percent financing, great deals are available on more than 200 certified pre-owned cars. Vroom! Vroom!  
www.smcu.org

## WELCOME BACK VETERANS

If you're a veteran of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) and deployment has affected your mental wellbeing, the stress on your family has affected their wellbeing and/or you're experiencing difficulty transitioning back to civilian life, THE STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER'S WELCOME BACK VETERANS' PROGRAM is available to you. The Welcome Back Veterans' Program provides mental health assistance to OIF/OEF veterans, a point of contact for veterans not receiving care and information about additional services available to veterans and their families. Give them a call and leave a message Monday through Friday at 650-725-9981, and they'll call you back.

## IT'S A RUBY BIRTHDAY MONTH

Ruby is July's birthstone, so if you're birthday shopping for friends this month or just love rubies yourself, listen up: NATURE GALLERY, located in Palo Alto's TOWN AND COUNTRY VILLAGE, has ruby crystals ranging in price from \$3 to \$687 and ruby jewelry (earrings, rings and necklaces) as low as \$50. Other ruby items include ruby fuschite (India) spheres and hearts; ruby zoisite Buddha heads (two sizes); and intricately carved, miniature ruby Buddhas with detailed, silver pedestal. Get your July birthday rubies at Nature Gallery today, and tell them Bessie (that's me) sent you, won't you?

www.nature-gallery.com 650-327-8700

## ON BLOGS — WEARING THE CHEF'S HAT



After 30 years of working in the culinary industry, CHEF CLYDE GRIESBACH thought he had done it all. Well ... not quite. In keeping up with modern times, he started his own blog, which features recipes, stories and whatever else he has on his mind. Chef Clyde is Executive Chef at VERO, located on Bryant Street in Palo Alto. Check out what this chef has to say at [chefcgg.blogspot.com](http://chefcgg.blogspot.com)