



THE POTRERO VIEW

DECEMBER 2014

Serving the Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, Mission Bay and SOMA Neighborhoods Since 1970

FREE

Arkansas Street Trees Replaced

BY RYAN BERGMANN

The 200 block of Arkansas Street has had a different look and feel since nine Ficus trees were removed last spring. The row of *Ficus microcarpa nitida* was in ill-health, threatening passersby and damaging vehicles with falling limbs. In the fall of 2013, after receiving multiple complaints from the public, the Department of Public Works (DPW)— which has oversight authority over public and private street trees—had the trees inspected by a certified arborist, who confirmed that they were in poor condition and would likely continue to experience large stem failures.

Limb failures are a common affliction of the urban Ficus; as a result the City stopped planting the species in the early-1990s. “The limbs of Ficus trees have very narrow points of attachment, and if they are not pruned vigilantly at an early age, they have a tendency for large stem failure,” said Chris Buck, San Francisco’s acting urban forester. According to Buck, Ficus’ large root system can cause significant sidewalk damage over time, an issue that was visible on Arkansas Street.

A permit is required to remove even privately-owned street trees, as mandated by San Francisco’s Urban Forestry Ordinance. In November 2013, the Wisconsin Street property owner submitted a tree removal permit application to DPW. The department typically denies requests to cut-down healthy, sustainable trees, but given the Ficus group’s terminal state and



Magnolia trees have been planted on Arkansas Street. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RYAN BERGMANN

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Malia Cohen Secures Second Board of Supervisors Term

BY RYAN BERGMANN

Last month’s San Francisco Board of Supervisors District 10 race looked nothing like the 2010 election, yet it produced the same winner, Malia Cohen, who voters endorsed for a second term. In 2010 it took nearly two weeks after Election Day before Cohen emerged as the winner of a crowded 21-person field after 20 rounds of ranked choice voting, despite receiving only 12 percent of first place votes. This year Cohen obtained 47 percent of first place votes, and after the elimination of Ed Donaldson and Shawn Richard in the second round, she crossed the 51 percent threshold needed to win.

Tony Kelly, the runner up in 2010, finished in second place with 24 percent of first place votes. Marlene Tran, a retired public school teacher, community advocate and Visitacion Valley resident, captured 18 percent of first place votes.

Even with several important state and local referendums on the ballot, voter turnout was low across the City. A little more than half— 53 percent —of registered San Francisco voters submitted ballots, significantly down from 2012 at 73 percent, 2010, 61 percent, and 2008, 81 percent. With a 47 percent turnout, District 10 was below the citywide average, and would have been lower if results weren’t propped up by a 55 percent turnout in Potrero Hill and Dogpatch. Bayview-Hunters Point had the lowest voter turnout of any San Francisco neighborhood, at 43 percent; Visitacion Valley was also at the bottom, with a 44 percent turnout.

A statewide voter turnout was even less; just 42 percent. Nationally, voter participation levels are at the lowest since World War II.

Much like the 2010 race, last month’s results tell a story of a divided district, with no candidate able to secure enough first place votes to win without the ranked choice process being triggered. Bayview-Hunters Point, District 10’s largest neighborhood in terms of geographic size and number of registered voters, was critical to Cohen’s re-election. It was there that 52 percent of voters selected Cohen as their first choice; the only neighborhood where she won a majority. Cohen was also able to win Visitacion Valley with 41 percent of the vote, narrowly edging out Tran, who gathered 36 percent. Potrero Hill and Dogpatch were won by Kelly, who received 46 percent of the votes, roughly 100 more than

Cohen, who collected 43 percent.

“I’m really thrilled that the voters have spoken, and I want to articulate how incredibly proud I am of the strength of my grassroots campaign, and also want to take a moment to express how honored and grateful I am to be able to serve our neighborhood for

“My job is to make sure local government is working for the everyday man and woman.”

— MALIA COHEN, DISTRICT 10 SUPERVISOR



another four years,” Cohen said. “We knocked on about 62,000 doors in the last several months across the district and we made about 61,000 phone calls. We’ve had a lot of intimate conversations with voters.”

Cohen said she spent her first term focusing on issues that directly impact people, like rebuilding public housing. “My job is to make sure local government is working for the everyday man and woman,” she said. “Making sure we provide a healthy and safe environment for people, making sure the shipyard is cleaned up, and making sure the Potrero Hill health center has the resources it needs to continue to serve the community.”

Cohen pointed to the “Ban the Box” ordinance that she co-authored with District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim as one of her proudest legislative achievements. The policy, which took effect last summer, bars most employers and housing providers from asking about a person’s criminal history on their applications. Since 2006 the City has prohibited public employers from asking the question, which was extended to the private sector. According to Cohen, the new ordinance will help address the bias that exists for people who were incarcerated but have paid

COHEN page 11

Is Sunshine Free?

BY NATHAN ALLEN

Earlier this year, in the heat of a tight race which he ultimately won the California State Assembly, David Chiu, then San Francisco Board of Supervisors president, released *Solar Vision 2020*. The plan, which is supported by a coalition of solar providers and workers, as well as Debbie Raphael, San Francisco Department of the Environment director, among others, calls for roughly a doubling of photovoltaic energy production in San Francisco, from 26 megawatts (MW) today to 50 megawatts by 2020.

Under the plan, all new residential and commercial construction in the City would have to include rooftop gardens—as a means to cool buildings—solar panels, or both. While the focus is mainly on new buildings, incentives would be offered to encourage existing

residential rental properties to install photovoltaic panels.

Whether or not *Solar Vision 2020* is ever adopted, increasing amounts of “distributed energy resources” (DER)—solar, storage, automated energy management systems, electric vehicles, among other things—are being added to utility distribution systems, the poles and wires that carry electricity to homes and businesses. Solar is increasingly being adopted, as a means to reduce carbon emissions, increase property values, and lower utility bills.

Transmission and distribution lines were designed to deliver generation provided by central power plants to residential and commercial buildings. DERs, however, can create a two-way power flow instead of the traditional one-way. Energy users who produce more electricity than they need send the power back to

SOLAR page 23

SHORT CUTS

Muni Munificence

The **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency** is adding a new line in Potrero Hill, and increasing the frequency of others. Starting this February the 55 16th Street will connect the 16th Street Bay Area Rapid Transit station to Mission Bay and the new University of California, San Francisco hospital. In addition, the 33 Stanyan will move from Potrero Avenue to Potrero Hill along the 22 Fillmore route. The 22 Fillmore service will terminate at Kansas Street, and the frequency of the 9/9L San Bruno will be increased to provide more service on Potrero Avenue. Plus the 10 Townsend now operates until midnight seven days a week. Get your bus ride on!

Recess Cut Short

The **Daniel Webster Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association** and **PRE-Fund** want to locate a year-round Sunday morning market on the school's campus at Missouri and 20th streets... **Recess Urban Recreation** is another victim of Potrero Hill's rising popularity. The Carolina Street building in which it's located, once the home of the Basic Brown Bear Factory, has been sold; the new owners are tripling the rent starting this summer. On a typical week, more than 500 kids visit Recess to play, take a class, attend a party or special event, while their companion

grown-ups get a cup of coffee, take a Pilates class or parenting workshop, and connect with other caregivers. **Lisa Nowell**, who co-founded Recess seven years ago, is committed to providing a play space with a reasonable monthly member dues structure. To do so a new space in Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, or Showplace Square that offers accessible rent, or is available for purchase, is needed. Anyone want to play?...In the face of rising rents, **Potrero Chiropractors & Acupuncture** has managed to negotiate a "reasonable" five year lease, but that entailed reducing the size of their offices by 400 square feet and paying \$2,000 more a month. Fortunately, Frank Gilson, who owns the business, knows how to be flexible.

Generation Gap

In line to get into Ghost Ship at Pier 70 Halloween night, **Steven Moss** fell into conversation with a young woman who worked in Mission Bay. Upon telling her that he published the *View*, a neighborhood newspaper, she exclaimed doubtfully, "you mean a paper paper? Why would you do that? Just put it on the web." She was equally nonplussed when, after she told Moss she worked at **FibroGen, Inc.**, he thought she said "Fibergen," and asked, "What, is that a cereal?" Paper news and biotech firms

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LOOMIS

Sun Could be Setting on Hsin Tung Yang Building

BY JOHN LOOMIS

Dogpatch is about to lose a distinctive historic landmark. The Hsin Tung Yang—New Eastern Sun—building, located at 815 to 825 Tennessee Street, may soon be demolished to make way for condominiums.

Built in the late-19th or early-20th century, the brick structure is a rare testament to Chinese culture in Dogpatch. Commanding the southeast corner of 19th and Tennessee streets, it consists of an imposing two and a half story structure anchoring the corner, with a larger one to two story building that wraps around the corner structure and drops down toward Third Street in a nicely executed change of elevation. All in, Hsin Tung Yang occupies a full quadrant of the block.

To top off the handsome structure, proudly emblazoned across 60 linear feet of the 19th Street elevation in red, white and blue is "Hsin Tung Yang Food Co.," in two feet high English and four feet high Chinese characters. The sign includes

an endearing detail, both a period and a comma, "Co.," like belt and suspenders, just to make sure the punctuation was correct. And in an Andy Warhol moment below, cheery retro graphics proclaim "the Sandwich Shop".

The South Bay Roem Corporation, BDE Architecture's proposal to replace Hsin Tung Yang may look like historic preservation, but it's not. Only an amputated fragment of Hsin Tung Yang's façade would remain under the new design. The graphic mural would be destroyed.

Hsin Tung Yang is one of Dogpatch's few brick buildings. The structure offers an opportunity to do what the neighborhood does better than any other San Francisco community, adaptive reuse, which has been the foundation of Dogpatch's remarkable economic success. Examples of adaptive reuse include the massive brick American Can Company building, which features a mix of uses,

TUNG YANG page 6

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Apocalypse Later

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

All of our worst nightmares, and best dreams, are coming true. On the night terror side, blood draining diseases run amuck in West Africa, and slip into America, the contagion passed along in ways not so different from a zombie bite. Head chopping rapists with excellent video production skills have emerged from the sands of Arabia, like ancient mummies in search of their revenge. Human-produced gases are calling forth tsunamis and heat waves, which can only be interpreted as the Lord's punishment for our wicked ways.

Simultaneously, at least in San Francisco, people are getting richer than any king, medieval or otherwise, seemingly overnight. The finest of handcrafted delicacies are on offer to

technology miners scuttling to their open air workplaces along City blocks that not so long ago were busy with crack addicts. Former heaving smoking industrial nodes are shaking off the toxic dust of the past and reemerging as green oases. And it all comes with generous slices of superlative views.

Right now, the nightmares are mostly contained outside of San Francisco's \$1,000 a square foot walls, past gigantic moats filled with Pacific and Bay water, in the distant lands of Antioch, while behind the protective Golden Gate all is better than well. The push of a button, on a console screen designed like an Xbox, will keep all the nastiness away, obliterated to tiny specks by mail order explosives, sent faster than Amazon Prime.



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Letters to the Editor

Editor,

I absolutely loved the *View's* November map issue. Thank you so much for the history, the maps, and the photographs. You provided an absolute treasure for anyone who loves San Francisco history. But for those of us who live in the Potrero-Dogpatch neighborhoods, this was priceless. Thank you so much for such an engaging issue, I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Robyn Johnson, Third Street

Still, as any disruptive start-upper knows, emerging threats are simply another chance for destruction, creative or otherwise. And, as the New Year approaches, we're facing a doozy of an opportunity. While war and death may be two of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse, their current incarnations are just the latest generation of riders who have been with us since the cave tribe attacked the tree dwellers, leaving behind a nasty set of STDs. More fundamental change is afoot: we've entered the Anthropocene, a geological epoch in which human activities are altering the Earth's fundamental character.

All living things—as well as other forces, like wind, rain, and gravity—affect their surroundings. But humans are now influencing the planet on the scale of multiple volcanoes, erupting simultaneously during a massive earthquake. Climate change, ozone depletion, ocean acidification, mass animal extinctions, the accelerated evolution of new life forms, even early onset puberty and rewired adolescent brains are the Frankenstein's of our creation.

Although not the sole tool in our world-altering arsenal, oil is our main planet-sculpting ax. As Jacques Cousteau wrote, "Suddenly, stumbling upon the secret of fossil fuel..." mankind found itself "...the unexpected ruler of the planet. He has not yet mastered his supremacy...Man has ascended to his level of incompetence."

It's not surprising that our ability to harness resources and advanced technologies has outpaced our skills to properly use them. The first people to "discover" fire likely burned themselves, and then started a conflagration that consumed a forest. Ultimately, we learned how to control combustion in ways that changed our immediate surroundings, intentionally burning woods to create agricultural lands, and in turn setting harvested fields ablaze to condition soils. Fire in a pit morphed to flames in a fireplace—which ushered in the ability to comfortably build multi-story dwellings—then, centuries later, as contained in engines and nuclear bombs.

When someone—John Muir, Rachel Carson, Al Gore—points out that we're doing the equivalent of eating ourselves out of house and home, the ensuing dialectic has followed a tired path. The environmental prophet's disciples call for a return to the sacred, untouched, Eden. The opposition responds with arguments for economic prosperity, often leavened with quotes from biblical passages pointing to man's dominion over the earth. Both sides are captured inside hermetically-sealed, metaphors, impenetrable to logic or reason.

It's time, perhaps, that we look to a different source for inspiration, from the person who modestly proclaimed that "We're here to put a dent in the universe" What would Steve Jobs do? Rather than resist our godlike powers, we need to embrace them. Not in an evil movie villain type way, full of cackling and handwringing, but by tapping into the type of politically-energized wisdom that created our greatest achievements: democratic forms of government, modern day medicine, mathematics. Each of these world-altering revolutions were sparked by a combination of anger—at the king, death, disease—insights based on accumulated knowledge, and the nurturing of a community of individual, enlightened, determination. All of them disrupted a deeply entrenched power base. Powerful emperors, witchdoctors, and priests don't go easily.

The Anthropocene needs to be met with today's version of the Renaissance—Ren 2.0—a shaking off of the medieval chains of our security state-petroleum-industrial-complex, and the invention of the next period of enlightenment. We've always been clever primates, quick with a stick to spoon out some tasty termites, or poke an enemy in the eye. Now is the time, thousands of years after our emergence from the muck, to stop with the monkey business. The pieces are there: decades of accrued knowledge that can be translated into

McKinley Park

By Simon Stahl

DURING THE 1920'S, THE RIVERA FAMILY CONTINUED TO THRIVE. ANITA MARRIED A DOCTOR FROM THE CLINIC WHERE SHE WORKED.



BUT THE MARKET CRASH OF 1929 CHANGED EVERYTHING. ANITA'S PATIENTS COULD BARELY PAY ANYTHING FOR TREATMENT, AND JOSE'S BUSINESS DRIED UP OVERNIGHT.



WHEN SCABS TRIED TO BREAK THE LINE ON JULY 5TH, A RIOT BROKE OUT. FIGHTING RAGED THROUGH RINCON HILL TO THE LOWER MISSION.



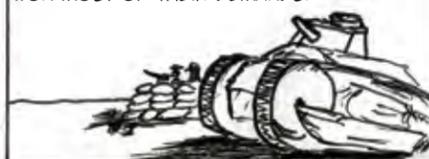
JOSE BUILT HIS OWN HOT AIR BALLOON, STARTING A BUSINESS PROVIDING TOURS TO WEALTHY THRILLSEEKERS.



MIGUEL SR. STRUGGLED TO LEAD THE CITY AS ITS PEOPLE TURNED AGAINST PERCEIVED COMMUNISTS AND OAKIES HEADING WEST FROM THE DUST BOWL. BUT DIVISIONS ONLY DEEPEND.



TWO STRIKERS WERE KILLED AND OVER A HUNDRED INJURED. THE NATIONAL GUARD OCCUPIED THE WATERFRONT, AND A GENERAL STRIKE SHUT DOWN THE CITY FOR FOUR DAYS. FINALLY, THE LONGSHOREMEN WON MOST OF THEIR DEMANDS.



MIGUEL JR. WORKED AS A STAFFER FOR HIS FATHER, A CITY SUPERVISOR WITH AMBITIONS FOR A SEAT IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY.



IN MAY OF 1934, THE LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION WENT ON STRIKE SEEKING A 6-HOUR WORK DAY AND AN END TO CORRUPT HIRING PRACTICES. BY JULY, 90 SHIPS WERE WAITING TO BE UNLOADED. THE STRIKE WAS COSTING MILLIONS.



EVENTUALLY, THINGS STARTED TO TURN AROUND FOR THE CITY AND FOR THE RIVERAS. JOSE WAS ABLE TO FIND A JOB IN CONSTRUCTION THAT SATISFIED HIS LOVE OF HEIGHTS.



Survey Results Indicate Interest in Hill Shuttle System

BY KEITH BURBANK

According to Silvani Transportation Consulting, Potrero Hill, Dogpatch and Northeast Mission residents would like to see a shuttle system deployed in their neighborhoods as a way to improve local transit options. Silvani based its result on a non-statistically representative survey that was sponsored by the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association.

Survey results indicate that residents are interested in a shuttle that would serve the 16th Street Bay Area Rapid Transit and the 22nd Street Caltrain stations. Respondents were also intrigued by the possibility of a shopping or local circulator shuttle that would operate on nights and weekends along the 18th and 20th street commercial corridors, with stops at the Potrero Center.

“The data was really helpful,” said Potrero Boosters president J.R. Eppler. “It’s really actionable information.” According to Silvani, a potential commuter shuttle system could travel between the 22nd Street Caltrain Station and the 16th Street BART Station during peak travel hours and serve stops in Northeast Mission and Potrero Hill, including 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th streets. Such a system would cost between \$125,000 and \$175,000 annually.

“There are many ways shuttles are funded,” she Wendy Silvani, owner of the eponymous firm, “We did not delve into how a [Potrero Hill] shuttle could be funded.”

Potential funding methods could include assessing property owners a shuttle fee based on their size, as defined by square footage, number of units or number of employees. Alternatively, commercial property owners who benefited from the service could be assessed a tax through the formation of a Property Based Improvement District. Or money could come from both businesses and shuttle users.

A shopping shuttle would cost \$125,000 a year, operate between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the evenings and on weekends, and travel a fixed route to local stores such as The Good Life Grocery. On the return trip, the shuttle could make door-to-door stops. A shopping shuttle operating Thursday through Saturday from 7 p.m. to midnight would cost \$50,000 annually, and could offer on-call stops or pick-up riders at fixed locations.

According to Eppler, though there’s significant support for it, the shuttle system is in the design phase. Tony Kelly, who lost his bid to unseat District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen last month, has advocated for such an approach for the past several years. According to Kelly, the Hill is poorly served by San Francisco’s public transit system. Paul Rose, spokesman for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, said the SFMTA doesn’t provide money for shuttle service. But it’s possible the Metropolitan Transportation Commission could advocate for a shuttle system through its relationship with that SFMTA, a spokesperson for the MTC said.

Silvani managed the Emeryville Transportation Management Association, which created the Emery Go Round, a shuttle system that serves the MacArthur BART Station in Oakland and businesses in Emeryville. With Silvani at the helm, the Emery Go Round “became a \$2.5 million operation with ridership of over 1.3 million in 2009,” according to the company’s website. Most of the money to support the Emery Go Around comes from commercial property owners in the shuttle’s service area. The shuttle is free to riders.

Silvani conducted the Booster-sponsored survey online, with participants accessing the questions anonymously via a link. She received 357 responses. “All current conversations are still very conceptual in nature; I am not working on a specific design,” Silvani said.

SHORT CUTS from page 2

don’t make for easy conversation...**Peter Delacorte’s** *The Book of Terns* is \$10, plus shipping, until December 31st at www.bookofterns.com.

Po-Po Inappro-Pro

Vermont Street resident **Katie Waddle** was strolling through the neighborhood earlier in the fall, and paused at Missouri and 22nd streets while contemplating a new way down the hill towards Third Street. A lone European-American San Francisco police officer in a squad car pulled up and signaled for her attention. The officer asked if Waddle knew where she “was headed” and gestured towards the Potrero Annex-Terrace housing complex. Waddle responded that she did, and that she lived on the other side of Annex-Terrace. “Okay,” the officer said, “but the last person of your profile that walked in there was shot in the head.” After Waddle, also European-American, acknowledged the creepy advice the officer drove away, leaving her to wonder what to make of the interaction. Waddle, a **San Francisco Unified School District** high school teacher has taught a few students who lived in Annex-Terrace, and often rides the bus through the complex. As far as the *View* knows, no White women have been shot recently in the area, in the head or elsewhere. Was the officer telling a scary story to head-off possible crime, or was the advice, with its racist overtones, sinister in itself..?

Win Your Day!

South Beach-based SNAPCARD and Potrero Hill’s **ProLocal** have launched an initiative to help Bay Area small businesses accept digital currencies, like bitcoin. The effort is backed by the **San Francisco Chamber of Commerce** and the **Department of Economic Development**, and is aimed at enabling small enterprises to more effectively compete in the age of e-commerce and big box retailers...**RESO**, www.reso.io, which helps parents discover, book and manage local activities for their kids, had a soft launch last fall. The website covers San Francisco, but will soon expand to the Bay Area, and beyond. As part of their launch the company is sponsoring a photo competition on Instagram; every week it partners with a family-friendly enterprise to give away great prizes, such as ice cream from Smitten...**SideChef**, which provides food and beverage recipes, rocketed to the top 10 apps in the food and beverage category during the first week of its launch. It’s been dubbed the “Siri of cooking apps” for reading recipe directions aloud to cooks who can say “next” or “back” to navigate through directions.

Comedy and Adolescence

Anyone who has been to more than a few comedy shows in San Francisco over the past thirty years has probably encountered comedian Will Durst, and perhaps Larry “Bubbles” Brown and Johnny Steele. All three almost made it big during the 1980s, coming achingly

SHORT CUTS page 5

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close to star status in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, before fading to less heady appearances in front of smaller crowds, a journey documented in *3 Still Standing*. The film peeks into the City's comic heyday, with a montage of San Francisco comedy scenes-gone-by. Robin Williams, looking and sounding depressed, makes an appearance, commenting on the loss of something intangible when wordy jokes no longer brought in the crowds, and were replaced by riffs on flatulence and similar topics. The film is worth a watch, if just to get to know these San Francisco comic icons a little better. And it reflects the stories of any 60-something male—and they're all men in this movie—wannabe athlete-actor-comedian-writer-businessman who saw a glimpse of the top before it was mostly covered over with fog. Willie Loman is alive and working, too poor to retire. Durst, a true talent, continues to perform, Brown is an occasional opening act at the Punch Line and elsewhere, and Steele can be seen in non-nightclub venues...Westwood Park resident Fred Raker has created a well-executed comic mockumentary that follows a son as he searches for his father, who went missing after creating a bestselling advice book oriented to celebrities, *The Failure Fallacy*. Raker is looking for funding to support a full-blown film. See the short at www.youtube.com/watch?v=noNVNhh55h4 and donate generously...For those between the ages of ten and 13, *I am Eleven* offers an intriguing, if disjointed, trip

into the minds of adolescents growing up in different parts of the world. The film doesn't provide any stunning insights, but pre- and freshman teens will find it interesting to see how their peers grapple with similar growing-up challenges across the globe.

Ebola Idiocy

At the height of the Ebola scare, just after an American who had visited Liberia died in a Texas hospital, and a doctor who had worked with Ebola patients in Guinea was hospitalized for the disease in New York, the Government of Rwanda—which is in East Africa, thousands of miles away from any Ebola-related deaths in West Africa—issued an order that anyone “entering Rwanda who have been to the United States...during the last 22 days are now required to report their medical condition everyday by dialing 114 between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. for the duration of their stay in Rwanda (if less than 21 days) or for the first 21 days of their stay. This is regardless of whether or not there are experiencing Ebola-like symptoms...” Meanwhile, at the same time, two students from Rwanda enrolled at Howard Yocum Elementary School in Burlington County, New Jersey, were kept at home over fears that they might be carrying the Ebola virus...Unchecked fear combined with geographic ignorance equals stupid responses to a disease that's scary enough without governments and school districts whipping people further into a frenzy. The world needs to get a grip before we have to grapple with a true pandemic.

Dogpatch Arts Plaza Proposal Shrinks

BY KEITH BURBANK

The Dogpatch Arts Plaza, planned for a currently empty stretch of street, will be smaller than originally imagined. After months of ultimately unsuccessful negotiations with the California Department of Transportation, plaza organizers have abandoned attempts to site amphitheater seating on an embankment of trees and grasses adjacent to Interstate Highway 280. Instead, the plaza will be built entirely on 19th Street. According to Up Urban, the company managing the project, Caltrans was concerned about debris from a car accident injuring a person sitting on the bleachers.

“It makes the plaza a little more intimate,” said Michael Yarne, executive director, Up Urban. Planned for a short stretch of 19th Street, between Indiana and I-280, organizers say the space will provide a place for community members and Third Street visitors to congregate, and reclaim a wasted area.

“That's a genius idea,” said Patricia Kline, a Minnesota Street resident and creator of indogpatch, a neighborhood blog. According to Kline, Dogpatch residents support the project, which will reflect the community's industrial heritage and cultural history. The plaza's design is inspired by Burning Man's annual Decompression Festival, and will feature industrial art on a large scale.

“There really aren't any other

gathering places,” Kline said. The plaza “will be a logical gathering place for people.” She and Dogpatch Neighborhood Association vice president Susan Eslick said dogs and their owners have control of nearby Esprit Park; the plaza will create a place for a wider demographic to meet for coffee and conversation. “Everybody's stoked,” Eslick said.

The plaza is part of a bigger project by Build Inc. that includes redeveloping the parcel at 650 Indiana Street—where the dance club Cafe Cocomo used to operate—into two distinct buildings designed by separate architects. The buildings will consist of 111 residential units and a 1,500 square foot ground floor cafe. Café seating will extend into the plaza.

Before the plaza can be built, though, Build Inc. must complete the 650 Indiana Street project. An agreement between the developer and the City enables Build Inc. to divert money to constructing the plaza that it would otherwise have paid the City through impact fees. Of the plaza's \$1.1 million budget, \$800,000 will come through the impact fee waiver. Build Inc. is contributing \$250,000, and organizers are trying to raise another \$200,000.

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57 Blair	Condo	3 / 1 / 1	\$699,000
451 Kansas #316	Condo	1 / 1 / 1	\$699,000
1129 Carolina #A	Condo	1 / 1 / 0	\$599,000

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Address	Property Type	BD/BA/PKG	List Price	Sold Price
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727 Carolina	Condo	3 / 3 / 1	\$1,395,000	\$1,662,000
422 Missouri	SFR	3 / 1 / 0	\$1,199,000	\$1,520,000
840 Minnesota	Condo	2 / 2 / 1	\$1,425,000	\$1,510,000
700 Illinois #101	Loft	2 / 2½ / 1	\$1,299,000	\$1,420,000
340 Arkansas	Condo	2 / 2 / 1	\$1,298,000	\$1,350,000
1260 Minnesota #103	Condo	2 / 2 / 1	\$1,245,000	\$1,245,000
1275 Indiana #405	Condo	2 / 2 / 1	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000
879 Indiana #105	Condo	1 / 2 / 1	\$949,000	\$1,025,000
451 Kansas #566	Condo	2 / 2 / 1	\$975,000	\$980,000
370 De Haro #TB5	Loft	1 / 2 / 1	\$970,000	\$970,000
2011 3rd #6	Loft	2 / 2 / 1	\$799,000	\$910,000
1267-69 Rhode Island 2 Units		- / - / 0	\$760,000	\$815,000
875 Indiana #122	Condo	1 / 1½ / 1	\$780,000	\$780,000
2002 3rd #116	Loft	1 / 1½ / 1	\$715,000	\$735,000

Source: San Francisco Association of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service (SFAR MLS). Display of MLS data is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed accurate by the MLS.



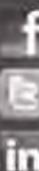
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R&T Market Closes after 39 years in Business

BY PAUL MCDONALD

R&T Market, at the corner of Vermont and 19th streets, is closing its doors almost 40 years after it first opened for business on January 1, 1975. According to the store's owner, Tony Abdelhalim, the combination of his age, 73, and a decline in customers caused by competition from Whole Foods and Trader Joe's triggered his decision to shutter the enterprise.

Frequent R&T shoppers simply called it "Tony's." For loyal customers it was a go-to place, where milk, eggs, cigarettes, beer, and Pop Tarts, among other items, could be purchased, with Tony manning the register, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. virtually seven days a week for 39 years.

Abdelhalim is a native of Palestine, which he visits every few years, though he's a United States citizen. He raised four children, first on Potrero Hill and later at his current Daly City residence.

A humble, peaceful man, Abdelhalim was 34 when he opened his store, named for himself and his wife Regina. When asked if he had any regrets he said he wished he'd bought the building in which his store was located decades ago when he had the chance. Other than that—and being robbed an astounding 18 times—he's had a warm relationship with his neighbors. "I have had no issues with anybody, ever, and when people have come to say goodbye they are mostly



Tony Abdelhalim, R&T Market owner, took several weeks to close up the store. He plans to go to Hawaii for two weeks next month to celebrate.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENNIFER DURRANT

tearful," he said with a shaky voice.

Abdelhalim noted that the first time the now uber-popular Bring Your Own Big Wheel race was held a block away from his store, at McKinley Square, he was unaware of the event, and had temporarily closed

R&T to visit Palestine. He was ready the following year, stocking up and having his best single day of sales in his history, with more than \$5,000 in revenue.

Abdelhalim said he may stay busy by getting into furniture restoration. But he also wants to explore the city when the store closes. "There are parts of San Francisco I've never seen because I was working here in the store all day and night for nearly 40 years.

TUNG YANG from page 2

and the 900 Tennessee Street artists' lofts. It includes gems like the Piccino complex and the Esprit condominiums, which successfully incorporate a former brick warehouse. Moreover, just across the street from Hsin Tung Yang is a former brick warehouse, now condominiums, with the brick elevation completely intact.

Political, economic and planning forces are lined up against the proud but forlorn Hsin Tung Yang Building. Its destruction will be a deplorable precedent for not only Dogpatch, but for all the eastern neighborhoods. San Francisco is rife with expendable, unremarkable structures. Hsin Tung Yang isn't one of them.

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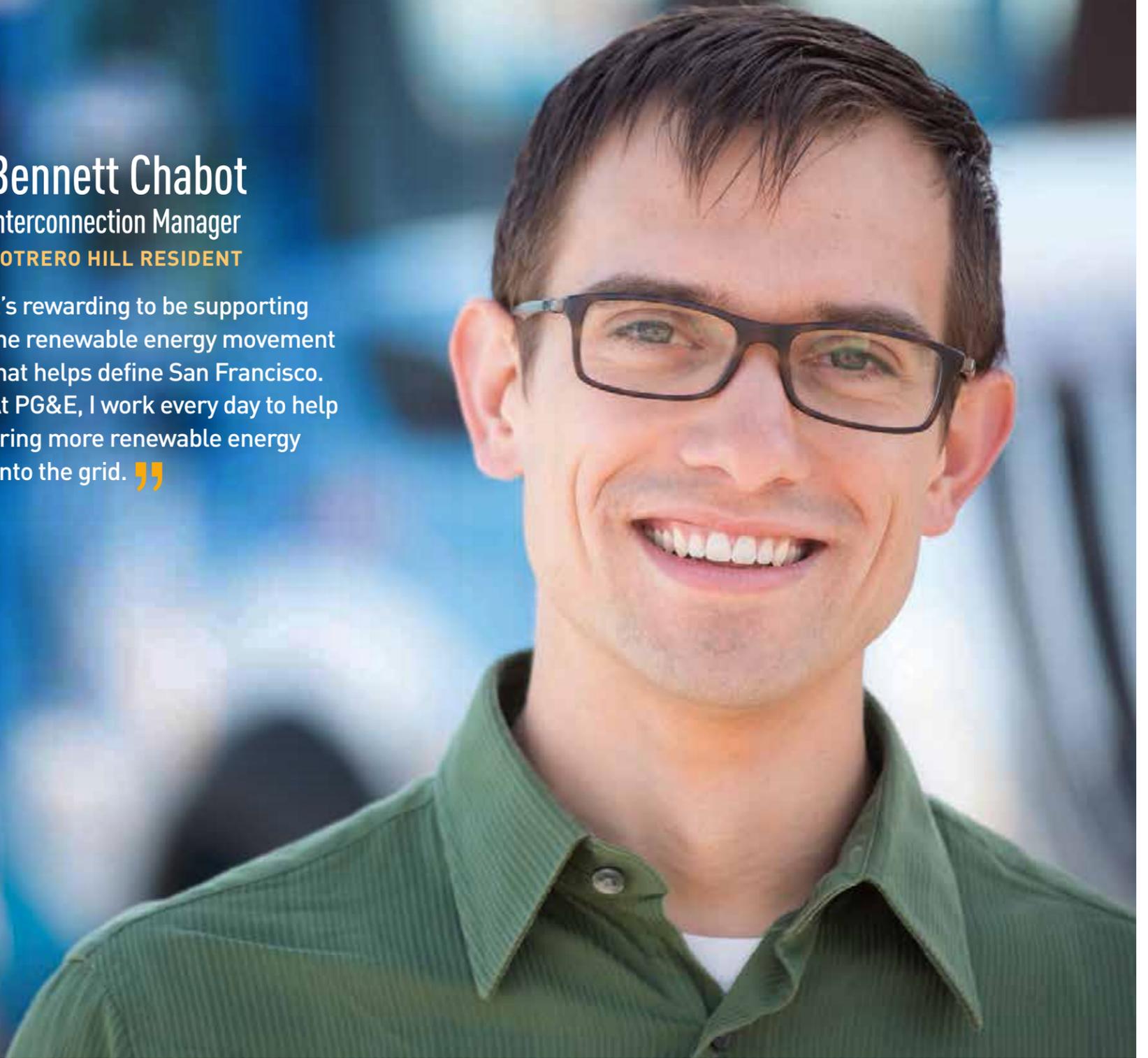
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Historical Maps Displayed at Farley's



Last month, the Potrero Hill Archives Project, in collaboration with the View, exhibited a collection of maps at Farley's. The exhibit included some of the earliest maps of the Hill, produced by developers, around 1879, as well as aerial photographs of the neighborhood from circa 1936 before the 101 freeway was built. The opening reception drew a crowd of neighborhood regulars, including Keith Goldstein and Phil DeAndrade. Peter Linenthal and Abigail Johnston revealed interesting details on the maps, and shared tidbits of local history. (photograph, right) De Haro Street residents Colin Roper and Nadia Essa enjoy the November issue. (photograph, below)



PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVEN MOSS



PHOTOGRAPHS BY VASNA WILSON



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What's Happening with Real Estate on Potrero Hill?



This dramatic view home on Wisconsin Street sold in October for \$3,300,000

Low interest rates and powerful demand have made the market on Potrero Hill stronger than it has been in years. Many homes are attracting multiple offers after just a few days on the market.

If you have been thinking of selling your home this may be an excellent time to take advantage of strong demand from buyers.

Sales Prices for All Potrero Hill Homes Sold in 2014*

2311 19th St	\$2,187,500	414 Missouri St	\$1,410,000	1366 Rhode Island St	\$1,150,000
201 Arkansas St	\$2,200,001	422 Missouri St	\$1,520,000	1422 Rhode Island St	\$1,610,000
475 Arkansas St	\$1,850,000	547 Missouri St	\$1,000,000	1459 Rhode Island St	\$875,000
721 De Haro St	\$1,670,000	507 Rhode Island St	\$1,795,000	584 Texas St	\$800,000
1133 De Haro St	\$1,250,000	548 Rhode Island St	\$1,150,000	664 Wisconsin St	\$3,300,000
525 Kansas St	\$1,280,000	610 Rhode Island St	\$2,410,000	772 Wisconsin St	\$3,700,000
606 Kansas St	\$2,300,000	1013 Rhode Island St	\$1,410,000	776 Wisconsin St	\$1,500,000
714 Kansas St	\$1,750,000	1088 Rhode Island St	\$856,000	862 Wisconsin St	\$1,620,000
1379 Kansas St	\$960,000	1115 Rhode Island St	\$957,000	900 Wisconsin St	\$1,350,000
2200 Mariposa St	\$1,400,000	1138 Rhode Island St	\$1,100,000		

In 2014 the average sales price for a home on Potrero Hill has been \$1,598,638. If you'd like a free report on the value of your home, call Tim Johnson at 710-9000.



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*Sales information as of November 19, 2014 in SFAR MLS.



IMAGE COURTESY OF GO BOX

Innovative Reuse Program Launched in Dogpatch

BY ALEXIS CROSWELL

A new green business has sprouted in the American Industrial Center (AIC), aiming to take reduce, recycle, reuse to the next level. GO Box is a reusable take-out container program that eliminates trash related to prepared meals packaging. The enterprise is based on a similar model developed in Portland. It was launched in San Francisco last fall.

According to GO Box-SF founder Paul Liotsakis, eateries in Dogpatch alone use more than 10,000 disposable containers annually; a large majority of these end-up in the trash. A Clean Water Action study found that almost half the garbage found on Bay Area streets is related to takeout food packaging. These cast-away materials clog waterways and harms marine wildlife. Survival of 664 species worldwide is threatened by ingesting plastics, which lodges in animals' bodies. If San Francisco is to achieve its zero waste landfill goal by 2020, efforts like Go Box will need to succeed.

For \$29 a year, GO Box members receive a token, which can be redeemed at a participating vendor, who will package a meal in the container. When the member is finished with their food, they take the used Go Box to a drop site — currently La

Fromagerie, on Third Street — and receive a new token to repeat the process. It's not dissimilar from deploying a reusable coffee mug at local cafes.

Dirty GO Boxes are picked up from drop sites by bicycle, and cleaned in a commercial kitchen. The containers are made of durable BPA-free polypropylene, and are dishwasher and microwave safe. The containers can be re-used more than 500 times, far surpassing traditional to-go containers in terms of sustainability. At the end of their lifecycle they'll be upcycled; converted into new materials or products.

Participating Go Box vendors include the New Spot, Jolt N Bolt, Gilbert's, and Just for You Café. Many of these establishments are offering financial — and tasty — incentives to sign up for the service.

"I'm heartened by the embrace we've received from vendor and customer's alike," said Liotsakis. "We're hoping to hear back from UCSF Mission Bay next on our way downtown."

"I have been waiting for you guys, I eat here [at AIC restaurants] every day and I want to reduce the waste we create" said one GO Box member.

To learn more about GO Box, visit www.goboxsf.com or email info@goboxsf.com.

TREES from Front Page

the risks they imposed to people and property the request was approved. During the 30-day public notification period that followed there was enough community backlash to force a City Hall hearing in January 2014. At the hearing, several Potrero Hill residents called for an alternative to removal of the trees. But DPW director Mohamed Nuru upheld the decision, noting that the trees were beyond salvage and a removal permit had been granted.

The Urban Forestry Ordinance requires that every tree that's removed be replaced by a comparable tree within six months. Last October, nine young Magnolia trees were planted in the empty basins that line Arkansas Street. Once fully mature, the broad leafed, evergreen row will resemble the Ficus that once grew there.

Before Spanish settlement, San Francisco had few trees, with a landscape marked by rolling grasslands, sand dunes and wetlands. Today, the City supports an urban forest of nearly 700,000 trees growing on sidewalks, medians, parks and private property. Aside from their aesthetic contribution, street trees improve air quality by absorbing greenhouse gases, may increase land values and provide habitat for urban wildlife. San Francisco has one of the smallest urban forests of any major U.S. city, with a tree canopy that covers just 13 percent of its land, significantly lower than New York, 24 percent, Los Angeles, 21 percent, and Chicago, 17 percent.

The planting and care of street

trees has been a contentious issue. San Francisco is home to roughly 100,000 street trees. DPW is responsible for the upkeep of trees that were originally planted by the City, about one-third of the total. In 2011, after years of budget cuts, the agency announced that it could no longer afford to maintain the 35,000 street trees under its care, and would transfer their responsibility and upkeep costs to the public.

Under the "relinquishment program" responsibility for the nearly 24,000 trees under DPW's care would shift to adjacent private property owners, as determined by the DPW director, even if they don't have the resources or desire to maintain them. It can cost from \$300 to \$1,000 to prune a tree, depending on its size, which should be done every three to five years. So far 6,700 trees previously maintained by the City have been transferred to private owners. DPW wants to handover an additional 5,000 trees in 2015.

"This is terrible policy for two reasons. First off, it's very unfair to homeowners, and it also guarantees inconsistent maintenance and a declining urban forest," said District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, a critic of the City's relinquishment program. "Some homeowners do a phenomenal job taking care of the trees, but there are a lot of homeowners that either don't know they are supposed to take care of the trees so they don't, or they do know but they don't actually do it, or they hire the cheapest possible

TREES page 18

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COHEN from Front Page

their debt to society.

Even though District 10 is composed of several diverse neighborhoods, according to Cohen concerns over rapid development, the need for affordable housing and public safety are universal across the district. "I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that San Francisco remains affordable. I'm a native San Franciscan, so I'm personally committed to ensuring that people who grew up here are able to afford to continue to live here. A lot of the growth and development is happening in the Southeast part of the City, and we need to manage this growth and utilize it as leverage to ensure that infrastructure needs are being met," Cohen said.

Cohen said that addressing the infrastructure gap starts with utilizing developer impact fees in the most appropriate way. She also stressed that she'll fight to keep a portion of the incremental property taxes generated by growth in the district, a concept that was championed by Kelly. Mayors Gavin Newsom and Ed Lee have resisted using incremental property taxes to fund infrastructure and services in the district, but, according to Cohen, Lee has recently warmed to the idea. "We are the ones that are experiencing this intense pressure from development, so those fees and those tax dollars should be spent in the affected area," Cohen said.

Cohen believes that dealing with safety in the district will require a multi-dimensional approach, including ensuring that the police and fire departments have the resources they need to do their job adequately, and

making sure residents are prepared for emergencies. "We need to keep the Police Department that we have in the budget, allocate dollars for police academy classes, so that as our officer attrition rates increase, that we are filling the pipeline with officers that are able to protect and serve, and also speak different languages so they can connect with the many different cultures that live inside San Francisco," Cohen said.

Kelly, a Potrero Hill resident and longtime community advocate, knew how difficult it would be to unseat an incumbent. "The reason we have heard of David and Goliath, and the reason that David is famous, is because that's

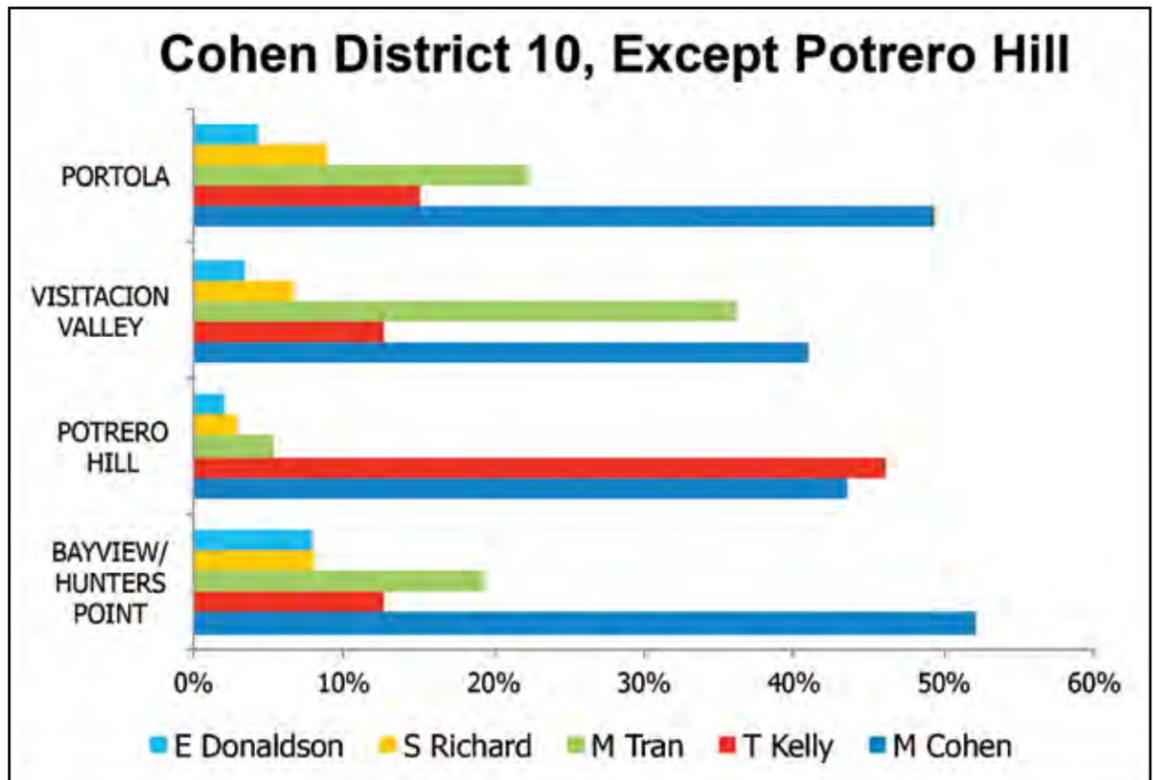
one of the few times Goliath has lost. Goliath usually wins, and beating an incumbent is notoriously hard. Supervisor Cohen had more legislative initiatives this year than ever before, had more press conferences with the mayor than ever before, so congratulations to Supervisor Cohen for finally doing the work in the district that uses the benefits of incumbency," Kelly said. According to Kelly, the only way to beat an incumbent is with a unified opposition, which didn't emerge this election cycle.

Kelly believes that Cohen has her sights set on higher office, and as a result has favored a personal political agenda over one that benefits the district. "Supervisor Cohen's interest in her next job is going to dictate what she does much more than our needs over here. It's no fault of hers, it's just the system. If you have an ambitious politician who is thinking ahead to their next job, they're going to be focused on it," Kelly added.

According to Kelly, it's too early to think about to 2018, when Cohen terms out. Instead, he's focused on what he can do now to help the community. "The task we have now in District 10 is how we are going to organize to defend our neighborhoods over the next four years, because the issues are still there and the same folks who are at risk are still there," he said.

Outside the election for supervisor, Potrero Hill enthusiastically supported

most local ballot initiatives. The notable exceptions were H, a measure to bar artificial turf in Golden Gate Park, which the neighborhood voted down at a higher percent than the rest of the City; and I, which authorized the turfing, which it supported at lower levels than the San Francisco average, indicating there may have been some confusion about these measures, or at least mixed feelings. The community also opposed Proposition L, a pro-car initiative, more energetically than the rest of the City.



PUBLISHER'S VIEW from page 3

wisdom; a large population of talented, dedicated, individuals, who can be sown together with our latest invention, social media; and, if not anger a nascent unease that can be energized into something much more positive.

The spark has been created, in Syria, Hong Kong, in garages, workshops, and universities. We just need to nurture these flashes of transformation, so that the embers drifting above our moated walls from elsewhere can be joined by our own bright light. We're already sharing our cars and homes. Let's share our wisdom as well, and in so doing transform what right now looks like a slow moving car crash into universal dent.

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Mission School Takes its Place as Important Art Movement

BY RYDER W. MILLER

Two recently published books examine the “Mission School,” an art movement pioneered by San Franciscan Barry McGee, who evolved from tagger to art world star. Adobe Books, which was a hub of the Mission School when the store was located at 16th and Mission streets—not long ago it moved to 24th Street—published *Artist Survival Guide* through Colpa Press this year. Piquant and sometimes wry, the booklet gives readers a sense of what it’s like to be an impoverished artist trying to make it in San Francisco. Inside the slim pamphlet, which Adobe sells for \$10, roughly 25 creative people who’ve had their struggles in the City provide their insights. The contributors underline the importance of art as a political force, which has broken down barriers of race, class, profession, and expression. It doesn’t, however, always pay the bills.

Energy That is All Around Us: Chris Johanson, Margaret Kilgallen, Alicia McCarthy, Barry McGee, Ruby Neri by Natasha Boas, Dina Pugh, Glen Helfand and Renny Pritikin, published by the San Francisco Art Institute, showcases and interprets an exhibition at the Institute which featured the art of those named in the title. All of the forty-something artists are tied to the Mission art scene, and have produced work people have been seeing in the Mission District since the late-1990s.

In the book Natasha Boas, PhD writes, “All five artists in *Energy That is All Around Us* have given surplus value to what I would venture to call “edgy nostalgia” (one that does not activate sentimentality but transgress it)...If Mission School artists—with their visual language, art practice, and lifestyles, and their particular form of collectivity, repurposing, and celebration of folk and the readymade—were already actively nostalgic in the early ‘90s (let’s not forget Ruby

Neri/“Reminisce” was reminiscing already back then), their work remains uncannily contemporary today.”

The Mission School show was originally mounted on September 12, 2013. According to ArtBusiness.com, the exhibition, “An admirably extensive retrospective look back at the formative years of what’s come to be known as the Mission

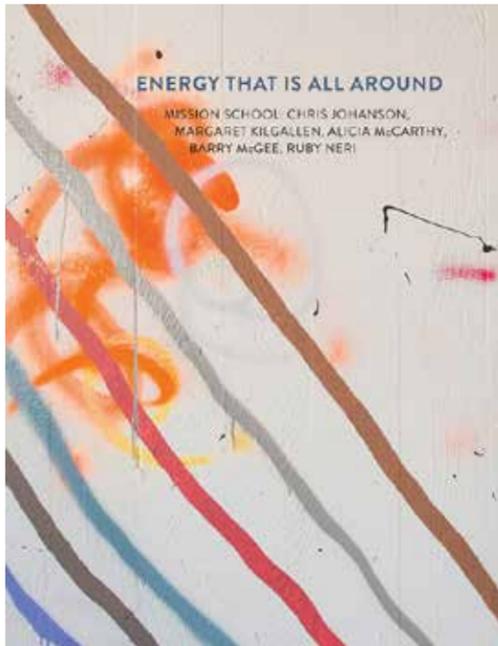


IMAGE COURTESY OF CHRONICLE BOOKS

School of art is comprised of early works and ephemeral items that document the roots and evolution of the movement. A selection of more contemporary works are also on exhibit. Many items in the show are on loan directly from the personal collections of the artists and their peers. For those of you playing the home game, the artists in the show all had varying degrees of involvement SFAI. Go see.”

Mission School art might seem messy. There are elements of folk art and graffiti. Nothing is high tech. Expensive materials aren’t used. The images aren’t all beautiful, and some might make viewers uncomfortable. Collectively they express complaint and angst.

Some of these artists have become famous, with their work shown at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Their images still irritate and haunt; the artists pushing back at the world’s difficulties.

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Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting 3.0 Units	M W F	10:10 - 11:00 AM	BNGL 715	Gonzales
	R	06:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/Rm 217	Rochmis
Jour 22: Feature Writing 3.0 Units	T	06:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/Rm 217	Rochmis
Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing 3.0 Units	W	06:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/Rm 218	Rochmis
Jour 25: Editorial Management 3.0 Units	MWF	12:10 - 1:00 PM	BNGL 615	Gonzales
Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Rel 3.0 Units	TR	11:10 - 12:25 PM	HC 202	Graham
Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production 3.0 Units	T	06:30 - 08:45 PM	Mission/RM 218	Graham
	T	TBA	Mission/RM 218	Gonzales
Jour 31: Internship Experience 2.0 Units	PREREQ: JOUR 24	HOURS ARR		Gonzales
Jour 36: Advanced Reporting 3.0 Units	M	6:30 - 9:20 PM	Mission/RM 217	Gonzales
Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism 3.0 Units	T R	9:40 - 10:55 AM	BNGL 615	Lifland
	W	6:30 - 09:20 PM	Mission/RM 217	Lifland

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KIDS *ON THE* BLOCK

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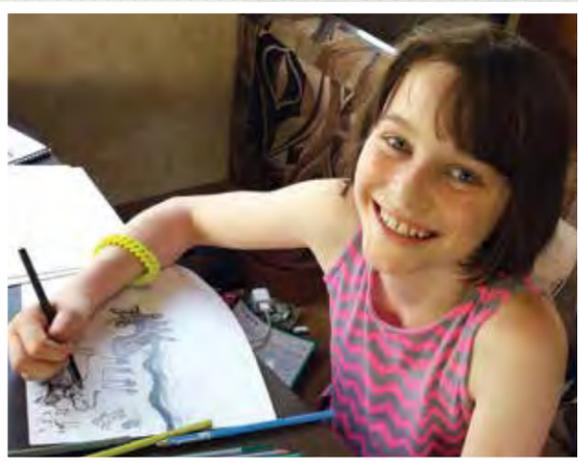
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HAPPY 11TH BIRTHDAY IMOGEN!



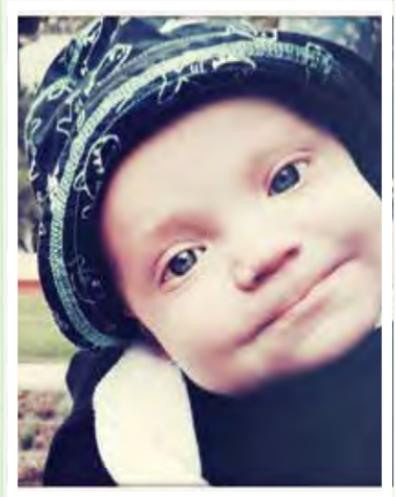
ELLA BURGESS MAKING A NEW FRIEND AT MCKINLEY PARK



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- DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS 4:15 PM
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- DEC. 25 CHRISTMAS MASSES 8:30 & 10:00AM

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THE DADDY HANDBOOK

Crosses to Bear

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

When Sara was five I gave her a Christian cross. Not on purpose; we're Jewish. It came as a prize from a gumball machine. She'd put her quarter in, spun the dial, popped open the small plastic bubble, and put the cross around her neck before I even noticed.

"What's this," she asked, looking down at her chest.

"A cross," I said, and left it at that. Like most of her cheap toys, I knew it'd be forgotten the next day.

I examined the gumball machine. There was no indication that it sold religious objects, or that it was sponsored by a church. It might actually be fun to take your chances on a grab bag of spiritually-oriented items — a tiny prayer rug; a *driedel*; or maybe a plastic bubble containing nothing for the Buddhists. But to pay two-bits in the expectation that your kid will get a plastic ring, or Scooby-Doo sticker, and receive Christianity's primary object didn't sit right with me.

We're surrounded by religious, commercial, and social messages. San Francisco's cityscape features St. Mary's cross, City Hall's dome, and the Transamerica Pyramid. But increasingly we're being pros-

elytized from unexpected sources. Products are strategically placed in movies and television shows. Politicians pay to be included in purported news stories. Proto-hipsters are given free sneakers. Internet searches come with complimentary, especially tailored to you, pop-up advertisements.

Recently, my wife, Debbie, did a Google search for a recipe. First in line in the results were instructions from her father's foster mother, which triggered the increasingly familiar emotional response: excitement — someone I know or am related to came up in my Internet search! — suspicion — how is that possible? Out of thousands of recipes, why is hers listed first? — paranoia — Google is tracking my every move, knows I'm related to her, and that's why she came up first. What else do they know about me? — followed by attention span expiration; hey, that flash site is having a sale on gift wrapping paper!

Though the ability to hype may have reached hyper-speed, it isn't a new phenomenon. As Christian legend has it, the devil wears many faces. Our job is to recognize him whatever his disguise. The only difference between the current chaotic period — in which beliefs quickly evolve into facts, which morph into factoids, and then back into energetically asserted beliefs — and what our ancestors experienced 500



years ago, may be the volume of information to sift through.

In the end, we're the ones who name the devil. We give things their meaning, whether it be instilling power in an object or making sense of a politician's pitch. And maybe, in our message-laden world, that's how we should approach most communication. The next time something unexpected pops out of life's gumball machine — a political message dressed up as a Hollywood film, or a politician's latest policy proposal floated by a gravelly-voiced news commentator — I'll take it at face value. After all, in the presence of complete ignorance about Christianity, a cross is just a piece of jewelry.

At least until we got home, when, after Sara had taken the cross off and put it on her dresser, Debbie discretely threw it away. By then Sara had already forgotten about it, which may be the most apt response to superficially-delivered messages' staying power. They only last as long as we want them to.

Handbook Tips: Religion

Until your kid reaches early-adolescence, you're God, able to direct them to worship pretty much anything: the Easter Bunny, baseball, nature, SpongeBob. This power will dissipate over time, with childhood beliefs in a host of magical creatures — Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, your infallibility — dropping off like so many baby teeth. Yet even after your kid has drifted off towards video games or shopping, a residue of faith will be left behind from which their future values will grow. What remains is partially determined by you: the charity you engage in as they grow up, the community you belong to, the religious services you attend. In the end, your children are most likely going to choose some kind of religion. Which one is largely up to you.

Even if you're anti-religion, your kid will need an identity or activity to fall back on when life gets tough. Hiking or camping is good, or learning how to play a musical instrument. Try to avoid modeling binge eating or shopping, though excessive cleaning and organizing can have its upsides. My wife, Debbie finds solace in placing things into carefully marked boxes: shoes, medicines, office supplies, even smaller boxes. A bit obsessive, perhaps, but it's better than being a compulsive gambler.

This is the last in a series of excerpts from The Daddy Handbook a book by View editor Steven Moss. The View is looking for a sponsor to support continuation of this series in 2015, as well as advertisers interested in participating in a special family edition of the paper. Contact: editor@potreroview.net.

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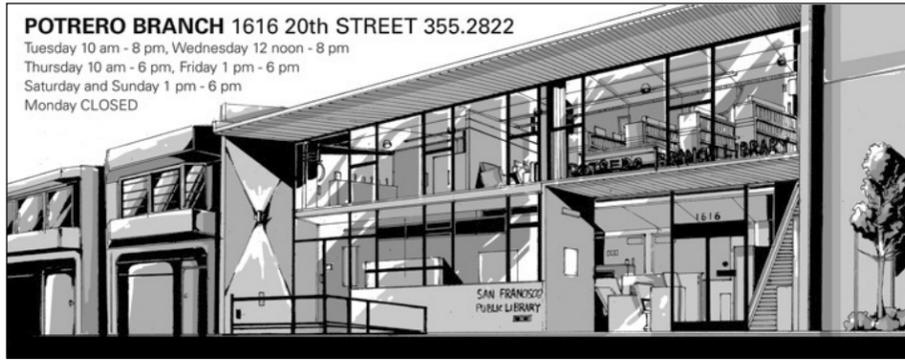
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 Monday CLOSED

Library News BY LISA FAGUNDES, LIBRARIAN

ALL LIBRARIES WILL CLOSE AT 5 P.M. DECEMBER 24, AND BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 AND 31

PROGRAMS FOR ALL

Holiday Party: From 2 to 3:30 p.m., we will have our button making machines out, and magazines to cut up for pictures. Starting at 3:30 p.m., we'll have a fabric origami ornament craft for ages seven and up. The button making is for everyone, but there is a 15 person maximum on the origami, call 355.2822 to reserve your spot. December 20, 2 to 5:30 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Digital Drop In: Do you have questions about how to download eBooks to your device, or how to use the library's databases? Get one on one time with a librarian to help answer your basic technology conundrums. Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Will Writing Workshop: Stuart Bronstein, estate planning and probate lawyer in San Francisco for more than 30 years, helps participants create a fully functional will. Bring a blue ink non-erasable pen. Class size is limited; sign up in advance by emailing lisa.fagundes@sfpl.org or calling 355.2822. Thursday, December 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Game On!: Come play PS3 and Wii games on our big screen in the Potrero meeting room! Ages eight to 18 welcome. Tuesdays, December 9, 16, 23, and 30, 4 to 6 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Saturday Snacktivity: With food provided by the Whole Foods Market Potrero Hill, we'll offer a wholesome snack followed by a fun activity. All ages welcome. Saturdays, December 11, 13, 20, and 27, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Baby Rhyme and Play Time: Songs and rhymes for infants up to 18 months old and their caregiver(s). Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Family Story time: Featuring stories, songs and rhymes. For children from birth to five years old and their caregiver(s). Thursdays December 4, 11, and 18, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Make Art Workshop: In preparation for the upcoming holidays (but useful year-round) we'll be making one-of-a-kind cards, gift tags, and wrapping paper. It's not required, but feel free to bring in any old holiday cards, postage stamps, or scraps of seasonal gift wrap that you might like to use in a new way! For children three and older and their caregivers. Presented in partnership with the Museum of Craft and Design. Saturday, December 6, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Fun Flicks: Our Fun Flicks for December will be *Snow Cat* and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. For children three to eight. Bring a snack and enjoy the show! Wednesday December 10, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Movie and Meal Day: We'll present *Muppets from Space* and the Potrero Hill Family Support Center will provide a meal. Friday, December 19, 3 to 5:30 p.m.

LIBRARY SPONSORED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Potrero Branch Seed Library: Thanks to the generous contributions of local gardeners and Whole Foods Market Potrero Hill, Potrero Branch Seed Library continues. You're welcome to "check out" seeds, plant them, and bring your harvested seeds back to the library.

Watch the
15th Annual History Night
www.youtube.com/user/PotreroHistoryNight

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Fun for Families on the Hill

BY JENNIFER WHITE

Families are everywhere on the Hill, even if the community initially seems family unfriendly. On first blush 18th Street appears to be the only source of entertainment. Housing costs roughly four percent more than the already expensive City median price. Babies and toddlers have to be pushed up and down steep hills. According to Hill resident and mom Maureen DeBoer, “some walks can be uphill both ways.” Yet despite these challenges the Hill’s population of children under the age of five is two percent higher than the rest of San Francisco, and the demographic is growing.

Part of the Hill’s attraction is the community’s local merchants, including The Good Life Grocery, where, a mom of two children, who often travels by bicycle, Galatea Kazakia explained, parents can quickly grab “...whatever fits in one bag” while the kids play outside on the bench around the tree.

The 18th Street commercial corridor features Farley’s, where neighbors meet for coffee, or ice cream in the public parklet. Goat Hill Pizza has been serving all-you-can-eat pizza since 1975, under the moniker “Neighborhood Night Mondays.” Chez Maman offers one of the City’s best burgers. To beat the noontime rush, get there when it opens at 11:30 a.m. Pera has among the friendliest proprietors in San Francisco. Always crowded Plow is most accessible at 11 a.m. weekdays for mouth-watering

lemon ricotta pancakes, though it’s closed Mondays.

Hazel’s Kitchen features a classic children’s menu, food-to-go, and outside seating under the “I am grateful tree,” filled with price tags that express passersby’s heartfelt sentiments. Mary Petrin, Collage Gallery owner, has been collecting letters and numbers for years. Her shop shares her collection, plus everything from jars full of buttons and chess pieces, to tea towels decorated with classic San Francisco images.

In a City with more than 800,000 people, Potrero Hill feels more like a small town, where people know each other. According to Stacey Delo, Hill resident and mom of two, “We are teaching our children that you *can* get to know the people around you.”

Although many of the Hill’s most beloved establishments are located on the 18th Street commercial corridor, treasures can be found throughout the Hill and adjacent Dogpatch and Showplace Square. In Potrero Hill the views from the sandbox are some of the City’s best, luring outsiders to visit.

McKinley Square playground sits perched at the top of the most crooked street in the world, and it’s not Lombard. The park has the perfect combination of climbing structures for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers nested on a thick layer of sand for safe landings. Just west of McKinley is the Potrero Hill Community Garden. It’s a fantastic resource for families, if they can get past the waiting list. Since the 1970’s the garden has been



Above Farley’s is popular with families. The cafe serves ice cream, and has a toy bin for children.

Left Collage Gallery features gifts that appeal to all ages — including the handmade Christmas ornaments shown.



slope playground the Arkansas Friendship Garden is nestled along a dirt path, though its accessible only to its members.

The recently remodeled Potrero Hill Branch Library, on 20th Street, includes floor to ceiling windows to make reading yet another board book slightly more appealing. For those needing to escape from the neighborhood’s seemingly ever-present sunshine, there’s the indoor playground Recess, budding bookworms can visit San Francisco Center for the Book, and 4Cats Art Studio hands kids a brush and paint and gives them free reign in the splatter room.

renting out fifty plots for residents to utilize as their own urban backyard.

The Potrero Hill Recreation Center, on Arkansas Street, has two playgrounds, and offers classes for the young and young at heart. In front of the lower



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The Morning after the Giants Won the World Series... Again

BY GREG ROENSCH

Orange skyline still
In the early-morning hours
After the Giants won the World Series...again

I tip my cap to the man hosing off the pavement
Across the street from Christopher's Books
"Go Giants," he says "Go Giants"

A siren cries in the distance
Though there were many more last night
And firecrackers and gunshots, too
And helicopters hovering
To report on bonfires in the Mission
And mayhem outside the ballpark

I walk by Bloom's
The scent of yesterday's beer
Lingers around the heavy wooden door
Hinting at the revels that were
Here's to MadBum and the boys
And Bochy, the man

In line at Farley's
Giants' fans flash their colors
And their Game Seven weary smiles
While flipping through the Sporting Green
Again...and again...and again

There's euphoria in the air and the chatter of dynasties
Even by the legion of doubters
Listen now as they praise the orange and black
Even if it's only a little less begrudgingly than the day before

Orange skyline still
In the early-morning hours
After the Giants won the World Series

See you again in a year...or two

SOLAR from Front Page

the grid, and are compensated under "net metering," a utility tariff under which excess energy created from solar can be used to off-set electricity consumed by the array's owner at a rate of three to 14 cents for each extra kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Potentially significant misalignments can be created with the distribution system when DERs are added to utility infrastructure that was designed to accommodate traditional energy supply and demand patterns. "Methods for identifying, assessing and quantifying the benefits and costs of distributed resources are advancing rapidly," said Lena Hansen of the Rocky Mountain Institute, a research and education non-profit dedicated to efficient and sustainable resource use. "But important gaps must be filled before this type of analysis can provide an adequate foundation for policymakers and regulators engaged in determining levels of incentives, fees, and pricing structures for DPV [distributed photovoltaics] and other distributed resources."

Energy is billed based on the amount of used. "That dollar-per-kWh charge is linked to your consumption of energy," said RMI's Virginia Lacy. "However, it is also paying for many different costs and services associated with producing that electricity; the fuel, operations, and maintenance used to run generation plants; the transmission and distribution lines used to deliver the energy; grid support services needed to maintain the stability of an interconnected grid system; and upgrades needed to keep it all running."

The problem is that the costs DERs impose on utility systems, and the benefits they provide, are not yet fully understood, and vary based on location and the characteristics of the existing system. According to a 2013 RMI study, DERs can create benefits for both those who adopt the resources, and those who don't, related to grid system services—such as supporting voltage—decreased loss of energy from distribution lines, and lower distribution expenses. However, the study also found that existing tax credits and other incentives importantly influence solar costs. For example, GoSolarSF offers residential and commercial customers from \$2,000 to \$50,000 to implement solar on their buildings, but the program expires in 2018.

TREES from page 10

arborist who then butchers the trees," Wiener said.

Wiener is working with the non-profit Friends of the Urban Forest to identify a stable, dedicated funding source that will enable the City to take back control of its street trees. One possible solution is an annual parcel tax of \$60 to \$80 per property owner, which Wiener said would be significantly cheaper for homeowners compared to the costs of pruning and maintaining sidewalks damaged by root structures. Wiener hopes to put a funding solution in front of voters on the 2016 ballot, which would require a two-thirds majority for passage.

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– Janet J.



Through December**The Nabe**

December 12-14: The Blind Café, Advanced tickets only. theblindcafe.com.

December 17: Holiday Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Theater.

December 18: Children's Toy Give Away, 3 to 5 p.m., the sign up form is available at the Nabe's front desk. The Nabe will be CLOSED for Winter Holidays December 25 through January 5. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. Information: phnhsf.org

Through December**Family: Embarcadero Ice Skating and Snow Village**

Lace up your skates and hit the smooth ice at the City's largest waterfront outdoor rink. Skates are available to rent. Then head indoors to the Atrium lobby when it gets too cold, and grab a hot cocoa at the café. Watch an indoor snowfall in the lobby near the tall Christmas tree, and look up to experience thousands of lights cascading down from three floors above. Hyatt Regency at Embarcadero Center, 5 Embarcadero Center. Information: sanfranciscoregency.hyatt.com

Through December 21**Art: New California Sculpture**

Ever Gold Gallery presents an exhibition of new works from a movement of New California Sculpture. Northern California based artists Joey Enos and Tamra Seal are rooted in work

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Ever Gold Gallery, Through December 21

with non-traditional sculptural media and experiment with notions of color theory, creating very different yet cohesive bodies of work. 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ever Gold Gallery, 441 O'Farrell Street. Information: evergoldgallery.com

Through December**Classes: Basic Computer**

The Barnett-Briggs Medical Library at San Francisco General Hospital is offering free basic computer classes. During these small tutoring sessions, we will cover basic computer skills, email, and searching for reliable health information online. Classes are open to all. Cost is free. 2 to 3 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, and

Fridays. Call 206.3114 to reserve a spot. Barnett-Briggs Medical Library, 1001 Potrero Ave, Building 30, First Floor, Room 3103. Information: <http://sfghdean.ucsf.libguides.com/computerclasses>

7

Music: Jacqui Naylor

Part jazz chanteuse and part folk-pop-leaning singer/songwriter, Jacqui Naylor is a rare artist, known for her own compositions as well as her sensitive treatment of jazz standards. Naylor and her band will perform in a special holiday concert at Salle Pianos—a 70-seat art and performance space in Hayes Valley. Tickets include French cheeses and chocolates. Wine is available for purchase. Buy tickets using the PayPal link for Ruby Records. Tickets are \$30 and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Information: jacquinaylor.com.

9

Community: Proposed Warrior Stadium Meeting

This hearing provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed Warrior's stadium, including an opportunity to comment on the scope of the environmental impact report. 6:30 p.m. 255 Berry Street. Information: sf-planning.org.

15

Food: DIY Gingerbread House

Bring a little old-school fun to your holiday this year by decorating a gingerbread house, complete with gumdrops and candy canes. Local instructor extraordinaire, Michele Simons will reveal the tricks and secrets for making an edible palace. Dress to get messy. Each participant

(or pair/household), will be provided with one home made, pre-constructed gingerbread house (6" x 6") on an 8"x10" base and lots of decorations including: candies, dried fruits, sanding sugars, sprinkles, home made cookies, and plenty of royal icing as edible adhesive; plus a box for transporting. 6 to 9 p.m. 18 Reasons, 3674 18th St. Information: 18reasons.org.

20

Science: Explorables: Handmade Science

Use everyday materials to create models and other tools for exploring the world around us. Run by a highly skilled, dedicated team of volunteers, these drop-in workshops mix classic activities with open-ended investigations, encouraging participants to follow their hunches to aha moments of scientific insight. All materials provided; take what you make. 11 a.m.–2:00 p.m. General Admission. Exploratorium, Pier 15. Information: exploratorium.com

21

Family:**The Little Match Girl**

The Little Match Girl is a multimedia musical puppet show about a young girl selling matches on Christmas Eve to support her family. To stay warm she lights matches; each match becomes a dream of a kinder, happier world that reflects the deeper meaning of the holidays. Music and lyrics by Katrina Cameron, book by Marcus Duskin. Performed with a cast of eight, piano and guitar accompaniment, and a multimedia presentation. \$8 to \$15. 5 p.m. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street. Information: puppetarium.com.

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A MONTHLY UPDATE
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REBUILD
POTRERO

VOLUME 51 • DECEMBER 2014

2014:
Year in Review



April-June
Approximately 150 Potrero Hill residents grabbed a paint brush and worked on the mural located at the Potrero Hill Health Center in April and May. The mural was unveiled in June.

August
Over 130 K-5th grade children who live in the city's Potrero Terrace and Annex public housing received free backpacks, essential school supplies, and back-to-school information at a special giveaway.

September
Potrero Hill Neighborhood Transportation Plan's Lighting Project for Potrero Hill Rec Center Trail approved by the Eastern Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

November
After a 16-month planning and community research process, the PARADISE (Practical And Realistic And Desirable Ideas for Social Enrichment) Plan —master plan for social service delivery and implementation —is published.

November/December
After a two and half year process, the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is issued. The public hearing is scheduled for Dec 11.



REBUILD POTRERO
EIR/EIS UPDATE

As 2014 comes to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of this year.




These achievements would not have been possible without the approximately one thousand Potrero community members and stakeholders who have joined the Rebuild Potrero Initiative to create a vibrant, mixed-income neighborhood where all residents can thrive. Here's to a great year and to an even more promising 2015! This next year will be a significant one as we move towards completing the EIR/EIS process, finalizing land use entitlements, implementing key pedestrian safety and traffic-calming measures, increasing the programs and services available to residents, creating a relocation plan, and breaking ground on Phase 1 of development by early 2016.

For more information: website: rebuildpotrero.com, e-mail potrero@bridgehousing.com



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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

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Bayview Police Captain Urges a Common Sense Approach to Safety

BY KEITH BURBANK

The *View's* photographer, Don Nolte, has been looking over his shoulder ever since two men robbed him of his camera more than a year ago. Nolte had finished a photo assignment for the paper and was walking on Pennsylvania Street to his car at about 3:30 p.m. on a weekday when an African-American man grabbed his camera's hand strap, ripping it from Nolte's fingers.

The incident, along with recent muggings of television journalists on Potrero Hill and in Oakland, prompted the *View* to meet with Bayview police captain Robert O'Sullivan. The meeting focused on safety issues confronting Bayview, Potrero Hill, and Dogpatch.

"Potrero Hill as a whole is a very safe neighborhood," O'Sullivan said. If his spouse went walking in the neighborhood at night, he said, he wouldn't worry. Still, he urged *View* readers to be aware of their surroundings. According to the captain, if it's dark out, if you're alone, if the area isn't well lit, the chances of a robbery increase. Under those circumstances, he encouraged people to take an animal or human companion with them "out of an abundance of caution. That's how I feel about Potrero Hill," he said. "You have to be smart about what you are doing."

Typically, one or two people commit 80 percent of criminal acts that take place in a concentrated geographic area, O'Sullivan said. This assessment was echoed by Jim Dudley, a criminal justice lecturer at San Francisco State University who spent 32 years with the San Francisco Police Department. Dudley retired as deputy chief of patrol in 2013.

"For example, if there are parked cars with 15 broken windows and theft overnight in a defined area," Dudley said, "chances are that there was only one or two auto burglars and not 15. The pattern of two suspects with one serving as a back-up or lookout is pretty common."

O'Sullivan's has noticed that crime wavelets stop after officers make an arrest. But, he noted, another criminal typically emerges to take the former perpetrator's place.

With the City's fiscal condition improving with the economy, O'Sullivan may soon be able to assign a beat cop to Potrero Hill, a post that's been intermittently supported by the department over the years. Lower police staffing levels had forced the captain to reassign the last beat officer. "However, the horizon is bright," O'Sullivan said. He expects to dispatch an officer to walk the Hill's streets sometime next year.

- 412 Connecticut
- 1133 - 19th Street
- 966 Carolina
- 514 Connecticut
- 1202-1204 19th Street
- 847 Kansas
- 1745 - 20th Street
- 415 Arkansas
- 324-326 Mississippi
- 481-483 Mississippi
- 437 Pennsylvania
- 1255 De Haro
- 417 Arkansas
- 1367-1369 Rhode Island
- 466 Missouri
- 534 Mississippi
- 232-234 Mississippi
- 1912-1914 20th Street
- 45 Southern Heights
- 701 Minnesota, #204
- 511 Mississippi
- 1420 De Haro
- 460 Vermont
- 775-775A Vermont
- 895 Wisconsin
- 1055 Carolina
- 86 Blair Terrace
- 357 Missouri
- 1536/1538 - 18th Street
- 609 Carolina
- 517 Mississippi



Melinda Lee
Potrero Hill Property Specialist



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Melinda Lee is a Real Estate Broker, licensed in California, and is a member of the National Association of Realtors, the National Multiple Listing Service, and the San Francisco Association of Realtors. She is also a member of the San Francisco Board of Realtors. All information is subject to change without notice. © 2014 Coldwell Banker. All rights reserved.

- 727 San Bruno
- 788 Carolina
- 1230 - 18th Street
- 656 Arkansas
- 1808 - 20th Street
- 2136 - 18th Street
- 285 Mississippi
- 458 Arkansas
- 640 De Haro
- 275 Arkansas
- 701 Minnesota #106
- 856-860 Wisconsin
- 454 San Bruno
- 771 Wisconsin
- 534 Mississippi
- 1056 Carolina
- 380 Connecticut
- 1919 Mariposa
- 616 Arkansas
- 1808 - 20th Street
- 1076 Rhode Island
- 1064 Carolina
- 763 Kansas
- 1471 Kansas
- 548-552 Vermont
- 903 Kansas, #101
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- 1304 De Haro
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Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Bayview Station, 201 Williams Avenue. Next meeting: December 2nd 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: December 9th. Voting membership is open to anyone living in or owning property or a business in Dogpatch. For more information or to join/pay online: mydogpatch.org

Friends of Franklin Square Join the Friends of Franklin Square to help improve our local park! We need your ideas and input to update the master plan and to help seek grant money to improve the park. Concerned about park safety and cleanliness? Want the soccer field to be re-carpeted? Interested in getting a dog-friendly area built? Now is your chance to make it happen! Meet your neighbors and share ideas. Free snacks and drinks provided. We will also have a mini trivia contest with prizes from our neighborhood businesses! For more information contact: friendsofranklinsquare@gmail.com.

McKinley Square Community Group is a communication and discussion group regarding events and activities, clean-up days, improvement and beautification, and other concerns, such as crime in the neighborhood. MSCA board meets approximately quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month. Look to the online discussion group for postings of upcoming meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/McKinleySquareCommunity>. Locations vary between the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and Downtown High School. For updates, including sustainable gardening and park workdays, and our grant progress, check out the MSCA blog at: <http://mckinleysquareblog.blogspot.com>.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:45 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information: potreroboosters.org or email president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: December 30th, 7 p.m.

Potrero Dogpatch Merchant's Association meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: December 11th, 10 a.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information: 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next meeting: December 9th, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.1926 for details. Next meeting: December 28th.

Pennsylvania Street Gardens has volunteer workdays the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. We meet at Pennsylvania Garden, 251 Pennsylvania Avenue, and provide all the necessary tools and training. We'd love to see you at the gardens. For more information visit our website psgsf.org or email Emily at emily@psgsf.org. Next volunteer day: December 6th.

SOMA Rotary Club meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at Mission Rock Resort, 817 Terry Francois Blvd. We meet at 6:00 for a mixer and 7:00 for a dinner meeting. We provide community service to the Mission Bay, Potrero, and Bayview communities. The focus is on providing services for the under-served of our community. The website is located at: <http://www.meetup.com/Mission-Bay-Rotary-Club>. For more information contact Nine at: n.ladow@comcast.net.

Starr King Open Space The Starr King Open Space Board Meeting is on Monday **December 15**, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Public Potrero Branch Library. Thank you for your continued donations and support, for more information: Webb Green, 648.6168, webbgreen@mindspring.com.

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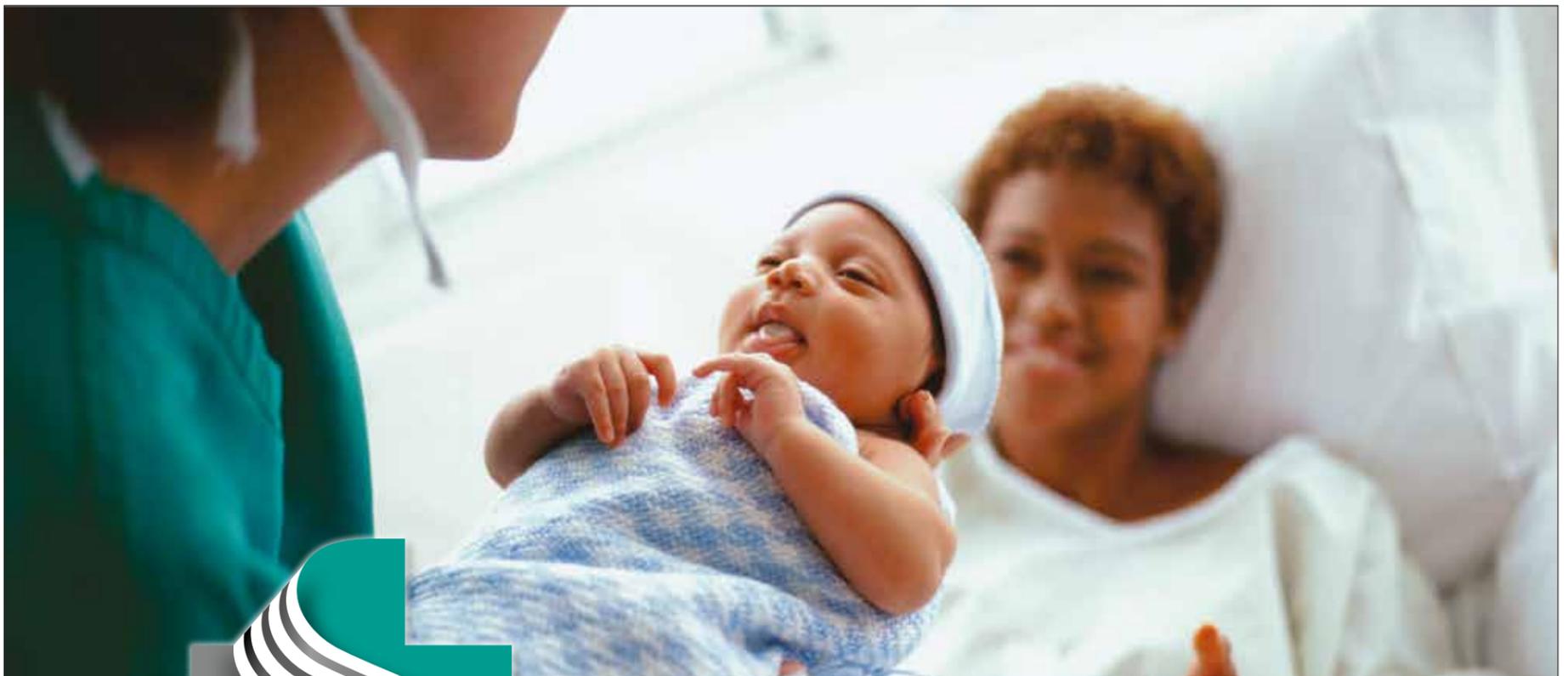
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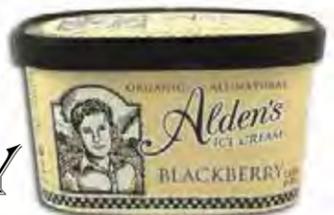
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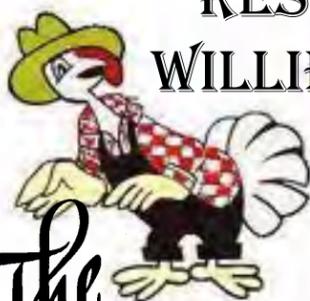
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