



January 2012

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FREE

Residential Areas Exempt from Parking Meter Plan, According to Muni Official



Image courtesy of SFMTA

By Keith Burbank

Potrero Hill resident Jim Wilkins wants to be sure that Hill dwellers don't have to feed a meter to park in front of their homes. Wilkins is circulating a petition to oppose a San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) proposal to install meters throughout Dogpatch, Mission Bay, and parts of Potrero Hill. He'd collected more than 500 signatures by the time the View's January issue went to press.

According to Jay Primus, SFMTA and SFPark manager, "there will be no parking meters in residential areas." However, meters may be installed on blocks which include a mix of businesses and residences – as is currently the case in such neighborhoods as the Fillmore – particularly in Mission Bay. Managing parking in San Francisco is "complex," said Primus.

Primus said that SFMTA's initial parking proposal was developed in consultation with residents concerned about parking congestion in Southside San Francisco. "We've been meeting with as many people as possible...to refine the plan and make it better," he said. "For example, we met with someone who lives on Pennsylvania. We are taking a look at every block. If meters are proposed for an area that is inappropriate for meters, no meters will be put there." Blocks that are strictly residential won't be metered.

"What's motivating this [the proposal] are real parking problems," said Primus, who asserted that parking in Mission Bay during the day is nearly impossible. According to Primus, there are parts of Mission Bay where people park their car, and then travel to the financial district via bicycle or public transportation, leaving their vehicle in place for an entire day, at no cost. This situation, said Primus, is bad for neighborhood

City Hopes America's Cup Runneth Over

By Keith Burbank

Older than the modern-day Olympics, and the hardest competition to win in international sports, the City is hosting the 34th America's Cup, a series of sailing races, in 2012 and 2013, culminating in a race finale, September 7 to 22, 2013. The event will also include a youth racing series. A portion of the competition is being staged in Bayview, and the City hopes to direct tourists to Southside neighborhoods to dine and shop.

According to Jane Sullivan, America's Cup communications director for the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) – which is responsible for coordinating the City's race-related efforts – her office is focusing on "how do the benefits go across all the City. Because the race is only two hours each day, and not every day. How do we get people to shop, eat at restaurants, and visit the cultural attractions over all of the City while they are here?" Sullivan asked. "We're looking at how to make this a unique San Francisco experience for tourists and visitors. For example, there is the locally-made product district in Dogpatch."

In addition to attracting tourist dollars, Oracle Racing has renovated Pier 80, and in 2012, "it appears all of the team bases will be at Pier 80. Oracle will remain at Pier 80 in 2013, while the other team bases will move to Piers 30 and 32," said Sullivan. "Each team will have its own pit, similar to automobile racing pits, at the piers, and the pits will be open to the public."

The City expects the America Cup's to bring in \$1.4 billion of tourism, race team, sponsor, and spectator spending, and create 8,800 construction, hospitality, food and beverage, transportation, and entertainment industry jobs. Racing teams – between 100 and 200 people – will need transportation and housing while they're in San Francisco. Team members with children will place them in local schools. "A good portion of the entertainers will be local," Sullivan added. In San Diego, where preliminary races were recently held, the event included

Starr King Elementary Leads SF Schools in Improved Test Scores

By Keith Burbank

Last year, Starr King's student test scores jumped by more than any other San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) elementary school. Scores for all student groups – demographic, economic, and associated with a disability – who took the Academic Performance Index (API) test improved, according to greatschools.org. Socioeconomically disadvantaged

students and English-language learners advanced the most, increasing their marks by 76 points. "The test is used to determine how well the school is meeting the needs of various subgroups," said Principal Greg John. "It assesses how well the school is keeping its promises to parents, the Superintendent would say."

According to Matt Wayne,

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Parking

By Steven J. Moss

No one likes to pay for parking. High on the list of San Francisco indignities is taking a \$45 parking ticket off your windshield, which is only slightly preferred to handing an attendant half that much for storing your car for three hours in a downtown lot. Up until now, Potrero Hill has been mostly able to avoid this expensive mortification. With the exception of some residential permit zones — and the need to avoid street sweeping—parking has been free and ample.

The Hill's fertile parking fields have been a consolation prize for its isolation from public transportation. The top of the hill is poorly served by buses. Muni's T-Line has improved north-south access to Dogpatch, but service on the line is notoriously bad — "T stands for terrible" shouted one 2010 blog post—and there's no quick and easy public transit eastward. More often than not, it's faster to walk from Dogpatch to the Mission than take a bus, which doesn't help the elderly, people pressed for time, or those schlepping heavy items.

A few years ago parking meters sprouted in Showplace Square. Because self-entitled showroom customers — who tend to stroll across Henry Adams Street as if on a catwalk — made this node an angry mess anyway, they were hardly noticed. Now, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA) wants to install meters throughout much of Dogpatch and lower Potrero Hill, under the Mission Bay Parking Management Strategy. The plan emerged as a synergistic result of the fast-developing University of California, San Francisco complex — which is drawing increasing numbers of employees and their cars to the area — an influx of federal transportation management funds, the popularity of deploying time-based pricing to commonly-shared goods — including electricity and bridge tolls — and technology. It's the perfect storm of free market thinking, complimentary federal

money, high-technology, and the opportunity for public policy to be welded in Mission Bay, a place that's largely governments' creation.

Dogpatch and Potrero Hill are mostly innocent bystanders to this effort, falling under the shadow of the Mission Bay juggernaut. If meters are installed north of Dogpatch, the thinking goes, commuters will be pushed southward, a tsunami of would-be parkers that can only be stopped with more meters, like so many sandbags absorbing a flood. SFMTA data — and casual experience — does suggest that more than 85 percent of Dogpatch's spaces are full on a given weekday afternoon. But it's not clear that this reflects a problem so much as an indication of a healthy, mostly non-retail, production-oriented small business community.

Mission Bay is dominated by large public and private entities — including Bayer, Merck, and, soon, Salesforce—which can afford to support employee shuttles and parking garages; there are 1,650 parking spaces spread out over five structures, and more on the way. What's more, neither the University of California — which is exempt—nor private sector entities — which are within a redevelopment district — pay property taxes to support the City's general fund. While the complex provides benefits to Dogpatch and Potrero Hill—in the form of pushing up property values, and drawing in customers for local restaurants and retailers — its negative consequences—higher housing prices, traffic congestion and increased demand for public services — are largely untaxed. Other than meter revenues, the parking pressures caused by Mission Bay do not come with a concomitant contribution to improving public services, including transit access, in the surrounding community.

Dogpatch is full of small enter-

see PUBLISHER'S page 20



Letters to the Editor

Parking

Editor,

I'm a Third Street resident and business owner, potentially affected by the parking changes described in "Parking Meters May be Coming to Potrero Hill" (November issue). I was in no way notified of the proposed policy, nor can I find any public postings for a neighborhood meeting on the topic. I've scoured the various online governmental websites and find nothing concerning this issue.

The only reason I saw the article was because an electronic version of it was emailed to me from a friend of a friend. A little more public notice might be due an issue that could have profound impacts on the community.

Cliff Fogle
Third Street

Editor,

I just read "Parking Meters May be Coming to Potrero Hill," by Keith Burbank. As a San Francisco resident, homeowner and taxpayer who uses the 22nd Street Caltrain Station daily, I want to voice my opposition to putting parking meters in Dogpatch. It will discourage shoppers and take away from the character that makes the neighborhood such a great place. Many people park in Dogpatch to go for bike rides, runs and walks because it's flat and one of few places left where you don't have to worry about getting back to your car by a certain time.

Folks who commute using the 22nd Street Caltrain Station need a place to park without worry that they'll receive a ticket. The fact that parking is free encourages the use of mass transit. I think what you'll find is that the metered spaces around the Caltrain Station will simply lay vacant while folks park further south for free. Commuters are on the Peninsula for eight to 12 hours at a stretch; they'd have to pay \$1/hour on top of the Caltrain fare. For many, this would double commute costs. Some commuters will just give up on Caltrain and drive to work, defeating the higher goal of using mass transit. What a waste.

Give the locals a break and keep meters in the areas frequented by out of towners and the more congested parts of San Francisco.

Jack Doyle
Flood Avenue

Serpentine

Editor,

Just as I was remarking over the past few months that the View had expanded and drastically improved its journalistic content, I was shocked and dismayed by the December front page article, "Spiritual Serpentine," by Peter Linenthal. Had it been the April fool's issue, I might have understood your publishing it, but to give front page coverage to such new age crystal cult nonsense goes beyond the inexcusable. What next? May I suggest a column on the impact of serpentine on your horoscope, or

a firsthand account of how it helps women achieve orgasm (check the new age literature)? If Linenthal meant it in jest, it certainly was not obvious to me.

I don't pick up the View to read such metaphysical garbage rehashed from new age crystal therapy. Such utter nonsense merits one place: at the bottom of my cat's litter box.

With University of California, San Francisco building a bio-technology campus at the bottom of the hill, why not cover some of the real scientific research that's taking place, or interview some of the top science experts who live on the Hill?

Ralph Anavy
Missouri Street

Editor,

In the View's December's issue Peter Linenthal waxes poetic about the Hill's predominant rock's properties. What he failed to mention is that Serpentine also naturally contains asbestos. When I built a house in 1996 and had to excavate, I was required to send the resulting debris to the hazardous waste dump. While the rock may have all the positive properties Linenthal discussed, they're not the only ones.

Christine Pielenz
23rd Street

In defense of my short article on serpentine, as a Pisces — gullible, spiritual, susceptible to alcoholism — I'm prone to this kind of excess. Seriously, I think the study of religion, folk wisdom and belief systems of all kinds is valuable; taking them literally isn't required. Likewise, serpentine does contain asbestos and asbestos "...has been classified as a carcinogen by state, federal, and international agencies." The University of California has "Facts About Serpentine Rock and Soil Containing Asbestos in California" online at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu> which lists possible risks and the ways to avoid them. In 2010 there was a move to remove serpentine's status as State Rock because of its "deadly asbestos". Geologists protested, arguing that of Serpentine's 20 varieties, only four contain the dangerous amphibole fibers, while 16 contain the less harmful chrysotile fibers. They added that any inhaled rock dust can be harmful, and that undisturbed serpentine posed little danger. Let's look into this further. —Peter Linenthal

Praise

Editor,

The View's writing and layout has greatly improved. The November story on the homeless at Showplace Square ("Homeless Population Growing near Showplace Square") was very good.

Harry J. Johnson
24th Street

see LETTERS page 14



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EDITORIAL

The Art of De-Accessioning

By Edward Lortz

The first time I read the word “de-accessioning” it was in reference to a museum selling art from its collection. I soon realized that the term meant getting rid of junk that’d been donated by someone who wanted a tax deduction in excess of an item’s actual worth. Over the last decade, I grew to understand that it’s a lot easier for my partner Fil and me – as well as Shoji, our cat – to live in 1,000 square feet if there’s as little junk as possible.

The first step to personal de-accessioning is to make a plan. Put each item to be de-accessioned into a category, ranging from garbage to auction house possibility. The easiest way to unload a piece of junk is to put it on the curb. This can annoy neighbors, but I’ve found that folks driving around will collect the most amazing things, like the small pile of wood scraps that disappeared within hours. If it’s still there after two days, it goes in the trash, or recycling if recyclers will accept it.

The next disposal method is San Francisco Freecycle Network, a Yahoo group with almost 15,000 members. I’ve offered close to a hundred items on SFFN, from an old Polaroid camera to a rusty wok, and have found a new home for 90 percent of them. You can find local versions of these websites by searching the internet. The new Nextdoor.com Potrero Group even has a “buy/sell/free” area, where I’ve already de-accessed a bicycle helmet.

If you want to make some spare change from your unwanted stuff, go to flea market-style internet sites, such as Craigslist.org. Post items for sale for less than \$50; visit a consignment shop or eBay for anything worth more than that, or light enough to ship. I’ve sold quite a few items on Craigslist, which also has a free area, but the percentage of no-shows is high, prompting me to switch to Freecycle.

If you have lots of stuff consider holding a garage sale. We started our de-accessioning process with such a sale 15 years ago; now we don’t have enough to fill even one small table. Getting together with a bunch of neighbors for a block sale helps attract more purchasers.

Consignment is a good way to reduce the amount of clutter in your house. Over the last eight years, we’ve been slowly remodeling our kitchen with small projects without increasing storage space. If we haven’t used a utensil in 10 years, out it goes. For some items consignment is easier than relying on internet sites. I’ve sold roughly 95 percent of what I’ve dropped off at Leftovers, a shop located in Polk Gulch, for very fair prices.

Next to the top of the de-accessioning food chain is eBay. It takes an effort to photograph, write a good description, and list things. Be sure

to search out a similar item to see if it sold or what it’s selling for before going to the trouble. I determined that my old slide rule and “antique” Philip Morris cigarette tin weren’t worth more than \$5. But sometimes you luck out. I sold a silver-plated ice bucket that I got tired of polishing on eBay for \$3,000. You can even find people who will do the listing and preparation for you.

At the top of the food chain is the auction house. I’ve sold quite a lot of artwork and good antique furniture through Bonhams, though there are other good houses in the Bay Area. You might be shocked at the commission – as much as 30 percent – but you need to realize that an auction house’s exposure is huge compared to any other method of selling something. Make an appointment or take the item or photographs to an “appraisal event,” usually monthly, to find out if the house would be interested in selling the item, sale terms, how much they’d list it for, and whether to set a minimum bid price.

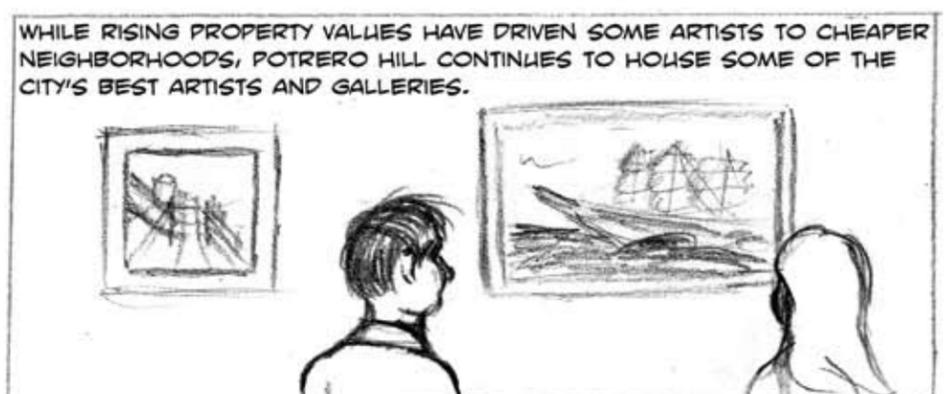
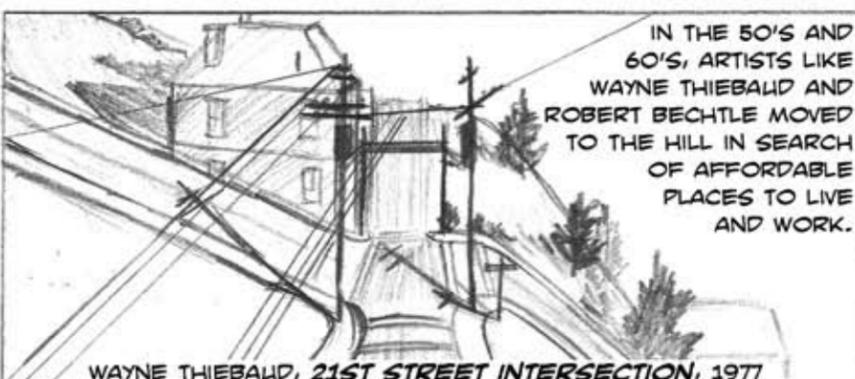
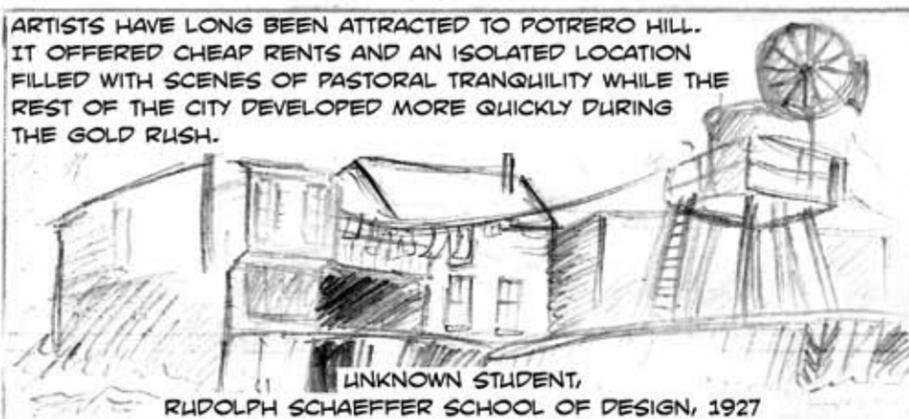
If, after evaluating these strategies, you still have a bunch of stuff to get rid of there are many organizations that will take usable items. This is especially true of clothing and household goods. I de-access any item that I haven’t worn in five years or that I’ve replaced. Remember to get a receipt if you contribute to a nonprofit organization. I’ve averaged a few thousand dollars in tax deductions every year, although that’s rapidly declining as I have less and less to de-access. You need to itemize in order to take this deduction; consult your tax advisor. You can generally deduct one-quarter of the purchase price, known in the tax world as “Thrift Shop Value.”

You should have a rule that if you buy something, you can’t keep the old item. Don’t feel guilty for letting go of something sentimental which you’ll never use. Of all the stuff that I inherited from my mother and a dear friend, I kept one of each, such as one glass or good chair; I felt no guilt de-accessing the remainder. If you feel you may someday use an item, but chances are slim, balance the space it’s taking with the possible cost of buying it new a few years hence. I’ve used this philosophy for decades, and found that only once have I ever needed to repurchase anything, and it cost less than \$20.

If you’re over 55, you shouldn’t have a storage space, except for extraordinary circumstances. If your kids don’t want it, get rid of it. At younger ages, only store what you absolutely will need in the future. Don’t be a packrat.

A few places to discard items: Community Thrift, 625 Valencia Street: a lot of clothing but almost any household item; Friends of the Library, 438 Treat at 18th Street: books; Out of the Closet, 1295 Folsom: clothing and household stuff; Green Citizen Electronic Recycling, 592 Howard at Second: any electronics stuff; Cole Hardware, most locations: batteries, latex paint (no empty cans).

McKinley Park BY Simon Stahl



SHORT CUTS

For Sale

The Potrero Center, on 16th Street, is for sale. The 227,000-square-foot strip shopping center, which houses **Safeway**, could accommodate up to 1,800 apartments, and is currently 98 percent leased... **Hogan's Goat Tavern** opens this month where the **Sea Star Club** used to operate in Dogpatch, as does **Gilbert's Rotisserie and Grill** down the block... In response to a letter to the editor in last month's View ("Fire Trucks") a reader called to inquire whether police officers are allowed to park at bus stops and fire hydrants, or talk on their cell phones while driving. Our guess is not.

Parking

Roughly two hundred people streamed into an American Industrial Center warehouse space last month to protest a **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority** (SFMTA) proposal to plant high-tech parking meters in parts of Dogpatch and Potrero Hill. "You don't have to occupy City Hall to make things better," quipped AIC building manager **Greg Markoulis**, "you can occupy AIC." Ninety percent of the attendees were San Franciscans, and virtually all of them opposed SFMTA's parking meter plan. "We park here because we work here," said one participant. "And many of us make less than \$10 an hour; we can't afford to pay for parking." "When's the T-Line coming," shouted out another attendee. "Two hours," was the response, which was met with knowing laughter from the crowd. AIC may hire a lawyer to oppose the plan, which will be vetted again at a meeting this month.

Killed Bees

Last fall a bee colony that had thrived at the Connecticut Friendship Community Garden – a locked organic plot visible from a walkway between Connecticut and Wisconsin streets – for a couple of years were almost exterminated, most likely as a result of chemical poisoning. Just

before the attack the bees' keeper, Brannan Street resident **Clara**, who preferred to remain anonymous, had split the hive to make a new queen. She'd returned to the colonies, playing Bossa Nova music, which the bees apparently love, to find piles of corpses in front of the hives, choking the entrances and spilling onto the ground. The hives' floors were covered with multiple layers of dead bodies; bee corpses clinched in death poses to wax comb on the sides. In the original hive the queen was still alive, but the only other surviving bees were nurse bees and the emerging brood. The next day more bees were found dead, and the queen was doing a strange twitchy half squat move repeatedly in the same spot. Experienced beekeepers suspect that pesticide placed at the hive entrances caused the massacre. A \$100 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the vandal; 553.0123.

Politics

After **Ed Lee** was elected mayor last November, he immediately turned to paying back the \$300,000 his campaign owed to vendors, pollsters and consultants. Last month, District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, who was a staunch supporter of the second runner-up, City Attorney **Dennis Herrera**, co-hosted a \$250 to \$500 per person benefit reception for Lee. No hard feelings are allowed in politics... District 10 Supervisor **Malia Cohen** sold tickets – costing from \$100 to \$500 – to her birthday party last month at **Poquito**. The event organizer, The California Group, declined to inform the View what the supervisor will do with the funds, or even allow the press to attend the gathering. Perhaps the supervisor needs new clothes...

Address

We neglected to include the building's location in last month's "Cor-o-van Building to Become Residential, Medical Facility." That would be 16th Street, between Mississippi and Seventh streets.

Copra Crane Down, But Not Out

By Bailey deBruynkops

The fifty-four ton, five-story-tall Copra Crane – which was removed for repairs last fall – is the last of its kind on the San Francisco waterfront. It's distinct from newer mechanized cargo equipment in that it's completely hand-operated. The crane, located along Islais Creek, was used as part of the City's copra industry, in which coconut oils were extracted to make everything from cosmetics to movie popcorn butter. During the first half of the 20th century copra was big business in San Francisco. In 1950, only coffee surpassed it in import value. The crane was retired in the mid-1970s, after Pier 84's coconut trade ceased, along with much of the surrounding industrial activity.

Nearly 20 years ago, the Copra Crane Labor Landmark Association (CCLLA) was formed by a group of crane-supporters who wanted to preserve the memory of hard manual labor, including historians, labor unions – electricians, carpenters, and painters, among others – and Friends of Islais Creek. The group developed a plan to raise approximately \$400,000 to restore the crane.

"Without meeting ideal funds, we largely relied on volunteers. Rex McCardell devised a Port-approved lifting and rehab plan for the crane four years ago. Rex also designed

the predecessor of the Copra Crane that was, sadly, sold by SFMTA for scrap," Friends of Islais Creek executive director Robin Chaing recounted. "It's quite complicated because parts have to be brought in by barge, and the Third Street draw bridge isn't functioning due to a big electrical cable outage. It's a slow process but we will get it back, and better than ever."

"We've received a lot of help from the Port, which is a good thing since they basically own the crane and the water it sits on top of. We don't expect to make steadfast progress until the spring because the port is very busy right now," said longtime CCLLA board member Pat Karinen. Due to lack of funds and the inability to secure a dedicated project manager, the CCLLA is collaborating with San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority, which closely monitors the safety of reconstruction activities. SFMTA is currently pursuing several Islais Creek improvement projects, including installing an oil-water separator to improve the local sewer system, erecting freeway-facing steel fences, and creating Islais Creek Shoreline Park, where informational Copra Crane signage will be displayed. The restored crane will be gifted back to the City.

Before being removed this past

see **CRANE** Southside page 2

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Southside a Center for Metal Harvesting

By Bill Slatkin

The trail of thefts of metal from electricity facilities, construction sites, and even home exteriors leads to San Francisco's Southside neighborhoods, where scrap metals – particularly copper – are exchanged for cash in a black market that's thriving despite police efforts to put it out of business. "They collect a lot of money when they sell the stuff, and it can add up to thousands of dollars of losses for the victims," explained San Francisco police officer Sue Lavin, who is frequently called to investigate the crimes.

According to Lavin, cables mined from underground power vaults, as well as plumbing fixtures and pipes ripped out of buildings, some of which are occupied, "show up at one of the four metal recycling places" located in Bayview and Dogpatch. Sims Metal Management at Pier 70, was forced to close last fall, and will remain out of business indefinitely, as a result of illegal metal purchases. J&S Recycling, located on Third Street near Islais Creek, has repeatedly been caught in San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) stings, but remains open while it contests charges that it has violated state law governing metal purchases.

According to Lavin, California a recycling companies' license can be suspended or revoked if the



Photograph by Bill Slatkin

It is from these types of abandoned buildings that thieves mine for scrap metal in items left behind, such as plumbing fixtures, pipes, and electrical cables.

enterprise purchases metal without following specific procedures meant to verify that the seller is the material's legal owner. Among the requirements is that the recycler wait three days between receiving scrap metal and paying for it, with the buyer provided a receipt in the interim. "That's supposed to give the police time to check out whether the stuff is stolen. But there are a lot of back door exchanges. If someone is violating the law, they phony up the books to make it look like they're doing what they're supposed to," said

Lavin.

Most of this criminal activity by sellers – "metal monsters" – and recyclers remains hidden among the noise, smell, and chaos of the recycling facilities where the transactions take place. But some high profile instances have been covered by the media; most recently the theft of a two-and-a-half ton brass bell from the grounds of St. Mary's Cathedral, and when the plaque honoring Harvey Milk disappeared from a Castro Street sidewalk. "These guys are pretty good at it. They have sophisticated

equipment to haul it and to cut it up," said Lavin, who guessed that St Mary's bell – had it not been discovered in Oakland a few days after it vanished – was destined to be "chopped into pieces and sold as scrap." A large scrap yard is located just across the street from where the bell was found.

Last summer Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) – a frequent metal monster victim – announced a \$15,000 reward to anyone reporting the theft of copper wire taken from underground vaults, if the information resulted in an arrest and prosecution. During the first half of last year PG&E experienced 35 metal thefts, which typically involved criminals who struck in the middle of the night, removed manhole covers to gain access, and disabled power to surrounding buildings to remove their booty. The crime has resulted in disrupted electrical service – triggering the need to use emergency generators – in several Financial District and South of Market locations. Mt. Zion Hospital's Divisadero Street campus lost power as a result of a metals heist, forcing surgeries to be rescheduled.

Among the most notorious Southside incidents are two separate thefts of cables used to power traffic signals at the Islais Creek Bridge – which cost \$50,000 to replace – and the disappearance of a bathtub and plumbing fixtures from a home being remodeled in

see METAL page 22



2000 20th Street



455 Connecticut Street



1802 20th Street



647 Connecticut Street, #1

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Potrero Hill has become one of the most popular neighborhoods in the city – people want to live here because of the great community, weather, and walkable neighborhood with popular restaurants, grocery stores, shops, and coffee houses. Access to all the major freeways makes it a great destination for people who commute to work from here.

Trust your transactions to the #1 Agent on Potrero Hill; I've been buying and selling real estate here since 1979 and am also a longtime resident, owning my home here since 1985. Actively involved in community projects and school fundraisers, I love my neighborhood and know it well.

For all of your real estate questions and needs, contact me any time!

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History Lives on Wisconsin Street



Courtesy of Peter Lilenthal, Potrero Hill Archives Project



Photograph by Amy Carr

Julia Bergman (top), pictured at her childhood home around 1950. The bottom photo shows the home today, now divided into two residences.

By Simon Stahl

Potrero Hill began to emerge in its modern state in the mid-nineteenth century. Because of its foundation of Serpentine rock, many of the oldest buildings from that period survived the 1906 earthquake and fire. A Hill resident with a little time and curiosity can glimpse a slice of history right next door, or maybe even in their own home.

For Potrero Hill resident Julia Bergman, it all started when she was flipping through a family photograph album. There was a photo of her standing outside 690 Wisconsin Street, her childhood home, with the caption “This is Julia in front of the original De Haro family home” in her mother’s handwriting. The photo, which appears in the Acknowledgments section of Peter Linenthal and Abigail Johnston’s seminal work *San Francisco’s Potrero Hill*, set Julia on a quest to prove her mother’s words.

After poring through City archives, water department records, and Sanborn insurance maps, Bergman eventually determined that her mother was mistaken. Bergman now suspects that the actual De Haro house was on the corner of 20th and Carolina streets. The Wisconsin Street home – a New England clapboard-style house located on a 150 by 200-foot lot, possibly with a water tower in back – dates back to at least 1871, when it was first registered to a Mr. Linsley. After

Linsley’s death, his widow and children continued to live there until around 1920. In 1948, when Bergman was three, her family moved into the upstairs section of the house, which had been split into separate upstairs and downstairs residences. A small wooden cottage in back served as an additional apartment for other lodgers. They enjoyed living in the house until around 1951, when her father, fresh out of the Merchant Marines, wanted to live somewhere surrounded by trees, and moved the family to Marin.

In 1957, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, beat poet and co-founder of City Lights, moved in down the street. He was friends with the 690 Wisconsin residents at the time, who gathered for dinner parties and poetry readings with Alan Ginsberg and other beats at the house or in the small cottage.

Amy Carr, a photographer who currently lives in the downstairs flat with her 10-year-old son Julian and a roommate, was attracted to the house’s sense of history when she moved in eight years ago. “I immediately felt like I was at home, like it had a history, it had character...I could feel the energy of the families that had lived here.”

The house is set back from the street, and is surrounded on all sides by gardens. Inside, Carr’s flat feels like a typical cozy Hill residence. Decorated with Hindu and Buddhist art and Carr’s vivid portraits, smell-

ing of potpourri, the flat exudes a sense of warmth and familiarity. An old ornate stone fireplace serves as a reminder of the house’s history. With upstairs and downstairs apartments, plus the cottage in back, the complex is its own self-contained community, where residents host dinner parties and help each other out. One December night they prepared to host a book club meeting in the cottage, a modern continuation of the house’s literary heritage.

Carr views herself as a steward of the house, caring for it and preserving it; an unusual sentiment for a renter. “We’re just so thankful to have a place we can call home...I feel safe, enveloped in warmth.” Even if it’s not the actual De Haro house, 690 Wisconsin is filled with character and its own unique history.

Special thanks to Julia Bergman and Amy Carr for their research and assistance with this article.

PARKING from front page

businesses and for those looking for short-term parking. SFPark is “zeroing in on a goal...that when a person is driving, they can find a place [to park] quickly,” he said.

Arkansas Street resident Rob Cohen is concerned about a potential SFMTA ban on new residential parking permit areas. Primus conceded that while the draft plan contemplated prohibiting the creation of new residential parking permit areas “...that’s not practi-

cable,” he said. “So that language will be taken out of the plan. That’s not part of SFMTA policy.” To establish a new permit area there must be at least one mile of street frontage, at least half of the vehicles parked in the proposed area must be non-resident vehicles, at least 80 percent of the legal, on-street parking spaces within the area must be occupied during the day, and 250 signatures from area residents – one signature per household – must be submitted to the City’s Transportation Engineering department.

According to Primus, the plan will go through two hearings before it’s approved. Although meeting dates have yet to be set, a public hearing will be held sometime this month, with the SFMTA Board most likely vetting the plan in February.

Meters installed in Dogpatch and Potrero Hill would operate from “9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, just like everywhere else in the City,” said Primus. “We had considered starting the price of the meters at \$1 an hour, but instead we are considering a price of 25 cents an hour. This is the absolute lowest price possible. Our availability goal is to have one space open at all times. We want to make it easy for drivers to find a parking place, so drivers don’t have to circle, or double-park. Where we add meters, the meters will accept credit cards. There will be no time limits on the meters. It will be very easy to avoid tickets.” By achieving these goals less vehicle exhaust will be produced, less fuel will be consumed, and drivers’ time will be liberated to accomplish what they came to do.

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San Francisco Breweries Strive For Water Efficiency

By Katrina Schwartz

San Francisco has long been home to a good brew. Two of the City's biggest breweries are Bayview-based Speakeasy Brewery and Anchor Brewing, in Potrero Hill. The two breweries may be the largest in San Francisco, but they're small compared with other craft breweries, like Sierra Nevada, which produces 800,000 barrels of beer a year. Anchor fashioned 105,000 barrels in 2011; Speakeasy made 13,000 barrels. Despite their size differences, all three breweries are classified as "craft brewers" since they produce less than six million barrels a year.

Anchor Brewing Company has a long history of making beer differently than other breweries, relying on open fermentation, a process that gives its flagship beer, Anchor Steam, its name. When Anchor started brewing in 1896 boiling beer would be placed on the roof of its Pacific Street building in shallow troughs to cool, creating clouds of steam. That pioneering spirit stuck with Anchor as it continued to brew premium beer even when cheap beers, like Miller and Budweiser, started consuming the market in the 1950s.

After several fires, ownership changes, and new locations, Anchor moved to its current building – formerly a coffee roaster – at Mariposa and De Haro streets in 1979. Fritz Maytag bought the brewer in 1965, and owned it until last year. He believed that Anchor beer was superior, and marketed it that way, charging more for his product because he thought it was better than the "yellow beers." Maytag's willingness to make a more expensive beer that had more taste helped launch the craft beer movement. According to Anchor brew master Mark Carpenter, when craft beers were taking off in the 1970s many of the new breweries would visit Anchor before starting their operations to talk beer and to get ideas on how best to produce it.

Beer is ninety percent water, and brewing is an incredibly water-intensive process; the tanks must be cleaned between various production stages, and a brewmaster has to constantly be on the lookout to make sure the beer doesn't get contaminated. Anchor relies on San Francisco tap water – straight from Hetch-Hetchy – without filtering or adding anything other than Burton salts to give it more hardness, which brings out the beer's taste. Carpen-



Photograph by Katrina Schwartz

A mixture of grain and water – San Francisco tap water – brews in Anchor Steam Brewing Company's signature copper kettles.

ter estimated that Anchor uses four to five gallons of water for every gallon of beer produced. That's a big improvement over the eight to ten gallons the company consumed when Carpenter began working at Anchor in 1971.

Water scarcity in California during the 1980s forced Anchor to think about how to conserve. "There's huge water consumption in cleaning and sterilizing," Carpenter said. "The easy steps are to really measure the water you are cleaning tanks with. Use final rinse water for the first rinse water on a secondary tank. Things like that to really conserve water," he explained.

According to Carpenter, if Anchor could conserve more water it would; buying water from the City and paying for wastewater disposal is expensive. Anchor uses 40,000 gallons of water a day; it's one of their most costly inputs.

Anchor's operational activities are restricted by their limited space and urban location. Sierra Nevada is brewed in Chico, California, and

is recognized as a leader in sustainability amongst breweries. Some of the things that Sierra is able to do, like operate their own wastewater treatment facility, are made possible by their rural location and economies of scale. Sierra found that it could save two to three million gallons of water a year by switching from a water-based lubricant to silicon-based lube for use on their bottle shop conveyor belt. Anchor tried the silicon lubricant as well. "Our conveyors, because they were crammed into a small space, unfortunately, they have to run faster. And we tried that [silicon lubricant] because we thought that was a good idea, but it just did not work here," Carpenter said.

Kushal Hall is the brewmaster at Speakeasy, a brewery launched in 1997. Hall is almost thirty years younger than Carpenter, which matches the upstart nature of his brewing operation. Speakeasy is known for the hoppy character of its

see **BREWERIES** Southside page 3

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Dogpatch Hosts Design Residency Project

By Keith Burbank

Last fall, a dozen San Franciscans gathered in a renovated warehouse next to the Yellow Building in Dogpatch, to learn about heat transfer and sublimation printing from designer-in-residence and French artist, Aurore Thibout. Sublimation printing is a technique that enables designers to create images on textiles, such as cotton-polyester fabrics. Through the process a solid is converted into a gas, and back to a solid, without going through a liquid phase.

Sunlight streamed through the warehouse's back windows as participants introduced themselves, found a workspace, and unpacked shirts and fabric. Using a heat press, participants experimented with the imaging technique to create innovative fashion designs.

Amy Williams, who chairs the California College of the Arts' fashion program, brought two college seniors with her to the workshop. "It's lovely," said senior Steven Soundara about the event. "I like having an opportunity to work with someone who is a fashion designer."

"She's sharing some of her ideas with us," said senior James Zormeir, about Thibout. "It's good to step away from school for a while."

Braden Weeks Earp, a Yale graduate in architecture and design, directs The Workshop Residence,



Photograph by Keith Burbank

Vanessa Einbund (right), a Potrero Hill resident, and a participant at the day's workshop, shares her designs with Aurore Thibout, the current resident at The Workshop Residence.

which was founded by Ann Hatch. Hatch previously founded The Capp Street Project, another artist residency program, which was one of the first of its kind in the United States. She also co-founded, with Robert and Margrit Mondavi, The Oxbow School in Napa, an independent arts-oriented high school.

"You will have to experiment," Thibout told participants, as she explained the day's design process. "Be careful, the press is hot," she added, advising participants that the press' temperature is 200 degrees Celsius, roughly 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Workshop Residence is located in Dogpatch's burgeoning locally-made products district, which includes Modern Appealing Clothing store – which sells apparel produced in San Francisco – and Piccino, an Italian restaurant and coffee bar that creates meals from locally-grown food. Hatch started the business in Dogpatch because she wanted to be part of the neighborhood's "newness." It's a "vibrant, frontier-like place," she said.

The Workshop Residence, which is a for-profit business, hopes to promote cross-pollination among craftspeople, artists, and design-

ers, with residencies that increase awareness of the creative community. So far residents have been internationally-recognized artists and designers, but the enterprise will be inviting emerging artists as residents too. Residents are encouraged to collaborate with the Bay Area's artistic, academic, and craft communities.

We provide "the space, tools and, collaboration to make new products," Weeks Earp said. The goods made are practical items people can use in their everyday lives, such as jewelry or a bowl. The Workshop Residence's summer resident, Dirk Van Saene, designed two cup and saucer sets. Martha Davis, who began her project last fall, created several prototypes of women's shoes. One design featured an adjustable-height heel. The other had a heel crafted from a pine cone.

Leslie Ceramics, a Berkeley business, worked with Van Saene to create a custom color for the cup and saucer sets, which resulted in a new glaze color for the firm. An Oakland ceramist produced 200 small-size and 200 large-size sets.

Products created through The Workshop Residence are sold to the public at its Dogpatch warehouse, through local retailers, and online. Proceeds are split 50-50 between the artist and The Workshop Residence. Prices tend to be significantly less than other similar works of art.

The Workshop Residence has

see RESIDENCY PROJECT page 22

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– Janet J.



TEST SCORES from front page

SFUSD's executive director of elementary schools, John – who became principal two years ago – is focused on measuring his students' achievements, while strongly supporting Starr King's teachers. John worked to boost school morale by creating an inclusive community of teachers, students, and their families.

In recognition of Starr King's performance, in November State Senator Leland Yee presented the school with a state proclamation. "You should all be incredibly proud. Because of your hard work you are reaching your highest potential," Yee said. "And when you get ready to go to college, you can say it started here among your friends, teachers, and loved ones. Please know, all of us care about you so much. It's an honor to be here today."

Starr King's overall test score increased by 62 points last year, from 724 in 2010 to 786 in 2011. A score of 800 is the state's goal for public schools. Starr King "is expected to cross the 800 mark in 2012," John said, and "is now on par with the district average." The school far-exceeded the growth target set for it by the state: five percent of the difference between the previous year's score and 800, or five points. "...The gains were carried across all groups (of children). That was really affirming

for us," said John.

"Asian students are still the best-performing students at the school," John said, "but African-American students took a real leap. And needed to. We're real proud of it." African-American students' score leapt 63 points, to 640. Marks for Hispanic students jumped 65 points, to 752. The score for students identified as socioeconomically disadvantaged rose to 728;

**"This was a big change over the previous year.
The school dedicated one teacher each day to this."**

—Principal Greg John

English-language learners' scored 781. Asian-American students' score rose 38 points, to 897, while White students increased their score by 18 points, to 856. Students who identified themselves as having a disability pushed their test scores up by 62 points, to 779.

API test scores range from 200 to 1,000. A score of 1,000 indicates students are at or above proficiency levels. Following state protocol, Starr King administers the API test to second to fifth graders, in the areas of English and math, with fifth graders tested in science. The percent of Starr King students scoring at or above proficiency levels was higher for all grades in English. John credited Starr

King's advancing test scores in part to the hours teachers spent preparing. "They are here on weekends. It's been a wonderful accomplishment for us."

According to John, teachers measure their students' academic progress every eight to ten weeks, and change their lesson plans based on the standards to be achieved. "We think these things helped improve the scores," John

said. The school uses the Measuring Academic Performance, or MAP, assessment to track academic progress throughout the year. "We saw progress, but we didn't know how that would translate into the California standards test," said John. MAP measures academic success at each grade level, and helped teachers know how effectively they were connecting with students, and where they needed to adjust. "We were an early adopter, among other elementary schools in the school district," John said of the MAP assessment. English-learners were also taken from the classroom each day for one-half hour English language lessons. "This was a big change over the previous year. The school dedicated one teacher each day to this," said John.

Although overall test scores improved, in math and science some grades experienced declines. Fifty-seven percent of third-graders scored proficiently or better in math in 2011, compared to 63 percent in 2010. Only 16 percent of fifth-graders scored proficiently or better in math in 2011, compared to 28 percent in 2010. Thirty-two percent of fifth-graders scored proficiently or better in science in 2011, compared to 40 percent in 2010. According to Wayne, on average in California third-graders score lower in math than second-graders, and fifth-graders score lower in math than fourth-graders. SFUSD wants to break that trend.

MAC Sells Local

By Keith Burbank

Drawn to a "hub of creativity and product" – where products are created and made in the same community – Modern Appealing Clothing opened its second store in San Francisco last May in Dogpatch's Yellow Building. Launched as a family business more than thirty years ago at 387 Grove Street, MAC is committed to clothing and products "that honor and respect the hands that make them. We pay tailor's wages to several producers in Dogpatch," said Chris Ospital, who co-owns the store with her brother, Ben, and mother, Jeri. Jeri has been involved in every aspect of the business, but is now retired.

"We vet every single manufacturer," said Ben, "so we can sell things we believe in. It's important that we honor (the) process. Hands make clothes." MAC "puts a focus on things being made here," he said. "Clothing is no different than the farmer. It makes the tomato more precious." MAC offers clothes made in San Francisco, as well as in Scotland, Tokyo, Belgium, and France, among other places. "Fifty percent of the clothes we sell in the Dogpatch store are made in San Francisco, in particular in Dogpatch," Ben said.

MAC relies on reclaimed materials to furnish its store, from the floors to the clothing displays. The rug in front of the show room's couch is made of Ben's worn-out business suits. "A local weaver," Valerie Gnadt, "did that," Ben said.

The sibling-owners have served on the board of Creative Growth Art Center – which assists adult artists with disabilities – for a quarter-century. The center provides its clients with "...a professional studio environment...gallery exhibition and representation, and a social atmosphere among peers," according to its website. A bright, colorful, and comfortable chair in MAC is the work of four Creative Growth artists.

Our store is really "a response to what are values are," Ben said. "This is the last neighborhood where things are made," Chris added.

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Kids On The Block



The Offenhartzes will start 2012 by celebrating two birthdays! **Claire** turns six on the 9th and **Sean** will be four on the 18th – woot! Have a magical year, sweet beans. Love, Mommy, Popi and Thuggie Da Dawg



Jasper Avery (left) and **Ellis Randall** (right) Barringhaus
Date of Birth:
Labor Day 2011 (September 5th)
Parents: Katie Pollard & Cory Barringhaus



Name: **Kiera Helena Lal**
Date of Birth: Thanksgiving Day
Parents: Kieran and Denise Lal



Joshua and **Sydney Gill** on November 27 at the San Francisco Zoo. Wishing all of our friends and neighbors on the hill a Happy New Year!



Cashin Fischer turns three January 27th!
We love our big girl!
Love, Mom and Dad



Happy Birthday, **Bridget!** Now you're three! Thank you for sharing your party with us. Love, Mama, Daddy, Gramma, Grampa, and Uncle Eric



Ava Curletto lost her first tooth!! She's got another loose one and she's hoping to lose it before December 25th so she can sing: "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth!"



Dear **Lolapie**,
Happy birthday and many many more to come. We love you more than the universe. Dad, Mom and Grandpa



Welcome to the world! These two cousins are the newest additions to Dogpatch and Potrero Hill. **Sophia Elise** was born to Wahida & Carl Randecker in November and **Mason Clark** was born to Jennifer Yip & Christian Randecker in December.

Monte Cristo Club Continues to Thrive

By Sergio Nibbi

For centuries, salt was the most commonly used way to preserve food. Salt cured olives, meats, fish and delicacies, like salmon grav-lax and the Italian granddaddy of them all, prosciutto. But in today's modern world of refrigeration and sub-zero freezers why would anyone take a perfectly good piece of freshly-caught cod and go to all the trouble of curing it in salt for weeks, only to have it soak in water for days to reconstitute it?

To find out I visited the Monte Cristo Club, located at 136 Missouri Street, to speak with the experts, Giacomo Moscone and Albi Salvi. I figured traveling to Potrero Hill, where my office is located, would be easier and cheaper than flying to Portugal, where years ago I enjoyed their version of bacalhau – Portuguese for “codfish” – while on a cruise through the Mediterranean.

One of the Monte Cristo Club's rituals is their overcrowded and oversold monthly baccula lunches. On these occasions it's not unusual for club members and guests – all of whom are male – to spill-out onto the sidewalk while waiting to get upstairs to snatch a few precious lunch tickets from Anita Anderoli, the ticket counter and cash handler. The lunch crowd sits on straight benches, back to back, while young women serve pasta, always with pesto, a sauce originating in Genoa. Giacomo and Albi are both from Genova, and for years made their own pesto from basil, garlic, pinenuts, olive oil and cheese. Today the sauce is purchased from a local supplier.

The club celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2006; most of the original members were Irish. Over time the club surrendered its Irish roots to northern Italians. The club was originally located at 17th and



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Once a month at lunch the Monte Cristo Club serves a popular Portuguese dish, baccula – a salted codfish, open to the public. Book early as spots for this special entree fill up quickly.

Arkansas streets. In 1928 the present building was constructed for the princely sum of \$8,000. Through the years additions and improvements were made, but the club's original feeling was never lost. With roughly 300 members, the Monte Cristo is as successful as ever; members gather once a month for dinner, and fill the hall for their monthly baccula and tripe lunches.

Originally, the baccula lunches were prepared for a small group that gathered on Good Friday, but the event grew increasingly popular. Now on Good Friday the club is packed with more than 300 members and guests, including women. With both Moscone and Salvi up in years – Albi will soon turn 92 – new blood is welcomed in a kitchen that's been feeding members and friends for 105 years. Both Moscone and Albi

spent their professional careers with San Francisco's garbage companies, Moscone with Golden Gate Disposal and Albi with Sunset Scavengers. For years they've worked in the club's kitchen. According to Giacomo guests periodically have asked him where he was trained; what culinary school he attended. He reminds them that he was a “garbage man.”

Since 1906 the club has provided great food and generous drinks to thousands of happy members and guests. There's no reason to doubt that the tradition will continue well into the next millennium. Stories abound about politicians invited to private parties, the favors, the card games, the camaraderie and of course the great food. Never tried it? Find a member, buy him a drink and have him snatch a ticket for you. Once you enter that innocent-looking building and join the crowd you'll know what 100-plus years has done to the Monte Cristo...not much. Same food, same fun and yes, that same baccula. Don't expect a great big smooch at the end of the meal. After all, if you sat in a barrel of salt for all that time, you'd smell too.

UCSF - Mission Bay's Scientist Dave Morgan Studies Segregation

By Erin Currie



Photograph by Erin Currie

In order for a cell to duplicate, it needs to package its DNA into an easily manageable form, copy that DNA, and move it to opposite sides of the cell so that when the cell divides, the DNA is distributed evenly between both new cells. Dave Morgan's laboratory studies the process of dividing the DNA between the cells, called “segregation.”

Cancer is caused by too much cell duplication. It starts with too many cells in one place, and causes significant health problems when excess cells move from their normal place to a new spot in the body. Morgan believes that by thoroughly understanding segregation it can be controlled. By managing segregation, excess cell duplication may be regulated, which would mean taming cancer.

Morgan's laboratory is currently studying a protein called “separase.” When DNA is duplicated during cell division, it's held together by protein rings so that the timing of separation can be carefully controlled. Separase clips this ring, and allows the DNA to separate in a manner that's managed tightly in time and space. The DNA is then pulled to different sides of the cell by an amazing protein machine called the “spindle” that uses molecular

see **SCIENTIST** page 22

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If you have been thinking of selling your home, 2012 may be an excellent time to take advantage of strong demand from buyers.

Sales Prices for All Potrero Hill Homes Sold in 2011*

2009 17th St	\$750,000	860 De Haro St	\$1,960,000	628 Missouri St.....	\$480,000
1566 19th Street	\$831,500	890 De Haro St	\$920,000	654 Pennsylvania St ...	\$717,000
2005 19th St	\$2,150,000	1136 De Haro St	\$840,000	1013 Rhode Island St .	\$1,040,000
1306 20th St	\$825,000	1151 De Haro St	\$960,000	1429 Rhode Island St...	\$855,000
265 Arkansas	\$1,550,000	1470 De Haro St	\$520,000	538 Utah Street.....	\$710,000
758 Arkansas St.....	\$500,000	519 Kansas St.....	\$1,100,000	531 Vermont St	\$995,000
752 Carolina St	\$3,250,000	746 Kansas St.....	\$1,595,000	823 Vermont St	\$765,000
1056 Carolina St	\$795,000	1308 Mariposa St.....	\$900,000	905 Vermont St	\$699,000
380 Connecticut St....	\$900,000	357 Mississippi St ...	\$1,817,000	600 Wisconsin St.....	\$1,595,000
646 De Haro St	\$1,060,000	437 Mississippi St ...	\$1,105,000	636 Wisconsin St.....	\$1,201,000
706 De Haro St	\$1,437,500	407 Missouri St.....	\$1,050,000	1163 Wisconsin St.....	\$660,000

In 2011 the average sales price for a home on Potrero Hill has been \$1,107,061*.

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*Sales information as of December 19, 2011 in SFAR MLS.

Foreclosure Crises Lingers in Bayview

By Katrina Schwartz

According to the California Reinvestment Coalition (CRC), a nonprofit organization that advocates for fair banking and financial services for low-income individuals, since 2008 roughly 12,400 homes in San Francisco have gone into foreclosure. Many neighborhoods – including Sea Cliff, the Marina and Pacific Heights – survived the collapse of the nation’s real estate market relatively unscathed. Likewise, neighborhoods dominated by rental units – such as South of Market and South Beach, where 86 percent of residents are tenants – were less likely to be snagged by toxic mortgages. Fully half of foreclosures in San Francisco have occurred in Supervisorial Districts 10 and 11, which includes Bayview, Excelsior, and Visitacion Valley.

“We’ve looked at neighborhoods that are majority-minority communities, mostly communities of color, and it’s become pretty clear that they were disproportionately affected both by receiving bad loans and now through foreclosure,” said Kristina Bedrossian, CRC’s media and development coordinator. According to Grace Martinez, of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Districts 10 and 11 also house a lot of City employees, union members, and people who hold most of their wealth in their homes. Martinez has countless stories of fraud and manipulation of her clients, mostly Bayview residents.

“There’s another senior who is still dealing with her bank. She only had \$32,000 left on her house and this bank had refinanced her loan. And now she owes over half a million dollars on her house,” said Martinez. “She’s 82-years-old, never worked a day in her life and she’s living off her husband’s pension who passed away a few years ago.” According to Martinez, in many of foreclosure cases people lose their homes, which are sold at auction for a fraction of their value. Meanwhile, the former homeowner loses everything, and is marred by a bad credit score that’s hard to shake.

It’s easy to wonder why people signed onto loans that seemed suspiciously too-good-to-be-true, like the “pick-a-payment plan” type of loan, in which the borrower could choose their monthly rate for five years, even if the monthly

African-American Population Continues to Dwindle in San Francisco Neighborhoods

By Katrina Schwartz

Predominately relegated to the City’s Southside, plagued by violence and environmental justice issues, and suffering from a lack of cultural identity, San Francisco’s black community is ailing. In 2005 then Mayor Gavin Newsom convened the San Francisco African-American Outmigration Taskforce, with a mandate to study outmigration trends and identify

ways to bolster the City’s dwindling black population. The taskforce, composed of civic-minded citizens, academics, and civil servants, among others, released a series of findings, including that the unemployment rate among African-Americans tended to be more than twice that of non-African-Americans; the number of African-American-owned businesses had fallen dramatically; and the population of very low-income

African-American households in San Francisco jumped from just over half in 1990 to more than two-thirds in 2005.

The taskforce recommended that existing affordable housing be stabilized and improved, and that more affordable housing be built. It called for improved infrastructure to support pre-kindergarten through college opportunities for African-American students, adoption of strategies that increase employment opportunities in African-American communities and more communication between police, community members and the criminal justice system. The report was released in 2009, and promptly shelved.

The University of San Francisco (USF) attempted to revive the issue this fall. “The State of Black San Francisco” consisted of a panel of business, academic, activist and spiritual advocates discussing African-American outmigration. Newsom’s taskforce based its findings on 2005 census data that showed a decrease in African-Americans since the 1970s. The 2010 census paints an even bleaker picture. In the last decade the City’s African-American population shrank by more than 22 percent. Simultaneously, the Asian-American and Latino populations grew by 11 percent, and the European-American population decreased by 12.5 percent. Black San Franciscans now make up less than six percent of the City’s population.

The USF panelists agreed that African-Americans’ struggle for equality and improved quality of life resonates with San Francisco’s values. “The character of this City, where we are deeply motivated toward equality, expanding on notions of freedom, figuring out how to do democratic community better...All of those goals and objectives and themes are deeply resonant with the African-American experience, and in fact have been supported historically since the founding of San Francisco by the African-American experience,” claimed Rhonda McGee, a taskforce member and USF professor of law. “But the bottom line is who we are as a City is, in fact in ways we don’t acknowledge, deeply infused with the African-American experience. And we lose our soul when we lose that component of who we are,” she finished. McGee’s statement was met with murmurs of agreement from the crowd and the other panelists.

McGee noted that at its peak in the 1970s, blacks represented almost 14 percent of the City’s population.



Photograph by Lisa Tehrani

The Bayview residence of Carolyn Gage who, facing foreclosure, held a press conference early this winter announcing that she and her grown daughters would “reoccupy” their home.

Bayview Foreclosure Fighters Take a Stand

By Katrina Schwartz

Some Bayview residents have taken heart from the Occupy San Francisco movement, and decided that they won’t let the banks that took their homes continue to determine their fortunes. The group calls itself San Francisco Foreclosure Fighters, and consists of City dwellers that are fed-up with callous financial institutions. Earlier this winter Carolyn Gage held a press conference to announce that she and her two grown daughters were going to “reoccupy” their home. “I am here today because I am reclaiming my home. My neighbors and I are tired of banks destroying our communities, kicking families out of their homes, and the government doing nothing to stop them,” Gage said.

The house is located at 1335 Quesada Avenue. It was built by Gage’s father more than 50 years ago. “For the past three years I have attempted to pay my mortgage, modify my mortgage, and even sue the bank. They have done nothing to work with me,” said Gage. Instead of passively following the eviction notice, Gage moved back in.

Gage, like other Bayview-Hunter Point residents, believes that she was

a victim of predatory loan practices. She held almost all of her wealth in her house, which was fully paid off at one point. She refinanced in the late-1990s to pay for home improvements. She refinanced again to lower her rates, and was promised that her monthly payments would fall. But they never did.

Gage refinanced four times, the last time in 2006. At that point, Gage was living off worker’s compensation; she was injured while working as a San Francisco Police Department deputy. Gage alternated between working and disability, but the worker’s comp payments weren’t consistent, making it difficult for her to keep up with her mortgage, which assessed almost an 11 percent interest rate. In 2007, the bank foreclosed on her house. Gage has been fighting what she calls an “illegal foreclosure” ever since. She even had her loan documents audited, and found several violations of the Truth in Lending Act. “I know it was predatory. I know I was targeted. After 50 years you don’t just walk away from the legacy you worked so hard for,” said Gage.

The Foreclosure Fighter event

Radio Africa & Kitchen Puts Down Roots in Bayview

By Jeanne Storck

Since 2004, San Francisco foodies have flocked to Radio Africa & Kitchen, a pop-up eatery staged by chef Eskender Aseged one or two nights a week in cafes around town. Diners are attracted by the fresh, organic fare, but they also come for the festive, impromptu atmosphere. Fans no longer have to worry about the when and the where of the restaurant; the beloved pop-up has relinquished its makeshift quarters and settled in a permanent location at the corner of Third and Oakdale streets.

Radio Africa & Kitchen has evolved over a period of years. Ethiopian-born Aseged arrived in San Francisco in the late-1980s, and started out waiting tables at culinary hot spots like Square One, Boulevard, Hawthorne Lane, and Campton Place, spending his off hours at home recreating the inventive dishes he saw at work. Without money to open his own restaurant, he turned his kitchen into an improvisational café, where friends gathered for meals featuring fresh ingredients, many of which were grown in Aseged's garden. In 2004, he began accepting invitations to cook one or two nights a week at local dining spots: Radio Africa & Kitchen was born.

In 2009, San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC) project manager Andrea Baker approached Aseged about opening a restaurant in the ground-floor retail space of one of SFHDC's affordable housing developments. Aseged jumped at the chance. SFHDC, a nonprofit that fosters home ownership in Bayview, had originally slated a Starbucks for the 4800 Third Street location, but when that didn't happen, Baker searched for an African-American chef. Aseged was

an obvious choice. With the savings that come from SFHDC's lower rent, Aseged hopes he can shave 25 percent off the price of an average entrée, and make high-quality organic cuisine accessible to the neighborhood. He doesn't expect all of his customers to be local, and realizes he'll need to draw a mix of customers from Bayview, Dogpatch, Mission, Mission Bay, and beyond.

Guests at the 69-seat space will find a lunch and dinner menu consisting of hearty California cuisine inflected with the berbere spice and hearty wot stews of Aseged's native Ethiopia. Aseged also added soul food dishes to his previous fare, like oxtail stew, black-eyed peas, and greens.

Aseged insisted that a community garden be included in the project, convincing SFHDC to let him convert an empty lot directly across the street. Where trash, old mattresses and cars once littered the asphalt, now a dozen raised beds sprout with winter veggies. "We've got enough room between planters that we could even host a farmer's market in here," Aseged said. He ticked off a list of ideas he envisioned for the plot: gardening and nutrition lessons, musical events, and outdoor movie nights. "I don't want this to be trendy," Aseged explained. "I'm not just opening a restaurant. I want this project to have a real social and community element."

Aseged continues to offer his professional catering services, and may teach cooking classes. And for diners who miss the pop-up's spontaneity, Aseged won't completely give up his nomadic ways; he plans on doing occasional one-night-only dinners at other venues.

More information: www.radioafricakitchen.com

CRANE from View page 4

fall, "Muni construction people noticed that the crane appeared to be in jeopardy of falling, so we felt that for public and environmental safety reasons it was best for the Port and MTA to remove the crane so it wouldn't fall into the creek or become a navigational liability," said the Port of San Francisco's David Beaupre, who concentrates on the Mission Creek to Hunters Point waterfront. The crane was dismantled, and is being stored on a port street directly adjacent to the platform. "We're working with the CCLLA on rebuilding the platform, which was deteriorating, as well as restoring the crane, removing the rust, a paint job and reassembling on a newly designed platform. Hopefully once it's back in place it will look like it used to, with the exception of some paint and lighting," said Beaupre.

The renovated Copra Crane will have solar-powered light accents. The Port selected Bayview resident Dan Dodt, a lighting and electronics designer, to execute this element. "My role is to illuminate the crane, so I'm coming up with a plan for a lighting scheme, to be exclusively solar powered and completely self-contained on the dock. Hopefully it will sequence for about four hours in the evening, with some light and color enhancements. I have a preliminary conceptual

plan, but now that the design mode for the dock is underway, it's time to get serious." According to Dodt, Islais Creek's southern shoreline is well-suited for solar power.

The project is "...a third of the way finished. The additional two-thirds will probably take 18 months. The crane has been deconstructed into three pieces, along with the flight cone separator and conveyer," said Dodt.

CRISES from page 1

payment wasn't enough to pay-off the interest accruing on the loan, let alone the principal. Jose Rodriguez works as a housing counselor at the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA), and has helped a steady stream of Latino families. "Well orchestrated greed compounded with uneducated ambition," Rodriguez summed up.

Rodriguez, along with other community organizers who work on the foreclosure frontlines, including Martinez, believes that the decimation of homeownership in Districts 10 and 11 is no accident. According to Gary Rivlin, writing in *The Daily Beast*, real estate agents and loan officers received kick-backs to target minorities. The Federal Reserve of San Francisco, as well as CRC, have documented the practice of targeting minorities for predatory loans, in California and nationwide.

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Photographs by Katrina Schwartz

Mark Carpenter, Anchor Steam's long-standing Brew Master, in front of the copper kettles where the beer is produced.

BREWERIES from View page 7

beers, a taste that's in-fashion with California craft brewers. Speakeasy uses roughly 5,000 gallons of water a day, of which about one-third becomes beer; the other two-thirds get washed down the drain.

Hall looks for a couple of things in the water he uses to brew. "Beyond just the flavor of the water itself, and I think our water tastes good, pretty neutral, we look at the pH of the water. And ours, at least down here in Bayview, is very high; it's about nine-point-two and seven is neutral." Water with a high pH will increase the tannins extracted from

the grains as they stew, giving the beer a caustic flavor. To counteract the high pH, Speakeasy adds lactic acid to the wort, the stewing grains that will eventually become beer.

Brandon Borgel, Speakeasy's director of sales and marketing, said that the brewery tries to make their processes as efficient as possible, but without expensive new brewing and packaging equipment it's hard to get "whole percentage point" savings. To increase efficiencies the brewery would have to grow, increasing its profit margin. Space just opened up in their building, which the company is now using for storage. In the long-term plan Speakeasy plans to expand its operations.



Top: Several beer varieties are produced at Anchor Steam, which are available for tasting at the company's headquarters on De Haro Street. **Bottom:** Speakeasy brewmaster, Kushal Hall, cleans spent wort – a mixture of stewed grain – out of a stainless steel tank.

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FIGHTERS from page 1

drew a crowd of roughly fifty supporters, including Supervisor John Avalos. “We are losing our diversity in San Francisco,” said Avalos. Some of participants were from the Occupy San Francisco encampment, which sprung up as a protest against the practices of big banks, including Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Chase.

The march down Quesada Avenue to Gage’s home, and her announcement that she’d reclaim the property, attracted substantial media attention. But it was also intended as a day of action. Organizers asked those assembled to take out their cell phones and call Bayview Lending, the Florida-based company that now owns Gage’s loan. The number didn’t work. According to Gage, she’s working with the Mission Economic Development Association to reach the lender and work out a deal.

Another Quesada Avenue resident and foreclosed homeowner, Vivian Richardson, said she benefited from the day of action. Supporters sent 1,400 emails to Aurora Loans, the company that owns Richardson’s mortgage, in just three hours. About a week later Richardson got a call from Aurora, who told her that they were finally willing to discuss modifying her loan. Richardson was grateful, and hoped things would work out, but knew it was the support of others that gave her this break. “He asked me if I could update my Facebook status to let the people know I was in communication with them,” she laughed.

Richardson didn’t think the mortgage company’s behavior had been very funny up until now. She’d been communicating with the loan company about her financial status since 2006, when she lost her telecom sales job and scrambled to find retail work, finally settling on caregiving. She wanted the company to know early-on that she wasn’t going to be able to meet her mortgage payments, so they could work something out. “I got refused a number of times. They said it was because of my income,” said Richardson. The intransience of lenders to help borrowers in trouble is what angered Gage and her neighbors. “Some of us are deciding we have to stand up for ourselves and fight back and fight for what’s ours,” Gage said.

POPULATION from page 1

Many African-Americans worked in the Hunters Point Shipyard, or in Bayview’s “Butcher Town.” After the shipyard was shuttered, and tanneries and meat processing industries closed, people left in search of other job opportunities. In the first decade of the twenty-first century the flight of working class African-Americans in the 1980s and 1990s was replicated by middle- and upper-income black

“No one can survive even moderately on the poverty rate anywhere, but especially not in San Francisco.”

—N’Tanya Lee, the former executive director of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth

families, who left San Francisco seeking affordable housing and better schools.

“The traditional poverty rate is pretty meaningless in San Francisco. No one can survive even moderately on the poverty rate anywhere, but especially not in San Francisco,” explained N’Tanya Lee, the former executive director of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, an organization that works to improve educational opportunities for working class families. Lee advocated for adoption of the “self-sufficiency wage,” which measures how much money people need to live independently without public assistance in a given geographical area. “What’s significant is that people who make ‘middle class’ wages, are poor in San Francisco,” she said.

“As someone who has adopted San Francisco as my home, I’m upset. The tone of conversations about outmigration upsets me because we aren’t upset enough,” said Lee. “The state of black children in our education system is one of many, many indicators of how our City has failed our community.” According to Lee, San Francisco has the worst test scores for black students of any urban school system in California. Only half of African-American students graduate from high school; of those who do, only 20 percent have the credits that would allow them to attend a University of California or state college institution. Lee pointed out that

this failure to educate black students prevents them from becoming powerful leaders of their generation and for the City.

“The bleakness is the rule, the good moments are the exceptions. And that’s the tragedy of the black experience in San Francisco,” lamented James Taylor, USF’s Politics Department chair. “I’m not talking about that we haven’t had a Kamala Harris, but I’m talking about in terms of the quotidian, ordinary, pedestrian experience of ordinary black folk,

it’s more like the Tenderloin than it is like City Hall.” Taylor, who was asked to speak about the power of the black vote in San Francisco politics, was clearly upset. Issues important to African-Americans have remained constant and unaddressed since the 1940s, including affordable housing, residential segregation, job discrimination, educational policy, and police brutality, all of which were identified in the 2009 taskforce report as meriting municipal attention.

Taylor was dismayed that one of the most defining moments in the African-American experience in San Francisco is Justin Herman’s Redevelopment Agency and the urban renewal projects intended to “improve” conditions in the City’s “slums.” The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association catalogued this history of redevelopment and forced migration in an article entitled, “Fifty Years of Redevelopment: Lessons for the Future.” Redevelopment activities mid-century last displaced more than 4,000 African-Americans from their homes in the Western Addition and Fillmore Districts. After removing African-Americans from their “blighted” houses, the Redevelopment Agency set aside a percentage of those Victorians for restoration and eventual habitation by wealthier, European-American families. “When you talk about the black experience...it is bleak. And it’s been bleak for 160 years,” Taylor emphatically stated.

“When you treat a people as if they don’t exist, you have robbed them of the most important component of being part of the human family,” began Reverend Malcolm Bird, pastor of the historic AME Zion Church in the Western Addition, which was established by slaves fleeing west in 1852. “By renaming the Western Addition ‘NoPa,’ real estate investors, individuals in government and potential stakeholders robbed this community of its identity.” When Bird arrived in San Francisco from New York City three years ago he thought his days of marching for equality were over. He was surprised to find San Francisco’s black community in such dire straights. His congregation has dwindled from its peak of 1,100 in 1903 to just 193 today.

“It’s also part of a long-term intentional project to rid major cities of their black and poor populations,” Taylor said sadly. “This is a master plan. And when Truman said in 1949, ‘go redevelop,’ instead of them making it so that everyone could participate and partake of the fruits of this idea, some people decided, like they are doing right now, let’s eat all the cake and let them fight over some crumbs.”

In the end the USF panelists agreed that San Francisco’s African-American community has felt systematically marginalized, neglected, forgotten and ignored for decades, with little hope that the City will change.

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Downtown High School Teaches Key Environmental Lessons

By Paul McDonald

Last month students enrolled in Downtown High School's (DHS) Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative, or WALC, participated in a two-hour exhibition of environmental issues at Heron's Head Park, located at the end of Cargo Way. WALC is the brainchild of DHS science teacher Catherine Salvin who, with other educators, created it 13 years ago to spread awareness of environmental issues, and spark youth interest in science-based pursuits.

Roughly 50 Downtown High School students – separated into five groups – were dispatched to preset learning stations set around the park, paired with second and fourth graders from Longfellow Elementary school. Each station featured a specific topic. "Hands on the land" served as a planting location, where the high schoolers worked with their younger "buddies" to cultivate small plants near the adjacent marsh. At the "Taking Action" stop, the students were provided with pre-addressed postcards to Mayor Ed Lee, to be filled-out with environmental themes. "Story Time" had the older students reading environmental tales to the elementary students. The "Science for Justice" station discussed the pollutants formerly spewed by the

now dismantled Hunters Point Power Plant, which operated next to the park from 1929 to 2007. Two sessions were held, the first from 10 a.m. to noon; the second 1 to 3 p.m.

Roughly one-third of Downtown High's 275 students participated in the event. DHS, along with Balboa, is one of San Francisco's two continuation high schools, which provide an alternative educational setting for students who are considered at-risk of not graduating at the normal pace. Through project-based learning students are offered real world activities and field trips, which engage them more effectively than traditional curricula. WALC, which is available at both DHS and Balboa is "an academic program that utilizes environmental education as the central, unifying theme with which we integrate science, English, social studies, art, technology and math."

Top right: During an environmental exhibition Downtown Highschool student Lakisha Richmond displays a model of an atom to help explain how pollutants from a now defunct PG&E plant once polluted the local air.

Bottom Right: Downtown High School's student leaders prepare for their tours and lectures at Heron's Head Park to be given to second and fourth-graders from Longfellow Elementary School.



Photographs by Paul McDonald



An advertisement for Dirty Hoe Landscaping. It features a stylized illustration of a woman in a hat and overalls, holding a hoe. The text reads: "DIRTY HOE LANDSCAPING", "(MAKING THE GARDEN YOUR FAVORITE ROOM IN THE HOUSE)", "FULLY LICENSED AND INSURED LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS SPECIALIZING IN SUSTAINABLE GARDEN DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND RENOVATION". At the bottom, it provides the website "WWW.DIRTYHOELANDSCAPING.COM", the phone number "(415) 282-1058", and license information: "CA LICENSE 88905 ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST WE-7512A QUALIFIED APPLICATOR CERTIFICATE-QC26560".

An advertisement for Studio Jewelry. It features three images: a ring, a woman wearing a necklace, and a decorative plate. A speech bubble says "Now Open!". Below the images is the text: "studio jewelry . artisan-made accessories . vintage treasures".

An advertisement for Gem & Jetsam. It features the logo "Gem & Jetsam" and the website "www.GemAndJetsam.com". A central box says "Happy New Year! Come treat yourself-- 10% off till January 30th with this ad". Below that, it lists the address "3527 20th Street @ San Carlos The Mission, SF 94110" and hours "Hours: Thurs-Sat 12-7, Sundays 12-6".

An advertisement for the Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association. It features the logo "POTRERO DOGPATCH MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION" and lists benefits: "NEW name", "NEW logo", "NEW phone number", "NEW web site", "SAME local, independent businesses", "SAME support for our community". It also provides the website "www.pdma-sf.org", meeting information "Join us for our monthly general membership meeting every second Tuesday 9:45-11:00 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza", and contact information "1459 18th Street #105 San Francisco 94107 415.779.4107".

A black and white advertisement with the text "Got News & Tips?" and "email editor@potreroview.net".

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LIBRARY NEWS

By Lynne Barnes, Potrero Branch Librarian

The library will be closed on January 1 and 2 for the New Year holidays and January 16 for Martin Luther King's birthday observance.

January Programs for Adults

Online Job Search. Learn how to conduct effective job searches, develop keywords and search strategies, and find job market information, career outlook projections, vocational training resources, career fairs, and job listings on the web. January 10, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

The Potrero Hill Book Club meets at the library every third Wednesday evening. January's selection is *The Code of the Woosters* by P.G. Wodehouse. January 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

San Francisco Seed Library. In partnership with the San Francisco Seed Library, Potrero Branch has a variety of seeds available for "checkout." Seed checkout is now self-serve. Look for the Seed Library seed packets on the first floor beneath the staircase and help yourself. The Seed Library features seasonal plantings, including mustard greens, chard, beets, parsley, sorrel, cilantro, and fava beans.

January Programs for Teens

Your Space. Gaming, crafts, computers. Bring a friend; meet a friend; hang out in our program room. Okay to bring your own computers, gaming devices, and craft projects. January 5, 12, 19, 26, 3 to 4 p.m.

January Programs for Children

Lion Dancers. The San Francisco Jing Mo Athletic Association led by Rick Wing will perform a lion dance and give a martial arts demonstration. Celebrate the Chinese New Year (The Year of the Dragon) in style with the lively, traditional art of Chinese Lion Dancers! January 14, 5 p.m.

Baby Rhyme and Play Time. For infants up to 18 months and their caregiver. January 3,10,17, 24, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Family Storytime. Storytime features stories, songs, and rhymes. For children up to five years and their caregiver. January 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Fun Flicks. This film program is offered every second Wednesday of the month and includes short films based on children's books and stories. January's films will be *Liang and the Magic Paintbrush* and *Snow Cat*. Bring a snack. For children ages three to eight. January 11, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.



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AMERICA'S CUP from front page

a battle-of-the-bands, made up of local groups.

The 34th America's Cup will be different from previous competitions. In the past, the race has been held in the ocean; the only way to view it was from a spectator boat. A World Series race held near Plymouth, England earlier this year marked the first time international sailing teams could hear people cheering for them from land. In San Francisco, the competition will be held close enough to shore to enable spectators to watch from the northern waterfront. Races will be held in an area roughly defined by the City's northern edge, the Golden Gate Bridge, Angel Island, and the Bay Bridge.

The City expects the competition to draw just under 300,000 tourists a day in 2013, on a peak day, excluding those on boats in the Bay. According to Sullivan, the estimate is an average for all the tourist sites, including Crissy Field. In comparison, the City anticipates that 120,000 people will visit daily during two World Series sailing events to be held in August, 2012. The World Series races are regattas held around the world – recently in Cascais, Portugal – which prepare sailors to compete in the Luis Vuitton Cup, and, if they're successful, to participate in the America's Cup finals.

The America's Cup Event Authority, one of four groups overseeing the race, has established a website, AC Connect, devoted to the competition. Announcements about contracting opportunities for small businesses will be posted on the site, and a portion of it is devoted to highlighting local business services. Businesses registering on the portal will be vetted to see how well they fit into the local economy and environment. "If a business is hiring local citizens," Sullivan said, "then it's not paying a lot for transportation costs, which is considered a sustainable practice." According to Stephanie Martin, America's Cup Event Authority's chief communications officer, information provided by businesses to the Event Authority will be destroyed once the race is over. "People's information will not be given or sold to anyone," she said.

"AC Connect is live," said Martin. "We are accepting applications into the website, then we'll start to use it as a resource once the CEQA [California

Environmental Quality Act] process is complete and we have work to move forward on." The race's CEQA report is expected to be certified by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors this month. "Also, the City is encouraging businesses to hire from the local population...this America's Cup race [may] be engaging a new audience. The race is trying to attract a younger demographic," Sullivan added.

The City hopes to host the race in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner. To that end, the America's Cup Organizing Committee is working to raise just under \$40 million to pay for race expenses. Thirty-two million dollars will pay for CEQA review, public safety activities, transportation costs, and City overhead. Roughly \$8 million will be dedicated to financing costs, utilities, and the committee's operating expenses. Kyri McClellan, the America's Cup Organizing Committee's chief executive officer, wouldn't say how much has been raised so far, but indicated that it has been pleasantly surprised by donors' generosity, and is on target to meet its goal of \$12 million by the end of this month.

LETTERS from page 2

Exercised Dog

Editor,

I read the November Shortcuts section, "Exercised Dog," about the Chihuahua that was being forced to run next to a Buick. This is really appalling. I applaud the women who confronted the abuser. The dog certainly needs to be taken from this guy. If individuals aren't able to get the dog away from this man, I urge all the witnesses to call Animal Care and Control Emergency/Abuse line and give the Buick's license number to the dispatcher.

I too had to get a little dog away from an abuser many years ago. Fortunately, I was successful, with friends, in doing so, and it was ever so gratifying to take care of the little dog and find an excellent loving home.

I hope there's success in getting this Chihuahua taken from this animal abuser. Please continue to follow this story.

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Photograph by Emily Payne

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San Francisco Firefighters Distribute Toys, Just Not Through Chimneys

By Paul McDonald

Launched in 1949, San Francisco Toys for Tots is the nation's oldest and largest toy giveaway program. From a handful of firefighters fixing bikes and playthings, the program last year distributed more than 400,000 toys to in excess of 40,000 needy children. Running between the last week of November to Christmas Eve, in 2011 Toys for Tots operated from a Jerrold Street warehouse, formally a beer distribution site and now a storage and maintenance facility owned by the San Francisco Academy of Arts College.



In early-December a group of Santa Clara University alumni sorted and bagged toys for that morning's giveaway. Donated toys are categorized by age and gender, and placed into large bags according to a set of criteria per recipient, such as one stuffed animal, one game, and one doll. With upwards of 50 people sorting and bagging, the process proceeded quickly. It needed to: at the other end of the warehouse families were lined up to receive their gifts at the pace of one bag distributed every two minutes.

The program receives personal and corporate donations. Not all donated items are appropriate for the target recipients. The concert

promotion company Live Nation provided boxes of concert shirts, including for Tom Petty, Poison, Meat Loaf, Billy Crystal and Barbara Streisand, whose shirts contained a gaudy gold embroidered "B" from a 1994 tour. The program focuses on low-income San Francisco children, age 12 and under. A post card with a pick-up time and day is mailed to approved applicants. The program runs six days a week during the holidays, and collects toys year-round at San Francisco firehouses. Collection barrels are also provided to businesses that want to participate.

Sponsored by Firefighters Local 798, the program's mission is to provide gifts to families struggling to make ends meet during the holiday season.

For more information, see the website: sffirefighterstoys.org



Photographs by Paul McDonald

Above left: Volunteers sort hundreds of donated toys into the appropriate bins. **Above right:** A brightly-painted, red '50s pick-up truck is the special vehicle dedicated to delivering toys to children age 12 and under for the SF Fire Department's Toy Program.

UCSF Mission Bay Community Meeting Fourth Street Public Plaza Proposal

Monday, January 23, 6:30 p.m.

UCSF Mission Bay Campus
Genentech Hall—Room N114
600 16th Street

(between 4th and Owens—enter from campus quad on north side)

The plaza is proposed for 4th Street between Mariposa and 16th Streets, adjacent to the UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay currently under construction.

Public Plaza Key Elements:

- No motor vehicle through-traffic except in cases of emergency
- Pedestrian Oriented
- Bicycle route
- View corridor
- Pedestrian bridges in later phase
- Sloped seating area (small open amphitheater)
- A balance of trees and sunny spaces.

This meeting also provides an opportunity for the community to discuss the Initial Study, which includes the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This allows UCSF to learn about potential concerns early, as well as further define the issues, feasible alternatives, and potential mitigation measures that may warrant in-depth analysis in the environmental review process. This meeting is not required by law. The Initial Study is available online at <http://campusplanning.ucsf.edu>. You can obtain a paper or CD copy by calling 415/476-2911. To give written feedback on the Initial Study, please write to Diane Wong, UCSF Campus Planning, Box 0286, San Francisco, CA 94143 or email her at EIR@planning.ucsf.edu by January 23, 2012.



UCSF Mission Bay Campus is accessible using the MUNI T-Third light rail line. Complimentary parking available in the UCSF surface lot on 4th Street @ 16th Street—not in the parking garage.

UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a need for accommodation, please email community@cgr.ucsf.edu or call (415) 476-3206 with your suggested accommodation.

If you would like to be placed on UCSF's notification list for this or other projects, please email community@cgr.ucsf.edu or call (415) 476-3206 and indicate which campus locations interest you: Parnassus, Mount Zion, Mission Bay, Laurel Heights, San Francisco General Hospital.





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Community CALENDAR

January 2012

Through January 13

Art: Ray Anthony Barrett at SOMArts

SOMArts presents artist Ray Anthony Barrett's drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and poems investigating the language, materials and symbols that define his experience of contemporary consumer culture. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Friday, 12 to 7 p.m.; Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. Free. 934 Brannan Street. Information: www.somarts.org.

6 Art + Food: Lunch Break at SFMOMA

SFMOMA will transform into a neighborhood lunch break room to celebrate the final weeks of Sharon Lockhart: *Lunch Break*. In The Schwab Room off the museum's atrium, Vietnamese pop-up café Rice Paper Scissors joins SFMOMA mainstays Blue Bottle Coffee Co. and Caffè Museo in selling special menus inspired by the exhibition. 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art 151 Third Street, San Francisco 415.357.4170 www.sfmoma.org

6-29 Performance: Future Motive Power

Mugwumpin returns with the world premiere of a mind-bending performance piece inspired by the life of inventor Nikola Tesla, created for the vault level of the historic Old Mint. Tesla's riveting, peculiar life provides the inspiration for Mugwumpin's newest original performance about ambition, transcendence, and the terrible price of genius. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$30. The Old Mint, 88 5th Street. Information: www.mugwumpin.org.

8 Kids: Magic Classes

If abracadabra is one of your favorite words, this class is for you. In celebration of the exhibition *Houdini: Art and Magic*, the Museum is offering kids a chance to develop their magic skills. Class open to seven through nine year olds. 2 – 3:15 p.m. \$12. Contemporary Jewish Museum. 736 Mission Street. Information: www.theejm.org

11 Through February 5 Theatre: Food Stories

Word for Word presents a foodie's theatrical delight: satirist T.C. Boyle's *Sorry Fugu* and award-winning Alice McDermott's sensuous *Enough*. Boyle's story presents Willa, a renowned food critic, who arrives at Albert's restaurant only to witness disaster. *Enough* chronicles a woman's life, from licking of ice cream bowls as a kid

to aging and the endless variety of pleasures. Wednesday & Thursday, 7 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 8 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: \$30 – 40; pre-views January 11, 12 & 13 at 7 p.m. \$20. 450 Florida Street. Information: www.zspace.org.

11 Music: JimBo Trout

Music verteran JimBo Trout has been lighting up San Francisco stages for 20 years. As a solo, JimBo performs on guitar, banjo, and harmonica from a huge catalog of songs and styles which include bluegrass, ragtime, blues, cowboy music, swing, honky-tonk, Appalachian, rock+roll, and more. 7:30 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street. Information: www.jimbotrout.com.

12 Music: Captain Casual Blues Band

Captain Casual is local stringbender Andrew Goberman, with Paul Olguin on bass and Peter Tucker on drums. The band plays a mix of blues-based favorites and obscurities, some swing tunes and some early-60's "brill building blues." There's always an interesting guitar on hand, some snappy patter and good clean musical fun. 7:30 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

13 Community: SFMTA Parking Proposal Public Hearing

Join in the discussion on the new parking meter proposals for Potrero Hill, Mission Bay and Dogpatch. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will hold a public hearing to hear your comments. 10 a.m. Room 416 (Hearing Room 4), City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place. Information: www.sfmata.com/cms/chomepk/meetpkindx.htm.

14 Environment: Tours of Heron's Head Park

San Franciscans are invited to tour Heron's Head Park under the guide of high school interns. Tours are one hour long beginning every half hour beginning at 10 a.m. Come by and experience the thrill of observing and learning about the waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds that call the park home during the winter. 10 to 11:30 a.m. \$10 adults; kids free. Heron's Head Park, Jennings Street at Cargo Way. Information: www.sfnature.org/programs/heron_head_park.html.

16 Music: President's Breakfast

Enjoy live music by Presi-

Parking Meters on the Hill?



Photograph by Jennifer Durrant

Join in the discussion on the new parking meter proposals for Potrero Hill, Mission Bay and Dogpatch. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will hold a public hearing to hear your comments. See Calendar **January 13th** for details.

dent's Breakfast, a collective of some of the Bay Area's most talented Jazz and Funk musicians. 6 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street, San Francisco CA 94103 Information: www.moadsf.org.

18 Music: Soul Delights

The ever-popular Soul Delights return to Farley's. 7:30 p.m. Free. 1315 18th Street.

20-21 Dance: The Furthest Distance Between Two Points

PerceptionsWest, a new, bi-coastal contemporary dance company, presents the multimedia duet *The Furthest Distance Between Two Points* from directors Molly Fletcher Lynch (SF) and Melissa Gendreau (NY) and Table Talk, a new group work by Lynch. Part of The Garage's RAW (Resident Artist Workshop) program. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 – \$20. The Garage, 975 Howard Street. Information: www.975howard.com.

21 Family: Folktales Across the African Diaspora

Luisah Teish tells stories about the environment through her character Millie Greenleaf. These original stories employ traditional African-American storytelling devices such as trickster wisdom, rhymes and call and response. This interactive presentation concludes with the creation of mixed-media crafts using natural objects and other recycled materials. 2 to 4 p.m. Free with paid admission.

27-29 Dance: So I Married Abraham Lincoln...

Dance Mission Theater presents the world premier dance about the life of Mary Todd Lincoln and the American First Lady body, featuring a hot parade of first ladies and a host of cross-dressing male ghosts. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$15 – 18. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street. Information: www.dancemission.com.

27 Through March 3 Theater: Vice Palace—The Last Cockette's Musical

Thrillpeddlers original Vice Palace cast returns to San Francisco with their smash hit revival. This performance follows Divina, played by drag king superstar Leigh Crow, an eccentric and wealthy woman who spares no expense to keep her jet-set party guests entertained, while the villagers just beyond the walls of her lavish estate are ravaged by the plague. Each performance must top the next in this bizarre race to escape the one uninvited party guest, death, and look fabulous as they do it. Limited run of only 12 performances. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$30 – 35. The Hypnodrome, 575 10th Street. Information: www.thrillpeddlers.com.

Hill Resident Ponders Apple's Future without Jobs

By Rheba Estante

Apple's prospects have been the subject of speculation ever since Steve Jobs died last year. *Fortune Magazine's* senior editor at large in San Francisco and 20th Street resident Adam Lashinsky offers some insights into the company in his new book *Inside Apple*, which reveals how the high-tech enterprise is preparing for a future without its founder. The book emerged from a May 23, 2011 *Fortune* article written by Lashinsky, a seasoned business journalist who has covered Silicon Valley extensively. Interviews with Apple insiders and industry executives form the basis of his book.

Jobs' 1997 return to Apple resurrected the company, which had expanded into office equipment – such as printers – but had been reduced to a bit player in the personal computer market. The company was rumored to be close to bankruptcy. Jobs refocused Apple on PCs, concentrating on what Apple did best: create superior computers and design innovative products to enhance the laptop experience, such as music and videos, from which the iPod and iPad emerged. Jobs created products that people wanted and eventually felt they needed, cultivating a consumer who bought into the Apple brand and lifestyle. Jobs made sure that new product details weren't released until the day the new item was offered for sale, as a way to build up expectancy.

Lashinsky's book focuses on Apple's creativity, and the company's culture of secrecy. "When teams at Apple are developing or designing new products they are sectioned off. People work on a project, but others in the company may not know what it is," said Lashinsky. This creative incubation led to the most innovative of Apple's designs, according to the author.

Lashinsky suggests that it's too soon to know how much of Apple reflects Jobs' personality. The company's secretive environment often meant that Jobs alone made final decisions on product design. It also made it difficult for executive management to control the creative process because only Jobs knew what sectioned-off teams were working on. Jobs had the final say on everything. He could unilaterally terminate or change a project or team at the last minute. Some employees only reported to Jobs even if they had a different direct report in the

company hierarchy. "Jobs worked to institutionalize his thinking and creative process," said Lashinsky. "It is unknown what blueprints he left behind."

Secrecy appears to be one element of Apple's culture that will live on past Jobs. While Jobs left behind institutional outlines and a pipeline of projects, it's unclear whether this stock of concepts and innovation is enough to enable Apple to thrive. "The consensus is that there was a structured pipeline of Apple products in development for the next 18 months to five years," said Lashinsky. "Planning is in place. Jobs was known to kill projects at the last minute because he was never firm on anything until it was approved. This may not be the case now."

Inside Apple describes how Jobs tried to train people to be innovative. Whether he was successful in teaching his staff to think like him is yet to be seen. "Apple is going about like its business as usual," Lashinsky said. "Jobs was gone for most of 2011 and was in and out of the company's daily operations. However, his spirit was everywhere, and now people feel his absence. Steve was whom people would reference to because he had the final say. Now that is gone."

According to Lashinsky, Microsoft has struggled since Bill Gates left. Now there's talk of Gates returning to rescue his company. Companies without the spirit of the leader who made them can find themselves in precarious positions. However, Lashinsky is optimistic about Apple. "Most everything was about product for Steve Jobs. It still had the feel of a start-up when he died," said Lashinsky. "Yet Walt Disney survived some tough years after Walt died, as did IBM and Polaroid after their founders were gone. Edwin Land, who began Polaroid, was fired as CEO but the company remained. Jobs idolized Land."

Lashinsky's book describes how Jobs founded Apple University in 2008 as part of his vision to institutionalize the innovation process after his death. Jobs tasked chief operating officer Joel Podolny, former dean of Yale Business School, with developing Apple University.

"Jobs was a strong willed founder and was a role model till the end," said Lashinsky. "He made sure there were plans in the drawer to keep what he created alive."

Then & Now



Photographs by Jennifer Durrant

Walton Chang, the View's distribution manager and Tennessee Street resident, pictured above with his family, wife Linda and children, Kameron and Deanna, in 2000 (top) as part of *whoarewe.org*, a photo project originally shown at Farley's. Chang is the former owner of Golden Dragon Printing and his children are now both college students. Kameron helped his dad distribute the View up until leaving this fall for U.C. Santa Barbara (Class of 2015). Deanna is a sophomore at Bryn Mawr College (Class of 2014) in Pennsylvania.

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Get a Job

By Mauri Schwartz

The View asked Hill resident and career expert Mauri Schwartz to answer questions from job seekers. Submit your questions to editor@potreroview.net.



Q: I have an interview scheduled with a search committee panel for an accounting manager position. I have a friend who works at the company who isn't on the committee. I'm taking him out for lunch to get his advice. What should I ask him?

A: I'd ask questions to learn as much as possible about each of the panel members:

—If you know the panel members' names, ask him about each one: personality, hot buttons, and the like. Before you talk with him, do some research using LinkedIn and Google.

—If you haven't been given names, ask your friend who will be/or is likely to be on the panel, and then ask about each one. You can still go to LinkedIn and Google after your conversation and get some information about their backgrounds. It'd be good to know if any panel members have a financial/accounting background or education.

—Ask your friend what aspects of your experience he thinks are most relevant. Tell him your thoughts, and then ask what he thinks.

—Have you been able to ask anyone why this position is open? Is it new or is it a replacement? If it's new, ask what's changed with the company that prompted them to hire someone for the position. If it's a replacement, ask what happened to the previous person. Why did they leave? If they were let go for a particular reason, such as a lack of the right skills, you should be prepared to emphasize your achievements in that area.

Mauri Schwartz is President / CEO of Career Insiders www.CareerInsiders.com.

In Defense of Eating

By Steven J. Moss

When I find myself at a roadside restaurant or Fisherman Wharf-type eatery, I practice "defense ordering." The strategy, which I acquired after years of bad meals, is simple: never select a complex entree, or one that relies on sauces or multiple melted cheeses as a key ingredient. Eggs benedict at Joe's Snack Shop in Madera is a no-no, as is lasagna pretty much anywhere. Complexity is the enemy of good, or even edible, food in the hands of ill-trained cooks. Outside a few select communities, even "fresh made lemonade" still means a powdered-mix drink served with ice cubes, a lesson I learned the hard way.

In Africa – where, as a young man, I regularly ate street food, and, just as regularly, regretted it – I amend my defensive eating policy to include: never eat chicken. In West Africa, at least, chickens seem to be slowly tortured to death before their scrawny, stringy carcass is dished-up on a plastic plate. Since meat is a luxury on this still mostly impoverished continent, not eating chicken once it's served, even as a paying customer, is even less appetizing than choking it down.

Recently, I had the opportunity to stay at a rustic lodge nestled in Rwanda's intensely gorgeous green hills. It was the kind of place where a hot water bottle – two, if you're lucky – is provided to keep you warm in bed during the chilly nights. The small staff consisted of the manager – a flirtatious twenty-something, who remarked with a smirk while handing over the nightly water bottle that a man needed something

to keep him warm at night – a receptionist – a duty filled by an impeccably suited Rwandan who had the innocent, unintentionally funny air of Andy Kaufman's "foreign man" character on the television show Taxi – and a cook, who was reminiscent of a certain type of young woman frequently found at University of California, Berkeley cooperatives, or a Phish concert. Short, clothed in many western layers, with a shy smile and slightly bulging eyes. I'd paid for room and board for three days, and, for the first two of these, was the establishment's only guest.

The cook operated from a menu that appeared to have been stolen from an Italian restaurant located in Brooklyn. It listed many complex pasta dishes and pizzas, as well as "moked chicken" and a variety of salads. I was immediately on the defensive. For dinner I selected the cheese omelet, my go-to meal in such circumstances. A burrito-like thing appeared, stuffed with what seemed to be every ingredient in the kitchen, except anything that might have been cheese: onions, peppers, potatoes, things similar to twigs, chewy pebbles. After serving the dish the cook stood a few feet away, in slouched attention, staring at me, a practice she might have thought replicated the headwaiter's attention at a fine French restaurant. There was no escape. Slowly, with much chewing, I ate the concoction. The cook had won the first round.

The next day, for lunch, I ordered the "moked fish," which resembled bony fish and chips. It was not terrible. Unfortunately, after being told the "avocado vinaigrette" wasn't available I'd also requested the "mixed picante" salad, which consisted of a mass of fibrous sticks over which an expired spice may have been waved. As the cook stared I gamely picked through half of it, smiling idiotically as I got up and said I was full.

At that point, with day and a half left, I should have just stuck with the moked fish, which had proven itself to meet minimum palatability. But, with her sincere smile and eagerness to please, the cook had laid down her challenge. I ordered the "pizza magharitte," which turned-out to be an open-faced "cheese" omelet.

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Henry Joseph Judnick

1927 ~ 2011



Henry Joseph Judnick, 84, passed away peacefully on November 25 in Napa. A native San Franciscan, he was born to Henry and Sophie Judnick, who operated Henry's Bar on 17th Street. He was the nephew of Christine Schwegel – who lived at 20th and Rhode Island streets until her death in 2008 – with whom he enjoyed dining at Goat Hill Pizza, where they were spoiled by former waitress, Andrea.

Judnick attended Polytechnic High School. He graduated in 1945, and immediately joined the United States Navy, serving in World War II's closing days. He returned to the Bay Area, and worked as a lithographer for 39 years at

Western Can Company. He married Joan Besozzi in 1951; they enjoyed more than 60 years of marriage.

Hank, as he was known, retired to Napa Valley to be close to family. He enjoyed the many years he spent coaching youth baseball in Novato, and was an avid fan of the San Francisco Giants, 49ers and University of Tennessee Volunteers. He was a member of SIRS Branch 149, The Roadrunners RV Club, and the Napa Elks Lodge. Hank enjoyed reading mystery novels, golfing, and woodworking, traveling to Europe and South Africa and completing jigsaw puzzles.

Judnick is survived by his wife, Joan, his daughter Denise (Mike) Loughran of Napa, and son David Judnick (Anita) of Johannesburg, South Africa. He leaves grandchildren Erin (Jim) Hastings of San Francisco, Kevin Loughran of Napa, Jo-Anne (David) Wilson, Scott (Elena) Judnick and Brett Judnick, of South Africa, and two great grandchildren, Jesse Wilson and Dakota Judnick, of South Africa. He will also be sorely missed by his ever faithful dog, Bella.

A celebration of Judnick's life was held last month at Tulocay Cemetery in Napa. The family thanks Dr. George Vellucci of Kaiser Napa, the caring staff of The Berkshire Assisted Living and Napa Valley Hospice for their love and support.

Words of sympathy may be sent to the family online: tulocaycemetery.org.

PUBLISHER'S from page 2

prises, employing mostly working wage San Franciscans, many of which rely on private vehicles to carry supplies to work and clients. The neighborhood is developing just like it was envisioned in the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan, the City's blueprint for the community's future. There are no corporate shuttles, and the few surface parking lots cater to long-term service vehicles. While meters would likely result in a decline in parked cars, they would serve mostly as a regressive tax—of upwards of \$2,500 a year—on small business owners and their employees, the revenues for which would go into SFMTA's mush pot, with no guarantees any of the funds would be used to increase transit access in Dogpatch or Potrero Hill.

Parking is never really free. It's paid for by taxpayers, who

set aside and maintain space that could be used for something else, and through the public health and environmental consequences of automobile use. But its availability contributes to economic productivity, and, in the absence of good transportation alternatives, a better quality of life. Ongoing growth – medium-rise residential buildings are being steadily constructed throughout Dogpatch, and Pier 70 will ultimately, and massively, be developed—will soon enough require new parking policies to be adopted in the community, including strategic meter deployments on such true retail corridors as portions of Third and 18th streets. But these should be informed by the neighborhood's character and needs, and matched with a comprehensive plan to get people where they want to go, rather than an out-of-context canned solution, no matter how innovative or federally-subsidized.

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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

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Potrero Hill Resident Works Cases at District Attorney's Office

By Sasha Lekach

Assistant District Attorney Michael Maffei, who goes by "Mike" and lives on Vermont Street, likens his job working in San Francisco's courts to being a restaurant server. "It's like being a waiter, you have to multitask," he said, as he mimed holding two trays filled with plates, cups, and special orders while not letting anything drop. Except Maffei's days are spent juggling cases; lots of them.

As an assistant DA Maffei, 32, represents "the people," prosecuting cases on behalf of Californians. He's one of about 250 employees who work at the DA's office. Maffei is currently assigned to the preliminary hearing unit, where he handles as many as 45 cases a day. His commute to his Hall of Justice office from his apartment near Highway 101 will soon shift somewhat; he and his girlfriend Phoebe Eustis, who also works at the Hall as the charging assistant DA for the misdemeanor department, are moving to Pennsylvania Street.

On an early November day at the Hall, located at 850 Bryant Street, Maffei was in the third floor office he

shares with two other assistant DAs. It was a "light" day, with just 23 cases on his calendar. The office was filled with boxes of files; it didn't appear to be a light day. Blue files were scattered around, which Maffei explained meant the case involving a gun. One of his morning preliminary hearing files was blue. He's typically in court from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He arrives at his office at 7 a.m., staying until 6 p.m. working cases and arranging for the next day. He has a midday lunch break, which he said is usually spent reading through files; he doesn't see it as much of a respite.

Maffei spends much of his days in Department 12, a courtroom on the Hall's first floor. He's assigned to this courtroom every three days. "Part of the job is to move cases along," he said. "We don't want victims to have to wait." In the preliminary hearing unit, cases proceed quickly; everyone has a right to a hearing within 10 days once a case has entered the justice system.

Maffei is almost ready to head down to court before a 9 a.m. start time, but he's still prepping for the day and even week ahead. He takes

a few minutes to remind an officer to appear in court next week. Maffei then grabbed a metal cart on wheels that appears to have been magically organized by paralegals, interns and other staff and filled with case backgrounds, legal forms and a legal dictionary. Maffei expressed great gratitude for the preparatory work done by the office support staff; it makes his chaotic days much easier. As he dragged his cart through the office hallways to the elevators he said, "It's a race against time," referring to his relentless caseload, not the journey to court only a few floors away.

At his assigned courtroom, Judge Lucy McCabe – who is retired but frequently visits San Francisco courts – was rifling through papers and chatting with court staff, bailiffs and stenographers. Maffei has been working at this particular court department for six months; he knows how things proceed. As soon as he entered the courtroom he pulled out a pen and organized his prosecutor's desk – which faces the judge – with the piles of necessary paperwork. He chatted with the public defender assigned to his department for the day. They'll both spend the next several hours in court, and, having worked together before, are friendly, discussing cases that are on deck for the day. While their conversation seemed casual, they've decided to settle a case; it won't be prosecuted. The defendant will plead guilty and take a deal Maffei and the public defender have negotiated.

The first official case of the day begins with a man clad in orange sweats issued by the county jail. The defendant is involved in a health and safety code violation; some sort of drug charge. Maffei and the public defender have settled the case; the judge explained to the man the condition of his probation. The judge repeatedly asked if the defendant understood that if he violated his probation he'll go to prison for five years. The defendant confirmed that he understood that he'd given up his right to a preliminary hearing. Maffei's request for a stay-away order from where the man had been arrested is granted. It's on to the next case.

A slew of people and paperwork cycle through the courtroom over the next half hour, with Maffei constantly moving, reading, signing documents or talking to someone. Finally it's time for a preliminary hearing for a gun case that made headlines last fall. A San Francisco Examiner article described police responding to a 4 a.m. call about an armed man, later identified as Roderick Turner, 49, at Ellis and Taylor streets and tackling him to disarm him. Turner's attorney, Ryan King, took the place where a public defender had been standing at the podium facing the judge. Maffei called police officers involved in the incident to testify. Officer Jeff told the court that he'd been with the San Francisco police department for five years, posted to the Tenderloin station. Maffei asked McHale a series of questions about how he'd arrived at the scene, his exact movements when he got there and saw Turner with a gun, and how he came to tackle and bring him into custody. Maffei also

displayed photographs of the gun Turner was found carrying.

The defense asked the officer a number of detailed questions, focusing on the gun's angle and the timing of when officers arrived. "Did he [Turner] make threatening statements to you?" asked the attorney. When the officer responded "No," it became clear that the attorney had demonstrated that the officer had not been directly targeted with the gun. The judge confirmed the mini-victory for the defense when it was decided that a brandishing charge Maffei had added to the case after Turner's arrest would be dropped. Turner was still charged with three other gun charges and for resisting arrest, but the lawyer and his client seemed pleased nonetheless.

The morning continued with some drug cases, many of which were settled quickly, until a public defender balked at the settlement terms for a man found with crack on him. Maffei argued for certain probation terms; the defense shuttled back and forth with her client in the back of court to see what he'd be willing to accept. The defense pushed to release the defendant, while Maffei was inclined to enforce tougher probation terms. "It's a constant struggle with what to do in each case," Maffei said. According to Maffei, his "boss," newly elected DA George Gascon, is tough on drug offenses.

The DA's office consists of many departments, which are broken down into divisions, which are then comprised of units, such as Maffei's preliminary hearings, which is part of the criminal division. Other units in this division include homicide, misdemeanor, felonies, gangs, and assaults. Each has its own chain of command. Maffei's direct boss is Dave Merin, the head of the preliminary hearing unit. Merin reports to the head of the criminal division, Braden Woods. Woods reports to the chief of operations, Sharon Woo. She reports to Gascon. Maffei and Gascon don't directly discuss cases, but cross paths in the office hallways.

Maffei ended his week with a weekend trip to San Diego, where he serves as a lawyer for the Navy; he's a reservist. Maffei attended the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. After graduating in 2005 he served as a Naval attorney in Southern California and Washington, D.C. He joined the DA's office in 2010, starting in the misdemeanor unit. He'll soon move on to the felony unit, where he'll be responsible for prosecuting assault, battery, murder, robbery and kidnapping cases.

Maffei also serves as the neighborhood assistant DA for Potrero Hill, which entails attending community meetings – such as the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association – on behalf of the DA's office. "One of the purposes of this program is to make one assistant district attorney directly available to each neighborhood in San Francisco," Maffei said. "Should folks in the neighborhood have any questions or concerns about crime or the criminal justice system, they can then contact the neighborhood [assistant district attorney] with those questions."

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METAL from page 5

Bayview. The homeowner visited all the area's metal recyclers until he located the missing pieces needed to complete his bathroom.

The crime's persistence is partially a result of the difficulty revoking the licenses of recycling companies that knowingly buy stolen metal. "The companies say it is the responsibility of the police to find out who's the legal owner of the metal, not theirs," explained Lavin.

Trayer Engineering, located at 23rd and Pennsylvania, has been hit so many times that the businesses' owners, John and Patty Trayer, leave the facility's gate open at night, rather than lock-up and then find holes cut in their fence when they arrive to work in the morning. "It has cost us thousands of dollars in the losses and the cost of trying to protect ourselves," said John. "Now that we have video surveillance we know every time someone is on the property. So do the police. But there has been just one arrest out of 30 or 40 incidents in the past few years. And that guy was turned into the cops by another one of the criminals who didn't like it that someone else was poaching on his territory."

While most of the crimes on Trayers' property take place in minutes, with the perpetrator slipping under, or through, a hole

in the fence before authorities arrive, the police have occasionally arrived in time to catch the perpetrator. Generally, however, the police "figure it's more important to catch people who are committing more serious crimes," said John, who has been told that that even when a thief is arrested, "the DA is not going to prosecute."

According to Lavin someone found on private property without authorization is threatened with arrest for trespassing unless he leaves immediately. "So they just say 'okay' and leave. If you can catch them with something they're stealing you can make an arrest. But once they see the cops coming they ditch whatever they were going to take."

Bayview District officers are accustomed to people caught with scrap metal defending themselves by stating that "I just found this" or "Some guy gave me these copper pipes because he doesn't need them." Unless the material is obviously stolen - with, for example, a PG&E or Department of Public Works stamp on it - there's little hope of proving the suspect came by it illegally.

Trayer Engineering has been in Dogpatch for more than more than 30 years, and employs 50 people. "San Francisco really doesn't care about businesses. That's crazy. The City needs businesses to be here." Ironically, metal recyclers also tend to emphasize the importance of nurturing small businesses in

the City when they fight attempts to close them down for illegal practices.

Enforcement difficulties and high values - copper currently fetches \$4 a pound; brass brings \$2 - suggest that metal theft is likely to continue. Lavin cited a state law that took effect this year making illegal possession of scrap metal a felony rather than a misdemeanor, even if its value is under the \$1,000 threshold that determines the theft's consequences. "That should have some impact on the problem," said Lavin. "When we do catch someone with some metal that doesn't belong to them, they won't be cited and released. They'll get taken to jail."

RESIDENCY PROJECT from page 8

hosted three residents since it renovated its space last August. It expects to host about eight each year. The length of each residency largely depends on the artist. "We are flexible," Weeks Earp said. "It can be as short as two weeks, if the idea has been conceived and prototyping can be achieved in two weeks...and we want the process to be participatory too, between the shop, the designer, and the public. When people stop at the shop, they will be able to buy items and see designers at work."

The Workshop Residence is located at 833 22nd Street, www.theworkshopresidence.com.

SCIENTIST from page 11

scaffolds, ropes, and pulleys to shuttle the chromosomes apart.

Morgan describes his life as "not very spicy, but what do you expect from a family guy?" When he came to UCSF 30 years ago, as a graduate student, Morgan was heavily involved in San Francisco's music scene, a fan of Flipper and Dead Kennedys. Now his weekends are full of endless trips to soccer and volleyball games with his children. Morgan has two 13-year-old twin boys, Stefan and Leif, at Aptos Middle School, and a daughter, Linnea, in 10th grade at Lowell High School.

While Morgan is frustrated with state budget cuts that have pushed teachers to their limit, he's determined for his kids to go to public schools. Like many families, Morgan and his wife Marianne, a pharmacist at Kaiser hospital on Geary Street, juggle two jobs along with the need to get their kids to athletic games and school, help with homework, and keep them from playing too many video games.

Morgan acknowledged one major vice: an addiction to books. He collects old volumes, particularly science texts about cell division. Many of his favorites were published in Germany in the 1800s. They've taken over his living room. Perhaps some segregation is called for.

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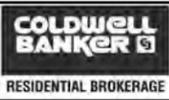


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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) is pleased to announce the availability of the RFP for 2012-2013 for Economic Development program under two funding sources: Community Development Block Grant, and San Francisco Redevelopment Agency.

The RFP will be available electronically on OEWD's website at www.oewd.org and on MOH's website at www.sf-moh.org. All proposals must be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 19, 2012. Supporting documentation must also be received by OEWD by 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 19, 2012.

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Commission on the Environment Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2012 at 5 p.m., City Hall, Room 421. Commission on the Environment meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 5 p.m., City Hall, Room 416. For more information:

Commission on the Environment can be found at this website http://www.sfenvironment.org/our_policies/overview.html?ssi=10

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The solution is simple; when shopping, please bring a reusable bag with you. It's that easy!

For more information visit: www.sfenvironment.org.

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

SAN FRANCISCO REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETINGS

Over 15 Meetings Scheduled To Maximize Public Participation In The Redistricting Process

The San Francisco Redistricting Task Force will be holding meetings in each of the Supervisorial districts to maximize public participation in the redistricting process.

The Task Force urges the people of San Francisco to attend the meetings, provide input and submit proposed district maps in compliance with established criteria no later than March 29, 2012.

The Redistricting Task Force must finish redrawing district lines before April 15, 2012.

The following community meetings are scheduled for January, February and March 2012:

*Please Note: The locations for the *SPECIAL MEETINGS* are still being determined. Location information will be available at sfgov.org/rdtf.*

JANUARY SCHEDULE:

Wednesday	January 4	Regular Meeting
	6pm	Room 406, City Hall
Monday	January 9	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 11
Saturday	January 21	Special Meeting
	10am	District 6
Thursday	January 26	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 10

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE:

Wednesday	February 1	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 9
Monday	February 6	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 2
Saturday	February 11	Special Meeting
	2pm	District 1
Friday	February 17	Regular Meeting
	3pm	Room 416, City Hall
Thursday	February 23	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 3

MARCH SCHEDULE:

Thursday	March 1	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 8
Wednesday	March 7	Regular Meeting
	6pm	Room 406, City Hall
Monday	March 12	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 7
Saturday	March 17	Special Meeting
	10am	District 5
Thursday	March 22	Special Meeting
	6pm	District 4
Thursday	March 29	Special Meeting
	6pm	City Hall



Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting will be held at the Bayview Station, 201 Williams Avenue. Next meeting: January 3rd, 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: January 10th. 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.

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: www.potreroboosters.org or email president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: January 31st, 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: January 10th, 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: January 3rd, 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.

Starr King Open Space The Starr King Open Space Board Meeting is on Tuesday, January 10th, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the library of Starr King Elementary School, 1215 Carolina Street. The third Saturday of each month come learn about our native flower's while being a steward for our land. The next Land Stewards Work Party is January 21st, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the Open Space along Carolina Street, across from Starr King Elementary School. For more information: www.starrkingopenspace.org; email the Board of Directors at starrking-board@gmail.com; voice mail 415-633-6756.

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A MONTHLY UPDATE
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REBUILD POTRERO

VOLUME 16 • JANUARY 2012

Rebuild Potrero is an exciting initiative to transform Potrero Terrace and Annex public housing into a mixed-income, mixed-use community where individuals and families can thrive. The process for redevelopment is long and complex and requires the ongoing dedication of everyone involved, including Potrero residents, neighbors and community organizations, and the project's funders and donors who have made this effort possible. As we kick off 2012, we want to thank everyone who has committed his or her time, energy and optimism to this exciting initiative including the local neighborhood associations which have hosted our presentations, and whose members have joined many of our activities and committees: Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, Potrero-Dogpatch Merchants Association, Parkview Heights Homeowners Association, Unite Potrero, Sierra Heights Homeowners Assoc., Dogpatch Neighborhood Association.



2011 was a year of great strides. Plans for the physical redevelopment moved forward with the ongoing preparation of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report and building designs for the two blocks anticipated to be developed first. Additionally, the Community Building Initiative gained momentum and structure by defining its roll in the community and putting together a talented and energetic team.

The overarching goal of the Community Building Initiative is to increase the capacity of residents living in Potrero Terrace and Annex to improve their quality of life and effect positive change in their community well beyond the physical redevelopment. This includes developing relationships with neighbors and connecting community members from all parts of Potrero Hill through positive and fun community events. The ongoing dedication of the Community Building Group that meets regularly throughout the year is integral to uniting Potrero Hill as one community.

Over the next year, we will be leveraging the accomplishments of 2011 and scaling up the Community Building Initiative with the addition of the Texas Street Garden, a 1/3 acre garden that will provide fresh produce to residents of Potrero Terrace and Annex. Educational programs and job opportunities will be provided through the garden and programming will be fully integrated with other Potrero healthy living activities such as a nutrition class, walking club, zumba and other gardening activities.

2012 promises to be a pivotal year for Rebuild Potrero with the completion of the Environmental Impact Report and public hearings on the proposed development. We look forward to continuing to engage with all of you as this important and exciting initiative continues to take shape.

Reminder: Walking Club, every Monday 2-3 p.m., corner of 25th & Connecticut

For more information or to join an action team, call 415-806-1429 or email potrero@bridgehousing.com

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