



February 2012

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SFMTA Temporarily Parks Meter Plan

By Keith Burbank

In mid-January, individuals opposed to a San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) parking proposal packed Room 400 in City Hall and two overflow rooms — where the proceedings were televised — for a three-hour long hearing. Virtually all of the speakers — who were given two minutes each — requested that the SFMTA plan be delayed or scrapped. Despite the opposition — from small businesses, CalTrain commuters, and residents, including a few mothers holding babies — SFMTA hearing officer John Newlin recommended approval of the proposal, under which meters would be installed in parts of Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and the Mission.

However, less than two weeks later SFpark project manager Jay Primus — who is leading SFMTA's parking management efforts — announced that further outreach would be conducted before the agency approved the plan. "The SFMTA Board will no longer be taking action on the SFpark expansion areas at the February 7th board meeting. Rather, we will conduct further outreach ahead of board action," said Primus. Shortly after Primus' statement was issued Newlin rescinded his decision. Any new parking meter plan will have to go back to a hearing officer before being approved by the SFMTA board.

At the gathering, formally termed a "director's public hearing," Newlin was tasked with obtaining comments from SFMTA staff and the public about the parking plan. "The hearing officer then makes a decision about the appropriate next steps for the proposal," said SFMTA spokesperson Paul Rose. "For matters that require SFMTA Board [of Directors] action, they will decide if the matter is ready to be transmitted to the SFMTA Board for their approval." Newlin is a SFMTA citation hearing officer who formerly served as the director of the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic.

Primus kicked-off the meeting by declaring that the proposed plan would reduce double parking, vehicle collisions, circling by drivers, and greenhouse gas emissions. Many audience members responded by waving



PHOTOGRAPH BY KEITH BURBANK

More than 300 neighborhood residents and business owners attended a January 13 hearing, most of whom opposed SFMTA's parking meter proposal.

flyers taped to paint sticks on which "no parking meters" was written. One resident wore the flyer on her back, facing the audience, when she spoke at the podium. Jim Wilkins presented 1,200 signatures he collected opposed to the proposal, primarily from Dogpatch and Potrero Hill residents. "Nobody wants this," declared one speaker.

A number of business owners insisted that they'd move their enterprises out of San Francisco if the plan is approved, pointing to the burden meters would place on employees earning less than \$18 an hour. Randy Bishop, of South-of-Market-based TriMark, said he came to the hearing on behalf of the business' 100-plus employees, more than half of whom earn less than \$11 an hour, and who are deeply concerned about having to pay more to get to work. Another business owner said the parking plan would result in safety issues for his employees, many of whom are women, who may have to park many blocks away from work. Richard Goozh, Wave 80 Biosciences' chief financial officer, which is located in the American Industrial Center (AIC) at Third and 20th streets, said

see PARKING HEARING page 5

District 10 Supervisor Sees Herself as a "Connector"

By Bill Slatkin

"I see myself as a "connector" said Malia Cohen, who last month finished her first year representing District 10 — the City's largest and most diverse district — on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. "Much of what I do is to meet with constituents and find out what they need and get them in touch with the resources that can help them." Cohen recently reflected on her work at City Hall as she toured her district, pointing-out projects she's worked on, discussing what remains to be done, and talking about the frustrations, as well as the joys, of being a supervisor.

Cohen tries to "meet as many people as I can; find out what's on their minds and what issues concern them." She meets monthly with business leaders in Bayview-Hunters Point, Potrero Hill, Visitation Valley, and Portola, and regularly communicates with groups

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City Searches for Next Drop of Water

SPECIAL WATER SERIES: PART ONE

By Lori Higa

When it comes to water, "San Francisco's just a stone's throw away from being a third-world country," said Tyrone Jue, communications director for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the municipal agency responsible for water works. Jue, wearing a bright pink Oxford shirt — in contrast to his more corporate-looking tie, vest and slacks — wasn't kidding. "With a legacy system of pipelines and sewers dating back to the Civil War, if an earthquake were to hit San Francisco, damaging the system, people would lose access to water."

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER DURRANT

Supervisor Cohen with community organizer Katherine Doumani at the ribbon cutting for the building of Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School on October 25, 2011.

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Parking Power

By Steven J. Moss

I always thought it was curious, even a little irritating, when former District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell would encourage an (angry; energized) crowd of citizens advocating for one thing or another to "Keep it up! Nothing happens unless you raise your voice!" "What do you think we're doing right now," I'd think to myself. "We've raised our voice, now it's your job, as supervisor, to 'make things happen.'" Maxwell frequently conveyed this citizen rallying sentiment; it was the centerpiece of almost every speech I heard her make, whether the focus was on closing the Potrero Power Plant, redeveloping the Hunters Point Shipyard, or making sure dogs were kept on leash at a local park.

Last month our current supervisor, Malia Cohen, gave a Maxwell-like mini-speech at a hearing bursting with people opposed to littering parts of Dogpatch, Mission, and Potrero Hill with high-tech parking meters. In voicing her concern about the proposed plan, Cohen pointed to consultations she'd had with community members, businesses, and City officials, and urged the crowd to keep up their anti-meter advocacy efforts.

I knew better than to be irritated at her words. The truth is, almost nothing changes the dynamics of a San Francisco issue unless a powerful interest group — the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, the Tenants Union, the University of California, to name a few — or a motivated collection of diverse citizens insists on it, using whatever means are available. Lawsuits leveraging the California Environmental Quality Act, among other vehicles; well-developed education campaigns, sometimes delivered by well-paid lobbyists; and raw people power packed, repeatedly, into public hearings are the stuff of which significant City policies are made, or unmade. It's a rare politician — Willie Brown; the Burton brothers in their prime — who can make things happen whole-cloth,

for good or ill.

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA) parking meter plan is a particularly difficult proposal for a member of the "City family" to oppose. Superficially, it represents everything our local political apparatus supports: anti-car, seemingly environmentally-friendly, high-tech, with free federal funds. Since it adversely impacts a group of the less powerful — small businesses, families, Southside residents — confined to just two supervisorial districts, the issue can be ignored by other board members and the mayor in a way Sutter Hospital, or Zynga, can't.

Superficially, without an understanding of the neighborhoods that would be subjected to the parking plan, it makes sense. However, on the ground it looks considerably different. The SFMTA proposal amounts to a tax on small businesses, their employees and customers, which would likely drive some enterprises out of the City, with potentially net adverse environmental consequences created by the longer distance driving prompted by formerly San Francisco businesses and residents relocating to suburban sprawl, as well as the energy necessary to install, operate and police the new meters. In less dire circumstances Twitter was given a tax break.

Former Supervisor Maxwell was essentially, though perhaps unfortunately, right. Citizen action — with politicians hurrying to get in front of the parade — was the necessary ingredient to closing the Potrero Power Plant, and advancing, in fits and starts, Hunters Point redevelopment. Perhaps Supervisor Cohen will prove to be a powerful player protecting her constituents' interests. Let's hope so. Either way, the best way to get something done in this town is to roll up your sleeves, grab a few dozen neighbors and merchants, and head down to City Hall. And it wouldn't hurt to bring a lawyer.

Letters to the Editor

Foreclosure

Editor,

The story on foreclosures ("Bayview Foreclosure Fighters Take a Stand," January) lacked balance, especially since it omitted the detail that Carolyn Gage had taken out sizable mortgages on her house without making a single payment. The amount of her last refinance was three times the amount she originally paid for her home, in fact. Other news outlets had already published this information prior to the *View* article. Although the number of foreclosures in the area is troubling, cases like Gage's are poor ones to champion.

Adriana Pagano
19th Street

Parking

Editor,

My family and I live on the 200 block of Missouri Street, just north of 18th Street. There's one small commercial property on our entire block. I have a very negative reaction to the idea of putting parking meters in front of residential properties. However, my larger concern is that placing additional meters in our neighborhood, especially on the large scale proposed by San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), would do far more harm than good.

Parking meters do a great job of increasing turnover, thereby improving parking ease for visitors to the neighborhood, including patrons of local businesses, who I support wholeheartedly. However, available parking in our area of the Hill is already sufficient to handle the traffic of these businesses, especially during daytime hours. As such, there stands to be zero incremental benefit gained from meters.

On the flip side, residents, many of whom are elderly or have young children, would be forced to squeeze into whatever unmetered spots remained. Or, they'd be forced to pay for metered parking, which could cost upwards of \$100 a month, without resulting in any incremental revenue for our neighborhood businesses.

In other words, instead of helping, these meters would create a parking problem where one currently doesn't exist. In summarizing how to determine the number of meters to install, SFMTA indicates that engineers will carefully assess how many meters they can fit on any commercial frontage, but there's no mention of an assessment of how many meters — if any — are needed in the first place. The basic question of the need for meters is being either overlooked or taken for granted, at least in our section of the Hill.

At the same time, the proposed plans aren't the equivalent of 'dipping a toe in the water' to test the need for meters. In fact, they'd have a huge impact on the parking inventory in our area. Currently, even the main 18th Street retail corridor — the one place where meters would most likely be used — doesn't have a

single parking meter. Why wouldn't SFMTA at least start by installing five or six metered spaces on that block to see how much, or even if, they get used, and then expand metering as needed?

I can appreciate the desire to deal with all of Mission Bay in a single large, coordinated plan, as Mission Bay is a newly developed area that's largely homogenous in nature. But unlike Mission Bay, Potrero Hill is a historic residential neighborhood with well-established norms that have evolved over a hundred years or more, and that can vary greatly even from block to block. While Mission Bay is a blank canvas that can be painted with a broad brush, Potrero Hill is a delicate ecosystem in which even small changes can have enormous ripple effects on its residents.

Meanwhile, the proposed plan seems to make no effort to account for the Hill's well-established neighborhood dynamics. For example, in our section of the Hill, the vast majority of parked vehicles are owned by residents. However, in the one to two square blocks around our house, the SFMTA proposal recklessly calls for upwards of 30 to 50 percent of the parking spaces to be converted to meters! As a systems engineer, I can predict that a change of even half that magnitude would have massive implications on parking equilibrium. A likely outcome: residents will suddenly be fighting with each other for unmetered parking spaces, while all around them sit dozens of empty metered spaces.

Imagine the outrage that will come from Hill residents in that event. Similarly, imagine the disgruntlement from other City residents at the taxpayer money wasted on so aggressively installing meters in one of the few areas of San Francisco that doesn't actually need them. Finally, imagine how it'd reflect on SFMTA if the metering pilot on which so much work has been done were to actually create parking problems, instead of solving them.

Many of the streets where extensive metering has been proposed contain a mix of residential and non-retail commercial, such as Missouri between 16th and 17th, or Mariposa between Texas and Mississippi. Without retail businesses to benefit, why should those residents be forced to park on surrounding blocks, resulting in the aforementioned "squeeze" problem?

What I'm really struggling to understand is which of our local taxpayers would actually benefit from the massive amount of incremental meters that have been proposed. Many residents, including my family, were drawn to the Hill in part by the pleasant lack of stress about parking that contrasts so starkly with other areas of the City, and in spite of the poor public transit options. Why is SFMTA proposing to destroy such an important aspect



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* Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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SHORT CUTS

Art

As part of Exploratorium construction on Piers 15 and 17, Potrero Hill based **Nibbi Brothers** is dispatching daily divers to repair and upgrade infrastructure under the bay. Many San Francisco piers are steadily rotting, and none were built with today's electrical and telecommunications needs in mind...Husband and wife artists **Eric Rewitzer** and **Annie Galvin** show prints and paintings, and offer linocut classes at **3 Fish Studios**, located on 22nd Street. During their daylong workshops students learn the fundamentals of linoleum carving, inking, and etching. By the by, the studio's name comes from an Irish family crest created long ago by Galvin's Dublin ancestors...Succulents and small citrus trees are steadily being pilfered from various front yard gardens in Noe Valley, Mission Dolores, and Potrero Hill. Combined with recent attacks on bee hives located at the Connecticut Friendship Community, there may be multiple evil gardeners on the loose, though rumor has it that the plants are being pawned at local landscape retailers...Heard on the Hill, while a small group of elderly union members were waiting to be seated at a neighborhood eatery for lunch: "I hated that @#%! I screwed him every chance I got," said one seventy-something. "He's dead, you

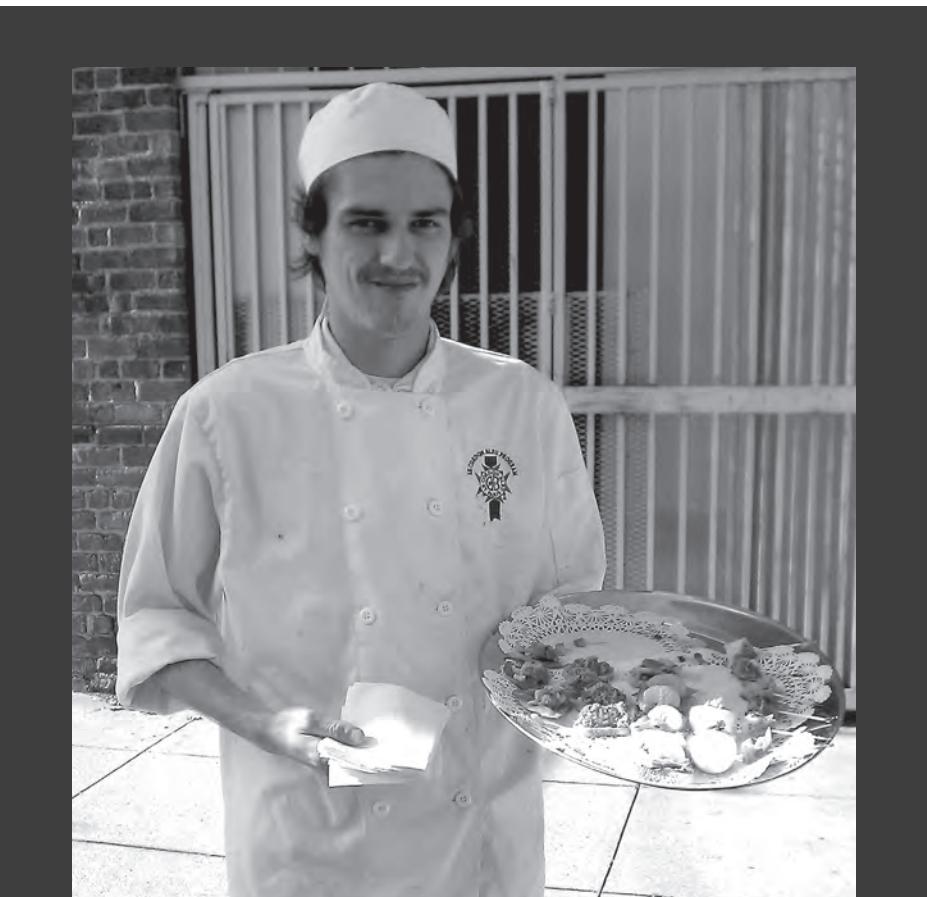
know," replied his perhaps ten-year younger companion. "Good!" replied the elderly friend. Even death sometimes doesn't create closure...

Tweets

Was that a Great Horned Owl that 20th Street residents, shoppers, and Library-goers heard? **The Good Life Grocery's Karen Hudburgh** thought so. Former *View* crime reporter Regina Anavy checked her bird app — yes, there's a bird app — to listen to the Great Horned's vocalization, which sounded very much like the 20th Street bird. But what was an owl doing singing in the daytime? Local bird expert **Sharon Beals** had the answer. The creature was a Eurasian Collared Dove, now a Bay Area resident, which is related to the Mourning Dove. Anavy recently spotted it on a wire, cooing away.

Heart Break

Mayor **Ed Lee's** appointment of Christina Olague, a community organizer with **Senior Action Network** and Mission Ant-Displacement Coalition, to the District 5 supervisorial seat was cheered by most of the City's liberal bloc. But the sound of several would-be supervisors' hearts breaking could be heard all the way from Haight Street. John Rizzo, a Community



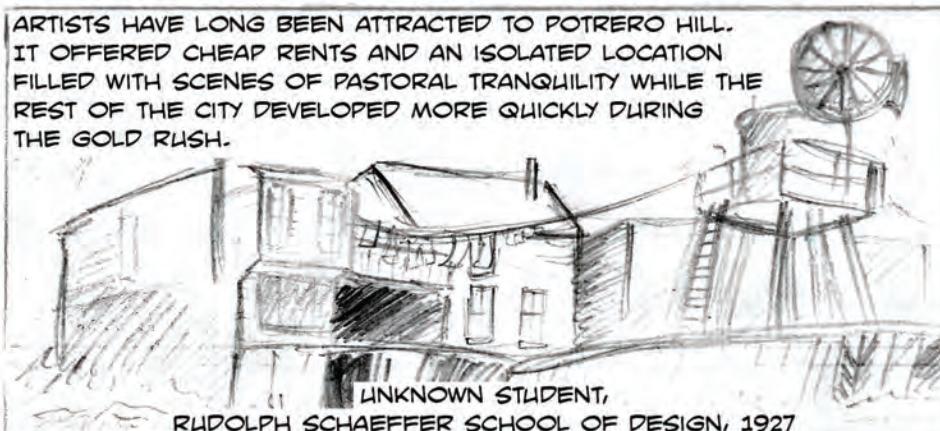
PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Roughly every six weeks, on a mid-day Friday, California Culinary Academy Students offer Kansas Street passersby some of their wares. In January Union Square resident Jimmy Ryan proffered a variety of items.

College Board trustee, has been running for the District 5 seat for at least two years; his chances of getting progressive support for a challenge to Olague are close to zero. Moderate London Breed, the African American Art & Culture Complex's executive director, who

is supported by Willie Brown, now has to decide whether challenging the mayor's pick is worth the sturm und drang. In politics, whenever you see a shooting star chances are there are several luminaries-in-waiting who are being ushered out of the theater...

McKinley Park BY Simon Stahl



Residents Mobilize to Defeat Proposed Parking Plan

By Keith Burbank

Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, and Mission residents are mobilizing to stop a proposed San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency (SFMTA) parking plan, under which meters would be installed in parts of the three neighborhoods. During meetings held last month, anti-meter advocates discussed plans to create a name for itself, launch a website, issue press releases, and lobby City officials, among other activities. The group will also continue gathering signatures from individuals opposed to the proposal, adding to the 1,300 names already collected, mostly from Dogpatch and Potrero Hill residents. In addition, the group is looking for an attorney to explore possible legal steps that can be taken against the plan.

According to Bill Schwartz, one of the group's organizers, some residents feel that the process has been "rigged;" that no matter what anyone says or does, SFMTA will approve its current plan. Schwartz said the group wants to suggest other, less harmful, ways to manage parking in the designated areas. He believes that SFMTA wants to discourage people from using cars, an unreasonable goal given residents' and businesses' dependence on vehicles for their daily lives. And people in the affected neighborhoods have no complaints about parking, Schwartz said. "Does [SFMTA] just want the \$20 million in federal grant dollars? Or is it interested in helping the people," he asked.

In a letter to SFMTA official Jay Primus, District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen expressed her concerns that, if implemented, the parking plan would discourage production, distribution and repair (PDR) businesses from remaining in San Francisco, despite other City policies to retain them. According to Cohen, PDR businesses are vital to the local economy. She asked



PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER DURRANT

Jim Wilkins and Bill Schwartz, Potrero Hill residents organizing against parking meters, stand on 18th and Missouri Streets, where SFMTA has proposed installing parking meters. For the latest updates, go to the blog: parkingmeterupdate.blogspot.com.

that SFMTA delay moving forward on its proposal.

Late last month SFMTA agreed to conduct additional outreach before approving its plan. "For the SFpark expansion areas, including the Dogpatch and Potrero Hill neighborhoods and the 12th and Folsom and 17th and Folsom proposals, the SFMTA will conduct additional outreach and engage in further discussion with various stakeholders before any further action is considered," said Primus.

The anti-meter petition can be found at www.thepetitionsite.com/2/stop-parking-meter-installation-in-potrero-hill/



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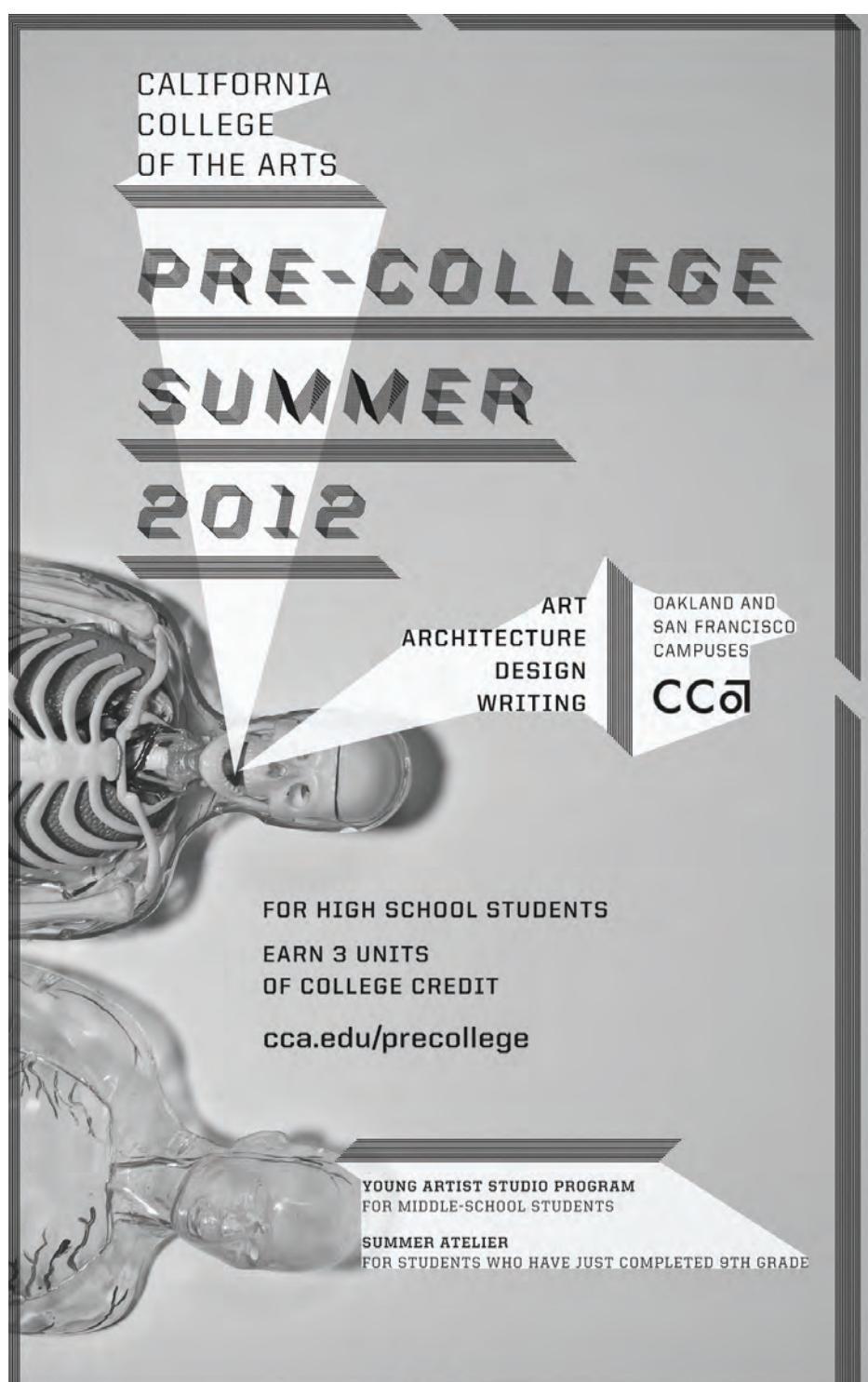
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PARKING HEARING from Front Page

he represented a number of businesses housed in AIC when he stated that "we need to re-consider. Please change the plan or get rid of it entirely." Other speakers asserted that parking meters would act as a regressive tax, disproportionately impacting lower-income residents and workers.

According to one speaker, the parking plan "will also compromise the special nature of the Dogpatch neighborhood." Dogpatch is an historic landmark district, a San Francisco Planning Department designation similar to being on the National Register of Historic Places. Some of the City's oldest buildings are located in Dogpatch; the area survived the 1906 earthquake and fire largely intact, in part because at the time the community was surrounded by marshland. New construction in historic districts must meet California Environmental Quality Act standards, which include avoiding a "significant adverse impact".

Other speakers wondered why

Mission Bay developers didn't include sufficient parking in their plans to avoid spillover effects in the surrounding neighborhoods. One resident said that once meters are installed they will never go away, and rates will steadily increase. Many speakers, including those from the Mission, insisted that SFMTA didn't spend enough time

cheered after O'Hanlon finished his statement.

A number of speakers expressed concerns about the plan's potential impact on the 22nd Street CalTrain station. According to Indiana Street resident Heather Cutler, meter costs could dissuade commuters from using the station, triggering its closure.

Mission resident Debra Walker, who represents tenants on the San Francisco Building Inspection Commission — and who ran for District 6 supervisor in 2010 — asked the board to consider a hybrid plan that covered employees and residents. "People want to pay what's fair," she said. Walker, an artist, has lived and worked at 540 Alabama for the past quarter century. She said the parking proposal is counter to other municipal plans that encourage blue collar work and adaptive re-use of buildings. Under the proposed plan, meters would be installed in a three to four block area around the north side of Folsom Street, between 17th and Shotwell streets, near where a parking lot is being replaced with a public park.

Speakers also complained that SFMTA didn't consider the plan's potential impact on animals and pets. According to one speaker, the proposal would make it difficult for the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, located at 250 Florida and 201 Alabama streets, to attract and retain people to care for and adopt shelter animals. She said the SPCA pays some of the lowest wages in San Francisco, and asked SFMTA to work with other City agencies before the plan is approved. Third Street resident Emily Gogol, a volunteer at the Pennsylvania Garden who works at the University of California, San Francisco, questioned how the "Pavements to park" initiative — under which parking spots are converted into green space — can be implemented if parking meters are installed.

"Change the plan or get rid of it entirely."

— Richard Goozh, Wave 80 Biosciences' chief financial officer, to SFMTA

talking to residents before developing their plan, with several complaining that they found out about the proposed meters from a utility pole sign. The SFMTA has "not seriously engaged the public," complained one speaker. There are "many other ways to solve this. Please postpone this proposal, so we can engage with you in an honest way." According to Charlie O'Hanlon, who owns Charlie's Place on 17th Street, SFMTA didn't do its homework, and the agency was treating him and other residents as "little people" and "guinea pigs." Audience members

What's more, parking meters would look "really ugly," said Cutler. Alex Goretsky, who owns Caffe La Stazione, said many Dogpatch enterprises depend on commuters, who travel by CalTrain. According to Goretsky, the meter proposal could shut-down his business, putting his three employees out of work, a concern echoed by other business owners.

Two-year Dogpatch resident Amanda Hyer, who spoke with her child in her arms, said she represented parents potentially affected by the plan. According to Hyer, meters would be "exhausting." She and her husband, who attended the California College of the Arts, want to stay in Dogpatch; parking meters would dampen that desire. At least one Hill resident said he lived in the community because of the ample parking. Minnesota Street resident Raymond Clemons, who lives near Esprit Park, questioned why SFMTA is proposing meters in Dogpatch when there are no meters in Pacific Heights or Seacliff.



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Herrera to Run for Reelection to City Attorney's Office

By Sasha Lekach

After announcing his candidacy for San Francisco mayor in August 2010, San Francisco City Attorney and Dogpatch resident Dennis Herrera spent the next 15 months campaigning, eventually coming in third in a crowded field of 16 candidates last November. Despite the loss, Herrera looked back on the year of merchant walks, canvassing, community meetings and countless debates with the 10 or so frontrunners as "gratifying" and "a unique year."

It was the August 2011 announcement — a year after Herrera threw his hat into the ring — that interim Mayor Ed Lee, who had been appointed by former Mayor and current state Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, would run for election, which, in retrospect, triggered Herrera's electoral loss. The interim mayor had previously assured San Franciscans that he wanted to return to his previous position as City Manager. Backed by the "Run, Ed, Run" campaign, Lee took the polls by storm, elbowing aside the other top contenders, which included Herrera, Supervisor John Avalos, Board of Supervisors President David Chiu, state Senator Leland Yee, former Supervisor Bevan Dufty and, also a late arrival, Public Defender Jeff Adachi. "[Lee running] obviously changed the complexion of the race for all the candidates," Herrera said. "It was an unexpected twist."

The 2011 municipal election was also the first to use ranked-choice voting (RCV) in a San Francisco mayoral race; another factor Herrera said made it a different year to campaign for the top City job. Under RCV voters selected their first, second and third choices for mayor, using the system to vote for other positions and measures as well. In the November 8 election,



PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER DURRANT

Lee finished with about 30 percent of the first-choice votes. Avalos followed with just over 19 percent; Herrera garnered roughly 12 percent of the vote. The votes went through 12 rounds of the RCV method before a winner was declared, according to the San Francisco Department of Elections.

Between months of splitting his duties as city attorney and mayoral candidate — as well as being a father to a 10-year-old son, husband and resident of the Dogpatch neighborhood where he's lived for 18 years — Herrera said the days on the campaign trail were generally great, with the occasional rough patch. He highlighted an enjoyable day in October at the 21st Annual Potrero Hill Festival. "That event stood out as an incredibly exhilarating, exciting event," he said. While glad-handing the booths, local vendors and neighborhood supporters, he said, "a couple of other candidates came that day and a couple joked around and said, 'Why did I even bother coming?' and we laughed about it." He considered the backing from Potrero Hill and surrounding communities as incredible, and was "gratified by the support."

About 23 percent of Potrero Hill voters — a total of 4,954 caste ballots

in November — marked Herrera as their choice for mayor. Avalos was close behind, with 22 percent; Lee was favored by 21 percent. Lee was the frontrunner in Bayview and South of Market.

Herrera said he's "certainly disappointed" he wasn't successful, "but at the same time I was proud." He said through the election he was able to raise issues that needed to be highlighted and "used it as a spring board to be the best city attorney." After the election, Herrera is still very much part of city politics, continuing his decade-long service as city attorney. "It's the best job you can imagine for a lawyer." Herrera is now 100 percent back on the job, where he's "connecting with the full breadth that my office works with, which is exciting." He listed issues he's passionate about, including conflicts surrounding the upcoming America's Cup sailing competition, coping with the ongoing state budget crisis, and investigating consumer-oriented litigation. After an easy win in 2009 with a 96 percent vote, Herrera will seek reelection in 2013 for his fourth term, he said.

Herrera ran a photograph of himself and his family in the December View as "a way to say thank you for the support and friendship. We're are part of the Potrero community." He

repeatedly acknowledged the time, support and effort that many Hill residents put into his campaign.

Supporter Mauri Schwartz, a longtime Hill resident who heads her own career resource business and runs an advice column in this paper, met Herrera at a political event in the late-1980s when she was pushing Art Agnos for San Francisco mayor. Since then she's supported him in his various political endeavors, "He encourages people to excel," she believed. Schwartz was more vocal about Lee's sudden candidacy and how that affected the Herrera campaign. "Dennis had a very good chance of winning this race had Ed Lee kept his word," the one-time San Francisco Democratic Party treasurer said. "I believe ... a lot of people who did support Dennis may not have voted because they just assumed Ed Lee would win."

Schwartz pointed to a full page View ad during election season, which featured 70 names listing their endorsements, as evidence of the neighborhood's enthusiasm for Herrera's candidacy. According to Schwartz, she personally gave money and made phone calls for Herrera's campaign even though she "[doesn't] have a lot of time, but I gave it to him [Herrera] because we need him."

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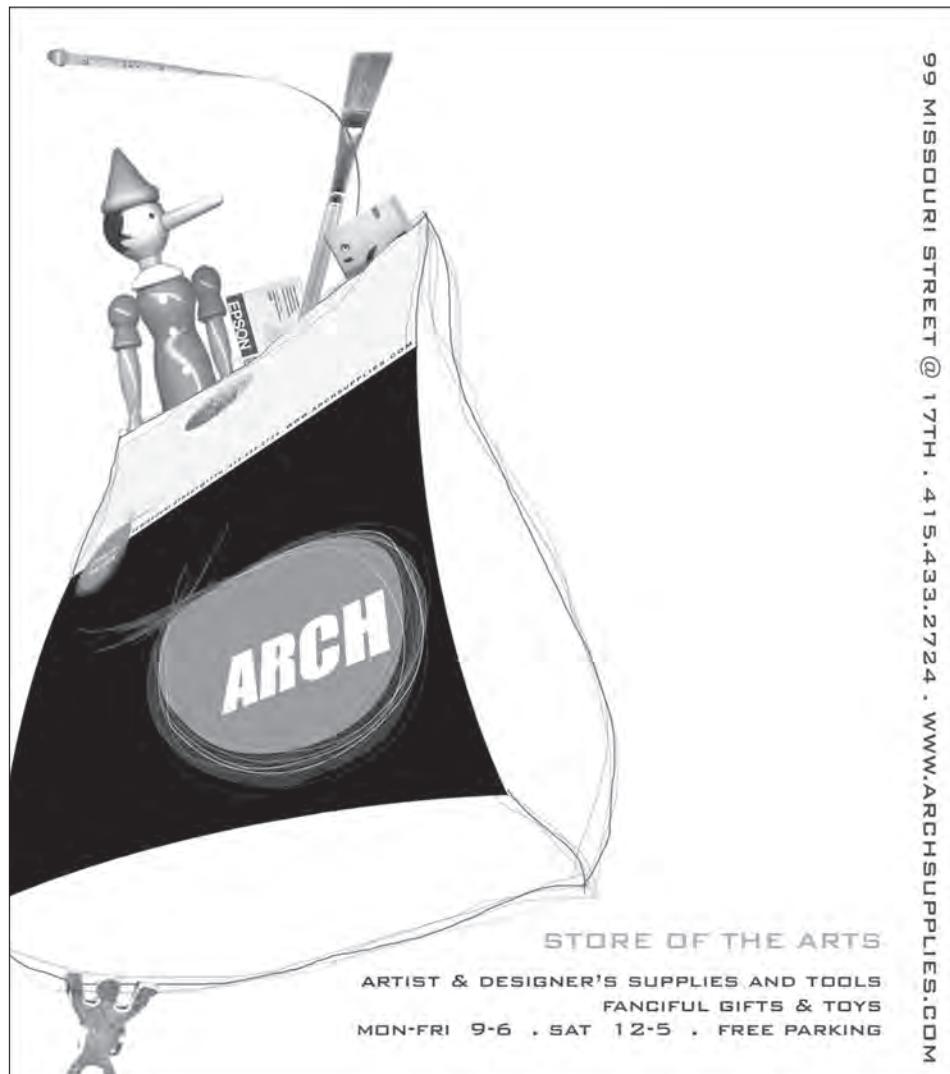
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Hill Resident Designs Unique Garden Spaces

By Keith Burbank

Vermont Street residents John and Danielle Steuernagel have a passion for gardens. Their company, Sculpt Gardens, specializes in creating landscapes that emerge as integral additions to a home. The gardens become "like another room in the house," Danielle said. The couple's own backyard garden features covered benches that double as a sleeping space.

Sculpt Gardens has historically attracted most of its clients from Noe Valley, but the company is increasingly in demand on Potrero Hill. A current project is located at 18 and Third streets, where a new property owner is transforming a warehouse into a



residence. "The gardens become little getaways for homeowners," Danielle said. "And the gardens are built to last forever," John said. Besides plants, the gardens feature stone and concrete work, including benches. Many of them have a theme, such as dog- or kid-friendly. One garden Sculpt created features a water bowl formed from basalt rock for the homeowner's dog.

Each garden requires care only twice a year, with maintenance provided by Sculpt Gardens. The gardens have low water requirements, and the company has the ability to create a zero-water garden. "Typically, the gardens have a strong Japanese influence," John said, as well as East Coast inspirations. "But what is created depends on what the client is looking for," Danielle said.

John was raised in New Jersey; Danielle is from Massachusetts. John's father owned a floral shop and landscape design business in the Garden State. "John decided to go in business for himself, rather than taking over his father's business, because he didn't want to work seven days a week as his father did," Danielle laughed. While site work occurs during the week, John draws plans on the weekends. The couple started Sculpt Gardens in 2003.

Most of Sculpt Garden's customers



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAITLIN COOREMAN

Sculpt Gardens Inc. owner John Steuernagel tests out his custom designed bench at a clients' work/live warehouse garden in Dogpatch.

learn about the company from word-of-mouth. But Danielle said a Yelp profile has led to some compliments about the business. For example, Gary O. in San Bruno said the garden built for him "looks better each year." Another homeowner reported that John had the same crew with him each day, which made his family and their dog comfortable, even though the dog is nervous about strangers.

When John's mother sold his father's business, John got his pick of the tools, many of which he uses today, such as a truck and a bobcat. The couple wants to grow their business by taking on projects with bigger budgets, which enable clients to choose from

a wider range of materials for their garden. But they also want to keep the enterprise small and specialized.

One of Sculpt Garden's more unique projects was done for Noe Valley residents Theresa Postello and Jerry Kuns, who is blind. John drew the plans for a sensory garden, and had them printed in Braille so Jerry could read them. The garden features a river with a stone bridge that gently rocks over the water as a person walks across it. At one end of the river is a waterfall that drops into a pond, thereby producing an auditory experience. Moving rocks in the river provide

see SCULPT page 22



WE ARE WHAT WE SAVE



Residents Question Whether Former Klein's Space Suitable for a Pre-School

By Keith Burbank

Roughly a dozen Potrero Hill residents attended a meeting last month to discuss a proposed change to the zoning designation for a long vacant commercial space located at 20th and Connecticut streets, from "retail" to "services." The owner of the two-story building, Timberly Hughes, proposes to launch a pre-school in the first floor storefront, which used to house Klein's Deli. But some Hill residents and businesses are concerned that a child care facility won't generate the street traffic needed for the 20th Street commercial strip to thrive.

"It's a dead street now in the daytime," said Lester Zeidman, who, along with his wife Kayren Hudiburg, has owned The Good Life Grocery, which is across the street from the proposed pre-school, for more than a quarter century. According to Steven Moss, the *View's* publisher, within a few years existing 20th businesses — which include three small food markets, a café, and a hair salon — could go under without an anchor tenant on the corner to draw traffic to the corridor. A number of the meeting's attendees believed that a restaurant — or Chat's, which until recently was slated to occupy the storefront — would be a better fit for the space, pointing to Klein's Deli

as previously drawing significant numbers of visitors to the block.

Chat's "didn't do anything" and "sat on [the space] for a year" said Hughes. But, Cyryz, Inc., Chat's owner, said it lost \$132,000 in its attempt to launch a coffee shop on the corner, but was stymied by Hughes. It hopes to finalize the dissolution of its agreement with Hughes next month. We "tried to negotiate," asserted Hughes.

According to Andrew Lipsett, a contractor hired by Hughes to renovate the space, under existing municipal codes significant, expensive, alterations would be required to make the building suitable for a restaurant, and would ruin the building's second floor, where Hughes and her family reside. "Anything's possible with enough money," he said. "No one has the financial backing to support" such an enterprise. Hughes added that it's impossible to install an oven in the storefront.

Zeidman believes that a pre-school would reduce 20th Street's viability as a commercial district, threatening his employees' livelihood. "The idea is to have a vibrant active street," commented Hill resident Susan Ovington, which a pre-school won't support. Hill resident Chris Lawson agreed, stating that he'd like a business on the corner that would have the biggest beneficial impact on

the neighborhood.

Tony Kelly, Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association president, said he doesn't doubt there's demand for an additional pre-school in the neighborhood, but there's also a strong desire for a restaurant at the location. According to Hughes, four Hill preschools are at capacity and have waiting lists; a fifth school, Star Seed, for children ages two to three, is full and operates only half a day; and a sixth school, La Piccola Scuola Italiana, an Italian immersion program in Dogpatch, has reached its 75 kids slot limit, with one opening for the Spring. Hughes asserted that based on recent conversations she's had with the California Childcare Licensing Program, there are no other

pending applications for preschools in the area. Naomi Corson, who would direct the proposed preschool, said she's given site tours to 20 families who live within four blocks. "So the families can walk their children to the school."

"Why wouldn't you want to have something that brings in foot traffic?" Moss asked. "Twenty-five kids will be small [in terms of foot traffic], compared with a retail establishment." Hughes said she tried to bring in a different business before deciding on the pre-school. She also planned to reach-out to Daniel Webster Elementary and other neighborhood schools to ask if kids can help seniors in the area, such as dropping-off groceries for them or taking out their trash.

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SPECIAL WATER SERIES: PART ONE

WATER from Front Page

That possibility, and a long history of generous voter-approved bond measures and state and federal mandates, spurred the agency's \$4.6 billion Water System Improvement Project (WSIP), a massive program to seismically upgrade the City's water system, from pipelines to pumping stations. Launched in 2003, the colossal capital improvement program is expected to take upwards of two decades to complete. It currently consists of 80 unique projects.

Amidst this costly investment, the agency is also embroiled in intermittent controversies, ranging from dealing with bursting water mains to negotiating with community activists and environmental groups on how to address climate change, a shrinking Sierra snowpack, calls to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley, and demands for more enlightened stewardship of the City's vast water portfolio.

Described as "embattled" by Mike Marshall, executive director of the conservation group Restore Hetch Hetchy (RHH), SFPUC is one of the City's largest bureaucracies, but one whose profile is so low many San Franciscans couldn't name its functions. Though SFPUC's mission is simple — "to provide customers with high quality, efficient and reliable water, power, and sewer services in a manner that is inclusive of environmental and community interests, and that sustains the resources entrusted to our care" — the agency's job is complex. It employs 2,300 people who work in seven counties, and operates three utilities — water, power and sewer — with an annual budget of nearly \$1 billion. With the impending retirement of long-time general manager Ed Harrington — who, prior to joining the Commission in 2008, served as City Controller for nearly



Hetch Hetchy supplies water to San Francisco and Peninsula residents.

two decades — and poised to move into fancy new Civic Center headquarters this summer, the SFPUC is at a crossroads that could dramatically change the way San Francisco delivers and conserves water.

The SFPUC's water holdings include thousands of miles of pipelines and hundreds of pumping and transfer stations, treatment plants and storage facilities scattered across Northern California. The undisputed crown jewel of this empire is Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, the only water storage facility located in a national park; Yosemite. It's also the cusp of controversy as conservationists fight to return the once spectacular eponymous valley submerged beneath the reservoir to its natural state. Meanwhile, the Commission is struggling to develop reliable water supplies in the face of decimated salmon fisheries, earthquake risks, periodic droughts, rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion into the Bay Delta, among other vexing environmental problems.

In 1913, over the vehement opposition of naturalist and Sierra Club founder John Muir, among others, San Francisco power brokers perpetrated one of the greatest water grabs ever devised. The federal Raker Act allowed the City to dam

the Tuolumne River watershed in the Sierras, flood the magnificent Hetch Hetchy Valley, and convey the resulting water to San Francisco. By 1923, the City had clear-cut and submerged the valley under 300 feet of water, and built O'Shaughnessy Dam.

Before its destruction, the verdant valley was rich habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, which flourished amongst its breathtaking granite canyons, waterfalls, meadows and forests. Muir considered his beloved Hetch Hetchy equal in beauty to the adjacent Yosemite Valley. It's said that the renowned naturalist died of a broken heart shortly after he lost the intense and long battle to save it.

Today, the dam holds 360,000 acre-feet of water reserved for San Franciscans and other residents of numerous Peninsula cities. A 160-mile long pipeline brings water to 2.5 million Bay Area customers, crossing three earthquake faults along the way. An "engineering marvel," according to Jue, it's a gravity-based system that uses no energy to deliver its precious payload of 265 million gallons of water a day — around 96 billion gallons annually — water so pure it needs no filtering. SFPUC sells roughly two-thirds of this water to 26 Bay Area water agencies.

Jue described Hetch Hetchy as "the backbone of the City's water system," and key to the City's green energy portfolio, generating 1.6 billion kilowatt-hours (kwh) a year in hydroelectric power. The agency also operates the state's largest municipal solar facility, which has a generating capacity of five megawatts — 6.6 million kwh, enough to power roughly 1,000 homes for a year — from atop the Sunset reservoir. Solar meets roughly one-fifth of municipal power needs, which is dominated by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, City Hall and other government buildings, and the San Francisco International Airport. SFPUC also sells power to Treasure Island residents.

One of SFPUC's biggest challenges is figuring out how to reliably secure additional supplies of high-quality water. According to 2008 Commission-sponsored studies, the City will need 25 million more gallons a day — the equivalent of 1,000 swimming pools — to meet projected demand by 2030. It had planned to draw this water from the already beleaguered Tuolumne. But environmental groups, including the Tuolumne River Trust (TRT) — which defeated proposals in the 1980s to dam the upper part of the river — fought back. According to TRT, taking more water would further harm already devastated fish populations. Before O'Shaughnessy was constructed, an estimated 130,000 salmon coursed

through the Tuolumne. There was so much salmon "old-timers said a person could walk across the river on their backs," according to Peter Dreckmeier, TRT's Bay Area program director and former Palo Alto mayor. In recent years, California's native Chinook salmon population has plummeted to less than 200 individuals. "If we do nothing, there'll be no more salmon to speak of," said Dreckmeier.

SFPUC agreed to cap Tuolumne River water consumption at 265 million gallons a day through 2018. At that point, the agency will re-evaluate water demand. Dreckmeier doesn't believe the limit will necessarily restore salmon populations. But the agreement "...gives us about 10 years to look at other conservation strategies. This is the first time in decades we aren't moving backwards," he said.

The City plans to meet some of the future demand by recycling wastewater, a strategy SFPUC has previously been reluctant to employ, according to RHH's Marshall. "Recycled water is part of California's future, and it's time [San Francisco] got with the program," Steve Ritchie, assistant general manager of SFPUC's water enterprise division, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The recycling initiative marks a sharp shift in Commission policy. Since the 1930s, San Francisco has obtained 85 percent of its water from the Tuolumne, with the rest coming from local aquifers. Conservationists want San Francisco and its customers to increase their ground water use, and deploy advanced recycling technology to reduce the amount of water diverted from the Tuolumne. "In 1930, before Hetch Hetchy, San Francisco pumped five million gallons of [well] water per day," Marshall contended.

SFPUC plans to recycle roughly four million gallons daily. This amount, however, would fall far short of what's needed to reinvigorate the Tuolumne, asserted Marshall. "Orange County recycles 72 million gallons of water each day. It dwarfs the SFPUC's proposal of four million. In Orange County and LA, they've built up 20 percent of their tap water from recycled, potable water. In comparison, San Francisco doesn't use a single drop of recycled water. Instead, we use this prized commodity of Sierra water to wash our cars and MUNI buses, water our flowers, clean our streets and flush our toilets. We're literally pouring this pristine mountain water down the drain. We San Franciscans may be green in many ways, but when it comes to responsible water use, we're stuck in the 19th century," Marshall warned. "San Francisco needs to follow the lead of other progressive communities and get into the 21st century."

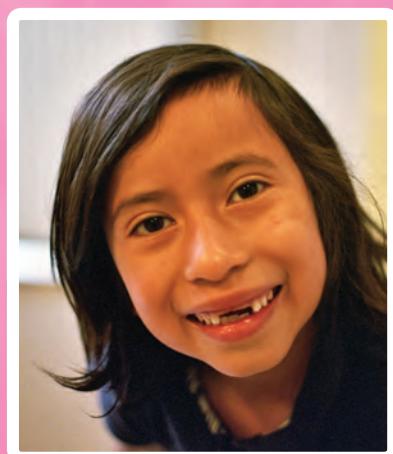
Hetch Hetchy is one of nine locations used by the City to store water. Studies performed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, University of California, Davis and the Environmental Defense Fund indicate that the dam isn't needed to store the City's water, as there are alternate facilities, such as Don Pedro Reservoir, just

Kids on the Block

Happy Second Birthday to our special little lady. We love you tons! Mom, Dad, Gabriel, and Lukey (the pooch)



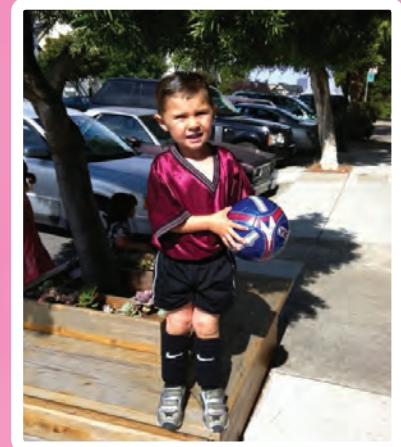
Two things to celebrate this month: Big sister Ava lost her first tooth, and little brother Dashiell turns two! Hooray for our silly girl and our pensive guy. Love, Mama, Dada and the furry menagerie



Happy Birthday, Ana Louisa, my precious seven-year-old. You are my big girl now! I love you so much. Love, Mama



Kai, 15 months old, is doing one of his favorite things—puzzles with Grandpa Dave at Farley's.



Happy Fifth Birthday to Henry with love from Mama, Daddy, Annabel and Black Kitty

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Oscaryne Williams Infant and Toddler Center Provides Safe Place for Wee Ones to Thrive

By Melissa Mutiara Pandika

Walking into Oscaryne Williams Infant and Toddler Center's (OWITC) bright, airy interior at 85 Turner Terrace, a visitor might forget that it's located in the heart of one of the City's toughest neighborhoods. For nearly 20 years, this "little piece of heaven," as site supervisor Herbert Beasley called it, has supported hard-pressed Potrero Annex-Terrace families by promoting early literacy, as well as providing parenting, education, and career resources.

Teachers credentialed in early childhood education stimulate little ones to make literacy connections throughout their day. In the morning, toddlers gather for Circle Time. They count, recite the alphabet, and sing. Later in the day they break into small groups and engage in a variety of educational activities, which might include drawing, cutting, and pasting to learn colors and shapes, and even computer games to learn matching.

The center integrates Spanish, Mandarin, and English into all of its activities. Toddlers sing songs in all

three languages. Beasley often overhears children using Spanish or Chinese words in everyday conversation. Field trips offer another opportunity for young minds to draw connections between literacy activities and their surroundings. Most recently, after reading nursery rhymes and fairytales to the children, teachers organized a trip to Children's Fairy Land in Oakland, which brings children's literature to life through rides and theater performances. Before that, they complemented a farm-themed unit with a visit to a local pumpkin patch. "The toddlers really enjoy the program," said Beasley. "We see a lot of hugging when they get here in the morning. They hug us, and when their friends come in, they hug them too."

OWITC offers a nurturing oasis not only for young children, but for their families. "You can't have a kid going to your center without making sure the family is ok," said Beasley. "We provide anything they ask for; and I'm serious." OWITC holds frequent parenting workshops, and even finds lawyers for families if they need them. Family members can search for jobs, participate in computer lab classes, or earn their general education degree through the center's partnership with San Francisco City College.

According to Beasley, upwards of 85 percent of the center's monthly

parent meetings are full. OWITC also organizes retreats that enable parents to venture beyond the Bay Area, and take a mini-vacation from their regular routines. Recently, OWITC organized a snow trip for parents, many of whom had never seen the icy material before. "We've got a lot of good people up here, good families," said Beasley. "The children themselves just love you because they do. There's no if, and, or why. You're here taking care of them. They give you unconditional love, and you can't ask much more than that."

OWITC is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Enrollment fees are based on a sliding scale. To learn more contact Herbert Beasley: 415.647.6970.

LETTERS from page 2

of this neighborhood, when it isn't at all clear that the benefits, if any, will outweigh the enormous costs? In the *View*, an SFMTA official was quoted as saying: "What we're really shooting for is making parking easier to find" ("Residential Areas Exempt from Parking Meter Plan, According to MTA Official," January issue). The good news is that in our little corner of the Hill, parking is already easy enough to find. Since it's not broken, SFMTA shouldn't try to fix it.

Michael Magnuson
Missouri Street

Maureen DeBoer Your Neighbor Bringing Good Neighbors to Potrero Hill



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILY PAYNE

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1566 19th St	\$831,500	1136 De Haro St	\$840,000	1013 Rhode Island St .	\$1,040,000
2005 19th St	\$2,150,000	1151 De Haro St	\$960,000	1429 Rhode Island St ...	\$855,000
1306 20th St	\$825,000	1470 De Haro St	\$520,000	538 Utah Street.....	\$710,000
265 Arkansas St	\$1,550,000	519 Kansas St	\$1,100,000	531 Vermont St	\$995,000
758 Arkansas St	\$500,000	746 Kansas St.....	\$1,595,000	823 Vermont St	\$765,000
752 Carolina St	\$3,250,000	1308 Mariposa St.....	\$900,000	905 Vermont St	\$699,000
1056 Carolina St	\$795,000	357 Mississippi St ...	\$1,817,000	600 Wisconsin St.....	\$1,595,000
380 Connecticut St.....	\$900,000	437 Mississippi St ...	\$1,105,000	636 Wisconsin St.....	\$1,201,000
646 De Haro St	\$1,060,000	407 Missouri St	\$1,050,000	1163 Wisconsin St	\$660,000
706 De Haro St	\$1,437,500	628 Missouri St	\$480,000	1175 Wisconsin St	\$568,000
860 De Haro St	\$1,960,000				

In 2011 the average sales price for a home on Potrero Hill has been \$1,091,206*.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS FROM SOMA TO BAYVIEW

City College Copes with State Budget Crunch

By Katrina Schwartz

Late last year Governor Jerry Brown announced another \$1 billion in cuts to social services and education due to lower than expected state revenues. Those "trigger cuts" spared few programs. But the California Community College system was hit particularly hard, with \$102 million in additional cuts to its 112-campus system, bringing total community college funding cuts for this fiscal year to \$502 million, from a \$5.9 billion budget.

Community colleges serve the state's most demographically diverse and needy populations. Many of the system's students hope to transfer to a four year university after completing general education requirements. Budget cuts make securing a space in required classes more difficult, with



City College's Southeast Campus is located at the Southeast Community Facility.

fewer students able to progress with their educations.

The trigger cuts represent the cost of 350 City College of San Francisco (CCSF) courses; roughly 6,000 students could be denied enrollment. Last month the college system's

statewide Board of Governors voted to address budget cuts by instituting a series of reforms, including eliminating free adult classes, and requiring students to move quickly through the system. CCSF is one of the country's biggest community colleges, educating just shy of 98,000 students in everything from calculus to mechanics.

"It's time for us to step up to the plate and do the best for the college," said CCSF vice-chancellor Jorge Bell, who recently assumed a new position overseeing the City's community college campuses. "The college does great work, so we are here for the job because we like it and we believe in education," he said. Bell has worked at CCSF for the past 35 years, initially through work-study, then as an academic counselor and for the past 13 years as an administrator. According to Bell, Chancellor Don Griffin tasked him with developing a strategy to provide students with the same service level with less money.

"Right now what I'm trying to accomplish is to empower the deans

to help me supervise those services because I'm only one person and we have nine campuses," Bell said ruefully. In the previous organizational structure campus deans had control over the facilities, but not the associated services and programming. Starting last year Bell has been working to change that system so that services are spread evenly across the campuses. "The existing deans or administrators that stayed working for the college are willing to take on more responsibilities. We are not hiring new people, but we are giving a little more work to the people who are working right now," Bell said. His current focus is to disperse some of the services located at the Ocean campus — like admissions and counseling — onto every campus, in part to give more autonomy to individual campuses.

CCSF maintains nine campuses. In Southside San Francisco, Evans Campus classes are full, but most of what's offered is vocational and

see COLLEGE page 2

Mendell Plaza: Bayview's Ailing Heart

By Sasha Lekach

Mendell Plaza is a key Third Street space; a rare traffic-free pedestrian zone in Bayview that many see as a potentially buoyant gathering place, rather than its current status as loitering node. According to community advocacy group Bayview Residents Improving Their Environment (BRITE) member Shane Mayer, who has lived in Bayview for more than a year, nearby Torino's Market is "feeding the plaza and doesn't look nice..." BRITE wants to improve the area, and has suggested removing the plaza's benches and eliminating parking. "I'm a believer in the broken windows theory," Mayer said. "Blighted buildings and social blight creates an environment of crime and unpleasantries."

One edifice on the plaza, which some members have dubbed the "Bishop blight building," — also known as the "Triangle Building" — is owned by the Bishop family. BRITE is concerned that the family isn't maintaining the 4801 Third Street building, which is vacant, and has become an eyesore that attracts public urination. The family's patriarch, Curly Bishop, lives near Mendell Plaza.

Bay Area attorney Ismail "Izzy" Ramsey, who represents the family, is working with the City to settle litigation over a Muni accident — a

Third St. Business Corridor a Work-in-Progress

By Sasha Lekach

The T-line Muni light-rail — which cost more than \$665 million to develop — has been running along Third Street for almost five years. The fixed rail connection between Southside and the City's downtown was supposed to revitalize Bayview and Visitacion Valley, but has proved to be more of a way fare through the neighborhoods than a means to attract new customers to local businesses. Public sector efforts to energize the still largely neglected Third Street business district slowly continue. Housing, retail and improvement projects were completed last year, with more government-financed schemes on the way. Nonprofit affordable-housing developer San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC) hopes to return Third Street to its role as a neighborhood commercial center, something of Noe Valley's 24th Street in Bayview.

According to San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA) development specialist Vanessa Dandridge — who focuses on Bayview-Hunters Point — redevelopment activity was suspended last year after budget battles resulted in the near-elimination of redevelopment districts. In December the California Supreme Court ruled that the state had the authority to abolish the districts, putting a potentially permanent stop to new redevelopment activities in Bayview and throughout the state.

The 5800 Third Street condominium and retail complex, where Fresh and Easy and recently-opened Limon Rotisserie are located, was



Limon Rotisserie recently opened its Bayview location at 5800 Third Street, and already finds the restaurant filling its seats on weekend nights. See full story, Southside page three.

underway before the state suspension, and was able to complete most of its development plans, including securing financing, contractors, and tenants. The popular Oakland-based chicken-and-waffle restaurant Brown Sugar Kitchen opened in the complex last month. The condominiums are for sale, with 3.5 percent Federal Housing Administration (FHA) financing available for lower-income families.

According to Dandridge, 5800 will be one of the final housing projects built on the Third Street corridor for a while. However, financing programs for new businesses and developments located in low income areas are still available through the Mayor's Office of Housing. The Small Business Revolving Loan Fund, which

is funded through federal, state and local sources, is available through business development nonprofit TMC Development Working Solutions. One of the requirements for this loan is the creation or retention of "...one full-time job made available for low/moderate-income individuals."

SFRA also recently completed an affordable housing complex at Third Street and Oakdale Avenue, 4800 Third Street, where Radio Africa & Kitchen opened last month. According to owner and head chef Eskender Aseged, the project developer, SFHDC, approached him about starting a sustainable restaurant on Third Street. In

see MENDELL page 4

see THIRD STREET page 4

Bayview Club Continues to Serve Southside

By Keith Burbank

As she rode the elevator to the Morgan Stanley Smith Barney office, the young girl didn't know what to expect when she got upstairs. Her mother had told her the police wanted to talk to her, which quieted her down considerably. Little did she know that she was getting a bicycle and helmet that afternoon, compliments of a number of organizations, including the Rotary Club of San Francisco Bayview. Upwards of 80 children received bikes through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Bikes for Tots last holiday season. According to 20th Street resident Brian Flaherty, Bayview Rotary Club president, the giveaway was an acknowledgement of the progress the "at-risk" kids — who had been identified by the San Francisco Police Department — had made over the past year.

Flaherty was on hand when about half of the seven Bayview children to be given bikes picked up their prize. San Francisco's Bayview Police Station officers delivered bikes to the kids who couldn't make the distribution event. According to San Francisco resident Francis Chan, whose children were among the recipients, his kids were excited and thankful to the sponsors. While Chan's children didn't know how to ride a two-wheel bicycle, "now they can ride a bike like a big kid." Emmanuel Robinson Sr. called the bike giveaway "awesome, unbelievably awesome." His oldest son has been asking him for a bike since last fall.

This month the Bayview Rotary Club initiated a visioning process to identify its goals for the next three to five years, including potentially increasing its membership and launching new programs. The process is "a good chance to get buy-in from everyone," said Flaherty. "Service above self" is Rotary International's motto, which the Bayview Club works to exemplify.

The Bayview Club was launched in 1999; it considers itself a millennium club. Besides the bike giveaway, club members participate

in an annual Thanksgiving turkey and ham drive, which distributes food to Southside residents during the holidays. Last December the club agreed to provide funding to the Sisters of the Fraternite Notre Dame to buy hats and scarfs for the homeless this winter.

Ten to 20 of the club's 150 members attend the club's weekly morning meetings. According to member Norma Faris-Taylor, the club often gets requests for financial assistance or support. We don't "make them go through a lot of hoops," she said. The Bayview Club has sent people, money and medical supplies overseas, and does charity work in the United States and the Bay Area, including taking kids sailing, planting trees, and flying the club's banner at San Francisco's annual Columbus Day parade. Globally, Rotary International runs a program to eradicate polio.

Bayview club member Dr. Angela Kaposi does surgeries in developing nations to remove children's cleft palates. "This changes lives," said Lorenzo Lewis, the club's first president. "A child with a cleft palate faces a stigma his whole life." So much so that parents often hide their child. By removing the cleft palate, the doctor removes the stigma, and "the child is free."

To cultivate new Southside leaders, the club is offering a leadership program through its home district, 5150, which includes Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. The training, Potential Rotary Leaders Seminars, provides information on basic leadership principles, how to lead meetings, and communication and public speaking skills. Information to register can be found at the district's website, www.rotary5150.org.

Charitable work requires resources; each year the Bayview Club hosts a fundraiser. The 13th Annual Bayview Bayou fundraiser, a New Orleans-themed party, is scheduled for February 17, 2012, at 6 p.m. at Recology Fiore Hall, 900 Seventh Street in San Francisco. Tickets are \$55 each, or \$500 for a table of ten.

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COMPLIMENTARY AD SPACE COURTESY OF THE VIEW

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taught at night. The Southeast Campus, on the other hand, focuses on academics. Campus coordinator Torrance Bynum said he wants to make Southeast a full service campus. "I want us to provide everything the student needs to transfer over to a four year school without having to go to another campus. I want it in the community," said Bynum. Bynum himself was a parole officer for 23 years, and still teaches in the evenings when he isn't performing his administrative duties.

The Southeast campus opened in 1987, but has remained small — about 1,254 students — due to its limited space. The college shares a building with several other organizations, including Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Hunters Point Family Resource Services Agency, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Southeast commissioners. According to Bynum, this arrangement works fairly well, because many of his students need the wrap-around services that these organizations provide. However, he said that the arrangements can be confusing for students who don't know where they're supposed to enter the building, and can't immediately find what they're looking for. Sometimes they leave in frustration, which prompted Bynum to deploy student ambassadors to stand at entryways and help direct people. "I was talking to students at an end of the year program and they were telling me how appreciative they were," explained Bynum of the new effort.

Bynum is also trying to bring more introductory classes to Southeast, to enable students to progress with their education. "If they choose us as part of their path then we have to provide them with the tools of success," he said. That includes providing a peer-tutoring program for students who are struggling, something Bynum is proud of in-

stituting in his first six months as coordinator.

According to Bynum the campus needs more space. A plan to expand the Southeast campus has been included in CCSF's master plan for the past two years, but administrators are waiting for the economy to improve before they place a bond measure on the ballot to raise the necessary funds. Bell wasn't sure how much the new campus would cost, but compared it to the Mission campus, completed in 2007, which services about 10,000 students, and cost roughly \$150 million to build.

Bell's current priority is simply to keep his campus' doors open for all who want to learn. "It's challenging because we do have an open door policy. We cannot shut the door on people who want to come to school, but we are broke," mourned Bell. "We are stretching ourselves to the max right now," said Bell with a laugh.

As a result of CCSF's financial straits, the dean position at the Evans campus has remained vacant following the departure of Phyllis McGuire, who gave up the post after 15 years. Bell is serving as the coordinating dean for all the campuses instead.

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Limon Rotisserie Adds Peruvian Flavors to Third St.

By Sasha Lekach

A third incarnation of Limon Rotisserie — the Mission District's Peruvian hot spot — has arrived in Bayview, bringing a casual fine dining experience to the Third Street corridor's southern end. Featuring affordable prices with plenty of choices in addition to rotisserie chicken, the restaurant is hoping to bring a bit of the Mission-Valencia scene to its new home in the just constructed 5800 Third Street building.

Limon Rotisserie is a spin-off of the more upscale Limon, which has been serving ceviche and fancy cocktails on Valencia Street since 2002. Owner/head chef Martin Castillo has been praised by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and SF Weekly, among others, for his original cevicheria, and the opening of a second, key-down version years later. The South Van Ness location launched in 2008, and has become a hit, prompting the restaurant's Bayview expansion. Through a tax incentive negotiated with the City through the Redevelopment Agency and Mayor's Office of Housing over a three month period, the latest Limon Rotisserie was able to build a new kitchen, bar and dining space in about eight months. It opened its doors for a pre-opening family, friends and press cocktail event last fall, and started serving

the hungry public in December. A staff of roughly 30 — including several new hires — operate the restaurant, which is staffing up.

Castillo admitted that Third Street is a "tough location with not a lot of foot traffic," but many loyal Limon fans have made their way to survey the new digs, and word is slowly spreading. He said December was a busy time of year to open the outlet; advertising and promotional efforts were launched last month. In the first two weeks of January more orders had been coming through, along with an increasing number of reservations; "there's progress, slowly but surely," he assured. General manager Fernando Quinonez added that the popular South Van Ness restaurant also opened in a tougher neighborhood isolated from the main Valencia Street food strip a few blocks away and took several months to gather a following.

In Bayview Castillo and Chef Alex Reccio are cooking up South American cuisine, with an emphasis on pollo a la brasa, their signature open-flame roasted chicken dishes that range from \$8.50 for a quarter chicken with two sides to \$19.95 for a whole chicken with sides. A half chicken for \$9.95 most often does the trick for two people, and keeps the bill low. The chicken is consistently moist and flavorful even without the complimentary array of "aji" sauces



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENNIFER DURRANT

Left: Limon Rotisserie's line cook, Dimitrias Alston prepares their slow-roasted chicken—*Pollo a la Brasa* with Chef Alex Reccio in background. **Right:** In the big pan is "Lomito" Saltado — a traditional Peruvian dish of top-sirloin strips with onion and cumin stir fried on an open flame.

that include two spicy mustard-like spreads and a chimichurri, which the diner will be hard-pressed to avoid repeatedly dipping.

Though dolled-out in small portions, the sides keep the chicken interesting, with a range of options from grilled vegetables — *vegetales salteados* — to *tacu-tacu*, a beans and rice mixture that's a busier, more flavorful rice option. A French fries alternative, Yuca fries, keep diners aware that the cuisine is inspired by a different country. Sweet potato fries won't disappoint those who enjoy a sweet-savory combo.

Sticking true to its Limon roots, the newest eatery offers four variations of ceviche, or raw marinated fish, which includes choices of snapper and shrimp, ranging from \$5.95 to \$9.95. As the menu explains, *Cevicheria Leche de tigre* — "Milk of the Tiger" — is a citrus-based marinade used in all the dishes.

With what seems like endless Central and South American eating options in the City, Limon Rotisserie offers a Peruvian twist to the mix with empanadas filled with steak, chicken or a vegetarian-option, a saving grace for non-meat eaters at a restaurant with a focus on flame-roasted chicken. Also on the menu are the "small" hot plates, which may seem smaller than a whole chicken, but feature plenty of tongue-tingling spices, as tasted in the "Lomito" Saltado, a traditional Peruvian dish of sirloin strips in a tangy sauce with grilled vegetables (\$9.75).

Like its sister restaurant in the Mission, this Limon Rotisserie has a bar with a liquor license on its way. Currently available are sangria, Peruvian beers and a full wine menu. Once a complete bar arrives, money patrons may have saved on affordable dishes may go to the slightly pricier beverage menu, where mojitos and pisco sours will be listed as \$8. Quinonez hopes that the bar will attract locals who have limited options nearby for a homemade cocktail featuring fresh fruit and imported liqueurs. At the launch party he said a Bayview resident told him the neighborhood now has a bar they felt comfortable bringing friends to.

With a similar décor to the South Van Ness location, the Bayview set-up is welcoming and warm, yet has a sleek upscale atmosphere, with banquette seating, Peruvian marble table tops, big windows looking onto the street, minimalist art on the walls and earthy colors, perhaps evoking a roasted chicken aura. In contrast to the often-littered streets just a block away, the restaurant feels similar to the top-listed Brenda's French Soul Food, which offers a casual, yet respectable, eating experience in the City's notorious Tenderloin neighborhood. Castillo said more signage and lighting are coming to the front of the Third Street location, which should welcome more passersby and drivers along the thoroughfare.

Although the owner and manag-

see LIMON page 4



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bus crashed into the building in 2009 — “as soon as possible.” City records show complaints filed on the building — which has been boarded up since the accident — as recently as late last year related to hazardous wiring and contents spilling onto the sidewalk. The family “is hopeful to get a tenant that will have a positive effect in the community,” Ramsey said. The space is listed as office space. Municipal records show permits were issued last fall for building repairs.

Removing Mendell Plaza’s benches could serve as a temporary measure to abate loitering. “We like the idea of Mendell Plaza as a town center, we want to help that cause,” Mayer said. He mentioned that the Bayview Merchants Association wants to install public art and implement ongoing activities, and has been trying to make Mendell work as a public space. “But in the meantime there’s a public safety crisis,” Mayer added. Eventually benches could be reinstalled in a “more thoughtful way, instead they are just out in a line.”

BRITE member Robert Davis spearheaded a petition drive last fall calling for bench removal, which was signed by nearly 30 locally-owned businesses, including Torrino’s and Big Save, two nearby alcohol retailers. Davis acknowledged that the “plaza is complicated” yet a “well-intended” public space. He said removing the benches won’t solve the plaza’s problems, but is a start. He also suggested posting signs in the plaza that remind citizens about drug enforcement and associated legal sanctions. According to Mayer, BRITE also supports initiatives to get at the root causes of Bayview’s problems, including public health challenges and support for homelessness, alcoholism, poverty and criminality. “We believe there’s a public safety crisis that we can work on in the long term,” he said.

Bayview Opera House is located adjacent to Mendell Plaza, and has a front row seat to the type of problems that accompany the public space. According to executive director Barbara Ockel, the Opera House serves as a cultural node for Bayview, and an arts center for Bayview children. Over the years Ockel has observed that many of the people loitering at Mendell Plaza are young men who are out of work or school. “If they were working or in school, they wouldn’t be there,” she said. “A lot of drug dealing attracts a lot of people who are not safe, especially with kids nearby.” Longtime residents have told her that the area was much the same 30 years ago. Ockel believes that Opera House activities are part of the solution to the plaza’s problems. “Anyone is welcome as long as they are not violent, intoxicated or have a gun. We have hundreds of children here, first and foremost our duty is to keep the children safe,” she explained.

District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen secured funding to update American Disability Act accessibility

throughout the historic Opera House, which was constructed in 1888. Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity have recently painted the building and repaired the surrounding fences and outdoor spaces. “We will have a really stunning outside which will have some influence on the plaza,” Ockel said about restoration of interior and exterior spaces, including improvements to an outdoor stage and removal of a rotting wall. In addition there will be necessary, although not so glamorous, ADA-stipulated upgrades to the bathrooms.

The Opera House’s improvements may influence the “back alley” feel of the area, but Ockel noted that Bayview is already changing. “Overall in the neighborhood people are starting to feel more comfortable,” she said, adding that the community is becoming more demographically diverse, with more European-American families and gay couples immigrating to the historically black — and increasingly Asian-American — area.

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addition to investing his own money and raising funds through the online website Kickstarter, Asegad said that the City “poured in millions” to secure a community-friendly restaurant in the mixed-use space. “[The] Bayview is the last untouched place for potentiality,” Asegad said.

Projects already funded by SFRA — such as the development of new space to house College Track San Francisco, a nonprofit working to improve college access that’s currently located at Bayshore and Jerrold Avenue — are progressing. Last fall a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Jerrold Avenue and Third Street. The new center will be able to accommodate twice as many underserved students, to be mentored and prepped for higher education. The center is expected to open this fall, at a cost of \$8.7 million secured from grants provided by U.S. Bank and the SFRA’s Community Investment Fund.

The Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) continues to offer façade and tenant improvement funds, at least through the end of this fiscal year. Over the summer Mayor Ed Lee announced the continuation of OEWD’s SF Shines Storefront and Tenant Improvement Grant Program. The Bayview SF Shines Program, which is partially funded by SFRA in collaboration with the Department of Public Works’ Community Corridors Partnership program, has \$800,000 in grant monies available. Another more than \$250,000 in grants is on offer to small businesses located along main city corridors.

Alice Griffith housing project, a few blocks east of Third Street, is being rebuilt in part with SFRA funds. Last fall the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a \$30.5 million Choice Neighborhoods grant to rehabilitate the housing complex. City rules stipulate that construction or architecture work isn’t supposed to be initiated until money to complete each develop-

ment phase has been committed and secured. This prevents mid-project stalls, but, as Dandridge explained, “It takes years to get financing together. These projects take a long, long time.” Construction at the housing complex is expected to begin sometime in 2013.

The Bayview Neighborhood Association has kept an eye on redevelopment projects that are supposed to draw people into Bayview, including efforts to beautify the area en route to Candlestick Park, a major thoroughfare for those utilizing the T-line or other public transit to football games and events. Association president Marsha Pendergrass has lived in the neighborhood for 17 years. She sees business and housing growth along Third Street as “slow and incremental, but it’s happening.”

One slow-moving project is 1075 Le Conte Avenue, at Third Street’s southern end, where an old motel was torn down and slated to be replaced with homeless transitioning housing. “We were so pleased that it was torn down,” Pendergrass said. “We would be thrilled if it came off the table. That would be fantastic.” A 2010 project outline created by San Francisco architecture firm David Baker + Partners boasted plans for a five-story building that “wraps around a large communal courtyard that features many uses for the enjoyment of all residents. A picnic area and playground are surrounded by an ‘edible landscape,’ an 8,500-square-foot urban garden made of raised planting beds that allows residents to get their hands dirty and grow their own food.” SFRA selected David Baker + Partners as the project’s architect after a 2007 interview.

A razed lot currently sits at the spot. Project architect Amit Price Patel said the 18-month construction effort is expected to begin this month for the 73-unit building that will house formerly homeless families. Most of the funding is coming from SFRA, which is working with Michael Simmons, a developer with a long list of City projects behind him. “The project is in the pipeline so it will be built,” Price Patel assured. The development will not include retail or commercial space, but there will be a resident services office, where a yet-to-be-identified nonprofit will be housed. The units will be permanently designated as affordable housing; the complex is accessible by a nearby T-line stop.

Slightly off the main Third Street corridor, near Candlestick Park on Jamestown Avenue, an “affordable” condominium complex was completed last year, with the units on the market. However, “Candlestick Heights” development’s second phase — streetscaping and accessibility — appears to have been forgotten after years of developer changes and funding shortages. According to Pendergrass, people can’t walk on the sidewalk near the new buildings, discouraging fans on game day from using the T-line and crossing through the neighborhood.

Fresh and Easy’s arrival has increased access to groceries in Bayview, but Pendergrass would like to see more restaurants. “We have to overcome this whole element that the Bayview is not a good place to be,” she said. While new businesses have moved in over

the years, Pendergrass believed that the emphasis should be community interaction, rather than pure economic growth. “This is a neighborhood, not a downtown commercial area.” She’d like to see her neighbors advocating for the creation of more local markets, instead of working to shut-down liquor stores, as some members of newly formed Bayview Residents Improving Their Environment (BRITE) have proposed. Small stores could serve as mini-community centers, if liquor and drugs were not the main merchandise, Pendergrass asserted.

BRITE, one of many organizations that have contributed to progress in the neighborhood, has drafted a Good Neighbor Agreement, as a stepping-stone to improve the corridor’s business atmosphere. The voluntary contract outlines methods to “eliminate chronic public inebriation, loitering and criminal activity in the Bayview community.” Intended for local stores — especially those with a liquor license — the agreement asks merchants to abide by 12 requests, including not providing cups with alcohol purchases, cleaning store fronts regularly and calling the police when there’s a problem.

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ing staff are wary of the slower pace at the new location, this may appeal to Limon Rotisserie fans kept waiting at the other locations, who can now head to what seems to be a close replica of the South Van Ness restaurant. The Muni T-line light rail has a stop across the street, and there’s plenty of street parking, as well as a free parking lot under the building. According to Quinonez, the nearby Fresh and Easy brings-in people who place an order, go grocery shopping and then take their meal to go. Brown Sugar Kitchen, which opens its second location in the mixed-use building this month, is expected to attract more people to the area.

As of mid-January the restaurant had received 15 Yelp reviews, with the most recent penned by San Francisco native “Nancy C,” who gave the restaurant the maximum five stars and noted, “I would usually avoid this area like the plague. However, my hunger and curiosity about this place overcame my trepidation about the area. Also, I saw that they have plentiful parking right near the restaurant, so I figured it wouldn’t be too bad if I wouldn’t have to walk around the area. It turns out my hesitation was completely unnecessary.”

The apartments above the commercial spaces in the new lot are also filling up, with tenants moving in and sales or leases pending at many of the units. Limon Rotisserie, Quinonez said modestly, is “...a neighborhood-changing business.” With Brown Sugar Kitchen cooking-up Southern-inspired chicken and waffles, Third Street and Carroll Avenue is on the culinary map.

Limon Rotisserie, at 5800 Third Street, is open daily for lunch and dinner. For reservations: 926.5665.

Many After-School Programs Available on Potrero Hill

By Melissa Mutiara Pandika

For single or dual working parents — 75 percent of Potrero Hill's families, according to the latest American Communities Survey — weekdays between 3 and 6 p.m. can be challenging. The hours after the school bell rings are a peak time for youth to commit — or become victims — of crimes, and experiment with drugs and alcohol. The need to provide a safe, stimulating environment for their children while avoiding steep childcare costs looms especially large for low-income families living in the Potrero Annex-Terrace housing complex. Although crime rates in the complex have fallen since 2010, it remains higher than the rest of the Hill.

A host of exciting no- or low-cost after-school programs — as well as childcare for toddler-aged children — are available on the Hill. Beyond providing a safe place for afternoon activities, these programs offer academic help, intellectual and creative enrichment, and physical education, encouraging participants to become happy, productive, and engaged community members now and into their adult lives.

Daniel Webster Elementary School

Last month San Francisco Unified School District launched a new after-school program at Daniel Webster Elementary School. Funded by a San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families (DCYF) EXCEL grant, the After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) offers Webster students an abundance of enrichment and educational opportunities, all for free. Supervised by Webster teachers and a site director, ASEP consists of two groups each of kindergarteners, first through second graders, and third through fifth graders. Under ASEP, after school the kids have recess, followed by a snack, during which a Snack Squad provides education on serving sizes, nutrition, and composting. Students then do their homework, with help available from teachers and tutors. On Mondays and Fridays, sports are offered. This semester ASEP

has partnered with America Scores, a national organization that brings soccer and literacy arts to urban schools. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students attend enrichment classes in a variety of activities, including West African dancing and drumming, art, gardening, health, and science. Wednesdays are dedicated to literacy, although ASEP "tries to infuse literacy throughout all of our activities," said Grace De La Cruz, ASEP's director of programs. Activities are theme-based and reinforce the day school curriculum.

ASEP staff members regularly attend Parent-Teacher Association meetings. Before planning enrichment activities they meet with parents and teachers to get a sense of their interests. In the future ASEP plans to collaborate with Webster's Early Education Department After School Program (EEDASP), a state-funded initiative that provides homework help, enrichment, and physical activity, with a focus on younger children.. ASEP is pursuing funding opportunities so that EEDASP participants can attend ASEP enrichment classes. Other plans include hosting fundraising events and family nights.

For the many Daniel Webster students who live in Annex-Terrace, ASEP offers the academic support and enrichment opportunities they may not get at home. "Other families send kids to private tutoring, private art classes, private science classes, and I think [ASEP] is a great opportunity for kids to get a high quality program for free," said De La Cruz. "The basic thing is having a play space after

school instead of going to a home with no parents or an unstable family life. It gives [the kids] a space to play a positive role."

ASEP is open to all Webster students. Parents can pick-up an application at Webster's main office or Room 14.

Starr King Elementary School

At 2:40 p.m., when many students are excited to leave school for the day, the 187 students enrolled in Starr King Elementary School's After-School Program (SKASP) are mostly happy to stay on-campus for a few more hours, eagerly anticipating an afternoon filled with friends and enrichment activities. After a snack and recess period, the students join their teams in the cafeteria. SKASP includes two teams per grade level, each headed by a program leader. Every six weeks, the leaders provide stepwise instruction in a different enrichment activity, regardless of individual students' skill level, culminating in a group project or scrimmage match. Each unit's goal is for students to learn a skill together rather than outshine each other.

Program leaders offer students activities they're passionate about, from cello to chess. This year's staff includes an art school graduate, who teaches painting techniques. "This way, program leaders enjoy their jobs more, meaning that they're better at it, and the kids get more out of it," said assistant director Mary Cunnie. The free program, run by the YMCA/Urban Services in collaboration with

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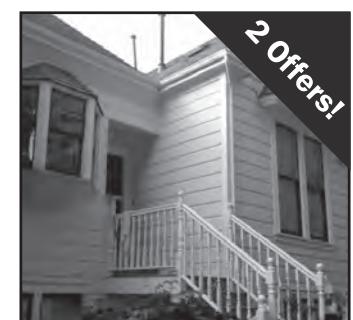
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School Health Programs/EXCEL After School Programs and DCYF, also provides academic help, led by a teacher and two tutors. Last month, Starr King and SKASP launched Bridging the Gap, a program in which SKASP leaders help teachers in their classrooms and share information about SKASP participants.

Throughout the year, SKASP hosts parent dinners to enable students to showcase their skills, culminating in an end of year musical performance and art show. "The showcases really tie the community together," said Cunnie. "Parents are always bringing food...and asking what they can do to help."

Starr King's location across the street from Annex-Terrace makes it easy for program leaders and resident-parents to stay connected. "Program leaders really get to know the parents that drop off and pick each kid up," said Cunnie. SKASP gives kids living in Annex-Terrace a space where they can "be with their friends and people they look up to. They get to excel at things here that they wouldn't have the opportunity to do elsewhere," said Cunnie. She has bright hopes for the program's future. "We can see that the really kids enjoy what they're doing. They're getting better; their artwork is looking better, the yoga is getting quieter. Seeing the kids get excited about what enrichment classes they're going to take and seeing them excel is really rewarding."

SKASP runs from 2:40 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Enrollment is open to Starr King students at all grade levels, except kindergarten. The program is in need of volunteer tutors. To learn more about enrolling your child or volunteering for SKASP, contact Mary Cunnie at mcunnie@ymcasf.net.

Experiment in Diversity

"Enola always said, 'Education is the key,'" said Experiment in Diversity (EID) director Sharon Johnson, in reference to Enola Maxwell, who began the after-school program for middle and high schoolers more than sixty years ago. Today, EID continues to fulfill Maxwell's lifelong mission of improving access to education, working to ready its participants for post-secondary education or a post-high school career path. Maxwell's goal was to break-down the barriers built by the segregation policies in place at the time. She and EID youth researched the ancestry of San Francisco's ethnic groups, and hosted a monthly dinner and cultural performance to share what they'd learned with the community. EID continues to hold monthly dinners, but has scaled back its performances to once every quarter, celebrating events such as Black History Month and Cinco de Mayo, which enables the program to focus more on academics.

As soon as they arrive at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, or the "Nabe," which Maxwell directed from 1972 until her death in 2003, EID youth get busy with their homework.

If they don't have any, Johnson creates homework packets for them. Several tutors, including a retired teacher and engineer, as well as a handful of Zynga employees, volunteer academic help.

EID offers a wealth of career exploration opportunities. Professionals from a variety of fields visit the Nabe to share their experiences transitioning from struggling students to successful adults. Past speakers have included a veterinarian, pediatrician, lawyer, singer, and artist. EID youth also take field trips to Bay Area college campuses. Besides academic and professional achievement, EID encourages students to be leaders. In December, the teenage participants distributed toys to the preteens. "I wanted to teach them that it's not just about [them], but also about giving to others and being sensitive to their surroundings," said Johnson. Each month, a student is assigned the responsibility to lead a project, such as designing a mural. "We give them a little responsibility and put them in charge, empowering them to say, 'This is mine, I can do this,'" said Johnson.

Johnson lets the kids decide which enrichment programs should be offered. "We want to have a venue where they can enjoy doing something," Johnson said. "We want to get them excited and keep them focused and productive." This month, a local artist will teach kids the West Coast street dance styles of turfing and jerking. "The kids love to dance," said Johnson. She hopes to include this year's guest dancers in Potrero Hill's Got Talent, a community talent show spotlight-

ing multicultural dance, music and fine arts performances, in May. Last year's show included all of the Hill's schools, and featured Chinese and modern dances, jazz pieces, and many other acts.

EID works to keep its participants, a large number of whom live in Annex-Terrace, on track and out of trouble. It also encourages them to build confidence, and take a proactive role in their future. "We experience a lot of firsts here," said Johnson. Before joining EID, many of the students had never led a project or toured a college campus. Most return to the program every year, and, according to Johnson, significantly improve their grades. "As for the parents, they're ecstatic about keeping kids engaged and focused," said Johnson.

According to Edward Hatter, the Nabe's executive director, some elementary school students from Annex-Terrace are being asked to leave Webster's and Starr King's afterschool programs because the teachers "can't handle them." Hatter is frustrated that the schools are "pushing out their kids with the new middle class families," and is investigating establishing a new after school kindergarten through fifth grade program at the Nabe.

EID runs Mondays through Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and is open to six to twelve graders free of charge. For more details: www.phnh.org.

Recess Urban Playground

Recess Urban Playground, an in-

see **AFTER-SCHOOL** page 15



March, 1963, Group of Potrero Hill residents planting wildflower seeds at Vermont and Seventeenth streets.
S. F. News-Call Bulletin photo by George Place. Courtesy SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Giving back to the community -- a Potrero tradition.

Wes Freas strives to give back to the community, organizing deliveries with Project Open Hand and spearheading Zephyr's support of the annual Dine Around Town, which supports the AIDS and Breast Cancer Emergency Funds. The aim is to ensure that San Francisco remains a wonderful place to call home, for everyone.

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AFTER-SCHOOL from Front Page 14

door play space located on 470 Carolina Street, aims to protect and promote free play, which has all but faded away for many of today's overscheduled kids. Between Little League practice, Mandarin tutoring, and violin lessons, children can have little time to squeeze in the unstructured play that scientists cite as crucial to learning the skills needed for them to develop into happy, well-adjusted adults. "Parents forget how much kids learn just by playing," said Kristin Jamieson, who co-founded Recess with friend Lisa Nowell four years ago. "When they're setting up blocks and knocking them over, they're learning."

Recess is a child's dream come true. The former soap factory's whimsical interior boasts 3,200 square feet of carpeted, padded play areas stocked with toys, dress-up clothes, books, slides, a rope swing, and much more.

It even includes a disco room, complete with a spinning disco ball.

Parents can also enroll their children in classes on subjects such as art, music, and Spanish. While Recess is geared toward kids aged zero to four years old, it also houses a small after-school program separate from the main play area for kindergarteners and first-graders, which offers enrichment in visual and circus arts, theater, yoga, and a plethora of other activities, along with free choice activities and outdoor time.

Kids can play at Recess as long as they want to during its open hours, which are from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekends. Parents or caregivers are responsible for supervising their children, although Recess offers "in-a-pinch" childcare for up to four hours a week, during which parents can run errands, finish work, or take advantage of Recess' adult wellness services, which include yoga classes, physical therapy, and massage. Adult workshops on a variety of parenting topics, from CPR to potty-training, are also available. Recess houses a kitchen with snacks and coffee, and offers free Wi-Fi service, providing not only a play space for children, but also a community for parents.

Members pay a \$75 monthly fee. Jamieson and Nowell are in the process of starting a nonprofit, with plans to use grant money to fund scholarships for parents who can't afford the membership fee, and to create programs for older children, such as summer and holiday camps.

For harried working parents worried about the safety of the City's outdoor playgrounds for their toddlers, Recess is a godsend. For Jamieson, the most rewarding part of her job is "when a parent walks in and is at their wit's end and says 'Thank you, I was about to lose my mind. I wouldn't know what to do if you guys weren't here.'" Of course, the kids play just as large a role in keeping Jamieson motivated. "It's hard to have a bad day when there are little people, wanting to come in. It's such a happy environment, which I feel lucky for every day."

To learn more about Recess Urban Playground, e-mail info@recess-sf.com, or visit www.recessurbanrecreation.com.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENNIFER DURRANT

Left: EID Program Director Sharon Johnson helps middle and high school students with math homework. **Right Top & Bottom:** At Recess' after school program, Lydia Morris, artist-in-residence with SF Arts Education Project teaches five and six year-olds how to mix colors. Then she asked them, "What color is excitement for you?"

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 Thursday 10 am - 6 pm, Friday 1 pm - 6 pm
 Saturday and Sunday 1 pm - 6 pm
 Monday CLOSED



LIBRARY NEWS

By Lynne Barnes, Potrero Branch Librarian

All San Francisco public libraries will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

February Programs for Adults

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS. Matt Springer, a University of California, San Francisco professor will give a slideshow talk about precautions that can be taken at home and at work to lessen the damage from an earthquake. His presentation includes photos of his own home preparations, and suggestions for preparing for the next temblor. February 4, 4 p.m.

BASIC EMAIL. Learn how to set up an email account and carry out basic email functions. Basic mouse and keyboard skills are required. February 21, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

THE POTRERO HILL BOOK CLUB meets at the library every third Wednesday. February's selection is *Foreign Bodies* by Cynthia Ozick. February 15, 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 self-serve; help yourself to the seed packets, located on the first floor beneath the staircase.

February 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. February 2, 9, 16, 23, 3 to 4 p.m.

February Programs for Children

BABY RHYME AND PLAY TIME. For infants up to 18 months and their caregiver. February 7, 14, 21, 28, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

FAMILY STORYTIME. Storytime features stories, songs, and rhymes. For children up to five years and their caregiver. February 2, 9, 16, 23, 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. February's films will be *Dem Bones*, *Pet Show*, *Peter's Chair*, *Tiny's Hat*, *Black Cat*, and *What Mary Jo Shared*. Bring a snack. For children ages three to eight. February 8, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

KOREAN STORYTIME. For families interested in learning Korean songs and reading Korean books together. This program is offered by community member Hannah Chung, in partnership with the library. For children up to five years. February 12, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

KIRK WALLER, STORYTELLER. Celebrate African-American Heritage Month with the wonderful storytelling of Kirk Waller. Kirk presents well-known and less well known animal stories in his musical, down-home storytelling style. For children of all ages. February 15, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

SWING INTO STORIES. Movement and play are an important part of growing into a reader. The Early Literacy Mobile is partnering with San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to bring reading and stories to where young children are movin' and groovin' outdoors. Every fourth Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Potrero Hill Recreation Center Park, 801 Arkansas Street (at Madera).

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY, 2012 MONTHLY

CALL FOR ARTISTS: DAGGETT PARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The San Francisco Arts Commission is currently seeking artists for a new public art project, which will be located in Daggett Park, a planned open space sited in a triangular parcel bounded by 7th Street, 16th Street, and Hubbell Street in the Showplace Square neighborhood. Deadline for applications is Friday, February 3, 2012 (11:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time). For further information and eligibility, visit sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The City & County of San Francisco along with the San Francisco Green Business Program is proud to congratulate and honor the 49 newly recognized Green Businesses of 2011!

The 49 green businesses recognized at the 6th Annual SF Green Business Awards Reception are made up of architects, designers, retail spaces, clean technology firms, law offices, commercial printer, CPAs, caterers, nonprofits, and more. Some of these green businesses are large with multi-floor operations and others are small home offices. The one thing they all have in common is that they have all met extremely stringent environmental standards set forth by the San Francisco Green Business Program in areas such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, water conservation, and pollution prevention. By implementing these green standards in their business practices, these awardees have shown their commitment to making a positive environmental impact to improve their business and their community.

To see a list of San Francisco Green Businesses and find out more about the Green Business Program visit www.SFGreenBusiness.org.

SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Commission on the Environment Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 421, San Francisco, CA 94102.

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.

2012 BOARD of SUPERVISORS

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January 10, 24, 31
 February 7, 14, 28
 March 6, 13, 20, 27
 April 3, 10, 17, 24

Information About Board Of Supervisors Committees

All meetings are held at City Hall in the Chamber (Room 250) or Room 263.
 Please check the website for further details, including agendas and minutes:
<http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=193>
 **Meeting days and times are subject to change; please consult the website to confirm weekly scheduled meetings.
<http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=2314>

Budget & Finance

Supervisors Chu, Avalos, Kim
 Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. weekly

City Operations & Neighborhood Services

Supervisors Elsbernd, Chu, Olague

2nd and 4th Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Government Audit & Oversight

Supervisors Farrell, Elsbernd, Chiu
 2nd and 4th Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Land Use & Economic Development

Supervisors Mar, Cohen, Wiener
 Monday at 1:00 p.m. weekly

Public Safety

Supervisors Avalos, Olague, Mar
 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Rules

Supervisors Kim, Farrell, Campos
 1st and 3rd Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

City and School District

Supervisors Campos, Olague, Chiu
 2nd and 4th Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

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Community CALENDAR

February 2012

3 Music: Nearly Beloved

Join us for some great tunes, featuring Matt Lax. 5 p.m. Free. Farley's. 1315 18th Street.

4-25 Theatre: A Taste of Honey

Virago Theatre Company proudly presents Shelagh Delaney's *A Taste of Honey* at the Thick House. The play tells the story of 17-year-old Jo and her mother, Helen, who move into a working-class slum in northern England with little except the clothes on their backs. Helen soon deserts her daughter for a lover, and the tenacious Jo navigates romance, heartbreak, and poverty, never losing her sense of humor and optimism. See page 20 in this month's issue. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$5-\$20 Thick House, 1695 18th Street. Information: [www.viragotheatre.org](http://viragotheatre.org)

4 Prepare: Earthquake Preparedness

Matt Springer, a professor in the University of California, San Francisco Department of Medicine, gives a slideshow talk about precautions that can be taken to lessen the damage from an earthquake at home and work, including photos of his own home preparations. 4 to 5:00 p.m. Free. Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Information: quaketips.blogspot.com

5 Family: Year of the Dragon Celebration at the Asian Art Museum

Celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dragon with students from the Chinese American International School (CAIS) who will present Chinese classical music and dances. Hunt for dragons on an Art Explorers' family tour, listen to dragon stories, or create a dragon puppet. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Admission courtesy of Target. (Due to capacity restrictions, admission is not guaranteed and supplies are limited.) Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin Street.

5 Theatre: Fortunate Daughter

This latest solo show from noted writer-performer Thao P. Nguyen tells the story of a woman torn between two families. One family — comprising her loving Vietnamese parents and relatives — keeps pushing her to marry (a man). The other family — made up of her friends in the gay community — urge her to come out to her "other" family. 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20-40. Stage Werx Theatre, 446 Valencia St, between 15th and 16th Streets. Information: stagewerx.org

8 Storytelling: Stories of the Heart

Join us for an evening of storytelling, poetry, song and music.

Bring a story or poem to celebrate Valentines Day—a delightful adventure, a deep dark mysterious story, something quirky, a story about your favorite pet, a romantic tale, or just your everyday heart-felt story. Beginning and experienced storytellers and listeners always welcome. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Farley's. 1315 18th Street. Information: Susan Ford 415.407.4297, suford@earthlink.net

9 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-1960s Brill Building blues. There's always an interesting guitar or two or three on hand, some snappy patter and good clean musical fun. 7:30 p.m. Free. Farley's. 1315 18th Street.

11 Parade: San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade

Named one of the world's top ten parades, San Francisco's Chinese New Year Parade is the largest celebration of its kind outside Asia. Parade highlights include elaborate floats, lion dancers, folk dancers, marching bands, stilt walkers, Chinese acrobats, and a 238-foot long Golden dragon, ("Gum Lung"). Watch for Potrero Hill's own Starr King Elementary students participating in the parade. 5 to 8 p.m. Free. The parade starts on Market, goes up Geary, down Post and ends on Kearny at Columbus. BART: Exit at the Montgomery or Powell Street Stations.

14 Love: Valentine's Day

Get a Valentine's candy heart! Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

14 Film+Beer: The Love of Beer and Conversation with Director

Celebrate this Valentine's Day at 18 Reasons for the ultimate date night — beer, chocolate and a movie! Nibble on some TCHO chocolate and sip ALMANAC beer (included in the ticket price), while watching *The Love of Beer*, a feature length documentary celebrating women active in the Pacific Northwest beer industry. 7 to 9 p.m. \$20. 18 Reasons, 3674 18th Street.

15 Music: Soul Delights

The ever popular Soul Delights always draw a crowd at Farley's. Come and enjoy the tunes. 7:30 p.m. Free. Farley's. 1315 18th Street.

Year of the Dragon



By Mari Kure. Age: 10, Fifth Grader, Starr King Elementary
See February 11th.

19 Family: ACTCM Celebrates the Year of the Dragon

Celebrate the Lunar New Year right here on the Hill with a mix of fun and relaxing activities: mini-tennis, face painting, ear acupuncture, 20-minute massages, Chinese calligraphy, and delicious dim sum. 12 to 3 p.m. Free. ACTCM, 450 Connecticut Street, in the parking lot. Information: actcm.edu/events

20 Music: Presidents Breakfast

Enjoy live music by Presidents 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.

24 Volunteer: Read at a Potrero Hill Elementary school

Celebrate African-American History month and inspire a love of reading by volunteering to read out loud books by a black authors and/or illustrators to elementary school students. Volunteers can sign-up throughout the month, with the reading to occur on February 24. A brief volunteer training is required, which can be taken on one of the following sessions: February 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 21, 22 at 6 p.m. Sign up by phone: Colleen, 749.3700, extension 3006, or online: www.sfedfund.org/calendarix/aari_2012_signup.php

26 Kids: Magic, Juggling and Tongue Twisters with Bob Kann

Hailing from Wisconsin, Bob makes a rare Bay Area appearance! His mesmerizing storytelling, impressive juggling, and silly magic combine to keep audiences all over the country riveted to their seats. Don't miss this special, one-time appearance. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$8. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way.

26 Watch: 84th Academy Awards Live at the Balboa Theater

Once again, the Balboa Theater celebrates the Academy Awards with a celebration and live broadcast on the big screen. Reed Kirk Rahlmann returns as master of ceremonies. The best Oscar party in town! Dress up or down as your favorite nominated movie (literal translation and bad puns allowed), or as a movie star, and join the celebrities on our runway. Prizes for the most creative costumes. 3:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. for the Red Carpet; the show starts at 5 p.m. All seats \$10. Balboa Theater, 3630 Balboa Street.

29 Music: JimBo Trout

JimBo Trout has been lighting up San Francisco stages large and small for 20 years. As a soloist, JimBo performs on guitar, banjo, and harmonica from a huge catalog of songs and styles, including bluegrass, ragtime, blues, cowboy music, swing, honky-tonk, Appalachian, and rock+roll. According to the *East Bay Express* "Twang lovers couldn't ask for much more." 7:30 p.m. Free. Farley's. 1315 18th Street. Information: jimbotrout.com.

March 4 Community: Work Day at the Learning Garden, Jackson Park Playground

Join us for a workday at Potrero Hill's newest community garden. All ages and gardening levels welcome to enjoy pre-spring preparation, installing new beds and planting vegetables, herbs and fruit trees. Dress in layers, wear closed-toe shoes. Bring water and a shovel or rake, if you have one. Potluck picnic lunch will follow the workday under the tree on the Carolina Street side. Bring a dish to share, and your own plates/cups. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Potrero Hill Learning Garden at Jackson Park Playground, 1598 Mariposa Street at Carolina. Contact: info@phlg.org or bookas-dish@gmail.com

COHEN from Front Page

representing the Chinese community, the African-American and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, among others. And she holds "community office hours" in various district locations on weekdays, weekends, and evenings. When she learns of a community or citizen concern, she often makes a phone call or visit to the relevant City agency. She's investigated what traffic calming solutions can be implemented on a street considered hazardous, how police can better monitor an area plagued by illegal dumping, and how Third Street merchants can get referrals to City services to improve their businesses' exteriors.

Recently, Cohen brokered a meeting with San Francisco Police Captain Paul Chignell and John and Patty Trayer, who own Trayer Engineering on Pennsylvania Street, and who want more attention paid to the frequent burglaries on their property (See "Southside a Center for Metal Harvesting," January issue). The result was a stepped-up police presence in the neighborhood, and Chignell's pledge to arrange for a security analysis of the premises, followed with recommendations on how to address the problem. But Cohen made no promises related to the Trayer's request to rezone their property from industrial to a mixed-use as a way of increasing its value and improving their ability to obtain business loans. "Part of dealing with people's issues is managing their expectations," said Cohen. "Some people want things to happen immediately, and they aren't happy with me if I can't get their child into a certain school they want, or produce a job for them. I do what I can, with the resources available to me, but it doesn't work the way some constituents want."

Cohen has referred job opportunities to District 10 residents, resulting in 60 placements in the Department of Public Works' Community Corridors Pre-Apprenticeship Program, and 35 hires in the Community Ambassadors Program. Ambassadors, who are City employees, are recruited based on their cultural and language skills. They walk along the district's transit lines and merchant corridors — and ride Muni — wearing bright yellow safety vests, helping people find addresses and public transportation routes, and connecting them with other services. "It's a very good program," said Cohen. "It's very helpful in the Chinese part of the district. It's another set of eyes on the street."

"I'm learning how to be a supervisor. Some of it is understanding things,

like what pieces [of legislation] require a second reading. I've watched the senior members of the board; how they operate. How to leverage the tools available to me. I didn't serve on the budget committee so I wasn't knee deep in the allocation of resources. I've met with Carmen Chu [Budget and Financing Committee chair] in the mayor's office, to go over the priorities for the southeast part of the City." The result of that session, according to Cohen, was funding for a variety of programs, including senior and violence prevention programs, which she said are key issues in her "health, safety, jobs" campaign mantra. "When I don't know what to do next, I say: 'okay, let's keep the district working, keep people safe, keep them healthy'."

Among Cohen's observations during the district tour:

Bayview Child Health Center, currently located at Third and Evans, but will move to a new, larger facility a few blocks away later this year: "This is the first of its kind in the country. Dr. Nadine Burke uses a very holistic approach. Kids may come in for colds or something like that, but she notices a lot are overexposed to crime. Youngsters suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. You see that manifests itself in behavioral problems; sometimes diet problems, which lead to obesity. She's focused on mental health as well as physical health. I definitely want to see this from start to finish."

College Track, located at Third and Jerrold: "College Track...has an excellent track record getting at-risk kids into college. I was at their groundbreaking. This has a record of something like 96 percent of those who finish the program go on to get into college."

Clean Team: "Called on San Francisco Police Department — Sue Lavin — DPW, CalTrans, CalTrain, the Highway Patrol, Department of Public Health, Port Commission, Coast Guard, City Attorney's Office, to help us deal with conditions of blight. To get things cleaned up. I asked the DA to prosecute copper stealing to the full extent of the law." Cohen believes there may be a link between properties in hazardous condition and the health of district residents. "I don't know if I can have an impact on the asthma rate. A lot of money, resources, education are being poured into the community, but haven't been able to quell high asthma rates. Maybe tearing down the old housing units will help; healthier, cleaner living spaces."

T-Line: "I held a hearing to find out whether the T-Line is faster than the Number 15 bus. We learned about

the V-Tag — it communicates between the car and the signal light — many tags were broken. So the operator has to manually operate the car. [With the V-Tags] the light rail cars, when they're coming up to an intersection, tell the traffic lights to turn red. That's so the train can travel more freely, unencumbered by the traffic." Cohen said she brought the problem to the attention of the Municipal Transportation Agency and Mayor Ed Lee. "He told me he was assured the switches will work. Ed has never lied to me...I would like to see an express T along Third Street. I want the T-Line to be the jewel in public transportation's crown."

Greening: "One of the things I'm proud of: all the new pocket parks. They're popping up all over the district. I'm excited about that Quesada Park was nominated for an award. You take an old, blighted corner and bring it back to life."

Bay View Playground and King Pool: "I'm working with Rec and Parks to make sure the park is up to standards." Cohen believes that gophers and dogs are creating holes in the ground, reducing the safety of playing surfaces.

Parking Meters: "MTA heard the cry from residents who don't want parking meters installed. I got letters from people from all over the City who park there, then go downtown or go down to the South Bay. I support them. They [MTA officials] are re-evaluating the proposal."

Goettingen Street: "There's another Fresh and Easy market going in on Goettingen. They opened this store [at 5800 Third Street] last June. They'll probably look at how they're doing in a year's time. I think they're doing all right. If there were any concerns or trouble, I figure I'd hear about it."

Sunnydale Housing Project: "The largest public housing project in the City. There are more than 700 units. I'm working with Henry Alvarez [San Francisco Housing Authority executive director] to get repairs to the units

that need to be fixed. And to get vacant units filled."

Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, McLaren Park: "This is an underused resource. I've been talking to people about starting a music festival here. This is such a beautiful amphitheater, mostly used for summer camps, here. And Jerry Day. It's one day every year. This place is just packed with people."

Wayland and Hamilton Streets [location of old greenhouses]: "People are interested in preserving them and turning them into a community garden. They're totally dilapidated. They're falling apart. I've heard a lot of good ideas about partnering with San Francisco State or City College to use this as a teaching garden."

Schlage Lock: "This [planned development] never got off the ground." Visitation Valley is "hungry for services," but there aren't sufficient funds to build the project.

Cohen also mentioned several other developments in the district that are stalled because of a lack of financing, including Rebuild Potrero, Hunters View, Sunnydale and Alice Griffith. "I can see one of these moving forward. Sunnydale or Rebuild Potrero. But not both. The City is going to have to come up with a strategy to

see COHEN page 19

Rick Collins

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COHEN from page 18

get funding so these projects can be built." Cohen recently co-sponsored legislation to transfer the assets, obligations and functions of the Redevelopment Agency to other City departments.

America's Cup: Cohen said she wants "everyone at the table [to] will have the opportunity to get a piece of the action. I don't want this to be just a rich person's sport."

Pier 70: "We're working with Forest City, a developer, who is going to help with environmental remediation plans for the site, and development to provide new and improved open space and shoreline access as well as new infill and infrastructure so the area is adapted for more uses, while supporting continued ship repair use. We're working on developing a funding stream to implement these goals."

"I like to solve problems. I'm learning how to leverage the tools available to me. But I can't do miracles. That's what some people want. They get angry at me if I can't produce what they want. But often I can get the ball rolling. People have respect for the office. If I call to check on an open ticket, the department heads and managers are pretty responsive. They get back to me. And things get done. I do need to hear from multiple constituents — a critical mass of people — if there's a problem to be addressed. One person sending me constant phone calls and emails, doesn't help."

"I get to meet new people." At a recent mixer with Visitation Valley

condominium owners "I met people who are not that politically engaged. We brought government to them. I invited [San Francisco Treasurer] Jose Cisneros along. It was fun. I love being a goodwill ambassador." Her office recently sponsored two mixers involving members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community who live in the district. "We have a large LGBT population here. I'm trying to be the bridge."

Cohen chairs the board's Joint City and School District Committee, and is vice chair of the Land Use and Economic Development and Public Safety committees. She's sponsored legislation related to zoning issues, illegal dumping and other matters she described as "not very glamorous. Right to choose catches media attention, not zoning issues," said Cohen, referring to her legislation, passed by the board last spring, to require family planning and pregnancy centers to "tell the truth in advertising" about their motivations when counseling pregnant women considering their options. Cohen said the bill applies to abortion rights groups as well as to "right to life" organizations. The legislation is currently in court as a result of a lawsuit. "It will be up to a judge to decide" if the law stands, she said, "I want to get better at reaching out to Spanish-speaking and Chinese-speaking communities. I'm working with Spanish and Chinese language radio stations so people know what's going on," Cohen said. "I've started studying Chinese so I can learn to better communicate directly with more of my constituents."

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: You've talked about how important it is to use LinkedIn in a job search, and that job hunters should beware using Facebook professionally. But what about Twitter? Can it add any value to my search?

A: There are several ways to use Twitter to help you with your career move:

Follow tweets of industry experts: Select a few people who are known to be thought leaders in your field, either by job function or industry. That way you'll be aware of current trends, enabling you to make informed decisions and to speak credibly about the subject. Log onto Twitter and type the name of the person you'd like to follow into the search field at the top of the page. Results will include tweets that match your search listed in the center and people on the right side. Find the one you want and click on "Follow."

Follow tweets of targeted contacts: Similarly, you can follow the tweets of hiring decision makers that you've already identified as people you want to contact. This way you'll know what's most important to them in real time, and can use this information when you contact them.

Follow tweets of targeted companies for job postings: If you've already identified companies at which you'd like to work, sign-up to follow their job-posting tweets. For example, search for "jobs macys" to get the Macy's user name that tweets job postings, and you'll find @Macy's_Exec_Jobs. If that's what you're looking for, click on "Follow" and you'll receive up-to-date information about executive job postings at Macy's.

Tweet to position yourself as an expert: You can establish yourself as a subject matter expert by regularly tweeting messages of substance. You may choose to respond directly to a tweet by one of your targeted contacts, and connect with them in an informal way that can't be done otherwise. Be sure to keep your tweets professional in content and tone, and don't tweet too often.

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

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Honey Available for Tasting at Thick House

By Jim Van Buskirk

Virago Theatre Company's artistic director and founding member Laura Lundy-Paine is excited to be bringing Shelagh Delaney's *A Taste of Honey* to the Thick House. The play marks Virago's first foray to Potrero Hill since the Alameda-based company was founded in 2005. "A shameless passion for theatre" is the tag line of the company, which prides itself on selecting "works that address issues of psychological and social turbulence and have a unique perspective on our daily existence."

That's a good description of *A Taste of Honey*, Delaney's first and most famous play. Written when she was 18, it premiered in London in 1958. Delaney adapted it into an award-winning 1961 film directed by Tony Richardson and starring Rita Tushingham.

The play tells the story of seventeen-year old Jo and her mother, Helen. Leaving Jo alone in their working class flat Helen pursues a relationship with a rich, younger lover. Jo then becomes romantically entangled with a black sailor, who proposes marriage, but then goes to sea, leaving Jo pregnant and alone. The tenacious Jo navigates romance, heartbreak, and poverty, never losing her sense of humor and optimism. Addressing issues of class, race, gender and sexual orientation in mid-twentieth century Britain, the play became known as a "kitchen



sink" play, part of the genre that revolutionized British theatre and film, spawning John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* and John Braine's *Room at the Top*.

The upcoming production could be considered a tribute to its playwright, who died on November 20, 2011. But that's not the primary reason for the performance. As a young actress Lundy-Paine auditioned for the role of Jo in Portland, Oregon. Though she wasn't cast, she saw the production, and fell in love with Delaney's darkly comic play. "It begs to be produced," Lundy-Paine proclaimed, extolling the "very lean language of an untraditional love story, which despite its tragedy is very humorous...the dialogue begs to be performed in the dialect of Salford, in northwestern England, where the action takes place." Rebecca Castelli served as a dialect

see TASTE page 22

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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

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Do You Feel Safe On The Hill?

By Amber Hawkins

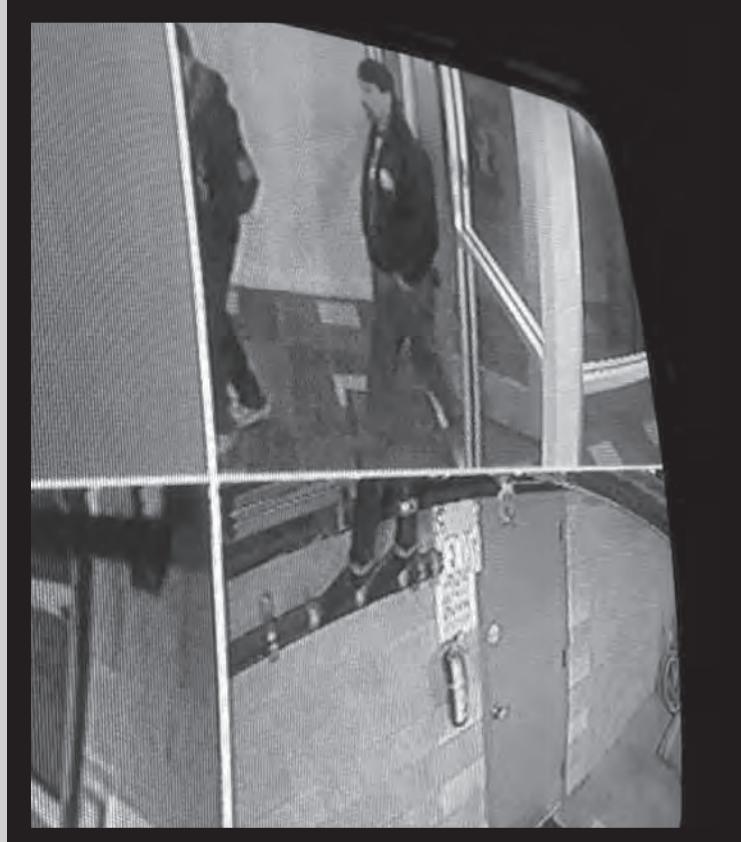
Walking home to Missouri Street one evening, a little later than usual, I began to wonder whether my Potrero Hill neighbors felt safe strolling the streets and living in our community. As the *View's* new crime reporter, I decided to explore this topic, interviewing community members via email, phone, blog responses and in-person. Most of the respondents felt that the Hill is safe, but also shared personal experiences and suggestions on making the community even more secure.

According to Vermont Street resident Frank Bodnar, "When economies are bad, crime becomes a little worse. It reminds us all that prudent steps should be taken to insure we remain a safe neighborhood." Bodnar suggested that the neighborhood collect funds to hire a private security firm, which could police the community at night. "By widely publishing these suggestions, it might serve to warn parties that we are concerned and active when it comes to any crime in our neighborhood," said Bodnar.

Several residents reported that although they generally feel safe, they avoid certain areas at night,

mainly because they are dark and poorly lit. Some, including Bondar, suggested that homeowners install security lights around their properties. "Dark areas around your home should have security lights, those that are activated when someone or something crosses its path," said Bondar. "I do not understand why so many people have little or no lighting around their property," said an 18th Street business owner. "Each and every one should alarm their homes."

Last summer, after a series of muggings on the Hill, Texas Street residents Yvette and Ryan Hwee called the police after they noticed that two men who they didn't recognize had been lingering around their street. The police patrolled the area soon after; the Hwee's never saw the men again. "We need to always be cautious and not live with a false sense of security. Don't walk alone at late night, try not to walk preoccupied using your cell phone or listening to music, avoid unlit areas, don't leave anything exposed in cars, don't leave your garage door, front door, windows open while unattended, and call the police if you see anything amiss," said Yvette.



A security camera installed at 1099 23rd Street captured images of individuals suspected of stealing items from the building's garage last month. There was a rash of burglaries in January on 23rd and Minnesota streets near Prospect Park, mostly related to garages and storage areas. A report of a man on the roof of a condominium building under construction on Minnesota Street, between 23rd and 24th, drew a police swat team, assault rifles at the ready, who set-up blockades on 23rd and 25th streets. The construction site was thoroughly searched before the police action was called off.

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Kansas Street resident Jonel Beach was the victim of an attempted burglary last January. Her family was awakened by the sound of ladders clanking in their backyard. They called the police; the suspects quickly fled on foot before officers arrived. The incidence prompted Beach to realize how important proper lighting is to deter crime. "Add lights! Bright ones! Keep them on or add motion sensors. And by all means...if you think something suspicious is going on...don't be afraid to call our local police. They truly care about keeping our neighborhood safe," said Beach.

Trudi Neiverth, of Wisconsin Street, believed that the criminal justice system should, "Be harder on crime in this area. The right

to live in low-income housing is a privilege, and if someone is involved in drugs and is caught, there should be a stronger eviction process. More police patrolling in our area. More businesses in the area would be a plus, like a community similar to Noe Valley."

According to Ray O'Conner, Safety Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) captain for Kansas Street, individuals need to take responsibility for their safety, since the police aren't able to patrol 24/7. "Safety can always be improved, and that must be the responsibility of each neighbor. We cannot expect the police to do it all for us. We must be their eyes and ears. People need to call the police when they suspect something is not right. Too many people hesitate to call, and that leads to preventable crimes. Call the police whenever you suspect something is odd...make sure you have the phone numbers for the police ready, available at home and on your mobile devices, install motion detector lights on the front of your home, have lights in your home on timer so that your home is never completely dark." Kansas street SAFE meetings are held the last Monday of each month, except June, July, August, and December. For more information: kansas.safe-association@gmail.com

For more information on how to secure your home: www.sf-police.org. If you see suspicious activity in the neighborhood or to report an emergency: 911 or 415. 533.8090.

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SPECIAL WATER SERIES: PART ONE

WATER from page 9

downstream. A 2010 poll of San Francisco voters by David Binder Research, Inc. found that 59 percent supported restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley if doing so triggered no water rate increases. Voters were evenly split — 42 percent versus 43 percent, with a margin of error of four percent — about whether restoring the valley was worth paying for through higher rates.

Last fall, SFPUC rejected RHH's request to hold a public hearing on the feasibility and benefits of restoring Hetch Hetchy. "We are deeply disappointed in the SFPUC's response. Its mission, which includes environmental stewardship of the watershed, mandates a public hearing on the issue. The agency has never considered the adverse environmental impacts of Hetch Hetchy reservoir to Yosemite, nor to the nine miles of Tuolumne River buried beneath it," said Marshall. "The City can and should become a better steward of the natural resources it controls," he asserted. "While [SFPUC commission president] Mr. Moran seems to imply that draining Hetch Hetchy would jeopardize San Francisco's water supply, in fact that's not true. San Francisco's water rights are tied to the Tuolumne River, and that's not going to change," Marshall pointed out. "We're not arguing about water rights. What needs to change is where we store our water."

Late last year, Dan Lungren, a Republican congressman representing Sacramento County, accused San Francisco of illegally using water from O'Shaughnessy Dam without first exhausting other available sources. The former California attorney general sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar urging investigation of alleged Raker Act violations, and demanding that the City "fully develop and use other available water resources" such as capturing rainwater, drawing groundwater or recycling wastewater before exporting only what's necessary from the Tuolumne.

In a scathing retort published in the Sacramento Bee, Harrington accused Lungren of "sticking it to San Francisco, forcing taxpayers to spend up to \$10 billion to dismantle Hetch Hetchy." Asserting that Lungren's rhetoric didn't hold water, Harrington criticized Sacramento for using "280 gallons of water per person per day vs. 57 gallons for San Franciscans." However, the state's capitol city is primarily suburban, with lush lawns, rolling parklands, government build-

ings and agriculture, while the City is smaller, urban, with limited open and green space, no agriculture and manufacturing to speak of, and few lawns. While San Francisco boasts the lowest per capita water usage in the state, at 87.9 gallons a day, "we don't have a lot of irrigation here like Sacramento does," said Jue. RHH has estimated that restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley and removing and demolishing O'Shaughnessy Dam could be done for \$1 billion to \$3 billion, not the \$10 billion Harrington put forth, which agency staff admitted was based on its own, unsubstantiated study.

Lungren isn't the first to excoriate the City for alleged Raker Act violations. *The Bay Guardian*, which has been dogging the issue for decades, claimed the City sold power to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which then resold it back to ratepayers at a profit, in violation of the Act. Interior Secretaries Harold Ickes, who worked under President Roosevelt, and Donald Hodel, of the Reagan Administration, both attempted to enforce the Act, accusing SFPUC of violating the law and demanding compliance, with the latter even trying to remove the dam. In 2003, the George W. Bush Administration contemplated allocating funds to study the possibility of restoring the valley, but the effort was dropped.

Last year, RHH and TRT argued that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) — which is responsible for licensing hydropower plants — should apply recent laws, more rigorous environmental impact reviews, and weigh other alternatives before re-licensing Don Pedro Dam, which is owned by the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation districts. Conservation groups contend Don Pedro is linked to the Hetch Hetchy system because San Francisco has a long-standing arrangement to bank water there. The City releases more water from Hetch Hetchy to Don Pedro in wet years in exchange for the latter withholding the equivalent amount of water during dry years. Dreckmeier pointed out that the last time Don Pedro was reauthorized was in the 1960s, long before "the Clean Water Act, the EPA and other laws created to protect the environment." While TRT has taken no position on Hetch Hetchy, RHH wants to see Don Pedro enlarged to help replace storage lost should the Valley be restored. SFPUC, however, insists that its water system is exempt from FERC oversight because Hetch Hetchy was authorized under a congressional act pre-dating the agency.

Because of its climate, altitude,

and diverse plant and animal life Hetch Hetchy was one of the most unique ecosystems in the world, remarked Marshall. "And it can be that again. It's exciting. We have a chance to bring life back to this remarkable place in our lifetime. It represents an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to infuse environmental sensitivity into future generations." According to Marshall, a restored valley could play a role in capturing carbon emissions. "No one's talking much about climate change, how we can cap carbon emissions... there's been very little conversation about its [Hetch Hetchy's] decline. Forests are critical to absorbing carbon, as is reforestation of the valley. Hetch Hetchy is the poster child for our response to climate change." RHH is planning a petition drive to put the question of draining Hetch Hetchy on the November 2012 ballot. The group must collect 47,000 signatures from registered San Francisco voters by this June to succeed.

"The City's current water system is a 19th century design, with 20th century construction. It reflected the social values of the time, when it was all about maximum exploitation of the environment for the benefit of society. Those are old values that are not sustainable for the future," said Marshall. "The SFPUC is a huge organization with a lot of moving parts. The staff are very smart people, but they're embattled, they're behind the curve. The sad thing is they're directed by senior staff and commissioners who seem to have their heads in the sand. For San Francisco to have a truly vibrant, green water system, the whole agency must be reformed. As a bureaucracy, it needs to be directed by policy makers and the electorate because they won't do it by themselves. Reforming the system has to take place at the highest level and to begin the process they'll have to be forced, by voters, the courts or commissioners. Of course, senior staff takes their job very seriously: to deliver water as cheaply and as much as possible. None, however, have broad experience in environmental reform."

With Harrington's retirement set for June, "the Mayor has an opportunity to hire a new general manager who could look at what progressive cities are doing and make the necessary reforms. The question is will the mayor reach outside or hire from within."

This is part one of a two-part series about water.

SCULPT from page 7

additional sound. And creeping mint creates an olfactory experience.

"John's been doing this since he grew up," Danielle said. "He is a third generation gardener. His grandfather started a floral shop in New Jersey in the 1940s, and his dad added a successful landscape design and construction business to the flower shop."

The couple met at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where John earned a degree in landscape design and horticulture at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. John was employed by Landscapes by Earthcare in Amherst for three years. After moving to California, he worked as a stone mason, and later as a project supervisor for Frank & Grossman in San Francisco. "Then I decided to make the commitment," he said, "about going into business for myself."

Sculpt Gardens can be found at www.sculpt-gardens.com.

TASTE from page 20

coach for the performance.

Starring as Jo is Lundy-Paine's daughter Brigitte Lundy-Paine, who encouraged her mother to invite others to read for the part. But Laura Lundy-Paine felt she had the best possible Jo right in front of her. Michaela Greeley, who immediately had great chemistry with Brigitte, was cast as Helen. The men in their lives are played by David Bicha, Brian Martin and Daniel Redmond.

Although the play is set in 1958, this production advances it to 1962, primarily because Lundy-Paine preferred that period's look. Julie Gillespie has designed an "exciting, abstract set," and the costuming possibilities of "the pre-Kennedy assassination period of Mad Men" appealed to Lundy-Paine. "Besides, the play is timeless," she rationalized. "It's an unflinchingly honest story about real people. There's nothing sentimental. Its conflicts are still relevant, especially in this time when many people are struggling."

A Taste of Honey previews on February 3, opens February 4 with a champagne reception, and plays through February 25 at Thick House, 1695 18th Street. On February 10 the cast and director will be available to chat with the audience after the show; February 25 will include a closing night wine and cheese reception. For tickets and information: 510.865.6237; www.viragotheatre.org.

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New Garden Project Managers

Ready to Get Started!

by Antonio Roman-Alcalá and Steve Pulliam

We are excited to have been recently brought on board with the Potrero Annex and Terrace rebuild process, and especially excited to be working with the community on developing opportunities to bring gardening, healthy food, and outdoor activities into more of our neighbor's lives! Antonio, a native San Franciscan, has been working in urban food gardening for 8 years, and Steve brings plenty of construction and project management experience from his roots in the South. Please come by and say hi to us if you see us around!



First off, we will be continuing the great work of Uzuri and star volunteer Betsy on the Barrel Garden Program. We already have a list of residents interested in getting barrels started outside their homes, to be filled with veggies and fruit trees, and we will be working with these and existing barrel caretakers to maximize their food production and minimize their hassle in taking care of their gardens. The delicious and nutritious produce coming from these gardens are just a taste of what's

to come in the community's other food growing sites: the Family Resource Center Garden (FRC) and the coming-soon Texas Street Farm.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank David Globet, the interim Garden Manager for his excellent work in bringing the garden along and working with the Potrero Terrace and Annex residents from the onset of the food garden project.

The FRC Garden has been providing fresh produce for over a year now, and we plan to continue that! We are also excited to expand the distribution of the produce into the community, through the FRC, preschool, and direct-to-you! If you are interested in coming by to harvest, please contact one of us!

Last, and perhaps most exciting, is the Texas Street Farm. Breaking ground in the coming months, the Farm will be a site for even more food production, apprenticeships and workshops for residents, and just a nice place to enjoy the scenery and beauty of a garden. We plan to make the site accessible to seniors, children, and folks with disabilities, so all are welcome! Please get in touch if you are interested in participating, whether as a volunteer, or a paid worker, or just a food eater! We look forward to the community meeting on Feb. 2nd, where we'll be asking for more input on the types of crops to grow and other ideas from you, the community.

Happy growing, and we'll see you in the garden!

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

GETTING INVOLVED



Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Bayview Station, 201 Williams Avenue. Next meeting: February 7th, 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: March 6th. 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: February 28th, 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: February 14th, 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: February 7th, 7 a.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 Wed. February 15th, 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 February 18th from 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.starkingspace.org; email the Board of Directors at starkingspace@gmail.com; voice mail 415-633-6756



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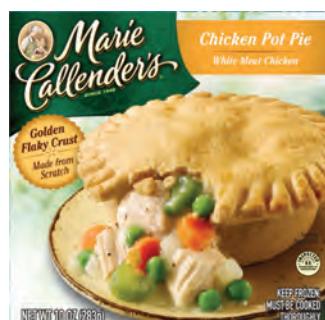
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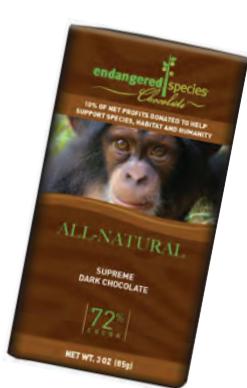
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